

HIGHJUMP

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FADE IN:

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

Icy winds gust across the Weddell Sea. A blizzard rages just off the coast.

A U-boat is docked near the jagged shoreline. Long tread marks in the snow lead inland.

EXT. SNOWY PLAIN - DAY

"Eissturm Bunker - Antarctica, July 15th, 1944"

A Nazi truck converted into a four-tread vehicle ploughs through the storm.

Three men, adorned in massive snow suits, cram together in the cabin. The DRIVER (23) shivers as he mashes down the accelerator. A LIEUTENANT (27) in the middle holds a compass and stares at a map. The highly decorated officer next to him, COLONEL SCHWARTZ (45), adjusts his hat and stares calmly out the window.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ
(in German)
How much longer?

The Lieutenant puts his finger on the map and slowly traces a path.

LIEUTENANT
(in German)
Stop!

The Driver slams on the brakes and the truck slides to a halt.

LIEUTENANT (CONT'D)
(in German)
We are here.

The three men peer through the foggy windows into the vast, empty snow field.

The Driver wipes down the windshield.

DRIVER
(in German)
Where is it?

Colonel Schwartz pulls up the hood of his jacket, opens the door, and steps outside.

He looks around. Nothing but frozen layers of snow.

The Lieutenant gets out with his map and walks up next to Colonel Schwartz.

LIEUTENANT
(in German)
There!

He points toward a small mound twenty yards away.

EXT. BUNKER ENTRANCE - DAY

COLONEL SCHWARTZ, the LIEUTENANT, and the DRIVER trudge up to the mound. A steel door is embedded into the side of the ice.

A red button rests next to the door.

The Colonel looks at the other two men and presses the button. After a few moments, it unlocks, and the three men push the heavy door open.

INT. BUNKER ENTRANCE - DAY

COLONEL SCHWARTZ, the LIEUTENANT, and the DRIVER enter the bunker and quickly close the door.

The metallic, dimly lit hallway is empty. The three men brush the snow from their jackets.

DRIVER
(in German)
Hello? Anybody home?!

He chuckles. The Colonel glares at him.

CLOP! CLOP! CLOP! Footfalls resound throughout the hallway.

The three men stare deeper into the bunker toward a "T" intersection.

CLOP! CLOP! CLOP! The steps intensify in volume. Colonel Schwartz slowly grips the pistol holstered at his waist.

A Nazi Scientist, DOCTOR SCHNEE (51), dressed in khakis and a long lab coat, rounds the corner. He wears glasses and holds a folder filled with various paperwork.

DOCTOR SCHNEE
(in German)
Ah, Colonel Schwartz! You are just
in time.

The three men sigh, and the Colonel releases his grip on the
pistol.

The Doctor rushes up to them.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ
(in German)
Doctor Schnee. It's an honor to
finally meet you in person. The
Fuhrer speaks highly of your work.
Now, if you don't mind, I would
like to meet our guest.

DOCTOR SCHNEE
(in German)
Yes yes.

He nods and vigorously shakes the Colonel's hand. The Doctor
takes off down the hallway.

DOCTOR SCHNEE (CONT'D)
(in German)
Follow me. Quickly.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A diminutive Aryan CHILD (7), with a blonde buzz cut, sits
shackled to a wooden chair behind a desk in the center of a
brightly lit, white room. A one-way mirror is embedded in
the back wall.

The Child is adorned in a white hospital gown. He hangs his
head low.

The door swings open. DOCTOR SCHNEE stands to the side as
COLONEL SCHWARTZ marches in the room.

DOCTOR SCHNEE
(in German)
Shout if you need us.

The Colonel scoffs and waves off Doctor Schnee. The Doctor
closes the door as Colonel Schwartz takes a seat opposite the
Child.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ
(in German)
Well, what's your name?

The Child doesn't move. Colonel Schwartz leans closer.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)
(in German)
Can you hear me? I said, "What's
your name?"

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

DOCTOR SCHNEE enters the darkened room on the other side of the one-way mirror. He glances over at the LIEUTENANT who stares at the CHILD through the mirror.

DOCTOR SCHNEE
(in German)
So, what do you think?

The Lieutenant glances over at him.

LIEUTENANT
(in German)
He's just a boy.

The Doctor smiles.

DOCTOR SCHNEE
(in German)
Oh, he's not just any boy.

The Lieutenant raises an eyebrow.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The CHILD remains silent.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ
(in German)
The Fuhrer has invested a lot of
time and money into you and expects
your full cooperation.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ slams his fist on the table. The Child does not flinch.

COLONEL SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)
(in German)
Now, the enemy has landed on our
shores and threatens to take
Berlin. Can we count on your
allegiance?

The Child snickers. He slowly lifts his head. Obsidian black eyes pierce into Colonel Schwartz.

The Colonel gasps, taken aback.

Smoke rises from the Child's shackles. Colonel Schwartz looks up at the mirror, confused, and then back down to the boy.

The Child snarls and suddenly rips free of his restraints. He swiftly grabs hold of Colonel Schwartz's face and squeezes.

The Colonel screams and writhes in pain as the Child's hand burns into his head.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

DOCTOR SCHNEE and the LIEUTENANT gasp.

LIEUTENANT
(in German)
We have to help him!

