

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Level of Necessity"

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Director:
Tom Wright

BLUE 11/27/95

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Level of Necessity"

CAST

NATHAN WEST
SHANE VANSSEN
COOPER HAWKES
VANESSA DAMPHOUSSE
PAUL WANG
MCQUEEN

COLONEL MATT BURKE*
WINSLOW
CAPTAIN KREMENS
LUBIN

BLUE 11/27/95

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Level of Necessity"

SETS

INTERIORS

SARATOGA

DEBRIEFING ROOM
ADJOINGING ROOM
BUNKROOM
CORRIDOR
ORIENTATION ROOM
CHAPEL

PLANET DAEDALUS -

TUNNEL
LARGE TUNNEL
SQUEEZE TUNNEL
DIRT TUNNEL
CAVERN

APC

EXTERIOR

SPACE - THE SARATOGA
SPACE - APC
DAEDALUS

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. PLANET DAEDALUS - (pronounced "Ded-A-Lus") - NIGHT 1

Imagine a crawlspace. The one from the NIGHTMARE, the one where you're stuck. Dirt in your mouth. Sweat burns your eyes, mixing mud on your face. The back of your neck hurts, straining to keep looking forward.

COOPER

Suffers in that crawlspace. Eerily under lit by his FLASHLIGHT. Scrapes his belly along by inches... afraid to inhale too deeply, that his ribs might lodge between outcropping rocks... afraid to move at all, except that

SHANE, NATHAN, WANG & DAMPHOUSSE

crawl single file behind him, trying to escape the same thing he is...

COOPER

It don't go through!

GUN FIRE echoes behind them.

SHANE

You better think more positive.

NATHAN

The Chigs that jumped us -- I hear 'em crawling up our six!

Cooper starts to hyperventilate, pulls himself by his fingernails. With the claustrophobia apparent on his face --

COOPER

I can't go further! I'm stuck.

WANG

Then chop out the Lincoln Tunnel with your K-Bar, but GO!

Cooper, panicky, barely unsheathes his K-BAR. STABS savagely ahead at the dirt of the walls and ceiling... (O.S.) The SOUNDS OF EXPLOSIONS... weapons FIRE grow closer.

DAMPHOUSSE

looks behind, fear on her face.

DAMPHOUSSE

Faster, Coop! The 23rd got butchered, we'll be next!

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

COOPER

eyes wild like a cornered animal, thrusts the knife and crawls. (X)

COOPER

It's openin' up!

COOPER twists his hips. Pulls himself forward. STABS ahead,
(O.S.) RUMBLE... Cooper looks up just as the

TUNNEL CEILING COLLAPSES

engulfing FRAME in an avalanche of DIRT. A beat...

SHANE stares at the WALL OF DIRT in front of her.

SHANE

COOP!

She claws with animal intensity. The dirt's loose, but there's
so much of it... Shane's FEAR grows. Then

SOLES OF COMBAT BOOTS

wiggle through the loose dirt.

Shane pulls dirt from around COOPER'S LEGS. They jerk
spasmodically. Then suddenly, STOP MOVING.

Shane pulls desperately on his feet. Nothing. Grabs a length
of rope from her belt. Loops it around COOPER'S BOOTS.

SHANE

Pass back! Pull on three!

Nathan, Wang and Damphousse grab the rope. Pull it taut in
turn. Then, their faces etched with the force that mothers
summon when their children are trapped under cars --

SHANE

One... two... three!

The 58th pull... a pant leg... a waist... then,

COOPER

pushes himself out, gasping. He sits up slightly in the space
created by the cave-in, coughing and spitting. SHANE, focused
on getting them through, takes point. In passing --

SHANE

Shake it off.

SHANE pushes dirt forward into

2 INT. LARGER TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE - LOOSE DIRT 2

pours from a hole in the wall...

SHANE'S HEAD

pops through. She helps the rest of the 58th through. No time for celebration -- (O.S.) A NOISE. They look to the

DARK BEND

of the tunnel... On Shane's signal, the 58th roll onto their stomachs, point their pistols... CAMERA CREEPS TOWARD the DARK BEND... Suddenly,

A PISTOL

points around the corner.

SHANE

Lightning.

VOICE (O.S.)

Charger.

The password met, FIVE MEN and WOMEN of the
46TH SQUADRON

crouch-walk cautiously around the corner. Leading them is
CAPTAIN KREMENS, 30's

Cocky, self-sure, he reholsters his pistol.

KREMENS

I thought it was human breathing.
Get so you can hear an eye blink.

CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, suddenly startled by something about Kremens.

WANG

Chigs jumped us. Other side of
that crawl space.

KREMENS

Who's in charge?

SHANE

Me.

KREMENS

We found a passageway before we
heard you. Get your men and follow
me.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

One of the 46th pulls a dirt-covered trapdoor from the floor. Kremens hops down, feet first. CAMERA NOW QUICKLY PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, anxious as she studies Kremens intently. Something's happening --

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - KREMENS

suddenly radiates a spectral Kirlian COLORS -- leaping off his skin like surreal RED, BLUE, VIOLET FLAMES.

CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S FACE horrified.

DAMPHOUSSE

No!

Everyone looks at her. She's never experienced anything like this vision before, and it's shaken her to the core of her soul.

DAMPHOUSSE

(haunted)

We're not going in there!

KREMENS

Only his head appears above the trap-door opening.

KREMENS

What information do you have to offer, Lieutenant?

DAMPHOUSSE

(urgent)

I don't know... sir -- I just feel it -- Something's wrong... you've gotta get out -- Now!

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - KREMENS' HEAD

enveloped by the macabre, blazing colors.

KREMENS

-- If I had more time, I'd cite you for insubordination.

(to Shane)

Lieutenant, get your people and fall in.

KREMENS descends, disappears.

RETURN

The rest of the 46th descend behind, after shooting Damphousse glances.

SHANE

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

2

follows them. Damphousse suddenly reaches for Shane, as if to hold her back through sheer force of will. Shane tries to pull away, but Damphousse only holds her tighter --

DAMPHOUSSE

(desperate)

Please, Shane -- you've got to believe me!

SHANE

Phousse -- we've got orders!

Damphousse now desperately reaches for Cooper, Nathan and Wang.

DAMPHOUSSE

I don't care --

DAN LUBIN, proud warrior from the 46th, stops.

LUBIN

What's your beef? Captain Kremens gave an order -- fall in grunt.

Shane and Cooper break away from Damphousse's grasp. Join Lubin at the trap door...

3 INT. ANOTHER TUNNEL BELOW - CONTINUOUS

3

CAMERA FOLLOWS KREMENS LOW-ANGLE, MOVING across the eerily illuminated tunnel. The 46th join him with their flashlights.

KREMENS POV - DEAD END

RETURN KREMENS

points the flashlight up.

KREMENS

There's a shaft that goes up...

KREMENS' POV - A CHIG HAND

opens... Something tumbles through the flickering light...

A CHIG GRENADE

hits the dirt between Kremens' boots. OFF KREMENS' horror...

4 INT. TRAPDOOR ABOVE - CONTINUOUS CLOSE - SHANE & LUBIN

4

hurled backwards from the trapdoor by the force of the EXPLOSION!

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

The orange FLAMES still reflect on the astonished faces of the
58th as they LOOK AT THE

RED HOT TRAP DOOR

then, almost simultaneously, at

DAMPHOUSSE

wondering how she saw the danger.

