

SENTIENT

A TV pilot
by
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TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. BALMORAL BEACH - DUSK 1

Deathly quiet.

Ash rains from the sky.

LT. COMMANDER MICHAEL DOWD steps forward.

Broad shoulders. Navy fatigues. Disheveled hair.

His face is drawn.

His eyes pooled with blood.

Dowd raises a flare gun and fires.

A NAVY VOX OPERATOR communicates from an unseen vessel.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR (V.O.)
What do you see?

Dowd stares out across the harbour.

What he sees, gives him pause.

FADE OUT

2 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY 2

Pitch black.

SUPER: 48 HOURS EARLIER - ORDINANCE DISPOSAL MISSION

A light appears.

Royal Australian Navy Diver, CHIEF PETTY OFFICER LACHLAN HUNT emerges from the darkness. Hunt searches the ocean floor.

HUNT
Repeat.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR(V.O.)
What do you see?

HUNT
Nothing.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR(V.O.)
You're right on top of it.

HUNT
Still nothing.

Hunt passes by. Two Navy vessels hover on the surface above.

3 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. SURFACE - DAY

3

A Zodiac dinghy floats next to a RAN Patrol boat.

A female NAVY VOX OPERATOR, (Voice over water) sits between two Navy clearance divers kitting up for a dive, Lt. Commander Michael Dowd and another, much younger man facing away out to sea, LT. AIDEN FRANK.

Dowd speaks into the VOX.

DOWD

Lachy.

HUNT (V.O.)

Bloke.

DOWD

I'll take Tiger for a look-see.

HUNT (V.O.)

You want I should come with?

DOWD

No, return to surface.

HUNT (V.O.)

Copy that.

Dowd turns to Lt. Aiden Frank, still facing out to sea.

DOWD

Tiger.

Frank doesn't respond.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Aiden.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR

Perhaps the Lieutenant would like us to review his dive checklist.

LT. AIDEN FRANK

No he would not.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR

Just saying, it's been a while sir.

DOWD

The Lieutenant's a bad ass veteran now.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR
I'm sure Lieutenant Frank gave
those Al-Qaeda heathens some
serious stick.

DOWD
He did.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR
The Admiral would be proud sir.

Frank turns, shaking his head, grinning ear to ear.

LT. AIDEN FRANK
Did you see the dog?

DOWD
Dog?

FRANK (V.O.)
Back at base.

DOWD
I didn't see any dog.
(To Navy Vox Operator)
Did you?

NAVY VOX OPERATOR
Nope.

LT. AIDEN FRANK
Yeah, there was this really sad-
looking dog.

Frank grabs the charges.

LT. AIDEN FRANK (CONT'D)
See you down there.

DOWD
Do you know your...?

Too late, Frank slides over and slips beneath the waves.

DOWD (CONT'D)
(To Navy Vox Operator)
Dog?

The Navy Vox Operator shakes her head, clueless. Dowd leans
over ready to join Frank.

4 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - DAY 4
Hulls of the two Navy vessels bobble on the surface above.
Dowd follows.

He slips beneath the waves and begins his descent.

The light dims.

His heartbeat slows.

Sounds from the surface fade.

He checks his depth and continues.

Deep, getting deeper. Dowd can see the ocean floor but not Frank.

DOWD

What's up with the sad dog?

FRANK (V.O.)

There was a happy dog too, a terrier.

DOWD

A terrier?

FRANK (V.O.)

Yeah well, the happy dog, he bounds across the wharf and rocks on up to the sad dog and says, 'Mate, what's wrong?'

DOWD

Hold up. The dog talks?

FRANK (V.O.)

Yeah, yeah, so he asks, 'What's wrong?'

DOWD

Ok.

FRANK (V.O.)

He's like, 'Oh, I don't want to talk about it,' and so the happy dog says, 'I see what's happening here, you need help, you need see a psychiatrist.'

DOWD

A psychiatrist for the dog?

FRANK

Yeah, so the sad dog says, 'No, no I can't see a psychiatrist', and the happy dog says, 'Dude, you just...'

Frank's voice breaks.

Dowd cruises low and slow over the ocean floor, searching for Frank. He pauses.

DOWD

Aiden?

FRANK (V.O.)

'You're just being proud and you don't have to because, shit happens, and it's not your fault, you just need help, you need to go and see a psychiatrist' and the sad dog says, 'No, you don't understand, I can't' and so the happy dog says, 'Can you give me just one good reason why, why you can't see a psychiatrist?' And the sad dog says, 'Yeah, yeah, just one,... I'm not allowed on the couch.'

DOWD

You're shitting me.

FRANK (V.O.)

Yeah.

DOWD

Yeah.

FRANK (V.O.)

Boss?

DOWD

What?

FRANK

You need to get back with Kayla.

Dowd searches around for Frank. Exasperated, he looks to his GPS tracker.

DOWD

Where you at Lieutenant?

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)

She was good for you.

Dowd looks to a GPS on his wrist. He sees a blip.

DOWD

Why are you seventy metres to my east?

Dowd ascends to get a big picture view. A dim light illuminates the sea bed in the distance.

5 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. SURFACE - DAY 5

The Navy Vox Operator listens in alarmed.

Chief Petty Officer Lachlan Hunt surfaces and rips off his mask.

HUNT

What's up?

The Navy Vox Operator stays him with a raised hand. She presses the headphone to her ears.

6 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY 6

Dowd hangs suspended in the water, waiting upon Frank's response.

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)

I'm getting back on the horse,
growing a spine like the son of an
Admiral ought.

The VOX operator becomes alarmed.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR(V.O.)

Is there a problem Commander?

HUNT (V.O.)

Bloke, do you want me to come down?

DOWD

No problem.
(To Frank)
Aiden? Aiden?

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)

Yeah.

DOWD

Stay there. I'm coming to you.

Dowd descends east then drives hard along the ocean floor.

His heart rate ascends.

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)

I found the ordinance.

DOWD

Where?

7 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR. ORDINANCE SITE - DAY 7

Frank hovers before a massive World War 2 spiky contact mine.

LT. AIDEN FRANK
I'm looking at it.

8 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY 8

Dowd navigates the sea grass towards a rise in the distance.

DOWD
Ok, good, wait for me.

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)
Charges set.

DOWD
Aiden?

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)
Good to go.

DOWD
What?! Aiden? Wait upon my arrival.

Dowd redoubles his pace, paddling towards Frank.

His heart is pounding.

NAVY VOX OPERATOR(V.O.)
Commander?

HUNT (V.O.)
Bloke, I'm coming down.

DOWD
Wait for me Aiden!

LT. AIDEN FRANK (V.O.)
Too far.

DOWD
You're not too far. I'll be there
in a minute.

9 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR. ORDINANCE SITE - DAY 9

Frank holds the remote detonator in hand.

LT. AIDEN FRANK
Too far gone.

10 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY 10

Dowd paddles furiously over the rise. He finally sees Frank's ghostly silhouette against the mine.

DOWD
Aiden! Wait!

An explosion erupts from the ocean floor.
A compression ring heads straight at Dowd.
The ring envelopes him in light and bubble.
His body is cast to the abyss.

11 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - DAY 11

NAVY NURSES rush Dowd through the corridor.
Dowd writhes with the bends.
A gentle hand reaches out to steady him.
Dowd looks up to see a pretty young nurse, the RED HEAD. On any other day but today. All he can do is grit his teeth.
The trolley stops abruptly.
The foreboding figure of COMMODORE LAURENT FRIESNER leans into Dowd.
Dowd, barely able to speak, grabs Friesner's arm.

DOWD
Aiden?

FRIESNER
Lt. Frank is dead.

Dowd is beside himself.
Friesner whispers into his ear.

FRIESNER (CONT'D)
If you live, you'll wish you hadn't.

A SENIOR NURSE steps forward to confront Friesner.
Friesner steps aside. The nurses push Dowd into the Barometric room. The door shuts behind them.
A thumping heartbeat, a racing monitor then...

12 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. BARO CHAMBER - MORNING 12

Flat-line. Dowd wakes.

DOWD
Wait!

The power quits. The door auto-opens.

Dowd's vision is blurred. His head is swimming.

He's panting, covered in sweat.

His mobile phone is glowing. It's hums at him like a Tibetan singing bowl.

His head tilts.

Dowd is transfixed.

He reaches for his phone. He retracts. Too hot!

He clenches his fist in pain then looks to the open door.

13 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. BARO ROOM - MORNING 13

Dowd pushes the barometric chamber door open.

He emerges wearing a sweat saturated Navy T, shorts and joggers.

His phone pulses light into the room.

He staggers out, looks back to the phone then to the room.

A howling wind rakes the building.

SPICK, SPACK, SPECK, the storm outside hammers the building with a hail of shrapnel. The structure groans with the wind.

Dowd makes his way to the exit and wrenches the handle.

The door flings-back.

A body collapses onto him.

Both drop backwards to the floor.

A glowing mobile phone flies onto the floor.

Dowd flails about wildly. He pushes the body away and jams himself up against a filing cabinet.

Dowd peers over...it's the pretty young red head nurse.

Dried blood has pooled around her eyes, nose and mouth.

Dowd crawls over to her. He opens her mouth, places his head next to her face and rests his hand on her chest.

Nothing.

DOWD
 (Wheezing)
 Help.

Dowd grabs at his throat.

He spots a defibrillator on the wall and steps up to get it.
 His legs collapse from under him.

He forces himself upright, drags himself to the wall and
 pulls it down.

Dowd drops down next to nurse.

He rips open her blouse and attaches two defib pads either
 side of her chest.

He presses the power button.

Nothing. He stabs at the button. It's dead.

He tosses it, raises himself over her and presses down
 repeatedly on her chest, over and over until he arms fold in,
 flopping him over the dead nurse.

DOWD (CONT'D)
 (Wheezing)
 Help.

Trembling, sweaty, he cannot summon the energy to bring her
 back.

His eyes are then drawn to the Nurse's phone.

It's glowing and resonating in-sync with his.

14 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - MORNING 14

Dowd stumbles into the corridor.

DOWD
 (Wheezing)
 Help!

The power's out.

He points back to the dead nurse.

DOWD (CONT'D)
 Please.

He turns towards a darkened exit sign, gaining momentum as he
 goes until he stops dead in his tracks.

A pile of bodies, stacked to the ceiling, obscures the swing-
 door to the exit.

Phones within the pile, glow and hum in-sync.

It's a temple of the dead. Dowd stands, aghast.

He approaches.

Dowd rolls-back one of the bodies. Dried blood has pooled around its eyes, nose and mouth. They're all the same.

A blood droplet falls from Dowd's own nose to the back of his hand. Dowd looks to his hand.

FLASHBACK TO:

15 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. TRAINING AREA - MORNING 15

Dowd stands before a room of NAVY ENTRY OFFICERS including a dapper son of the Admiral, Aiden Frank.

The formidable figure of VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK stands at the rear of the class, watching-on. Beside him, the Admiral's dog, HEC WALLER and the icy Commodore Laurent Friesner.

A blackboard notice tasks the trainees, 'Biological attack, know the drill!'

DOWD

Your base has just been hit. You have seconds to act. Take me through it.

ENTRY OFFICER ONE

Kit-up.

DOWD

In a hurry. Breathing ap first. Eyes then body.

ENTRY OFFICER TWO

What if you don't get kit?

AIDEN FRANK

Then you get dead.

That gets a laugh from the trainees. Dowd and Admiral Frank exchange looks.

DOWD

Also in a hurry. Thank you Mr. Frank. Next!

ENTRY OFFICER THREE

Find command. Establish contact. Seek orders.

DOWD

And...

