

SENTIENT

A TV pilot

by

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TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. SYDNEY. PRIVATE HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - DAY 1

Two security guards stand vigil outside a private room.

AHMED, forties, guns in a tight tee, surveys the hospital entry from an upstairs window.

Ahmed is formidable, his presence intimidating yet the big man's focus is distracted by a single white band of faded skin where a wedding ring used to be.

His forearm displays a tattoo of a baby's foot with the name 'Zara.'

Ahmed looks like he could benchpress three hundred pounds but the weight he's carrying right now is more than he can bear.

Standing next to Ahmed is JAMAAL.

Chisel-jawed, cocksure, Jamaal paws through his phone messages until a photo from a Kardashian wanna-be arrives on his screen. Jamaal grins then texts back.

AHMED

What's this one called?

JAMAAL

Portia, like the car.

AHMED

Got a job?

JAMAAL

Beauty therapist.

AHMED

Can she do anything about that eyebrow?

Jamaal looks up, revealing a continuous eyebrow.

Before he can respond, a squawk comes over their radios.

The SECURITY TEAM LEADER from downstairs radios them.

SECURITY TEAM LEADER (V.O.)

Ahmed.

AHMED

Go ahead.

SECURITY TEAM LEADER(V.O.)

They're here.

Ahmed's eyes lock onto the lift down the hallway.

The doors open.

HOSPITAL STAFF spill out followed by two Royal Australian Navy Officers in dress whites.

Brutal eyes, broad shoulders, Koori, LT COMMANDER MICHAEL DOWD steps into the hallway.

Accompanying him, a wild-eyed country lad with a mess of slicked-back hair, PETTY OFFICER LACHLAN HUNT.

Dowd pauses to survey the two guards.

He establishes eye contact with Ahmed then backs a wheelchair out of the lift containing TOBIAS (TOBY), a sickly teenage boy wearing Dowd's peaked Officer's cap.

Dowd and Hunt walk shoulder to shoulder down the corridor towards the guards. Toby leads the way in the wheelchair.

Ahmed and Jamaal form up to block their path.

DOWD
Gentlemen.

Jamaal steps forward, painting a horizontal circle in the air with the tip of his finger pointed squarely at Dowd then the lift.

JAMAAL
Turn around, and go back to the lift.

DOWD
We're here to see the Justice.

JAMAAL
I don't give a shit.

HUNT
Language!

JAMAAL
Go back to the lift.

Dowd turns to Ahmed, his voice calm, his approach, measured.

DOWD
What's your name?

JAMAAL
We don't give names.

HUNT
He wasn't speaking to you!

DOWD
What's your name?

AHMED
Ahmed.

DOWD
Ahmed, what would you do to see
your dying father?

AHMED
Your sister has Power of Attorney.

DOWD
I'm asking you, what would you do?

AHMED
You don't want to know what I'd do.

Dowd's eyes drop to Ahmed's fists. They're clenching.

DOWD
You're a boxer.

AHMED
Was.

DOWD
I bet you still pack a punch.

AHMED
Count on it.

DOWD
Do you know what we do for a
living?

Ahmed looks to the a distinctive tattoo on Hunt's arm
featuring a dive helmet and a dagger.

AHMED
You're Navy Divers. That one's
Tactical Assault Group EAST. You
probably both are.

DOWD
Do you know what TAG EAST does?

AHMED
Yeah, I know what TAG EAST does.

DOWD
Then you know, if this comes to a
throw-down, it will be short, sharp
and brutal.

AHMED
Yes it will.

DOWD
But I don't want to fight you
Ahmed, do you know why?

AHMED
The outcome is uncertain.

DOWD
No.

Dowd draws closer to Ahmed.

Ahmed doesn't flinch. The two men face-off.

Dowd looks to his son Toby then back to Ahmed.

DOWD (CONT'D)
(Whispered)
I don't want my son to see what I'm
capable of, because that would
confirm everything his mother, my
ex, has ever said about me.

Dowd's words hit Ahmed like a kick in the guts.

He looks to the boy then back to Dowd.

The moment builds. Anything could happen.

Ahmed steps aside.

AHMED
Go see your father.

DOWD
Thank you.

Dowd pushes forward with Tobias.

TOBY
(To Ahmed)
Thank you sir.

JAMAAL
Are you out of your fucking mind?

Jamaal steps in to block the wheelchair.

Hunt pins him against the wall.

HUNT
Walk away.

Dowd and Tobias head towards a doorway.

Hunt breaks off to join Dowd and Toby.

JAMAAL
(Over the radio)
Jamaal to Team Leader.

Dowd opens the door. Inside, darkness.

2 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. RCC. HYPERBARIC CHAMBER - DAY 2

Dowd wakes on a bunk bed in a narrow, cylindrical chamber, his vision blurred, his hearing dulled, his head swimming.

SUPER : THREE MONTHS LATER.

DOWD
Dad.

The narrow entry to the hyperbaric chamber is open.

Seaspray spits into the chamber.

The rush of the tide is right outside the door.

3 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. RCC - DAY 3

Dowd emerges naked from the hyperbaric chamber dragging a blanket with him into the RCC (Recompression Chamber room).

A howling wind rakes the building with a hail of shrapnel.

Every car alarm in the city is going off.

Shaky on his feet, saturated in sweat, Dowd staggers towards an open roller shutter door.

Before him, Sydney Harbour is engulfed in an apocalyptic red storm, swirling with menace and deafening in noise.

FADE TO BLACK:

TITLE:

SENTIENT

ACT ONE

4

INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. RCC - DAY

4

Dowd stands before the open roller shutter door.

Sydney Harbour is engulfed in an apocalyptic red storm.

SUPER: HMAS PENGUIN. MOSMAN, SYDNEY.

Dowd spots a pair of blue overalls hanging from a rail.

He discards the blanket then pulls the overalls on halfway, tying off the arms around his waist.

A wave from the harbour surges forward, crashing into the cement loading dock, spraying Dowd and the room's control panels.

Dowd approaches the roller-shutter door control panel and hits a red button.

No joy.

He grabs the metal chain suspended above and manually rolls the door shut. The act near exhausts him. He steadies himself, resting his hand and head against the wall.

With the door closed, a new light source reveals itself.

A pulsating light illuminates the room, accompanied by a humming sound like a Tibetan singing bowl.