CUT TO BLACK:

END TEASER

ACT ONE

5 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. SARATOGA - NIGHT

5

The great vessel floats near Daedalus.

6 OMIT

6

A7 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - NIGHT - ECU - A COMPUTER SCREEN

A7

FLASHES: "AFTER ACTION REPORT. PLANET DAEDALUS, Tunnel Mission."

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

Am I in trouble?

DAMPHOUSSE

nervously sits in front of McQueen's desk. RECORDER is rolling and capturing every word.

McQUEEN

Lieutenant -- according to the others' reports, you not only told Captain Kremens the tunnel was dangerous, but you contradicted his orders and attempted to physically restrain the rest of the 58th from going down with him. Those were some pretty extraordinary actions. And I imagine they were supported by some equally extraordinary reasons.

(beat)

Why did you refuse to go in that tunnel?

DAMPHOUSSE

What difference does it make -- they're alive.

McQUEEN

Who -- the 58th? Or the 46th?

Damphousse is jolted by a wave of responsibility -- for the 58th, the 46th, other people.

McQUEEN

Did you see the enemy?

Nothing from Damphousse.

McQUEEN

Were you alerted by something?

(CONTINUED)

A7 CONTINUED:

A7

Damphousse sighs.

McQUEEN

Something you heard or smelled?

DAMPHOUSSE

(softly)

Yes.

McQUEEN

Which was it? Something you heard
or something you smelled?

Damphousse decides.

DAMPHOUSSE

No... Neither.

McQUEEN

You're running out of senses,
Lieutenant. If you didn't see,
hear or smell anything...

Camera pushes in on Damphousse. This isn't easy to say.

DAMPHOUSSE

Look, I don't want... I don't know
if...

McQueen looks at her, then turns off the recorder.

DAMPHOUSSE

I saw the 46th -- surrounded by...
these colors.

(off McQueen)

I know it sounds... weird. It was
sort of like, you know, the Aurora
Magentalis on Icarus Four.

McQueen looks at her. Considers for a moment.

DAMPHOUSSE

At first I thought... maybe it was
a new Chig weapon... or an
electrical disturbance... But no
one else saw it.

(beat)

And I had the strongest...
feeling... that things were...
wrong. I had to say something.

McQueen believes her, but doesn't know what to think.

McQUEEN

You had a gut feeling.

(CONTINUED)

A7 CONTINUED: 2

A7

DAMPHOUSSE

No. It was more than that. It...
scared me.

Damphousse shrugs as if that's all. McQueen pauses. Looks back
at the computer.

DAMPHOUSSE

What are you going to put on the
report?

McQUEEN

An explanation to explain the
unexplainable. I'll handle it.

Damphousse gets up. Salutes. Leaves. Stops in the doorway.

DAMPHOUSSE

Sir, do you think there's something
wrong with...

Before she can say "me," McQueen finishes.

McQUEEN

You were in a combat situation 350
meters underground. I understand
the stress.

(X)

(X)

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

Thank you, sir.

CLOSE - COMPUTER SCREEN

McQueen types in the blank space: "anomalous intuition."

CLOSE - "SEND" KEY

McQUEEN'S FINGER presses it with finality...

CUT TO:

7 INT. BUNKROOM - CLOSE - ANT FARM

7

Ant farms haven't changed in a hundred years.

CLOSE - WANG'S EYES peer through the glass, studying the ants
working their way through intricate tunnels.

COOPER

How do you figure Phousse knew?

SHANE, NATHAN, COOPER & WINSLOW prepare for bed, exhausted.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

NATHAN

She must've heard somethin' we didn't -- it's the only explanation.

WINSLOW

You've never had an intuition?

NATHAN

Like that? No.

SHANE

C'mon -- haven't you ever had that feeling you're gonna get a letter from an old friend, someone you haven't heard from for years -- and the next day, you get it?

WANG

Once in Vegas, at the craps table, I just knew the dice was gonna be a six. A little voice inside me said "Bet six, bet six." Sure enough, it rolled six. So the next time, the little voice said: "Bet four," I listened.

Off the 58th's expectant looks.

WANG

I sevensed out. That little voice cost me a lot of money.

WINSLOW

I heard about this guy in the Third Airwing...

Winslow speaks low, haunted --

WINSLOW

He had this dream, said he was gonna die the next day in an airplane crash. So instead of flying his mission, he took a sick leave, went to get a haircut instead. His squadron came back from the mission unharmed. No problems. But there was an accident on base. A trainee pilot crash landed. One of the building's he took out... was the barbershop.

(beat)

Guess it was his time. Nothin' you can do to change it.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

COOPER

I don't want anybody to tell me
when I'm going to go. I'd rather
just have it happen than be spooked
up to the moment I die.

DAMPHOUSSE enters. Her presence almost startles them.

SHANE

Hey Phousse -- thanks... for today.

Damphousse walks to her locker. She only wants to down-play
today.

DAMPHOUSSE

Didn't do anything.

COOPER

How'd you know?

DAMPHOUSSE

Look. It was just... a feeling...
Haven't you ever had that feeling?

VOICE (O.S.)

Yeah. I've had that feeling.

DAN LUBIN, the sole survivor from the 46th, sits up, out of the
shadows of his bunk. He smiles at Damphousse.

LUBIN

There's a name for it... Fear.

(beat; calm)

But I fought through it, obeyed
orders. And if you'd done the
same, maybe my squad wouldn't be
dead.

NATHAN

It was a grenade. They were
caught in close quarters.

(X)

(X)

LUBIN

I'm not talking about the grenade.
I'm talking about her holding
everyone back. How do you know her
delay didn't alert the Chigs, give
'em time to set us up? Huh?

The 58th consider this. Damphousse just looks at him, torn.

LUBIN

My view, you should be held
responsible for my buddy's
deaths -- the deaths of the 46th.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 3

7

Then he sits back in his bunk. Disappears into the shadows.
CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, wondering whether he's right.

CUT TO:

8 INT. SARATOGA - CORIDOR - DAY

8 (X)

COLONEL MATT BURKE, 40's, nondescript, briefcase, deplanes with several MILITARY TYPES, from the APC SHUTTLE to the Saratoga. He walks, with purpose, into the WHITE ROOM...

CUT TO:

OMITTED (9-10)

A9 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - DAY - CLOSE - PAPER

A9 (X)

In large letters, we read "AFTER ACTION REPORT" -- the same one McQueen was typing for Damphousse.

BURKE (V.O.)

Did you file this, Colonel?

McQueen studies the form.

McQUEEN

I recognize the typos.

COLONEL BURKE crisp uniform, folds the report and returns it to his briefcase. Burke looks like anyone's accountant.

BURKE

I'd like to speak with Lieutenant Damphousse.

McQueen's suspicious, defensive. He meant to avoid exactly this. McQueen studies the man.

McQUEEN

Colonel... I wasn't informed that anyone in my unit was under investigation.

BURKE

I'm just here to conduct a preliminary inquiry. Gather some information.

McQUEEN

My report doesn't suggest she did anything wrong.

Burke stands impassive, not responding.

(CONTINUED)

A9 CONTINUED:

A9

McQUEEN

If you don't mind, Colonel... I'd like to be there when you conduct your inquiry.

BURKE

I'll speak to Lieutenant Damphousse... alone.

CUT TO:

A10 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S PHOTO

A10(X)

An upper torso portrait, in dress blues -- the kind of photo parents put on top of the T.V. The photo falls from FRAME, revealing DAMPHOUSSE sitting at a table. Nervous. Suspicious. The lighting seems to highlight her tension.