The room is silent.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Ready for war. Someone is coming to
kill you.

RETURN TO PRESENT

- 16 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - MORNING 16
- SPICK, SPACK, SPECK, shrapnel from the storm smashes a window in a room off the corridor,
- Dowd snaps back to the present.
- The door to the room creaks-open.
- Dowd releases the body and stares into the abyss behind him.
- From the abyss... something stares back.
- Dowd rises slowly then backs into an office door.
- 17 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. OFFICE - MORNING 17
- Dowd unlocks the door and backs inside.
- He looks to his hand. He's trembling.
- He wipes his bleeding nose, closes the door the jams a chair up against the handle. It's the wrong size, he can't secure it. He tosses the chair and backs away from the closed door.
- A hypnotic red glow seeps through venetian blinds, filling the room behind him.
- Dowd turns. The red glow mesmerizes.
- He approaches the window.
- Turns back to check the door handle.
- Reaches for the draw-cord.
- Then stops.
- Breathing.
- Someone else is in the room.
- Dowd turns.

A scientist wearing a Hazmat protective suit comes into view.

DR. AMON TEICHER sits in the corner next to an oxygen tank, with a mask covering his face.

The two men take each other in for a moment.

Dowd turns back to the drawcord.

Teicher lifts his face mask to speak.

TEICHER
I wouldn't do that.

Dowd pauses then reaches for the drawcord.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
You won't like what you see.

But Dowd has to see. He parts the blinds.

Dowd is confronted by an angry red storm, swirling with menace.

The storm outside slows, as if, as if it has seen him.

Dowd presses his hands to the window.

The storm hovers then rushes up, slamming into glass.

Dowd is jolted back, releasing the blinds.

18 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL - MORNING

18

Outside, for as far as the eye can see, Sydney is enveloped by the storm.

TITLE:

FADE TO:

"SENTIENT"

ACT ONE

FLASHBACK TO:

19 INT. SYDNEY. SENNINGER DEFENSE INDUSTRIES HQ - DAY 19

Venetian blinds.

Dr. Amon Teicher sits in a visitor's chair before a slit view of a corporate park.

THE SHRINK, a thirty something, corporate ascendent, enters the room. She's a gorgeous brunette in a pencil dress. Her mission today, to pick the wings off the fly.

She takes her seat, glances at her notes then sizes up Teicher. He's nought more than an appetizer.

THE SHRINK

Mr. Teicher.

TEICHER

Doctor. It's Doctor Teicher.

THE SHRINK

Do you practice 'Doctor?'

Teicher is in a playful mood.

TEICHER

Do you?

THE SHRINK

I'm a clinical psychiatrist. You're sitting in my practice.

TEICHER

I'm Chief Scientist for Senninger Industries' Bio defense program. I don't practice, I perfect.

THE SHRINK

Your psychological evaluation raised significant red flags.

TEICHER

Did it?

THE SHRINK

You were questioned about a recent mass shooting.

TEICHER

Was I?

THE SHRINK

You were asked, 'why' you thought the perpetrator had murdered seventy three people. Do you recollect your response to that question?

A Mona Lisa grin from Teicher.

RETURN TO PRESENT

20

INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. OFFICE - DAY

20

Venetian blinds.

Teicher sits in the corner, looking at Dowd.

SUPER: DAY ONE

Teicher rises, steadying himself using the walls.

He approaches Dowd, taking his squeaky-wheeled oxygen tank with him.

He draws intimately close.

The two men stand side by side, silhouetted against the hypnotic red glow, spilling through the blinds.

DOWD

What is it?

Teicher looks to the red glow spilling through the blinds.

TEICHER

Yes.

Dowd grabs at Teicher's hazmat suit.

DOWD

Do you have another suit?

TEICHER

Just the one.

DOWD

Give me the tank.

TEICHER

You can't have the tank.

DOWD

Share.

TEICHER

No.

DOWD

No?

TEICHER

No! What will, 'share' look like
when the tank begins to empty?

The exit doors outside, squeak-open then swing back and forth, slowing to a stop.

Dowd looks to the closed office door. The gap underneath, momentarily fills with light.

He wrenches a fire extinguisher off the wall, raises it ready to use as a weapon then looks to Teicher.

Teicher backs-up.

Dowd, panting hard, approaches the door.

He looks back to Teicher, raises a single finger to his lips, warning Teicher to keep quiet then reaches for the handle.

21 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - MORNING 21

Dowd wrenches open the door.

Nothing.

He enters the corridor and scans the darkness behind.

Nothing.

He proceeds in the other direction towards the exit.

Dowd, once again, stops dead in his tracks.

The bodies, once piled up at the door have disappeared.

Teicher joins Dowd, wheeling his tank along with him.

Teicher looks in the direction of Dowd's stare but there's nothing to see.

Dowd looks behind to the darkened corridor.

TEICHER

Something?

Dowd is perplexed.

He looks to Teicher then proceeds forward, opening the swing doors.

Beyond, the noise is deafening.

The foyer floods with the swirling, hypnotic light of the storm.

22 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. FOYER - MORNING 22

Dowd discards the fire extinguisher and staggers towards the exit.

Blood begins to stream from his nose, eyes and ears.

It's like wading through wet cement.

Teicher follows.

TEICHER
(Yelling)
Where are you going?

Dowd drives himself forward. Teicher follows.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
You can't go out there.

He covers his mouth with the hazmat mask.

DOWD
Can't not.

Teicher's body begins to convulse.

His knees buckle. He collapses.

Dowd takes Teicher by the collar and drags him forward until Dowd's legs give out and he collapses next to Teicher.

Teicher looks to the storm through the glass door. His mask falls from his face.

The doors open, a finger of the storm enters and hovers above Teicher. The finger rises above him, a scorpion's tail, ready to strike.

23 EXT. WESTERN SYDNEY. FREEWAY - LATER 23

A look-down view of a freeway interchange covered in abandoned cars.

The storm has subsided.

A resonance like a singing bowl hums away in the background and an eerie red and purple haze hangs over the city.

24 ON THE GROUND 24

A long shadow appears on the tar.

An outstretched palm feels the way forward. The figure, silhouette against the western sun, now comes into view.

SENATOR BERNARD HASS' silk tie flaps-about in the breeze.

His suit and shirt are stained with blood.

He's covered in red spores. The fine powdery substance takes flight from him as he walks.

He's blind, distressed and alone.

Before him is a freeway littered with abandoned vehicles.

Hass bumps into a car.

HASS
(To the devil of his
doubts)
Behind me!

Hass staggers on, desperately pawing his way through the maze of vehicles until he bumps into another.

HASS (CONT'D)
Get behind me!

He flings back his arm as if to thwart-off an attack.

Hass corrects his course and soldiers on.

He stands upright now and walks boldly forward.

HASS (CONT'D)
You have no authority over me!

No sooner have the words left Hass' mouth when he trips. Hass is flung forward, smashing his head on a car bonnet.

He drops, winces then grabs at his twisted ankle.

Hass drags himself back up and limps forward but now his path is blocked in all directions by abandoned cars.

He falls to his knees. He can go no further.

Hass holds his head in his hands and weeps.

From above, it's a simple maze to exit from, if you can see.

25 INT. SYDNEY. CITY HOTEL ROOM - DAY

25

A darkened room.

A band of light spills onto a female form asleep on a bed.

The figure suddenly sits bolt-upright.

A mane of long blonde hair spills-down her back.

HEIDI FISK rips-off a sleeping mask.

HEIDI

Oh no. Oh no, oh NO!

Heidi leaps out of bed and runs out of shot.

The curtains open. A hazy red daylight floods the room.

An open suitcase lands on the bed and slams shut.

She reopens it.

A stream of clothing, cosmetics and personal effects fly into the open suitcase whilst Heidi, 'self-talk' berates herself.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You could have packed last night.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

He might have called.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But HE DIDN'T, DID HE?!

Yet more personal effects are tossed into the suitcase.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

They're going to send you to a detention centre Heidi.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You've overstayed your visa Ms. Fisk. Customs will now escort you and your fellow huddled masses, yearning to breathe free Australian air, to a HOLDING CELL!

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Then, they're going to deport your poor-broke, dumb-ass back to BUM-FUCK, ARKANSAS!

Yet more clothes fly through the air. The suitcase begins to take the shape of a heaped pancake.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You don't wanna go to Bumfuck Heidi.

HEIDI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It don't matter where you go Heidi, Bumfuck COMES TO YOU!

Heidi removes a dress from the heaped pancake and storms into the bathroom, dressing as she goes.

26 BATHROOM

26

Heidi opens the door.

Light floods in the room. We see Heidi's face for the first time in the mirror. Her eyes are pooled with blood. Congealed blood stains her face around her eyes, nose and mouth. Mascara tears cover her cheeks.

HEIDI

Oh Heidi.

BEGIN DREAM
SEQUENCE:

27 EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

27

A yacht races past.

A wide-eyed teenage MICHAEL DOWD stands at the helm.

Behind him, Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank in civvies and Michael's adoptive father, HIGH COURT JUSTICE LEO DOWD.

'Hec Waller', the Admiral's golden retriever sits at the Admiral's feet. Hec's wearing a florescent safety jacket.

LEO DOWD

Michael.

Michael looks back to his father.

LEO DOWD (CONT'D)

Know your heading?

Micheal checks the compass.

MICHAEL DOWD

Yeah.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK

What was that sailor?!

MICHAEL DOWD

Yes Sir!

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK

I should hope so.

(To Leo)

Justice Dowd.

LEO DOWD

Admiral.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK

Shall we fix that mooring cleat?

Leo takes the lead. They walk forward to the bow. Hec Waller races ahead.

LEO DOWD
Not sure I brought tools.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
I'll use my teeth.

The Admiral looks back to Michael.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK (CONT'D)
Mr. Dowd, you have the helm.

MICHAEL DOWD
Sir.

Michael watches them advance to the bow then disappear out of sight.

Michael surveys the ocean around him. It's a beautiful day. A cargo vessel makes its way behind them back to land. Their yacht is well out to sea.

Michael's attention returns forward when Hec Waller starts to bark. Michael searches for the dog. He can't see him.

A blood red storm approaches out of nowhere. The storm spills from high above to the ocean surface then spreads out over the horizon.

The wind picks up. A chop sets in. The yacht becomes unruly.

Hec Waller barks but Michael can't see him.

MICHAEL DOWD (CONT'D)
Dad?! Admiral?

There's no response.

Michael locks off the helm and races forward to the bow. A violent burst of wind pushes the yacht sideways. It leans into the water, throwing Michael to the deck.

MICHAEL DOWD (CONT'D)
Dad?! Dad!

Michael scrambles to his feet and makes his way to the bow. When he arrives there's no one there. The storm rushes upon him.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK (V.O.)
You have the helm.

RETURN TO PRESENT

28

INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. FOYER - MORNING

28

Dowd wakes. His vision hazy. His senses dulled.

He sees Teicher seated upright against a pylon.

Both men are covered in red spores.

Teicher maintains a thousand yard stare. Both men's eyes are pooled with blood.

An unseen dog is barking.

TEICHER

He knows you.

Dowd looks to Teicher.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

(Louder)

He knows you.

Dowd is confused. Teicher gestures to a barking dog, petitioning them through the glass exit door.

DOWD

Hec Waller.

Dowd crawls on all fours to push open the door. HEC WALLER romps in, tail-wagging and leaps all over Dowd. Dowd, sure is happy to see that dog.

TEICHER

He knows you.

Hec Waller rushes over to Teicher, sniffing about then returns to Dowd.

Teicher observes the dog wears a tag, '9.'

Dowd staggers to his feet.

