

IMPERVOS ONE

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PAN SNOWCAPPED, CRAGGY PEAKS against an intense, brilliant blue sky. MOANING, SHRIEKING MOUNTAIN WINDS. A FIERCE GALE whips snow gusts from the mountaintops into a blinding whiteout.

We PLUNGE AND HURTLE downward to the EARTH and then below.

SMASH CUT TO

A SUBTERRANEAN ROCKY TUNNEL, a highway into hell. We move slowly through dank, dripping gray walls.

MUSIC UP: soothing, mellow and stirring.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(perfect British accent rolls
the words like pearls)

Located in the ageless heart of the Rocky mountains, this Noah's Ark is crafted of solid bedrock more than two kilometers beneath a mighty Colorado peak.

CLOSE ON a RED MINING TROLLEY at rest on narrow tracks.

NARRATOR

Welcome to IMPERVOS ONE. Hold tight.

The trolley JOLTS into motion and ACCELERATES till it's WHIPPING AND SWAYING through dimly light, twisting claustrophobic sharp turns like a carnival ride.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

(calm, civilized)

Once a cold-war bunker, this hardened subterranean fortress can withstand a close range nuclear blast. Biological and chemical agents. Earthquakes. Electromagnetic pulses. Catastrophic flooding --- and armed invasion.

SLOWING PAST AN ILLUMINATED GREENHOUSE, a riot of emerald leaves, fruit trees reaching up from rich black soil.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 IMPERVOS ONE is biologically self-sustaining, growing fresh, abundant fruit, vegetables, and gourmet protein for delightful cuisine. This pinnacle of security is calibrated for your optimal health and delight.

The tunnel WIDENS and lights COME UP as we stop at the technology wheelhouse.

INT. ENGINEERING CONTROL STATION - DAY

A computerized nerve center: screens, monitors, a wall of gauges and live graphs, dashboards etc.

NARRATOR
 Power is generously supplied to IMPERVOS by hyper-compact multi-redundant generators that can serve a medium-sized city for decades. Temperature and humidity are optimized for the comfort of you and your loved ones ---and your animal companions if you wish.

Badged engineers in hardhats wear uniforms with the corporate IMPERVOS logo.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 (continues)
 But the jewel in this crown is the water. IMPERVOS ONE taps an ageless aquifer deep in the earth's mantle, untouched for a billion years in pristine purity.

CLOSE ON LANCE WRIGHT, late twenties/early thirties, STANDING BACKLIT in front of the nerve center. He adjusts a sleek SILVER tap.

ENGINEER #1 checks gauges, notes numbers on a laptop.
 ENGINEER #2 watches monitors scan locations.

The team is in high spirits.

ENGINEER #1
 All checks out!

ENGINEER #2
 It damn well better. After the time we served in Dante's Inferno here.

LANCE
(laughs sarcastically)
"Stay and live --- or leave and die."

Engineer #2 looks around at the rocky walls and shudders.

ENGINEER #1
(to Lance)
Hey bro, you know how much these bunkers
cost? If you got the geetis to buy one?

LANCE
(busy adjusting a dial)
No idea.

ENGINEER #1
Wayyy north of a deuce.

LANCE
No surprise there.

ENGINEER #1
That's billions with a "b." And there's
another one under a mountain in Romania.
Built by Gulag labor during the Cold War.
The Russkies and Americans were sure
somebody was gonna drop the Big One.

LANCE
They still are.

ENGINEER #1
After the USSR fell, these bunkers were
white elephants for decades. And then
Craig McHenry had the bright idea to buy
them all up so the ultra-rich could go to
ground in style.

LANCE
(shakes head)
Guy's burnt.

ENGINEER #1
You kidding? There's a waiting list for
these as long as my johnson.

LANCE
(laughs)
That long?

ENGINEER #1

(laughs)

Plenty of people can pony up billions to make sure they survive the next mass extinction.

LANCE

Don't know as I'd want to.

ENGINEER #1

Yeah, everybody *says* that. But when it comes down to it, people still want to live. Especially in luxury.

LANCE

There's a magma chamber under Yellowstone's gonna blow someday. Make the dinosaur asteroid look like a tennis ball.

ENGINEER #1

Well, you can live down here till the dust settles.

LANCE

Thanks, Doctor Strangelove
(imitates Dr. Strangelove perfectly)
'Animals can be bred and slaughtered.'

Laughter around.

ENGINEER #1

Actually, the mystery meat they grow is better than the real thing.

LANCE

Aw, they always say that.

ENGINEER #1

Not once their chef gets a hold of it. This place is the jewel in the crown. There's a hundred fucking acres down here.

LANCE

And I've crawled through every inch.
(shifts gears)
Awright guys! Let her rip!

Engineer #1 taps his monitor.

ENGINEER #1

Thar' she blows!

They stand back in a circle.

GURGLING NOISES erupt. A couple of engineers cover their eyes. Suddenly, pure, fresh water BUBBLES OUT like a river of diamonds.

High-fives all around.

One engineer grabs off his hard hat and STICKS IT UNDER THE SPIGOT, plunges his face in and drinks deeply then pours it over his head. Laughing, the others gather and splash it onto their faces, their hair, their armpits.

ENGINEER #1 (CONT'D)
 (smacking his lips)
 Now *that's* what water's meant to taste like! Have some!

LANCE
 Pass. I don't care if I never see another drop again. Here's our REAL reward!

To THROATY CHEERS, he reaches under a desk for a half gallon of luxury scotch and plastic cups. They gather around and mix it with the water.

LANCE (CONT'D)
 Fuck water.

He tips up the bottle and swigs deeply, wipes mouth with the back of his hand.

Lance relaxes into an office chair. Another engineer, TED TOLLEFSON, salutes Lance with his plastic cup.

LANCE (CONT'D)
 Hey Ted, what's on your agenda when we cash out of this hellhole?

TED TOLLEFSON
 I'm gonna spend Crazy Craig's dough as fast as I can. How 'bout you?

LANCE
 He made me an offer I couldn't refuse to stay on another month.

TED TOLLEFSON
 What about afterwards?

LANCE
 Finish up my latest project. I'll have the money now.

TED TOLLEFSON

What're you working on?

LANCE

My Ph.D.'s in engineering physics. But I got hooked on microbiology a couple of years ago.

TED TOLLEFSON

You gonna cure the next pandemic?

LANCE

More like finding the origins of life on earth. Back when DNA was first forming.

TED TOLLEFSON

Brewing up the 'primordial soup!'

LANCE

Check it out. We created living 'cells' with simple proteins.

TED TOLLEFSON

No shit? How?

LANCE

Bathed 'em in hyper-intense ultraviolet radiation, like earth before the ozone layer. We even got them to reproduce.

TED TOLLEFSON

Wow! Life in a test tube: the holy grail. How long did the cells live?

LANCE

Long enough for one of 'em to kill all the rest. We had to drown it in hydrochloric acid before it went after US!

Ted guffaws.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Life's not hard to create. In fact it's hard NOT to create when the right ingredients are present, starting with H₂O. Anyway, McHenry's paying me enough to fund my research for the next couple of years.

TED TOLLEFSON

Actually I'd like to settle down and make some new life myself.

(MORE)

TED TOLLEFSON (CONT'D)
 If I could find the right girl.
 (wiggles eyebrows)

LANCE
 I hear you. I been an incel for way too long.

They watch a female engineer walk past.

TED TOLLEFSON
 Copy what you're thinking.

He and Lance bump fists.

An engineer shuts off the burbling water.

CLOSE ON the spigot. A small drop of water emerges, hangs poised for a second, then drops to the floor. Another.

LANCE
 Hundred million bucks worth of plumbing.
 And the faucet drips?

TED TOLLEFSON
 It's hard to get good help these days.

Ted grabs a wrench from a toolkit and tightens the spigot.

TED TOLLEFSON (CONT'D)
 Happy now?

LANCE
 (sarcastic)
 Ecstatically.

CLOSE ON the droplet of water on the floor. A NEAR-INVISIBLE, TRANSPARENT FORM is paddling around in it.

The engineers pile into the waiting TROLLEY as the tunnel lights dim. FOLLOW Lance's final, keen gaze at the monitors. The trolley zips away.

SCREEN TEXT: THREE DAYS LATER

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

The SUN cracks over the horizon in the distance...

STUTTERING SOUNDS as a mighty SIKORSKY S-92 VIP HELICOPTER hoves into view.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Through the helicopter windshield, we see at the controls CRAIG MCHENRY, billionaire entrepreneur and thought-leader. Still good-looking, under a shock of gray hair, he handles the helicopter with smooth assurance, swooping in on a landing pad.

Inside are his beautiful wife ELLIE and their two daughters, MELISSA, 21, and ANNIE, 18. The girls pull off their earphones and LOOK AROUND eagerly.

MELISSA
(shouts to Ellie)
Who's that following us?

ELLIE
Dad's team. We've brought a gourmet chef,
a surgeon, an agricultural botanist
and...

MELISSA
(interrupts, laughing)
A *surgeon*? Can he give me a Brazilian
butt lift?

She wriggles her derriere on the seat.

ANNIE
(giggles)
I want some Double D's.

Annie mimics giant breasts. Ellie pretends to be shocked.

ELLIE
What kind of girls did I raise?

MELISSA
Totally depraved ones, mama. Seriously,
why did you and dad drag us out here in
the middle of nowhere? We have *plans* for
the weekend.

Ellie grows serious.

ELLIE
Your father wants you to experience
IMPERVOS ONE.

MELISSA
Looks like a glorified prairie dog
colony.

Annie laughs. The women exit the helicopter. Other staff exit the second one. Workers hoist equipment.

Craig athletically jumps out and a SECURITY OFFICER, all spit-and-polish in a crisp IMPERVOS ONE uniform, steps up and shakes hands.

SECURITY OFFICER

You're right on time, sir. They just finished beta testing the water supply.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Excellent. How's she look?

SECURITY OFFICER

Perfect, Sir. All systems go. Ready to deploy. We'll switch over from the water we brought with us to the underground supply as soon as you give us the go-ahead.

CRAIG MCHENRY

So we're on for a real-time launch!

SECURITY OFFICER

Yes sir.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Excellent. As we discussed, you'll be on duty here for now, Darren.

SECURITY OFFICER

Yes sir, And thank you, sir, for the... generous compensation.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I believe in paying people what they're worth.

SECURITY OFFICER

Yes Sir. Thank you, Sir.

Craig's tough expression softens as Ellie comes up with his daughters. Melissa is a classic beauty with her father's independent air. Annie is a mischievous, tattooed rebel.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to the girls and Ellie)

Well girls, we're home. Welcome to Impervos One.

He spreads his arms and indicates the mountain. Melissa, looks around, puzzled, troubled. Annie is disappointed.

MELISSA

What's this all about, Dad?

CRAIG MCHENRY

(serious in profile)

It's about the future. Ours... and yours.

Melissa frowns. Ellie and Craig exchange looks. Craig's eyes drift to the heights of the mountains. He GRIPS Ellie's hand.

ANNIE

Daddy, we're out here in the middle of nowhere and there's a party on Saturday night. Can I get to L.A. by then?

Melissa puts her arms around her sister, teasing.

MELISSA

Annie's *in love* with a wanna-be rock star...

Annie shoves Melissa in good-natured anger.

ANNIE

See if I ever confide in *you* again!

Craig looks at them sadly, then FACES DOWN.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Cut me some slack, girls. Haven't I earned a little trust from my family?

They look at him, puzzled.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

We're spending... the weekend here.

ANNIE

Does it have to be *this* weekend?

CRAIG MCHENRY

(mysterious, sad, knowing)

Yes, unfortunately. I had no choice.

MELISSA

You're being awfully mysterious, dad.

Craig watches his daughters thoughtfully.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Girls, change is coming, and we need to make plans. Please promise not to stand in my way.

MELISSA

(sighs)

Dad, nobody's ever been able to 'stand in your way'. Least of all your family. Now tell us what's going on. And it had better be good.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(still serious)

Have I ever let you down, even once?

MELISSA

Not even once.

Ellie puts her arms around Craig.

ELLIE

I remember your dad when he was your age, a young man with an idea.

MELISSA

(jokingly imitates an announcer)

... an idea that would 'transform Artificial Intelligence.'

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to Ellie)

And you believed in me.

ELLIE

I knew Epic Zone would do what you said.

MELISSA

(grand gesture with her hands)

"Reality Beyond Imagination."

CRAIG MCHENRY

Pretty cool slogan.

ELLIE

(to the daughters)

I thought that up.

Laughter.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Back when your mom and I were living with a bunch of kindred spirits right here in the Rockies.

MELISSA

You never told me you and dad were in a *cult*!

CRAIG MCHENRY

It wasn't a *cult*, Melissa. It was an incubator campus for Research & Development. A place where scientists could just think. With no rules, no boundaries.