Dowd traces the light and sound to a mobile phone lying next to LIEUTENANT SYMES, a Navy Nurse, collapsed on the floor.

Symes' bun of long red hair has unfurled. Blood flows from her eyes, ears and mouth.

Dowd drops to her side.

DOWD

Symesy?

SYMES

I'm sorry.

Dowd cradles her.

DOWD

What happened?

SYMES

I got scared.

DOWD

Hold up.

Dowd looks for help. They're alone. He unclips her Motorola radio and turns up the volume.

DOWD (CONT'D)

(Over radio)

Xray One, this is Whiskey One-One
how do you read?

A haze of static broadcasts from the radio.

DOWD (CONT'D)

(To Symes)

Who did this to you?

SYMES

Tan.. tan..

DOWD

Tango? Tango?!

Symes nods then grabs at Dowd's arm.

SYMES

From the sea.

Dowd alarmed, looks back to the roller shutter door.

A realization comes upon him. He radios again with heightened urgency.

DOWD

(Over radio)

Any call sign, any call sign,
contact, contact, contact, this is
Whiskey One-One, Loc stat RCC, I
have one W. I. A.

Dowd lifts his finger off the button.

Static.

Symes' body begins to convulse.

He plants the radio next to her and reaches for Symes' phone.

Dowd's hand snaps-back. The phone is red hot.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Shit!

Symes flatlines.

Dowd grabs at her hands, looking for a response.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Symes! Symesy!

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

Nothing. She's stopped breathing.

Dowd looks to the darkened corridor, the only other exit out of the RCC.

He spots a defibrillator, grabs it off the wall and drops back down next to Symes.

He rips open her shirt, attaches two defib pads either side of her chest and presses the power button.

Nothing. Dowd stabs at the button. It's dead too.

He tosses it, raises himself and presses down repeatedly on her chest.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Don't you die on me Symesy!

Dowd continues, over and over until **CRACK!** Symes' ribs snap.

Trembling, dripping with sweat and still in the throes of recompression, Dowd looks again, to the darkened corridor.

5 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. HALLWAY - DAY 5

Dowd, carrying Symes in his arms, backs in through the door of the CD offices, (Navy Clearance Divers Offices).

The power's out.

A flickering red emergency light shows the way.

DOWD
Need some help here!

He staggers towards a darkened exit sign, gaining momentum as he goes.

Dowd **STOPS DEAD IN HIS TRACKS.**

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

The bodies have phones.

All the phones glow and hum in-sync.

Dowd gently lays Symes on the floor, closes her eyes then makes his way to the pile.

Dowd rolls-back one of the bodies. It's a Navy Doctor,
CAPTAIN EUGENE.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

6 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. WHARF - MORNING 6

A slick black Zodiac boat hurtles towards the wharf.

Onboard, Dowd's friend, Clearance Diver, Petty Officer Lachlan Hunt at the helm, Navy Nurse Lt Symes and laid low to the deck, Lt Commander Michael Dowd, doing the 'funky chicken' from the bends.

Hunt mounts the Zodiac on the wharf's ramp at speed.

Navy Doctor, Captain Eugene and other SUMU MEDICAL STAFF are waiting for them with a stretcher on wheels.

CAPTAIN EUGENE

Go, go go!

They position the stretcher for transfer.

7 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. RCC LOADING DOCK - MORNING 7

Lt. Symes, Captain Eugene and Petty Officer Hunt, wheel Dowd at pace towards the RCC, (Recompression Chamber room) loading dock.

Dowd, his wetsuit cut away, writhes in pain with the bends.

COMMODORE KATHRYN FREISLER, striking, strident, leans into Dowd's ear.

FREISLER

If you live, you'll wish you hadn't.

Dowd grabs the Freisler's lapel, dragging her face to his.

DOWD

My people are dead Katheryn!

RETURN TO PRESENT

8 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. HALLWAY - DAY 8

Shrapnel from the storm **smashes** a window in a room off the hallway.

Dowd snaps back to the present.

The door to a room in the hallway **creaks** open.

A gust of wind accompanies it, rattling the hallway, blowing discarded papers along the floor.

Dowd releases Captain Eugene's body and stares into the abyss behind him.

A figure appears, silhouette against the ghostly red emergency light.

Dowd rises.

It's Lt. Symes, the nurse, standing, silent.

DOWD

Symes?

Symes doesn't respond.

Dowd is confused, disoriented.

Stars begin to fill the hallway.

Dowd stands, squinting to gain focus.

What looks like a STAR CONSTELLATION hovers next to Symes in the darkness of the hallway.

It's hypnotic, captivating.

The room begins to vibrate.

A **hum** manifests just like the mobile phones.

Dowd approaches Symes and the floating stars.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Symes?

He reaches out to touch the mini constellation when an electric blue burst, ripples over a humanoid shape.

A life-form is behind it. The constellation is its face.

It's right there in front of him!

DOWD (CONT'D)

What the ffff!

Dowd, freaked, wrenches back his arm and backs into a misty glass-paned office door.

The door flings back.

Dowd backs inside then slams it shut.

He spots a nearby chair and jams it 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.

Dowd grabs a fire extinguisher from the wall and raises it as a weapon. The warrior in him rouses. It's fight or die.

He's shaking head to toe.

He waits, weapon raised, ready to strike.

A haunting red glow seeps through Venetian blinds, filling the room behind him.

BREATHING.

Something else is in the room.

Dowd swings-round, fire extinguisher raised to strike.

DR AMON TEICHER, a scientist wearing a Hazmat protective suit minus the headgear, comes face to face with a man about to smash his skull in with a fire extinguisher.

Teicher raises a finger to his lips to hush Dowd then turns to the door.

There's movement.

Dowd turns back to the misty glass-paned door.

A figure approaches from the other side.

Dowd and Teicher wait and watch.

The figure comes to the door.

It turns to face them, distorted through the misty glass pane.

Dowd raises the extinguisher and edges towards the door.

Teicher clamps a hand on Dowd's shoulder pulling him back then vehemently shakes his head in disapproval, 'Don't you do it.'

It moves away.

The exit door outside, **squeaks** open, swinging back and forth, then gradually slow to a stop.

Dowd approaches the door.

His eye-line is momentarily distracted by the blue green disruptive pattern on a uniform hanging next to door.