BURKE

Beautiful picture.

Damphousse forces an uneasy smile.

DAMPHOUSSE

Thank you.

BURKE

(reading)

Born in upstate New York... cum laude from Cal Tech, joined the Corps at 24. An engineer... a problem-solver, comfortable with the quantifiable. Kind of like me.
(looks up)
I'm an accountant by training.

Damphousse just smiles at him: "Bully for you."

BURKE

... People generally like you -- that's a nice thing, isn't it? You care about people, is that right?

DAMPHOUSSE

I suppose.

Burke keeps reading, making faces. An uncomfortable silence.

DAMPHOUSSE

You seem to know quite a bit about me, sir.

Burke sets down the folder. All business.

(CONTINUED)

A10 CONTINUED:

A10

BURKE

Yes. I do. But there's one thing
I don't know... in the tunnels of
Daedalus. Why didn't you go in?

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, suddenly feeling vulnerable,
wondering how much to say.

DAMPHOUSSE

I don't know.

BURKE

Did it have anything to do with
"anomalous intuition"?

Off Damphousse, beginning to perspire.

CUT TO:

11 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - DAY

11

COOPER, SHANE and NATHAN confront MCQUEEN.

SHANE

Who is he?

MCQUEEN

Colonel Matt Burke. I assume he's
the unit inspector.

COOPER

Phousse didn't do anything wrong.

NATHAN

We wanna speak up for her.

MCQUEEN

Look. Unit Inspectors only care
about the facts. From what I know
about what happened down there,
he'll attach a rational explanation
to Damphousse's action, even if
he'll have to make one up, close
the file and go away.

CUT TO:

OMITTED (12-13)

A14 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - DAY - A POINTER

A14(X)

points to a diagram on the wall. "X's" mark the location where
everyone stood at the tunnel entrance.

(CONTINUED)

A14 CONTINUED:

A14

BURKE (V.O.)

Lieutenant West stood ten feet to
your left.

DAMPHOUSSE, exhausted, agitation growing. She's been at this
for awhile.

DAMPHOUSSE

Yes.

BURKE

And where was Lieutenant Vansen?

DAMPHOUSSE

Where she was when I told you ten
minutes, fifty minutes, two hours
ago.. Sir.

BURKE

Do you love your father?

DAMPHOUSSE

What?

(beat)

Yes, I love him very much...

BURKE

(continuing)

Is it true Lieutenant Lubin was the
last of the 46th Squadron to enter
the tunnel?

We can tell Damphousse is still trying to figure out why he
asked about her father.

DAMPHOUSSE

Yes... I... yes.

BURKE

At age 16, when you dyed your hair
blonde, did your father hit you?

DAMPHOUSSE

No!

BURKE

Never? He never hit you?

DAMPHOUSSE

Never. Who told...

BURKE

When the grenade exploded, did you
rush into the tunnel to help?

(CONTINUED)

A14 CONTINUED: 2

A14

DAMPHOUSSE

Yes. Who told you I dyed my hair? Blonde?

BURKE

What was the first thing you saw upon entering the tunnel?

Damphousse is getting wigged out, both about her tunnel experience, and Burke's style of questioning.

DAMPHOUSSE

I told you, it was horror.
Wasn't enough of them left to...

BURKE

Did your father ever touch you?

DAMPHOUSSE

(indignant)
What?

BURKE

(calm)
Did he ever touch you... sexually?

Damphousse springs out of her chair, ready to punch Burke.

DAMPHOUSSE

NO! Of course he didn't!

BURKE

(calm)
I believe you.

DAMPHOUSSE

What the hell does any of this have to do with my actions in the tunnels? I'm happy to answer any official questions about my actions, but I...

BURKE

There's one more thing I'd like you to do. And then we're finished.

CUT TO:

B14 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S FEET

B14(X)

Her bare soles, facing toward us. Electrodes are attached to the balls of her feet and her heels. Red light bathes the room as we hear the synchronized sound of white noise. CAMERA CREEPS up Damphousse's legs, outstretched in a modernized reclining chair.

(CONTINUED)

B14 CONTINUED:

B14

CAMERA CONTINUES to her hands, resting palms down, on the arm rest. The tip of each finger is covered by a thimble-like cap attached to a set of wires.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

I don't feel comfortable.

CAMERA ARRIVES AT DAMPHOUSSE'S FACE, bathed in the dim red light, with two halved orange PING PONG BALLS resting over her cotton-lined eye sockets. Electrodes are attached to her forehead.

DAMPHOUSSE pulls off the HEADPHONES she's wearing. The SOUNDS of white noise stop.

DAMPHOUSSE

I find this... disturbing.

Damphousse's face registers fear -- fear that she doesn't know what Burke will do next.

BURKE

That doesn't matter. Focus on the target.

DAMPHOUSSE

What target?

BURKE

Tell me what you see.

DAMPHOUSSE

I see two ping-pong balls and some cotton over my eyes, what do you mean...

BURKE

Simply focus on the images that come into your mind...

She replaces the headphones. The SOUNDS resume. CAMERA CREEPS AROUND her chair as she concentrates...

DAMPHOUSSE

(so what?)

It's black... I see blackness...

Burke seems to disappear into the SHADOWS as Damphousse speaks.

DAMPHOUSSE

Just... black. No, forms of some kind...

CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE as she continues.

(CONTINUED)

B14 CONTINUED: 2

B14

DAMPHOUSSE

... Forms... flying... maybe...

CAMERA PUSHES IN on BURKE, intense, obscured by the shadows.

A DOOR opens into an ADJOINING ROOM, lit only by the red spill-light of Damphousse's room...

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

Through something... through
clouds... No, mist... and water...
crashing.....

CAMERA FOLLOWS BURKE into the

14 INT. ADJOINING ROOM

14

A FLICKERING IMAGE is projected on the wall. CAMERA ARCS AROUND to reveal: A video of an eagle soaring around a crashing waterfall. -- almost what Damphousse is describing from the other room.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

... It's like a spirit touching the
sky... a free soul, soaring with a
gift... from God...

OFF BURKE, pleased.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

15
THRU OMITTED
20

15
THRU
20

A16 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE

A16

sits in the chair, questioned by Burke. Perspiration beads on her forehead. She appears exhausted.

DAMPHOUSSE

Sir, I'd like to take a break. I'm so tired, I'm about to hallucinate.

BURKE

(smiling)

Good.

Damphousse begins to nervously "TMJ click" her jaw.

BURKE

What would you say if you saw someone bend a spoon, just by staring at it?

Damphousse stops clicking.

DAMPHOUSSE

I'd say it was a trick.

BURKE

And if I told you there are people who can read any file in a locked cabinet without ever opening the drawer?

DAMPHOUSSE

Who are you? What do you want from me?

BURKE

What do you think of people -- who claim to see the future?

Damphousse looks around nervously. Knows this is more than a casual question.

DAMPHOUSSE

I think they're nuts.

Burke just smiles, almost patronizingly.

(CONTINUED)

A16 CONTINUED:

A16

BURKE

Well that's what I do Vanessa. I work with nuts who have just those abilities.

Damphousse takes this in.

BURKE

Do you believe Vanessa, that humans can actually do those things?

DAMPHOUSSE

I'm trained as an engineer. Everything I've been taught tells me those things are impossible.

Burke pauses for emphasis. Looks straight into her.

BURKE

That's right, Vanessa. That's why you've been denying your "anomalous intuition."

A beat. Burke picks up a pen. Holds it level between his two forefingers.

