

# SENTIENT

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A TV pilot

by

David Steinhoff

© Presence Global Entertainment Pty Ltd  
12 Moller Ave  
Birrong  
NSW 2143  
Australia  
Phone : 0417 400 001  
International: 61 417 400 001  
Email: david@davidsteinhoff.com

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.'

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 ear to ear.

JAMAAL

Hey.

Jamaal displays the image to Ahmed.

JAMAAL (CONT'D)

Check it.

AHMED

Pass.

JAMAAL

I could set up a profile for you. There's older chicks too. They're into it man. The old ones are soo hungry. You should get some.

AHMED

I'll pass.

Jamaal is oblivious to Ahmed's rage.

A squawk comes over their radios from their SECURITY TEAM LEADER downstairs.

SECURITY TEAM LEADER (V.O.)

Ahmed.

AHMED

Go ahead.

SECURITY TEAM LEADER(V.O.)

They're here.

Ahmed's eyes lock-on to a 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 block their path.

JAMAAL

Turn around and 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.

AHMED

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

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

He spots the band of white from the missing wedding ring.

DOWD

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

Yeah, I know.

DOWD

Then you know, if this comes to a throw-down...

AHMED

It will be brutal.

DOWD

Yes it will, but I don't want to fight you Ahmed.

Dowd draws close to Ahmed.

DOWD (CONT'D)

Do you know why?

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

AHMED

Surprise me.

Dowd looks to his son Toby then back to Ahmed.

DOWD

(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.

Ahmed's eyes drill-down on the boy then back to Dowd.

AHMED

(To Toby)

Go see your grandfather.

Ahmed steps aside.

TOBY

(To Ahmed)

Thank you sir.

Dowd wheels Toby towards the door beyond.

JAMAAL

Are you out of your fucking mind?

Jamaal blocks the wheelchair with his foot.

HUNT

(To Jamaal)

Language!

JAMAAL

(To Hunt)

Hey!

HUNT

You want some of this?

Hunt moves in ready to clock Jamaal.

Ahmed yanks Jamaal back by the collar then pins him against the wall.

AHMED

Leave it!

Ahmed gives Dowd the nod. Dowd, Toby and Hunt head his father's room.

Dowd opens the door to a darkened room.

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 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)  
 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 convulses, violently.

SYMES  
 Pease, help me.

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

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

DOWD  
 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. SYDNEY HARBOUR. OCEAN FLOOR - MORNING

6

A lit worksite on the ocean floor.

Two Navy Divers, WANG and OZARK, hover over a long cylindrical mine lying in the mud.

Wang runs his fingers over the warhead.

They communicate using VOX, (voice underwater coms).

WANG  
Feels like...

OZARK  
Steady.

WANG  
It's an EM-52.

OZARK  
Yeah.

WANG  
Where's Wudji?

7 ABOVE THEM

7

A Minehunter ship floats above, silhouette against the azure.

Dowd, kitted up in dive gear, descends towards them.

DOWD  
On my way.

A high pitched shrill emits from the mine; forward, reverse, stop, configured.

WANG  
Crap me!

Dowd sees Wang and Ozark recoil back.

A stream of bubbles emit from its tail.

The mine takes off, circles Dowd then pierces through the dark of the ocean.

DOWD  
Boys, pull the pony.

WANG  
You sure Boss?

DOWD  
Pull the fucking pony!

Too late.

An explosion erupts in the distance, filling the underwater horizon.

Wang and Ozark pull the pony.

A buoyancy unit deploys sending them hurtling towards the surface.

The compression ring from the explosion heads straight at them.

The ring envelopes Dowd and them in light and bubble.

Their bodies are cast to the abyss.

8 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. WHARF - MORNING 8

A 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.

9 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. RCC LOADING DOCK - MORNING 9

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 Kathryn!

RETURN TO PRESENT

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

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.

11 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. OFFICE - DAY 11

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 faces 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.

12 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. HALLWAY - DAY 12

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. Stay here, and you'll  
die.

Dowd opens the glass exit door to the storm.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

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

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!

14 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY 14

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.

15 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY 15

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.

16 BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY 16

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.

17 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY

17

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.

18 BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY

18

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.

19 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ROAD - DAY

19

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.

20

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY

20

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 an elaborate mini screwdriver set out of his pocket, selects the unique fit, 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.

Amiri witnesses the supercell vaporize the crowd... but not everyone.

FADE TO BLACK.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

21 EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR - DAY 21

The storm has subsided.