DOCTOR SCHNEE
(in German)
Quickly!

The two rush out of the observation room.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The CHILD grins as COLONEL SCHWARTZ stops his struggle. He drops the corpse to the floor. Smoke rises from a charred hand print melted into the Colonel's face.

The door bursts open and the LIEUTENANT rushes inside, pistol at the ready. He takes aim at the Child.

The Child locks eyes with the Lieutenant.

DOCTOR SCHNEE dashes into the room.

DOCTOR SCHNEE
No!

BANG! The Lieutenant pulls the trigger.

EXT. BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

"BWI Airport - Maryland, 2016"

EDWARD MCKENNAN (50), a tall man with blonde hair and a fair complexion, leans against his silver 2006 Honda Accord near the arrivals section of the airport.

He wears a light blue button-down shirt tucked into his Levis, aviator sunglasses, and pure white New Balance sneakers.

He crosses his arms, then uncrosses them. He stands up off of the car and walks around nervously. He looks back toward the airport repeatedly.

Edward rests one arm on the roof of the car and crosses his right foot over his left.

He perks up as the airport doors open and a flood of people emerge.

He spots his son, DANIEL MCKENNAN (23), an average-sized teenager with messy, dark hair and pale skin. He wears a tattered, dark blue hoodie over a faded, purple shirt and red Dickies pants. He has a rolling suitcase with him and a backpack.

Edward's jaw drops.

EDWARD
My god, he's huge.

He waves Daniel over.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Danny! Danny boy!

Daniel spots his father, sighs, and walks over to him.

He drops his bags and hugs his father.

DANIEL
Dad, no one's called me that in like ten years, relax with that.

EDWARD
Oh, sorry. God, you've grown so much... How was your flight?

DANIEL
They didn't feed me, the seats were small, and some baby next to me crapped its pants.

Edward holds back a laugh.

EDWARD

Oh, ah, well. At least you haven't lost that sense of humor of yours.

Daniel smirks.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Hop in.

Edward reaches down and grabs Daniel's suitcase.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I got a lot planned for today.

Daniel sighs again and opens the passenger door as Edward tosses the suitcase in the back.

INT. CAR - DAY

EDWARD and DANIEL drive along the interstate toward the city of Brandywine.

EDWARD

So, I was thinking we could swing by the house, grab something to eat, and then we could...

Daniel groans under his breath.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

We could go to the arcade, maybe play some laser tag, hit up the go karts--

DANIEL

Okay, I gotta stop you right there. That sounds fun and all, once again, ten years ago. I get that you're excited to catch up and everything, but I have a lot on my mind with college and stuff.

The cabin of the car falls silent.

EDWARD

Girlfriend?

Daniel flashes a grin and shakes his head.

DANIEL

Yeah, I wish. But, dad, I just flew in from California;

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I gotta get some rest first. We
can hang out tomorrow.

Edward looks back out the windshield.

EDWARD
Alright. I just haven't seen you
since you've been sick, is all.
Y'know, after the divorce? I
thought maybe we could spend some
time together.

Daniel shrugs and puts headphones on.

INT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

EDWARD and DANIEL sit at the kitchen table with "beefy mac",
garlic bread, and caesar salad on their plates. Edward dons
a pair of reading glasses.

Daniel digs into his heap of food.

DANIEL
I gotta say, the one thing you were
better at than mom was cooking...

Edward takes a sip of water and puts the glass back down.

EDWARD
Thanks, I r--

DANIEL
...cooking beefy mac.

Edward stammers.

EDWARD
O-Oh. Thanks... I think.

Daniel chuckles and continues to eat. He idly pulls out his
smart phone and taps it a few times.

Edward looks over.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
What'cha lookin' at?

Daniel quickly closes his phone.

DANIEL
Err-- Sorry. Mom gets pissed when
I do that at the table.

EDWARD
I don't mind. What was so
important?

Daniel swallows and shakes his head.

DANIEL
It's nothing; I'm just paranoid
about the internship.

Edward smiles as Daniel continues to eat.

EDWARD
Well, why didn't you just ask me?

Daniel stops mid-chew and slowly looks up at his dad.

DANIEL
What do you mean? I was trying to
get--

EDWARD
I got you an internship with me at
the museum.

Daniel's eyes widen. Edward snickers.

DANIEL
The Smithsonian?!

EDWARD
Ye--

Daniel slams his fist on the table. The plates rattle.

DANIEL
Hell no! I'm not wasting my summer
there; I wanna do something more...

Edward raises his eyebrows.

EDWARD
More...?

DANIEL
More interesting! Like, y'know,
something more hands on? Not in
the middle of a giant city?

EDWARD
What, like Indiana Jones?

DANIEL
Yeah, no! I was thinking...

Edward laughs. Daniel cocks his head and looks at him curiously.

EDWARD

Oh, man. This is too good. Dan, I got a call about a week ago: You and me are going to Antarctica for a field study.

Daniel swallows and drops his jaw.

DANIEL

What?

EDWARD

Some Nazi bunker was just discovered by our satellites and--

Daniel slaps the tabletop.

DANIEL

What?!

EDWARD

...and they found some strange things inside that they need us to inspect.

DANIEL

Oh my god.

He jumps up from the table and runs over to Edward. He wraps his arms around his dad and almost knocks him off his chair.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Thank you so much!

