

SENTIENT

**TEASER**

EXT. BALMORAL BEACH - NIGHT

The rippling rush and crush of sand and shell on shore.

SUPER: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

IN THE BREAKERS

The HARBINGER, a humanoid life form, translucent black and possessed of a pulsing blue aura, stands Poseidon-like against the smash of the waves.

She opens her eyes to survey this realm.

Her eyes are full of stars.

She drinks in the view, then begins her journey, striding towards a jetty, the feet-wet entrance of Sydney's Royal Australian Navy base, HMAS PENGUIN.

SUPER: WE ARE NOT HUMANS EXPERIENCING SPIRIT.

SUPER: WE ARE SPIRITS EXPERIENCING HUMAN.

FADE TO BLACK:

TITLE:

**SENTIENT**

**ACT ONE**

EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR - MORNING

A slip, slide and ride follow of a Royal Australian Navy (RAN) SEAL boat.

The sleek-black fast mover covers its rear in spray, drifting in and out of view until finally, we lock on to it and its helmsman, Lieutenant Commander Michael Dowd (DOWD).

Dowd is kitted-out in a dive suit, stripped to the waist.

Onboard, Wiradjuri man - Petty Officer Lachlan Hunt (HUNT), Dive Nurse - Lieutenant Symes (SYMES) and Clearance Diver twin sisters, THE WYNSTANS.

They pass by the HMAS Adelaide, an imposing amphibious landing ship.

Dowd looks to the Adelaide then back to his destination, a RAN minehunter floating in Middle Harbour.

Two RAAF fighter jets zoom low overhead.

INT. RAN PORT OPERATIONS BUILDING - MORNING

A ticker text streams across a muted TV news broadcast, 'Taiwan crisis.'

RAN STAFF stream back and forth.

WINDOW

The formidable figure of Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank (FRANK), watches the Adelaide prepare to deploy.

SUPER: VICE ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK

Commodore Kathryn Freisler (KAT), striking, strident, joins Frank at the window.

SUPER: COMMODORE KATHRYN FREISLER

KAT

Three hours.

FRANK

Too long Kat. Tell Jim, deploy now.  
We'll chopper the ordinance to him.

Frank's ADJUTANT approaches, satphone in hand.

ADJUTANT  
Admiral, Lieutenant Commander Dowd.

Kat seizes the phone.

KAT  
Give it to me.  
(To Dowd)  
Mr Dowd.

DOWD (V.O.)  
(Over phone)  
Commodore.

KAT  
Is it a mine?

DOWD (V.O.)  
(Over phone)  
My people have eyes on it now.

KAT  
Verify it with your own eyes and  
report back.

DOWD (V.O.)  
(Over phone)  
Kat, there's a cruise liner...

KAT  
(Whispered)  
Report back Mr Dowd.

Kat dismisses Dowd and hands the satphone back.

KAT (CONT'D)  
(To Frank's Adjutant)  
Get me the Commander of the  
Adelaide.

EXT. MIDDLE HARBOUR - MORNING

Dowd's SEAL boat performs a semi-circle, bleed of speed,  
pulling up beside the RAN Minehunter.

Dowd and the Wynstans prepare for the dive. Symes, their dive  
nurse, performs a last minute med check.

Dowd and Hunt look to a cruise liner bearing down on them.

HUNT  
They can't make that.

DOWD  
Eyes on?

HUNT  
Wang and Zarky.

DOWD  
(To the Wynstans)  
Stand down.

THE WYNSTANS  
Boss!

DOWD  
You can't make it.

Dowd prepares for the dive. Symes helps him.

SYMES  
(To Dowd)  
Nor can you.

#### BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Minehunter floats above, silhouetted against the azure.

Dowd pierces the water and begins his descent.

#### LATER

Dowd descends towards the ocean floor.

A mounted display embedded in his diver's helmet reveals a dimly lit, look-down view of two Divers on the ocean floor.

Text appears on Dowd's helmet display, 'ENHANCE.'

The view enhances until Dowd sees Navy Clearance Divers WANG and ZARK, now fully visible, hovering over a long cylindrical mine.

Dowd hears his divers communicating to one another using VOX (voice underwater coms).

WANG  
Feels like...

ZARK  
Steady.

WANG  
It's an EM-52.

ZARK  
Yeah.

WANG  
Where's Wudji?

A text appears on Dowd's helmet display, 'VOX WHISPER MODE'

DOWD

I see you.

Wang and Zark look up.

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

WANG

Live ordinance.

A stream of bubbles emits from the mine's tail.

ZARK

Whoa.

Dowd sees Wang and Zark recoil.

The mine takes off, circles Dowd then pierces through the darkness.

All three hear the dull thump of an approaching vessel's prop as it churns through the water above.

DOWD

Boys, pull the pony.

WANG

You sure Boss?

DOWD

Pull the pony!!!

Dowd, Wang and Zark deploy their buoyancy units and shoot to the surface.

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

The compression ring from the explosion heads straight at them. The ring envelopes them in light and bubble.

Dowd makes it. Wang and Zark's bodies are cast to the abyss.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. JETTY - MORNING

The SEAL boat hurtles towards the jetty through a newly arrived storm front, Hunt at the helm, Symes scissor-slicing open Dowd's wet suit.

Dowd is laid low doing the 'funky chicken' from the bends.

Hunt near mounts the SEAL boat on the wharf's ramp.