BURKE

People used to think their world was like this -- flat.

He takes the pen by one end. Twirls it slowly in a circle.

BURKE

Columbus knew the world was round.

Again he holds the pen level, this time with his left hand.

BURKE

People still think time is like this -- a straight line.

He runs his right forefinger across the top of the pen, from one end to the other.

BURKE

And we're blind to everything but the present.

Again he holds the pen by one end. Twirls it around.

BURKE

But what if time is a circle. And you're at the center. And you can see any part of it you turn toward.

He stops twirling the pen. Points it at her.

(CONTINUED)

A16 CONTINUED: 2

A16

BURKE

What if you're another Columbus?

Damphousse furrows her brow, defensive, yet listening.

BURKE

What if you have psi powers?

DAMPHOUSSE

(nervously)

But I don't.

CLOSE - A MINI VIDEO DISC

retracts into a futuristic video disc player.

CAMERA pushes in on DAMPHOUSSE, as a grainy video monitor image(X) flickers on her face -- the video image of the eagle, circling (X) the waterfall.

BURKE

You saw this in your mind. You described it. You saw without the knowledge that you were even looking.

Damphousse looks shocked.

BURKE

You have a gift, Lieutenant. And I think that gift told you not to let the 58th go into that tunnel behind Captain Kremens.

CAMERA PUSHES IN FURTHER on Damphousse, realizing Burke knows.

BURKE

I think you can harness that gift to save lives.

DAMPHOUSSE

No, I... can't. It's never happened before and it may never happen again.

BURKE

You have a responsibility to find if you can. To help people, like the 58th... Before they die.

(beat)

I can help you do that.

Off Damphousse, we

CUT TO:

A18 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - CLOSE - SINGLE PLAYING CARD A18
DAMPHOUSSE furrows her brow.

DAMPHOUSSE

Circle.

Burke turns the card around. It's a STAR. Burke holds up another card.

BURKE

Again. This time, don't think about it... just act.

DAMPHOUSSE

Wavy lines.

Burke turns over -- A SQUARE. Damphousse shakes her head.

DISSOLVE TO:

B18 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - A SERIES OF SHOTS B18
of the PSYCHIC CARDS.

BURKE (V.O.)

Don't think, act... Don't think, act...

Each time a card is revealed, Damphousse seems to have answered wrongly, the disappointment grows on her face...

DISSOLVE TO:

A19 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - LATER - CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE A19
concentrates intently into something.

BURKE (V.O.)

Don't think, act...

A "Bender's Box" -- a row of colored lights, red, yellow, blue, (X) green and orange, each above a button.

CLOSE DAMPHOUSSE'S FINGER

Pushes the button in front of the RED LIGHT.

CLOSE - THE BLUE LIGHT

flashes.

BURKE

Don't think, act...

(CONTINUED)

A19 CONTINUED:

A19

Damphousse takes a breath. Focuses.

CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S FINGER

reaches for the ORANGE LIGHT BUTTON, then hesitates. Pushes the GREEN LIGHT BUTTON.

CLOSE - THE ORANGE LIGHT

flashes... Burke turns off the box. Stares at her. Damphousse senses his disappointment. She volunteers --

DAMPHOUSSE

Sometimes, I go to a place and... I feel I've been there before.

BURKE

(dismissive)

Deja vu. Doesn't exist. Your dominant eye simply processes information more quickly than the other. The slower half of your brain thinks it's seen something before.

DAMPHOUSSE

(disappointed)

Oh...

BURKE

Your gift... clairvoyant precognition... is different. It occurs when your adrenalin level produces enough epinephrine to inhibit the cognitive part of your brain altogether. You act, without thinking about it because you have no other choice, you need to... because... it matters.

Something suddenly occurs to Burke.

BURKE

... Because you've reached your level of necessity...

Burke studies her, a realization sweeps across his face.

BURKE

I just need to get you there.

CUT TO:

21 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - DAY - MCQUEEN 21

enters. Damphousse enters late. She looks emotionally spent. Quickly takes her seat.

MCQUEEN

You're going back to Daedalus.

Muted groans of dissatisfaction. McQueen continues. Points to a map of the planet surface.

MCQUEEN

Geosynchronous Satellite LIDAR indicates a type of natural cavern may be somewhere beneath. We think that's their munitions depot. The Chigs use it to supply their forces inside our territory. Hunt it down.

COOPER

Sir. When we're in the tunnels... we're not the hunters.

MCQUEEN

The APC will insert you at 0-5-thirty hours. You'll be given detonators to use once inside the cavern. Once you set them, rendezvous at the APC extraction point at precisely 16-30 hours.

(beat)

You'll have to work fast.

(X)

(X)

(X)

NATHAN

What other squadrons are going in?

MCQUEEN

Just the 58th.

(X)

WANG

No kidding.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

WINSLOW

Sir, we served our time in Hell.

(X)

This is as difficult for McQueen to say as for them to hear.

MCQUEEN

You're going in because you're the
best at what you do.

(X)

(X)

MCQUEEN

takes out a piece of paper. Reads from it, in an overly formal
fashion.

MCQUEEN

I have also received the following
orders. "Colonel Matthew Burke,
Seventh Air Wing, is temporarily
assigned in a strictly observatory
capacity to any and all missions of
the 58th Squadron. Signed, General
Bradford P. Wyrick, USMC."

DAMPHOUSSE

suddenly realizing the true reason they're returning to the
death-zone... her.

(X)

She feels a chill up her spine, as though she's being watched.
She slowly turns. CAMERA FOLLOWS her gaze to BURKE, observing
from the corner of the room. His eyes meet hers.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Make it back.

THE 58TH

just follows Damphousse's eyes to Burke. And they wonder
whether a bad mission just got a lot worse.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

A22 OMIT

A22 (X)

B22 INT. APC - CLOSE - A SLIDE

B22 (X)

is rocked back on a PISTOL. A K-Bar knife is sheathed.

A DIGITAL CLOCK DISPLAY is set for "0:00:00." SHANE checks timing detonator. Turns it off, and places it in a satchel.

PULL BACK as the 58th and Lubin, dressed in light gear for moving fast, prepare for the mission. They suspiciously eye (X)
(X)

BURKE, confronted by an angry DAMPHOUSSE.

DAMPHOUSSE

You set this up. Why?

Burke shrugs.

BURKE

I have my reasons.

DAMPHOUSSE

To test me, for "psi powers"?

(re: 58th)

Then don't risk their lives too.

BURKE

You need that. There's something (X)
about the tunnels, about seeing (X)
your friends' lives at risk, that (X)
brings it out in you. (X)

DAMPHOUSSE

I think you're trying to prove something that doesn't exist. And you're using the 58th as your lab rats.

BURKE

What I'm doing is trying to save lives. Because I believe.

(beat)

It wasn't always like that. I was probably more like your Colonel McQueen... without the ramrod.

Burke pauses and considers his words.

(CONTINUED)

B22 CONTINUED:

B22

BURKE

You see... you tick off the Old
Man's wife at a cocktail party and
pretty soon, you're no longer
Assistant Chief of Logistics,
Omicron Sector...

CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES in on Burke, as though travelling back to a
great, life-altering defeat in his bland accountant's past.

(CONTINUED)

B22 CONTINUED: 2

B22

BURKE

No, no, you've been promoted backwards, Assistant Director of the Office of Psi-Ops, with your own card table in some basement in Langley, Virginia. And you spend your days interviewing quacks and charlatans who are swearing to you that Atlantis can be found at the bottom of Lake Titicaca.