Hec Waller runs back to the door and starts to scratch on it.

The dog looks to Dowd and keeps pawing at the door.

Dowd offers his a hand-up to Teicher. Teicher won't stir.

DOWD

Get up.

Teicher struggles to rise.

TEICHER

I can't.

DOWD

That, whatever that was.

TEICHER
It was biological.

DOWD
Was a first strike. The next thing
that comes through that door is
coming to kill you.

Dowd offers his hand.

29 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - DAY 29

Dowd opens the door to the foyer.

Hec Waller burst through the door and bounds off.

Dowd exits the building.

The natural light is blinding. He covers his eyes.

Debris is strewn everywhere. Broken glass crunches under-foot.

The raking wind has passed but a stream of smoke and red mist wafts through the buildings.

Sydney is eerily quiet. A hum resonates throughout the city.

Dowd clutches at his burnt hand.

Teicher joins him, hauling his squeaky-wheeled oxygen tank along with him.

Hec Waller stops to look-back to Dowd and Teicher.

TEICHER
What kind of dog is Hec Waller?

DOWD
A retriever.

30 EXT. WESTERN SYDNEY. FREEWAY - DAY 30

Senator Bernard Hass is huddled in a ball, his head flush against the tyre of a four wheel drive.

Staggered footsteps approach.

Hass looks-up but cannot see.

HASS
Who's there?

A figure slides over a car hood.

SENIOR CONSTABLE WASIM SABBAN, sporting NSW Police overalls and a close-cropped Muslim style beard, looks down to Hass.

Hass reaches out.

HASS (CONT'D)
Perhaps you recognize me? Senator
Bernard Hass.

Sabban is pallid, sweating profusely.

HASS (CONT'D)
I've experienced some kind of, I
can't explain it, I can't see. I
can't....

Sabban starts to gag. He's clutching at his throat.

HASS (CONT'D)
Friend, if you would just help me,
I am in a position to reward that
good deed many times over.

Sabban tries to speak but his descent into anaphylactic shock is swelling his tongue and throat.

HASS (CONT'D)
My phone's not working. If you
could just call my office for me.
Do you have your phone on you?

Sabban collapses, face-up to the sun. His body begins to convulse uncontrollably.

HASS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hello. Hello!

31 INT. SYDNEY. CITY HOTEL. FOYER - DAY

31

Heidi holds open an emergency doorway with her foot then hauls ass into the foyer, toting a knapsack and dragging an overloaded suitcase with both hands.

Dead stop.

Heidi surveys the vision before her.

Baggage is strewn everywhere.

Furnishings are overturned. Drinks, untouched, sit on the remaining upright tables.

A cold shiver comes over Heidi. She covers her bare arms.

Heidi looks to the empty reception then to the glass exit doors.

She pushes her bag against the wall then makes a beeline for the exit when she spots an open wallet on the reception desk.

Her eyes scan the reception for security cameras. They're dead.

She runs her hand over the wallet, carefully peeling back the leather folds until a wad of cash is revealed.

She leaves the cash and opts to remove the ID of the owner, Dr. Kristoff Stamm.

HEIDI

Dr. Stamm.

She removes a photo of Dr. Stamm and his two daughters. One of them is a disinterested teen. The other is a doting daughter wrapped around her father.

Heidi turns the photo over. Written on the back, 'To Daddy from Sammy XXX.'

Heidi is stalled, captured by the relationship in the photo.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

You have two beautiful daughters
Doctor. They love you. Sammy loves
you much.

Heidi double checks no one is looking then removes \$100 from the wallet along with Dr. Stamm's business card.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

I'm just going to go ahead and
borrow this hundred. I figure you
don't need it but I have your card
and I'm going to pay you right
back, just as soon as I'm situated.

She takes another \$100.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

Call it \$200 but I'm good for it.

Heidi closes the wallet, places it back on the reception desk and heads out of shot towards the street exit.

Footsteps returning.

Heidi's hand grabs the wallet.

Senior Constable Wasim Sabban tugs at the button of a leg pocket on his Police coveralls. It won't open.

His body rises. His fingers curl. He's gasping his last breaths.

Hass clammers over him.

HASS
(Yelling)
Hello? Do you speak English?

Sabban wrenches Hass' hand to his coveralls pocket.

HASS (CONT'D)
(Still yelling)
What? What do you want? Do you
require a doctor? Give me your
phone and we'll call a doctor for
you.

Sabban clutches Hass' hand slapping it against the leg pocket.

HASS (CONT'D)
Is it here?

Hass feels his way to unbutton the pocket.

HASS (CONT'D)
We'll use your phone but I need to
call my office first.

Sabban takes in one last breath.

Hass undoes the button.

Sabban knocks Hass' hand away, reaches in, pulls out an epipen, thumb-flicks the top off and jabs it into his thigh.

Sabban draws short, sharp breaths, slowly relaxing.

Hass reaches back into Sabban's pocket.

Sabban's eyes scan the sky above him.

Jet airliners circle the city of Sydney.

Sabban draws a long breath and exhales.

HASS (CONT'D)
Where's your phone?!

A sliced fire hose reel leads to BEATA ROSEN.

Her clothes ripped from her body, her purse replaced by a fire axe, Rosen wanders the base, wrapped in the firehose.

A wind vane blade is embedded in her cheek, right through to the eye.

A collar away from rabid dog, she raises the axe with both hands and starts waving it back and forth.

ROSEN
Violators. Violators!

34 INT. MOSMAN NAVY BASE. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - EARLIER 34

An antique wind vane spins gently by an open window. Beyond that lies a panoramic view of Sydney harbour.

SUPER: BEFORE

Inside, a mannequin adorned by an 18th century British Naval officer's tailcoat stands proudly next to a replica of the first fleet warship, HMAS SIRIUS.

A Cat o' nine tails is illuminated in a glass display case.

Beata Rosen's reflection comes into view.

Rosen is distinct, featuring a less than flattering bob haircut. She is adorned with the facade of wealth yet demonstrates scant ability to carry it off.

Friesner's male SECRETARY announces the arrival of a visitor over a phone loudspeaker.

SECRETARY (V.O.)
Mr. Senninger is early.

FRIESNER
Tell him to wait.

The door to Friesner's office swings open and there stands, TOPIK SENNINGER, a brutish monolith with a predator's smile.

Behind him is Friesner's embarrassed secretary.

SENNINGER
Beata.

ROSEN
Topik.

Beata greets him with air kisses.

Rosen dismisses Friesner's secretary.

ROSEN (CONT'D)
Shut the door.

The secretary backs out.

ROSEN (CONT'D)

Wait.

Rosen moves in close to the secretary then turns to Senninger.

ROSEN (CONT'D)

(To Senninger)

Something to drink?

SENNINGER

Surprise me.

ROSEN

(To Secretary)

Scotch for Mr. Senninger.

He turns to leave.

Rosen jolts his arm and whispers into his ear.

ROSEN (CONT'D)

If I have to do your job for you,
you won't have a job.

The Secretary, now handmaiden, is despatched.

Beata wanders back into the room, all smiles.

SENNINGER

Where's Lord of the Admiralty?

ROSEN

(To Senninger)

He'll be with us shortly. I trust
you're well.

SENNINGER

Happier for seeing you Beata. How's
property development treating you?

ROSEN

That depends.

SENNINGER

On what?

ROSEN

I'm waiting on news.

SENNINGER

What news is that?

Rosen focuses in on Senninger.

SENNINGER (CONT'D)

Oh, that news. We'll get to that
news.

ROSEN
Why not now?

SENNINGER
Let's talk about your mate, the
Mayor.

ROSEN
Are you wearing a wire Topik?

SENNINGER
Me? Not enough room in me package
for that.

Tugging at his undercarriage.

ROSEN
Then what of my news?

SENNINGER
It was a real shame, what happened
and all.

ROSEN
I wouldn't know.

SENNINGER
In truth, he was rough trade.

ROSEN
He was queer.

SENNINGER
But he was out. That always makes
things difficult. Closeted queers
are far more reasonable.

ROSEN
How's that Topik?

SENNINGER
Well, you don't have to put their
ballsack in a garrote and dump them
in a fucking carpark to get them to
see reason Beata...The thing is.

ROSEN
What's the thing Topik? What's the
thing stopping you from telling me
what I should have heard by now?!

SENNINGER
Federal politics, it's another
level. You see my point?

ROSEN
No, no I don't.

SENNINGER

You've got to get your ducks in a row.

ROSEN

Ducks?

SENNINGER

Your ducks.

ROSEN

I had a problem with ducks in my pool.

SENNINGER

I was speaking figuratively.

ROSEN

A mother and her babies shat all over my tiles.

SENNINGER

I'm sure it was horrid.

ROSEN

I told the pool boy to remove them but they came back.

SENNINGER

Not really the topic.

ROSEN

I dismissed him.

SENNINGER

The boy?

ROSEN

The boy.

SENNINGER

It's hard to get reliable help.

ROSEN

More than you know Topik.

SENNINGER

So, what did you end up doing with your ducks? Not that, that's our topic.

ROSEN

Isn't it? I staked her wings to a cross then drowned her babies in front of her. She hung there for three days, still alive whilst the magpies pecked out her eyes.

(MORE)

ROSEN (CONT'D)

Is that what you meant by getting my ducks in a row? Because let me assure you Topik, if I have an investment in something, which I do! You can count on me getting my ducks and all her fucking ducklings in a row.

35 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. LANEWAY - DAY 35

Dowd staggers forward, gasping for breath.

He clenches the fist of the burnt hand.

Teicher accompanies, hauling his squeaky wheeled oxygen tank behind him.

DOWD

Did you see anyone?

Teicher, disoriented, struggles to make sense of it.

TEICHER

Where?

SQUEAK.

DOWD

Outside your office.

TEICHER

It's not my office.

SQUEAK.

DOWD

Did you see anyone?!

TEICHER

I came up from the lab. Why?

FLASHBACK TO:

36 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - MORNING 36

Dowd stands before a pile of bodies, stacked to the roof.

RETURN TO PRESENT

37 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. LANEWAY - DAY 37

SQUEAK. Dowd abruptly stops.

DOWD
Are you going to drag that lame-ass
tank around all day!?

TEICHER
You don't want the tank now?

Dowd glares at Teicher.

Teicher leans the tank against a wall.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
I didn't see anyone.

Dowd continues on.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
Where are we going?

DOWD
The bunker.

Dowd walks on around a corner.

Teicher pauses, leaning against a wall.

Black soot is liberated into the air.

Teicher's head tilts-ajar, absorbed by the vision before him.

The shadow of a person appears burnt onto the wall.

Teicher reaches out to touch it.

The shadow dissolves, scattered to the wind.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

38 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - EARLIER 38

The red storm rages.

SUPER: BEFORE

An emergency siren is the only audible sound to compete with the storm.

Commodore Laurent Friesner, drives himself forward on foot towards a site security office. Blood streams from his eyes and nose.

39 SECURITY OFFICE 39

Friesner slaps a bloodied hand onto a glass panel fronting the security office. Inside, two men are collapsed on the floor. Friesner hammers the glass.

The siren quits. The street lamps too. Friesner collapses to the ground. He looks up. A tentacle of the storm, rises above, ready to strike.

FLASHBACK TO:

40 EXT. SYDNEY. CIRCUS CARNIVAL - NIGHT 40

'Madam Kayla', tarot, palm reading, your future revealed.'

TOBIAS FRIESNER, a neatly dressed 14 year old stands outside a fortune tellers' tent, transfixed by a spinning mandala.

Commodore Laurent Friesner joins his son.

TOBIAS FRIESNER
I found my present.

FRIESNER
This?

TOBIAS FRIESNER
This.