Navy Doctor, CAPTAIN EUGENE and the SUMU MEDICAL STAFF race to them with a stretcher.

CAPTAIN EUGENE  
Go, go, go!

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. SYDNEY. SUBURBAN FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Under eighteens' North Sydney Bears (BEARS) prepare to battle bitter rivals, the Newtown Jets (JETS).

Dowd searches a crowd of rugby league FANS for a face.

TOBIAS, a strapping teen in a Bears' jersey approaches Dowd.

TOBIAS  
What do ya think?

Tobias turns to reveal 'TOBIAS DOWD' and the number, '2' on the back of his jersey.

DOWD  
Schmick.

Tobias grins ear to ear.

TOBIAS  
Is mom here?

DOWD  
She'll be here.

MOSES, one of the Bears, calls out to Dowd from the Bear prayer huddle, (a pre-match prayer session).

MOSES  
Mr Dowd?

DOWD  
(To Tobias)  
Go ahead. I'll join you.

Tobias heads to the prayer huddle.

Dowd, not confident, continues to search the crowd.

RETURN TO PRESENT

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. RCC. HYPERBARIC CHAMBER - DAY

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

The narrow entry to the hyperbaric chamber is open. Seaspray spits into the chamber. The rush of the tide is right outside the door.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. RCC - DAY

Dowd emerges from the hyperbaric chamber into the RCC (Recompression Chamber Control Room) wearing a cross around his neck and little else.

A howling wind rakes the building. Every alarm in the city is going off.

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

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

SUPER: HMAS PENGUIN

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 panel and hits the 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.

The tidal surge smashes against the outside of the roller shutter door then retreats.

With the door closed a new light source is revealed. The pulsating light illuminates the room, accompanied by a hum like a Tibetan singing bowl.

Dowd traces the light and sound to a mobile phone lying next to Symes, Dowd's Dive Nurse from the SEAL boat.

Symes lies on the floor, her long red hair unfurled, blood flowing from her eyes, ears and mouth.

Dowd drops to her side.

DOWD  
Symes? Symesy?

He unclips her radio and turns up the volume.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
 (Into radio)  
 Xray One, this is...

As Dowd radios, his eyes lock on to the door connecting the RCC to the dive school. It's open. It shouldn't be. The door creaks back and forth, revealing a dark corridor beyond.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
 (Into radio)  
 Whiskey One-One how do you read?

A haze of static broadcasts from the radio.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
 (Into radio)  
 Xray One, this is Whiskey.

Symes raises a hand to Dowd's chest.

SYMES  
 Wudji.

DOWD  
 Symsey, what happened?

SYMES  
 Tan...Tan...

DOWD  
 Tango? Tango?!

Dowd alarmed, looks again to the open door leading to the Dive School.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
 (Into radio)  
 Any call sign, any call sign,  
 contact, contact, contact, this is  
 Whiskey One-One, loc stat RCC.

Dowd lifts his finger off the button. Static.

Symes' body begins to convulse violently.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
 Wait, Symsey wait.

Dowd plants the radio and reaches for Symes' phone.

SYMES  
 No!

A shock rips through Dowd's body accompanied by a high pitched shrill. Dowd recoils in pain.

Symes flatlines.

DOWD  
Symes? Symesy?

Dowd fights through the pain. He opens Symes' mouth and places his head sideways next to her face, checking for breathing. He rests his hand on her chest. Nothing.

Dowd 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.

He tosses it, raises himself up and commences CPR.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Symesy!!!

Dowd continues, over and over again, pressing down on Symes' chest until crack! Symes' ribs snap.

Panting, dripping with sweat and still in the throes of recompression, Dowd looks again, to the creaking door connecting the RCC to the Dive School.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. HALLWAY - DAY

The alarms stop, all of them. Pandemonium surrenders to the roar of the storm.

A flickering red emergency light illuminates the hallway.

Dowd backs in through the door of the Dive School carrying Symes in his arms.

The door recoils to auto shut. Dowd stops it with his foot, leaving it to rest on its latch bolt.

Dowd waits, watches and listens.

Nothing.

He proceeds through the rabbit warren of offices, searching for life, gaining momentum as he goes until...

Dowd stops dead in his tracks.

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

The bodies have phones. The phones glow and hum in-sync bathing the hallway in a pulsing light.

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

Dowd rolls-back one of the bodies.

It's Navy Doctor, Captain Eugene, his SUMU responder.

He's dead.

Dowd searches the pile for life when the door to the hallway, the one he left resting on its latch bolt, slams shut behind him.

A gust of wind sends a flurry of papers scampering across the floor. Dowd wishes he'd locked that door now.

Dowd releases Captain Eugene's body and turns.

A constellation of slow, swirling stars hovers in the darkness. The stars are hypnotic.

Dowd stands, captivated by the view before him.

He approaches then reaches out to touch the mini constellation.

An electric blue arc gently passes from the constellation to Dowd's fingers.

He pushes deeper into the mini constellation.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HOSPITAL. ROOM - NIGHT

Dowd's son Tobias, now bedridden and deathly ill wakes to see his reflection in a mirrored wardrobe.

He turns to see a blurred vision of his parents Dowd and Kat, arguing at the open door to his room.

DOWD

He doesn't want it Kat.

KAT

Because of religious nonsense you put in his head.

DOWD

No, it's his decision. We should respect that.

