

**H. P. LOVECRAFT'S
FROM BEYOND**

by
Cynthia Curnan

Based on H. P. Lovecraft's "From Beyond"

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H. P. LOVECRAFT'S

FROM BEYOND

FADE IN ON:

1

EXT. THE MARCO DESERT - DAY

1

Shot opens with pan of archeological excavation site.

SUPERIMPOSE:

THE MARCO DESERT

NEAR THE PAKISTAN / IRAN BORDER

FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO

Nothing much is seen except a rugged man in his 30's working on a mound with an excavating pick.

He gingerly cracks away the earth.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

Jack---

JACK WINSLOW - fit, chiseled features. American. He looks up at the woman...

MARI DE LA VEGA, late 20's - tough, tanned, athletic. Argentine.

MARI

(in Spanish)

Found something ---

FOLLOWS Jack and Mari.

They scamper across the landscape until they reach another mound of dirt and rock.

Mari points to the base of the mound.

Jack kneels down, examines a small cleared area of soft dirt.

ZOOM IN.

Revealed beneath -

A METAL OBJECT.

JACK
It's metal...with inscriptions too
small to make out. Looks like
abstract carvings.

MARI
Interesting find.

Jack doesn't answer.

He's distracted by the discovery. Unnerved by it.

MARI
It's not from the same period as
everything else we've found. The
material...

Jack blows the dust off the surface of the metal. He slips on
his glasses to get a close study.

Jack takes a brush and begins to clear more of the dirt away.

The metal surface showing widens as Jack works.

MARI
You expected to find this, Jack?

JACK
I wasn't sure.

MARI
But you knew to dig here. How? I
thought this was just one of your
wild hunches.

JACK
Two years ago... I saw some
inscriptions like this.

MARI
They led you here?

JACK
Started me here.

MARI
Be straight with me, Jack.

JACK
I'm just as surprised.

Mari's not buying it.

MARI

Look, I agreed to help you because -

JACK

--None of that's important now.

MARI

I've gone along with this whole crazy expedition. Left my fellowship - left my good judgement to help you here. I think I deserve an explanation more than the one I've been given.

Jack doesn't hear, focused on the object.

MARI

(snapping, in Spanish)

JACK! You've found what your looking for and it's not what you told me we we're going to find.

Jack works at excavating the object.

Mari is drawn in. Her instincts as an archeologist get the best of her.

Her anger passes.

MARI

(continuing, in English)

It's not from any recognizable documented time period in the past. So what the hell is it, Jack?

SHOT STILL CONTINUES.

Jack scratches at the mound.

He carefully extracts the piece of metal from the hardened clay.

He breaks the edges of mud away until the true form of the object is revealed.

It's an strangely sculptured statue that is carved to look like an interlocking of demons. . . trying to free themselves from each other.

Jack's expression is rapturous at the recognition of the object.

MARI

Jack

JACK
It's a key guide.

MARI
Not like any I've seen. Where did
it come from?

Jack turns to Mari, grinning.

JACK
That's what we're going to find
out.

MARI
Finding this wasn't the end all,
was it?

JACK
Just the beginning, Mari.

Jack rises to his feet and starts walking.

Mari falls in step.

MARI
Beginning of what?

Jack ignores her.

MARI
Jack...JACK.

He keeps walking, in his own world.

MARI
Hello, excuse me, Professor.

She steps right up behind him.

MARI
This is exactly the reason you lost
your tenure. You don't follow
protocol--not even with us.

He flinches, glances at her, keeps walking.

MARI
(on a tear, in Spanish)
You can't get anyone to work with
you, but me. And how dumb am I? I
can't believe I'm doing this?!
Dammit, Jack! Listen to me!

Mari angrily grabs Jack's arm.

Jack loses grip of the discovery.

It drops to the earth with a loud THUMP, it's face landing hard against a rock.

The ground begins to tremble...

A low RUMBLE builds and quickens...

Mari starts to lose her balance, Jack instinctively keeps his footing.

The object begins emitting vibrations - audible sound waves ring out, then rise in pitch into...

A LOUD SCREECH.

Jack and Mari cover their ears, doubling over in pain.

THE WIND kicks up, swirling around the pair.

Jack opens his eyes -

He sees something that staggers him.

PAN TO WHAT HE SEES, OR THINKS HE SEES:

A BURST OF ENERGY that reveals a GLOWING ARCHED GATEWAY - - through which we see FRACTURED IMAGES that we can't make out, but it is HORRIFYING to Jack. Only he sees it.

Mari gasps, watching Jack, following his stare, seeing nothing. She passes out as she sees...

JACK'S FACE

NO LONGER HUMAN.

CUT TO:

2

EXT. BASECAMP ALPHA - DAY

2

A covert staging camp in the shadow of the Paroparmisus Mountains. Three mean looking Sea Stallion helicopters squat just outside a prefab hangar. TWO FIGURES move from the copters toward the structure.

SUPERIMPOSE:

AFGHANISTAN

PRESENT DAY

CUT TO:

3

INT. HANGAR - DAY

3

The access door opens. Entering is a tall, severe man, GENERAL HAYDEN BELLOWS, in combat fatigue uniform. Encased in body armor.

Close crop hair and no-nonsense bearing - a military man through and through.

Hayden is followed by his Ops field commander, COL. RUSS MURPHY, 30's, wire-rimmed sunglasses, combat fatigues, kevlar and helmet, wearing a sidearm, carrying a PDA and duffel bag. Tough, square jawed.

JACK steps out of the operations room and moves to greet Bellows.

JACK

General.

BELLOWS

Everything set?

JACK

The team's assembled.

BELLOWS

Background checks were a little shaky on them. With an Argentine national no less.

JACK

They're no shakier than mine.

BELLOWS

Yours we have to live.

Jack grins.

JACK

They've a solid group of researchers and analysts, a little on the fringe in each of their fields, but smart people.

(beat)

And they trust me.

Bellows eyes him.

Jack wheels, walking toward the Operations Room.

JACK

This way, General.

BELLOWS

You trust them to keep their mouths shut after they see the big picture?

JACK

We're going to be 200 miles from the nearest friendly, surrounded by Taliban and al Qaeda. If you have any doubts, I don't think any of us is going to see a Starbucks again.

This elicits the first reaction from Col. Murphy, a flash of concern, a glance at Bellows, but he says nothing.

BELLOWS

We're not like that.

Jack smiles.

JACK

Yes, sir.

Bellows and Jack enter into...

4

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM -DAY

4

Gathered into the conference area:

Mari De La Vega, whom we've met.

MIKE BROCK, late 50's, intense, introverted. Computer and Data engineer.

ROBIN JASON, in her early 20's, lean, brilliant.

SAM MATHEWS, 40's, tall, good-looking, an ever-present air of cynicism and brusque arrogance.

JACK

I know you've all been traveling for the past 24 hours, but let's get of this out of the way, then we'll take a break and give you time to clean and rest up.

Bellows shakes hands with each team member as they're introduced.

JACK

General Bellows - Dr. Mari De La Vega, archaeological bio-genetics and pre-history pathology. Mari's work is primary to this project.

BELLOWS

You're the non-American.

MARI

Yes, I am, thank you.

BELLOWS

Leftist parents.

MARI

Professors emeritus at the
University of Buenos Aires, yes.
And at Harvard and MIT.

Tension. Then...

JACK

Dr. Robin Jason, micro-biology with
an emphasis on pre-historical life
forms.

BELLOWS

Miss Jason.

Robin smirks at his natural chauvinism, nods her greeting.

JACK

(continuing the
introductions)

Dr. Sam Mathews - Operations tech
and advanced engineering systems
stud.

BELLOWS

Have we met?

SAM

Dunno, all you uniforms look alike
to me.

JACK

Sam.

SAM

I was ten years at Skunkworks,
level five clearance - maybe there?

BELLOWS

Maybe.

Doctor Brock rocks back in his seat. A loud chair squeak gets
everyone's attention.

MIKE
Doctor Mike Brock. Bio Physics.

Mike slips his gaze to Jack.

MIKE
How about some answers, Jack?

Bellows casts Jack a look. Jack brushes it off with a grin.

JACK
Sure, what would you like to know?

MIKE
Apparently we were all told
different stories about what was
going to be happening here. In a
war zone no less. Except for Mari,
who, as your devoted colleague,
hasn't told us shit.

JACK
You were all told the truth - more
or less.

ROBIN
More or less.

Bellows gives no reaction.

JACK
You've all worked on enough Defense
Department projects to understand
that information is always on a
need to know basis.

ROBIN
This isn't a standard D.O.D.
Contract. It's got NSA written all
over it.

SAM
Well, Jack, if we're being funded
by the NSA - - then I'm pretty sure
I have that - need to know.

Jack flicks on his laptop. A large table top monitor comes on
showing four different images.

Two of the images show Maps of pre-history Mexico.

The other is a closer detail of the vast Sonora Desert, the
Mount Hacheca region.

JACK

The cradle of civilization is believed to be in Mesopotamia. The Sumerians. And even at that early point in pre-history, there were astronomers. Why? Of all the needs and interests of a primitive people...why did astronomy take such a priority? Religion? Agriculture? Nothing has explained it satisfactorily.

Jack lets it sink in.

JACK

(continuing)

Three years ago I was part of an expedition to Fertile Crescent region of the Marco Desert...where we...where I found a metal sarcophagus with inscriptions we couldn't translate.

On the screen, inscriptions move past--

MIKE

Sumarian or Ubaid?

JACK

No, Mike. Not any previously known language.

The inscriptions end in the symbol of a horrifying demonic creature (looking like the face Mari saw on Jack).

JACK

(continuing)

But the recurring symbol is recognizable. It is the demon of Pazuzu or Zu.

Jack holds up a sliver of metal.

It is the same substance as the one Jack and Mari found. This metal is exactly an inch square.

Exactly the size of the piece missing from the metal object.

Its surface is covered with micro-inscriptions.

SAM

Sorry, Jack. I'm a little dense. Pretend I'm a plebe not Indiana Jones.

JACK

Pazuzu...the original Satan. The first appearance of Hell as a concept. Fact, is you haven't been told what's going on because we don't know and we can't explain any of it.

ROBIN

So what is the significance of this metal object?

JACK

This piece that Mari and I found in the Marco Desert was a map. A encrypted pathfinder.

SAM

To what?

JACK

An obelisk.

MIKE

An what makes this obelisk so special?

JACK

Keep an open mind on this one.

MARI

Wide open.

JACK

The obelisk is a metal alloy, but it was placed on earth at least 15,000 years ago.