FRIESNER
I could invest in so many rich experiences for you.

TOBIAS FRIESNER
I want this one.

FRIESNER

Why?

TOBIAS FRIESNER

I enjoy random outcomes.

Tobias takes his father's hand.

41 INT. SYDNEY. CIRCUS CARNIVAL. MADAM KAYLA'S TENT - NIGHT 41

Friesner and Tobias enter the tent.

The walls spring to life with the stars of the universe.

A slow turning lantern paints the images on the wall.

The mysterious, KAYLA rises to greet them.

FRIESNER

This is my son Tobias. He wants his fortune told.

TOBIAS FRIESNER

Not mine, yours.

FRIESNER

Mine?!

TOBIAS FRIESNER

I already know mine.

Friesner takes Tobias by both shoulders.

FRIESNER

(Whispered)

What do you mean by that? Tell me.

TOBIAS FRIESNER

(Whispered)

I'm going to get better and that everything's going to be OK.

FRIESNER

More than OK.

TOBIAS FRIESNER

I know.

FRIESNER

Don't ever doubt it.

KAYLA

Sit.

Friesner reluctantly sits.

Tobias crowds over his shoulder to watch the show.

KAYLA (CONT'D)
Will your son be joining us?

FRIESNER
Is there a problem with that?

Kayla invites the boy to sit.

KAYLA
Your hands.

FRIESNER
What?

TOBIAS FRIESNER
Show her your hands.

Friesner presents his hands with the enthusiasm of a man about to have them cut off.

She takes one into hers.

Kayla runs a finger along the chosen hand, beckoning them to reveal their secrets.

FRIESNER
So, what's the procedure here?

KAYLA
The procedure? Sit down, shut-up
and I read you your palm.

Friesner, rises to leave.

FRIESNER
Come on, let's go.

TOBIAS FRIESNER
Dad!
(To Friesner)
It's my present! Just let Madam
Kayla do what she does.

Friesner looks to the fee schedule, places payment on the table and sits.

FRIESNER
Make this quick, Madam.

Madam paws the cash backwards into a velvet bag then resumes examining Friesner's hand.

KAYLA
I see great hunger.

Kayla makes eye contact.

FRIESNER
You look familiar.

KAYLA
You're ambitious, brimming with
talent but held in contempt.

She strokes his palm with her finger.

FRIESNER
Do I know you?

KAYLA
They won't mock for long. You'll
rise, more than you can imagine and
those who mocked you will burn,
burn in your fire.

FRIESNER
Do you work at the base?

KAYLA
You will face a great and terrible
enemy, greater than anything you
have faced before, a beast, born of
the same fire that burns inside of
you. You will battle with this
beast but you will lose, and what
you lose will be more than a soul
can bear.

RETURN TO PRESENT

42 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - CORRIDOR - MORNING

42

Friesner walks down a corridor towards his office. His
Secretary can be seen seated at the end of the corridor.

Upon spotting the Commodore, the Secretary stands promptly
and waits, ready to open the door.

A tray of refreshments rests on the desk awaiting delivery.

Friesner's phone rings. He looks to the caller ID then stops
abruptly to take the call.

FRIESNER
Doctor.

DOCTOR (V.O.)
Commodore.

FRIESNER
Is there a problem?

DOCTOR (V.O.)
Tobias has taken a turn for the worse.

Friesner turns away from his Secretary.

DOCTOR (V.O.)
We've had to discontinue the treatment.

FRIESNER
Don't do that.

DOCTOR (V.O.)
He can't endure the pain.

FRIESNER
You underestimate the boy's resolve.

DOCTOR (V.O.)
It's not about resolve.

Friesner's Secretary, spotting his approach, rises, knocks on the door to his office.

FRIESNER
Don't presume to lecture me on what he can and cannot endure!

DOCTOR
The boy needs his father.

FRIESNER
More than anyone. I will be there promptly. Continue with the treatment.

Friesner hangs up then takes a moment to collect himself.

He proceeds down the corridor.

The Secretary opens the door for Friesner.

Friesner walks inside.

43

INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - MORNING

43

Senninger rises to greet him.

Rosen, Scotch in hand, remains couched in an armchair.

Senninger offers his hand to shake.

SENNINGER
Commodore.

Friesner, still in shock, doesn't see it.

He walks straight past and hangs up his coat.

Senninger's hand is left dangling in the breeze.

ROSEN

Laurent!

FRIESNER

Do we have it?

The Secretary discretely delivers the refreshments plate and begins filling their drinks starting with Rosen.

ROSEN

(To Secretary)

Leave it.

SENNINGER

There's a problem.

The Secretary waits at the door.

ROSEN

(To Secretary)

Go.

The Secretary looks to the Commodore.

ROSEN (CONT'D)

(To Secretary)

Get out!

The Secretary leaves the room and shuts the door behind him.

FRIESNER

You had one task.

SENNINGER

The charges against Dowd.

FRIESNER

Dowd? What's Dowd got to do with it?

SENNINGER

It's the optics Laurie, he's an indigenous fucking hero.

FRIESNER

How many indigenous live in my electorate?

SENNINGER

It's not yours yet mate which leads us to your popularity or lack of.

ROSEN

It's a blue ribbon seat. He doesn't need to be popular.

SENNINGER

He does with the preselectors.

You could hear a pin drop.

FRIESNER

What?

SENNINGER

It's a coveted seat. The kind, future Prime Ministers come from and I can see you there Laurie, I really can.

FRIESNER

You have been compensated in full.

SENNINGER

Senninger Defense Industries, not the Preselectors.

You could hear a pin drop.

Friesner turns, ready to bite off Senninger's head.

ROSEN

How much?

FRIESNER

We're not paying him one red cent!

ROSEN

How much?

SENNINGER

One point five.

FRIESNER

One and a half million!?

ROSEN

Five hundred.

SENNINGER

Don't go getting cheap on me Beata.

FRIESNER

You forget, I know things Senninger.

SENNINGER

Light that fuse and we all burn Laurie.

ROSEN
Five hundred and defense.

SENNINGER
(Laughing it off)
There's just no way he's getting
defense.

ROSEN
Infrastructure.

SENNINGER
Yeah, that's what you really want,
you crafty fucking Hebrew, and we
call it a million?

ROSEN
Seven fifty.

SENNINGER
For fuck sake Beata. Eight hundred
and infrastructure, take it or
leave it.

ROSEN
Deductible.

SENNINGER
I can do that. We'll put it through
the charity.

Rosen looks to Friesner to check his reaction.

FRIESNER
Which charity is that?

SENNINGER
Which charity is that. You know
which charity.

FRIESNER
I sit on the fucking board!

SENNINGER
I know, why do you think I put you
there you silly cunt!

FRIESNER
If I had known the kind of man I
was dealing with.

SENNINGER
Get over yourself.

FRIESNER
It's a children's cancer charity!

SENNINGER

No one's going to say anything
Laurie. Certainly not you. Not now
you're, invested.

(To Rosen)

I'll have my people contact you
with the account details.

FRIESNER

You are a vile human being
Senninger, an insult to this
nation.

SENNINGER

And yet here we are. Pleasure doing
it with you Beata, good luck with
your ducks, and Laurie, take care
of that business with Dowd... and
one day, maybe, we'll see you in
the lodge.

The antique wind vane next to the window begins paddling
wildly catching a side glance from Rosner.

44 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - DAY

44

Friesner wakes looking skyward. The city is bathed in red.

Groggy, he rises to his feet. A powder-puff stream of red
spores spill from his body.

He peers in through the glass of the security office.

Two base security personnel, BABIC, head of security and EID
a guard, lie on the floor. Eid is awake.

Friesner hammers on the glass.

FRIESNER

On your feet!

45 SECURITY OFFICE

45

Eid looks up to see friesner peering down at him through the
glass pane.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

46 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. LANEWAY - DAY 46

Teicher's head rests ajar against the wall.

SUPER: NOW

A hazy figure approaches.

Dowd comes into view.

Dowd speaks. Teicher can't hear him.

Dowd grabs him by the shoulders but Teicher can't respond.

Dowd leaves him, departing around a corner.

Teicher follows, staggering forward.

47 AROUND THE CORNER 47

Teicher discovers Dowd trying to restrain, Beata Rosen.

Rosen swings an axe at him.

Teicher can hear none of it until Beata's axe blade embeds itself in the wall next to him.

SNAP! Now he's awake.

TEICHER

Beata!

48 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY 48

Surgical instruments lay abandoned in their trays.

The door swings open. Dowd drags in a wildcat.

Rosen appears, now wearing Teicher's hazmat suit.

She hasn't taken possession of the arm slots. Dowd uses the flaccid slots to reel her in.

Teicher appears behind, pushing with all his might.

The men's faces and hands bear scratches and bleeding.

Trays and furnishings go flying in the melee.

DOWD
Get her to the chair!

TEICHER
I'm trying!

ROSEN
I'm going to fuck you up!

They force Rosen into a chair. Dowd holds her down.
She starts biting the air in front of Teicher.

DOWD
Use your belt!

Dowd holds on tight whilst Teicher removes his belt.
He pauses, holding the belt over the rabid Rosen.
He lassos her, tightening it as tight as it will go, around
the chair.

ROSEN
I'll make it slow for you! You wait
and see what I do to you!

DOWD
Jesus wept.

TEICHER
Is that gauze?

DOWD
What?

TEICHER
Behind you.

Dowd spots gauze in a tray and grabs it.

DOWD
This?

TEICHER
Give it to me.

Dowd throws it to Teicher.

Rosen bites at her brother snipping one of his fingers.

Teicher retracts sharply wincing with pain.

Teicher puts two fingers over her nose, pulls back her head
then jams the gauze in her mouth. Rosen is enraged, growling
like a Rottweiler.

Teicher grabs a roll of tape off the desk and tapes her mouth
shut.

DOWD
Is that helping her?

TEICHER
It's helping me.

Teicher wipes blood from his bitten finger onto his lab coat.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
Nitrous Oxide.

DOWD
Who is she?

TEICHER
Nitrous Oxide, please.

DOWD
I'll look but this guy's no
dentist.

Teicher starts going through the cupboards for medical
supplies.

TEICHER
He'll have something.

Dowd meanders into an adjoining surgery.

49 ADJOINING SURGERY 49

Dowd searches the surgery.

DOWD
Are you a doctor?

50 DOCTOR'S SURGERY 50

Teicher opens up the doctor's desk drawers.

TEICHER
I'm a scientist.

51 ADJOINING SURGERY 51

Dowd opens a cabinet.

DOWD
Does that mean you're unemployed?

TEICHER (V.O.)
I head a team of 16 researchers.

DOWD
With just the one hazmat suit?

52 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

52

Teicher opens the top desk drawer and pauses. Dowd's keen observation amuses him.

TEICHER

I wanted to get to know you better.

DOWD (V.O.)

How's that working out?

TEICHER

(Under his breath)

You're looking at it.

Teicher snaps open a secret compartment under the drawer.

Teicher's head tilts.

53 ADJOINING SURGERY

53

Dowd discovers an inhaler.

DOWD

What about a Pentrox inhaler?

Dowd turns to walk back in.

54 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY

54

Dowd arrives back to find Teicher flicking a syringe.

TEICHER

Too rabid.

Teicher pokes her in the arm. She growls.

DOWD

Where'd that come from?

Teicher picks up a name tag from the doctor's desk.

TEICHER

Doctor Eugene's private stash.

Teicher tosses the name tag then stabs Rosen in the arm.

Rosen goes wild.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

Give her a minute.

Teicher prepares surgical instruments from a tray as the drug takes its toll on Rosen's venom.