KAT

He doesn't get to make that decision.

DOWD

Who then?

KAT

I do Michael, his mother. He came  
from my womb, he's my child.

DOWD

Do I get a say in this?

KAT

You gave up that right when you  
left me for her.

DOWD

I didn't leave you for her Kat, I  
left you.

RETURN TO PRESENT

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. HALLWAY - DAY

Dowd snaps back, jarred by the haunting memory seen through  
his son's eyes.

He looks to his hand then abruptly retracts it from the  
swirling constellation before him. As he does a pulsing blue  
aura ripples over a towering female form before him.

It's the Harbinger. The constellation is her heart.

Her eyes open and they are full of stars.

She looks to Dowd.

Dowd steps back, shaking his head.

Dowd's mouth falls open. His eyes are wide as saucers.

DOWD

No.

He looks back to the pile of bodies behind him and again to  
the Harbinger.

DOWD (CONT'D)

No.

The Harbinger reaches out to touch Dowd.

Dowd, freaked, backs into a glass-pane office door. The door  
flings open.

DOWD (CONT'D)

No!

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. OFFICE - DAY

Dowd backs inside. The door slams shut.

He jams a chair under the handle. It won't fit. He tosses the chair and backs away.

Dowd grabs a fire extinguisher from the wall and raises it as a weapon.

He's shaking head to toe, weapon raised, ready to strike.

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

Breathing.

He's not alone. Dowd pivots violently.

Dr Amon Teicher (TEICHER), a scientist wearing a Hazmat protective suit minus the headgear, comes faces to face with a man about to smash in his skull in with a fire extinguisher.

Teicher raises a hand to stay Dowd then points a single finger back at the door.

Dowd turns back to the glass-pane door. The Harbinger approaches from the other side.

The Harbinger, distorted, peers through the opaque pane.

Dowd raises the extinguisher and edges towards the door.

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

Dowd looks to the hand on his shoulder then to Teicher. Teicher, fearful, removes his hand and steps back.

Dowd turns back to the door but the Harbinger has vanished.

Dowd's eye-line is momentarily distracted by a blue-green disruptive pattern Navy uniform hanging next to the door.

Dowd's nickname 'Wudji' is pinned to the uniform.

Dowd looks back to the door.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. HALLWAY - DAY

Dowd bursts into the hallway, fire extinguisher raised.

Nothing. He scans the darkness. The hallway shudders with the wind. Dowd looks back to where Symes was. She's gone.

He paces towards the exit. Again, Dowd stops dead in his tracks. The bodies piled up against the exit doors have disappeared.

The storm outside rages past the glass doors.

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

Teicher, wheeling an oxygen cylinder, arrives behind Dowd. Just like Dowd, Teicher stops dead in his tracks.

Both men stare in disbelief into the same empty space.

DOWD  
Who are you?

TEICHER  
I work for Senninger.

DOWD  
Defense Industries? The bio weapons lab?

TEICHER  
I'm not at liberty to...

Dowd turns, snatching Teicher's lanyard.

DOWD  
Teicher? Amon Teicher?

TEICHER  
Doctor Amon Teicher.

DOWD  
What are you doing here Doctor?

TEICHER  
Who's asking?

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

TEICHER  
I was on an errand.

Dowd walks Teicher backward.

DOWD  
Here at the Dive School?!

TEICHER  
Yes!

DOWD  
Wearing a Hazmat suit?!!

Teicher stands his ground.

TEICHER  
Yes!!!

Dowd walks around him back to the office, eyes on Teicher all the way then returns with his uniform and boots. He ditches the overalls and gets dressed. It's a struggle, his impetus defeated by his nitrogen sickness.

Dowd looks out to the storm.

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  
It has our people!

Dowd staggers, steadying himself against a wall.

TEICHER  
You can't help them. You can't help  
yourself.

Dowd, defiant, makes for the glass exit doors.

TEICHER (CONT'D)  
Where are you, where are you going?

The storm beyond the doors is deafening. It heaves back and forth, an angry red sea. Dowd grabs the door, ready to open.

TEICHER (CONT'D)  
That thing...

DOWD  
Was a scout. More will come.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. ROAD - DAY

The red storm rages. Witches hats and road signage take flight.

Lieutenant Grant (GRANT), a portly administrative officer in summer whites, battles his way forward.

In the distance, he sees his objective, a crowd of Navy personnel (CROWD) massing around the entry to a bunker.

He looks up to check on the progress of the black, swirling supercell moving into place over Sydney only to lodge a shoe in an open drain.

Grant frantically tries to dislodge the shoe.

Able Seaman Che Amiri (AMIRI), Medic patch on her shoulder, noobie look on her face, fronts, takes one look at the drain then makes for a nearby construction site.

GRANT

Able Seaman, get back here now!

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

The site is littered with barrels and building materials tossed like tumbleweeds.

Scaffolding fronting a building groans and shudders under the heaving wind. Rivets begin to make their way loose.

Amiri searches the tray of a ute (utility truck). The ute rocks back and forth, crabbing its way sideways at her.

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

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. ROAD - DAY

Amiri bolts across the road back to Grant and plunges the crowbar into the adjacent storm drain cover.

She levers it with all her might but the cover won't budge. Amiri gets down on all fours and unties Grant's shoelace.

AMIRI

Lose the shoe!