A note featuring his name, LT COMMANDER MICHEAL DOWD is pinned to it.

Dowd pulls the note from the uniform then places his hand on the doorknob.

10 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. HALLWAY - DAY 10

Dowd wrenches open the door then bursts into the hallway, fire extinguisher raised, ready for battle.

Nothing.

He scans the darkness.

The hallway shudders with the wind.

Dowd looks back to where Lt Symes was parked on the ground.

She's gone.

DOWD

Symes?

He makes for the exit, gaining pace with each step.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Symesy!

Again, Dowd stops dead in his tracks.

The bodies piled up against the exit doors have disappeared.

Dowd discards the fire extinguisher and stares into the open space.

Teicher, wheeling an oxygen cylinder, arrives just behind Dowd.

Just like Dowd, Teicher stops dead in his tracks.

Both men stare in disbelief into the same empty space.

Dowd doesn't turn.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Who are you?

TEICHER

I came from SUMU.

DOWD

I know everyone at SUMU, you don't work at SUMU.

TEICHER

I work for Senninger's.

Dowd turns.

DOWD
The bio weapon's lab?

Dowd grabs at Teicher's lanyard.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Teicher?

TEICHER
Doctor, Teicher.

DOWD
What are you doing here Doctor?

TEICHER
Who's asking?

DOWD
Lt Commander Michael Dowd.
Commanding Officer, Dive Team One.
What you doing here Doctor?

TEICHER
I was on an errand.

DOWD
Here in the Clearance Divers'
offices?

TEICHER
Yes.

DOWD
Wearing a Hazmat suit?

TEICHER
Yes!

Dowd walks back to the office, eyes on Teicher all the way then returns with his uniform and boots.

He looks out at the storm, ditches the overalls and starts to dress.

DOWD
(Referring to Teicher's
Hazmat suit)
Do you have another suit?

TEICHER
Just the one.

DOWD
A mask?

TEICHER

No.

DOWD

Give me the cylinder.

TEICHER

No.

DOWD

No?

TEICHER

No.

DOWD

Share.

TEICHER

What will share look like when the tank begins to empty?

Dowd starts bleeding from the nose. He wipes it away.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

Too late for you now.

DOWD

For both of us.

Blood droplets fall from Teicher's nose.

Dowd, now dressed, heads for the glass exit doors.

The storm beyond the doors is deafening.

It heaves back and forth like an angry red sea.

Dowd grabs the door, ready to open.

TEICHER

Commander!

Dowd turns back to Teicher.

The men have to yell over the noise of the storm.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

DOWD

There's a bunker in the cliffs.
It's the rally point.

TEICHER

You can't go out there. That,
thing...

DOWD
Was a scout. If you stay here,
you'll die.

Dowd opens the glass exit door to the storm.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY 11

The base emergency siren and the din of the city's car alarms compete with the roar of the storm.

LIEUTENANT GRANT, a plumpish administrative officer, in summer whites and shorts, battles his way forward.

He turns a corner only to lodge one of his shoes in an open drain.

The Lieutenant frantically tries to dislodge the shoe.

He looks up.

A supercell, a black, swirling inverted mushroom cloud moves into place over Sydney.

In the distance, he sees his objective, A CROWD OF NAVY PERSONNEL, (CROWD) queueing around the entry to a bunker.

Witches hats, road signage and anything not bolted down takes flight.

Grant panics.

ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI, a red cross Medic patch on her shoulder, fronts.

She takes one look at the drain then makes for a nearby construction site.

GRANT
Don't leave me!

AMIRI
Hold up Sir!

12 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY 12

Scaffolding fronting the building groans and shudders under the heaving wind.

Rivets in the scaffolding begin to make their way loose.

The site is littered with barrels and building materials displaced by the storm.

Amiri searches the tray of a ute (utility truck).

The ute rocks back and forth wildly, crabbing its way sideways at her.

She steps back, pauses, then makes her move, grabbing a crowbar out of the tray.

13 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY 13

Amiri crosses the road back to the Lieutenant and plunges the crowbar into the adjacent storm drain cover.

She levers it with all her might but the drain cover won't budge.

Amiri gets down on all fours and unties the Lieutenant's shoelace.

AMIRI
Lose the shoe!

Grant rips out the socked foot and bolts for the bunker. He's not looking back.

Amiri looks up to see the 'crabbing sideways' ute, flip, lose its tools then slam into the wall, tray-side to her.

The ute's tray flaps back and forth, wildly against the wall.

14 BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY 14

Amiri, crouched, is trapped in the tray space.

From the gap, she spots the Lieutenant running for his life.

AMIRI
You're shitting me!

Dowd and Teicher make their way past the flapping ute towards the crowd. Amiri spots them.

AMIRI (CONT'D)
Sir! Sirs!!

Dowd and Teicher look around but can't find the voice.

AMIRI (CONT'D)
In here!!!

Dowd crouches to spot her then runs over. The flapping ute tray blocks his way.

Dowd disappears from view.

AMIRI (CONT'D)
Hello!

Dowd reappears rolling a drum from the construction site towards the gap between the flapping ute tray and the wall.

15 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY

15

Dowd calls on Teicher's help.

DOWD
(To Teicher)
Grab hold.

Teicher looks up at the storm's supercell then to the bunker.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Now Doctor!

Teicher grabs hold of the other side of the barrel.

They time the push of the barrel to the slap of the ute tray.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Three, two...

POP, POP, PRRRRROP! Rivets take flight, spraying the street, one slicing through a window as the scaffolding from the construction site collapses onto the street.

With it, a band of long steel reinforcing rods, splay and slam into the ground.

Flipped end to end by the constantly shifting whip of the storm, the steel rods career down the road straight at Teicher.

Dowd yanks him aside by the collar.

The rods pass by before bouncing skyward to slice through two of three overhead power lines.

Sparks fly from the sliced lines.

The third of the power lines resists the last of the rods, slingshotting it back through the air, straight through the underbelly of the ute.

16 BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY

16

A steel rod spears the ute tray lodging in the wall between Amiri's arm and hip.

Amiri looks on in horror then sniffs the air.

17 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY

17

Teicher smells it too then looks to the underbelly of the ute. The steel rod has speared the ute's tank.

TEICHER
Gas!

AMIRI (O.S.)
Get me out of here.

Dowd and Teicher roll the drum into the space between the ute tray and the wall.