SAM

Okay, you've got my attention, Jack.

Robin unconsciously fingers the crucifix around her neck.

JACK

We don't recognize the metal. It's not from our world.

Silence. For a good five seconds. All eyes are back on the screen...on the inscription...and Pazuzu.

MIKE

I'll bite. Where do you think it's from? Meteorite?

JACK
I don't know.

Silence all around...

ROBIN
We were told this was a matter of a global threat. That's why we're here, Jack. In a war zone. Why all the interest from the NSA and god knows what other covert agencies? Is there really a threat?

Bellows cuts Jack off--

BELLOWS
Not at this time. We simply want to know everything we can about that metal and the inscriptions.

MARI
(at Bellows)
They need to know, General.

BELLOWS
I'm not authorized--

ROBIN
You get authorized or I'm out.

SAM
Me too.

ROBIN
And I get the feeling that time is short. That something is going to happen.

Jack looks at Bellows who knows he's trumped. He nods.

JACK
I can't tell you how it happens.

SAM
Try, Jack. We're big boys...and girls.

JACK
I can only tell you I believe the obelisk is like a conduit to another place, not anywhere on this earth. A Hellish place, where something terrible is locked up.
(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)

I am not a church-going person, but this place is like...Hell.

ROBIN

Are we talking a Dante's Inferno fiery Hell, or a C.S. Lewis cold Hell, or modern theological Hell as defined simply by a separation from God, or...

MIKE

No, I think you're talking about a space/time - virtual prison, right?

MARI

Exactly. One that exists on another dimensional plane. At least that's the strongest conclusion to the data collected.

In the corner shadows of the room Bellows takes all of this in without blinking. Col. Murphy looks fairly perplexed, his interest growing...

SAM

And what's locked up there?
Spirits? Evil Beings? Republicans?

Robin give him a look off the comment.

SAM

What? He said Hell didn't he?

JACK

I don't have all the answers...
that's why you're here.

MARI

Based on my study, I believed there were originally two gateway obelisks. One in East Africa. It was lost nine years ago. The other was found last week. In the Paroparmisus Mountains 200 miles north of this base. The remains of an Assyrian burial caves.

Stunned silence.

ROBIN

(incredulous)

We're talking aliens here, right?
Not really demons.

(MORE)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Advanced aliens locked these things
up into a prison of another
dimension.

Jack just stares, unblinking.

MIKE
This could make sense. Once the
phase millennium can be controlled,
there would be no better prison
than time itself.

SAM
Whoa - wait a second. C'mon. Sounds
like we're in a 50's sci-fi flick.

JACK
Let me finish.

Everyone settles in intently. Their interest is definitely piqued.

Mike is eating this up. Sam has a smirk of impatience and skepticism. Robin looks interested, but concerned.

Bellows is expressionless, Col. Murphy grows uncomfortable.

Mari allows a slight smile as she watches Jack pitch his project. A bit of pride creeping through.

JACK
Now you have this virtual time
prison... again for lack of a
better word - Hell. And in this
Hell are a lot of very smart
beings. And, like any convict, they
figure a way to escape.

MIKE
(excitedly)
By tearing a big-ass hole in the
fabric of time, causing an energy
field disruption!

Jack allows everyone to decipher Mike's outburst, then...

JACK
I believe this tear might be
sustained for a brief second and is
too temporal for a being to cross
over. There would need to be
something could reach across and
contaminate a host on the other
side.

MARI

Like a virus. Once this host has been contaminated and taken over, it would provide an anchor to open the portal.

ROBIN

Like a person possessed.

Mari nods.

MIKE

But the infected host would still need some kind of device on this side. The object.

JACK

The evidence I've gathered shows the possibility that an inanimate device could be sent through the object, I suspect might be a means of conducting a more permanent escape.

ROBIN

What do you mean "conduct"?

JACK

If this device were an anchor - a tether to the other side. Then by activating it, you could, theoretically, bring beings from Hell to our side.

SAM

And what gave you this hypothesis?

JACK

East Africa.

SAM

You're saying these...demon convicts came into our world in the hell that is East Africa?

JACK

Yes.

ROBIN

And??

JACK

They were nuked before the bridge became permanent.

SAM

"They"? You mean Pazuzu and company?

Jack tightens, not answering.

MIKE

And this bridge between us and "They" -- it was destroyed?

JACK

We think so.

MIKE

But you're not sure?

SAM

And we're here to find out?

JACK

You can see why we need to know.

ROBIN

The question is, Jack, if this is all true ...should we rush into it?

SAM

You've gone crackers crazy, Jack.

MIKE

You're really intending on bringing bad ass shit across the dimensional divide? Isn't there enough bad shit in this part of the world?

JACK

We will control the portal. I think since the beginning of human history these beings have intended to cross into our world and bring Armageddon to mankind.

ROBIN

You're talking like this is actually possible. Where's the back up?

JACK

We're going to get it, Robin.

ROBIN

(at Jack)

Have you considered just how dangerous this is?

JACK
Have you considered just how
important this is?

ROBIN
Without proper time to set this
up...Bringing beings of unknown
intent and composition into our
world...

JACK
Actually, we know a fair bit about
them.

MIKE
(hooked)
How's that?

JACK
(turns to Mari)
I'll let Mari take it from here.

Mari rises, walking slowly to the front of the room. She
stops and flicks on the second monitor.

A horrific painting of a Demon tearing through a human soul
appears. It's Gothic, late 14th Century.

SAM
Hey, it's my second ex-wife.

MARI
Demons have been around for a long
time. At least according to stories
and myths from 15,000 B.C. forward.

ROBIN
Civilized human history began
20,000 years ago.

MARI
But tales of demons only appeared
in human history 15,000 years ago.

MIKE
At the same time the human race got
it's collective ass out of Africa.

Mike nods, he's on board.

MARI
Something scared the shit out of
them.

This sinks in.

MARI

My studies have always specialized in researching the blending of religion and mythology of early civilizations - structured and dogmatized spirituality versus oral tradition of stories with lessons. And thus mythologies emerging out of real events.

Robin discreetly pulls her Bible out of her bag and sets it on the table next to her notes.

MARI

Throughout all off this, I could never explain the lack of demon and devil mythology in pre-history. How could stories spring up all over the continent at exactly the same time?

SAM

This is absurd. Even in pre-history they had monsters, didn't they? I mean cave painting in France had some of it - -

MARI

Sure. Monster Bears. Monster Lions. But not Demons from a dark place not of this world. All other monsters were creations of their own time and place. And Demons and the very concept of Hell appear simultaneously in several cultures around the world. Many coinciding with an abrupt rise in religious fanaticism in those cultures.

(beat)

I believe, somehow, this object Jack found could hold the answers, or lead us to them. I don't know if they're answers we expect or if they're answers we want to know, but, I agree with Jack, that we need to see, if we can, what's there.

SAM

Why for godsakes?

Robin looks up from her Bible, it's open to Revelation. Gloom washes over her face.

ROBIN

In case they could be a threat to us. Isn't that what this is all about? Why the military.

Something clicks with Sam, he glances over at Bellow, then to Jack.

SAM

East Africa got your attention. And you were just waiting for someone like Jack to come along.

MIKE

Don't tell me we're here after the fact? And this is clean-up...

JACK

No, no. We're on point, however - -

SAM

- - I hate that word "however".

Bellows and Jack share a glance. Jack is tentative, but proceeds...

JACK

You need to understand - -

Bellows interrupts him.

BELLOWS

Jack, - -

Mari boldly steps in.

MARI

Nine years ago, in East Africa. NORAD picked up a strange phenomenon on their scanners. Something they were totally unfamiliar with. Investigation revealed that a sort of wormhole had occurred, and then later, several hundred villagers were killed.

MIKE

By the release of energy?

Out of the darkness in the corner...

BELLOWS
By a nuclear blast.

The screens light up with video images of Jets attacking villages, firing nuclear weapons, airburst detonation.

ROBIN
My god --

JACK
The government at that time claimed
the villages were consumed by
Ebola.

Sam tries to lighten up a growing dread in the room.

SAM
That must have made interesting
headlines.

MARI
(pointedly at Bellows)
Whatever happened in that village
was lost in the blast.

JACK
Or so it was thought.

MIKE
Oh, now it get's spooky.

Bellows gets up and backs the footage of the bombing until he freezes on a frame. A FLASH FRAME a nano second before the blast revealing an odd triangular shaped metal object rising out of the ground.

BELLOWS
We needed to know what we're
dealing with. That obelisk was the
key.

ROBIN
What happened to the obelisk
pictured? Any of it --

BELLOWS
-- Gone entirely.

ROBIN
A little trigger happy weren't we?

MARI

But then this second obelisk, a twin, was found by the key just as it's written in the Sumerian myth of the Underworld or Otherworld.

All eyes move out the doorway to the mountains beyond.

MIKE

Ho-ly christ.

MARI

The Marco Desert find had coordinates embedded. Took a network of super computers linked worldwide 13 months to decipher the code.

SAM

I wondered why super computer time was unavailable last year.

MIKE

So the twin. Why not excavate it and ship it--

JACK

-- Can't. It's fixed to some sort of energy source we can't remove easily and the site is swarming with Taliban, al Qaeda and worse.

SAM

Ah. Dumb question, but why not wait until the area's secured?

MARI

The computers unraveled another thing.

SAM

They always do.

MARI

The timeline. We believe there is another time rip about to happen...

ROBIN

You think you can predict it?

MARI

Using the coordinates from the computers, I came across the best lead we have.

Mari changes slides and we see a star chart.

MARI

The medieval alchemist Paracelcus, who wrote primarily about the transmutation of elements, did some early research and tracking of reported demonic possession and how they may be attributed to astrology. Of course, this was in secret as this sort of research was considered blasphemous. He speculated that when the constellation Andromeda was nearest Earth, and lined up with Mars and Jupiter, that a gateway opened and released Demons into the souls of the innocent.

JACK

He never knew how close to the truth he may have been.

MARI

He called the alignment the Janus-Andromeda Concurrence. After Janus, the god of gateways and doorways.

MIKE

Let me guess, the alignment is imminent.

MARI

Sometime tomorrow afternoon.

Everyone looks skeptical.

SAM

For a second there I thought we might be rushed.

JACK

NOW - - I don't put as much stock in the mystical side as Mari - - but I believe we can provoke the event.

SAM

Activate the obelisk - - how?

JACK

I have been up to the site twice.
In my preliminary tests, I found it
sensitive to plasma and radiation.
Specifically Gamma 6.