Grant rips out the socked foot then looks up to see the 'crabbing sideways' ute, flip, take flight, and head straight for them.

Grant bolts for the bunker. He's not looking back.

Amiri looks up to see the ute slam into the wall, trapping her crouched in the tray space. The ute's tray flaps back and forth wildly against the wall.

BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY

Amiri spots Grant running for his life.

AMIRI  
You're shitting me!!!

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. NEW OFFICE SPACE - DAY

A concrete tomb.

A lone metal desk bears witness to the fury of the red storm outside.

The door flings open dispatching a flurry of concrete dust.

Dowd appears silhouetted at the entrance.

He staggers in then slides down, back to a wall, his face drawn, blood weeping from his eyes and nose.

Teicher follows, wheeling his oxygen cylinder behind him.

He locks the door.

Teicher drops the now 'red-empty on the gauge' cylinder to the floor then slides down opposite Dowd.

He removes his mask, wipes the blood weeping from his eyes and nose then zeroes in on Dowd.

TEICHER  
What did it show you?

That revelation gets Dowd's attention.

TEICHER (CONT'D)  
I can tell.

DOWD  
Because it showed you.

TEICHER  
Yes. Tell me.

DOWD  
You first.

TEICHER  
A ghost of Christmas past.

DOWD  
A memory?

TEICHER  
Not mine. Someone else's.

DOWD  
Whose?

TEICHER  
Someone I once cared for. Someone  
now passed. I saw what they saw.

Teicher ponders the haunting impact of what he saw.

TEICHER (CONT'D)  
It was quite the revelation. What  
did it show you Commander?

DOWD  
What were you doing in the Dive  
school, Doctor?

The question amuses Teicher.

TEICHER  
It knows us. It knows you. What  
manner of creature knows these  
things?

Dowd gets to his feet.

DOWD  
Get up.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. ROAD - DAY

Dowd and Teicher emerge into the storm.

The storm's supercell approaches.

They spot the bunker and the panicked Crowd of Navy personnel  
massing at the entry.

Dowd and Teicher proceed to the bunker, passing by an  
overturned ute, its tray flapping back and forth against a  
wall.

AMIRI (O.S.)  
Sir! Sirs!!

Dowd looks back but can't find the voice.

BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY

Amiri, crouched, spots Dowd and Teicher looking around.

AMIRI

In here!!!

Amiri sees Dowd crouch, assess then disappear from view.

Dowd reappears, rolling a drum towards the gap between the flapping ute tray and the wall.

ROAD

Dowd calls on Teicher's help with the drum.

DOWD

(To Teicher)

Grab hold.

Teicher looks up at the storm 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...

CONSTRUCTION SITE

Champagne pops! Rivets take flight, shattering a window and spraying the street.

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.

ROAD

Dowd yanks Teicher 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, cartwheeling through the air, straight through the underbelly of the ute.

BEHIND THE FLAPPING UTE TRAY

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

Amiri looks on in horror then spots gasoline spilling at her feet.

ROAD

Dowd and Teicher witness gasoline rush out and over their shoes.

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

The speared ute, stops flapping and begins waggling side to side, still making an exit impossible for Amiri.

Dowd taps Teicher on the shoulder to coordinate the roll of the drum into the space between the ute tray and the wall.

DOWD  
Now!

In it goes and the waggle stops.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Jump!

Amiri springs out. Dowd waltzes her forward.

Dowd, Teicher and Amiri run 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.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. BUNKER - DAY

The fearful Crowd of Navy personnel including the one-shoed Grant, jam around the entry to the concrete bunker's blast door.

The formidable figure of Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank stands over a security panel attempting to gain entry. Frank's eye is drawn to the ute explosion then to the thing above it.

The supercell is right on top of them.

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

Overhead, a security camera peers over the crowd. Frank looks to the camera but there is no respite.

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

FRANK

Michael!

Dowd fights his way through the crowd. Amiri and Teicher tail him. The storm's intensity grows, tearing a roof off a nearby building.

DOWD

Sir.

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

FRANK

Code!

Dowd punches in his code then steps back. The entry remains sealed. Dowd looks back to Frank.

Teicher steps up to the 'Senninger Defense Industries' labeled panel, looks to the camera then back to Dowd and Frank.

TEICHER

This panel is connected to 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 stabs his finger at the brass Senninger Defense Industries' commissioning plaque.

DOWD

Your company built this!

The supercell is upon them. The crowd cries out in panic.

The storm's eye passes over them, eclipsing the light, causing the street lights to flicker, spark to life then burst.

Suddenly, silence. The crowd is spooked.

AMIRI  
(Whispered)  
What's happening?

The hum grows and intensifies. The ground shakes, buildings rattle. The panicked crowd cover their ears in pain then...

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

Amiri witnesses the supercell vaporize the crowd yet she remains untouched.

EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR - DAY

The storm has subsided.

A sinister red mist shrouds the harbour city.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. COXSWAINS' OFFICE - DAY

Police Coxswain - Leading Seaman Jasar Eid (EID) lies back to the wall, zombie-staring into the red mist beyond the window.

Police Coxswain - Leading Seaman Igor Babic (BABIC) staggers past Eid, double-patting Eid's balding noggin.

Babic lifts a phone handset to his ear ready to punch in a number on the keypad when a bloody hand slaps onto the window.

Kat stands before them on the other side of the glass, her mane of black hair matted, her face covered in blood.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. BUNKER - DAY

Halyards clang from vessels unseen. The tide rushes 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 of the survivors and...