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

22 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. NAVAL POLICE OFFICE - DAY 22

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.

23 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY 23

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.

It's one of many.

The wall is covered in the ash of the dead.

Teicher reaches out to touch it.

The shadow dissolves and scatters to the wind.

DOWD  
Doctor.

Teicher turns to Dowd and Amiri.

TEICHER  
How is it, we're still alive?

**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, our 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 to Dowd)  
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 then 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)  
Think about our son, Michael.

DOWD  
I am.

Amiri bends down and collects the Browning.

Dowd turns to see Amiri pointing the gun at him.

He turns to Teicher.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Doctor, that thing we saw.

TEICHER  
The Pied Piper.

DOWD  
Yeah, the Pied Piper.

Teicher considers the offer. He looks to the Commodore.  
There's no love there. He looks back to Dowd.

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.

24 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. BUNKER - DAY

24

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

25 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. PATH TO THE STAIRS - DAY 25

The dense red mist rushes forward, it rushes back.

It's an ocean of life, circling Dowd, Amiri and Teicher, present and aware of their presence.

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 waltz through the mist, joined at the hip, guns up and out with 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, not the existential.

DOWD

The 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 designer 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?

AMIRI

What's a fate worse than death?

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 very 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.

26 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. ARMOURY - DAY

26

Eid and Freisler wait outside.

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.

27 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DRYING ROOM - DAY

27

Amiri opens the door to a cavernous room.

A rush of air accompanies her.

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

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

What waits below is dark and creepy.

Amiri moves into the room.

The damp ground squishes underfoot.

She 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 pistol in one and the torch in the other.

An army of shadowy figures hangs suspended in the air.

Amiri stalls, paralyzed by the vision.

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.

They swing back and forth, disturbed by the incoming rush of air.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Swap.

Dowd takes point, gun up and out.

Amiri covers the rear then waits upon Teicher.

Teicher stalls.

AMIRI  
Doctor. Come on!

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 and breathing regulators.

In the distance, the feint sound of running water.

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's 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.

28 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. LOCKER ROOM - DAY 28

Dowd, Teicher and Amiri make their way through a darkened locker room, slow and silent, arriving at the source of the running water, the showers.

29 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. SHOWERS - DAY 29

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 of the cubicle, his wetsuit peeled to his waist.

Water pours over him.

Dowd turns off the tap.

DOWD

Rough day?

HUNT

What the fuck are you doing out of hyperbaric?

Dowd offers Hunt a hand up.

Hunt gets to his feet.

There is an embrace of sorts, an exchange, acknowledging both have survived.

DOWD

Where's Zarky and Wang?

HUNT

Dead.

DOWD

I saw them pull.

HUNT

They're dead.

DOWD

Did you look?

HUNT

I only had eyes for you, getting you to hyperbaric. If I'd hung around for search and rescue, Symsey would have beat me to death with a frickin' stick.

DOWD

Symsey's dead.

The news shocks Hunt.

HUNT

How?

Amiri and Teicher arrive at the doorway.

DOWD

Get dressed.

Dowd heads out.

30 INT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. CD OFFICES. OFFICE - DAY 30

Teicher sits in a chair. He closes his eyes and breathes out.

Amiri looks 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)

There was an incident with the  
Commodore and Lt. Commander Dowd.  
Serious.

Hunt starts loading magazines.

HUNT

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

AMIRI

I just got here.

HUNT

Context, Katheryn Freisler is  
Wudji's ex wife.

AMIRI

Wudji?

HUNT

Wudji, fuck me, I'm...Lt. Commander  
Dowd, and just in case you hadn't  
noticed...

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

DOWD

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

HUNT

No Boss.

DOWD

(To Amiri)

Don't worry about Commodore  
Freisler. I'll deal with 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.

TEICHER

What's at Waterhen?

DOWD

Dive Team One, guns, secure coms,  
maybe transport.

TEICHER

How do you know they haven't been  
hit too?

DOWD

We don't.

HUNT

How we getting there?

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 deal  
death to the enemy. You up for  
that?

HUNT

(To Dowd)

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

If either of you want to bug-out.

AMIRI

Good to go sir.

Teicher deliberates.

TEICHER

May I have a weapon?

Dowd offers Teicher, Babic's Browning pistol.

Teicher reaches for it. Dowd retracts the pistol.

DOWD

What were you really doing in the  
Dive school this morning?

Teicher pulls his best poker face.