ROBIN

How did you detect this
sensitivity?

JACK

(smiles)
It . . . rippled.

SAM

Oh, this is good.

Jack nods and surveys the room.

JACK

You represent the best in the
fields we need to do this job. Can
we count on you?

BELLOWS

You'll have air support while
you're on the ground. A special
security team led by Colonel
Murphy...
(indicates Murphy)
...will provide cover. You'll be
air dropped in at 0800 hours and
you will have exactly sixty minutes
to run your experiment---

ROBIN

---Excuse me, sixty *minutes*?

MARI

Everything's been pre-loaded in
laptops and the plasma and
radiation containment gear is
rigged for a quick set up.

ROBIN

But sixty minutes, Mari?

BELLOWS

Any longer and we can't guarantee
we can get you out alive. Target's
in very exposed terrain off the Ru
dry lake and we can't provide 100%
assurance that we'll be able to
secure the site.

(MORE)

BELLOWS (cont'd)

There's hundreds of caves in that mountain and the threat could come from within. We just don't have good intel on hostiles in that area.

ROBIN

Oh, big surprise.

MARI

Its a holy site. Sacred. They'll be trying to stop us from disecrating it.

MIKE

Jack..you better walk us thru this gear right away.

Jack nods.

JACK

We do the best we can in the hour we have. Everyone in?

Robin covers her Bible with her notes, rests her arm on them, takes a deep breath.

ROBIN

Yes, of course.

MIKE

Try to keep me out.

Sam sits sullen and petulant, then... he nods.

SAM

I didn't come all this way just to turn around and run. 'Sides you're paying my rate, aren't you?

JACK

You were always the greediest tech.

BELLOWS

You will all be making triple your freelance quotes, plus bonuses upon successful completion of this experiment.

MIKE

Hazard pay?

BELLOWS

Uncertainty pay.

Mari flicks on the last monitor. The image of the object appears in detail.

ROBIN

There's been other incidents in the past, correct?

(beat)

How come these demons didn't make it across successfully? What prevented them from taking hold?

MARI

The physics makes it staggeringly difficult.

SAM

The devil needs physics?

MARI

We're calling it the devil but its still governed by the laws.

Silence. Everyone lost in their thoughts. Mari Looks at Jack concerned about the group.

MIKE

They're like poltergeists . . in limbo?

MARI

Stuck between the two dimensions, trying via the possession, to complete the crossover.

SAM

Where does the artifact come in? I mean, if it originally opened up 15,000 years ago, who closed it? Didn't have nukes back then.

JACK

We don't have that answer, except to say whatever event was generated was not successfully completed.

ROBIN

And what got stranded were a few angry souls who possess humans from time to time?

MARI

Yes. And those incidents formed the basis of beliefs we know as Hell, the devil - - and it's demons.

Jack moves to the white greaseboard on the wall and draws a diagram of the triangular object, lines hooked up to it, an arc-ing gateway and larger containment electric field around the whole thing.

JACK

This... is the gatekeeper. Our goal is to provoke a transference. We catch anything that arrives.

BELLOWS

And, then figure out a way to seal the gateway permanently.

SAM

And what's this "anything" going to be like?

MARI

Particle energy, perhaps with a definite consciousness.

ROBIN

"Reason and energy. From these contraries spring what the religious call Good and Evil. Good is the passive that obeys Reason. Evil is the active springing from Energy. Good is Heaven. Evil is Hell."

MIKE

Revelation... Or Old Testament?

ROBIN

William Blake.

SAM

(winks, nodding)
"Energy is Eternal Delight."

ROBIN

The Voice of the Devil.

Sam nods again, crediting Robin with knowing the quote.

MARI

Now - - regarding the religious aspect --

JACK

(cutting Mari off sharply)
We can cover that later. We've got fast work to do.

Mari flashes anger at Jack's interruption but bites her tongue.

JACK

Sam ... you'll handle the hardware
.. Mike ... oversee the radiation
side, along with hazard system
security. -- Robin... you'll run
the plasma capture sequence ...
Mari will checklist protocol.
You've already had a chance to
brief yourselves on the overview
specs we've sent you - - now, get
some rest. Big day tomorrow.

SAM

All we need is garlic or a cross.

CUT TO:

5 INT. HANGAR - BASECAMP ALPHA - DAY 5

Outside the Operations Room.

A beat, then we pick up shoes walking. Mari and Robin.

Robin eyes the brute Sea Stallion Copters. And nearby the
Special Ops Team checking over their gear.

ROBIN

(in Spanish)

You should have warned me this was
a covert operation before I dragged
my ass out here.

MARI

(in Spanish)

I'm sorry. They wouldn't let me.
But I knew we needed you.

ROBIN

Well, guns make me nervous and
terrorists really make me nervous.

MARI

Don't worry about the guns, its the
food that'll kill you.

They laugh as turn a corner out to...

6 EXT. HANGAR - DAY 6

Col. Murphy reviewing data on his PDA. He's heard their
conversation.

Robin stops short, looks at him...his body armor, weapons...his taut, steely gaze. He's locked and loaded.

COL. MURPHY

Don't worry, doctor. You've got the best of the best watching over you, ma'am.

ROBIN

That's what I'm afraid of.

CUT TO:

7 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM - DAY

7

Bellows hangs up his SAT phone, pulling his headset off. He looks hard at Jack.

BELLOWS

Should have let me tell them what happens at 60 plus one.

JACK

Better they not know, General.
(grins)
Morale and all.

Bellows starts out of the room. He turns back to Jack.

BELLOWS

You think you can contain whatever it is you bring across?

JACK

Based on the data you've provided from the East Africa, Mari's research and what we know of particle physics - yes.

The door opens. It's Col. Murphy. He stands beside the open door.

COL. MURPHY

Sorry, sir. Your ride is ready.

BELLOWS

(at both men)

This kind of work can tweak people's minds. In the past there have been problems. The team in East Africa was overwhelmed. Lost control psychologically.

JACK

That's why I picked this team.
Beyond their expertise - all but
one are pragmatic non-believers.

A flash of concern on Bellows' face.

JACK

Don't worry, Robin is a pure
scientist, she'll do her job.

Jack reads Bellows concern.

JACK

Don't you want to know what's on
the other side?

BELLOWS

I figure I'll find out in good
time.

Bellows steps out of the room. Col. Murphy flashes him a
salute which he returns.

BELLOWS

God help you, both.

Col. Murphy looks to Jack, realizing at once the intensity of
their situation.

Jack looks past the Colonel. Mari's standing there. It's
apparent she's heard the conversation between Jack and
Bellows. Col. Murphy senses their desire to talk.

COL. MURPHY

I'll see to the load up, sir.

Col. Murphy nods to Mari as he excuses himself and walks off.

MARI

We agreed that this experiment is
partially about faith - and good
and evil. If you still can't see
that, then you're lying to
yourself.

JACK

C'mon, Mari, we're scientists - -

MARI

We have to be clear on this or I
won't go on.

JACK

It's not about good or evil or God and the devil. There is nothing divine about it. It's atoms and molecules.

MARI

My research pointed out there's more to it, Professor. What? Were you just humoring me to get my help? I'm not your TA anymore, Jack. Stop treating me like a groupie.

JACK

Mari . . . if it was about God, why the hell doesn't he put an end to all the speculation and doubts and just give us 'the sign'. Raise Lazarus or some bullshit and we can get on with our lives.

Jack starts to walk away, Mari dogs him.

MARI

(in Spanish)

Cold and clinical. Boy, you're perfect to run this experiment. The concept of good and evil means nothing to you,

JACK

Don't attach morality to our project - We're not qualified to make moral judgements. And you're just like me, whether you like it or not.

It's a standoff. Neither move. Finally...

JACK

Fuck it, you do what you like. If you hurry, Bellows can still give you a ride.

Mari spins and walks out leaving Jack alone. Jack looks over at the slide image of the artifact. The more Jack stares at it, the more it seems to be - - alive.

The imagine on the screen - - ripples.

Jack blinks, disbelieving.

Suddenly a whirlpool-like cluster of clouds swirl at the center of the artifact, then - -

JACK grabs his chest and screams in agony. He is sucked into the vortex.

CUT TO:

8 INT. HELL -(GREEN SCREEN) 8

Jack's SOUL is hurled across the fiery dimension where all is CHAOS.!

THE SHADOWY FORMS appear from the distant void. They come after Jack.

Jack tries to run, anything to escape the first approaching mass of darkness and talons. It's a short chase. The Dark Forms close in.

Jack cries out as the shadows swallow him, crushing him as they do.

SLAM CUT TO:

9 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 9

Jack jumps with a start as Mari's hand tries to shake him awake. Mari and Robin stare. Jack's drenched in sweat. He feels the awkward moment.

MARI
You were yelling.

ROBIN
Screaming actually.

JACK
Fell asleep. Guess I've been
driving myself too hard.
(smile)
Be right back.

Jack exits.

Mari looks after him, concerned.

ROBIN
We haven't even started and our
leader's cracking up.

CUT TO:

10

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

10

Mari sits strumming on her guitar. Softly humming a song. Her mind faraway.

ROBIN (O.C.)
(in Spanish)
Nerves? Or are you rehearsing for a novella?

Mari looks up, wan, but smiling. She stops humming, but keeps strumming.

MARI
(in Spanish)
This end of life as we know stuff isn't anywhere as scary as when I was a child star in Buenos Aires. Lucifer? He's nothing compared to my producers and directors.

They share a chuckle.

ROBIN
(in Spanish)
I'm not sure I'm staying either...
(beat, in English)
Something doesn't feel right.

MARI
(in Spanish)
Too close to home? It's hard to mix God and science.

Interrupting, Robin surprises Mari...

ROBIN
No, it's not that. I have my faith, and God gave me my intellect to question it. This is just another test. A big one. My problem is I don't feel there's been enough due diligence.

MARI
Time's short.

ROBIN
I know. But I think you've skipped the basics. Simple Scientific Method - Observation of Nature, Deduction of Natural Laws, Formation of Hypothesis.

Mari nods and joins Robin in saying the final line...

ROBIN/MARI
Observational Testing of the
Validity of your Predictions.

They laugh together.

ROBIN
There's protocol for a reason. I
don't have your experience, Mari,
but it seems poorly prepped.

MARI
The cosmic alignment... we had to
risk going ahead even with
incomplete prep because of the
potential consequences if we did
nothing.

ROBIN
I can understand the why. But
there's Jack's rep.