DOWD
Jump!

Amiri springs out into Dowd's arms.

Dowd swings her round like a rugby pass, and the three, Dowd, Teicher and Amiri make for the bunker, running for their lives.

The two severed power lines, their own Medusas, lash the ground around them.

A sudden spark then, **IGNITION!**

The three are blown to the ground.

Every window in proximity shatters spraying the road with glass shards around the smoking wreck of the ute.

The offending rod, embedded in the ute tray, snaps in two and rebounds back into the air before it javelins into the ground, centimetres in front of the three.

The three look up to see the rod.

18 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY 18

The crowd of Navy Personnel including the one-shoed Lt Grant crowd the entry to the concrete bunker's blast door.

The crowd grows fearful, hostile.

The formidable figure of VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK stands over a security panel attempting to gain entry.

The Admiral's eye is drawn to the gas explosion, then to the thing above it.

The supercell, is right on top of them.

The crowd lose it, fighting for entry inside.

Frank wipes the blood streaming from his nose then jams his palm, repeatedly into a security entry pad, followed by a passcode. There's no response. The entry door is dead.

Overhead, a security camera peers over the crowd.

FRANK
Remain calm! We'll work through this.

Dowd, Teicher and Amiri arrive on the periphery of the crowd.
Frank spots them.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Michael! Get over here.

Dowd fights his way through the crowd. Amiri and Teicher tail him.

The storm's intensity grows, tearing roofs off nearby buildings.

DOWD
Sir.

Frank grabs his hand and plants it palm first onto the security panel.

FRANK
Enter your security code.

DOWD
I'm not cleared sir.

FRANK
You are, you are Michael.

Dowd, taken aback, enters his code then steps away.

The entry remains sealed.

Dowd looks back to Frank.

Teicher steps up to the panel, pulls a mini screwdriver set out of his pocket then starts to hurriedly unscrew the panel from the wall.

The panel falls aside, dangling by its wires.

Teicher fishes about inside.

The supercell is upon them. The crowd goes wild.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Remain calm!

TEICHER
This panel is connected to the external mains.

Teicher points to the security camera.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
It's not.

FRANK
They can see us?

TEICHER

But they can't open the door.

DOWD

And we can't either.

As the storm's eye passes over them, eclipsing the light, the street lights flicker and spark to life but not for the long.

The base emergency siren quits. The car alarms stop. The street lamps flicker, spark, then burst.

Suddenly, silence.

The crowd is spooked.

AMIRI

(Whispered)

What's happening?

That hum, like a Tibetan singing bowl, grows and intensifies. The ground shakes, buildings rattle.

The panicked crowd cover their ears in pain then...

WHOOSH, a stream of particles ascends into the heavens, accompanied by the horrified screams of the crowd being torn apart, limb by limb.

The supercell vaporizes the crowd.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

19 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR - DAY 19

The storm has subsided.

A resonance like a Tibetan singing bowl hums in the background and an eerie red mist shrouds the harbour city.

20 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. NAVAL POLICE OFFICE - DAY 20

POLICE COXSWAIN - LEADING SEAMAN IGOR BABIC (BABIC) crouches on the floor, heaving his guts into a waste paper bin.

POLICE COXSWAIN - LEADING SEAMAN JASAR EID (EID) staggers past him, mouth open, spittle dribbling over his beard.

Eid lumbers forward, his two short legs carrying a considerable girth, to arrive at the glass fronted reception.

He lifts a phone handset to his ear ready to punch in a number on the keypad when a bloody hand **SLAPS** onto the glass.

Commodore Kathryn Freisler, (the striking female Officer) stands before them on the other side of the glass.

Freisler's mane of long black hair is matted, her face covered in blood.

21 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY 21

The clanging of halyards from vessels unseen.

The rush of the tide upon a nearby shore.

A smattering of smacked-up SURVIVORS lie scattered around the bunker entry, carpeted in a thick red mist.

The base is eerily quiet except for the dulled moans and cries of the survivors and...

BANG, BANG, BANG.

A distant figure, Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank hammers his shoe heel, Nikita Khrushchev style, against the bunker door.

FRANK (V.O.)
Open this door!

Dowd, his vision hazy, his senses dulled, gets to his feet and makes his way to the Admiral.

Broken glass crunches under-foot.

Amiri appears in the mist, her arms wrapped around her knees, tears streaming down her cheeks.

DOWD
Able Seaman.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

AMIRI
(Muttering)
Good to go.

DOWD
Are you Ok?

Amiri tries to rise but falters.

AMIRI
Good to go.

Dowd kneels beside her and looks at her name tag.

DOWD
Amiri, Che?

Amiri makes eye contact with Dowd.

AMIRI
Sir.

DOWD
Take my hand.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

FRANK (V.O.)
Open this door!

They rise then walk towards the Admiral.

Dowd steadies Amiri, still shaky on her feet.

They come upon Doctor Amon Teicher.

Teicher stands, absorbed by the vision before him, a Hiroshima-like human shadow burnt into the bunker wall.

He reaches out to touch it.

The shadow dissolves to ash and scatters to the wind.

DOWD
Doctor.

Teicher turns to Dowd and Amiri.

TEICHER
How is it, we're still alive?

Dowd shakes his head.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

FRANK
Open this door!

DOWD
Admiral.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Deakin!

Dowd reaches for his hand.

Frank manic, crazed, raises his shoe ready to clobber Dowd.

Dowd steps back, hands raised to defend himself.

The once formidable figure of the Admiral has been replaced by a disheveled old man. His hands shake. His eyes are hollowed. Blood drips from an open wound on his hand.

Dowd is shocked by his appearance.

DOWD (CONT'D)
You're bleeding.

FRANK
They won't open the door!

DOWD
Let me have a look at that.

FREISLER (O.S.)
Lt Commander Dowd.

Dowd turns to discover Freisler flanked by Police Coxswains - Eid and Babic. There's instant animosity between Dowd and Freisler.

FREISLER (CONT'D)
What's going on here?

AMIRI
He's in shock.

FREISLER
Was I addressing you Able Seaman?

DOWD
I asked the Able Seaman to look at the Admiral's wound.

FREISLER
Stand aside.

Freisler steps forward and establishes her authority.

FREISLER (CONT'D)
Vice Admiral Frank?

Frank doesn't recognize Freisler.