TEICHER

Hiding. I got caught out in the  
open.

Dowd considers Teicher's response. He's not sold.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

I can't be taken prisoner. Do you  
understand?

DOWD

Yeah, I understand.

Dowd removes the magazine from the pistol, hands Teicher  
Babic's Browning, produces one spare round then raises the  
bullet to Teicher's face.

DOWD (CONT'D)

(Whispered)

Then you'll know what this is for.

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

31 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DIVE SCHOOL - DAY 31

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 down an external stairwell into a covered laneway.

32 LANEWAY 32

Amiri stops to pick up a pair of Navy pants discarded on the ground, then another. She looks back to Dowd then follows the trail of discarded clothing into the mist.

33 DOORWAY 33

Dowd holds the door, waiting for Teicher.

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 spots it.

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 arrives at the open doorway.

TEICHER

Where's Amiri?

34 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DIVE POOL - DAY 34

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!

35 DIVE POOL - UNDER THE WATER

35

Amiri, weighed down by kit, goes straight to the bottom.

She looks up, her vision blurred.

BODIES!

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

An electric blue ripple passes over them, illuminating the water, revealing their presence.

ALL EYES OPEN, fixed on Amiri.

They're full of stars.

Amiri freaks.

She shoots to the surface, discarding kit, clawing her way through the bodies and searching 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.

Dowd appears at the end of the rope.

Amiri reaches the side.

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

Amiri flies backwards towards the concrete.

Dowd catches her mid fall.

Blood spills from a gash on her forehead.

DOWD

Hey!

AMIRI

Our people!

DOWD

What?

AMIRI

They're in the pool!

HUNT (O.S.)

What the fuck is that!!!?

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

The creature, humanoid, translucent black and androgynous, 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.

The hair on his skin and everyone's neck rises.

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.

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...

An implosion of light and sound.

Water sprays over Dowd, Hunt, Amiri and Teicher.

It's gone.

All edge towards the water to look over the side. A wall of steam rises from the pool obscuring the view.

HUNT

What the fuck was that?

DOWD

Let's get em' out!

Amiri holds him back, best she can.

AMIRI  
No.

DOWD  
They're drowning!

AMIRI  
Wait!

HUNT  
Boss, listen!

Dowd turns.

AMIRI  
Shoot them. Shoot the bodies.

DOWD  
What?!

TEICHER  
They're not your people anymore,  
Commander.

Dowd, incredulous, hands his M4 and pistol to Amiri, draws a knife and wades into the shallows.

He grabs a discarded dive mask, poolside, dons it, then disappears under the water.

37 DIVE POOL - UNDER THE WATER 37

Dowd swims under the bodies and looks up.

Translucent black, glassy mannequins with stars for eyes, watch him, move towards him, close in on him.

He's seen enough.

He turns to leave when he comes face to face with Symes!

Not the Symes he knew. Something transforming, something terrifying, something focused on him.

38 DIVE POOL - POOLSIDE 38

Hunt, Teicher and Amiri wait poolside, anxiously.

He's gone too long.

Hunt hurriedly prepares to enter.

Dowd emerges on the other side.

They give him a lift out.

DOWD  
Give me the M4.

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

39 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. WHARF - DAY

39

Lt. Grant, (the shoeless and panicked officer) tries fruitlessly to pull-start a Zodiac boat.

Dowd, Hunt, Amiri and Teicher arrive at the wharf's ramp behind him.

DOWD  
What are you doing Lieutenant?

GRANT  
Did you shoot someone? I heard, I heard shooting.

DOWD  
What are you doing Lieutenant?

GRANT  
My family lives just the other side of the harbour.

Grant pulls the manual starter repeatedly.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
I can't get it to start.

DOWD  
You need to come with us.

GRANT  
No, my family...

DOWD  
We all have families, I have a son dying of cancer, but we swore an oath Lieutenant and we are at war.

Grant grabs the oars and begins to row.

GRANT  
No, no I can't. The Commodore is right behind me! They're coming for you Dowd, the Coxswains are with her. I won't have anything to do with a mutineer!

Grant rows out into the mist. They watch him go.

HUNT  
 (Half joking)  
 Should we shoot him?

DOWD  
 He's already dead, he doesn't know  
 it yet.

40 EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. WHARF - DAY 40

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!

41 EXT. ESPLANADE BEACH - DUSK 41

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.

He disappears into the mist.

42

THE SHORELINE

42

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 on to...

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 black on the sand 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.