Chunks of food fly out onto Edward's shirt.

EDWARD

Ha... Don't mention it.

Edward hugs Daniel and pats him on the back.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you, son. Your mother and I love you very much, and honestly, I'm honored you were willing to live here for the summer.

Edward lets go of Daniel. Daniel finishes his bite of food.

DANIEL

Thanks for all this. I can't believe it.

Daniel pulls out his phone and opens a text window. He types away, but suddenly stops and slowly raises his eyes back to his father.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Wait. How did you get mom to agree to this?

Edward laughs and pats his son on the back. Daniel stands still in complete disbelief.

EDWARD

We both agreed it would be a great learning experience for you. Trust me. It'll be the adventure of a lifetime. Now finish up and get some sleep. We have a lot of errands to run tomorrow.

Edward goes back to his meal as Daniel slides back into his seat, stunned. He stares blankly as he gathers some salad on his fork.

DANIEL

Wow. So the only thing you guys could ever agree on was sending me to Antarctica. Wow...

He takes a bite of salad and chews very slowly, eyes still blank.

INT. R.E.I. - DAY

EDWARD and DANIEL shop for heavy snow jackets at the outdoor recreational store. A few other shoppers sparsely litter the aisles.

Daniel stops in front of a thin, snow jacket.

DANIEL

Here.

He pulls it from the rack and holds it in the air for Edward. Edward pinches the fabric and rubs it between his fingers.

EDWARD

If you want this we might as well grab you that "My Little Pony" jacket.

A STONER (21) store employee with long, blonde hair and a tie dye sweatband saunters by Edward.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Excuse me, do you work here?

The Stoner pauses, looks at Edward, then down at his name tag draped from his neck. He shows a large, toothy grin.

STONER

Yeah, who askin'? Hahaha.

EDWARD

This jacket, we need something bigger and heavier.

STONER

No way?

EDWARD

Way?

STONER

Well where you headed?

EDWARD

Antarctica.

STONER

Whoah, really? Can I come?

Edward and Daniel look at each other.

EDWARD

Well, I, uhh, it's an ex--

STONER

(Laughing)

I'm just pulling ya! Who would ever want to go to Antarctica... I mean, Santa's not there.

The Stoner slaps Edward on the arm. Edward stares at him, puzzled.

STONER (CONT'D)

Uh, this way.

Daniel and Edward trail behind the Stoner.

STONER (CONT'D)
 You came to the right place.
 R.E.I. Real. Environmental. Ish.

They walk into a premium section of the store.

STONER (CONT'D)
 Sub-zero jackets to be a penguin,
 knives to kill a bear, and
 compasses when you're lost.

Two beautiful women walk by the section. The Stoner stares as they round a corner then looks back to Edward.

STONER (CONT'D)
 I'll be up front.

He shoots Daniel and Edward with his finger guns and runs to catch up with the ladies.

STONER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Oh, ladies, wanna check out our
 frisbees?

Daniel and Edward go through the choices. Daniel holds out a large, black, puffy jacket.

DANIEL
 How's this?

EDWARD
 It needs to be real thick, Daniel.
 If you come back as a popsicle your
 mother would never let me off the
 hook.

Daniel throws on the jacket.

DANIEL
 So how did you do it? Convince
 mom, I mean.

Edward shrugs.

EDWARD
 It wasn't easy.

He adjusts the jacket on Daniel.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
 But when it came down to it, you're
 old enough to make your own
 decisions. She was hesitant, trust
 me, but she eventually came around.
 (MORE)

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Took a lil' work, but nothing ol'
Dad can't conquer!

Edward smiles. Daniel stands stoic.

DANIEL
Awkward.

Edward chuckles and zips up the jacket.

EDWARD
This is a big thing for you. It
will look great on your resume.
I'm just glad to be a part of it.
Watch your chin.

Daniel lifts his chin. Edward zips it up to his neck and
steps back.

DANIEL
Not bad.

Daniel wiggles around.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
We might have a problem, though.

Daniel struggles to reach his own ass.

CHECKOUT LINE

The Stoner holds his outstretched thumb and pinky to his ear
as the two beautiful women walk out of the store.

STONER
Call me! Hahaha, yeah!

Edward and Daniel walk up to the cash register. They pile
their gear onto the counter and block the Stoner's view of
the women.

STONER (CONT'D)
Hey! Oh. Hey.

BEEP! The Stoner swipes the items past the scanner.

Daniel taps his father's arm.

DANIEL
So do you know what they found in
the bunker?

Edward searches through his wallet and fishes out his debit
card.

EDWARD

Honestly, no. All I know is that we've had a team there for some time and they found a few objects with strange writing on them.

BEEP! The Stoner swipes another item past the scanner.

STONER

So did you find everything okay today?

Edward looks up and smiles.

EDWARD

Yes, thank you.

He turns back to his son.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

And they asked me if I could recommend any "colleagues". So I got you on board, too.

BEEP! The Stoner finishes up and packs the items into a series of plastic bags.

STONER

Okay, that'll be... Woah, six-hundred sixty-six dollars even. Never seen that before.

Edward holds out his debit card and the Stoner processes the transaction. He hands the card back.

STONER (CONT'D)

Creepy. Welp! Have a good day, gents.