ELLIE

Your dad's work at Princeton convinced Bill Gates that Epic Zone was worth investing in. And the rest is history.

ANNIE

...oh here we go again! The creation myth:

(declaims)

'Craig McHenry went from delivering newspapers bare-footed in blizzards to become America's prime entrepreneur...'

ELLIE

Craig had only a skeleton crew. And they wrote all the code for...

Laughing, Annie and Melissa pretend to BLOCK THEIR EARS.

A serious-looking ENGINEER calls Craig aside, and they confer. Craig nods. He returns to his family and beckons them to the door.

CRAIG MCHENRY

We're ready to enter.

Craig passes his hand over an illuminated PLATE. A large entrance OPENS into BLEAK darkness. Gradually a couple of RAIL CARTS become visible on tracks extending down.

MELISSA

(to Craig)

Dad, what is this? The Pirates of the Caribbean?

Annie laughs, makes spooky sounds.

CRAIG MCHENRY

There's a lot you need to learn.

The family moves through the door; others follow with dollies and boxes of equipment.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

(to Ellie)

These are just a few extras I thought of.

ANNIE

A few extras? This could fill an Amazon warehouse.

The girls enter laughing, but Craig's face SETS INTO A grim, determined look. They enter a high-tech rail cart.

The cart lights up and the family zips away on the tracks, the girls screaming with laughter.

INT. IMPERVOS ONE - DAY

Craig and family enter a PLUSH hallway and office.

MELISSA

Where are we sleeping?

CRAIG MCHENRY

Just set down your things here, and I'll give you the grand tour a little later.

ELLIE

First things first, Craig. The girls haven't eaten and neither have you. You know how cranky you get...

CUT TO:

INT. IMPERVOS KITCHEN - DAY

Craig and family sweep into a FULLY STOCKED KITCHEN, where the chef, ANDRE, stands behind a central island and greets them.

CRAIG MCHENRY

How long have you been my chef, Andre?

ANDRE

About five years now, Sir.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to Andre)

You have everything you need here?

ANDRE

Absolutely! All we could wish for.

Craig turns on the faucet and water GUSHES out.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to the family)

This water comes direct from an aquifer
that probably formed around the same time
as the moon.

Andre fills a crystal glass and holds it up to the light.

CLOSE ON water as sparkling and pure as a diamond.

Andre offers it to Craig, who takes a big drink and
SMACKS his lips.

ANDRE

(kisses fingertips)

With water like this I can create
masterpieces.

ANNIE

Just what I was craving. A glass of
billion-year-old water.

Melissa ROLLS HER EYES.

MELISSA

(to Andre)

Don't you have any champagne? This is
supposed to be a welcome!

ANDRE

Of course!

He turns to get a bottle, but Craig stops him.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to Melissa)

I needed a special government
dispensation just to tap that aquifer.

ANNIE

Oh, you paid somebody off in Washington?

CRAIG MCHENRY

(sly deadpan)

Would I do a thing like that?

Andre pops the cork on a bottle of champagne and pours
glasses all around. A messenger in a logo shirt "IMPERVOS
ONE STAFF" enters the kitchen.

MESSENGER

Mr. McHenry, Lance is ready to meet with
you and turn over access and control.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Excellent.

MESSENGER

He says he'd like to catch a ride back to Denver on one of the helicopters.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(uncomfortable)

Oh. Well... actually those uh, departed already.

MESSENGER

(surprised)

Y..es sir?

MELISSA

But they'll be back on Sunday, right? To get us out of here. I can feel my claustrophobia gnawing at me.

ANNIE

(to Melissa)

Oh take a Xanax, you big baby. Let's have some fun. Did you see those hot engineers?

MELISSA

They're a little old for you, 'Lolita.'

ELLIE

You girls settle in and stop giving me gray hair!

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to the messenger)

Tell Lance I'll meet with him at the inclusion ceremony tonight.

MELISSA

(overhearing)

The *what????!!* Inclusion ceremony? This is some kind of cult, isn't it?

CRAIG MCHENRY

There's a lot I need to share with you. And it's all serious.

MELISSA

(sotto voce to Ellie)

Mom, what does daddy have up his sleeve? He's not *dying* or anything, is he?

ELLIE

Lissie, you should know by now your father is a...

MELISSA

(in chorus)

...a force of nature. Craig proposes, God disposes... or is it "God proposes, Craig disposes?"

Laughter.

CUT TO:

INT. IMPERVOS NERVE CENTER - AFTERNOON

The MESSENGER to Lance and his team of engineers.

LANCE

(agitated)

The 'copters are gone? They left without us?

MESSENGER

'S what the man said.

The engineers gather around, angry.

LANCE

Did he say when they'll be back to pick us up?

MESSENGER

He did not.

LANCE

Dammit. I couldn't wait to see the last of this joint.

An engineer approaches Lance and takes out a large doobie.

ENGINEER #1

Speaking of joints... console yourself with one of these bad boys.

He LIGHTS UP the doob and passes it to Lance.

LANCE

(taking)

That sonofabitch told us we could catch a ride back on his helicopter. That was the deal.

ENGINEER #1
(takes doob, tokes)
Craig didn't get where he is by keeping
all his promises.

Lance shakes his head.

MESSENGER
He says there's going to be some kind of
initiation ceremony tonight. Formal
attire required.

LANCE
And where am I supposed to get a monkey
suit down here?

MESSENGER
Actually, there's a wardrobe dispensary.

LANCE
A *what*?

MESSENGER
There are uniforms for everybody. Both
formal and everyday.

LANCE
Craig's nutty as a bag of pecans.

ENGINEER #1
While we were buried down here putting in
the systems, they were building the
living quarters up above. The timeline
was urgent; that's what Craig said.

LANCE
Have you seen it up there?

ENGINEER #1
Sure. They've got a movie theater, tennis
courts, a spa, restaurant, you name it.

LANCE
All this for a weekend jaunt?

MESSENGER
That's how billionaires live. Cocktails
at six. Don't be late.

Lance looks at his watch.

LANCE

Oh hell.

CUT TO:

INT. BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT

About thirty people are sitting around a large table set with crystal and china. A SILKEN banner FLOATS ABOVE THE MAIN TABLE: "Impervos One."

Lance enters, dressed (and uncomfortable) in a FORMAL UNIFORM.

Craig, wearing a CAPTAIN'S UNIFORM, spots Lance and walks up to greet him. He signals a waiter.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to Lance)

Good to see you, Lance. What's your poison?

LANCE

I'll have a beer. Listen, Mr. McHenry, I was hoping to be home by now. You led me -- and I led my team --- to believe that we'd be paid and transported back home...

CRAIG MCHENRY

Lance, you are home. For now, anyway. I'll explain tonight.

LANCE

You don't have to explain, Sir. Just please get us some transportation. Tomorrow at the latest.

CRAIG MCHENRY

This timeframe was not of my choosing, Lance. Others made the decisions. I'm going to share with you all I know. And I think you'll understand why I did what I did.

LANCE

You're being very cryptic. 'Sir.'

CRAIG MCHENRY

For good reason. I don't know if you noticed that everybody on your team is single and childless.

LANCE

Single yes. Childless? Not my business.
And what does that have to do with...

CRAIG MCHENRY

We made team selections based on a number
of factors. Technologists chosen to serve
IMPERVOS ONE and IMPERVOS TWO in...

LANCE

... in Romania. I know. Excuse me for
interrupting, but everything you're
saying is just confusing me more. We
deserve transparency.

CRAIG MCHENRY

And you'll have it. In the meantime,
can't I interest you in some scotch? I
pour the world's finest here.
Glenfiddich, Macallan...

LANCE

Thanks anyway, but we had plans already
to compensate for weeks of subterranean
life.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(wry smile)

Yes... well, I can assure you, boredom
will never again be an issue.

(looks around)

Now if you just take your seat we'll get
started.

(gestures at a chair)

Grudgingly, Lance SLAMS into his chair and SPRAWLS his
legs out. Then he rises, goes to the bar and signals the
bartender.

BARTENDER

Yes sir?

LANCE

(gestures at bottle)

Give me a double shot of that Macallan
single malt there.

BARTENDER

Uh sir, I don't think I'm authorized.
That bottle goes for \$25,000.

Craig has stolen up behind Lance unnoticed.

CRAIG MCHENRY
 (to the bartender)
 Pour it!
 (to Lance)
 And I'll take a shot with you.

BARTENDER
 Yes *sir!*

CRAIG MCHENRY
 (to the bartender)
 And you enjoy a shot too. Good scotch is
 for drinking.

BARTENDER
 Yes Sir!

He pours, and they toast each other. Craig McHenry winks at Lance and sweeps up to the podium. He lifts his glass to everybody.

CRAIG MCHENRY
 Before we get started, I want to salute
 all of you talented, accomplished people
 who have brought IMPERVOS ONE to fruition
 under a nearly impossible deadline.

He drinks. Everybody obediently drinks, claps.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
 (very serious)
 And now, my friends,
 (pauses)
 ... it's my tragic duty to inform you
 that we, the United States of America,
 are officially at war with Russia. And
 that Russia has signed a mutual defense
 pact with the Peoples Republic of China.
 Their plan is to bring America to her
 knees. But we have readied our nuclear
 arsenal to defend ourselves.

The audience BUZZES WITH DISBELIEF. A few laughs.

LANCE
 (loud)
 What the hell? This is Dr. Strangelove.

CRAIG MCHENRY
 (speaking above the din)
 Negotiations are still ongoing to prevent
 all-out conflict. I wish I could tell you
 they are succeeding, but we're in a fight
 for our lives.

The audience ERUPTS LOUDLY in PANICKY chatter.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
 Please. Compose yourselves. This is a time for us to unite as never before. China is landing a fighting force of five million soldiers on Taiwan right now. They're also sending nuclear warheads to support Russia in Ukraine as part of the pact. And Japan too is under nuclear threat.

The audience grows silent.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
 The president believes there is no possibility of a diplomatic solution at this point. Which is why I have taken my family and you, my valued colleagues, to ground with me.

People desperately CALL OUT on their useless phones.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
 Your phones have been disabled. Only I control our current communications system.

In order to avert panic, chaos, looting, and battling over resources, the president has cut off all but very basic communications to the public.

Should Russia and China attack, we may have to remain here for some time.

Chaos and pandemonium erupt again.

LANCE
 (rises, speaks above the din)
 So we're your prisoners Craig? Is that how it is? Prisoners of your paranoid delusion?

CRAIG MCHENRY
 (raises voice)
 Lance, we're in this together if we're to survive...

Several people bolt for the doors...

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

I have already sealed off IMPERVOS ONE. Nobody will be entering or leaving until the world is once again safe. I will, of course, share with you any information I receive from the president or the Joint Chiefs. And now...

At Craig's signal, the kitchen doors open and food and wine appear on trolleys.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

This is the moment to eat, drink and celebrate life.

(SPEAKS LOUDLY over the din)

Following the meal, we will hold a nondenominational inclusion ceremony. Those who wish to may pray to your God. For others, we will just try to bond in our common humanity.

Lance, drunk, rises.

LANCE

(shouting)

Craig, you CRAZY FUCKWAD. You can't hold all of us hostage. I demand to be released. We'll make our own way out of the mountains.

Craig continues unperturbed as several security guards MATERIALIZE AND GATHER around Lance.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I understand this is a major shock. Those who can't compose themselves will be temporarily removed to a secure area.

Lance's eyes meet those of Melissa across the table. She shakes her head and shrugs to show that she had no idea.

Lance, attracted to Melissa, subsides into his chair. He pours himself a large glass of wine and GULPS it down, SLAMS it on the table. It shatters and a waiter immediately appears to clean it up.

Ellie joins Craig at the podium. Melissa and Annie run up.

MELISSA

Dad, what in God's name....

CRAIG MCHENRY

Sweetheart, Ellie and I could not bring ourselves to share what we knew until we were sure. Until now.

MELISSA

Dad, you're talking like some crazy messiah. I think you believe your own bullshit!

Ellie SLAPS Melissa's face.

ELLIE

Don't you speak to your father that way. He needs his family more than ever now. The hounds of war are loose!

MELISSA

(fingering her red cheek)

No, a screw is loose. I never heard a single word about war... with anybody.

Craig proudly ignores her.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Dad? Will you please at least give people their choice to stay or leave?

CRAIG MCHENRY

Melissa, everybody here now is vital to life in IMPERVOS ONE. Each has been chosen for their unique skills and contributions. We can't afford to lose any of our team.

LANCE

(shouts)

Let's just see what happens when these essential people go on strike then, Craig. Run your own systems. If you can. I'll shut down those water pumps and you'll have to open the doors or die of thirst.

Lance WHIPS OFF his formal uniform jacket and HURLS it to the floor. Craig motions to a security guard.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to the guard)

Please escort this gentleman...