DAMPHOUSSE is fascinated by this unexpected confessional.

BURKE

Then I met some people... people who have what you have.

Damphousse shakes her head.

BURKE

Second Sight, Third Eye, Sixth Sense -- that thing which convinces me life isn't just yes and no, or black and white, or ones and zeros... there's a whole other dimension out there.

(beat)

You can see into it. I want to be there when you do.

BURKE holds up a MINI DISC RECORDER.

DAMPHOUSSE

These tunnels are a crawling nightmare. You have no idea what you've signed on for.

BURKE

(obliquely)

No. I have no idea. I just want to see for myself

OFF Damphousse, we...

TIME DISSOLVE:

22 EXT. SPACE - NIGHT - APC

22

HURTLES toward silent DAEDALUS.

CUT TO:

23 INT. APC - NIGHT - CLOSE - BURKE

23

types on his laptop, ignoring the turbulence.

SHANE, COOPER, NATHAN, WANG & WINSLOW

huddle around Damphousse, sitting at the other end of the APC.

LUBIN

sits close enough to overhear, yet far enough away to indicate he's not really with them. The 58th eye Burke suspiciously.

NATHAN

Burke's crazy to go down there.
Who is this guy?

(X)

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

He's with Psi-Ops.

COOPER

What the Crystal Ball Kooks?

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

He's trying to determine whether
parapsychology, you know, psychic
stuff, can be used by the military.

They snort derisively.

WANG

I read about this -- back in what
they called "The Cold War," the U.S
and the Soviets used to psych each
other out into seeing who could
spend the most money. One side
would claim they had these psychic
spies who could break someone's
spine just by thinking about
it -- then the other side would
spend billions testing all their
psychic nuts trying to catch up.

They all share a chuckle.

(X)

NATHAN

Yeah. Then in Karakoram, '52 --
they say the Psychic Squads made
the decision to cross the Hindu
Kush.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(beat)

(X)

CC's massacred the Third Armored.

(X)

Cooper realizes something unsettling.

(X)

COOPER

So... that why he's talkin' to you,
Phousse -- are you psychic?

(CONTINUED)

"Level of Necessity"

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PINK

28A.

23 CONTINUED:

23

DAMPHOUSSE

No...

(X)

Cooper just looks at her, almost suspiciously.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

(defensive)

(X)

No. I'm not.

LUBIN

Whatever you are, it's the reason
we're gonna get killed.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 2

23

The 58th exchange glances -- what if Lubin's right? Then, over her own fears, Shane stands up.

SHANE

No. We're goin' down there because we're Marines. And we're gonna do a job. Period.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, looking at each of her friends, suddenly feeling the overwhelming responsibility for their lives.

CUT TO:

24
THRU OMITTED
25

24
THRU
25

26 EXT. PLANET DAEDALUS - APC

26

thunders into FRAME, retro-rockets FIRING as it lands.

27 OMIT

27

28 INT. PLANET DAEDALUS - SQUEEZE TUNNEL - CLOSE - A SHAFT OF LIGHT 28(X)

slices the blackness in two. Suddenly, DARK FORMS drop through it...

CLOSE - SHANE

underlit by her Xenon flashlight. Swings it around. (X)

POV - TUNNEL SHAFT (X)

The faces of the 58th, silently confronting their dread. (X)
Damphousse pushes ahead of them.

Shane holds her arm.

SHANE

Phousse -- you don't have to prove anything.

Damphousse just shakes loose, crawls past Lubin. (X)

LUBIN

Be my guest, Swami.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 28
... then Shane, then Lubin... disappear into the darkness of (X)
the tunnel... (X)
CLOSE - BEEPER (X)
Nathan inserts a marker to identify the return route back from (X)
the cavern. (X)

CUT TO:

29 OMITTED 29
30 INT. DIRT TUNNEL - LATER - CLOSE - A KNIFE 30 (X)
enters FRAME, alternates with a FLASHING MINE DETECTOR, (X)
cautiously stabs the ground for booby-traps and mines. Then (X)
CAMERA PULLS BACK to see

DAMPHOUSSE

crawling on her stomach, into FRAME. Her FACE, etched with
fear, worry, responsibility, breath short and ragged. Her eyes (X)
ever alert... Nervously she STABS in front of her. Inches her (X)
way out of FRAME...

31 INT. LARGER - TUNNEL - LATER - DAMPHOUSSE 31
Five hours on point is taking its toll... Suddenly her face (X)
tenses, as though overwhelmed by some disgust... her HAND goes (X)
up. Everybody stops. Then she points. (X)

CLOSE - A BOOT

partially obscured in the splintered tunnel shadows.

THE 58TH

freeze. They look. CAMERA PANS their disgusted FACES. For a (X)
fraction of a second, we see what they see --

A HUMAN LEG

obsured by the SHADOWS. (X)

NATHAN
(re: leg)
Coulda been any of us.

LUBIN
It's a psych trap.

They look at him.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

LUBIN

Chigs figure we'll be so freaked by a body part, we'd keep crawlin on our bellies for the next three years. Meanwhile, they save the real traps for someplace we don't expect.

The 58th look at each other.

DAMPHOUSSE

Or maybe that's what they want us to think --

COOPER

Phousse, we been crawlin' forever, haven't seen a booby-trap yet.

(X)
(X)

They look to Shane, who looks to Damphousse.

DAMPHOUSSE

No. I don't feel right --

LUBIN

No kiddin', we're in Chig Territory, two hundred feet below ground. Nobody feels right. Admit it -- you're goin' slow cause you're afraid.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, conflicted, filled with doubt... maybe Lubin is right...

SHANE

Okay, enough. We've gotta find that cavern, set the detonators and get off this planet. Lubin, you're so hot, lead.

(X)

OFF Damphousse, self-doubting, as Lubin pushes through FRAME.

CUT TO:

32 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - CLOSE - LUBIN

32 (X)

moves through the tunnel. Pistol drawn. Lubin moves out of FRAME.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

follows, worried. She knows he's going too fast.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

NATHAN & WINSLOW

behind Damphousse. They share a glance: This's more like it.

WINSLOW

Rate he's goin' we'll blow up the
ammo dump, be home in time for
dinner.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, horrified...

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - LUBIN

suddenly ablaze in the KIRLIAN COLORS...

RETURN

CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE

blinks her eyes...

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - LUBIN

now normal, moving through the tunnel...

RETURN

Damphousse, torn with doubt, about what she's seen... decides
she can't risk it --

DAMPHOUSSE

Lubin! Stop! I'm seeing...
something!

LUBIN

just looks back at her. Waves her off... keeps moving into the
blackness, then... his flashlight's GLOW disappears around a
corner... silence.

(X)

THE 58TH

stop. Suddenly (O.S.)

A HORRIFIC HUMAN SCREAM!

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, her greatest fears confirmed.
she races out of FRAME. HAND HELD CAMERA speeds dizzily through
the tunnel then recklessly around THE BEND, revealing

LUBIN

his chin, surreally underlit by his FLASHLIGHT, laughing,
mocking her.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 2

32

LUBIN

Hoo-hooo...

DAMPHOUSSE

heaves short, ragged breaths, just looks at him, betrayed... as the rest of the 58th catch up... Over Lubin's taunting LAUGHTER, CAMERA PUSHES in on Damphousse's humiliation...

DISSOLVE TO:

33 OMIT

33

A34 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - THE 58TH

A34 (X)

moving. Damphousse looks down at her feet, angry. Burke sidles up to her.