The Stoner hands over the receipt. Edward grabs it, as well as some of the bags, and walks toward the exit. Daniel moves over to grab the rest of the gear.

STONER (CONT'D)

Oh, and if you see those chicks outside, put in a good word for me.

The Stoner pulls out his finger guns, closes one eye for aim, and fires at Daniel. He smiles and blows away the imaginary smoke.

Daniel stares at the Stoner with a totally puzzled look on his face. The Stoner tips his imaginary hat as Daniel turns and walks away.

DANIEL
(to himself)
Wow.

INT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

EDWARD zips up the last of his suit cases. A ceiling fan and a few standing lamps illuminate the room. A television in the corner plays a cooking show at medium volume.

PAULA DEAN (O.S.)
...then you take the butter, and...

EDWARD
Hurry up, Daniel! Our ride will be here any minute.

Daniel runs down the hall with more clothes.

DANIEL
I know, I know!

PAULA DEAN (O.S.)
...we're gonna dice these tomatoes up...

He runs down the hall back to the bedroom.

DANIEL
Give me a second!

The power to the house cuts out. The room immediately darkens and the TV silences.

DANIEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Woah!

Edward looks around and feels for the wall.

The lights flicker on and off five times in a Morse code pattern for the word "die".

The television's sound fades in.

PAULA DEAN (O.S.)
(static)
...die...

The power comes back on, the house re-illuminates, and the television resumes the cooking show.

PAULA DEAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Now ain't that somethin'! Next,
we'll...

Edward looks around the house and then snaps his head toward the hallway.

EDWARD
Daniel! Let's go!

DING-DONG! The doorbell chimes.

Edward rolls his eyes walks over the front door.

DANIEL (O.S.)
Shit! Two minutes! I still need
my camera stuff!

Edward opens the front door. JANICE OAK (50) stands on the porch in a dark gray pantsuit. Her salt-and-pepper hair is tied back in a tight bun.

JANICE
Dr. McKennan.

A black limousine idles on the driveway with a SECURITY GUARD (30) outside the rear passenger door.

EDWARD
Hey, Janice, nice to see you again.
Please, just Ed.

Edward goes for a hug as Dr. Oak stands motionless.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Oh, uh...

He clumsily switches to a handshake and smiles.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
How're things at the Pentagon?
How's Todd and the kids?

Janice shakes Edward's hand.

JANICE
Things are good. Todd's doing
fine, and Tabitha is finishing up
her doctorate at Yale.

Edward's eyes widen.

EDWARD

Oh, congratulations... Well, thank you for thinking of me for the initial exploration, it really means a lot. Please, come in.

Janice steps inside the house.

JANICE

Don't mention it. To be honest, you came highly recommended as the best cryptologist by some of our team members.

Edward reels back in shock. She looks down at her watch.

EDWARD

R-reall--?

Janice cuts him off.

JANICE

Are you ready? We have a very tight schedule to keep.

EDWARD

Yes, yes. I have a few things to get ready, still.

Janice looks back and waves the Security Guard over. Edward leads Janice into the kitchen.

JANICE

Is your assistant here, or will we be needing to make another stop?

EDWARD

He's here, no need to worry. He's just gathering the last of his things.

The Security Guard walks in and stands beside Janice, arms crossed.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Wow. Pretty official.

Edward leads Janice into the kitchen. Muffled instructions for Turducken preparation are rattled off from the TV in the other room.

PAULA DEAN (O.S.)
 ...and then take all of that and
 put it in a turkey. Now, we've
 been dicing the...

JANICE
 This is a big find, doctor. The
 government's throwing a lot of
 funding at this, while, at the same
 time, trying to keep the media
 clueless. The site has been
 untouched for at least sixty years.
 It's one of the biggest World War
 Two discoveries ever.

THUD! THUD! BANG!

An assortment of noises echoes throughout the house.

DANIEL (O.S.)
 Damn it!

Janice stares up at the ceiling then back down to Edward. He
 smiles again.

Daniel storms out from the hallway shirtless, arms full with
 a mound of clothes.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 I need a different shirt. Y'know,
 something more hip.

Janice looks on, underwhelmed. Daniel walks over to his
 suitcase and drops it all inside.

EDWARD
 Er, Daniel? I'd like you to meet
 Janice Oak, she heads the research
 facility where we're heading.

Daniel slowly looks up. He grabs a shirt from the pile and
 quickly puts it on.

DANIEL
 Oh, uh, sorry.

JANICE
 Dr. Alvarez?

Daniel glances at Edward, confused. Edward glares back and
 urges him on.

DANIEL

Oh-- uh, yes, yes. Dr. Alvarez.
Just not used to being so official.

They shake hands.

JANICE

Ready? We don't have a moment to spare. We have clear weather forecasted down at the base, we don't want to miss our window.

DANIEL

Kinda tired, but I'm good to go.

Daniel shoves the last of his clothes into his suitcase.

JANICE

You can get some rest on the plane.
It's a long flight.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

DOCTOR MARIE BLANC (35), a tall French brunette, looks through a file of papers and paces back and forth in the large control room.

She stands by a printer and clicks a ballpoint pen, absently. The fluorescent light glints off of her glasses. She wears a gray turtleneck with black snow pants and boots.