Bang, bang, bang.

Frank hammers his shoe heel, Nikita Khrushchev style, against the bunker door.

FRANK (O.S.)  
Open this door!

Dowd, vision hazy, senses dulled, gets to his feet and makes his way to Frank. Broken glass crunches under-foot.

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

DOWD  
Able Seaman.

Bang, bang, bang.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Able Seaman.

Dowd kneels beside her and looks at her name tag.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
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 Frank. Dowd steadies Amiri, still shaky on her feet. They come upon 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  
Why are we 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, 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 (CONT'D)  
Let me take a look at that.

FRANK  
They won't open the door.

KAT (O.S.)  
Vice Admiral Frank.

Dowd turns to discover Kat and Police Coxswains.

Kat pushes past Dowd to Frank.

KAT (CONT'D)  
(To Frank)  
Deakin?

Frank is lost in space. Kat turns to the Survivors then back to the bunker and Frank.

KAT (CONT'D)  
Why didn't they just go inside?

DOWD  
They couldn't.

KAT  
(To Frank)  
Deakin? Do you recognize me? Can you speak?

(To the Coxswains)  
Bear witness, Admiral Frank is incapable of command.

(To the Survivors)  
Listen up! You will work to the instructions of the Coxswains.

DOWD  
Kat.

KAT  
(To the Survivors)  
We will secure the base and  
undertake an audit of the storm  
damage.

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

KAT  
(To the Survivors)  
SUMU will attend to the injured.

DOWD  
It was a first strike! You know  
what comes next.

Kat turns to the Coxswains then back to Dowd.

KAT  
Do you defy me?

DOWD  
Defy you?

Teicher steps in to head off conflict.

TEICHER  
Commodore, my name is.

KAT  
I know who you are Mr Teicher.

TEICHER  
It wasn't a storm.

KAT  
Let me stop you right there.

TEICHER  
It was a quantum weapon.

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

TEICHER  
I doubt your scientific knowledge  
extends to...

KAT  
There is no doubt Doctor.

DOWD  
Kat.

KAT  
 (To Dowd)  
 Are you refusing to obey my orders?

TEICHER  
 Commodore, I have a Stanford-Binet  
 verified IQ of one fifty six.

Dowd reaches out to touch Kat's hand.

DOWD  
 Listen to me.

BABIC  
 Step away from the Commodore!!

Dowd turns to the Coxswains, hand raised to placate them.

DOWD  
 Calm down.  
 (To Kat)  
 You have to get these people off  
 the X.

BABIC  
 Last chance!

DOWD  
 Calm down!

KAT  
 Coxswains, did you bring cuffs?

EID  
 Yes Ma'am.

DOWD  
 (To Kat)  
 You need to trust me.

KAT  
 We're well beyond trust Michael.  
 (To Babic and Eid)  
 Coxswains.

BABIC AND EID  
 Ma'am.

KAT  
 Arrest them.

Eid proceeds to Dowd.

Bang, bang, bang.

FRANK (O.S.)  
 Open this door!

DOWD  
 (To Kat)  
 What are you doing Kat?

Amiri and Teicher exchange looks of shock.

KAT  
 Do it now Mr Eid!

EID  
 (To Dowd)  
 Hands!

Dowd focused on Kat, ignores Eid.

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

EID (CONT'D)  
 I'll see those hands Mr Dowd!

Dowd offers his hands, palms face to the sky.

Eid reaches for his cuffs.

Dowd looks to Kat, advance notice of what's coming.

KAT  
 Mr Dowd!

Too late. 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.

Babic fumbles for his sidearm.

BABIC  
 I'll shoot.

He'd best get his gun out first.

Dowd wrenches Eid's Browning out of his hand then empties the spent cartridge.

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

Dowd points Eid's Browning at Babic. Babic takes aim at Dowd.

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

DOWD  
 (To Amiri)  
 Able Seaman.

AMIRI

Sir?

DOWD

Take the Coxswain's weapon.

AMIRI

Excuse me?

DOWD

He'll give it to you. Take it.

KAT

Mr Dowd!

Amiri takes one tepid step towards Babic. Babic switches aim to Amiri.

DOWD

Bang.

Babic looks back to Dowd and the eyes of a stone-cold killer.

DOWD (CONT'D)

I'll see that weapon at your feet  
Mr Babic. Now.

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

Dowd gently lowers Eid to the ground, walks up to Babic then kicks his Browning to Amiri. Amiri traps it under foot.

AMIRI

Sir?

DOWD

Relax, he left the safety on.

AMIRI

That's not what I'm worried about.

Dowd spots a tote bag on Babic.

DOWD

I'll take the tote too.

Babic hands it over. Dowd stows Eid's Browning, safety on, back of his pants and makes his way to Kat.

A view from the hip of Dowd's approach reveals Kat's hand dangerously close to her weapon.

Dowd gets into kissing distance of Kat, reaches down, unbuttons her holster then takes her weapon.

Amiri bends down and collects Babic's Browning.

Dowd turns to see Amiri, conflicted, pointing the gun at him.

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

Teicher considers Dowd's proposition.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Yes or no?

TEICHER  
Alright.

Dowd throws Babic's tote bag to Teicher then turns to Amiri. He doesn't say a word. Amiri lowers the weapon.