MARI
Let's just say it was easier to
split the atom than to get him to
be reasonable. It broke us apart. I
didn't understand his pathological
drive over proving his theory -
until the Marco Desert.

ROBIN
I'm sorry, but even the Marco
Desert find is no excuse for
bypassing established checks.
Without them, we could be
unleashing another situation. This
time even nukes might not be
enough.

Mari ponders for a beat, then - -

MARI
Then you're not going?

ROBIN
Are you?

MARI
If I left, he'd proceed without me.
I almost feel like I have to stay
if only to be the responsible watch
dog.

They fall silent for a moment feeling the weight.

ROBIN

Do you believe in demons? I mean,
possession.

Mari considers.

MARI

I believe most of it is mental
illness. Schizophrenia, paranoia,
dual personality. You?

ROBIN

I'm a good Catholic. I believe that
a spirit of evil or dark origin can
possess people. I'll tell you, I've
heard stories that scared me enough
to leave that door of possibility
open.

MARI

As a good agnostic, I'll admit if I
were looking into the face of the
devil - I would know what to say.

ROBIN

Psalm 23, or the Lord's Prayer
should do the trick.

Mari looks at Robin strangely. Robin grins, laughs at Mari's
spiritual uncertainty.

ROBIN

You know what they say, there are
no atheists in foxholes.

Mari nods, agreeing.

ROBIN

The real question is, do you think
Jack's under control?

Mari thinks, doesn't respond.

A door knock.

COL. MURPHY (O.S.)

We're boarding in 30 minutes,
ladies.

Robin pulls the door open. The Colonel stands, stern as ever.

COL. MURPHY
If you need help with your gear,
ma'am.

Robin meets his eyes.

ROBIN
I know. The best of the best will
carry my stuff.
(beat, grins)
And it's Robin not ma'am.

COL. MURPHY
Yes, ma'am.

He grins and exits.

Robin blushes and looks with Mari, who lets a soft laugh slip
past her lips.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. CHOPPER PAD - DAWN 11

The three Sea Stallions roar, blades slicing through the air.

Col. Murphy and his team escort Jack, Mari, Robin, Sam and
Mike to their waiting copter. They wear combat fatigues,
helmets and flak armor. They look awkward as hell. Once in,
the Colonel follows with four commandos. The rest of his unit
spreads out to the other two aircraft.

Engines whine and scream as the three copters lift off.

CUT TO:

12 INT SEA STALLION - DAWN 12

The science team huddles in their seats, pulling their coats
tight against the chill. Col. Murphy's attention is fixed on
the Afghani landscape below.

Mari looks at Jack. His eyes are blank. Staring off. Lost.
She glances out the windows. Copters to the left and right.

MARI
(at the Colonel)
How's it looking?

COL. MURPHY
Hard to say. Enemy's good at hiding
until--

KA-BOOM!

The copter to the left EXPLODES and spins down, trailing flames and wreckage. Robin screams, the scientists flinch and cower. Except Mari, who stares fixated on the falling craft.

COL. MURPHY
HEADS DOWN!

Jack rises, searching the sky outside--

JACK
The equipment?! Is it--

The Colonel yanks Jack back to his seat.

COL. MURPHY
SIT DOWN, DOCTOR!

The Colonel listens to his headset. His face is grim.

COL. MURPHY
(tersely)
Equipment's okay.

JACK
Then we're still a go.

COL. MURPHY
Yes, sir.

SAM
"A go"?? Are you out of your mind?!
They just shot down--

JACK
It's risk, Sam. We have to think of
the what we're suppose to do--

SAM
You're not going to give me that
"stopping won't bring them back"
bullshit!

ROBIN
I'm out, Jack. TURN AROUND!

JACK
NO! We have our orders. We're
continuing!

MIKE
What orders?!

JACK
(at Murphy)
Tell them, Colonel.

The Colonel, pained.

COL. MURPHY
The Doctor's right. Unless the
mission is compromised, we're to
proceed at all cost.

MARI
WHAT? I never heard that?

JACK
Would you have come if you did?

MARI
God damn you Jack!

JACK
That's right. And we're going to
see this through.
(at the team)
Understood? You risk this mission
and the Colonel has his orders.

MARI
(at Murphy)
To what? Kill us?

COL. MURPHY
(tight)
Let's calm down and focus. I just
lost a lot of good, fine men.
(beat)
We're seeing this through.

SAM
Well, I don't think --

COL. MURPHY
(sharp)
--What you think doesn't concern
me, Doctor. Are we clear about
that?

A glum, resigned silence as the copters rumble forward into
the desert plateau.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. RU DRY LAKE BED - MORNING 13

A Two Sea Stallions kick up dust as they scream across sand and rock.

Across a wide expanse it races towards...

14 EXT. LANDING SITE - RU DRY LAKE - MORNING 14

In the middle of nowhere.

Wind and dust swirl around as the two giant copters touch down fast and hard.

From the first helicopter rush two commandos. They the positions setting up a perimeter. They are joined by the soldiers from the scientists' copter. They are the only things moving in the barren landscape. Otherwise, no signs of life anywhere.

Col. Murphy jumps out and signals to Mari --

COL. MURPHY

Let's move! We're on the clock.

The scientists scramble out with their back packs and gear. Jack is last. He gazes up at the crags that ring the edges of the dry lake.

JACK

This way!

Colonel Murphy signals. His men grab the larger equipment cases. The whole group hustles across the lake bed as the Stallions lift off in a hurry.

CUT TO:

15 EXT CAVE - MORNING 15

The group moves through the crags. The morning sun has turned hot. Everyone sweats and labors. Finally, they reach the mouth of a large cave. Jack's already there, unpacking his worklights after shedding his body armor and helmet.

SAM

Well, that was hike.

JACK

Get your work lights out and follow me.

Jack disappears into the cave.

MIKE
(at Mari, breathless)
Jack's got to slow down a bit.
We're not going to be ny good if we
have heartattacks.

Mari nods. She whips off her helmet and armor--

COL. MURPHY
Ho! What are you doing, ma'am

MARI
Can't work in this, alright?

Mari clambers up to the cave entrance and shines a light in.

MARI
Jack?

No answer.

MARI
Shit.

She looks back at Robin, Mike and Sam struggling to get their armor off and helmets off. Mike's particularly in bad shape. Unable to catch his breath. Cramping a bit.

MARI
Mike...you okay?

He nods, but unconvincingly. She hops back down and grabs Mike's gear.

MIKE
Hey!

MARI
(smiles)
You carry mine home. Deal?

Mike grins, nods. Mari heads back up toward the cave entrance.

Robin struggles to strap her pack on. Col. Murphy steps over and gives her a hand.

ROBIN
(grins)
Thanks, soldier.

COL. MURPHY
Yes, ma'am.

Robin takes off with Sam and Mike. The Colonel deploys his men and checks his watch. 11 minutes are already gone.

CUT TO:

16

INT. CAVE - OBELISK CHAMBER - MORNING

16

Mari stops at the sight of where the obelisk sits under several work lights. A sealed metal containment has already been placed completely over it. The container is crawling with electronics and looks built to withstand a nuclear blast. The obelisk itself is viewed through a monitor on Jack's laptop.

JACK

Now, wasn't this worth everything?

MARI

We don't know what "this" is yet, Jack.

Mari sets down her packs and starts pulling out her equipment and laptop. As she does she takes in the set up.

Besides the work lights and containment vessel, four pipes and a half dozen thick electronic conduits lead out from the containment. None are attached to anything except Jack has attached his laptop and sensors to one of the conduits.

Robin, Sam and Mike arrive. They stare.

ROBIN

Whoa.

MARI

You feel that?

SAM

Yeah. Like a electrical charge in the air.

JACK

That's the gateway starting to activate per Mari's timeline.

SAM

Oh, this is too trippy.

JACK

Come on, get going. We haven't much time.

They drop their packs and start getting their equipment out,
as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

17 INT. CAVE - MORNING

17

CAMERA ROAMS ACROSS a complex portable equipment. Diagnostic equipment switches on. Everything run by battery power from a power unit set deeper into the cave tunnel, away from the main site.

CAMERA TILTS UP at the monitors pitched down for viewing. The monitors come on. Screens flicker to life. One normal. The other THERMAL.

JACK (OS)
Everybody set?

CAMERA PULLS BACK from laptop screens of each team member.

ON MIKE'S LAPTOP SCREEN:

INTERNET INTERFACE - ACTIVE.

MIKE
Okay, the link's up and running.
We're streaming data back to
General Bellows at the Command
center.

Seated around the central containment vessel are Mari, Mike, Robin and Sam. Col. Murphy walks in to check progress and observe.

All eyes are on the square metal container at the center of the room.

What's INSIDE appears on the scientists' LAPTOP MONITORS -- A TRIANGULAR METAL ARTIFACT oddly alien in look.

The metal skin is covered with alien language and...FACES.
Demonic faces.

COL. MURPHY
How we doing here?

JACK
(slipping his headset on)
Fine. We're about to start.

COL. MURPHY
Roger that.

JACK
(at Mari)
Are we set?

Mari nods. In front of her is a deciphered code of procedure.
Robin gives a thumbs up. Mike reviews his computer screen.

MIKE
On line.

Jack looks at Sam, who is tweaking his equipment.

JACK
Sam!

SAM
Yeah, loud and clear.

JACK
How's the EMG? We need 16 m.r.'s of
gamma to activate the artifact.

MIKE
16 m.r. Systems a-okay.

Everyone looks at the monitors.

ON SCREEN:

The artifact begins to - - RIPPLE!

Slight, subtle, but definitely moving...coming to LIFE.

ROBIN
(stunned)
We've got initialization.

Jack smiles.

SAM
Christ . . . it's really alive.

MIKE
Go to stage two?

JACK
Go. Stay in sync. Add plasma.

All five go to work. Jack observes each.

Mike punches in gamma radiation coordinates.

Robin carefully floods the metal container with a liquefied plasma. Col. Murphy cranes to see. Without thinking...

COL. MURPHY

What's that supposed to do?

MARI

The plasma will contain the energy that comes through. Works like heavy water does with radiation.

Sam increases electrical charges to the artifact.

Mari checking everyone's progress against her code.

Jack smiles, turns to his laptop. He begins typing in commands.

ON SCREEN:

The artifact of micro-sculptures and inscriptions pulses and begins to come to Life!

Cavities open in the artifact as appendages move robotically into a new configuration.

Probes extend from the cavities.

The sculpted figures of DEMONS come to life and writhe and shriek.