ROMAN ZARAGOSA (35), a large half-Mexican/Samoan soldier, walks up to her. He wears a black tactical suit with body armor and steel toe boots. Tribal tattoos flow from his neck down his right arm.

ROMAN

Doc, the helicopter just appeared on radar.

Marie ignores him and continues to click her pen.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Doctor Blanc...

CLICK! CLICK! She stares off to the side, lost in thought.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

M-Marie--

Marie snaps out of her trance.

MARIE

Okay. I need you to take these...

Marie shoves her files into Roman's arms. He takes a step back, off-balance.

MARIE (CONT'D)

And those...

She points to the printer that spews out a constant stream of papers.

MARIE (CONT'D)

And take them to the lab. Thanks!

Marie walks away.

A couple papers fall out of the file and onto the floor. Roman looks down and then back up at Marie.

She yells from down the hallway.

MARIE (CONT'D)

It's imperative they stay organized!

More papers slip from Roman's grasp.

EXT. BASE CAMP - DAY

MARIE waits outside near the bunker door. She is wrapped in a thick snow jacket with the hood strung tightly over her head. A cold gust whips across the site and bites at her face.

CAPTAIN CHUCK JOHNSON (32), a bald black soldier with a sharp goatee, steps outside of the base camp and into the harsh winds. A thick snow jacket covers his tactical gear and Kevlar vest. He grips an M4 and eyes Marie.

A helicopter rests on the helipad. The blades gradually whir to a stop. Marie's smile turns into elation as the doors open.

EDWARD steps out followed by DANIEL and JANICE. Marie runs over to greet them.

MARIE

Dr. Oak, the reports you requested are available for you perusal in the control room.

Marie locks eyes with Edward.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Dr. McKennan! I'm a huge admirer
of your work.

Edward stammers.

EDWARD

Oh, uh, thank you.

Edward offers up a handshake. Marie clutches his hand and
fervently shakes it.

JANICE

This is our head of research, Dr.
Blanc.

MARIE

Please, call me Marie.

Janice and Captain Johnson glance at each other

JANICE

If you'd excuse us. Dr. Blanc, can
you please show them to their
quarters?

MARIE

Oh, oh, yes! Your rooms will be
that building over there. Come
with me.

Marie heads to a small, brown, rectangular structure twenty
yards away. Edward and Daniel follow her as Janice and
Captain Johnson head toward the control room.

MARIE (CONT'D)

You'll have to share. I'm sure you
won't mind.

She points to a building adjacent to theirs.

MARIE (CONT'D)

That's the control room. We'll
meet up with the others once you've
gotten settled.

Edward and Daniel nod.

Marie trudges through the snow as Edward and Daniel lug their
suitcases toward the building.

INT. MCKENNAN/ALVAREZ QUARTERS - DAY

EDWARD, DANIEL, and MARIE enter the living space.

MARIE

This is where you'll be staying.

She points around the room.

MARIE (CONT'D)

You have a kitchen, two beds, a shower, a treadmill, and a satellite television.

Daniel perks up.

DANIEL

T.V.? No way!?

MARIE

Yeah, it works great, um, when there's not a storm. CNN, MSNBC... you can sometimes watch C-SPAN.

Daniel looks at her, half-eyed.

DANIEL

Oh. Great.

Marie turns back to Edward.

MARIE

I've read so much about you, Dr. McKennan. This is such an honor.

Edward smiles. Daniel scoffs.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Oh sorry, my fault. I didn't catch your name?

DANIEL

Nice to meet you

EDWARD

What's your field of study?

MARIE

Bio-Chemistry, micro-organisms. The subject of my dissertation was "Extremophiles and Their Existence in Space."

Edward and Daniel stare at her, stunned.

EDWARD

Would've never guessed.

Marie smiles.

MARIE

Well, I'll leave you two to your things. We'll be in the control room; so, head on over there when you're ready. I will begin the briefing then.

Marie walks out of the room and closes the door. Edward grabs his suitcase and lugs it near one of the beds. Daniel positions his bags alongside the other bed.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

JANICE and CAPTAIN JOHNSON enter the control room and quickly close the door behind them. Snow blows past the square window embedded in the door.

The room is filled with various computer terminals and work stations. They remove their snow jackets and walk over to Janice's desk.

STUART MCKAY (28), a stocky Scottish combat medic with a blonde flat top, stands off to the side with a cup of coffee. He sets down some files and walks over to the two of them.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

It happened again when you were gone.

JANICE

Where?

MCKAY

Eastern hallway.

JANICE

Was there any video?

McKay nods as the Captain moves next to a terminal. He bends over the keyboard, enters a series of commands, and clicks on a folder.

A body-cam image of a hallway appears on the screen. The picture rises and falls with each step.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Who is it? You, McKay?

McKay's jaw drops.

MCKAY

Of course it's me! I'm the only
one wh-- j-just watch the tape.

Janice sighs.

JANICE

(to herself)

Jesus...

The security footage shows McKay turn down a hallway. He freezes in place for a moment, suddenly pulls out his pistol, and spins around.

A shadowy figure appears just as the footage cuts out. A wall of static displays for the remainder of the video.

Captain Johnson turns off the terminal and looks back to Janice.

McKay sets his coffee down and walks closer to Janice.

MCKAY

There! Y'see that?! An', like
always, the feed cuts!