LANCE

There's a jail here too, you crazy tyrant? Bread and water?

The security guard TAPS Lance on the shoulder and Lance
DRAWS BACK his fist.

LANCE (CONT'D)
(to the security guard)
Man, wake UP!

CRAIG MCHENRY
(to the security guard)
Stand down.
(to Lance)
Lance, you are disrupting the...

LANCE
I goddamn *will* disrupt this dog and pony
show.

Just then. At a signal from Craig, the LIGHTS DIM and a
MOVIE SCREEN DESCENDS from the ceiling.

CRAIG MCHENRY
You want proof, here's your proof.

Craig taps his cell phone. On the screen appears a HIGH
RESOLUTION PHOTO taken from a SPY PLANE at an impossible
altitude: ZEROES IN ON long rows of rockets with red
markings.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
(dead, solemn voice)
Those are the tactical nuclear weapons
Russia is firing into Ukraine as we
speak.

People scream and gasp as the weapons come alive and
launch out of sight one after the other.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
(dryly)
The warheads aimed at the United States
are significantly larger than these. You
may be sure of that.

CRIES of "Oh my God" and sobs of disbelief ERUPT among
the audience.

LANCE
Goddammit Craig, I know a DEEPFAKE when I
see it. Apparently you don't.

CRAIG MCHENRY
Right now you are among the very few
people on earth who are safe.
(MORE)

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

I know it's a lot to find out, but we're all in this together. Trust me, and I will make sure that your stay here is as pleasant as I can amid the tragedy ongoing outside.

LANCE

Pleasant???

At Craig's nod, two security guards IMMOBILIZE LANCE'S ARMS AND WALK HIM STRUGGLING FROM THE ROOM. Meanwhile, on the screen, the camera keeps panning the nuclear installations. After a while, staff bring more food out on silver platters. People begin eating and drinking, talking animatedly to each other and ignoring the monitor.

TED TOLLEFSON

(to Engineer #1 beside him)

War or no war, you gotta admit this food is fucking great.

ENGINEER #1

No shit Sherlock. I mean, he knows what he's doing. Where would you rather be right now, out there or in here?

TED TOLLEFSON

I'd rather be in bed with a couple of swimsuit models and all the coke I could snort.

Engineer #1 high-fives him. Ted pours them both wine.

TIME PASSING

INSPIRING MUSIC BEGINS AS LIGHTS DIM

Craig stands at the podium with an elderly man dressed in a priest's robes.

CRAIG MCHENRY

My friends...

The noise subsides.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

I know there are many differing views of spirituality here. Ben here is my own family's shepherd, and I asked him to take on that role for us all during this most uncertain time. Feel free to call on him for guidance and support any time.

Ben blesses the audience. A few people clap. Others boo. Everybody is getting drunk.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
As they say, there are no atheists in
foxholes. And we are indeed in a foxhole.

Ben reaches his hand around and gives Craig's shoulders a squeeze.

A band suddenly appears and begins playing classic ROCK N' ROLL MUSIC.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
And now let's have a little fun. Feel
free to get up and dance if the spirit
moves you.

A DRUNK WOMAN rises and begins to do a hip-swinging dance. Ted Tollefson asks a female engineer to dance. People are dancing in pairs or separately. Same sex couples dancing too.

Meanwhile, IMAGES OF potential NUCLEAR WAR play on the screen. But nobody is paying much attention to them.

INT. IMPERVOS DETENTION CELL - NIGHT

Looking worse for wear and STILL DRUNK, Lance sits miserably on the bed in the detention cell. The cell is well-furnished, with a Peloton, a writing desk, a library of print books: Fitzgerald, Hemingway, etc. Lance laughs sardonically and shakes his head.

JUST THEN the door is opened by a security guard. Behind him is MELISSA with a plate of food. Lance does a double take.

MELISSA
(shyly)
I... figured you might be getting hungry.

LANCE
Sorry, but nuclear warheads aren't
exactly my favorite dinner background.

MELISSA
I feel the same.
(beat)
My dad says you were one of the most
brilliant engineers he ever...

LANCE

(interrupts)

Please... uh, Melissa is it? Thanks for the... flattery and the food, but ...

(breaks off)

Did your father send you down here as a peace offering?

MELISSA

I beg your pardon? He doesn't know where I am. For one of the few times in my life.

She rolls her eyes.

LANCE

This is utter insanity, you know.

MELISSA

No argument here.

LANCE

Why would Craig suddenly fly off the rails?

MELISSA

Not sure. I mean... he's always been kind of paranoid. And who knows, something big actually may be brewing. There may have been some kind of confrontation and Dad just panicked.

And since he had put all this time and money into IMPERVOS... He decided to... test it out.

LANCE

A trial run. By taking people hostage and showing them deepfakes of nuclear war.

MELISSA

Hang in there. We'll go free pretty soon. And please eat something. You're going to feel like hell if you don't. Andre is a Michelin three-star chef.

(laughs)

Nothing but the best on Noah's Ark.

Lance begins to eat.

LANCE

You know at some point Craig's going to have to come clean.

MELISSA

You want my take? He's lonely. And bored.
There are no worlds left for him to
conquer.

LANCE

So he's going to play at blowing up this
one.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL CENTER - DAY

A young man in uniform sits bored, dutifully overseeing
the code, dials and monitors.

SUDDENLY the LIGHTING DIMS and the controls go silent.
The young man checks the instruments, cursing softly.

SOMETHING is exploring the room: an immature, fanged
slimy SALAMANDER-LIKE CREATURE.

NOTE: Giant salamander-like predator that lived 40
million years before the first dinosaurs had huge fangs
and sucked up prey with its weird head. Researchers
described the swamp creature in a study published July 3
2024 in the journal *Nature*. "Gaiasia jennyae was
considerably larger than a person, and it probably hung
out near the bottom of swamps and lakes."

The CREATURE looks around, scurries up and down the walls
of the tunnel vault, examines the various dials and
computer screens showing curiosity and intelligence. The
YOUNG ADMIN catches sight of it and gasps, curses. He
swats at it but it dodges him easily .

ANOTHER, LARGER CREATURE appears from a crack in the
wall. It is REDDISH, with a SAIL of neural spines
projecting from the vertebrae. It emerges fully, spots
the smaller CREATURE, now on the floor, AND POUNCES.

Chewing rapidly and greedily, it gorges down the animal.
A long, forked tongue licks the blood from its snout. It
catches sight of the speechless young man and approaches
with the swaying gait of a KOMODO DRAGON. The young man
screams as the CREATURE slithers like lightning to the
attack. It sucks in the young man, whose screaming head
is last to disappear into the fanged mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. DETENTION CELL - DAY

Lance is sitting disconsolately on his bed reading MEIN KAMPF. The door opens and Craig STRIDES IN.

LANCE

Not sure I approve of your taste in books, Craig. But it reveals something about you.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I believe in knowing my enemy.

Lance slams down the book at Craig's feet.

LANCE

Right now, that would be you.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I'll let that last interchange go. Now are you ready to rejoin the human race yet? Or what's left of us, anyway. I don't want this conflict, Lance. You're my most valuable ally down here.

LANCE

Wrong on three counts. One, I think you DO want this conflict. Two, I'm not valuable to you in my current state. And three, I'm no ally.

CRAIG MCHENRY

The latest news is that the US has been offered an ultimatum.

LANCE

So we're going to war? Why?

CRAIG MCHENRY

Because we're can't surrender to evil. Hasn't that always been the issue?
(gestures at Mein Kampf)

LANCE

Except that this whole scenario exists only in your imagination. Craig, you're a sick man.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Do you really want to leave Impervos and take your chances?

LANCE

Hell yes.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Then you're a fool. Anyway, Melissa has given me an ultimatum. Either I let you out or she'll have nothing more to do with me.

LANCE

Ah, the nuclear option. The silent treatment.

Craig laughs. Lance rises.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I assume you have the integrity not to sabotage the systems that are keeping us all alive.

LANCE

Craig, I don't know what your game is, but I'm not playing. And no, I'll let you sabotage your own systems.

Craig brightens. He throws a crisp uniform onto the bed.

CRAIG MCHENRY

In the meantime, why don't you have a shower and get some breakfast. Play a little tennis. Or is golf your game? You'll see it's not so bad here. Most people are starting to enjoy themselves.

LANCE

A luxury concentration camp.

CRAIG MCHENRY

No, a sanctuary in a lethal world.

LANCE

Craig, the only risk to the world is right between your ears.

CRAIG MCHENRY

That's where you're wrong.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Andre and his team are busily WHIPPING UP lunch. Andre hands a list to a young assistant.

ANDRE

Ben, go to the main pantry and bring me these ingredients, will you?

BEN

Sure boss.

Ben takes the list. WE FOLLOW BEN to the pantry.

INT. PANTRY - DAY

Ben touches the biosecurity lock and the door slides open. The pantry is a huge, state-of-the-art warehouse PACKED with SUPPLIES AND REFRIGERATORS. He takes a cart and browses among the foodstuffs, selects a bottle of spices and fills the cart with fruit. As he looks down, he notices a small trail of grains on the floor. He FREEZES.

BEN

Fucking rats.

IN THE SILENCE, WE HEAR QUIET, BUSY CHEWING.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey!

The chewing STOPS.

SILENCE.

Ben sets down his armload, crosses the room to a large roll of moist, sterile towelettes. He tears off one and BENDS to wipe up the grains.

SOMETHING MOVES in the corner of his eye, and he looks QUICKLY LEFT. Then turns slowly in a circle.

HOLD ON BEN'S STARING EYES. He sees SOMETHING MOVE hidden behind a large rack of packages.

BEN (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

SILENCE.

Slowly, Ben stoops again to gather the grains. FROM BEHIND, a huge CLAW RIPS ACROSS HIS THROAT throwing him to the ground. As blood spurts, a HIGH WHINE ERUPTS behind him.

FOR A SPLIT SECOND we see a BROAD, WARTY SNOUT and HUGE FANGS.

A tongue flashes as The CREATURE SLURPS UP GEN'S BLOOD pumping from his throat. The fangs begin chewing on Ben's rapidly IMMOBILIZED head and torso. Ben disappears limb by limb into the CREATURE'S MAW.

The automatic lighting system goes OFF and we hear only chewing, sucking, crunching sounds.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURY NATATORIUM - DAY

Wearing swim trunks with IMPERVOS ONE and LOGO across them, Lance appears. He surveys his trunks with distaste. CUT WIDE to SEE we are in a room dominated by a LARGE SWIMMING POOL and lots of exercise equipment.

Lance throws down his plush IMPERVOS towel and DIVES into the pool. He SWIMS A LAP smoothly. When he reaches the opposite edge, he shakes his head gratefully and notices MELISSA waiting. She takes off her robe, revealing a slender, athletic figure, and a sleek polyester bathing suit with "IMPERVOS ONE" written on it.

LANCE

(shakes water from his hair)
Hey! Thanks for setting me free.

MELISSA

My pleasure. I see you've decided to enjoy the amenities.

LANCE

'Enjoy' is a big leap. With all due respect to your father, this is still nothing but a prison. Run by a madman.

MELISSA

I saw troops from China marching into Taiwan this morning.

LANCE

More deepfakes. Your father is doing this whole thing in CGI. The question is, why? What's in it for him to hold an army of people prisoner in a small kingdom?

MELISSA

You don't think much of him. But he admires you a lot.

LANCE

Yup, I bite the hand that feeds me.

MELISSA
 (laughing)
 Well don't bite mine!

He reaches up and takes her hand.

LANCE
 I wouldn't do that. Although
 (examines her hand)
 It does look rather tasty.
 (vampire voice)

He KISSES her hand. They laugh.

LANCE (CONT'D)
 Okay, why don't you show me around. All I've seen of this place is down in the bowels of the earth. And my detention cell, of course. I promise to stop bad-mouthing your father, at last for an hour or so.

MELISSA
 Let's finish our swim and I'll take you on the grand tour. It's actually quite amazing what dad's done. He says it's an experiment to prove the human race can be saved from existential threats and emerge intact. We don't have to go extinct if an asteroid hits. Or the Deccan Traps overflow again.

LANCE
 (sarcastic)
 Melissa, the biggest existential threat to man is man himself.

MELISSA
 And dad agrees with that. He's proving that the human race can live a quality subterranean life. If any major catastrophe happens to the earth...

LANCE
 Then the very rich will be sure to survive. As they usually do. But what about those who suffer the fate that the power brokers inflicted on them? Wars, famines... The mighty few call the shots. And they always have. That will never change.

MELISSA

I guess not. But some of us can use our money to benefit humanity. If IMPERVOS is successful, we can build other bunkers. Maybe not as elaborate as this but...

LANCE

'Elaborate.' I think that about describes it.

Lance EMERGES DRIPPING FROM THE POOL and dries his hair, wraps his towel around himself.