Dowd runs his burnt hand under a tap then proceeds to wrap it in a bandage.

He looks to the ominous red horizon outside.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
She's my sister.

DOWD
What kind of biological agent could do this?

TEICHER
I didn't say it was an agent.

Dowd turns to Teicher.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
But if it were.

DOWD
What do you mean by...

TEICHER
You're a soldier, imagine the potential of an untraceable WMD disguised in a weather event.

DOWD
I'm a Naval officer and we don't have to imagine.

TEICHER
I know who you are.

Teicher gloves up for surgery.

DOWD
Do you?

TEICHER
The price of fame Lt. Commander Dowd.

DOWD
I don't know you.

TEICHER
Amon, Doctor Amon Teicher.

Teicher tosses a set of latex gloves for Dowd to catch.

DOWD
What do you and your team of 16 research?

Teicher stands behind Rosen positioning himself to remove the wind vane. Rosen's eye widens, even drugged, she starts to moan in panic. He tips back her head and...

TEICHER

War.

FLASHBACK TO:

55 INT. SYDNEY. BRIDAL SHOP - DAY

55

Heidi is captured in the moment.

Her eyes pan up and down a full length mirror. What she sees pleases her, pleases her much.

Standing behind Heidi is the exquisitely groomed DION, proprietor of Dion's Exclusive Bridal.

Pins in mouth, Dion pulls, tucks then fluffs Heidi's hair over her shoulder to cascade down the stunning bridal gown.

DION

Yes?

Heidi positions and turns to get a better look.

HEIDI

Is there a word for more than yes?

DION

That would be yes.

HEIDI

Then yes.

DION

He doesn't deserve you, unless of course, he does.

HEIDI

He does. I mean, I do.

Dion's mobile rings. He turns to answer.

DION

Save, 'I do.'

Dion looks to the caller ID on the phone.

DION (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil.

That turns Heidi's head.

DION (CONT'D)
(Winking to Heidi)
Dion speaking. How may I improve
upon your day?

Dion's perky demeanor gradually sours.

DION (CONT'D)
Yes, I see.
(To Heidi)
It's for you.

Dion hands the phone to Heidi.

Heidi looks at herself in the mirror.

HEIDI
Hey you, I'm trying on the world's
sexiest wedding dress.

MRS MORAN speaks to Heidi.

MRS MORAN (V.O.)
This is David's mother.

HEIDI
Mrs Moran, hi, I'm at the shop
right now...hello?

MRS MORAN
You thought you were so clever.

HEIDI
Has something happened to David?

MRS MORAN
He's been betrayed.

HEIDI
Excuse me?

MRS MORAN
By a whore.

HEIDI
Mrs Moran I have no idea what
you're talking about.

MRS MORAN
Would you like me to send you the
link to that disgusting site?

HEIDI
...That was another time.

MRS MORAN
David wants nothing more to do with
you.

HEIDI
I can explain.

MRS MORAN
Immigration has been notified. You
can kiss your visa goodbye whore.

Mrs Moran hangs up.

Heidi is in shock.

DION
Someone has to pay for that dress.

RETURN TO PRESENT

56 EXT. SYDNEY. BRIDAL SHOP - DAY 56

Heidi's stunning wedding gown now adorns a mannequin in the shop's window.

She peers in, her hand pressed against the glass.

Heidi sobs. She tries to squash it down, get it together, but the grief is overwhelming.

A burst of action to her left surprises Heidi. She swings around to see.

A YOUNG WOMEN, perhaps 15 years of age, hair tangled, her dress soiled and torn, runs for her life through the streets.

Heidi turns to see her dart down an alleyway. Heidi follows.

HEIDI
Hey, hey!

57 EXT. SYDNEY. ALLEYWAY - DAY 57

Heidi turns the corner. The girl's gone.

Ash starts falling from the sky.

Heidi turns her palm upward to capture the falling particles.

58 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - DAY 58

A squeaky shopping trolley.

Teicher pushes his drugged-up sister, Beata Rosen, now with an eye patch bandage, towards a large open space.

Dowd stands motionless at the entry.

Dowd holds Rosen's captured axe, lumberjack style over his shoulder.

Teicher pulls up next to him.

A rain of ash now pours over the base.

Buildings in the distance becomes obscured.

The men stare forward, dumbstruck by the new event.

DOWD

What is it?

TEICHER

You know what it is.

Dowd looks to Teicher but Teicher has nothing more to add.

Dowd strides through the rain of human ash. The move surprises Teicher who scrambles to catch up.

Teicher drives his sister on the squeaky wheeled shopping trolley through the ash, searching for Dowd.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

Commander? Commander!

Teicher, disoriented, then lost, paces faster and faster.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

Lt. Commander Dowd!

Dowd appears motionless, axe handle over shoulder, waiting for him in the rain of ash.

Teicher comes to an abrupt stop.

DOWD

Then how is it we're still alive?!

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

59 EXT. BANKSTOWN. PARK. OBSERVATION POINT - DAY

59

Ash falls.

An eerie hum.

With the exception of the jet airliners circling Sydney above, all else is silent.

Hass' hand, outstretched, maintains a tight grip on the shoulder ahead of him.

HASS

Behold, he is in thine hand, he is
in thine hand.

They stop abruptly.

Hass' outstretched hand leads to Sabban.

Sabban stands at the edge of an observation point overlooking the south of greater Sydney.

He's stunned.

A rain of ash pours from the red sky covering their clothing and blanketing the city for as far as the eye can see.

HASS (CONT'D)

Why have we stopped?

The crunch of broken glass underfoot.

Sabban turns.

MAMOUD stands before him, his face covered by an Arab keffiyeh.

Behind him, HOODED MEN, all wearing a mix of scarves and balaclavas block the way.

Mamoud says nothing.

From behind, one of the Hooded men comes to drive the blunt end of an axe into Sabban's forehead.

Lights out.

FLASHBACK TO:

60 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. ADMIRAL'S OFFICE - DAY

60

Dowd sits on the corner of the Admiral's office desk.

DOWD
He's not right.

Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank lines up titled, manila folders on the carpet of his office.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
Doesn't mean he's wrong.

LT. COMMANDER MICHAEL DOWD
Here's the thing.

Frank looks to Dowd.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
A time out?

DOWD
Laurie told you.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
No.

DOWD
He didn't tell you.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
No, no time out.

DOWD
Come on Deakin.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
How would it look for the son of an Admiral?

DOWD
Forget about how it looks!

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
You're a fine officer Micheal but a complete fucking moron when it comes to politics.

DOWD
Promote him.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
I can't do that.

DOWD
Give him a desk job. Anything, just get him off the front line.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
Are you telling me he's so fucked up he can't dive Sydney harbour?

DOWD
You're not hearing me Deakin.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
I've been to war Michael.

DOWD
Not the Stan. Not the work we did.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
You survived.

DOWD
We're not talking about me.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
And got a very nice piece of tin
for it.

DOWD
Aiden's different.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
It's a head fuck. Of course it's a
head fuck, but you get over it, you
move on.

DOWD
Sir.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
Get Aiden back on the horse.

DOWD
Sir.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
No more excuses! The talk is giving
me a headache!

DOWD
Sir.

Dowd stands to salute then waits for the return.

Frank ignores him and continues with his filing.

Lt. Commander Michael Dowd, VC recipient, leaves the room.

RETURN TO PRESENT

61 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. THE BUNKER - DAY

61

Dowd, Rosen's axe slung over his shoulder, looks through the falling ash to a nondescript building featuring a barn style, reinforced metal door.

Before the door stands Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank.

Bang, bang, bang.

Frank slaps his shoe heel, Nikita Khrushchev style, against the door. Hec Waller joins him barking, beckoning Dowd.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
Open this door!

DOWD
Admiral.

Bang, bang, bang.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Admiral.

Frank turns.

The once formidable figure of the Admiral has been replaced by a disoriented old man. His hands shake. His eyes are hollow. Dowd is shocked.

Dowd struggles to find the words.

DOWD (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Deakin.

Blood drips from an open wound on the Admiral's hand onto the pelt of Hec Waller. He goes back to hammering the door with his shoe.

DOWD (CONT'D)
You're bleeding.

Dowd points to Frank's hand.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
They won't open the door!

DOWD
You want me to take care of that?

Dowd approaches.

Frank raises his shoe ready to clobber Dowd.

Frank looks manic, crazed.

Dowd raises his hands and takes a step back.

DOWD (CONT'D)
It's Michael.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
I don't know you!

Teicher arrives with Rosen in the shopping trolley then comes to an abrupt stop.

He's gobsmacked.

He leaves Rosen behind and proceeds forward.

TEICHER
Commander.

Dowd raises a hand to stay him.

DOWD
(To Admiral)
Michael Dowd.

TEICHER
Commander.

DOWD
(To Teicher)
Not now.

TEICHER
You need to see this.

Teicher's view reveals a swirl of blackened human shadows, burnt into the wall around the door to the bunker.

The sound of keys jingling.

Two base security personnel, kitted up in tactical gear, wearing balaclavas, charge out of the falling ash.

Babic, head of security, challenges Dowd.

BABIC
Drop the weapon!

But close up, Babic is so punch drunk he can barely carry his M4 assault rifle.

Eid, another guard, joins him, limping forward.

Dowd turns to Babic and Eid.

BABIC (CONT'D)
Drop it!

Dowd looks to the axe then back to the guards.

Eid points his M4 at Dowd's face.

BABIC (CONT'D)
Put the weapon down and move away
from the Admiral.

Dowd tosses the axe.

Commodore Laurent Friesner appears out of the falling ash.

FRIESNER
Cuff him.

DOWD
Laurie.

BABIC
We don't have cuffs.

FRIESNER
Use ties.

BABIC
I didn't bring any.

DOWD
What are you doing Laurie?

BANG, BANG, BANG.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
Open this door!

FRIESNER
There's a metal grate cleaning
cupboard next to the armoury.

DOWD
You want to do this now?

FRIESNER
It has a padlock.

DOWD
Look at this.

FRIESNER
The key is in the top draw of the
desk.

DOWD
What do you see?

BANG, BANG, BANG.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
Open this door!

FRIESNER
Lock him in.

DOWD
Have you ever seen a weapon like
this?

FRIESNER

Do it now.

DOWD

You know what's coming.

Dowd point upwards to the sound of the circling jets.

DOWD (CONT'D)

There's an army up there!

FRIESNER

Now!

Babic and Eid crowd in on Dowd.

Teicher steps into view.

TEICHER

Commodore, you know the nature of my work. Very few things scare me...

EID

Amon Teicher?

TEICHER

Doctor...

EID

(To Friesner)

There's a warrant out.

FRIESNER

Take them both.

DOWD

We are at war Laurent!

FRIESNER

Not you, you're going to the brig.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK

Open this door!

Babic and Eid, guns raised, corral Teicher and Dowd backwards towards the armoury.

DOWD

(To Admiral)

Admiral, it's Michael Dowd.

Frank looks at him blankly.

DOWD (CONT'D)

I serve with your son.

VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK
My son is dead.

62 EXT. SYDNEY CITY. BACKSTREETS - DAY 62

Falling ash.

Heidi searches for the young woman she saw at the bridal shop.

She searches for anyone.

63 EXT. SYDNEY CITY. GEORGE STREET - DAY 63

Heidi arrives on George, 'the main street of Pompeii.'

An abandoned tram, doors open, waits for passengers.

HEIDI
Hello? Hello!

Heidi walks through the falling ash past a building entrance.

She doesn't notice the human ash shadows burnt onto the wall.

She passes, they dissolve, the souls are despatched to the wind.