(X)

BURKE

What did you see back there?

She doesn't respond.

BURKE

Did you see the colors?

DAMPHOUSSE

I was tired, the lights are playing tricks... it didn't mean a thing.

BURKE

You saw and you acted, that's good. Next time, tell me so I can record it.

DAMPHOUSSE

You don't get it. There's not gonna be a next time. I don't want this responsibility.

BURKE

You don't know what I'd give for your responsibility -- for your gift.

Damphousse pushes him away in frustration.

DAMPHOUSSE

The gift?! The greatest liability to a soldier is doubt. That's what I have. If that's a gift, then keep it.

(CONTINUED)

A34 CONTINUED:

A34

Burke grabs her arm. Stops her.

BURKE

Don't say that.

DAMPHOUSSE

I've trained... hard... to get where I am. And I never say this out loud, but I'm good at what I do.

(pause)

But this... I have no idea what to do or...

(points to head)

How to summon... this "thing". And I'm not going to try.

BURKE

That's the problem. You can't try. You can't think... just act.

DAMPHOUSSE

Just act... I wonder what you'd do.

(beat)

I'm not goin' to be the one to slow us down or gets us killed.

Burke speaks with an eerie intensity. He holds her arm tightly.

BURKE

Everyone dies. Not everyone sees. That's my dream. To see what you see.

Damphousse shakes her arm loose. Moves on, frightened.

CUT TO:

34 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - LATER - THE 58TH

34 (X)

crouch-walk past FRAME. Damphousse looks exhausted, demoralized.

SHANE (O.S.)

No.

SHANE'S FLASHLIGHT illuminates the tunnel's shaft. She puts her hand up to stop them. Just stares at her map.

(X)

(X)

COOPER

We're lost? You mean we humped our way for this?!

(X)

(X)

Suddenly, CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, horrified.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - LUBIN

awash in COLORS of the surreal Kirlian effect -- as horrifying as Capt. Kremens looked before.

RETURN

BURKE

studies Damphousse intently -- the desperate to look on her FACE... she's torn... she wants to say something... describe something horrrific... but she can't or won't...

LUBIN

(slowly)

Oh, man...

LUBIN

frozen in fear. CAMERA FOLLOWS HIS GAZE down to his BOOT, caught on a taut WIRE. It GLOWS ominously in the FLASHBEAMS.

LUBIN

A Chig booby-trap --

SHANE

Nobody move. Freeze.

(X)

THE 58TH

freeze.

(X)

NATHAN

bends down, next to Lubin's boot. Carefully traces his KNIFE through the dirt... revealing FOUR LOOPED WIRES. They track a perfect two-foot square in the dirt... (X)

NATHAN

Not a mine...

(X)

CLOSE - NATHAN'S FINGERS

lift the wire enough to let LUBIN'S BOOT slip out...

THE 58TH

watch intently. Burke turns to Damphousse.

(X)

BURKE

You saw this coming, didn't you?

DAMPHOUSSE

I... don't know what I'm seeing, anymore.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 2

34

CLOSE - NATHAN'S FINGERS

slip under the exposed, taut wires... cautiously PULL it up...
dirt falls away... revealing a TRAP DOOR.

NATHAN

looks up, smiling.

NATHAN
How 'bout a trap door?

(X)
(X)

LUBIN

sighs, relieved. Helps Nathan pull it open, carefully. Lubin
shines his FLASHLIGHT into the dark cavern below... Pushes his(X)
head in... a beat... Pulls it out.

LUBIN
Shallow trench, maybe four foot
deep... looks clean.

DAMPHOUSSE

sighs, relieved not to have said anything to make herself the
fool again.

LUBIN

swings his feet through the trap door. Lowers himself...

TUNNEL POV - HUMAN LEGS

lower themselves into the darkness, searching for the tunnel (X)
floor...

RETURN

LUBIN

strains to find the floor... it's a very tight fit.

LUBIN
It looked like a shallow trench.

TUNNEL POV - HUMAN LEGS

search for the tunnel floor. Then... light reflects off a (X)
MACHETE, held by a CHIG HAND... slowly draws back...

RETURN

LUBIN smiles, relieved. His foot has touched bottom.

LUBIN
Touchdown.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 3

34

Suddenly, Lubin's HEAD rocks back. His face turns to shock,
then convulses in agony...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 4

34

LUBIN

Oh God.

CHAOS ERUPTS as the 58TH rush to pull him out.

COOPER & NATHAN

grab under the suffering Marine's arms, desperately pull...

NATHAN

He's stuck!

LUBIN

OH GOD! GET ME OUT!

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, terrified, paralyzed with responsibility, she stumbles, dizzy...

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - THE 58TH

pull Lubin out of the death-hole... they seem to drift away... their voices echo through the tunnel.

SHANE

Damphousse, get some compresses.

NATHAN

He's bleeding out!

SHANE

Damphousse!

(beat)

Wang, get the compresses, morphine!

CAMERA CONTINUES PUSHING INTO DAMPHOUSSE, now fallen back against the tunnel wall... Her eyes are open, but she gazes into some other ethereal dimension. SOUNDS of CHAOS and YELLING FADE TO NOTHING but her breathing, fast and deep... She shakes her head and snaps in... (X)

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - COOPER

desperately works over Lubin's prone, partially obscured body. The KIRLIAN COLORS light Cooper's entire body... then JUMPS to

SHANE

as she pushes compresses into Lubin's wounds... the surreal BLAZE OF COLOR electrifies her features in radiant FLAMES...

BURKE

Don't think, act... don't think, act... What do you see, Vanessa...

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

Flames of color... on Shane...

(X)

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 5.

34

BURKE

steps into her line of vision... he's now ablaze in the COLORS.

DAMPHOUSSE

... Everywhere I look... as
though... I'm causing them...

(X)

She turns her view from Burke. Suddenly the Kirlian FIRE jumps
to NATHAN...

RETURN

CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S FACE

lined with frustration... failure...

DAMPHOUSSE

I don't know... they... now
they're on... Nathan...

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - THE COLORS

suddenly jump to WANG... then to WINSLOW as the SOUNDS of CHAOS
and YELLING rise, growing more immediate until the COLORS
DISSOLVE TO...

SHANE

Dammit, Phousse, why aren't you
helping?!

BURKE

intense, directly in front of DAMPHOUSSE, as though trying to (X)
enter her dream. He holds the MINI DISC RECORDER to her mouth.
She pushes it away.

BURKE

Who, Vanessa... who do you see?

DAMPHOUSSE

I don't know... just that...

SHANE

looks up from Lubin's prone body.

SHANE

He's dead.

DAMPHOUSSE

... Just that... one more of us is
going to die.

(CONTINUED)

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39.

34 CONTINUED: 6

34

CAMERA PULLS BACK FROM DAMPHOUSSE'S HORROR, her sense of responsibility and failure, as she looks at Lubin's body.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

35 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - LIGHT

35 (X)

shines down through the trap door where Lubin was killed.

A GRENADE

lands in the dirt. The EXPLOSION whites out FRAME. Through the SMOKE, the 58th, led by Shane, drop into the tunnel, PISTOLS BLASTING. (X)

SHANE (V.O.)

Hold fire!

CAMERA PANS the gasping, tense 58th, eerily underlit by their flashlights. They reload pistols and catch their breath. (X)

WINSLOW

Tunnel's cold... now.