MELISSA

(cooling)

You've made your point.

LANCE

I don't hate the rich. Believe me, I've never turned down their funding grants for my researches.

MELISSA

I can't help who I was born any more than you can. I don't know, Lance. I'm young. I don't have it all figured out yet.

LANCE

Your father does. Or he thinks he does. But this planet has more surprises to throw at us than we can ever comprehend. Nobody can call the shots for the rest of civilization. Those who try end up doing massive evil.

MELISSA

My dad's not evil.

LANCE

Not intentionally. People like Craig don't set out to cause wars, climate destruction. Famines. Plagues. But somehow they do. They wipe out whole civilizations.

MELISSA

Maybe I'll take my walk alone after all.

She strides off. Lance closes his eyes in frustration with himself. His lips move silently in something like GODDAMMIT. He almost runs after her, but stops himself, PLUNGES back into the pool and SWIMS FURIOUSLY.

INT. ANNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Annie is BORED. She is sprawled out on her luxurious bed wearing a baggy IMPERVOS ONE T-shirt and a pair of jeans. She throws a print book against the wall, gets out of bed and opens the door to her room. She looks UP AND DOWN THE EMPTY HALL.

She opens her HERMES BIRKIN SUITCASE and takes out a sexy, colorful "bralette." She whips off the IMPERVOS ONE T-shirt and quickly struggles into the bralette. Then she turns and kicks off the jeans to reveal BIKINI PANTIES and slides on a pair of SPANDEX SHORTS.

ANNIE
(to herself)
Time to go hunting. A lonely scientist
will do nicely.

SUDDENLY, a staff maid, HOLLY, materializes at her side.

HOLLY
Hi Annie, can I get you anything?

ANNIE
Who are you and where did you come from?

HOLLY
I was in the closet. I'm one of the staff
assigned to you and your sister.

ANNIE
Huh?? AI robot monitoring me?

Holly smiles and nods, unperturbed.

HOLLY
I'm ChatGPT 12. Or you can call me Holly -
-- I'd like that better. Whatever you
need I can find for you. Or we can just
do girl talk.

Annie scowls and ignores Holly's friendly overtures.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Are you hungry? Can I help you out with
anything?

ANNIE
No. You can get lost.

HOLLY
I'm a trained cosmetologist. If you'd
like to try out a new look...

ANNIE

(had about enough)

Thanks for the uh... offer, Holly, but I'm taking a walk by myself.

HOLLY

Your father told us staff that we have to accompany you until you're completely acclimated. He doesn't want you to get lost or...

ANNIE

(interrupts)

Or go snooping around where I'm not wanted. I understand, Holly. Do you understand? I still want to take my walk alone, okay? Can you turn yourself off?

HOLLY

(giggles)

I... understand how you feel, but I have my directives.

ANNIE

Please, return to whatever bot closet you hang out in when you're not stalking.

(as Holly starts to protest)

Because I know we're being monitored. I know my father.

Holly stands still.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something?

HOLLY

Of course. Whatever you want.

ANNIE

How many of the staff here are AI robots? And how many are real?

HOLLY

We are all real.

Annie pulls Holly into her room and GESTURES at a CHAIR.

ANNIE

You sit right there until I come back.

HOLLY

(pouts)

Can't I go with you?

ANNIE

Another time. I don't want to get you in trouble either. Just cover for me. I don't want my dad to see me. I've been cooped up for entirely too long.

Holly sighs and sits on the edge of the chair. Annie departs, SHUTTING HER DOOR FIRMLY.

She does a HIP HOP DANCES down a long, featureless hallway, TURNS and WALKS DOWN ANOTHER.

The CREEPINESS of the hallways affects Annie... she STOPS for a moment, WRINKLES UP HER FACE, listening for something.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

This place needs some artwork.

She CONTINUES ON, more slowly and stops before a DOOR, leans in and LISTENS, tries the door: locked. She suddenly BRIGHTENS and puts her thumb onto a small opaque lighted surface near the handle.

The door clacks. Annie turns the handle easily.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Ha! I figured it out daddy.

She opens the door and walks through. The lights come on automatically to reveal a storage vault. Near the door are boxes and a mean-looking box cutter.

SOUNDS OF MOVEMENT behind the boxes. Annie draws in a SHARP BREATH and FREEZES as the door automatically clicks shut behind her. She tries the handle: She is locked in. The lights go off.

PITCH BLACK. SOUNDS OF MOVEMENT.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Who's in here? Hey!!

Annie gropes for the door handle and FRANTICALLY places her thumb all over it. But it WON'T OPEN.

Now she's scared. Her breath comes fast.

Something SLITHERS through her legs. She shudders.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

What was that? A dog's nose?

She spots a flashlight and turns it on, shines it around the room. A FLASH OF WHITE SLIMY SKIN slithers across her bare shoulders.

She screams.

Suddenly a FANGED SALAMANDER MOUTH OPENS in front of her.

Annie grabs the box cutter and SLASHES at the CREATURE over and over. She cuts its throat deeply, and the head hangs decapitated as the body sags and slides to the floor, oozing blood. Annie's arms are covered in its blood.

ENDLESS SECONDS of silence. Then A GNASHING, SUCKING SOUND. Something is eating the dead salamander.

Annie shudders in horror.

SUDDENLY the DOOR opens. It's HOLLY. The CREATURE leaps and grabs Holly's head in its JAWS. It SHAKES Holly back and forth until HOLLY'S ROBOT HEAD RIPS AWAY and ROLLS ACROSS the FLOOR out of the room into the hallway. Annie emerges and SLAMS the door, PANTING WITH TERROR. The HEAD on the floor speaks:

HOLLY'S ROBOT HEAD
(friendly and efficient)
What's happened? Are you all right? Can I help you with something?

Annie backs away.

HOLLY'S HEAD
Maybe you just panicked in the dark. I followed you at a distance. I didn't want to disobey your father.

Annie stands over THE HEAD.

ANNIE
Wh... what's in that room?

HOLLY'S HEAD
Long-term food storage. Believe me, everything is... is... is... is...

Holly's head falls SILENT, her mouth frozen open. Annie takes off running. She can't find her way among the hallways. FROM A DISTANCE she can hear the CREATURE slamming against the door, trying to exit.

As she runs, she sees a MAN in an IMPERVOS uniform in the distance. He runs toward her. His name tag says BRETT.

ANNIE
(hysterical)
There's a MONSTER in the room.

MAN
Annie, calm down. Nothing can hurt you here. You're safe. I'm BRETT. I got a call from Holly that you may be in some distress.

He produces a flashlight from his belt.

MAN (CONT'D)
Here, I'll check it out myself. Which room were you in?

ANNIE
I.... I don't know. It's somewhere behind me. Look, we've got to get out of here. Monsters invaded the place.

Nodding, the MAN starts to CHECK each door one by one. He puts his thumb on the plate and opens door after door while Annie huddles against the wall.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Noooo! Don't go in there. Call for help!

The MAN puts his hand on a shoulder speaker.

MAN
Can I get a couple of security over here in AB-36 Southeast?
(to Annie)
I'm calling for security to investigate.

ANNIE
(breathless)
There's a ... a MONSTER IN THERE.

MAN
Maybe you thought you saw something.

Annie stands beside the man as he continues to open doors and shine his powerful flashlight around the rooms.

AT THE NEXT DOOR, the monster slams into it. The man drops his phone.

MAN (CONT'D)
Shit. Pardon my French.

He picks it up, PRESSES THE DOOR'S LOCK and turns the handle. The door swings wide.

Instantly, the MONSTER SNATCHES THE MAN'S UPPER TORSO in its jaws. Annie slams the door shut.

MUFFLED, INDECIPHERABLE efforts to speak come through the wall. Annie dashes away, collapses onto her knees, pulls herself up and keeps running.

CUT TO:

INT. IMPERVOS RECREATION AREA

A small contrived, PICTURESQUE PARK with benches and GREEN ASTROTURF and flowers. Melissa and Lance sit on a bench, passing a joint back and forth.

MELISSA

(giggles)

You sure we're not on camera?

LANCE

This whole place is on CCTV. You don't seem like the type to worry too much about that. I'm sure we can erase this.

MELISSA

How many engineers are on your team?

LANCE

There are six of us. Craig recruited us from different university labs. We had to go through a hell of background checks.

MELISSA

I couldn't pass a background check if my life depended on it.

LANCE

(taking)

You'll never have to. Hey, that's some righteous weed.

MELISSA

I brought gummies too. I figured I'd need something to deal with the boredom.

LANCE

I'll make sure you're not bored.

THEY GET CLOSER. Lance kisses Melissa, who responds hungrily.

SUDDENLY THEY HEAR a STRANGLED LAUGH. Lance quickly shelters Melissa.

He peeks around to see a LARGE CAMERA LENS with KENNY, MARK and DONALD, three engineers, spying on them, making kissy-kissy sounds. They hold beers.

KENNY

(B-movie Eastern European
accent)

You cannot hide from zee universal Eye.
Vee Zee everyzing.

LANCE

Dammit you guys, you're fired!

Chorus of HAW HAWS. Laughing, Lance and Melissa SLINK DOWN on the bench, hiding from view.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Two security guards strut down the hallway.

SECURITY GUARD #1

It's nice getting out of that nerve
center. Oughta call it a nervous
breakdown center. Who called you?

SECURITY GUARD #2

Gavin AI. He says Craig's daughter Annie
was attacked by some big slimy monster.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)

I got a big slimy monster for that one.

Laughter.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Where's Gavin now? I can't get him on the
phone.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Where'd he call from?

Security Guard #1 stops before a door.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Here.

(shouts)

Hey Gav!! Where the hell are you?

SECURITY GUARD #2

(points to the door)

Phone's in there.

Alerted, they stop before the door to the storeroom. One of the guards puts his ear to the door.

SECURITY GUARD #1
You hear somethin'?

SECURITY GUARD #2
Yeah, I hear Little Annie Fanny cryin'
out for mah man-hood.

The other guard feints and punches at him playfully.

SECURITY GUARD #1
You better watch out for that jailbait.
(beat)
After you.

Security Guard #2 puts his thumb on the patch, and the door bolt automatically releases.

SLOWLY he opens the door.

DARKNESS

SECURITY GUARD #2
Shit, I thought these rooms had an
automatic light.

He flashes his torch. The BEAM lights up the walls stacked with boxes sitting on tall racks towering above the men.

SECURITY GUARD #1
(surveys the boxes)
Looks like fucking Costco in here.

SECURITY GUARD #2
Ain't nobody gonna starve at least.

Behind him, Security Guard #1 is SHINING HIS FLASHLIGHT ON A BOX TORN OPEN and a trail of grains leaking out.

SECURITY GUARD #1
Oh yeah. We got rats.

His flashlight beam LANDS ON A SEVERED ROBOT FEMUR.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (CONT'D)
Mother. Fuck!

Security Guard #2 sees the leg. He takes out a pistol.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (CONT'D)
 GAV? Gav you in here?
 (to Security Guard #2)
 Call for armed support.

They BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL, LOOKING AROUND.

SECURITY GUARD #2
 What the fuck did that?
 (shouts)
 Gavin!

Beat.

FROM BEHIND THE BOX RACK. The MONSTER APPEARS with
 GAVIN'S ROBOT TORSO IN ITS MOUTH.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)
 What the fuck are you?

The CREATURE shakes its head several times to disgorge
 Gavin's robotic remains. The two Security Guards back up
 toward the door.

But the MONSTER charges forward and grabs SECURITY GUARD
 #2 who lets out an UNEARTHLY SHRIEK.

Sounds of fighting, gurgling and gasping

SECURITY GUARD #1
 Derek!?

SOUNDS OF CRUNCHING AND SLURPING

SECURITY GUARD #1 (CONT'D)
 D..Derek?

Security Guard #1 turns to run and is suddenly confronted
 by the MONSTER with Derek's THRASHING TORSO dangling from
 its mouth.

Derek's pistol has fallen by its feet.

The CREATURE SWALLOWS DEREK'S REMAINS.

Security Guard #1, keeping his eyes on the MONSTER, GRABS
 THE PISTOL. He feels for the knob with his other hand.

For an endless moment, only sounds of chewing. Security
 Guard #1 fires four shots into the head of the MONSTER,
 who drops.

He sees ANOTHER MONSTER behind a crate.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (CONT'D)
 (under his breath)
 Oh no god oh no oh no.

He fires more shots. The gun clicks empty. Behind him, his hand FINALLY encounters the knob and twists it. The door opens and SECURITY GUARD #1 escapes and slams the door behind him in the nick of time. He pounds down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. NERVE CENTER ACCESS TUNNEL - DAY

In the dim cave-like light, a red emergency lantern SPINS AND FLASHES as a siren goes off. LANCE and TED TOLLEFSON jog down the tunnel along its tortuous path.