PAN TO:

ON THE THERMAL WINDOW ON ROBIN'S LAPTOP SCREEN:

An AURA seems to be emerging from the artifact. It's blood red. Ghostly. Dim. Very faint. But definitely there.

At the energy particle' head appears to be ... an apparition. It's still vague and not quite formed. Horrible. Not human. Not of this world.

Mari looks at Jack. His face is enraptured. There's a madness in his eyes. Mari grows concerned.

ROBIN

Jesus...

MIKE

I don't think so.

SAM

Shit. What is that?

ROBIN

Is that . . . a face of some kind?

JACK

It's energy particles.

MIKE

But of what?

JACK

That's what we're going to learn.

SAM

Stage two complete.

ON THE THERMAL MONITOR:

Growing areas of RED. Continuing to form into a visage. Claws? Fangs? It's still unclear, yet disturbing.

Mari moves beside Jack.

MARI

Lets hold here, Jack. Run protocol--

Jack shoves Mari aside. Robin and Col. Murphy take note and exchange looks.

COL. MURPHY

Is there a threat here? --

MARI

Jack.

A LOUD WARNING GOES OFF ON SAM'S LAPTOP!

ON MIKE'S LAPTOP:

The artifact is turning translucent. Plasma is beginning to boil.

MIKE

We've got pressure working. The plasma's struggling to contain the energy particles. More juice Sam or it'll get loose.

SAM

Going to seven.

Sam dials in a power increase. Jack is impressed by the activity on the screen. He's totally absorbed by it.

JACK
Easy, Sam. Not too fast. We don't
want to stop it from coming across.

Sam slows up.

MARI
Jack. Please.

Jack shoots a look at Mari. Almost snarling.

JACK
(into his mic)
Let the record show that at
seventeen-hundred hours, twenty-one
minutes, device was activated and
initialized. Dimensional connection
achieved.

Suddenly the metal container begins to VIBRATE. Loud,
ominous...

MARI
It's too much for the plasma to
hold, Jack. We don't have enough
pressure on it.

ROBIN
Pressure's falling? We're losing
it.

SAM
Power's overloading. We better back
off.

JACK
Stay with it!

MIKE
10.6 base gamma connection. The
damn thing's sucking up it's own
radiation now!

Mari grabs Jack--

MARI
JACK! SHUT DOWN BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE!

Col. Murphy lifts his rifle.

ON THE JACK'S SCREEN:

The ghostly apparition seems to be struggling to emerge from the artifact as a vortex forms around it. The vortex is taking in all the energy in the container.

Jack watches hopeful... desperate.

JACK
C'mon, baby.

ROBIN
It's not holding.

Mari pushes past Jack to Sam.

MARI
Inject more plasma D to hold it! DO
IT NOW!

ROBIN
Clear.

SAM
Injection commencing.

JACK
NO!

SAM
25%.

JACK
Sam! Back off!

MARI
Shut up Jack!

ROBIN
It's holding.

MIKE
(sigh of relief)
Its in remission.

JACK
No...

ON THE MIKE'S SCREEN:

A fresh gush of different, redder liquid oozes into the clear plasma.

The artifact distorts wildly, starting to shrink back for a moment.

The opening in the center of the artifact is filled with aural electrical charges that become dimmed by the injection plasma. Then it quickly regains it's strength.

MIKE

Negative. Damn--it's still going up.

JACK

Let it come across!

The cave begins to vibrate.

MARI

Hit it with 100%!

Sam works frantically.

Col. Murphy's anxiety cranks up a notch.

ROBIN

We're at critical mass. We won't be able to hold it if it comes across!

JACK

Let it come!

SAM

God damn it, Jack! We've got to shut down before it gets loose.

Jack reaches for Sam's controls. They struggle. Mari grabs Jack and holds on for dear life. Col. Murphy aims his rifle at Jack.

COL. MURPHY

Stand down, Doctor!

There's a violent shudder. Jack and Mari fall to the ground. Jack's head bangs into a rock outcropping and is knocked unconscious.

Robin increases the injection of plasma. Everyone is fixated on their laptop screens.

ON THE ROBIN'S SCREEN:

More dark red fluid enters until the glowing artifact is almost obscured by the denseness of the plasma.

ON THE SAM'S SCREEN:

The apparition has almost cleared the opening in the artifact.

SAM

Oh, crap.

Mari reaches for a red emergency button.

The energy twists and contorts in what looks like agony. The "face" appears to be shrieking.

Lights in the cave begin to STROBE. The shaking becomes VIOLENT.

ROBIN

(at Mari)

Jesus, do something!

Mari reaches out - and SLAMS her hand down on the "kill" button.

POWER SHUTS DOWN.

The cave goes dark for a second.

MARI

Rebooting power.

The lights flicker back to life.

Everything returns to normal. Col. Murphy lowers his weapon.

Jack comes too. Mari reaches to help him. Jack spins around at Mari. His face is a contorted mask of feral hatred. Almost insanely inhuman.

JACK

YOU STUPID BITCH! HOW DARE YOU! It was almost across!

This stuns everyone. Silence. Shock. Even Jacks seems to be taken aback by what he's said.

No one moves. No one says a word. No one hardly BREATHEs.

JACK

(hushed)

Sorry.

Mari glares at Jack, her eyes burn into him. Incensed. Outrages.

Robin looks at her laptop screen. Now feeling safe, refreshed and a little thrilled...

ROBIN

The connection lasted for twenty-two seconds.

SAM

A new world's record.

(sotto)

As if there's were an old one.

JACK

Still disappointing.

ROBIN

(growing excitement)

How can you say that? WE just peeked into another dimension.

Mike frowns at the data rolling across his laptop screen.

MIKE

I've got an anomaly here.

Robin looks at her laptop screen.

Mari continues to glare at at Jack. He looks away as if he's lost interest in her.

ROBIN

Looks like the system was so overtaxed, it ruptured the cortex connectors where it hooked into the axiom. The safeties never kicked in when they were suppose to.

SAM

The code should have prevented that.

MARI

The code was tampered with.

Everyone looks to Mari. She catches everyone's eye then turns to stare right at Jack. There is an inquisitive point to it.

Mari seems to be seeing Jack clearly for the first time. Like something's been revealed to her. She is ice-cool calm.

MARI

There's slight adjustments to the numbers that weren't there during the trials. I'll run a back-check to see what happened.

(pause, calmly)

(MORE)

MARI (cont'd)

You didn't change the calculations when you loaded it into the system, did you, Jack?

JACK

Check it.

MIKE

It didn't seem to be a single matter of too little AC, either.

ROBIN

Then what?

MIKE

You were here and saw it. What do you think it was?

JACK

I saw an overload.

MARI

I saw more than that. We all did. What happened confirmed the mythology of the otherworld.

JACK

What's needed is scientific analysis, not philosophical theorizing.

ROBIN

I want to hear Mari out.
(at Mari)
Go on.

MARI

In illustrations of possession, the demon is usually shown entering from a portal of energy. It comes in face first, torso distorted.

JACK

Look, I think we should be careful with the application of human superstition on this subject.

SAM

I thought that was your whole take on this, Jack-o.

JACK

It's the basis of human mythology. We're not talking demons for real.

ROBIN

That's exactly what you were talking about.

JACK

Then you misunderstood.

MIKE

It was a boogie-man, wasn't it, Mari?

MARI

I think we--

JACK

(cutting Mari off)

We experienced a violent reaction which caused us to see subconscious imaging, like ink blots -

SAM

- - A group hallucination? Now you're reaching - - I get drunk, but I don't hallucinate.

MARI

The intent was to bridge the gap between our world and another. What did you expect, Jack?

Silence in the cave.

JACK

I can explain the phenomenon in terms of physics -

Mari finally lets out a sharp bite of anger.

MARI

(in Spanish)

We just got a look into HELL.

ROBIN

(exhilarated)

Yeah, that's what you wanted. Why backtrack?

JACK

I don't want us to go off and jump to conclusions. Maybe it was demon and maybe it was a portal to HELL. But that's what we have to prove.

MIKE

I suggest we review the data received through protocol analysis before we attempt the experiment again.

JACK

And after the protocol analysis, we'll move on the Stage 3.
(beat they all know what's coming)
The capture.

Everyone's face looks a little uncertain if they want to proceed. Robin withdraws into herself for a moment, the euphoria gone, reality returned.

JACK

C'mom. You all know that his work must eventually lead to this.

ROBIN

Just not so damn soon.

SAM

What about the damage to the containment unit's P drive?

JACK

We've got a back up. Hook it in, Sam, and increase the strength of the connection.

MIKE

And enhance the density level of the containment plasma.

Sam nods.

JACK

Then we're all agreed.
(beat)
Start up in ten minutes. That's enough time for Sam to replace the unit and run a systems check.

Col. Murphy checks his watch. 33 minutes elapsed.

COL. MURPHY

(at Jack)
27 minutes left, Doctor. Then we evac.

Jack nods, then goes back to his laptop. Robin, Mike and Mari rise to go outside. Sam opens a case for a new P unit.

SAM

Wish I had a cocktail to smooth the edges.

Col. Murphy exits, Sam, Robin and Mike on his heels.

JACK

Mari -

Mari ignores Jack. She keeps going to following the others out.

CUT TO:

18

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

18

Col. Murphy exits the cave and keeps going, heading for his unit's positions. Robin and Mike step out of the cave together and take deep breathes trying to settle their nerves.

Mari passes Robin and Mike who look at her, then back at Robin.

MIKE

I'm shaken up.

Robin nods. She and Mike start walking. Up ahead, Mari takes a seat on a rockwall and leans back, closing her eyes, feeling the warmth of the sun.

ROBIN

I have to admit, it was exciting, but...

Robin has a sense of guilt about her participation.

ROBIN

(shakes her head)
This project is corrupt.

MIKE

Yeah, I'm getting a bad vibe.

ROBIN

Just now you're getting a bad feeling?

MIKE

Jack's a research stud. He was my hero when I first read his dimensional treatise.

ROBIN

What was the deal with that anyway?

MIKE

He was published in Quantum. Stanford closed his offices when they read it - canceled his grant. Then there was the fooling around with TA's and students.

ROBIN

I heard the treatise was insane babble.

MIKE

It was - speculative Sci-Fi shit, very hip ideas, but no one took him seriously after that. This would be his redemption, so I guess I can understand his determination.

ROBIN

I don't think he can redeem much of anything right now.

CUT TO:

MARI

noticing Colonel Murphy pulling out his satellite phone. She frowns, sensing something wrong.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. CAVE PERIMETER - MORNING

19

Murphy is about to call in an report.