McKay throws up his arms in frustration. Janice stares at him.

JANICE

And what happened after that?

MCKAY

I heard someone behind me, but no
one was s'posed to be with me.
When I turned around, I saw someone
runnin' down the hall an' I fired
at him. Twice.

JANICE

Did you hit him?

McKay shakes his head, flustered.

MCKAY

Dunno. Quick as he was there, he
was gone.

Janice sighs again.

JANICE

I'll get a report started and we'll
look into this.

She turns away from McKay and walks toward her desk. She casts a skeptical glance toward Captain Johnson.

MCKAY

You've been looking into this!

McKay picks up his coffee and angrily takes a sip.

INT. MCKENNAN/ALVAREZ QUARTERS - DAY

Edward walks over to a tiny stove in their kitchen area. He grabs a small teapot and fills it with water in the sink.

He grabs coffee grounds from a cabinet and starts setting up his drink.

EDWARD

How long until you're ready,
Daniel? I'm excited to meet the
others and see if we can get things
rolling today.

SHOWER

DANIEL rubs soap into his hair in a cramped shower. His phone sits outside and plays music through its speakers.

EDWARD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Daniel!

He shakes his head at his dad's muffled call.

EDWARD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Daniel!!!

The shower room door flies open. Edward peeks in with a hot cup of coffee in his hand.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Daniel. When can you be ready? I
figu--

Daniel moans.

DANIEL

Oh my god, I heard you! Give me a
second!

EDWARD
 Alright, then communicate it, Dan.
 I'm not psychic.

Daniel mutters under his breath. Edward stammers after a beat of awkward silence.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
 I-I'll be outside.

EXT. BASE CAMP - DAY

EDWARD, adorned in his snow gear, stands next to the door and sips his thermos of coffee. An equipment pack rests at his feet.

DANIEL steps out from the room in his large jacket and snow pants. His equipment pack is strapped over his shoulder.

EDWARD
 Alright. Let's go!

Edward and Daniel walk side by side toward a large base camp structure.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
 You know... since we are here, we might as well work on our communication.

DANIEL
 Communication, huh?

Daniels face scrunches up.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 You wanna talk about communication? You? You pawn your son off as some kind of Doogie Howzer--

EDWARD
 Relax Daniel!

DANIEL
 Did you hear her credentials?!

Daniel rubs his temples.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 I didn't even understand half of the words she said!

EDWARD

Don't worry! You are far more intelligent than I was at your age. You'll--

DANIEL

How did you get me qualified, anyway?! Doctor Alvar-- oh my god, you used mom's last name. They don't know I'm your son. Ho-ly shit.

Daniel stares blankly then lets out a laugh. Edward looks on in confusion.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Talk about communication. Just the way you like it, huh, dad? Flying solo on everything! Haha!

Daniel shakes his head marches off through the snow toward the control room.

EDWARD

It's not like that, Dan! You know that!

Edward trudges after his son.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

DANIEL and EDWARD enter the control room. CAPTAIN JOHNSON and JANICE stand near her desk, locked in a discussion.

Daniel scans all of the various technology in awe. MARIE turns from her desk and stands up. She waves at them.

Edward nudges Daniel and they walk over to her.

EDWARD

Ah, Marie, hello. It's, um, good to see you again.

Edward smiles at Marie as Daniel rolls his eyes. He notices an open crate next to one of the computers. He drifts away from Edward to take a peek inside.

A cylindrical, metallic device sits on top of foam and plastic packaging material.

Daniel removes it. Edward notices from the corner of his eye.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Daniel!

Marie looks over at Daniel and smiles.

MARIE

My, my. You found that pretty quick. I take it you're familiar with this?

Daniel rotates the device in his hands.

DANIEL

This is amazing...

EDWARD

Wh-what is it?

DANIEL

The epitome of radar technology. This is, like, a one hundred-thousand dollar piece of equipment.

Edward inhales sharply. Marie positions herself next to him and chuckles.

MARIE

Don't worry, Dr. McKennan. He's a professional!

She turns and walks toward a cabinet. She opens it, removes three walkie-talkies, and tosses two of them to Edward and Daniel.

They both catch the radios.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Hang onto these; you'll need them.

The control room door bursts open. The wind blows snow into the building, and the temperature drops drastically.

Two people in thick jackets step inside and close the door behind them. They pull back their hoods and reveal two men: DOCTOR SUJIT VERMA (50), a short Indian scientist with inch-long gray hair, and DOCTOR KENNETH CHENG (45), a bald Chinese geologist.

Marie perks up.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Oh! Perfect timing.

She quickly becomes puzzled.

MARIE (CONT'D)
Where's Roman?

Kenneth brushes snow off of his face.

KENNETH
He stayed back in the bunker to
load the generator up with more
fuel.

Marie walks between Edward and the two men.

MARIE
Dr. Verma, Dr. Cheng, I'd like you
to meet our newest team members:
the Dr. Edward McKennan, and this
is his assistant, a radar and sonar
specialist, Dr. Daniel Alvarez.

The two men walk up to Edward as Daniel replaces the piece of
radar equipment and stands next to his father. They
introduce themselves to each other.

SUJIT
Sujit. It is a pleasure to meet
you.

KENNETH
Ken Cheng.