Freisler turns to the Coxswains.

FREISLER (CONT'D)
(To the Coxswains)
Bear witness, Admiral Frank is
incapable of command. The base
commander is absent, presumed dead.
(To the Survivors)
Listen up! You will work to the
instructions of the Coxswains.

DOWD
(To Freisler)
This is not your command.

FREISLER
(To Dowd)
I am taking command.

DOWD
(To Freisler)
Not of this base you're not. Not
after that goat-fuck in the harbour
this morning.

FREISLER
(To Dowd)
Own your mistakes Michael.

FREISLER (CONT'D)
(To the Survivors)
Once we have secured the base
we will undertake an audit of
the storm damage whereupon...

DOWD
(To Freisler)
It wasn't a storm.

FREISLER (CONT'D)
(To the Survivors)
We will wait upon first
responders to attend to the
injured.

DOWD (CONT'D)
It wasn't a storm! It was a
first strike!

DOWD (CONT'D)
You know what comes next.

Freisler turns back to the Coxswains and then to Dowd.

FREISLER
Mr Dowd, are you refusing the order
of your superior?

Teicher steps up.

TEICHER
Commodore, my name is.

FREISLER
I know who you are Amon.

TEICHER
It wasn't a storm.

FREISLER
Let me stop you right there.

TEICHER
It was a quantum weapon.

FREISLER
You have no idea what it was and I
do not tolerate speculation under
my command.

TEICHER
I doubt your scientific knowledge
extends to...

FREISLER
There is no doubt, Doctor.
(To Eid)
Mr Eid.

EID
Yes, Ma'am.

FREISLER
Did you bring cuffs?

EID
Yes Ma'am.

FREISLER
(Referring to Dowd and
Teicher)
Arrest Mr. Dowd and, this one.

Babic is shocked by the order.

Eid, unfazed, makes his way over to Dowd first and unsheathes
his cuffs.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

FRANK (O.S.)
Open this door!

DOWD
(To Freisler)
What are you doing Kathryn?

TEICHER

We are in mortal danger Commodore.

EID

Ma'am, the power's fried, the cell door won't lock.

FREISLER

(To Eid)

There's a metal-grate cleaning cupboard next to the old armoury. Do you know it?

EID

Yes Ma'am.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

FRANK (O.S.)

Open this door!

DOWD

(To Freisler)

You want to do this now?

FREISLER

(To Eid)

It has a padlock.

Dowd gestures to the red haze, broken glass and scattered debris.

DOWD

(To Freisler)

Look at this!

FREISLER

(To Eid)

There's a key in the top draw of the desk.

DOWD

(To Freisler)

What do you see?

BANG, BANG, BANG.

FRANK (O.S.)

Open this door!

FREISLER

(To Eid)

Lock them in.

DOWD

(To Freisler)

We are at war Commodore!

Amiri looks to Teicher.

FREISLER (O.S.)
Do it now Mr Eid!

EID
(To Dowd)
Show me your hands.

Dowd stands defiant.

Eid removes his Browning pistol, slides the safety to off and takes aim.

Dowd remains defiant.

EID (CONT'D)
(Whispered)
Come on, you're not the first boong
to go to lock up.

Dowd let's the racial slur hang then offers his hands, palms face to the sky.

Eid reaches for his cuffs.

Dowd sideswipes the Browning, latching onto the top of the barrel.

A round dispatches into the wall.

Dowd delivers a short, sharp backhand to Eid's front teeth, knocking him senseless.

Dowd collects Eid's Browning then empties the spent cartridge.

Babic goes for his sidearm.

Dowd catches Eid as he staggers back then spins him around to employ as a shield.

Dowd points Eid's Browning at Babic and the Commodore.

Babic struggles to get his sidearm out of the holster.

Finally...

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

DOWD
Got a good beed on me?

BABIC
Yes sir I do.

DOWD
Here's the thing, my safety's off,
yours isn't.

Babic looks down to his gun then back to Dowd.

He looks back into the eyes of a stone-cold killer.

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

Dowd gently lowers Eid to the ground, walks up to Babic then kicks Babic's Browning to Amiri.

Shocked, Amiri traps it under her boot.

AMIRI
What are we doing, sir?

DOWD
Do whatever you think is the right
thing Able Seaman.

Dowd spots a tote bag on Babic.

DOWD (CONT'D)
I'll take the tote too.

Babic hands it over.

DOWD (CONT'D)
And I'll have your sidearm
Commodore.

FREISLER
Come and get it.

Dowd stows Eid's Browning, safety on, back of his pants and makes his way over.

Freisler's hand is dangerously close to her holster.

They maintain constant eye contact.

Dowd gets into kissing distance with Freisler, reaches down slowly, unbuttons her holster then takes her weapon.

It's unclear whether they want to kill each other, fuck or both.

FREISLER (CONT'D)
(Whispered)
Your life is over Michael.

Amiri bends down and collects the Browning.

Dowd turns to see Amiri pointing the gun at him.

He turns to Teicher.

DOWD
 Doctor, that thing we saw.

TEICHER
 The Pied Piper.

DOWD
 Yeah, the Pied Piper.

Teicher considers the offer.

TEICHER
 Alright.

Dowd throws Babic's tote bag to Teicher then turns to Amiri.

He doesn't say a word.

Amiri applies the safety and lowers the weapon.

FREISLER
 You'll be joining them in a cell
 Able Seaman.

DOWD
 (To Freisler)
 Get these people off the X Kathryn,
 and get Toby.

22 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY

22

A massive room, hollowed-out into a cliff.

A computer monitor on a desk displays a look-down view of Dowd and Freisler arguing outside.

Nearby, metal grinds upon metal, as a door within a massive blast door, opens.

A portal of light spills into the room and a shadowy FIGURE makes their way over to the computer monitor.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

23 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. PATH TO THE STAIRS - DAY 23

Shafts of light perforate the dense red mist.

It rushes forward; it rushes back.

An ocean of life circles them, present, aware.

Dowd and Amiri escort Teicher through it, guns up and out.

The tension palpable, their fear real.

They arrive at a post on the path.

DOWD

Dead stop.

AMIRI

Sir.

DOWD

Come to heading, three thirty degrees.

Amiri turns to her left.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Ahead, dead slow, forty five paces exact.

AMIRI

Sir, if you know the way, why don't you take point?