DOWD  
It wasn't a storm.

KAT  
I will see you court-martialed for this.

Dowd looks to the confused survivors then back to Kat.

DOWD  
Just for once, I wish you would listen to me.

KAT  
Not to you. You're dead to me.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. BUNKER - DAY

A massive room, hollowed-out into a cliff.

A widescreen monitor displays a look-down view of Dowd and Kat outside.

A shadowy FIGURE views the monitor.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. PATH TO THE DIVE SCHOOL STAIRS - DAY

Dowd and Amiri escort Teicher through the mist, guns up and out. The mist shape-shifts and encircles them.

Dowd slaps a hand on Amiri's shoulder.

DOWD  
(Whispered)  
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...

DOWD  
(Whispered)  
Keep your voice down!

AMIRI  
(Whispered)  
If you know the way, why don't you  
take point?

DOWD  
Because I don't want you shot in  
the back.

TEICHER  
Did we leave on good terms? I  
forget.

DOWD  
Start your count.

They edge forward, joined at the hip, searching for threat in each wisp of the wind.

DOWD (CONT'D)  
Doctor.

TEICHER  
Commander.

DOWD  
What of your question?

TEICHER  
Which question?

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, whatever that was...

TEICHER  
Wasn't human.

AMIRI  
Wasn't? Did you say wasn't?

DOWD  
(To Amiri)  
Step count?

AMIRI  
Nineteen.

DOWD  
Do you have an answer?

TEICHER  
For the science perhaps, not the  
existential.

DOWD  
The science works.

TEICHER  
Pharaoh refused to set his Hebrew  
slaves free.

AMIRI  
This is the science?

DOWD  
Step count?!

AMIRI

Twenty seven.

TEICHER

So God visited a series of plagues upon Egypt to punish, 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 mark their doors with the blood of lambs so the angel of death would pass over. The storm, our storm, contained something. It entered us, interrogated, painted us, some for death and others, like those poor souls taken by that thing, for something else.

AMIRI

Thing?

DOWD

Step count.

AMIRI

Forty.

DOWD

How? How did it interrogate us?!

TEICHER

Best guess? It read our DNA.

DOWD

Stop!... Amiri!

Amiri comes to an abrupt stop!

AMIRI

Sir.

DOWD

There's a precipice.

Amiri feels her way forward with her toes. She arrives at the very edge of a steep set of stairs descending to the Dive School.

AMIRI

Yeah, we're here.

DOWD

Doctor.

TEICHER

Commander.

DOWD

You don't strike me as a man of faith.

TEICHER

The word your looking for is observant.

DOWD

That thing, that wasn't God.

TEICHER

No, it was not but if it's what I think it is, well, you've just seen what it's capable of.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. COXSWAINS' OFFICE - DAY

Kat leans forward, staring out into the mist. Her hands grip the reception desk, grip it so hard she could snap it in two.

Babic returns from the armoury with two F88 Austeyr rifles and a pistol. He retains one rifle and hands the other to Eid, along with a stash of magazines.

BABIC

Let's go.

KAT

Wait.

BABIC

Ma'am, the longer we...

KAT

Wait!!

Frank's Adjutant fronts at the open door to the office.

ADJUTANT

Ma'am.

KAT

Where have you been?!

ADJUTANT

SUMU.

KAT

The Admiral is your responsibility  
Lieutenant.

ADJUTANT

That's why I went to SUMU.  
Ma'am, if Lieutenant Commander Dowd  
is correct, we need to evacuate the  
survivors ASAP and allow Dowd's  
team to prosecute whatever defense  
of the base they deem appropriate.

KAT

And?

ADJUTANT

Excuse me ma'am?

KAT

SUMU, where are the SUMU medical  
staff you went for?

ADJUTANT

No one was there ma'am.

BABIC

Ma'am, we can't let Dowd get away  
with that.

KAT

(To Frank's Adjutant)  
No one?

ADJUTANT

No ma'am. No one.

BABIC

He humiliated your command!

ADJUTANT

Ma'am, what's the priority here?

KAT

The priority is whatever I say it  
is Lieutenant!

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. DRYING ROOM - DAY

Amiri opens the door to a cavernous space.

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 inside is unknown.

Amiri moves into the room. The damp ground squishes underfoot.

She turns back to Teicher to pull a torch from Babic'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 with fear.

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

DOWD  
(Whispered)  
Shhhh. It's 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.

Teicher enters with the caution of a cat.

Meanwhile, Dowd vanishes 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 faint sound of running water.

Amiri, 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 room.

Amiri and Teicher follow.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

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.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. SHOWERS - DAY

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

Petty Officer Lachlan Hunt sits on the floor of the cubicle, his wetsuit peeled to his waist.

Water pours over him. Dowd turns the tap off.

DOWD  
Rough day?

HUNT  
What the fuck are you doing out of hyperbaric?

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

DOWD  
Where's Zarky and Wang?

HUNT

Dead.

DOWD

I saw them pull.

HUNT

They're dead.

DOWD

Did you look?

HUNT

Look where?! The harbour was full of bodies.

DOWD

The cruise liner or the Adelaide?

HUNT

The liner. That fucker cracked its back. Harbour was blood, shit and vomit as far as the eye could see. Then the sharks came.

DOWD

Why'd you come back?

HUNT

For you, you thankless shit! 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 stick... What of Symesy?