FLASHBACK TO:

64 EXT. SYDNEY. CONVENTION CENTRE - NIGHT 64

A stream of formally attired SCIENCE TYPES exit the building.

With them, KATHERINE and Teicher.

Teicher in tux, offers his arm to escort.

They descend the stairs.

Frail as a flower, Katherine navigates each step.

TEICHER
So, how was it for you?

That gets a rye smile.

She peeks over a stern set of academic's spectacles.

KATHERINE
Questionable.

TEICHER
But not without merit.

KATHERINE
For the money spent?

TEICHER
The grant was...

KATHERINE
Obscene.

TEICHER
Yes...Katherine.

KATHERINE
Amon.

TEICHER
I have a proposal for you.

KATHERINE
Another?

TEICHER
Different this time.

KATHERINE
I'm a little time-pressed.

TEICHER
Will you marry me?

Caught off guard.

KATHERINE
Amon, I'm dying.

TEICHER
I know.

RETURN TO PRESENT

65 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - DAY

65

Relentless ash.

The jingle of keys.

Babic and Eid march Teicher and Dowd, hands above their heads, towards the armoury.

Dowd searches the sky for the jets he can hear but cannot see. That gets Teicher's attention.

BABIC
Wait.

The jingle stops.

Babic leans his rifle against the wall and squats down to regather his strength.

Eid, vigilant, keeps his M4 trained on Dowd.

DOWD
(To Babic)
Want me to carry that for you mate?

Eid breaks into laughter.

EID
What kind of a dick gets an
Admiral's son killed?

DOWD
Who are you?

TEICHER
They're base security. The short
one's name is Eid.

DOWD
Who gave you M4s?

EID
(To Babic)
Are you good?

Babic stands.

BABIC
I'm good.

He's not.

EID
(To Dowd and Teicher)
Move it.

DOWD
Do you have any idea what's coming?

EID
Move!

Reluctantly, they turn and march on.

Babic's keychain jingles to the march.

TEICHER
(To Dowd)
I have a question.

EID
Hands!

They raise their hands.

TEICHER

What did you mean by, 'there's an army up there?'

DOWD

(Referring to Eid)

What did fucknut here mean by, 'there's a warrant?'

Eid jabs him in the back with the M4.

EID

Hands!

BABIC

Wait up... Stop!

Babic steadies himself against a wall.

All stop.

EID

He murdered his wife.

Eid keeps an eye on both whilst attending to Babic.

DOWD

Doctor.

TEICHER

Commander.

DOWD

(Whispered)

I'm going to ask you a straight question. I want a straight answer.

TEICHER

You can ask.

DOWD

What kind of biological agent could do this.

TEICHER

I didn't say agent.

DOWD

A straight answer!

TEICHER

It's alive.

Dowd's not getting it.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

It's a living entity, embedded in a weather event. A biological WMD.

DOWD
Who?

TEICHER
Who?

DOWD
The Chinese?

TEICHER
No.

DOWD
With the Russians...

TEICHER
No, Russia would never share its IP
with the Chinese.

DOWD
Then who?

EID
Why are you still talking?

TEICHER
I have to go back to the bunker.

DOWD
You want to go back?

TEICHER
I left Beata in the checkout.

FLASHBACK TO:

66 EXT. SYDNEY. CEMETERY - MORNING

66

Friesner addresses a crowd of MOURNERS.

FRIESNER
I returned from boarding school,
proudly toting my Latin results and
presented the 99 percentile mark to
father. He looked to it, handed it
back and said, 'Why should I
applaud your 1% failure?'

Friesner looks over key people from the crowd.

His son, Tobias.

Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank with dog, Hec Waller.

Beata Rosen, her husband JACOB.

Jacob is looking at his phone.

Topik Senninger.

FRIESNER (CONT'D)

Leaders overcome the 1%. Leaders expect and demand 100% from themselves and those who serve them, all the time.

Rosen applauds. She is joined by others.

FRIESNER (CONT'D)

He prepared me for this life. There were no dotting expressions of love, no adoration. He instilled discipline, focus and an unquenchable hunger to achieve greatness.

(To father's grave)

I thank you for that. Thank you and say goodbye.

(To Mourners)

Love is demanding. Love is exacting but love, real love creates legacy, and in the end, legacy is all that matters.

Friesner looks to his son Tobias.

67

INT. SYDNEY. RECEPTION CENTRE - DAY

67

A crowded room of mourners.

Friesner stands alone, drink in hand, watching Tobias chatting with a TEENAGE GIRL.

Three MID LEVEL OFFICERS chat nearby, shoving schooners and party pies into their cake holes with gay abandon.

They discreetly peer over to Admiral Frank and his dog.

MID LEVEL OFFICER 1

Can't be the same dog.

MID LEVEL OFFICER 2

Serious.

MID LEVEL OFFICER 1

It would be like, 40 years old.

MID LEVEL OFFICER 2

He clones them.

MID LEVEL OFFICER 1

(Whispered)

It's a clone?

MID LEVEL OFFICER 2
Oh yeah, it's like a military
secret.

Friesner strolls into their conversation.

MID LEVEL OFFICERS
(All)
Sir.

Rosen beckons him from across the room.

FRIESNER
The Admiral is a breeder. When the
old dog dies, he gives the new pup
the same name, Hec Waller.

Friesner puts down his drink and moves off.

MID LEVEL OFFICERS
(All)
Sir.

MID LEVEL OFFICER 2
(Whispered)
Who's Hec Waller?

MID LEVEL OFFICER 3
Mate, join the frickin' Air force.

Friesner approaches Rosen.

Topik Senninger OAM accompanies her.

ROSEN
Topik, Commodore Laurent Friesner.

SENNINGER
Commodore.

FRIESNER
Mr. Senninger.
(To Tobias)
Tobias.

Tobias joins them.

FRIESNER (CONT'D)
Tobias, this is Mr. Senninger.

Tobias offers his hand. Senninger accepts.

SENNINGER
It's a pleasure to meet you Tobias.

TOBIAS FRIESNER
And you sir.

SENNINGER
 (To Friesner)
 Beata tells me you're interested in
 standing for office.

RETURN TO PRESENT

68 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. THE BUNKER - DAY 68

Friesner's hand rests on the bunker door.

He's lost.

He looks to the Admiral.

Frank sits, head in hands, propped up against the wall.

Hec Waller sits opposite, unable to comfort the great man.

Friesner looks up to the security camera covering the door
 but the falling ash forces him to turn away.

A banshee howls.

ROSEN (O.S.)
 Jacob!

Friesner hears Rosen's call but cannot see her through the
 falling ash.

ROSEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Jacob!!

Friesner wanders into the falling ash, seeking out the voice.
 He turns back to look at the security monitor.

69 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY 69

A pitch black room.

A video monitor represents the only light.

The monitor displays an image of Friesner.

Friesner looks to the camera then walks away, disappearing
 into the falling ash.

70 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - DAY 70

Eid and Babic march Dowd and Teicher towards the armoury.

Dowd looks again to the sky, searching for the circling jets.

TEICHER
 Your army?

DOWD

They know we can't shoot down
commercial airliners.

TEICHER

Might just be holiday makers.

DOWD

They'd divert.

TEICHER

Maybe there's nowhere to divert to.

Dowd shakes his head then looks back to their guards.

DOWD

(To Babic and Eid)

How much do you make an hour?
Seventeen, eighteen bucks?

BABIC

I'm a supervisor, I get more.

DOWD

Enough to fight a first wave
assault?

BABIC

What?

Babic abruptly stops and with it the jingle of his keys.

DOWD

This is a first strike. Next comes
invasion. When their marines come
to take the base, who do you think
they'll take down first? The guy
with keys.

Babic reaches for his keychain.

EID

No one's coming. It's just fucked
up weather.

Teicher speaks to Babic.

TEICHER

It's Babic isn't it?

Babic pulls up his balaclava.

BABIC

How do you know my name?

TEICHER

We've chatted at the gate. You have a son. He plays soccer. He wants to play for Australia.

BABIC

He's nine. All nine year olds want to play for Australia.

TEICHER

Does you family live in Sydney?

BABIC

In Milperra, why?

Teicher turns a palm to the sky to collect the falling ash.

TEICHER

Because this, is the remains of the six million people of the greater Sydney basin, killed by a WMD the likes of which we've never seen before. If I had family here, family I cared for, I'd want to be with them right now, I'd want to know they're alive. That they're OK.

EID

Alright, enough, there's the armoury, open the door.

DOWD

(To Babic)

You're a supervisor, why not just leave.

BABIC

I got a contract.

DOWD

A contract?!

EID

Open the door.

DOWD

And if I don't.

EID

I'll put a round in your foot and one in your mate's foot and if I have to, the other foot until you comply. Either way, your bodies are going into that cleaning cupboard.

Eid takes aim at Dowd's foot.

EID (CONT'D)

You chose.

Dowd opens the door then stalls.

DOWD

There's a light on.

EID

And?

DOWD

The powers out.

EID

(To Babic)

Get in there, check it out.

BABIC

Why me?

EID

Because I'm the only one willing to
pull the fucking trigger!

Babic enters the doorway.

71 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. ARMOURY. FOYER - DAY

71

Babic enters. The foyer is pitch black.

Light emanates from a stairwell entry to the downstairs
armoury vault.

Trembling, Babic inches towards the light.

Teicher and Dowd enter behind him. Eid follows on, M4 raised
and targeted on Dowd.

Babic stops to wipe sweat from his brow. His mouth is
parched. He licks his lips, gulps and begins the journey down
the open stairwell to the armoury and the light.

72 ARMOURY VAULT AREA

72

Babic bends the knee to look into the space.

An oil burner lamp is lit and hanging from the ceiling.

The vault is right in front of him. The bar-covered cleaning
cupboard is to the left.

He cautiously descends the open stairwell, followed by
Teicher, Dowd and Eid.

Babic exits the last step onto the floor, 'That's one small step for man...'

Teicher follows.

BABIC
All clear.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Halt!!!

The group swing-round to find ABLE SEAMEN CHE AMIRI pointing an M4 at them.

Teicher knocks the hanging lamp, strobe-lighting the room, then hits the floor.

BABIC
Who the fuck are you?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Halt!!!

WHACK! Dowd backhands his fist into Eid's face, slamming him into the wall of the stairwell.

A melee breaks out. Dowd subdues Eid.

Babic raises his rifle to shoot.

There's no clear shot.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI (CONT'D)
Halt!!!

The lamp slows to a stop.

Dowd is now pointing Eid's M4 at Babic.

Eid is secured on stairwell with Dowd's foot on his neck.

Amiri shifts aim between Dowd and Babic.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI (CONT'D)
Identify!

BABIC
(To Dowd)
I'll shoot. I'll do it!

DOWD
My safety's off, yours isn't.

Babic looks down at his gun.

DOWD (CONT'D)
It's the switch on the side.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
My safety's off and I will shoot.
Identify yourself!

DOWD
(To Babic)
No one else has to die today.

Babic places his weapon on the floor and raises his hands.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Lt. Commander Michael Dowd.
What's your name?

BABIC
Me?

DOWD
Not you!
(To Amiri)
You.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Amiri, Che.

Dowd strains to see the shadowy figure.

DOWD
Show yourself.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
You show yourself.

DOWD
I'm kinda tied up right now.

Amiri steps into the light, M4 targeted on Dowd.

Dowd spots her rank.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Able seaman.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Yes, sir.

Teicher approaches Amiri.

TEICHER
(To Amiri)
Now that we're all friends.

Amiri points the weapon at Teicher.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Who are you?

TEICHER

I'm a doctor, you can trust us.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Why would I do that?

TEICHER

If the Commander wanted your gun,
he'd already have it.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

I'd like to see him try.