They all shake hands. Marie turns to Kenneth.

MARIE
I was just about to take them
inside and show them around a bit.

SUJIT
Very good.

Sujit turns to Edward.

SUJIT (CONT'D)
I hope the both of you enjoy your
time in our little freezer box.

He laughs at his own joke.

KENNETH
Yeah, hopefully you can help us out
with those carvings in there.

EDWARD
I can certainly try.

Sujit takes off his jacket and removes a thumb drive from his pants pocket.

SUJIT

I beg your forgiveness, but I must
start transferring this new data;
and it takes quite awhile.

He positions himself in front of a nearby computer.

SUJIT (CONT'D)

I look forward to working with you
both. Good luck on your research.

Kenneth nods.

KENNETH

Yes, enjoy your tour.

Captain Johnson and Janice walk over to Marie.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

Is everyone ready?

Marie nods.

JANICE

Alright. I'll be showing you the
basics of our operation and the
layout of what we've excavated thus
far. The Captain will provide
security. Questions?

Everyone stands still and remains silent.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Janice leads the group out of the control room.

INT. BUNKER - DAY

ROMAN hovers over an inactive generator in total darkness with a red gas can. He caps the can, tosses it off to the side, and fires up the generator.

Strings of lights come to life and weakly illuminate the bunker. They run the length of three long hallways.

One of the bulbs flickers and goes out. Roman gives it a quick tap and the light turns back on.

The main bunker door opens. JANICE enters followed immediately by CAPTAIN JOHNSON, MARIE, EDWARD, and DANIEL.

JANICE

Roman.

Roman perks up.

ROMAN

Ma'am?

She walks further into the bunker with the rest of the group in tow.

JANICE

How's watch?

Roman shrugs and grins.

ROMAN

'Lil slow. The new generator takes a bit more gas, but it runs smooth.

Captain Johnson walks behind Janice with an M4 across his back.

JANICE

I'll send an order out as soon as we're through showing Dr. McKennan and Dr. Alvarez their new offices.

Roman chuckles.

ROMAN

Alright. Y'all need any company?

Roman winks at Marie. Marie smiles.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

If you wanna come along, sure.

The Captain motions toward everyone.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Alright. Fall in behind me, and stay close - no stragglers.

The group follows him closely down a middle hallway. A massive, tattered red Nazi flag drapes over a large archway. Numerous power cables run along the floor and divert into various rooms.

Daniel stares as they pass underneath it.

DANIEL

Jesus...

Daniel fishes through his pack and removes a digital camera.

CLICK! The flag lights up as Daniel takes a picture in the darkness.

Janice and Captain Johnson spin around.

JANICE

Doctor.

Daniel stiffens and stares at Janice.

DANIEL

I-I...

JANICE

Make sure none of your pictures leak out before the conclusion of our investigation.

She stares at him ominously. Daniel nods. Edward steps forward.

EDWARD

I'm sorry, that was my fault. I asked him to take pictures so we could go over everything once we got back.

Captain Johnson continues onward and the group quickly follows.

They come to a short flight of stairs.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

Watch your step.

The group descends deeper into the bunker. Marie turns to Edward and pats him on the arm.

She looks at him and signals toward the floor. A trail of small, dried blood drops trickle down the steps.

Edward looks down and then back to Marie.

EDWARD

What happened here?

MARIE

We don't know. Did you remember that vehicle in the snow when you arrived?

Edward furls his brow.

EDWARD

How could I forget?

MARIE

We checked that when we first showed up.

Edward cocks his head.

EDWARD

Well, what happened?

Marie shrugs.

MARIE

We don't know. Throughout this entire site, we've only found one body.

Daniel and Edward exchange nervous glances.

EDWARD

They just abandoned it?

Marie looks away.

MARIE

No...

The group comes to a "T" intersection. Janice turns around.

JANICE

Just down the western hallway is the room we need you to investigate.

Janice lifts her arm and signals down the left hallway.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Roman, hold this spot. We'll be right back.

ROMAN

Got it, doc.

Roman nods and takes up watch at his new post. The rest of the group walks down the western hallway.

INT. GLYPH ROOM - DAY

JANICE cracks open the door and light creeps into the pitch black room. She steps inside and walks over to a flood light on a large stand. EDWARD, DANIEL, MARIE, and CAPTAIN JOHNSON pile into the room close behind.

FLICK! A bright, white light blinds the group.

JANICE
And here you have it.

Edward squints as his eyes adjust. He rubs them and looks around the room.

His jaw drops. Hundreds of runes, etchings, hieroglyphics, paintings, and carvings are smattered on the walls. They overlap in a cacophonous array of frantic disorganization.

Edward scans the entire room.

EDWARD
These...

Edward walks up to a wall and places his hand into an etching.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Daniel...

Daniel gazes around the room, lost in the spectacle.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Dr. Alvarez!

Daniel snaps out of it.

DANIEL
Y-Yes?

EDWARD
Take some pictures. I'm gonna need to study these back at the base.

Daniel nods and pulls out his camera. He flashes a dozen photos of the entire room.

Edward runs his fingers along a carved symbol covered by a different, painted symbol.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
(to himself)
This is Mayan...

Edward looks around and instantly recognizes another symbol.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
(to himself)
...Egyptian...