Dowd spots Amiri and Teicher arrive at the doorway.

DOWD

(To Hunt)

Get dressed.

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. REC ROOM - DAY

Teicher takes a seat, surveys his surroundings and considers his options.

Amiri discovers a wall of photos, Clearance Diver heroes from the past. She's all wide-eyed and fan girl.

Hunt fronts, dressed in a Clearance Diver's blue green disruptive pattern uniform and places two M4 assault rifles and two Heckler & Koch pistols on a table.

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 the next Dive School  
intake list.

AMIRI  
Yes Sir.

HUNT  
You want to be a Clearance Diver?

Hunt lets that hang for a moment.

AMIRI  
I guess, given the events of today,  
what I want isn't important  
anymore.

Dowd turns up carry a stash of magazines and webbing.

DOWD  
A position may have become  
available.

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

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

HUNT  
The Wynstans brought them up from  
Waterhen.

DOWD  
Where are the Wynstans?

Dowd reaches for the refrigerator door.

HUNT  
Dead.

The news momentarily stalls Dowd. He continues, opening the  
fridge, grabbing a stack of bottled water and tossing 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 gives it to Hunt. Teicher pulls out a flashbang.

HUNT  
Nine-banger.

Hunt tosses the flashbang to Amiri.

AMIRI  
What am I supposed to do with this?

HUNT  
Surprise me.

TEICHER  
There's a torch and these.

Teicher holds up four containers of pepper spray.

HUNT  
(To Teicher)  
Lipstick. You can keep that.

DOWD  
(To Teicher)  
That's not lipstick.

HUNT  
What's the plan?

DOWD  
Get to Waterhen.

TEICHER  
What's at Waterhen?

DOWD  
Dive Team One.

TEICHER  
Your crack team?

DOWD  
Yes.

TEICHER  
What if they're all dead?

Dowd and Hunt don't grace Teicher's question with a response.

HUNT  
How go?

DOWD  
Sailboat, fin if we have to.

HUNT  
Then?

DOWD  
(To Hunt)  
Then, we round up every web-footed,  
door-kicker we can find and fuck  
up the enemy's shit.

HUNT  
(To Dowd)  
What about these two?

DOWD  
(To Amiri)  
Able Seaman.

AMIRI  
Sir?

DOWD  
How long have you been a Medic?

AMIRI  
This is my first day.

DOWD  
Doctor.

TEICHER  
Commander.

DOWD  
Either of you want to bug out?

AMIRI

Good to go sir.

TEICHER

May I have a weapon?

Dowd considers then offers Teicher, Eid's Browning pistol. Teicher reaches for it. Dowd retracts the pistol.

DOWD

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

Teicher puts on his best poker face.

TEICHER

Hiding. I got caught out in the storm.

Dowd's not sold. Teicher tries another play. He's scrambling.

TEICHER (CONT'D)

My work with Senninger Defense Industries is, in the event this is a sophisticated Chinese ploy, I can't be taken prisoner, you understand?

DOWD

I understand.

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

DOWD (CONT'D)

Then you'll know what this is for.

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

**END OF ACT THREE**

ACT FOUR

INT. HMAS PENGUIN. COXSWAINS' OFFICE - DAY

Babic and Eid wait, weapons-ready.

Frank's Adjutant attends to Frank.

BATHROOM

A skylight provides just enough light for Kat to view her appearance in a mirror.

She wipes away the blood from her face, brushes her hair and gets in character.

COXSWAINS' OFFICE

Kat exits the bathroom and approaches Frank's Adjutant attending to Frank.

KAT  
Lieutenant.

ADJUTANT  
Ma'am.

KAT  
Arrange transport for the Admiral.

ADJUTANT  
None of the vehicles work ma'am.

Kat holsters a new pistol.

KAT  
You figure it out.  
(To Coxswains)  
Coxswains, on me.

Kat and the Coxswains head out into the mist.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. REAR EXIT - DAY

Late afternoon.

Hunt, assault rifle raised, emerges through a door to a view of a covered walkway running between two rows of buildings.

HUNT  
Clear.

Dowd emerges holding the door for Amiri to pass through.

DOWD  
Next waypoint.

AMIRI  
Sir.

Amiri continues on down an external stairwell to the walkway.

DOWD  
Gun up Able Seaman.

AMIRI  
Sir.

Amiri disappears into the mist.

Dowd and Hunt wait for Teicher.

DOWD  
Doctor?

HUNT  
Where is this guy?

#### COVERED WALKWAY

Amiri passes by a selection of Navy uniforms discarded on the ground. She stops to pick up a pair of pants then follows a trail of discarded clothing into the mist.

#### REAR EXIT

Dowd and Hunt wait for Teicher.

The mist parts just enough to reveal a view of Balmoral Beach and a catamaran beached on the shore.

Dowd spots it.

DOWD  
Check it.

Hunt turns to view the cat.

HUNT  
Belongs to one of the locals.

DOWD  
That's our ride.

Teicher arrives at the open doorway.

TEICHER  
Where's the Able Seaman?

COVERED WALKWAY

Dowd, Hunt and Teicher search for Amiri.

DOWD  
(Whispered)  
Amiri?

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN NAVY BASE. DIVE POOL - DAY

Light shafts pierce through a wall of rising steam and settling red mist.

Amiri proceeds forward but can't see shit.

Footsteps approach.

AMIRI  
Commander? Sir?