DOWD

Because I don't want you to get a bullet in the back.

Amiri looks back, shocked.

TEICHER

Did we leave on good terms? I forget.

DOWD

Start your count.

Amiri leads the way. They move through the mist, joined at the hip, the doctor sandwiched in between them.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Doctor.

TEICHER

Commander.

DOWD

Do you have an answer to your question?

TEICHER

Which question is that?

DOWD

Why are we still alive?

TEICHER

Just so we're reading off the same page...

DOWD

Is that what we're doing? Reading off the same page?

TEICHER

We're fighting for our lives.

DOWD

That we are.

TEICHER

That, whatever that was, wasn't the P.L.A.

DOWD

No it was not.

(To Amiri)

Step count?

AMIRI

Nineteen.

Amiri moves ahead, hands shaking, gun too.

DOWD

Do you have an answer?

TEICHER

For the science perhaps, not the existential.

DOWD

Science works.

TEICHER

Pharaoh, refused to set his Hebrew slaves free.

DOWD

This is the science?

TEICHER

Correct.

DOWD

Step count?

AMIRI

Twenty seven.

TEICHER

So God visited a series of plagues upon Egypt to punish Pharaoh, culminating in the taking of the lives of every first born child.

DOWD

You told the Commodore it was a quantum weapon.

TEICHER

Every weapon has three basic components. Targeting, delivery and payload. Doesn't matter whether it's a harpoon missile, a virus, ... or this. We know how delivery was achieved. The weapon was embedded in a weather event, and by the way, you won't find that in Jane's book of Ships.

DOWD

Where would I find it?

TEICHER

Exodus. The Israelites were told to paint their doors with the blood of lambs so the angel would see it and pass over those families. The storm, our storm, contained something special. It entered us, interrogated and targeted, painted us, some for death and others like those poor souls taken by the Piper, for something else.

AMIRI

What the hell is the Piper?

DOWD

Step count.

AMIRI

Forty.

DOWD

And us? Why were we spared?

TEICHER

Yes, why were we spared?

DOWD

(To Amiri)

Stop! Right about now, you should be standing on the edge of a set of stairs.

Amiri edges her foot forward.

AMIRI

No.

DOWD

A little more.

Amiri creeps forward again.

AMIRI

No.

DOWD

More!

She arrives at the end of a steep set of stairs descending to the Clearance Diver section of HMAS PENGUIN.

AMIRI

Yeah.

DOWD

Your Pied Piper Doctor, that wasn't God.

TEICHER

No, it wasn't.

AMIRI

What is it?

TEICHER

If it's what I think it is, well, you've just seen what its capable of.

DOWD

We've still got a job to do.

TEICHER

Based on what I've seen Commander, I'd expect a very short tenure.

Babic emerges through the door.

BABIC

The door's seized. We'll need an electrician.

FREISLER

Where else can we get weapons on Penguin?

BABIC

Ma'am, what's the priority here?

FREISLER

The priority is whatever I say it is Leading Seaman!

EID

I know where we can get weapons.

25 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DRYING ROOM - DAY

25

Amiri opens the door to a cavernous room.

A rush of air accompanies her.

The sound of dripping water and jangling chains haunt the room.

Clerestory windows stream light from the ceiling but not enough to penetrate the mist.

What waits below is dark and creepy.

Amiri and Teicher move into the room.

The damp ground squishes underfoot.

Amiri turns back to Teicher to pull a torch from the Coxswain's tote bag then casts a beam of light into the darkness, crossing her hands, supporting the Browning in one and the torch in the other.

An army of shadowy figures hangs suspended in the air.

Amiri stalls, paralyzed by the vision before her.

Dowd arrives from behind, sending another shock through the already overwhelmed Able Seaman.

DOWD

Shhhh.

AMIRI

What is this place?

DOWD
The drying room.

Row upon row of hanging wetsuits fill the room.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Swap.

Dowd takes point, gun up and out.

Amiri covers the rear then waits upon Teicher, but Teicher is reluctant to enter the space.

AMIRI
Doctor. Come on!

An apprehensive Teicher enters with the caution of cat.

Meanwhile, Dowd has vanished into the sea of swaying wetsuits and dangling chains.

Amiri and Teicher search for him, moving slowly through the maze of hanging dive kit.

AMIRI (CONT'D)
(Whispered)
Commander? Commander?

Hanging alongside the wetsuits is a cobweb of oxygen tubes, breathing regulators, overalls and camouflage kit.

The faint sound of distant, running water becomes audible.

Amiri, now a little panicked, picks up the pace, moving faster and faster through the maze of suits and webbing parting them one by one until a head appears before her.

It's a diver's helmet on a rack.

There are dozens of them.

She's completely lost.

DOWD (O.S.)
Able Seaman.

Amiri and Teicher turn to find Dowd waiting for them.

Dowd heads into an adjoining corridor.

Amiri and Teicher follow.

Dowd, Teicher and Amiri make their way through a darkened locker room, slow and silent, arriving at the entry to the showers.

They hear running water.

27 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. SHOWERS - DAY

27

Dowd enters, Teicher and Amiri behind him.

Dowd follows the sound of the water to a shower cubicle then stows his weapon.

Dowd's friend, Petty Officer Lachlan Hunt, sits on the floor, his wetsuit peeled to his waist, water pouring over him.

Dowd reaches over to turn off the tap.

DOWD

Lachy?

Hunt, shivering, stares forward.

Amiri and Teicher join Dowd in the room.

Amiri kneels down next to Hunt and Dowd.

AMIRI

He's in shock.

Dowd slaps Hunt's face. Hunt snaps out of it.

DOWD

Harden the fuck-up.

HUNT

What the fuck are you doing out of hyperbaric?

DOWD

Where's Zarky and Wang?

HUNT

Dead.

DOWD

Did you look!?

HUNT

Mate, you shot up four hundred metres from the dive site. I'm not even sure they pulled the pony.

DOWD

I saw them pull.

HUNT

I only had eyes for you, getting you to hyperbaric. Symsey was going to beat me to death with a stick if I didn't.

DOWD
Symsey's dead, or worse.

HUNT
What's worse than dead?

Dowd offers him a hand up. Hunt gets to his feet.

DOWD
Get dressed.

Dowd heads out of the showers then stops at the door.

DOWD (CONT'D)
And Lachy.