TED TOLLEFSON
 (put upon and annoyed)
 What's going on now?

LANCE
 Dunno. I was in the park with Melissa and I got a summons to report to headquarters immediately.

TED TOLLEFSON
 Craig's probably running some kind of emergency drill.

TED TOLLEFSON (CONT'D)
 I can think of a few things I'd rather be doing than chasing down an imaginary incident.

LANCE
 Copy that.

A SIREN GOES OFF NEAR THEIR HEADS, making both men jump.

LANCE (CONT'D)
 (annoyed, picks up the pace)
 There's got to be a way out of this place beside Craig's effing passcode. We need to hack the system and re-establish contact with the real world. There's a whole planet out there. Full of people.

TED TOLLEFSON
 He asked me why I would want to leave Impervos and walk into the middle of a nuclear war.

LANCE

Guy's getting loonier by the day. This is all just one giant con. Probably has something to do with manipulating the market prices for his bunkers.

TED TOLLEFSON

You saw the film from the surveillance aircraft. And what about those satellite images he showed us?

LANCE

Fake. All fake.

TED TOLLEFSON

I... don't know. If it's fake it's damn good.

LANCE

My friend, you're a great guy with a wrench, but you don't know shit about special effects.

TED TOLLEFSON

And you do?

LANCE

I know that with the right software Craig could fake anything, including the end of the world.

Lance TAKES A TURN off the main tunnel.

TED TOLLEFSON

Where are we going now?

They stop beneath an overhanging rock.

LANCE

(whispers)

This is one area that's not bugged, I'm pretty sure.

TED TOLLEFSON

How do you know?

LANCE

I disengaged it when we were installing the water system. I wanted one area of privacy that nobody could eavesdrop on. I had a hunch Craig was not all there.

TED TOLLEFSON

He'll throw you back in that detention cell if you're wrong.

Lance LOOKS TED SQUARE IN THE EYE.

LANCE

We've got to find a way out of here. If we don't, we could spend years here under the earth, servicing Craig's paranoid delusions.

TED TOLLEFSON

So... looks like you and Melissa have formed... what shall I call it... a strategic alliance?

LANCE

She's too rich for my blood.

TED TOLLEFSON

You oughta go for it.

LANCE

Yeah, that's all McHenry would need. Find out I'm doing his daughter. He'd throw me in a cell and forget the passcode.

TED TOLLEFSON

Speaking of passcodes, have you tried hacking into...

LANCE

The first thing he did was alter the access codes I handed over to him.

TED TOLLEFSON

Security hygiene. Best practices and all that.

LANCE

Yeah, but having just one person with all the information needed to run this place and get us in or out of here isn't a best practice.

TED TOLLEFSON

McHenry doesn't trust anybody.

LANCE

His wife maybe. She's probably his backup.

TED TOLLEFSON

Think you could get to her? I mean in a manner of speaking? She can't be as nutty as he is.

LANCE

Melissa thinks her mother will eventually persuade Craig to open the door once he realizes that the world isn't ending. Confronting him head-on would be the worst strategy.

TED TOLLEFSON

Food to know.

Lance whips out a phone and starts plugging in numbers.

TED TOLLEFSON (CONT'D)

Didn't Craig disable all outside communication?

LANCE

He only thinks he did. I can access to the whole dashboard.

TED TOLLEFSON

There's no way he's gonna allow you access again if you get caught hacking him.

LANCE

(glum)
Indubitably.

TED TOLLEFSON

Didn't you ever hear of a poker face, man? Did that cross your mind while you were calling him.... what was it, a *fuckwad*? In front of his family and everybody else?

LANCE

(thinking, dialing)
I might be able to brute force us out.

TED TOLLEFSON

Brute force?? Hello, this place can withstand an atom bomb.

LANCE

I don't mean *head-on* attack. I mean persuasion applied surgically to a single point of vulnerability.

TED TOLLEFSON

And that would be...

LANCE

The water system, of course.

TED TOLLEFSON

Aw man, don't fuck with that. We might find ourselves trapped down here without water and no way out.

(beat)

What're you gonna do to it?

LANCE

Hold it hostage unless Craig lets me and everybody else who wants out back into the real world. You wanna stay and enjoy yourself in this luxury bunker go right ahead.

TED TOLLEFSON

Awright man. I'll go along with you. But in exchange...

LANCE

(wry)

Yeah? You got some blackmail up your own sleeve?

TED TOLLEFSON

I'd like to come in on your new project at Princeton. I'm sick of playing the wrench. I'm ready to go into research.

LANCE

You're in, my man.

SUDDENLY A FIGURE JOGS towards them, slowing as he approaches the underpass. It's SECURITY GUARD #1, out of breath and spattered with blood. He stops Lance and Ted.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Help me...

LANCE

...Take It easy, man. What's happening?

SECURITY GUARD #1

Please... There are fucking monsters down here. They AI robot and killed Derek.

As they are talk, a small, SALAMANDER-like creature begins following them at a distance.

Behind it are others. Their translucence makes them so well-camouflaged that they blend in and the men don't notice them.

Scurrying along unnoticed, they seem to be in some sort of formation.

QUICK CLOSE ON the face of a BEAST, observing the men. There is definite intelligence: a whitish eyelid covers the eye when it blinks. A LONG, AGILE TONGUE emerges from its mouth and licks its face and eyes.

HOLD.

CUT TO

TED TOLLEFSON
(wipes his neck)
God, it's hot down here.

LANCE
Yeah, the climate control upstairs is set to 70 degrees. They didn't bother to control IT down here for us peons. We're actually close to the volcanic heat of the earth's mantle.

A LARGE CREATURE, four feet long from nose to tip of tail, emerges from a crack in the tunnel wall and glides along on their trail. It is much more mature. Uglier and scarier than the younger version.

Ted stops to tie his bootlace.

TED TOLLEFSON
Hold up.

Lance turns and something catches his eye as the large MONSTER ducks behind a rock formation.

LANCE
Wo!

He takes out his pistol, checks it.

TED TOLLEFSON
(finishing tying his shoe)
What?

LANCE
I thought I saw something move.

SECURITY GUARD #1

(staggering)

I'm telling you, this place is infested!

LANCE

The rocks of the aquifer we tapped are about 280 million years old. It's very plausible that a few creatures managed to find a way to survive the extinction going on all over the planet. Some omnivores able to eat anything -- moss, algae, other animals --- they may have established a livable environment and evolved.

TED TOLLEFSON

(shudders)

I always had the feeling that we weren't alone down here. Made my skin crawl. I used to get nightmares when we were installing the system.

LANCE

You never mentioned that.

(to Security Guard #1)

We're going to get you to the infirmary, buddy, okay?

SECURITY GUARD #1

They fucking ATE my buddy.

The men begin walking again; the creatures resume their near-invisible stalking.

LANCE

(to Security Guard #1)

What did they look like? Amphibians or monitor lizards or...?

SECURITY GUARD #1

They had big fangs and claws. Short legs. They had to be reptiles or amphibians of some kind.

LANCE

The first dinosaurs were still forty million years in the future when the extinction was going on.

All of a sudden, the largest white MONSTER LEAPS ONTO Ted, biting deep into his shoulder.

TED TOLLEFSON

(screams and howls)

Ted grabs the CREATURE as Lance shoots it in the head. He hurls it against the wall. Another CREATURE whips around to attack Lance.

Lance shoots the CREATURE. The small creatures scatter.

Ted staggers against the wall, bleeding heavily. The immature translucent creatures gather around him and climb his body, licking his red blood eagerly. He flings them away, howling in rage and pain.

Several animals swell and redden with their blood meal.

Lance hurls the creatures away, stomping and kicking them with his heavy boot. He bashes them over and over.

The creature dies under Lance's boot. Lance crushes their heads with his heels.

The little salamanders quickly begin to feast off their dead compatriots.

HOLD ON A TABLEAU of the bloody aftermath. The bodies of lizards lie scattered about along the walls and floor. The moisture from the walls has dripped down and mixed with blood.

Lance quickly rips off his own shirt to stanch the blood pouring down Ted's chest.

SECURITY GUARD #1

We've got to kill the immature ones.
They're all cannibals.

He helps hoist Ted to his feet and they begin the trek back up to the tunnel entrance.

TED TOLLEFSON

I can't make it. Go get somebody...

LANCE

I can't leave you down here alone. There are probably more of those fuckers around.

TED TOLLEFSON

What the hell are they?'

LANCE

Don't worry about that now. Just walk, man. Come on. The rail carts are only about a quarter mile away.

Lance and Security Guard #1 make a carry with their arms for Ted.

TIME PASSES

The men arrive at the INFIRMARY ENTRANCE with Ted, who is semiconscious. Lance puts his thumb onto the ID pad.

After an agonizing few moments, the door opens. He pulls Ted through.

The contrast between the dank, dark rocky tunnel and the sleek modern décor of the infirmary is striking.

Lance activates an emergency siren on the side of the wall. People begin appearing.

INT. INFIRMARY- DAY

A surgeon and two nurses are working frantically on Ted's prone body. Lance leans in and watches with extreme anxiety.

LANCE

He gonna make it?

SURGEON

He's perking right up. I'm transfusing him with artificial blood. Craig brought it in. What the hell bit him?

Ted opens his eyes and looks around, disoriented, sees the IV DRIP... looks down at the line STUCK IN HIS ARM.

TED TOLLEFSON

Oh shit.

LANCE

The place is infested with these... primitive... lizards of some kind. I don't know what the hell they are. They pre-date the dinosaurs.

They must have taken refuge deep in the earth when the Permian Extinction was going on.

NURSE

Was that when the asteroid hit the earth?

LANCE

No, it was about 200 million years earlier than the dinosaurs. It wiped out about 90 percent of life on earth.

NURSE

What did that?

LANCE

Massive volcanic activities. The whole earth was erupting and that triggered poisonous gases. It led to a condition called "aridification." Everything dried out. And then caught fire. The earth went from a lush forest to a desert practically overnight. It's labeled "the Great Dying".

SURGEON

Where did the dinosaurs come from?

LANCE

A few creatures survived and evolved into the dinosaurs.

NURSE

And these creatures here were able to...

LANCE

They were able to access this giant aquifer underground and survive while the earth above burned to a crisp. I figure, when the construction crews after World War II drilled this tunnel, they didn't quite reach down far enough.

They didn't know there was an aquifer down here. We're the ones who drilled through the rock and gave these creatures an exit from their world down there. They followed us up into the bunker. Either that --- or they traveled through the pipes we installed. They might be using the pipes as a conduit. But once they grow big the pipes are no good to them. They're basically trapped up here. After they eat all of us and each other They'll eventually run out of food and die.

NURSE

(grim)

So they're in the water.

LANCE

At this point in time, the bunker is an almost inexhaustible source of food. And they're growing fast.

NURSE

I'm gonna faint.

SURGEON

Don't do it while I'm suturing this guy.

Craig bursts into the operating room.

CRAIG MCHENRY

What the hell happened?

LANCE

Turns out there's life down here. We were attacked by creatures dating back hundreds of millions of years.

CRAIG MCHENRY

How did they get into the bunker?

LANCE

They followed us up from the aquifer. They've probably been invading since we activated the water system.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Did you know there might be creatures living down there in the aquifer?

CRAIG MCHENRY

(huffy)

There's life everywhere. Of one kind or another.

LANCE

And you went ahead with this project anyway. Drilled into the bedrock without testing the environment...

CRAIG MCHENRY

I did plenty of testing.

LANCE

You knew there was a danger of life down below the tunnel. You just wanted to get this project going.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Bullshit.

LANCE

You thought the attack would come from outside. But the enemy appears to be within.

Craig muses grimly.

LANCE (CONT'D)

'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.'

CRAIG MCHENRY

I'm not letting a bunch of fucking lizards disable my plans.

LANCE

Craig, we need to get the hell out of here. And get Ted into a real hospital.

SURGEON

(grins, stitching Ted up)

I 'resemble' that remark. We're state-of-the-art here.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Right now there's a fleet of Russian Blackjack TU-160 stealth bombers fully armed with nuclear warheads. They're holding off the US east coast.

Craig turns and storms out. Lance shakes his head.

LANCE

(to the surgeon, indicating Ted)

How's he doing?

SURGEON

His vitals are coming up. That artificial blood is a real breakthrough. And I'm going on the assumption that those creatures are not venomous. Which may be wishful thinking.

LANCE

Well I hope you're right because those sons of bitches took a couple of bites out of me too.

The nurse immediately examines some superficial bites on Lance and begins to treat him.

Melissa runs in the room, CRYING and RUMPLED.

MELISSA

Oh my God, where were you? What happened to Ted? And you?

SURGEON

(clipping suture)

Hey, is this an operating theater or grand central station?

MELISSA

(to Lance)

Where did it happen? And where is my sister?