DOWD (O.S.)  
Amiri?

AMIRI  
Over here.

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

AMIRI  
A what?

Too late. Amiri walks backwards over the edge and into, SPLASH!

DIVE POOL - UNDER THE WATER

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

She looks up. Bodies!

The pool is full of blackened, fragmenting 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.

Their eyes are full of stars.

Amiri freaks.

She shoots to the surface, clawing her way through the bodies, 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.

DIVE POOL - POOLSIDE

Dowd appears at the end of the rope.

Amiri scrambles over the edge. Dowd and Hunt give her a lift.

AMIRI DOWD  
Our people! Our people are... Calm down!

AMIRI (CONT'D)  
They're in the pool!

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

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

The Harbinger appears in the shallows of the pool.

Her arms spread revealing wings, massive in span, translucent in appearance.

Everything that can vibrate, hums in its presence.

It's spooling up, ready to strike.

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

Hunt takes aim.

TEICHER  
Don't shoot!

Dowd joins Hunt poolside, weapon raised, targeting the Harbinger.

DOWD  
Give me a reason Doctor!

TEICHER  
Listen!

Dowd edges closer to 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!

A flashbang flies through the air towards the Harbinger.

AMIRI

Frag-out!!!

Dowd and Hunt tackle Teicher to the ground.

The flashbang explodes shocking the Harbinger, sending it reeling. Dowd and Hunt get to their feet and open up with their M4s.

They empty their entire mags.

Hunt drops his spent mag, reloads and keeps firing.

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

Amiri joins Dowd firing her pistol at the Harbinger until...

An implosion of light and sound.

Water sprays over Dowd, Hunt, Amiri and Teicher.

The Harbinger's dead body lies crumpled against the cement wall guarding the pool.

All edge towards it.

HUNT

What the fuck is that?!

Dowd looks to the water of the dive pool. A wall of steam obscures the view.

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?!

AMIRI  
They're not our people any more.

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

DIVE POOL - UNDER THE WATER

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.

DIVE POOL - POOLSIDE

Hunt, Teicher and Amiri wait poolside, anxiously.

Dowd has been gone too long.

Hunt hurriedly prepares to enter.

Dowd emerges on the other side.

They give him a lift out.

Dowd takes Hunt's M4, pauses then empties the magazine into the pool.

Dowd discards the M4, drops to one knee and covers his mouth. Tears stream from his eyes. He's ready to snap.

Hunt rests a hand on Dowd's shoulder.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. JETTY - DAY

Dowd, Hunt, Amiri and Teicher make their way to the jetty's ramp. They come upon Grant, the one-shoed, panicked officer, trying fruitlessly to pull-start a Zodiac boat.

GRANT  
I heard shooting.

Dowd and Hunt, guns raised just look at him.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
My family lives on 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 Lieutenant.

Grant grabs the oars and begins to row.

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

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

HUNT  
(Joking)  
Should we shoot him?

AMIRI  
I'll shoot him.

DOWD  
He's already dead.

EXT. HMAS PENGUIN. DIVE SCHOOL. STAIRS - DAY

Kat, Babic and Eid arrive at the head of the stairs.

BABIC  
I can't see Ma'am!

KAT  
Follow!

Kat leads the way.

EXT. BALMORAL BEACH - DUSK

Dowd, Hunt, Amiri and Teicher make for the abandoned catamaran, its mast barely visible through the mist.

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?

Two barking Dobermans race past them, disappearing into the mist.

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 (CONT'D)  
 (To all)  
 Stay.

HUNT  
 My arse.

DOWD  
 Stay!

Dowd's resolve shocks Hunt. Dowd disappears into the mist.

SHORELINE

Dowd paces through the wet sand, his face drawn, his eyes pooled with blood.

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

Dowd comes upon 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 the woman, Rebecca Kaye (KAYE), a forty-something businesswoman in a pinstripe suit, kneeling in the sand.

Mascara streams down her cheeks.

A clenched fist secures two dog leashes.

Her eyes are locked onto...

Sammy Stern (SAMMY), a slip of a teenage girl in a summer dress.

Sammy's face is serene. Her presence surreal.

Nearby, Heidi Fisk (HEIDI), 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, kneels on the sand before Sammy. Its eyes full of stars.

Unlike the Harbinger, this one is smaller and male in shape.

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 gently 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.

Kat, Eid and Babic front up.

Babic takes aim at Dowd.

BABIC  
Mr Dowd!

Dowd half-turns to Babic.

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

Then to their horror, they discover the Creature.

The Creature looks to Babic, splays its arms and bristles its back creating an intense hum.

Babic's rifle begins to vibrate. His hands and body too.

Babic takes aim and fires a short burst.

The Creature emits a short sonic pulse, creating a visible distortion in the air, shattering the bullets mid air.

The pulse then travels on to Babic, shattering his eyes and teeth. Babic howls in agony, 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, Kat and Eid drop to the ground, Kat clutching at an eye socket.

DOWD

Kat!

Kaye screams. Dowd turns back to find the creature now focused on him.

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

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HOSPITAL. ROOM - NIGHT

Dowd sits opposite his son Tobias.

Tobias is bedridden and deathly ill.

TOBIAS

I'm alright with it. I just want to do it my way.

DOWD

You're not going to die. I give you my word son. We will find a way. We'll do it together.

Dowd takes Tobias' hand.

FADE OUT.