NATHAN

The damn Chig sure as hell cut up Lubin! (X)

COOPER

So -- let's track it and kill it. (X)

WINSLOW

Maybe we should start back. (X)

SHANE

No! Keep focused on our orders. We search out the Ammo Dump and destroy it. (X)

Damphousse, trembling, approaches Shane.

DAMPHOUSSE

Shane -- I saw these... colors... like I did with the 46th.

(beat)

One of us is going to die.

WANG

When, going there or coming back?

Cooper turns to Damphousse, hard.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

COOPER

Shut up! I don't want to know.

(X)

He walks away from her, as though she unsettles him.

(X)

NATHAN

Your powers didn't keep Lubin from
getting whacked in the underbelly.

(X)

(X)

CAMERA PUSHES IN on DAMPHOUSSE, feeling guilt.

DAMPHOUSSE

I wasn't sure before -- now I am.

SHANE

Command knew when they sent us
here, some may not come back. Your
vision doesn't change our orders.

Shane speaks louder, and to everyone.

SHANE

Once again, we will carry out our
orders. Everybody got that?

(X)

(X)

(to Burke)

You especially.

Burke holds up his mini-disc recorder.

BURKE

Lieutenant Vansen, I've recorded
Lieutenant Damphousse's visions.
My mission's complete.

SHANE

(shakes head)

The orders are, you're an observer.
And you signed on for a package
deal.

SHANE leads the 58th out of FRAME. CAMERA PUSHES IN on BURKE, (X)
frightened, realizing he's getting more than he bargained for.

DISSOLVE TO: (X)

SHANE on point, pistol in one hand, flashlight in the other,
leads the 58th past FRAME.

SHANE'S POV - LIGHT BEAMS

eerily criss-cross the inky blackness, looking for danger.
Suddenly --

(X)

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 2

35

A FOOTPRINT

SHANE

Chig prints.

(X)

The 58th exchange wary glances -- now they know what's waiting for them in the darkness. Shanes' eyes dart, alert...

(X)

She rocks the slide on her pistol, begins moving forward. MORE CHIG TRACKS... Suddenly, THE FOOTPRINTS STOP.

(X)

SHANE

stops too. Shines her flashlight along the ground ahead. The DIRT looks as if the Chig has brushed away his tracks. CAMERA FOLLOWS the light ahead to THE END OF THE TUNNEL, which stops in a "T." SHANE looks back at the 58th: "Which way did he go?"

DAMPHOUSSE

approaches SHANE, then signals that she'll take point. Her pistol ready -- signals to the 58th to hug the walls. Then Damphousse

(X)

(X)

(X)

TURNES OFF HER FLASHLIGHT. She nods to the 58th to do the same. ALL THE FLASHLIGHTS go out.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV -- A FAINT LIGHT

illuminates the right bend of the T-bone.

RETURN

She creeps silently forward... She halts before the T-bone. Takes a deep breath. She looks quietly around.

(X)

POV - THE RIGHT BEND

(X)

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 3

35

NOTHING... Suddenly, DAMPHOUSSE WHIPS HER HEAD AROUND to see (X)

TWO RED CHIG EYES

BLAZING, darting toward her... ABOVE THE EYES, a (X)

MACHETE BLADE

GLINTS IN THE DIM LIGHT. DAMPHOUSSE recoils backward just as (X)
of the machete knocks her PISTOL out of her hands. CHAOS. (X)

DAMPHOUSSE & THE CHIG

roll in hand-to-hand combat. FLASHLIGHTS CLICK ON... Pistols (X)
come up to fire... (X)

SHANE

Hold fire! Hold fire!

All flashlights criss-cross onto (X)

DAMPHOUSSE

rips her K-Bar from its sheath, delivering the coup de grace (X)
with her K-BAR... Silence. The 58th gather around the DEAD
CHIG.

SHANE

A sentry? (X)

WANG

For the Ammo Dump? (X)

SHANE

We must be close. (X)

Shane signals. The 58th crouch down and move out behind Shane. (X)

THE TUNNEL INCLINES SLIGHTLY

SHANE STOPS. Signals for the rest of the 58th to look at...

36 OMIT

36 (X)

37
THRU OMITTED
44

37
THRU
44

A37 INT. CAVERN - THE 58TH'S POV - THE GIANT CAVERN

A37 (X)

filled with pallets of Ammo, huge stalactites and stalagmites,
and... CHIG SENTRIES.

(CONTINUED)

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A37 CONTINUED:

A37

RETURN

(CONTINUED)

A37 CONTINUED: 2

A37

The 58th exchange glances. Nothing prepared them for the enormity of the cavern, nor the many Chigs which guard it. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON DAMPHOUSSE, looking into the cavern, horrified.

DAMPHOUSSE

Shane... this is it. This is the place. I feel... I know... someone's gonna die.

SHANE

Phousse --

DAMPHOUSSE

(urgent)

-- I'm trying to save us --

(X)

SHANE

How -- telling us someone's gonna die? Even if we are trained to die, we gotta believe we're gonna live.

(X)

(beat)

Help with that.

(X)

Shane begins to move out. Burke stops her.

(X)

BURKE

You should listen to her. She has a gift.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Cooper looks at both Burke and Damphousse.

(X)

COOPER

Your gift is our curse.

(X)

(X)

CUT TO:

A38 INT. CAVERN - ROCK CREVICE

A38 (X)

The 58th, slide through the shadows, using the rocks for cover. (X)

SHANE

points to her watch.

(X)

SHANE

(X)

(quietly)

(X)

Set detonaters. Ten minutes. We meet back here... Hack.

(X)

(X)

She silently waves: three one way, three the other. She grabs Burke's shoulder. Motions for him to remain by the rock. His expression says he's more than happy to comply. (X)

CUT TO:

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44A.

A39 INT. CAVERN - CLOSE - FUTURISTIC BOXES

A39(X)

stacked. ALIEN LEGS move into FRAME... then stop.

A HUMAN HAND

appears through the shadows between the stacked boxes... next to the legs. Attaches a DETONATOR to the box.

A40 INSERT - READOUT - "10:00... 9:59... 9:58...."

A40(X)

CLOSE - SHANE

nods to Winslow. They move out of FRAME... the Alien legs still standing guard, oblivious...

CUT TO:

A41 INT. CAVERN - CLOSE - TWO ALIEN GUARDS

A41(X)

step into FRAME, then obviously walk out of FRAME. CAMERA PUSHES into the shadows between the stacked BOXES, revealing

COOPER & NATHAN

frozen. They carefully attach DETONATORS to the BOXES.

A42 INSERT - READOUT - "9:37...9:36... 9:35..."

A42(X)

CLOSE - BOX LID

opened. Cooper peeks in...

CLOSE - GLOWING GREEN RODS

unsettling cold, ominous...

COOPER looks at Nathan: Any idea? Nathan shakes his head, no. They slide out of FRAME...

BURKE

peers around a rock, from the safety of his position.

BURKE'S POV - CAVERN

its enormity... danger... and fearsome beauty. He can't see the 58th anywhere in there... just Aliens, boxes and rocks.

RETURN

A ROCK... CAMERA ADJUSTS to reveal

DAMPHOUSSE & WANG

creeping over the top of it, looking down. Damphousse suddenly rolls out of FRAME...

BOOTS

hit the CAVERN FLOOR. Damphousse disappears into the dark rock(X) crevice. An Alien Sentry walks into FRAME, unaware of Damphousse. Stops. Sniffs the air... then clears FRAME.