MARI (O.S.)

What are you going to say?

Co. Murphy wheels.

COL. MURPHY

Tell them what I witnessed. Ma'am.

MARI

Are you going to recommend we shut down?

COL. MURPHY
Should I, ma'am?

MARI
Yes.

COL. MURPHY
Well, it's not my call.

Mari nods.

MARI
Tell them what you saw. Everything.
And tell them I'm recommending a
shut down.

COL. MURPHY
Yes, ma'am. I'll pass that along.

Mari turns and starts back for the cave.

COL. MURPHY
Doctor?

Mari turns.

COL. MURPHY
What was that?

MARI
What was coming through?

COL. MURPHY
Yes, ma'am.

MARI
Honestly...I hope we never find
out, Colonel.

COL. MURPHY
(checking his watch)
You may not...only 21 minutes to
evac.

Mari nods. Col. Murphy turns back to the radio.

CUT TO:

20

INT. CAVE - OBELISK CHAMBER - MORNING

20

BACK to the cave where we watch Jack secretly hunched over
his laptop.

JACK'S EYES

are focused on the screen.

He's watching a replay of the experiment.

When the GATEWAY appears - -

JACK

is sucked into the screen - -

and into the Gateway.

21 INT. HELL -(GREEN SCREEN)

21

Jack's SOUL

tumbles

across the fiery, lava laden

terrain.

CRACKS AND FISSURES

appear in molten rock.

THE SHADOWY FORMS emerge by the thousands.

All fangs and talons.

They fly after Jack.

Jack runs

Or tries to.

His feet burn

as they slosh through the molten rock.

He catches fire.

The Shadowy Forms - -

- - eyes red and bloody - -

descend on him in a frenzy.

They tear him apart even as his face incinerates - -

CUT TO:

22

INT. CAVE - MORNING

22

Jack jolts awake.

He's covered in sweat.

His eyes are wide with terror.

He looks over to see:

Mari, Robin and Mike returning. They begin reviewing the data on their laptops. They index and cross check the information. The work is tedious and drowning in minutia. But they feel the pressure of time.

Jack walks up to Mari.

JACK

Mari I'd like to talk to you.

She ignores him. Robin and Mike look over. Jack feels uncomfortable.

JACK

Please.

Jack puts his hand on her shoulder. He squeezes.

JACK

It's just take a second.

MARI

I'm at a critical phase -

JACK

It can wait.

MARI

Wait? Is this Professor Winslow I'm talking to? Or his sensitive evil twin?

JACK

C'mon.

Mari looks around at Robin and Mike. Both have gone back to their work.

Mari reluctantly gets up and follows Jack toward the cave entrance. CAMERA FOLLOWS MARI.

JACK

I said I'm sorry.

MARI

For what? This experiment, your total unprofessional protocol., The fact that you're recklessly risking our lives and God knows what else.

JACK

Everything.

MARI

Everything covers a pretty large territory with you.

JACK

I don't know what came over me.

MARI

Sure you do, Jack. Me, I, my. In your rush for fame and glory you don't care who you trample.

JACK

Being on the cutting edge has it's price.

MARI

And you've always been glad to pay it.

JACK

Yeah? And why are you here?

MARI

You haven't figured that out yet?

JACK

You're like me, publish or perish?

MARI

Is that what you think of me?

JACK

You were my best and brightest. I thought you understood what I've been trying to achieve . . . what it could mean.

MARI

I think you're brilliant, Jack. I thought your work's brilliant - - but you're reckless and, worse, thoughtless.

JACK

(smiles)

Do we have to drive my acknowledged
sins into the ground?

MARI

Your sins could get us all killed.

Jack drops his chin, closing his eyes.

MARI

(reacting)

Ever since you found that thing...
I think we've been dealing with
evil in the form of an astral
pathogen... truly, an astrophysical
microorganism. Back when you were
brilliant and clear thinking, the
theory you formulated is the likely
answer. But you've changed. Maybe I
was intoxicated at the
possibilities, just like you. But,
I don't know you now, Professor.
You've schism-ed somewhere along
the way.

Jack laughs. It's small and nervous.

JACK

C'mon Mari. Are you trying to scare
me?

MARI

Something's wrong with you, Jack.

Jack turns away. He marches off toward the cave mouth.

JACK

This is a helluva petty way to get
back at me. Did my never loving you
hurt you that much?

MARI

That's unfair, you son of a bitch.

Jack walks away, vanishing out the opening.

MARI

(quietly)

And yes . . . it did hurt.

CUT TO:

23

INT. CAVE - OBELISK CHAMBER - MORNING

23

Robin glances up.

ROBIN

Well? Do we have him committed,
medicated, or shot?

MARI

We have to call someone.

MIKE (O.S.)

How about 911?

Mari and Robin look at Mike.

CAMERA PANS OVER. Mike is staring dumbfounded at his laptop.
He looks scared.

ROBIN

What is it?

Mike's voice tremble as he speaks.

MIKE

You tell me. I was just checking
the hazard seals, when I found
something. I've started running the
standard's system analysis.

Robin and Mari move over.

CAMERA TRACKS WITH THEM.

All three look at Mike's laptop screen. They study the data .
Their faces grow taut and tight as they read.

ROBIN

Damn.

MARI

Are you sure of these figures?

MIKE

I've run it 11 times hoping I was
in error.

ROBIN

It's not possible.

MIKE

The pixels don't lie. And I've
taken it further . . .

Col. Murphy walks into the chamber, taking in every word as he quietly lifts his rifle. Robin notices.

MIKE

What we've got here is an energy force of some viral antigen make-up. It's effect on life tissue is one-hundred percent at exposure.

Col. Murphy steps to the laptop and hovers over screen. He draws his satellite phone.

MARI

Just hang on, Colonel. There's been no alarm - -

COL. MURPHY

If we have a contagion here, it's an automatic sanitization - you all know that.

MARI

Just hang on.
(at Robin)
Robin?

Robin studies the data.

ROBIN

The energy particles assimilate biological structures and reproduce themselves exponentially, every 24 hours or so. This part is still a little vague because of the lack of hard data. But the model supports the idea it would take over a human body, depending on the level of exposure, in at most, a couple of years. And if there's a heavy dose... It could take effect almost immediately. And once it's started, there's no going back.

Mari eyes Murphy. Murphy is determined, ready to make his call.

MARI

What happens to the host?

ROBIN

It's imprisoned by the particles, until the antigen can find a new host. We're assuming it can transfer itself, somehow.

MIKE

The model supports that possibility. The antigen attacks the DNA of the host cells rather than nucleic acids. Very efficient.

Robin hurries over to her laptop. She goes right to work.

MARI

Shit.

COL. MURPHY

Explain... please.

MIKE

In layman's terms - we're in up to our necks and no one's got a shovel.

MARI

We have to stop what we're doing before it's too late.

Robin looks up from her screen.

ROBIN

It is too late. My scan shows something has breached -

COL. MURPHY

What's breached, god damn it?

MARI

(at Murphy)

Give us a second.

(to Robin)

The pathogens in the container?

ROBIN

Or even past that.

MIKE

Oh my god!

Mari looks at the empty space on the container where a small outboard unit had been.

MARI

Sam!

They rush deeper into the cave. Col. Murphy follows.

CAMERA FOLLOWS them down helter skelter.

They run into Sam.

SAM
Christ!

MARI
We wanted to have a look at the P
drive data before you switched -

SAM
Too late.

COL. MURPHY
(commanding)
Hold it!

All eyes turn on Col. Murphy who has his weapon raised at them.

COL. MURPHY
Tell me, right fucking now!

MIKE
I think we should run a cellular
make-up on Sam.

SAM
(concerned)
Wait a second - what's going on?

ROBIN/MARI
There has been a breach of the
containment plasma.

Sam pales.

Col. Murphy starts his satellite call.

ROBIN
Please. Just give us a few minutes
to see what's happened!

COL. MURPHY
Do we have a few minutes?

MARI
Yes! Now let us do our job.

A beat, then...

Col. Murphy relaxes his posture.

COL. MURPHY
You've got 15 minutes.

MARI
Get the data, Sam -- I'll find
Jack.

Mari goes for the cave exit. THE CAMERA TRACKS with her.

Behind we see Robin and Mike take Sam off with them, leaving
Col. Murphy alone.

24

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

24

Mari emerges frantic, looking around.

MARI
Jack?!

No answer, but she can hear RASPY BREATHING ON THE OTHER SIDE
of a rock outcropping.

MARI
Jack? You there?

Mari listens. On the other side she hears . . . voices? She
can't quite tell. Neither can we. It sounds like languages.

MARI
Jack!

Mari climbs around. The voices stop.

A figure steps into view. Jack is revealed, pale and gaunt.
His eyes are unfocused.

MARI
You okay?

JACK
Had a nightmare. What's up?

MARI
We've discovered a potential breach
of the container by the pathogen.
The Colonel's going to call in the
nuke.

Jack nods, now finally concerned.

MARI
Did you understand, Jack?

JACK
It got loose.

MARI

Sam was with the P drive unit he removed from the container. They're running tests now.

JACK

What kind of tests?

MARI

Mike's program shows it's virulent.

Jack's mind races, then...

JACK

Let's go.

Jack hurries back toward the cave. Mari is surprised to be left behind.

She looks back at the rocks and notices a BLOODY TISSUE on floor. The blood is fresh and mixed with mucous. Mari takes out her pen and scoops a sample.

CUT TO:

25

INT. CAVE - MORNING

25

Sam undergoes diagnostic scan as Jack arrives.

Jack joins Robin and Mike to study results on the laptop screens as Mari dashes in. Col. Murphy is standing close by.

COL. MURPHY

(at Mari)

6 minutes.

CAMERA PANS WITH MARI TO: At the other end of the cave...

Mari smears a sample of BLOOD and mucous from the tissue onto a specimen slide. She sits alone at a microscope. She hurries in preparing the slide.

She doesn't want the others to discover her intentions. She slips the specimen slide into a port on the microscope.

CAMERA PANS LEFT TO HOLD...

A MAGNIFIED IMAGE IS PRESENTED ON THE SMALL WALK-MAN SIZED MONITOR in front of Mari.

She manipulates the magnification via the computer next to her. The monitor screen changes. Appropriate magnification and focus are presented.

Mari scrolls across the image of cells, studying it in close detail. She pauses.

At the lower corner of the screen there is a small BLACK SPOT. A blurred, shadowy area. Mari stares at it for a moment.