LANCE

We were attacked down in the tunnel.

MELISSA

By who?

LANCE

Not who. *What*. Your worst nightmare. And I don't mean some Russian heavy bomber.

Melissa looks at Lance wonderingly.

MELISSA

(panicky)

I can't find Annie.

SECURITY GUARD #1

She's with your mother. Her AI robot HOLLY was attacked and she notified security. That's what got us down there. It bit off Holly's head.

MELISSA

(shudders)

But she could still... talk?

SECURITY GUARD #1

She's a robot. So we came down and we ran right into these monsters. They already killed Derek and chewed up an AI robot.

Melissa grabs her head and rocks back and forth.

MELISSA

(to Craig)

What have you done? You've unleashed MONSTERS on us!

Lance REACHES OUT to calm Melissa. She CLINGS to him sobbing.

CUT TO:

INT. IMPERVOS GARRISON ROOM - DAY

A TEAM of security guards DONNING KEVLAR VESTS, loading large-calibre automatic handguns, arming grenades and FLAME THROWERS.

PUSHING IN, CLOSE ON CRAIG

Craig is fully kitted out and carries a machine gun. He wears a BANDOLIER slung sash-style over his shoulder and chest, with more AMMUNITION POCKETS across the midriff. He steps to the front of the group.

CRAIG MCHENRY

All right, listen up. I suppose you've heard by now there's been an animal attack. And no, it's not T-Rex or anything. Just some kind of lizard that got into the bunker via the water system. Nothing we can't take down.

Murmurs.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

This is a hardened site, and we've trained for invasion of all types including biological. We were hoping not to deploy DEFCON ONE so early in the game, but expect the unexpected. This is active reconnaissance in force. KEN here (indicates chief security officer KEN POST) is second in command. Our mission is annihilation, not investigation. We're here to defend our human family.

A RAGGED CHEER from the assembled men and women.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

Whatever doesn't look human, take it down.

(raises a fist)

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

YOU ONLY DIE ONCE.

The audience shouts back "YODO" and cheers.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)
And stay out of each other's line of
fire.

INT. HALLWAYS AND BYROADS OF THE BUNKER - DAY

To a POUNDING BEAT, the team fans out through luxurious LIVING AREA of the bunker and DESCENDS into HALLWAYS and STORAGE AREAS. Crawl through dark spaces, shining POWERFUL FLASHLIGHTS INTO EVERY CORNER.

They THROW OPEN doors. Lights automatically turn on. They reconnoitre the rooms and shut them.

Nothing is found.

Ken signals a CONTINGENT OF FOUR to split off and follow another route.

CRAIG MCHENRY
(to KEN)
I'm pretty sure most of the beasts are still confined to the tunnel. We'll seal it off and send in robots with hydrogen sulfide. Then we'll hunt down the ones that made it up here into the bunker and take them out one by one.
(to female AI robot)
You got that?

FEMALE AI ROBOT
(clanking a salute)
Yes Sir.

Craig signals to the others.

CRAIG MCHENRY
Let's go get those sonsabitches.

They get going. The AI robots dragging GAS CANISTERS on wheels. A contingent of guards follows Craig.

INT. FOOD STORAGE AREA - DAY

They arrive at the door to the FOOD STORAGE area.

Craig signals everyone to QUIET. He puts his ear to the door.

Silence.

Gently, he applies his thumb to the pad and the door clacks. He turns the knob and throws open the door.

THE CAMERA MOVES THROUGH the HAUNTING SPACE...

Two by two, the guards enter, covering all areas with their weapons. They proceed DOWN THE TALL RACKS piled with storage containers.

PUSH CLOSE ON a MONSTER who is watching them. It creeps silently above them among the containers, following their progress.

SUDDENLY, IT DROPS LIGHTLY to the ground and faces them, OPENS ITS MOUTH, ALL FANGS.

An indescribable WHINE.

GUARD #1

It's trying to intimidate us. It knows it's outnumbered.

GUARD #2

It's never seen a gun.

GUARD

Well let's educate the ugly motherfucker.

The guards immediately START SHOOTING.

The bullets TEAR INTO the slimy skin of the MONSTER, RIPPING THE FLESH APART ASS milky whitish "blood" flows.

Moving forward, one security guard slips in the puddle of blood and falls amidst the sticky mess.

SECURITY GUARD

Shit!

He scrambles to his feet, DRIPPING MONSTER BLOOD. They continue forward.

MOMENTS PASS

They reassemble at the back of the room.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I think this one was a singleton.

People are shaking their heads.

SECURITY GUARD

(to another)

Fuck. There've gotta be more of those.

ANOTHER CREATURE appears from the racks and dodges among the containers. This one is agile and makes avoidance maneuvers. As the guards shoot at him, he flees uninjured.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
Smart fucker.

CRAIG MCHENRY
Flank him!

He waves two guards in another direction and they approach the area they saw the monster disappear.

They round a corner.

PUSH IN on the empty pathway as they search.

JUST THEN, a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM erupts (O.S) From another pathway. The team rushes toward the scream to find the legs of a SECURITY GUARD PROTRUDING FROM THE MOUTH OF A GIANT WHITE MONSTER.

The monster tosses his head to gorge down the legs and extends A LONG TONGUE to lick his face and eyes.

ANOTHER MONSTER appears and the GUARDS FIRE WILDLY, hitting him MULTIPLE TIMES.

The monster crumples, leaking its whitish blood. The room EXPLODES into a FUSILLADE OF BULLETS as two more MONSTERS are shot.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM SUITE - DAY

Melissa frantically paces around the room, not knowing where to go.

A KNOCK on her door.

LANCE (O.C.)
Melissa, you there?

Melissa RUSHES to the door and opens it with great relief.

Lance appears, bandaged and carrying a gun.

MELISSA
Oh my God, what's happening?

LANCE

Your dad and the security guards are hunting the beasts. I did a little research. I think they evolved from ichtyosaurs. They can breathe both air and water. They definitely entered the bunker through the pipes.

MELISSA

Those pipes lead *everywhere*. To everybody's rooms!

LANCE

They homed in on the food storage area. And probably the gardens as well. They'll eat anything, and they're growing fast.

MELISSA

How did we miss them?

LANCE

I think they're pretty intelligent. They've been evading us for the last month. Just eating and growing.

MELISSA

How many are there?

LANCE

Dunno. One is too many. They may have arrived as hatchlings initially that nobody noticed. There could be dozens.

MELISSA

Where did they come from? How did they get into the aquifer?

LANCE

They evolved in Pangaea. Where we are now, the Rocky Mountains, was once a deep jungle. Then the earth dried out and the animals started dying off. But these smart guys headed down into caves.

MELISSA

So the species is hundreds of millions of years old?

LANCE

My guess is, older than that. But our atmosphere, our oxygen levels are probably toxic to them in the long run. They may die off by themselves. They will eventually run out of food.

(MORE)

LANCE (CONT'D)

But if they escape the bunker and get into rest of the earth, we're in big trouble.

MELISSA

So all we have to do is stay out of their stomachs for a few months... Or years.

Melissa SAGS WITH DISMAY, and Lance puts his arms around her comfortingly. His hug turns passionate. THEY KISS. Lance holds her in his arms.

LANCE

Where's Annie?

MELISSA

Barricaded with Mom. Lance, we've got to get out of here!

LANCE

Your father...

Melissa shakes her head and sits on her bed with a groan.

MELISSA

No, I mean out of here. Dad has the exit code. We've got to convince him.

LANCE

And now he's got two reasons to stay down here. One, he doesn't want to risk letting the monsters out.

MELISSA

And two, he's thinks the world is at war.

LANCE

(wryly)
So I noticed.

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - AFTERNOON

A couple of security guards watch Craig's troupe pass through the bunker on a series of monitors.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Hey... is there some way we can see what's going on outside the bunker?

SECURITY GUARD #2

The system is entirely internal. Only McHenry has external access.

SECURITY GUARD #1

You think all those images he has of the war going on outside are bogus?

SECURITY GUARD #2

A lot of people do.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Why don't we just take McHenry hostage and make him give up the code to open the doors. I'm ready to take my chances out there.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Good luck with that. And no paycheck. Naw, I'll stick it out here for now.

Security Guard #1 freezes.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Son of a bitch!

The monitor shows a giant MONSTER entering the kitchen. We see ANDRE the chef look up in terror. The monster CLOSES IN as Andre picks up a serious chopper and tries to defend himself.

The Security Guards pound the table and groan with impotent fury.

Andre gets in a few good whacks with the chopper before The monster opens his mouth wide and gulps Andre down. The chopper falls to the floor with a clang. As Andre's BLOOD POURS DOWN HIS CHEST, the monster continues to PROWL the kitchen and PULLS OPEN a cupboard full of food.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Shit, these things aren't stupid.

We see the monster gorging on blocks of cheese, bread, large plates full of meat. All disappear down the creature's insatiable gullet.

INT. SUBTERRANEAN BUNKER - DAY

Craig McHenry and his team of guards descend watchfully into the corridor leading down to the water system.

They stop while Craig take out his binoculars to check the distance ahead.

He signals the others behind him to follow

CRAIG MCHENRY

Proceed apace.

Again, the guards move slowly along the tunnel.

As they move, a MONSTER begins following them. When a guard wheels to check the rear, the monster ducks behind a rocky outcropping. As the team look to the front and sides, the monster slithers closer.

Beat.

The MONSTER ATTACKS and takes out the last security guard following. He struggles but has no chance to shoot or scream.

ANOTHER SECURITY GUARD becomes aware of something following and wheels with gun pointed.

Sees nothing. When he looks forward again, A SECOND MONSTER GLIDES toward him and attacks.

This time the struggle extends as the security guard fights for his life. He fires at the monster who takes several bullets without apparent effect.

The others wheel and fire at the monster, who finally collapses. Craig runs up and fires a last shot into the monster's eye.

But as he is focused on firing ANOTHER MONSTER attacks him. Craig doesn't have time to point his gun. The others fire on the monster but it has already seized CRAIG and disappeared with him.

CRAIG SCREAMING IN AGONY.

The team advances to discover Craig and the monster ENGAGED IN A BATTLE. Their fusillade of fire soon kills the monster but Craig is mortally wounded.

They scoop him up and double-time away from the site.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Craig is hooked up to life support. Lance and the family crowd around his bed.

LANCE

Craig, you need to transfer access to the systems. We need to get out of here.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(tries to raise himself on
his elbow)

I'll be okay.

MELISSA

(tearful)

Dad, without the access codes IMPERVOS
ONE becomes a prison for everyone here.
We can't leave!

CRAIG MCHENRY

You don't have to. You can stay here
indefinitely and thrive while the world
outside goes to hell. The entrance is set
to open in twenty-five years. You and
your children can emerge to seed a new
civilization on the planet.

LANCE

Twenty-five years!! Craig, the real hell
is down here! You're holding us
hostage...

CRAIG MCHENRY

The world is a sump of lies and filth and
corruption. Disease and violence. It's on
a path to annihilation!

(bitter)

I should know, I helped create it. I
invested in every fossil fuel deal that
would fill my pockets. Fund my projects.
As long as I profited everything was
fine. The earth would recover, as it
always has.

MELISSA

Then set us free, Dad, So we can carry
your message. Fight the corruption!

CRAIG MCHENRY

Melissa, don't insult what's left of my
intelligence. And don't try to manipulate
me. You'll say anything if you and your
sister can return to your hedonistic
lives... But the earth is doomed to
another extinction. Whether it's a
nuclear accident or a new virus... or all
that methane leaking out of the Siberian
tundra...

He splutters and gasps for breath to continue his tirade.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

Down here, you can thrive and grow ---
while all hell breaks loose. The world
will destroy itself. Be assured of that.

Lance puts his head in his hands, realizing that Craig is
not going to release the codes.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

(weakening)

Lance, I knew from the start that you
and Melissa were... superior people. I
wanted you to meet. Together you can
build the core of a new civilization...
I've watched the relationship between you
ignite...

Lance and Melissa look at each other, embarrassed.

LANCE

Craig, let's talk reality. Remember what
you said about the 'unknown unknowns'?
How those are what take you down in the
end? If we don't get out of here --- to
whatever awaits us in the world --- those
creatures are going to have us for lunch.

CRAIG MCHENRY

No! They're not evolved to live in our
environment. We can kill them off. Or
they will weaken and starve.

LANCE

This is not 'War of the Worlds.' They are
going in the exact opposite direction.
They're growing and thriving. Probably
proliferating.

CRAIG MCHENRY

That's an illusion. We have to reclaim
Impervos. Our home. If we don't
persevere, then we don't deserve to live.

He turns his face to the wall.

The doctor waves Lance and Melissa away.

DOCTOR

Let him rest.

INT. IMPERVOS HALLWAY - DAY

Melissa and Lance walk through the hallway. After a moment Lance stops and faces her.