A43 INSERT - READOUT - "9:01...9:00... 8:59..." A43 (X)
SHANE & WANG (X)
return to a relieved Burke. She looks for the 58th. (X)
CLOSE - "Det. 8:57... 8:56... 8:55..."
Wang looks up from his watch. (X)
WANG
(urgent whisper)
Eight minutes?! Let's move out. (X)
SHANE
We'll be in the tunnels by then.
Okay. Move. (X)
COOPER & NATHAN (X)
crash past them. Shane turns to Burke.
SHANE
C'mon --
BURKE
Where's Vanessa?
BURKE'S POV - DAMPHOUSSE
making her way through the rocks, toward them. (X)
RETURN
CAMERA PUSHES IN on BURKE...
BURKE'S POV - DAMPHOUSSE
suddenly ABLAZE in KIRLIAN COLOR!
RETURN
BURKE
horrified.
BURKE
(to himself)
-- It was her death she saw...
Burke moves toward Damphousse. Shane grabs him.
SHANE
Wait --
BURKE
(desperate)
The colors...

(CONTINUED)

A43 CONTINUED:

A43

But Burke pulls away from Shane... runs toward Damphousse, eyes alert for the cause of her danger... Suddenly sees

TWO ALIENS

stalking Damphousse. One raises his GUN to fire... Burke runs out of cover, toward the Aliens...

BURKE

Vanessa!

(X)

(X)

CLOSE - ALIEN GUN

suddenly turns toward BURKE... BLASTS!

BURKE FALLS, CLUTCHING HIS CHEST.

DAMPHOUSSE

turns, just as the SECOND ALIEN lunges at her... they roll out of FRAME... WEAPONS FIRE ERUPTS around them... more ALIENS turn toward them, firing their weapons... (X)
(X)

Damphousse and the alien struggle, she slams his gun back, it BLASTS at the CAVERN ROOF... (X)

CLOSE - STALACTITES

rock with the explosion... suddenly BREAKING loose... (X)

DAMPHOUSSE

still struggling with the Alien, looks up... rolls free, just as a STALACTITE HURTLES DOWNWARD. (O.S.) EERIE HISS... GREEN FOAM splats over Damphousse. BULLET HITS spray around her. WEAPONS FIRE continues over... (X)

A44 INSERT - READOUT - "1:21... 1:20... 1:19..."

A44 (X)

58TH

pinned behind rocks, locked in an intense battle. Cooper breaks from the 58th. (X)
(X)

SHANE

Coop, don't! We gotta get out - this place is gonna blow! (X)
(X)

BURKE

lies on his stomach, bleeding from a wound. Damphousse pulls him over, as (O.S.) WEAPONS FIRE rings above their heads. Burke is alive... Cooper moves in next to Damphousse. (X)

(CONTINUED)

A44 CONTINUED:

A44

DAMPHOUSSE

We gotta get him out!

(X)

(X)

They pull Burke up.

(X)

CAMERA HOLDS ON...

(X)

45 INSERT - READOUT - "00:04... 00:03... 00:02..."

45

DAMPHOUSSE & COOPER

(X)

with Burke, make it to the cavern exit. Bullet hits all around(X)
them as they disappear into the opening, (O.S.) A HUGE (X)
EXPLOSION ROCKS the CAVERN. Damphousse looks behind her --

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - CAVERN

erupts in SYSTEMATIC EXPLOSIONS, filling the FRAME with orange,
violet and yellow FLAME...

CUT TO:

46 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - CLOSE - HANDS

46 (X)

pull Burke up through the HOLE IN THE WALL. (O.S.) EXPLOSIONS (X)
continue, louder, more intense...

CUT TO: (X)

A47 CLOSE - A HUGE FIREBALL

A47 (X)

rolls through the tunnel...

CUT TO:

47 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - 58TH

47 (X)

race through the tunnel, Damphousse and Cooper, struggling to (X)
carry the wounded Burke... (O.S.) OMINOUS HISSING and CRACKLING (X)
grow louder, more unnerving...

CUT TO:

48 INT. LARGE TUNNEL - DAMPHOUSSE

48 (X)

looks behind her to see the bend in the tunnel GLOW an OMINOUS
ORANGE. She and Cooper struggle with Burke. CAMERA NOW CHASES (X)
them, LOW ANGLE, the eerie REFLECTION on their backs, growing
brighter, more intense...

CLOSE - BURKE

panic-struck. CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal THE FIREBALL races
inches behind them.

The 58th and DAMPHOUSSE, BURKE & COOPER suddenly fall below (X)
FRAME just as THE FIREBALL ENGULFS CAMERA, whiting out FRAME...(X)
the SOUND of the FIRE

Continues over BLACKNESS... CAMERA ADJUSTS, revealing... THE (X)
58TH huddled in...

49 INT. LOWER TRENCH - 58TH POV - THE FIREBALL

49

whooshes overhead and past them...

THE 58TH, panting from exhaustion, look at BURKE, who coughs a death rattle.

Burke takes Damphousse's hand in a wrestler's handshake.

BURKE

You were right. Someone was gonna die in there.

DAMPHOUSSE

Not yet. Hold on.

BURKE hands her the mini disc recorder.

BURKE

I was flattered... you described me as... "one of us."

Burke looks around at the 58th. Nods. Then gurgles. Burke pulls Damphousse in close. Whispers.

BURKE

I saw... what you see...

And then he's gone. But the personal triumph remains on Burke's face. Even in death.

CUT TO:

50 OMIT

50 (X)

51 INT. SARATOGA - ORIENTATION ROOM - NIGHT - ECU - COMPUTER SCREEN

FLASHING: "AFTER ACTION REPORT..."

WIDER

Damphousse sits across from McQueen, who finishes typing.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

McQUEEN

Thank you, Lieutenant, that'll be all.

Damphousse hesitates. For her, it's not all. He looks at her. She pushes toward him Burke's MINI DISC RECORDER.

DAMPHOUSSE

This records my vision...

McQueen exhales.

McQUEEN

What do you want to do with it?

DAMPHOUSSE

If I can see... people's deaths... maybe... I'm responsible for stopping them...

McQueen picks up the MINI DISC RECORDER.

McQUEEN

Whoever gave you the power to see them... may not have given you the power to stop them.

McQueen sets the MINI DISC RECORDER back down on the desk.

McQUEEN

You're only so responsible, Vanessa. And then it's out of your hands.

DAMPHOUSSE just looks at McQueen as he pushes the RECORDER toward her across the desk.

CUT TO:

52 INT. HALLWAY - DAMPHOUSSE

52

walks down the hallway, carrying the RECORDER. She looks at faces of fellow MARINES. In each passing face, she looks for the flaming Kirlian colors, but sees none.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

Oh Lord...

Damphousse stops at a TRASH CHUTE. OPENS IT. Almost throws in the MINI DISC RECORDER. Doesn't. Let's the CHUTE DOOR close. Walks on.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

... Grant me the serenity... to accept the things I cannot change...

53 INT. BUNKROOM - NIGHT

53

Damphousse opens her locker. Pulls out boxes and personal items from her top shelf. Hides the recorder behind them. Closes the locker door.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)
The courage... to change the things
I can...

54 INT. SARATOGA - CHAPEL - NIGHT - DAMPHOUSSE
kneels.

54

CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S FINGERS
interlock tightly in prayer.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)..
... And the wisdom...

THE CAMERA MOVES from Damphousse's searching face, out the porthole to the

INFINITE STARS OF SPACE

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)
... To know the difference.

FADE OUT.

THE END