Hunt looks over.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Thanks for pulling me out of the
drink.

HUNT
A slab will cover it.

28 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. OFFICE - DAY 28

Amiri and Teicher look over a wall of photos, Clearance Diver heroes from the past.

Hunt fronts, dressed in a Clearance Diver's blue green disruptive pattern uniform, carrying two M4 assault rifles and two Tag Heckler and Koch USP pistols.

AMIRI
Sir.

HUNT
Able Seaman.

Amiri checks Dowd is out of earshot.

AMIRI
There was an incident with the
Commodore.

Hunt's eyes drop to Amiri's name patch then back to her.

HUNT
Amiri?

AMIRI
Sir.

HUNT
Che Amiri?

AMIRI

Yes sir.

HUNT

That name's on my next intake list.

AMIRI

Yes sir.

HUNT

You, want to be a Clearance Diver?

AMIRI

Yes sir.

Hunt let's that hang for a moment.

AMIRI (CONT'D)

Sir, there was an incident with the Commodore and Lt. Commander Dowd. It was really serious.

HUNT

Were you here for that fuckup in the harbour this morning?

AMIRI

I just got here.

HUNT

Let me give you some context, firstly, Katheryn Freisler is Lt. Commander Dowd's ex wife. Technically, they're still married. Secondly...

Dowd turns up carry a stash of magazines, grenades and webbing.

DOWD

Secondly? Was there anything else you wanted to add to that Petty Officer?

HUNT

No boss.

DOWD

(To Amiri)

Don't worry about Commodore Freisler. Focus on the job. Are we clear?

AMIRI

Yes sir.

Dowd dumps the webbing and kit on the table and makes his way over to the fridge.

DOWD
 (To Hunt)
 Where did you get the M4s?

HUNT
 The Wynstans brought them up from
 Waterhen.

DOWD
 Where are the Wynstans?

HUNT
 Dead.

Dowd opens a darkened fridge, grabs at a stack of bottled
 water and tosses one at Hunt. Hunt catches and stows it.

DOWD
 Coms?

HUNT
 Dead.

DOWD
 Seal boat?

HUNT
 Dead.

Dowd brings the rest of the water bottles over and
 distributes them to Amiri and Teicher then looks to Teicher
 and the tote bag.

DOWD
 (To Teicher)
 What's in the tote?

Teicher pulls out a canister.

Hunt and Dowd crowd around him.

DOWD (CONT'D)
 Smoke.

Dowd takes it and gives it to Hunt.

Teicher pulls out a flashbang.

HUNT
 Nine-banger.

Hunt tosses the flashbang to Amiri.

DOWD
 Know how to use that?

Amiri holds it up and reaches for the pin.

AMIRI

Pull.

TEICHER

And these.

Teicher holds up a clutch of magazines.

Dowd takes one for himself and hands the rest to Hunt.

HUNT

What's the plan?

DOWD

We get to Waterhen.

HUNT

How?

DOWD

How ever. Walk if we have to.

HUNT

Then what?

DOWD

(To Hunt)

Then, we round up every web-footed,
door-kicker we can find and we deal
death to the enemy. You up for
that?

HUNT

(Whispered)

Fuckin' A.

Dowd starts to assemble his kit.

HUNT (CONT'D)

(To Dowd)

What about these two?

DOWD

(To Amiri)

Able Seaman.

AMIRI

Sir?

DOWD

How long have you been a Navy
Medic?

AMIRI

This is my first day sir.

DOWD

Doctor.

TEICHER
Commander.

DOWD
Just so you know, we'll probably
never make it to Waterhen.

Dowd waits for a response but it doesn't come.

DOWD (CONT'D)
If either of you want to bug out.

AMIRI
Good to go sir.

Teicher deliberates.

TEICHER
I don't wish to be taken prisoner.

Dowd hands Teicher, Babic's Browning then points out the safety.

DOWD
Safety.

Teicher nods.

Dowd then produces four spare rounds.

He tosses one to Hunt. Hunt catches the round and places it in his shirt pocket.

Dowd tosses the next to Amiri. Amiri catches it mid-air, but has no idea what to do with it.

Dowd then turns back to Teicher and raises the next round to Teicher's face.

DOWD (CONT'D)
(Whispered)
Use every round you've got on the
enemy. Save this, for yourself.

Dowd then places the round in Teicher's top pocket and pats it shut.

Teicher gulps.

DOWD (CONT'D)
Before we go to Waterhen, a scout
took some of our people prisoner.
We're getting them back.

HUNT
Where?

DOWD
(To Teicher)
Doctor, where did the Pied Piper
take the town's children?

TEICHER
To the river, to drown them.

DOWD
It's on our way.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

29 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DIVE SCHOOL - DAY 29

Late afternoon.

Dowd, Amiri and Hunt emerge through a door into the main training area.

Dowd and Hunt hold back, waiting for Teicher but Amiri continues on at a cracking pace.

30 LANEWAY 30

Amiri passes a pair of Navy pants discarded on the ground and heads into the mist.

31 DOORWAY 31

Dowd holds the door, until Teicher passes through.

The mist parts just enough to reveal a view of the Esplanade beach next to Balmoral.

HUNT

Ooi.

Hunt points out a catamaran, beached on the shore by the storm. Dowd takes in the view.

DOWD

I know that cat. Belongs to one of the locals.

HUNT

He won't be happy.

DOWD

She, certainly won't be happy with us requisitioning it.

TEICHER

Where's the Able Seaman?

32 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DIVE POOL - DAY 32

Light shafts from the late afternoon sun pierce through a wall of rising steam and settling red mist.

Amiri suddenly realizes she's all alone and can't see shit.

AMIRI

Sir? Commander?

She hears the footsteps of Dowd, Hunt and Teicher approaching but she cannot see them.

DOWD (V.O.)
Amiri?

AMIRI
Sir!

DOWD (V.O.)
Hold up! There's a dive pool there.

AMIRI
Where?

Too late.

Amiri walks straight over the edge and into, SPLASH!

33 DIVE POOL - UNDER THE WATER

33

Amiri goes straight to the bottom.

Amiri looks up.

BODIES!

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

An electric blue ripple passes over them.

ALL EYES OPEN, fixed on Amiri.

Amiri freaks.

She shoots to the surface, claws her way through the bodies and searches for the edge. She can't find it.