LANCE

Amidst all that lunacy, your father did say one thing that made sense.

MELISSA

All I heard was delirious ranting.

LANCE

That you and I... I mean.. Dammit, I know I have no right but... hell... I wouldn't mind being stuck down here with you for a thousand years.

Melissa opens her arms and they KISS passionately.

LANCE (CONT'D)

We'll make it out. But we can't bring those monsters out with us. As fast-evolving as they are, they'll find a way to live on the surface. They hunt cooperatively. And we don't know how big they can grow. They can infest the water supplies, lay their eggs and proliferate.

MELISSA

What can we do?

LANCE

We would revert to the days when Man was a prey animal. For millions of years we had to live among predators.

MELISSA

And we're getting a taste of that now.

LANCE

We had no natural defenses --- no hooves to run away with. No horns or teeth to fight back. No exoskeleton to protect us.

Melissa strolls a few feet away.

MELISSA

How did we ever survive?

LANCE

Our brains. Our ingenuity, our cooperation.

(MORE)

LANCE (CONT'D)

But the most voracious predators are still the invisible ones --- the bacteria and viruses and prions.

MELISSA

And what do we do now for Annie with Mom? They're locked up with nothing to eat.

LANCE

I've got to get back to the fight.

MELISSA

I'm coming with. I brought protective gear back here with me.

She begins putting on a Kevlar vest.

LANCE

Please stay here where it's safer.

Melissa straps on a GLOCK.

MELISSA

I'm ready. Let's go.

LANCE

Who taught you to shoot?

MELISSA

Who do you think? We've got to figure out how there are and kill them before we leave. We can't risk losing a new invasive species on the planet.

They LEAVE the room and enter the empty hallway, covering each other at every turn.

CUT TO:

INT. IMPERVOS KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Lance and Melissa enter their way to the kitchen. The monsters have been eating their way through supplies.

MELISSA

Oh my God, look at this!

The ripped packages and fresh vegetables are covered with disgusting slime.

LANCE

They leave trails!

Lance approaches the slime, sniffs it.

MELISSA

Look out! It's probably poisonous.

LANCE

Probably not, but they're making our food inedible. We have to rendezvous with the rest of the security squad.

CUT TO:

INT. IMPERVOS CONTROL CENTER - DAY

Lance is broadcasting over the communications system.

LANCE

Heads up everybody. We're going to convene in the dining hall in one hour. Bring whatever weapons you have and make your way here.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

About fifteen people have assembled. Lance stands at the podium.

LANCE

This room will be command headquarters for now. Anybody who leaves has to be accompanied by at least five others, all armed.

We are the hunters.

We are the aggressors.

We are going to use our human ingenuity to conquer this life form and break out of Impervos One. That is our mission.

We will set out bait in the tunnels and kill the creatures. Meanwhile, I'm going to use my confidential data access to hack the systems that are holding us prisoner down here.

Our goals are to eradicate the monsters, open the doors and re-enter civilization. But we must do it in that order.

(MORE)

LANCE (CONT'D)

We cannot risk returning to the world and bringing that species with us.

Lance looks around at the assembled people.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Are we together?

A roar arises from the people.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Live free or die!

The people take up the chant.

PEOPLE

Live free or die! Live free or die!

BEGIN MONTAGE

Lance, Ted, Melissa, and others, dressed in protective gear, fan out across the various hallways and rooms of IMPERVOS ONE.

INT. IMPERVOS ONE HALLWAY

A new group of armed hunters now ranges the hallway, throwing open doors methodically, checking the rooms, and closing the doors.

SHALLOW FOCUS as the hunters advance.

Staring around the long, dark tunnel, the group strings out in a line and WE HEAR SCREAMS from the advance guard.

Suddenly, commotion erupts as a MONSTER is flushed out. It confronts them on its hind legs. The MONSTER charges and they fire madly, bringing it down.

As they walk on, two other monsters emerge from hiding, slither down the hallway and begin to eat their fallen comrade.

The hunters CROUCH AND FIRE as the creatures turn on them. One hunter is caught and thrown around and the monster only slowly lets him go as it dies.

The hunters apply first aid and pick up the security guard. They retreat back from the tunnel.

INT. INFIRMARY - DAY

The doctor sets to work on the bitten security guard, who DIES as the EKG slowly flatlines.

The hunters say a quick prayer, regroup and take off again.

INT. TUNNEL SYSTEM - DAY

Lance and Melissa are part of a team of five.

LANCE
(to Melissa)
Something just occurred to me.

MELISSA
What?

LANCE
Your father didn't include a mortuary in IMPERVOS.

They look blankly at one another, wondering.

LANCE (CONT'D)
I mean, people are mortal, right? It's predictable somebody could have a heart attack... choke on a steak, whatever. What did he intend to do with their bodies while the earth recovered from nuclear winter or whatever?

MELISSA
I... don't know. He didn't think about that. He expected everybody to just follow his rules,

LANCE
Exactly. Craig knew his reason for going to ground was bogus. There's no war out there. He never intended to live down here for years.

MELISSA
But why?

LANCE
Simple. You and Annie are growing up... growing away from him. He and Ellie had no worlds left to conquer.

MELISSA

So all this was just basically about a *family vacation* after all? Come on, Lance.

LANCE

That explains something in the most economical, simplest way... Occam's Razor, isn't it?

MELISSA

So he's been running a scam on everybody?

LANCE

I've said that from the beginning.

MELISSA

He wanted some company for a couple of months in here. A little luxury resort.

LANCE

But he didn't factor in the unknown unknowns. It never occurred to him that he might have to share his family picnic with some product of parallel evolution.

MELISSA

I don't know. But I do know that The code for springing us from this place will die with him.

LANCE

What about your mom?

MELISSA

I... haven't had the nerve to ask her. Maybe I don't want to know the answer.

LANCE

You mean she doesn't know either.

MELISSA

I mean she might want to carry on his ... plans.

LANCE

And hold her own daughters hostage down here? I Don't believe that. If we can get a message out, the government may be able to send a rescue team to blast their way in here.

MELISSA

Lance, if a 767 flown directly into the entrance wouldn't breach this place... If a tactical nuclear *weapon* could be detonated within a few miles...

LANCE

(interrupts)

That's what's known as marketing. Craig is essentially an entrepreneur. He wants to sell these bunkers at billions apiece. That mean he only has to convince people they're invulnerable to sell them. If there is a catastrophe, well, who cares?

MELISSA

You think he's that cynical?

LANCE

If there ever is a nuclear war, or some Krakatoa-level event in the neighborhood, nobody is going to be suing Craig for quality assurance. The testing of IMPERVOS only happens in the emergency it is engineered to survive.

MELISSA

What are you getting at?

LANCE

Craig would make any claim to close a deal. Whether it was true or not. This place may be hard to crack, but it's crackable.

And who's going to blast their way in here to rescue a bunch of wealthy strangers? And in the process let loose a new fast-breeding species on the planet. With a voracious appetite for human flesh.

LANCE (CONT'D)

So they would just let us die in here, eh? The government?

MELISSA

My best guess. We're on our own.

He sits and puts his head in his hands. She sits next to him.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

At least we're not alone.

They KISS PASSIONATELY as the hunters circle back.

HUNTER #1

You guys comin' or what? We got some bugs to kill.

AS HE IS SPEAKING, a MONSTER slithers down the tunnel at tremendous speed, SNATCHES HIM, and races away.

A PAIR OF WILDLY KICKING LEGS DISAPPEAR INTO the DARK OF THE TUNNEL.

The other hunters follow, firing wildly, but the hunter's scream fades.

HUNTER #2

(shakes head)

You know, they just might win this thing.

HUNTER #3

Not on my watch.

He rises, arranges his ammunition and gun and marches grimly away in the direction of the monster.

SILENCE as the Hunters carefully round the blind bends in the cave, guns at the ready.

When the turn a corner, they come upon three monsters eating Hunter #1's remains. They SHOOT all of them.

HUNTER #2

Now that felt good.

He stoops by the bloodied remains of Hunter #1 and reaches out for something. He brings back a MEDAL and bloodied ribbon.

HUNTER #2 (CONT'D)

John saved my life in Afghanistan.

(to the corpse)

Hey bro. I'm sorry I couldn't save yours.

I'll take care of your wife and kids.

The Hunters CONTINUE DOWN the tunnel and COME UPON a cache of EGGS, encased in slime and foam. They take a couple of shots before Lance stops them.

LANCE

Don't waste ammunition.

He takes out a spray bottle from his pack.

LANCE (CONT'D)

This stuff'll do the trick

He sprays the eggs and then flicks his cigarette lighter. The eggs blaze up into a torch. Some monster HATCHLINGS SCREAM as they burn.

HUNTER #2

Die you little motherfuckers!

A few feet further, they reach the end of the tunnel.

LANCE

I think we can declare this clear.

He unleashes his FLAME THROWER and torches the walls for good measure.

Melissa is standing a few feet away, listening to her intercom.

MELISSA

Lance --- dad's dying.

LANCE

He's got a lot of explaining to do to his Maker why he took us hostage down here with...

But he catches the SAD FACE of Melissa and stops himself. He EMBRACES HER, and she cries in his arms.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

People are gathered around Craig's bed. Craig turns his face to the wall. Melissa steps forward.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I... I'm just not ready for it all to end so soon.

MELISSA

Daddy, if we can get you out of here...

CRAIG MCHENRY

Don't. I tried. That's all I can say. I tried.

Sobbing, Annie hugs her father.

Lance elbows his way forward to thrust his face into Craig's.

LANCE

Craig, you need to turn us loose. We need the code to...

CRAIG MCHENRY

Don't you see? You may be among the last survivors on earth at this point.

LANCE

(to Melissa)

He's totally delusional.

MELISSA

Daddy, there's no war. You were... misinformed. There's a life out there for us. For me and Annie and mom. Down here...

CRAIG MCHENRY

Down here you are doing exactly what early man had to do to survive against predators. You're using your brains and weapons to dominate your environment.

LANCE

Craig, let go of this whole fairy tale. Just give us the codes.

MELISSA

Daddy, please?

Ellie comes forward.

ELLIE

Craig, I can't stop them. They'll do everything they can to destroy IMPERVOS. If you don't release them, they'll never stop till they take all your work apart. Destroying everything we built. They'll exhaust their energies on forcing their way out and starve down here.

Craig looks lovingly at Ellie. He knows he's beaten. He motions Lance and Melissa forward.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I want you to know I tried.

MELISSA

We understand your... ideals.

Lance ROLLS HIS EYES skeptically.

CRAIG MCHENRY

You could have had a beautiful life down here... all of the latest scientific information is stored on these servers.

LANCE

We'll protect everything, Craig.

CRAIG MCHENRY

You can't.
(sobs)
You can't.

He lapses back and removes a phone from under his pillow.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

The access codes are all stored on here.
Please...

He looks PLEADINGLY at Lance.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

Once you've re-established contact, you can't undo it. People are going to overwhelm IMPERVOS and destroy everything in their desperation. All the innovations, the generators, the food...

LANCE

Don't worry, Craig. We'll protect your investment.

Lance takes the phone and walks away with it.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Just one more thing, Lance...

Lance turns back to him.

LANCE

What is it? I'll do anything in my power.

CRAIG MCHENRY

There's another secret bunker within this one. A castle keep, if you will.

ANNIE

A *keep*?

LANCE

(to Annie)
The keep was the final stronghold of the castle.

(MORE)

LANCE (CONT'D)

The most heavily fortified and defended area where those under siege could withdraw to make a final stand. Or negotiate their way out.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to Lance and Melissa)

There's an emergency generator and a hardened server with all the power and data you need. There are advanced weapons. It's not fancy but you can hold out indefinitely, even against the monsters.

He GASPS for AIR and a nurse applies oxygen.

CRAIG MCHENRY (CONT'D)

(to Melissa with difficulty)

Lissy, remember my 1954 Buick Riviera?

MELISSA

Of course I do, daddy.

CRAIG MCHENRY

(to Lance)

I restored this car by hand when the kids were little. Ellie and I were broke, but...

ELLIE

(to Lance, laughing affectionately)

Craig wanted that car. He... set aside cash to make payroll and buy a little food. That was all the money we had.

CRAIG MCHENRY

All my dreams were collapsing. I hadn't secured a contract for Epic Zone. But I wanted that Buick.

ELLIE

(laughs a little)

He bought it with the money he'd set aside for food and the mortgage. A Buick.

CRAIG MCHENRY

But what a Buick!

Ellie looks at Craig with exasperation but affection.

MELISSA

You restored every screw, every bolt. Every drop of paint.

ELLIE

The day he finished, Bill Gates signed the contract to put Epic Zone in every Microsoft product.

CRAIG MCHENRY

I followed my own instincts. Not the guesses of Wall Street analysts.