DOWD

We're at war Able Seaman.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

(Referring to Babic and
Eid))

With these guys?

TEICHER

No.

DOWD

Do you work in the armoury?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

No.

DOWD

Is that your weapon?

Amiri is lost for words.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Where are you from?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Berala.

DOWD

Before that?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Tehran.

DOWD

How long have you been in here?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Since I was four!

DOWD

In the Armoury!?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Oh, since, the storm.

DOWD
Is that your weapon?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
I found it. Listen, I just, I came
in, there was this storm, and, I
woke up, freaked out, I think I was
drugged.

EID
(From under Dowd's boot)
We're you violated honey?

Dowd compresses Eid's head to the floor.

DOWD
Shut the f...

TEICHER
Forgive me, you're bleeding. The
eyes, the nose.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
I woke up, I'm covered in blood,
it's lights out, there's the
weapon.

DOWD
The lamp?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Already lit.

DOWD
And nobody's home?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Right.

TEICHER
May I check you over?

Teicher approaches.

Amiri, still freaked, points the rifle at Teicher.

DOWD
You didn't offer to check me over.

TEICHER
You weren't as amenable as the Able
Seaman.

Heidi steps into view.

Falling ash obscures the way ahead.

What lies beyond scares her.

She inches forward, past the abandoned cars.

Out of nowhere, a SKATEBOARDER rips past.

HEIDI
Hey, hey wait!

The Skateboard taps the brake and turns.

A bandana covers his face. Snow glasses cover his eyes.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Do you know what's happened?

SKATEBOARDER
Bad shit, end of the world, don't
know. Whatever, we ride for free
today lady.

And with that, he departs into the falling ash.

74 INT. BANKSTOWN. RABI'S PLACE. LOUNGE ROOM - DAY 74

Leather lounge, wall mounted TV, nice place.

Senator Bernard Hass squats on the floor, tied to a bar heater with a chlorine pool bag over his head.

From the next room, yelling, whacks and a barking pit-bull.

The front door opens.

RABI, a Lebanese-Australian tradie, puts down a baseball bat then looks in horror to the man chained to his wall heater.

He turns to the noises coming from the next room and heads, at pace, into the room.

75 THE NEXT ROOM 75

Rabi opens the door to find Senior Constable Wasim Sabban, also wearing a chlorine pool bag over his head, tied to a chair and his cousin Mamoud, holding a rolled newspaper over him, ready to whack.

Mamoud is surrounded by the gang of hooded men and the IMAN.

The barking pit-bull is tied up in the corner.

Rabi confronts Mamoud. The others crowd around.

RABI
Are you fucking nuts?!

MAMOUD
He knows.

RABI
He's a cop!

MAMOUD
He knows where are families are.

RABI
You bring this shit into my home?!

The Iman, the placater, approaches.

THE IMAN
Rabi, you knew this day would come.

RABI
No.

THE IMAN
This has to be.

RABI
(To Mamoud)
Why do you listen to this asshole?!

Rabi storms off, back to the lounge room.

MAMOUD
Rabi!

76 LOUNGE ROOM

76

Rabi pulls a knife from his belt and stands over Hass.

Mamoud pursues Rabi, sees the knife then stops.

The two men exchange glances.

Mamoud goes back into the other room.

Rabi, waits a moment, cuts Hass free then marches him towards the door, checking his six to see he's not being followed.

RABI
Move!

77 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. DAY

77

A wall mirror.

Rosen peels the bandage from her eye until the empty socket is revealed.

Wincing becomes writhing. Writhing becomes hate.

Rosen maintains her stare.

FRIESNER (O.S)
They should be back now.

Behind her, Friesner and DANTE, slick back hair, styled beard, guns and tats in a tight T.

The American speaks.

DANTE
Who did this?

ROSEN
My brother.
(To Friesner)
And his man, Dowd.

DANTE
(To Friesner)
Where did your people take them?

FRIESNER (O.S.)
The armoury.

DANTE
(To Rosen)
I'll take care of it.

Friesner blocks Dante's exit.

FRIESNER
I want them, apprehended.

Dante gives that the respect it deserves, not.

ROSEN
Give him your pistol.

FRIESNER
I can't do that Beata.

ROSEN
Can't?

DANTE
I won't need it.

Dante moves to the exit.

ROSEN
Dante, when you're done, bring Jacob to me.

Dante departs.

78 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE - DAY

78

The entrance to the armoury.

Able Seaman Che Amiri looks aghast at the ash rain falling over Sydney.

Teicher emerges with Dowd, now toting the two M4s.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
What is it?

TEICHER
Us.

DOWD
(To Teicher)
You'll want to be with your sister.

TEICHER
I think I'll go where you're going.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Where are you going?

DOWD
The dive school. I'm going to round up every hardbodied killer I can find and take the fight to the enemy.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
I'm hardbodied.

79 EXT. WESTERN SYDNEY. FREEWAY - DAY

79

Hass trundles forward, hands tied behind his back, his head still covered by a chlorine pool bag.

He slows to a stop and turns.

HASS
Why are you doing this?

Rabi, baseball bat over his shoulder, bunts Hass in the back.

RABI
Turn around. Turn around.

Hass turns.

RABI (CONT'D)
On your knees.

Hass, distressed, falls to his knees.

The bat is lowered onto Hass' shoulder.

HASS
Please, I have money!

Rabi rests his foot on Hass' back.

Hass braces for the hit.

Rabi walks off.

80 EXT. NORTH SYDNEY. HARBOUR FORESHORE - DAY 80

Heidi makes her way through the rain of human ash.

The face of Luna Park appears before her.

She's happy to see a smiling face.

To her right, a slow squeaking door flaps back and forth.

She approaches.

It's an exit door to the North Sydney Olympic pool.

Heidi goes in through the outdoor.

81 INT. NORTH SYDNEY. OLYMPIC POOL - DAY 81

Heidi's hit with a wall of steam.

Late afternoon sun.

Shafts of light.

Rising mist.

Visibility, zip.

HEIDI
(Sheepishly)
Hello. Hello?

A face appears in the mist.

It's SAMMY, the teenage daughter of Dr. Kristoff Stamm, the girl in the photo from Heidi's hotel lobby. Her hair is tangled. Her dress is torn.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Hey!

Heidi steps forward.

Sammy raises her hand to stop her.

Heidi walks straight over the edge and into, SPLASH!

82 UNDER THE WATER

82

Straight to the bottom.

Heidi looks up.

Bodies!

The pool is full of bodies, floating face down in the water.

ALL EYES OPEN, fixed on Heidi.

Heidi freaks.

She shoots to the surface. Claws her way through the bodies.

Desperately searches for the edge.

She can't find it.

Heidi thrashes back and forth. She's drowning.

A yellow rescue tool flies through the air and lands next to Heidi. She clambers on and gets reeled in like a fish.

83 POOLSIDE

83

Sammy appears at the end of the rope.

Heidi reaches the side.

Sammy offers her hand but Heidi's so freaked, she scrambles over the edge and straight into a glass wall. WHACK!

Heidi flies backwards onto the concrete.

Lights out.

84 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. DIVE SCHOOL - DAY

84

The door opens slowly. Dowd stands in the doorway.

He surveys. It's empty.

He enters in silence.

Amiri and Teicher follow.

Dowd approaches the first doorway in the corridor.

Again, he opens it slowly and looks inside. Nothing.

He proceeds down the hallway with Amiri and Teicher, opening each door until they arrive at the showers.

Dowd hears running water.

Dowd points towards the shower.

85

SHOWERS

85

Dowd enters.

Teicher and Amiri follow.

Amiri has her M4 raised, ready for action.

Dowd pushes the barrel away and down.

DOWD
(To Amiri)
Check out back.

Amiri exits and heads to the rear of the building.

Dowd calls her back.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Amiri. Don't shoot anyone.

Dowd and Teicher follow the sound of the water to a shower cubicle.

Chief Petty Officer Lachlan Hunt, the diver from Dowd's ordinance dive, sits shivering on the floor. The top half of his wetsuit is peeled to his waist.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Lachy?

Waters pours over Hunt. He doesn't respond.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Lachy?

Dowd places his hand under the water.

DOWD (CONT'D)
It's cold water mate.

Dowd turns off the faucet.

Teicher drops to his knees to see.

TEICHER
He's in shock.

Dowd rests his hand on Hunt's shoulder.

Hunt turns to Dowd.

HUNT
Bloke.

DOWD
Mate, where is everyone?

HUNT
I came to see you.

DOWD
You did?
(To Teicher)
Get him a towel.

Teicher looks for a towel.

HUNT
At the hospital.

DOWD
I appreciate that.

HUNT
But I couldn't.

DOWD
That's alright, where is everyone?

HUNT
Bodies, bodies stacked to the
ceiling in the doorway. Couldn't
get through to you.

Dowd is stunned.

DOWD
You saw that?

Teicher arrives back with a towel but before he can apply it
Hunt clambers onto Dowd like a koala.

Dowd holds him. Tears stream down Hunt's eyes.

TEICHER
Saw what?

HUNT
Couldn't get to you.

DOWD
It's the weapon. You were
hallucinating.

TEICHER
You couldn't both be hallucinating
the same thing. What did you see?

Amiri arrives back to see Hunt, shivering, terrified, in tears in the shower cubicle. She's shocked by his condition.

Dowd doesn't want her to see Hunt like this.

DOWD

Anyone?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

No.

DOWD

Able Seaman, are you familiar with coms?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Yes sir.

DOWD

Go to ours, make contact with any friendly you can, advise what's happened.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

What has happened sir?

DOWD

Tell them... tell them first strike, biological WMD on Sydney, significant casualties, you'd better right this down.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

I can remember.

DOWD

Significant casualties. Invasion ex littorals imminent. Second wave en masse ground force incoming likely using commercial jet airliners.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Do I tell them our location?

DOWD

Sydney, just Sydney.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

Sir.

DOWD

(To Hunt)

Let's get you up mate.

Teicher and Dowd lift Hunt out of the shower.

86

INT. NORTH SYDNEY. HARBOUR FORESHORE. GIFT SHOP - DAY

86

The sun's getting low.

Ash continues to fall.

Heidi wakes, hazy, covered by a towel.

Her head is wrapped in a T-shirt and rested on polystyrene foam.

She raises her head, only to moan in discomfort.

A silhouette appears in the glass doorway.

Heidi braces, pushing herself up from the cement.

The door opens.

It's Sammy. She brings an icepack and two green apples.

She offers an apple to Heidi.

HEIDI

Did you see? Did you see those
people in the water?

Sammy places the apple in Heidi's palm and closes her fingers on it.

Sammy takes a bite of an apple, holding it in her mouth as she works. She applies an icepack to Heidi's forehead.

Heidi calms down enough to recognise Sammy.

She reaches into her tote bag for Kristoff Stamm's wallet.

Heidi pulls out the photo of Sammy and her family.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

Sammy.

Sammy takes the photo.

She's paused, apple still stuck in her mouth.

Heidi places the wallet in Sammy's hand and closes her fingers on it.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

Keep that safe.

Sammy doesn't know what to do. She's stuck in pause.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

We can't stay.

Sammy looks outside.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
But I know a place where we can go.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

87 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. DIVE SCHOOL - DAY

87

Dowd arrives back wearing Navy fatigues and carrying a sack.

Waiting for him is Teicher and Hunt.

Hunt is struggling to dress.

DOWD
Kit up sailor.

TEICHER
He's in no state to fight.

DOWD
We train for this.

TEICHER
Neither are you.

HUNT
How about you leave the fighting to
the warriors mate?

Amiri arrives back.

DOWD
How'd you go?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Nothing.

DOWD
No contact?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
No power.

DOWD
There's an auxiliary...

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Tried that.

DOWD
My car's out front.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Tried that also.

DOWD
How?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Got the keys off your desk.

DOWD

How do you know they're mine?

Amiri dangles them in front of him.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

The Rabbitoh's badging.

DOWD

Sounds a bit like racial profiling
Able Seaman.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

You mean like being interrogated
about where you come from?

DOWD

I didn't mean to imply, just
because you're Arab...

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI

I'm Persian. It's different.

HUNT

I like her. Shove it up him.

DOWD

I should have left you in the
shower.

Dowd empties the sack on the table. Pistols, mags and single rounds. He takes one along with a couple of mags and holsters it.

He then takes a single round and places it in his top pocket.

That gets Hunt's attention.

He offers one to Hunt, along with mags and a single bullet.

Hunt looks at it, pauses then pockets the single bullet.

Dowd then turns to Teicher.

DOWD (CONT'D)

You're not going.

TEICHER

That would be a mistake. I can be
another set of eyes and ears.

DOWD

Really?

TEICHER

Really.

Dowd offers him a pistol. Teicher reaches out. Dowd retracts it.

DOWD
Tell me about your wife.

TEICHER
Katherine, was wonderful. Just...

DOWD
Doctor, tell me about your wife.

TEICHER
I killed her. She had stage four
Hodgkin's Lymphoma. It's a horrible
death.

Dowd looks Teicher straight in the eyes and pauses.

He offers him the pistol and mags.

Then a single bullet.

DOWD
Then you'll know what this is for.

Teicher pauses then takes the round and pockets it.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
What is that for?

DOWD
Able Seaman, give Chief Petty
Officer Hunt your M4.

She's not happy about it but obliges.

DOWD (CONT'D)
(To Hunt)
Check it over. We don't where it
came from.

Hunt begins a rapid breakdown, check and reassembly of the M4.

Dowd offers Amiri a pistol, mags and the single round.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
I don't get it.

HUNT
We can't be captured.

DOWD
This early in a war, they'll do
terrible things to prisoners.
Especially you.

Amiri takes the round and equipment.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
You know, you're a rotten salesman.

DOWD
It's salesperson, Able Seaman.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Where are we going?

DOWD
The airport.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
How are we going to get there?

Hunt completes the check and reassemble of the M4 and offers it back to Amiri.

DOWD
We're in the Navy. We sail there.

88 EXT. SYDNEY. M5 FREEWAY - DAY

88

Falling ash and abandoned cars.

Hass trudges forward, chlorine bag over head and hands tied behind him.

Before him, a distant view of Sydney airport, not that he can see it.

HASS
Did you think this would make me
doubt him?! I don't. I won't! You
have no authority over me!

Hass impales his leg into the jagged edge of a crashed car.

He moans in pain.

Hass backs out. Blood flows down his trouser pants.

He drops to his knees and bows his head.

He looks beat the Hass raises his head and looks skyward.

HASS (CONT'D)
Thank you. Thank you.

He's furious and now all of that pent up anger focuses on one action.

He turns, backs his plastic tied wrists into the jagged edge and begins cutting through the ties.

He cuts so hard he cuts his arms in the process but he won't stop. He's a man with a mission.

89 EXT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. BOOM GATES - DAY 89

Dowd leads Hunt, Amiri and Teicher to the boom gates.

He stops.

The base's Australian flag lays on the ground.

It's torn and looking pretty wretched.

Dowd retrieves it and begins folding.

Hunt joins him to help.

Amiri and Teicher front up.

DOWD
Got room in your bag Able Seaman?

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Yes sir.

They hand the folded flag to Amiri and head out.

Dowd stops to look back at the base, the sign, HMAS Penguin and the empty flagpole.

90 INT. MOSMAN. NAVY BASE. HOSPITAL. DAY 90

Dante fronts up with Babic and Eid.

Eid's mouth is bloodied. He's clutching his jaw.

Rosen approaches.

Dante is carrying a change of clothing for Rosen.

Babic looks around, unsure of what's going on.

BABIC
Where's the Commodore?

ROSEN
Are you Babic?

BABIC
Who are you?

ROSEN
What happened?

EID
Dowd jumped us.

ROSEN
(To Eid)
What's wrong with your mouth?

EID
I lost two teeth in the fight.

ROSEN
(To Babic)
Why have you still got your teeth?

BABIC
What?

DANTE
Answer the lady.

BABIC
He pointed a gun at me.

EID
He gave it up.

DANTE
(Referring to Babic)
Yeah, this one's going to be a
problem.

EID
I'll bring 'em back. I'll bring 'em
back in body bags, if that's the
way you like it.

ROSEN
What's your name?

EID
Eid.

ROSEN
Alright Mr. Eid, you're supervisor
now.

BABIC
Hey, I have a contract.

ROSEN
You lost them. You're out!

Dante positions himself in front of Babic and proceeds to
crack his knuckles.

DANTE
Or you could stay.

Babic backs out to the door.

ROSEN
 (To Eid)
 We'll get you medical attention
 shortly Mr. Eid.

ROSEN (CONT'D)
 (To Dante)
 Jacob?

DANTE
 Waiting in the car.

ROSEN
 Dowd and my brother?

DANTE
 Gone. We need to be gone too. It's
 not safe here.

91 INT. SYDNEY. HOSPITAL. CHILDREN'S WARD - DAY 91

Friesner walks up a darkened stairwell to a corridor.
 Tray tables lay abandoned. The place is deserted.
 Friesner is daunted. He draws his pistol and proceeds.
 He reaches for the door handle of a room then pauses.
 He looks away.
 He's barely holding it together.
 He opens the door the let's it swing wide.

92 TOBIAS' ROOM 92

Tobias, his son, is sitting up reading a book. He's bald,
 pallid and sickly looking.
 Friesner discretely holsters his weapon then enters.
 Friesner relieved, casually strolls up to his bedside.

FRIESNER
 You're looking well.

TOBIAS FRIESNER
 No treatment today.

FRIESNER
 One day won't hurt.

TOBIAS FRIESNER
 Something is very wrong father.

93 EXT. BALMORAL. ROADSIDE LOOKOUT - DUSK 93

Rays of light from the low sun light up the falling ash like a sun shower.

Sammy stands at a lookout overlooking Balmoral beach.

There's nothing to see. The falling ash obscures everything but Sammy looks as if she sees something. She's transfixed.

Heidi catches up, puffing, exasperated.

HEIDI

My friend David lives near the beach but I can't find a way down.

Sammy raises her hand. She listens. She hears the waves.

She takes Heidi's hand and leads the way.

94 EXT. BALMORAL BEACH - DUSK 94

Dowd leads Hunt, Amiri and Teicher onto the beach.

HUNT

Bloke, with everything that's happened, I didn't get a chance to say, you know about Aiden.

DOWD

Yeah.

HUNT

It's a hell of a thing.

DOWD

He died on my watch. The Admiral invested the safe care of his son in me and I failed him.

HUNT

Did the Admiral make it?

DOWD

Yeah, but he's fucked up.

HUNT

Anyone else.

Amiri listens in on their conversation. Dowd keeps it on the down and low.

DOWD

You know.

HUNT

Fucked up?

DOWD
Pristine.

HUNT
How does shit like that always work
out?

DOWD
It's just us now.

Dowd looks out over the bay then points.

DOWD (CONT'D)
How about that one?

HUNT
What one?

DOWD
There'll be one out there.

HUNT
I can't see shit.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
What?

DOWD
A cat. Anything we can sail.

HUNT
Who's going out?

DOWD
I'll go.

HUNT
Shit off. Bullsharks nibble on you
like a dog biscuit.

Hunt starts to take off his shirt.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Is it me or is it really steamy?

HUNT
Stifling.

Teicher fronts.

TEICHER
Commander.

They turn.

He points west to a line of jumbos silhouette against the
setting sun.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
They're coming in to land.

HUNT
We're too late.

95 EXT. SYDNEY. M5 FREEWAY - DUSK

95

Hass breaks through the ties that bound him. He's free.

He rips off the chlorine pool bag that covered his head and pauses.

He's stunned.

HASS
I can see. The scales have fallen
from my eyes. I can see! I have
victory through him.
(To the devil of his
doubts)
You have no authority over me!

Before him a view leading to the airport.

A low flying jumbo jet roars right over Hass's head towards
the airport then promptly flames out.

Silence.

96 INT. BANKSTOWN. RABI'S PLACE - DUSK

96

Senior Constable Wasim Sabban remains tied up to a chair,
wearing a chlorine pool bag over his head.

Rabi, Mamoud and the Iman argue over his fate.

MAMOUD
Where's the other guy?

RABI
I took him to a police station.

THE IMAN
You did what?

RABI
Let the cop go.

MAMOUD
Why would you do that? Why cous!

They press him to the wall.

An explosion rocks the house.

The gang of hooded men run outside to see.

Mamoud, the Iman and Rabi follow.

97 EXT. BANKSTOWN. RABI'S PLACE - DAY 97

The hooded men run into the falling ash followed by Mamoud, the Iman and Rabi.

Their suburb is on fire.

Another jumbo roars overhead, flames out then crashes into a nearby suburb.

98 INT. SYDNEY. HOSPITAL. CHILDREN'S WING. TOBIAS' ROOM - DUSK 98

Friesner rushes to the window.

Another plane crashes rocks the hospital.

99 EXT. BALMORAL BEACH - DUSK 99

Dowd, Teicher, Amiri and Hunt watch the planes, one by one, flame out and crash over the horizon.

The south west is set alight.

Shots ring out from the water.

They point their weapons to the beach.

CAPTAIN JIMMY JAMES RAMOS, A Philippine Navy officer, scrambles out of the water, firing a pistol back at the harbour.

Soaking wet, shivering and freaked, he runs like a wild man up the beach.

Ramos empties his clip, tosses the pistol then runs straight into Dowd's party, guns raised.

DOWD
Captain Ramos!

CAPTAIN JIMMY JAMES RAMOS
Run. Run for your lives!

Ramos keeps going. Dowd watches him run away.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
Who's that?

DOWD
Jimmy James Ramos, Philippine Navy.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
We're being invaded by the
Philippines?

They watch him run up the beach.

Dowd turns to Hunt.

DOWD
Give me the flare.

Hunt hands a flare gun over to Dowd.

Dowd steps towards the beach and raises the flare gun to fire.

HUNT
Is that a good idea?

POP. The flare takes off over the harbour and begins its descent.

Heidi and Sammy, now at the beach spot the flare then Dowd and his crew.

Heidi runs over.

Sammy hangs back. She's wholly focused on the ocean.

Heidi reaches Dowd.

HEIDI
Oh my God! You have no idea how
happy I am to see you.

Dowd's flare lights up the beach.

Heidi isn't looking but everyone else is.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
I'm Heidi.

The ocean is alive, wriggling with bodies, all trying to make their way ashore.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI
What the fuck?

A figure appears, kneeling on its haunches.

The figure rises and turns to see Dowd.

It's humanoid, translucent black and full of stars.

More of the same clamber on to the beach.

The first of them takes one step forward.

That's one small step for...

It looks down to its foot in the sand then back to Dowd.

Dowd steps back.

His team arrives by his side.

All are shocked by the vision before them.

Hunt raises his M4 to shoot.

Dowd pushes it down.

DOWD

Heidi.

HEIDI

Heidi.

The creature takes another step, again looking down to the sand then back to Dowd.

DOWD

Heidi, run.

The creature begins to stride rapidly forward.

More of the creatures join him, heading straight for Dowd and his team.

DOWD (CONT'D)

RUN!

FADE OUT.