It fascinates and scares her. She glances back across the cave.

CAMERA PAN OVER to the others. They are still hard at work on Sam and his diagnostics.

CAMERA PANS BACK TO: Mari, feeling pressured for time. She presses the keyboard.

The MAGNIFIED IMAGE OF CELLS is subdivided by a grid overlay. More commands type out.

The screen adjusts accordingly.

Now the area of the cell with the BLACK SPOT sits in the center of the screen.

Mari taps in another command. Magnification increases.

Now the dark area of the cellular structure occupies half the screen.

Mari eyes it suspiciously. There's still no detail in the black spot. It seems like a bottomless pit.

Mari grids the screen again. She magnifies again, keeping the black spot screen center.

Now the dark area occupies more than three-quarters of the screen. The focus is sharp and there is fine-detail on the edges of the black spot.

But no detail in the black spot itself. Just darkness.

Mari types in instructions:

"Analysis of anomaly in quadrant"

Mari waits nervously. She glances over across the cave.

CAMERA PANS TO JACK

He is hunched over a laptop screen.

The glow of the screen reflects his eyes, making them seem eerie.

CAMERA PANS BACK TO MARI

An answer appears across her computer screen:

"UNKNOWN"

Mari stares at the answer, numb. She quickly types in more commands.

Each answer comes back:

"UNKNOWN". "UNKNOWN". "UNKNOWN".

Mari's face fills with distress. She looks across the cave.

CAMERA PANS TO JACK

He is staring piercingly right at Mari. Grinning.

His eyes shine with mad, burning evil.

JACK
Find something, Mari?

CAMERA WHIPS BACK TO MARI

Her fingers fumble as they cancel her test.

MARI
Nothing.

Mari rises from the microscope and goes over to the other side of the cave.

CAMERAL FOLLOWS

Sam stands up from his chair, removing the EKG tabs from his chest and waist. He breathes a sigh of relief.

SAM
Damn, that was scary.

ROBIN
You're not totally out of the woods, Sam. We still have some cellular tests to complete.

SAM
But I'm back to normal?

MIKE
If you could call it that - yes.

Sam smiles at the joke. Col. Murphy relaxes slightly.

COL. MURPHY
So, there's no event?

JACK
No. There's 6 minutes left. Let's
move on to the stage three
experiment.

ROBIN
That's not a good idea in light of
the breach.

JACK
There's been no harm done.

ROBIN
So far as we can tell.

JACK
There's no proof that the breach
was anything more than microscopic
vapor escape that was absorbed by
the plasma. I mean, we're not
dealing with Group 5 Biohazards.

MARI
No, we're dealing with something
more dangerous.

JACK
Bogey man scare you, Mari?

MARI
We can continue the Stage Three
experiment another time. Let's take
back the data and see where we are.
This day is finished.

(beat)
We have that to be prudent, right,
Jack? In the interest of proper
safety protocol?

COL. MURPHY
You're out of time, Doctor.

Jack laughs, nodding.

ROBIN
I'm not so sure we should proceed
even if the tests all come back
negative.

JACK

Our mandate is to move ahead as quickly as possible. With every minute we have. We are charged to take the risks. All of them.

MARI

Are you afraid to risk killing what's left of your reputation?

JACK

I expect more support from you, Mari. Especially from you. You understand what's at stake even if they don't. There's only a few minutes left before we miss the opportunity.

MARI

And that's why I agree with them. Pullback. Reassess. We have to control the process better. It's apparent to everyone but you that the thing can't be contained with our present research model. Lets evacuate and return another time.

Jack doesn't say another word. He simply marches deeper into the cave.

Mari, Robin, Sam and Mike give silent looks at Jack as he walks.

They can't see Jack's face. Which isn't there any longer.

Something else is . . . something dark and inhuman.

It convulses violently.

Mike looks at Mari.

MIKE

So, ... What now?

MARI

We grab our data and go.

All eyes turn to Col. Murphy.

COL. MURPHY

Agreed. Let's move.
(activating his SAT phone)
Bravo One, this is Bravo Two.
(MORE)

COL. MURPHY (cont'd)
We're moving to the extraction
site. ETA 10 minutes.

Murphy exits the cave. Mike and Sam begin shutting down their systems.

MARI
Sam, go to the central batteries
and see if you can begin the power
shut-down manually from there.
It'll be faster. That will at least
prevent Jack from doing any more
before leave.

Sam hurries deeper into cave where the primary power source is staged.

MARI
Robin, I want to show you
something.

Mari leads Robin over to the microscope and her laptop.

CAMERA FOLLOWS.

Mari activates the program. The screen comes to life with the BLACK SPOT.

And the data text concerning it.

Robin reads the text, then looks up at the black spot. Her face is tense.

ROBIN
Shit . . .

MARI
Exactly.

ROBIN
You ran a systems check?

MARI
Everything is working fine.

ROBIN
I wish it wasn't.
(beat)
Any theories on this?

MARI
Just that it's weird. How's that
for scientific.

ROBIN
Well, it could be any number of things.

MARI
Yeah?

ROBIN
Benign tumor, scar tissue, cyst.

MARI
The computer would be able to identify that.

ROBIN
The computer must be in error. Corrupted files, virus, something.

MARI
Diagnostic says it's not.

ROBIN
(tense)
Then it has to be a malfunction in the diagnostic and check programs. We'd still get a positive read if that were the case.

MARI
Multiple malfunctions? That's unlikely.

ROBIN
Then what's the explanation, Mari?

Mari hates to admit it, but...

MARI
I think we're looking at a stray particle. It got into Jack's cellular make-up somehow.

Both scientists stare for a long time at the screen.

ROBIN
It would explain his behavior.

MARI
Some of it.

ROBIN
What are you saying?

MARI
 (cautious to admit)
 Jack was unstable to begin with.

ROBIN
 Don't say that. Everything in this
 cave built on his protocol. His
 hasty protocol.

They look at the equipment. AT THE CONTAINER.

ROBIN
 We gotta get the hell out of here.

MARI
 First the program shut-down.

Mari and Robin move away.

CAMERA REMAINS on the laptop.

ON THE SCREEN:

THE BLACK DOT is EXPANDING until the entire screen is BLACK.

Then the instruments around the microscope begin to show
 WILDLY FLUCTUATING READINGS.

The force has spread beyond the specimen slide.

IN THE BACKGROUND:

Mari and Robin frantically work at laptops, oblivious to the
 microscope's screen.

MARI
 I'm striking out. Jack's got
everything encoded.

ROBIN
 I hope Sam's got better luck.

CUT TO:

26

INT. CAVE - POWER STAGING AREA - MORNING

26

Sam types away, his nimble fingers as much at home on the
 keyboard as those of a concert pianist's on a baby grand.

On the monitor in front of Sam is a section of program code.
 Suddenly, the data disappears and the screen goes blank.

INSERT - COMPUTER SCREEN

YO! I HAVE COME.

BACK TO SCENE

The glowing green words linger in a sea of black.

The screen goes dark.

A DARK SHADOW approaches. Sam spins and freezes. He sits - -
stunned.

Too shocked to move or react.

SAM

Jack.

VOICE

Jack's not quite with us right now,
Sam.

SAM tries to jump away from the shadowy figure. But he can't.
It holds him in place.

SAM

Who the fuck are you?

VOICE

How about... the scariest son of a
bitch in Hell.

Sam looks horrified; his color drains a little bit.

All the screen in the lab fills with different words and
symbols which keep changing.

Sam opens his mouth to scream, but is engulfed by the dark
form - -

CAMERA WHIP PANS TO . . .

CAVE TUNNEL WHIP PANS TO . . .

27

INT. CAVE - OBELISK CHAMBER - MORNING

27

Robin and Mari are moving toward the power staging area.

ROBIN

Tell me we were here for the good
of science and mankind.

MARI

Were we? I'd say we were a little
intoxicated with the idea of
playing God.

ROBIN
Temptation's a bitch.

They reach the power staging site and they discover Sam...
absent.

The computer's still on. But the screen is filled with high
speed scrolling symbols.

Then the symbols form the three WORDS:

"LADIES? YOU'RE NEXT"

Robin and Mari stare at the screen.

ROBIN
Is that Jack?

MARI
Where's Sam? He didn't go by us and
there's only one tunnel here.

They look around the area. There's a vast tunnel system.

The scientist's eyes return to the computer screen. The
words have dissolved into STATIC.

ROBIN
Why does this remind me of that
movie where the little girl gets
sucked into the TV.

Mari tries to access the computer. It doesn't react. There is
only static. No access.

MARI
Let's find Mike.

Mari and Robin exit.

CAMERA FOLLOWS THEM INTO...

28 INT. THE CAVE - TUNNEL - MORNING

28

It tracks with them as they talk. Robin is losing faith.

ROBIN
We have to tell the Colonel.

MARI
Yeah, I know.

29

INT. CAVE - OBELISK CHAMBER - MORNING

29

Mari and Robin approach. CAMERA TRACKS with them.

The Scientists stop.

The only light within comes from Mike's glowing laptop screen. And the containment vessel which pulsates with life.

CAMERA PANS TO INTERIOR. EMPTY.

ROBIN

No Jack. No Sam. No Mike. What now?

MARI

Split up. You find the Colonel.
I'll go check deeper in the cave.
See you back here in five minutes.

Mari scoops up a flashlight as Robin sprints out of the chamber.

CUT TO:

30

INT. CAVE TUNNEL - MORNING

30

CAMERA travels with Mari, who enters quickly.

Mari moves fast, taking turns at breakneck speed.

Finally...

She arrives at the power staging site. She tries the Emergency cut off button.

Nothing. Hits the button again. Nothing.

MARI

Dammit, Jack...

Suddenly, HER FLASHLIGHT begins to FLICKER.

This stops Mari cold. The light flickers and pulses, strobing the cave tunnel.

Mari's face shows horror at the implications.

She starts moving again, back toward the Obelisk chamber. Even faster.

She turns a corner and runs smack into Mike!

Mari is startled, as are we. She screams.

MIKE

Mari.

MARI

Thank God. We were looking for you.

MIKE

I was looking for you.

MARI

Did you see Robin go by?

MIKE

No.

MARI

Where were you?

MIKE

Looking for Jack. I can't find Jack anywhere.

MARI

More important. I just tried the power unit, but it's locked off. It's still feeding the obelisk.

The her light pulses again, this time staying dim for a longer period.

MARI

I think Jack's re-activated the experiment.

MIKE

I know.