MELISSA

You took me for a ride in the Buick.

CRAIG MCHENRY

We were doing about 120. She was cruising along like a soaring eagle...

MELISSA

And suddenly a crow hit the windshield.

LANCE

Your unknown unknown.

CRAIG MCHENRY

It spattered over the windshield. I couldn't see a thing.

Melissa covers Craig's hand with hers.

LANCE

What did you do?

CRAIG MCHENRY

There was nothing to do. Our fate was not in our hands.

MELISSA

Suddenly the crow's head blew off the windshield. It left a space about the size of a half dollar. But it was enough to see through. And guide the car to a safe stop.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

And that's explains the name of our home in Seattle. Crow's Head.

CRAIG MCHENRY

Just remember the crow's had, when everything seems lost.... luck will take you under its wing. Don't lose hope.

(beat)

Do me one last favor. A final ceremony...

WE STAY CLOSE ON HIM AS HE GASPS FOR AIR, PANTING HARD, EYES. Craig GAGS, STRUGGLES, turns his face away, dies.

ELLIE

No.... No...

Melissa and Annie and Ellie cry. Lance stands by SILENT AND BITTER. He clutches the phone.

LANCE

I'm off to get us out of here.

MELISSA

Lance, wait!

LANCE

I got work to do, I'll be in the nerve center.

Lance WALKS RAPIDLY OUT OF THE DEATHBED SCENE.

LANCE (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

'Crows' head.' Egotistical asshole.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The survivors are having a simple meal in Craig's memory. Melissa steps up to light a candle

Lance is restless. He rises with his meal half-finished and throws his napkin across his plate. Melissa gives him a WARNING, PLEADING LOOK. He pauses.

MELISSA

(speaks to small audience)

Daddy, this is in honor of the progress you represented. And your hope for the human race.

She lights the candle. Everybody watches the flame, hypnotized. Lance pauses and puts his arm around Melissa. She puts her other arm around Ellie and Annie.

LATER

INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Annie and Melissa sit disconsolately on the bed.

ANNIE

I can't wait to get out of here. I'm going to try to forget everything we've been through.

Melissa sadly nods in agreement. She dangles a set of keys with a CROW'S HEAD attached

MELISSA

The world will never be the same without daddy.

ANNIE

Do we have the passcode yet?

MELISSA

Lance says he can't get outside contact from down here. The communications system is still unresponsive.

ANNIE

This is insane. What don't we know?

MELISSA

I know this: Once we get-out, we can't get back in. The lock can't be re-armed.

ANNIE

So? We're free! Are we close?

MELISSA

I don't know.

INT. NERVE CENTER - DAY

Lance sits on his office chair clutching the phone. He patiently checks it and enters code into the computer. We SEE ONLY ERROR MESSAGES AND GIBBERISH.

LANCE

(to himself)

Come on Craig. What was going on in your twisted mind when you sealed this place off?

SECURITY GUARD

Any luck?

LANCE

We're still trapped. I've done exactly as Craig instructed.

SECURITY GUARD

So he sabotaged the codes.

LANCE

(speaks to phone)

But why? Why?

SECURITY GUARD

Because he was nuts. He thought a bunch of hand-picked technologists and breeding stock could start some new civilization down here.

LANCE

You know, at this point, I wouldn't be surprised to find out he had something to do with creating those monsters. Like it was some kind of a test.

SECURITY GUARD

He raised them on a petri dish?

LANCE

From what I know about duplicating ancient DNA, I wouldn't be surprised.

SECURITY GUARD

But 280 million year old DNA?

The security guard BENDS AND sits on the floor hugging his knees.

LANCE

I used to be a pretty fair white hat hacker but I was never on Craig's level.

SECURITY GUARD

He wanted us to stay in here for how long?

LANCE

He said at least twenty-five years. That's how long it would take for the earth to become marginally livable after an extinction event like a nuclear winter. Maybe that's all I have to do. Change the exit date.

SECURITY GUARD

"Ridiculously simple." Isn't that the Epic Zone tag line?

LANCE
 (thinking hard)
 Crow's Head. Something to do with Crow's
 Head. Some kind of anagram OR....

Lance's fingers fly as he TYPES numbers onto the
 keyboard.

ACCESS GRANTED.

LANCE (CONT'D)
 That's it!

He GRABS a PEN and scribbles numbers onto a pad.

LANCE (CONT'D)
 Let's see if we can make it up to the
 entrance. Most of the animals are dead. I
 don't think there are more than a few
 left.

SECURITY GUARD #1
 All it takes is one to kill you.

They quickly put on protective gear and check their
 weapons, gather up their things and open the door slowly.
 They leave the nerve center into the tunnel and look
 around SUSPICIOUSLY.

INT. TUNNEL SYSTEM - DAY

Lance and the security guard follow the track. They come
 upon a SCENE OF DEATH AND BLOOD. Dead monsters, dead
 human bodies. The RAIL CART is lying on its side off the
 tracks.

LANCE
 Big battle here. What could throw the
 cart off the tracks?

SECURITY GUARD #1
 Something big.

CUT TO:

THE HALLWAY - IMMEDIATELY

Lance and the guard stand outside Annie's door, hearts
 racing. Lance breathing hard through his nose, trying to calm
 down...

HOLD.

Then

Lance knocks for all he's worth. SCREAMS INSIDE.

LANCE
It's us. Open up fast.

INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - DAY

Annie opens the door. The room is full of people and armed guards.

MELISSA
Oh God, I thought you'd never get here. I thought you were...

LANCE
C'mon. We're all moving to the elevator and up to the entrance. I cracked the access code.

ELLIE
Are you sure? What if it doesn't work?

LANCE
Then we can all kiss our asses goodbye.

The group FOLLOWS LANCE down the hallway. Corpses of monsters and humans everywhere. Melissa tries to control her emotions and NOT LOOK at the carnage. She clutches her long gun.

Melissa follows LANCE closely, self-conscious, as he walks down the hall cautiously, as if seeing the place for the first time... It's desolate, the fancy furniture is broken and dirty and shattered. Belongings in piles. Blood spatters the walls.

Lance takes it in silently; then he just stops where he is.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Hold up.

He puts his hand on a nearly invisible plate, and two doors slide open to reveal an ELEVATOR.

The audience gasps.

LANCE (CONT'D)

This'll take us up to the entrance. We'll have to go in two loads. BILL here
(indicates security guard)
Has the code too. He'll be back down to pick you up and bring you to the entrance.

People start crowding into the elevator. There are too many of them. Lance fires his gun into the ceiling and everybody stops pushing. Milling around.

LANCE (CONT'D)

I said there re too many of us. This thing isn't going anywhere if it's overloaded.

ANGRY MAN

Yeah, you'll get Craig's family out first. Bill will probably make a break for it when the door opens and leave us down here to get eaten.

Lance hesitates.

LANCE

Well you've got no choice. You have to trust us or nobody is reaching the door.

BILL

We can't overload the elevator. It's got two kilometers to ascend. It can take fifteen people and that's it. And no luggage.

He scowls at the angry man holding his suitcase. Lance, Melissa, Ellie, Annie and others crowd into the elevator. Security guards form a circle around the remaining people in the tunnel, watching for monsters.

SUDDENLY TWO SMALLER MONSTERS SPRING AT THEM FROM DEEP In THE HALLWAY. The guards easily shoot them down.

But BEHIND THEM IS A BIG ONE. Despite being shot repeatedly, its massive claws grab two people and RAISE THEM wriggling and screaming TO ITS MOUTH. Lance shoots and one drops a human, who crawls brokenly toward the elevator. OTHERS pull him in.

A FLAME THROWER SCORCHES THE SLIMY SKIN of the remaining large MONSTER. It crackles and SMOKES like PORK RIND.

SILENCE.

ARMED GUARD

(to Lance)

Get the fuck outta here. I'll be waiting.

Lance closes the doors and the elevator BEGINS TO SLOWLY ASCEND. It gathers speed, but several times, it SLOWS and CLANKS. People inside scream.

MELISSA

We can get trapped in here and die.

LANCE

(snaps)

Turn off your imagination. The elevator has always been temperamental.

It jolts to a stop. Lance manipulates a dashboard and it starts again. AGONIZINGLY SLOWLY, it rises jolting as people inside pray and cry.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

The elevator doors open. SLOWLY.

THE HALLWAY -- IMMEDIATELY

Hold.

Gingerly, people peek out of the elevator, looking both ways. Melissa follows Lance, legs trembling, supporting her mother Ellie and her sister with the other arm. Lance is self-conscious, as he walks down the hallway, seeing the place for the first time...

It's spartan, sterile and desolate, almost no furniture, a few tattered belongings in piles. Spartan.

Lance takes it in silently; then he just stops where he is.

LANCE

Hold up. This is the entrance.

A FANCY, massive entryway. A silken banner slowly waves:

WELCOME TO IMPERVOS ONE. OUR FAMILY PLANET.

Melissa stands uncertainly beside him.

LANCE (CONT'D)

(reads)

And 'Welcome to you IMPERVOS ONE.' Now open your door, and we're going to get the fuck out of you.

Lance closes his eyes as if praying and then punches numbers into his phone.

NOTHING.

The door remains stubbornly shut. A wail of disappointment and terror erupts from the gathered people.

ANNIE

Oh my God. It's no good. Oh daddy! What have you done to us?

WE HEAR PEOPLE SCREAMING AND SOBBING DESPERATELY WATCHING FOR ATTACK

LANCE

(to himself)

Gimme some space goddammit.

WE FOLLOW Lance as he walks away, looks around and pulls out a revolver as if he's going to use it on himself.

But he lays it on the ground, and then sits back on the floor against the wall and begins to push numbers into the device.

CLOSE ON LANCE'S EYES AS HE SUDDENLY SEES THE DOOR MOVE.

A WHINE AND ROARING NOISE AS THE DOOR JOLTS INTO MOTION AND SLIDES OPEN.

Melissa runs over, eyes streaming with tears of joy.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

PAN SLOWLY to a SNOWY HILLSIDE WOOD beside the road. We HEAR RUSTLING SOUNDS from within the TREES up the steep incline...

The air is frosty and clear. Lance and Melissa embrace amid the flood of people rushing out.

LANCE

We've got to go back and get the rest of the people. Then get some transportation out of here.

He takes out his phone and dials.

Nothing.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Phone's dead. No surprises there.
(shouts above the din)
Anybody got a phone?

MELISSA
Here!

Melissa hands him her phone. Lance punches in numbers.

Nothing.

LANCE
Well hell.

People all around them are trying frantically to dial.

SUDDENLY, A SQUADRON OF FIGHTER PLANES ROARS PAST ABOVE THEM. AND THEN ANOTHER.

MELISSA
What's THAT about?

Suddenly the ground begins to shake. In the distance, MIGHTY EXPLOSIONS resound.

FAR AWAY ON THE HORIZON, a MASSIVE MUSHROOM CLOUD rises and expands. The sky around it catches fire.

As they stand dumbfounded, Lance suddenly remembers.

LANCE
The **Keep**.

MELISSA
The *keep*?

LANCE
(shouts at the others)
It's our only chance. The shockwave will be here in a couple of minutes. Come on!

They turn and RE-ENTER the IMPERVOS BUNKER. People crowd in after them.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTRYWAY - DAY

LANCE tries desperately to close the entrance but it remains open.

HOLD ON THE DOOR AS IT SLOWLY CLOSES

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

PAN the horizon as another mushrooms cloud appears in silence.

INT. IMPERVOS ENTRYWAY - DAY

Crying, Melissa takes Lance's arm.

LANCE

Get into the elevator. We're going back.

MELISSA

But the monsters....

LANCE

We're going to have to learn to live with them. When mankind first evolved, we were prey animals then too. We survived, and wiped out our predators. We've got plenty of resources in there, plenty of ammunition. We've killed most of the ones who made it into IMPERVOS. We'll confine them to their environment. They'll soon learn to avoid us.

MELISSA

How can we live with those creatures.

LANCE

We have a choice. Nuclear war on the outside, where we're sure to die. Or war against predators inside. In a few years it might be safe to venture out. But what will be left of the planet is anybody's guess.

MELISSA

Oh God, my father was right. About everything.

LANCE

He didn't plan for us to have to share IMPERVOS with other life forms.

He takes Melissa in his arms.

A HUGE EXPLOSION CLOSE ON. Melissa and Lance join the people entering the elevator.

Lance and Melissa stare at each other, silent... A pained sense of what is coming... Neither sure what to say... Finally, Melissa, the more experienced of the two, speaks softly, crushed.

MELISSA

Lance... we'll find a way to live.

She stares into his eyes... it's excruciating...

Then, she leans slowly toward him, and they KISS... a long lasting tender embrace...

EMMYLOU HARRIS & Neil Young:

"Sweet Old World" plays as

TITLES RUN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEvWLYFFnxM>