

SENTIENT

Written by

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'I wouldn't do that'

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INT. SYDNEY. NAVAL HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - DAY

Royal Australian Navy Diver, COMMODORE MICHAEL DOWD is wheeled through a corridor on a stretcher bed.

Dowd is bent-over in pain.

A NURSE pushes the bed whilst fellow Naval Officer, DABZ accompanies.

The lights and ceiling from Dowd's POV pass-by. A DOCTOR, joins them.

DOCTOR  
What happened?

Dowd pulls-off his oxygen mask.

DOWD  
(To Dabz)  
I know it was you Dabz!

Dabz secures the oxygen mask back on Dowd.

DABZ  
(To Doctor)  
Tank failure. He's hallucinating.

DOCTOR  
(To Dowd)  
We're taking you to the barometric chamber, Commodore.

They wheel him into a room. The door shuts behind them.

FADE OUT

SUPER: 36 HOURS LATER

INT. BAROMETRIC CHAMBER - MORNING

Dowd is woken by a system warning.

WARNING MESSAGE  
Power is depleted. Exit the chamber. Emergency power is depleted. Exit the chamber immediately.

Dowd rights himself, clutches his gut then exits the chamber.

INT. BAROMETRIC CHAMBER ROOM - MORNING

Dowd staggers out into a darkened room and covers his nose with his hand. A ripe stench hangs in the air.

He makes his way to the exit door and tries the handle.

It refuses to open. He wrenches it. The door flings back and a dead body falls onto on Dowd collapsing them both to the floor.

Freaked-out, Dowd pushes the body away then checks for a neck pulse. Dried blood has streamed from the eyes, nose and mouth of the DEAD NURSE.

The stench forces Dowd to grab a nearby gauze to cover his nose. He peers out of the room into the corridor.

INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

Dowd enters the corridor, left is obscured in darkness. Dowd spots an exit sign to his right and proceeds.

A heaped pile of dead bodies obscures the doorway. It looks like a gas chamber from the holocaust.

Dowd rolls-back one of the CORPSES. Dried blood coats its eyes, nose and mouth. They're all the same.

Dowd hears something from behind and turns.

DOWD  
Is someone there?

Dowd stares into the abyss.

From the abyss, something stares back at Dowd.

Dowd backs towards the only other exit, an office behind him and opens the door.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Dowd locks the door behind him. A howling wind rages outside. Dowd approaches the windows. Venetian blinds obscure the view. An apocalyptic red glow seeps through the blades.

Dowd reaches for the draw-cord to look outside.

TEICHER  
I wouldn't do that.

Shocked, Dowd turns to discover scientist, DR. AMON TEICHER wearing infectious diseases protective gear. Teicher sits next to an oxygen tank, with his mask, now retracted to his forehead.

The two men take each other in for a moment.

DOWD

Why not?

TEICHER

You may not like what you see.