In the strobing light, Mari can see that Mike's eyes are almost black. His stare is cold and soulless.

It's unnerving to Mari.

MIKE

We better hurry back.

The tone in Mike's voice is flat and raspy. This strikes Mari as disturbing too, but she goes along.

MARI

Right.

They start walking. CAMERA TRACKS with them. Mari is nervous . . . she can FEEL she's in danger.

MARI
Something's happened to Sam.

MIKE
Really?

MARI
You haven't see him?

MIKE
No. Just you.

CUT TO:

31 INT. CAVE TUNNEL - MORNING

31

Even with the work lights strobing and flickering... Even with the dire circumstances... Mari and Mike walk calmly, at a measured pace. Mari looks around, frantically searching for help.

MIKE
You don't believe, do you?

MARI
How's that?

MIKE
God, Lucifer, Arch Angels...

MARI
Demons?

MIKE
(smiles)
Yeah, and those pesky ol' Demons.

Mari looks at Mike.

MIKE
You ever see a person that was possessed?

MARI
You think we need a priest down here?

MIKE
We've got you.

Suddenly Mari hauls off and punches Mike in the mouth with the flashlight. She follows with a rapid combination to his head and stomach.

Sam goes down. He lies semi-dazed. He goes into a seizure, vomiting.

Mari runs.

CUT TO:

32 INT. DEEPER IN THE CAVE - MORNING 32

Jack is squated in front of his lap top. The cave tunnel is lit by the pulsing glow coming off the screen.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN

"Facility Emergency Override"

"Release Codes Accepted"

CUT TO:

33 EXT. CAVE - MORNING 33

Robin is sitting, crying, trembling.

Col. Murphy shows up, holding his SAT phone. He sees the state Robin is in.

COL. MURPHY

Ah - - I couldn't connect to the satellite - - my access code was denied -- You alright, doctor?

Robin looks up and for the first time we see a darkness in her eyes.

Col. Murphy subtly moves his weapon at her.

COL. MURPHY

What's wrong?

Robin rises, one hand hidden from Murphy's view, fighting her possession with every ounce of her strength.

ROBIN

(strained, raspy, tragic)
Kill me, please.

Col. Murphy is perplexed.

COL. MURPHY

What?

ROBIN

Please.

A utility knife appears at Robin's side. She rises.

COL. MURPHY

Let's put down the knife, doctor.

She keeps moving slowly at him.

ROBIN

Kill me. I can't do it myself.

Robin is wracked with inner turmoil, a battle rages within.

She runs the blade across her arm. She slices her arm, but the blade backs off, as if another hand were pulling it away.

She points the blade at Col. Murphy and steps closer to him. Now he takes aim. He steadies his breathing, deciding what to do.

ROBIN

I'm dead anyway, don't let it win.

She begins to slice her own belly. She cries out, but the blade retreats.

She steps right up to Col. Murphy.

The blade raises to his belly, the gun is leveled at her stomach.

She's on the verge of surrender. She musters all the strength she has left, crying...

ROBIN

I can't do it. Send me to God.

Robin drops the blade and grips, Col. Murphy's gun which is still pointed at her.

SHE FIRES THE WEAPON - PUMPING TWO SHOTS INTO HER OWN STOMACH.

Col. Murphy recoils in horror. Robin presses herself into him.

Her face changes, composing herself, a coldness overcomes her. The darkness in her eyes grows black.

Her voice lowers, clear and icy, the demon within her speaks...

ROBIN

I'm for you now.

Robin reaches up and pulls Col. Murphy's face to her's and plants a deep kiss.

He responds instinctively for a beat, before pulling back.

She releases and opens her eyes - the white returned, totally bloodshot. The demon has left her.

Col. Murphy opens his eyes - they're black. The demon has entered a new host. Murphy senses the inhabitation...

COL. MURPHY
(realization)

No.

Robin, exorcised, but bleeding to death, locks eyes with Murphy. They're still standing close together.

ROBIN
I'm sorry. We must kill it.

Murphy looks at her quizzically as...

SHE TAKES THE GUN FROM HIS HAND, TURNS IT ON HIM AND PUMPS THREE SHOTS INTO HIS HEAD.

His body convulses - he falls into her arm - any they crumble to the ground together - both dead.

34

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - MORNING

34

CAMERA TRACKS with a running Mari out, reacting to the SHOTS...

MARI
Robin?

Mari sprints across the rocks and turns fast into--

ROBIN AND MURPHY tangled on the ground.

Mari gasps at the sight up for a moment, looking sadly on her lifeless friend.

A beat, then...

SAM (O.S.)
Not a pretty sight.

Mari turns to Sam. He stands between her and the cave. Blood trickles from his nose and the corner of his mouth. Beyond Sam, she can see the six Special Op soldiers. Each looking possessed.

Mari is too overwhelmed to speak. Or move.

Mari eyes the gun and blade on the ground. She tries to move for them, but Sam angles her back away.

Sam picks up the gun, pops out a clip and tosses it across the room. He grabs the knife and wings it toward Mari, missing her on purpose.

Mari tries to move again, but some FORCE holds her in place.

She struggles against it in vain. Sam continues his steady approach.

SAM

"God, creator, and defender of the human races look down in pity on this, your servant... who just can't seem to move. What do imagine has got her?"

Sam stops right in front of Mari. He leans on her.

SAM

Appeal to your God, my dear ...the father of your Lord Jesus, all that...

Sam presses against Mari. She struggles frantically against the force holding her.

Sam hisses, his tongue flicking in and out rapidly.

Mari turns her eyes away.

Sam's hands grab her. She squirms. He throws her to the ground and is over her.

SAM

(commanding her, quoting)
"Be still... And Know that I am God."

Her eyes fall on...

ROBIN'S CRUCIFIX -

inches away from her fingers.

SAM

Let her find in you, Lord God Almighty, the bullshit that you've hoisted for all time. We're coming out -

Mari's fingers close on the crucifix and pull it out of the bag.

Sam sees the crucifix and laughs.

SAM

That has no power over me. It won't help you.

MARI

But it can hurt you.

SAM

(chuckling)
That's funny.

She squeezes tight, then, with all her might...

SHE SLAMS THE CRUCIFIX ONTO SAM'S FACE.

He howls in agony. He stumbles back.

Mari jerks away, freed from the force.

CUT TO:

35

INT. CAVE - MORNING

35

Mari approaches the obelisk chamber.

She can HEAR the whirl and HUM of machines going on the other side.

Mari steps inside.

CAMERA FOLLOWS her into the obelisk chamber.

The site is active. laptops going.

The containment box is open, there is no fluid inside, ENERGY SPARKS OUT WILDLY...

RED and BLACK particles of ENERGY SWIRL THROUGH THE GATEWAY.

Jack is seated in front of the container.

He ignores Mari entirely as if she didn't matter anymore.

Mari looks up on the laptop screens.

ON THE THERMAL WINDOW:

THE DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY IS OPEN.

The computers seem to interpret the energy emissions.

An APPARITION...

A DEMON - RED AND BLACK - HORRIFIC...

It is almost through the threshold.

Behind the widening gateway, Mari can see...

MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF DEMONS LED BY FOUR HORRIFIC DEMONS
ON HORSEBACK.

Each anxiously wait for a turn to come through.

Mari is too shocked to move.

Jack speaks, but his voice is now deep, guttural inhuman one.

Jack's long, long gone now.

JACK

It's taken many millennium, but
good things come to those who wait.

MARI

Who are you?

JACK

Does it matter. We are an ancient
race who lost a war.

Jack rises and heads for the cave exit.

He walks past Mari without giving her a glance.

MARI

I'll stop you...

JACK

You're certainly welcome to try.
One last attempt to hold back the
tide. And, my dear, you are the
very last one. Now excuse me, but
I've got an evac helicopters coming
to take me away from this place.
Thank goodness, or we might be
stuck down here forever...

Jack exits

Mari is left alone. She looks at the screens.

ON THE THERMAL SCREEN:

THE MILLIONS OF DEMONS

They're coming through the gateway.

MARI

Oh, my God...

Mari frantically works the laptop.

LAPTOP SCREENS:

"ACCESS DENIED"

The words flash over and over.

Mari presses on, trying different tacks.

"ACCESS DENIED"

She cries out in frustration.

She glances up at - -

THE THERMAL SCREEN

DEMONS POURING OUT OF THE GATEWAY.

Mari shoots a look at the containment.

It VIBRATES and HUMS.

Nothing can be seen emerging, but Mari can FEEL it.

Sweat beads down on her temples.

MARI

(utter despair)

God help me...

She attacks the keyboard once more.

She begins to cry... and pray... searching her memory...
fighting the fear, mustering the courage...

MARI

The Lord is my Shepherd...Lo, I
walk through the valley of death...
I fear no evil.

She looks up at the THERMAL SCREEN.

The Gateway is almost empty.

She continues to pray...

MARI

For thou art with me. Thy rod and
thy staff...comfort me...

She looks to the computer screen:

"ACCESS DENIED"

She is about to start another attempt when - -

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN:

"TRANSFER COMPLETE"

DARK FORMS.

emerge from the screens.

They swarm around Mari.

She shudders... her body convulses...

MARI

No. NO! GOD DAMN YOU ALL!

Her eyes begin to turn black, her skin bursts apart - -

MARI

GOD DAMN YOU!

Mari looks over and sees Mike's laptop.

ON THE SCREEN

INTERNET LINK -- ACTIVE.

Mari dives at the keyboard, hitting the keys.

Mari begins to laugh.

Then she SCREAMS as the Dark Shapes tear at her.

CAMERA PULLS BACK out of the LAB - following a red billowing
electrically-charged fog seeping everywhere.

CAMERA CONTINUES TO PULL BACK

UNTIL IT REACHES A CORNER IN THE CAVE ENTRANCE.

JACK, SAM and MIKE with TWO ARMED COMMANDOS.

Mari sits at a computer terminal, but is staring at the
container in the center of the room. She is covered in blood
and sores.

JACK
The helicopters turned away. What
have you done?

Mari turns and stares at Jack.
Her eyes are as dark and bloody.

MARI
(smiles)
We're done here, Jack.

Jack looks at Mari's laptop.

ON THE SCREEN:

TEXT MESSAGE SENT

Jack reacts in horror. He hisses at Mari.

MARI
God Damn you to Hell, Jack.

A BRIGHT BURST OF LIGHT ENGULFS EVERYTHING.

THE MILLIONS OF DEMONS ARE LIT UP FOR AN INSTANT.

THEN SCREEN GOES BLACK.

THE END