Amiri thrashes back and forth, panicked.

A yellow rescue buoy flies through the air and lands next to her. She grabs hold and gets reeled in like a fish.

34 DIVE POOL - POOLSIDE

34

Dowd appears at the end of the rope.

Amiri reaches the side.

Dowd and Hunt offer her a heave-to out of the pool but Amiri is so freaked, she scrambles over the edge and straight into a cement wall. **THUD!**

Amiri flies backwards onto the concrete.

Dowd catches her mid fall.

DOWD
Amiri!

AMIRI
Our people!

DOWD
What?

AMIRI
They're in the pool!

DOWD
What?!

HUNT (O.S.)
What the fuck is that!!!!?

Dowd turns to spot Hunt, his M4 rifle trained on the PIED PIPER.

A creature, humanoid, translucent black and bearing what looks like a star constellation for a face, appears in the shallow of the pool, arms spread, ready to strike.

Everything that can vibrate, hums in its presence.

Its back bristles, a rolling shudder, up and down its body, vibrating the water.

Hunt takes aim.

TEICHER
Don't shoot!

Dowd joins Hunt poolside, weapon raised and targeted at the Piper.

DOWD
Give me a reason Doctor!

TEICHER
Listen!

Teicher edges closer towards the pool to look at the bodies.

TEICHER (CONT'D)
That hum. It's the same sound we heard just before the base was vaporized. It will kill you. It will kill us all!

Dowd looks over the side of the pool.

DOWD
Our people are in the water!

TEICHER

They're dead to you now.

An object flies through the air towards the Piper.

AMIRI

Frag-out!

Dowd and Hunt grab Teicher, dropping him to the ground, and covering their ears.

The flashbang explodes shocking the Piper and sending it back, reeling in pain. Dowd and Hunt open up with their M4s.

TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP.

They empty their entire mags.

Hunt drops his spent mag, reloads and keeps firing.

Dowd's M4 jams. He draw his pistol and keeps firing, moving closer and closer to the pool's edge.

Amiri joins Dowd firing her pistol at the Piper until it's down.

All stagger towards the water's edge and look over the side. The water is bubbling hot.

Dowd picks up a discarded shirt then looks at the name tag, 'Lt. A. Symes.'

AMIRI (CONT'D)

Shoot the bodies.

DOWD

What?!

AMIRI

They're not human anymore.

Dowd hands his M4 and pistol to Amiri, draws a knife, wades into the shallow end then disappears under the water.

Hunt, Teicher and Amiri wait poolside, anxiously.

Dowd emerges on the other side.

They give him a heave-to out.

DOWD

Give me the M4.

Dowd pauses for a moment then empties his magazine into the pool.

35 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. WHARF - DAY 35

Freisler, Babic and Eid arrive at the head of the stairs now armed. Babic and Eid carrying F88 Austeyr rifles, Freisler with a Browning pistol.

Freisler looks to the abandoned wharf, then to the beach.

FREISLER

Keep up!

36 EXT. ESPLANADE BEACH - DUSK 36

Dowd, Hunt, Teicher and Amiri run for the catamaran.

The tide is taking it out to sea.

DOWD

We're going to have to swim for it.

(To Amiri and Teicher)

Can you make it to the cat?

TEICHER

I can swim that far.

AMIRI

Yeah.

They head for the water.

Out of nowhere, two barking Dobermans race past them and out of sight, towards the shoreline.

The dogs attack an unseen victim.

The attack is brought to a brutal end. The harrowing sounds of the dogs' deaths set everyone on edge.

Dowd turns to Hunt, Amiri and Teicher.

DOWD

Stay here.

HUNT

My arse.

DOWD

Stay!

Dowd's resolve shocks Hunt.

Dowd disappears into the mist.

37 THE SHORELINE 37

Dowd paces through the wet sand.

His face is drawn, his eyes pooled with blood.

A hum, like a Tibetan singing bowl resonates throughout the harbour.

Dowd comes upon the two dead Dobermans on the shoreline; their bodies eviscerated, their eyes exploded in their heads.

A WOMAN, unseen, **screams**.

Dowd runs towards the guttural cry.

Runs hard and fast to...

REBECCA KAY, a forty-something businesswoman in a pinstripe suit, kneeling in the sand.

Tears stream down her cheeks.

A clenched fist secures two dogs leashes.

Her eyes are locked onto...

SAMMY, a slip of a teenage girl in a summer dress.

Sammy's face is serene. Her presence surreal.

Another person nearby, HEIDI FISK, a mess of long blonde hair in shorts and worker's boots, pleads with Sammy.

HEIDI

Sammy, baby, please come back.

There's fear in Heidi's voice.

She dare not go closer.

Then Dowd sees it.

Another creature, humanoid, translucent black and filled with stars, crouches on the sand before Sammy.

Steam rises from its body. It's panting like a dog and bleeding from a bite mark to its leg.

Sammy reaches out to touch it.

The creature looks up.

An electric blue arc passes between Sammy's fingers and the creature's body.

The creature assembles itself, bones cracking into position, rising to tower over Sammy.

Hunt runs out of the mist at breakneck speed.

HUNT
(To Dowd)
Leaving! Now!!

Dowd looks to Hunt then to the harbour. The water is alive.
Thousands of the creatures make their way ashore.
Freisler, Eid and Babic front up.
Babic takes aim at Dowd.

BABIC
Mr Dowd!

Dowd half-turns but his focus remains on the creature.

BABIC (CONT'D)
This time my safety's off.

Then to his horror, Babic discovers the creature.

The creature looks to Babic. It splays its arms. Its back
bristles.

An intense hum.

An extreme vibration. Babic can feel it in his rifle.

His hands shake, his body too.

Babic fires a short burst of rounds at it.

The bullets shatter mid air.

Done with the bullets, the creature then turns its attention
to Babic.

A short sonic pulse, creates a visible distortion in the air
and travels to Babic, shattering his eyes and teeth.

Babic howls in agony. His knees give way.

He collapses to the ground then grabs the left side of his
chest just before his heart bursts dropping him, face forward
into the sand.

Nearby, Freisler drops to the ground, clutching at an eye
socket.

The creature then turns to Dowd.

Kaye screams.

Heidi, Hunt, Sammy and Kaye watch Dowd raise his M4, take aim
and.

FADE OUT.