JANICE
Doctor McKennan?

Edward spins on his heels.

JANICE (CONT'D)
What is it?

Edward stammers.

EDWARD
I-I... It's nothing... It's, um,
just, very fascinating. Er,
overwhelming, I should say.

Marie raises her eyebrows.

JANICE
Right. Well--

BAM! A loud crash echoes from the hallway.

KSSH! The walkie-talkies activate.

ROMAN (O.S.)
Cap! Get out here!

Captain Johnson looks at Janice and then to the rest of the group.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Wrap it up! Let's go!

Captain Johnson sprints out of the room.

JANICE
We need more time in here!

Marie walks up to Janice and places a hand on her shoulder.

MARIE
They got the pictures.

She turns her head toward Edward.

MARIE (CONT'D)
You're good, right?

Edward nods. Marie focuses back on Janice.

MARIE (CONT'D)
We should go.

Janice agrees and jogs after Captain Johnson. Marie turns back to Edward and Daniel, nods, and then follows behind Janice.

Edward and Daniel look at each other hesitantly.

INT. BUNKER - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON runs up to a shaken ROMAN.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
What the hell happened?

Roman stutters.

ROMAN
I-I saw somethin' down the eastern hallway, Cap.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
What? What'd you see?

Roman closes his eyes.

ROMAN
I-I dunno.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
What? What do you mean you don't know?

Roman snaps.

ROMAN
It's fuckin' dark in here, man! I saw somethin' run into one of the rooms, okay?!

Captain Johnson steps back from Roman.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Show me where.

Captain Johnson marches down the hallway. Roman quickly falls in beside him.

JANICE, MARIE, DANIEL, and EDWARD jog up to them as they walk off.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Follow us!

The group looks at each other nervously.

DANIEL

What's going on?

Edward gives Daniel a disconcerting glance.

Janice nods and stealthily removes a pistol from her waistband.

JANICE

Quiet!

Edward and Daniel look at one another.

EDWARD

Stay behind me.

They continue on after Captain Johnson.

INT. EASTERN HALLWAY - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON and ROMAN creep toward a door on the right side of the hallway, rifles drawn. It is barely cracked open.

JANICE, MARIE, DANIEL, and EDWARD stay a few yards back, huddled together.

CLANG! Something metal within the room hits the floor.

Captain Johnson signals to Roman with his fingers: "One, two, three."

INT. EASTERN STOREROOM - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN JOHNSON smashes his shoulder on the door and barrels into the room filled with old Nazi supply crates. ROMAN enters and covers the Captain's back. They pull out their flashlights.

ROMAN

Oh, shit... Cap?

Roman shines his light toward the back of the room.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

S-Someone's...

The Captain looks toward the light. A naked, malnourished PALE MAN (30) huddles in the corner. His arms are skinny to the bone, and his vertebrae visibly protrude from his spine.

The Pale Man rocks back and forth.

PALE MAN
(in German)
No. Not again. No more.

Captain Johnson and Roman slowly move toward the Pale Man.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Janice?! You're gonna wanna see
this!

JANICE and MARIE enter. They both gasp. EDWARD and DANIEL follow behind them.

DANIEL
Holy shit!

Daniel steps back and puts Edward between himself and the Pale Man.

EDWARD
Daniel!

DANIEL
"Daniel" nothing, look at that
thing! What the hell!?

Daniel peeks around Edward's shoulder.

Captain Johnson and Roman stand beside the Pale Man. The Captain leans forward and brings his light closer to the Pale Man's face. Roman stands just behind the Captain.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Hey. Hey...

The Pale Man snaps his head up. His milky-white eyes lock with the Captain's.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Wh--

The Pale Man reaches up and grasps Captain Johnson's throat. Captain Johnson stumbles backward and grabs the Pale Man's wrist. He attempts to wrench free.

PALE MAN
(in German)
Get out of here! Run!

Roman lunges into the Pale Man and tackles him to the ground. Captain Johnson falls over with them.

ROMAN
A little help?!

Edward, Daniel, and Marie run over to the Pale Man. They assist Roman and restrain his arms and legs.

PALE MAN
(in German)
You are not safe!

Captain Johnson gets to his feet and brushes himself off.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Tie him up and take him back.
Figure out who the fuck he is.

The Pale Man stiffens violently. Roman struggles to maintain control.

Veins bulge from the Pale Man's neck.

PALE MAN
Unum verum Deum adorare.

The Pale Man turns his head and glares at Daniel.

PALE MAN (CONT'D)
Adorare eum!

The Pale Man breaks his stare and contorts in agony. Roman struggles to keep him steady as he zip-ties his arms and legs.

The Pale Man's eyes darken. They slowly become consumed by a black haze.

He falls limp. Roman finishes the restraints and hoists the unresponsive Pale Man up.

ROMAN
Jesus, he's heavy.

Captain Johnson bends over and picks up the Pale Man's legs. Roman and the Captain hoist him out of the room.

Daniel looks at Edward.

DANIEL
What the hell was that?

Edward stares forward, unfazed by Daniel. He shakes Edward's arm.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Da--!

Marie grabs Daniel and spins him around.

MARIE

I think we should leave Dr.
McKenna alone for a bit.

Marie looks at Daniel and widens her eyes. Daniel looks down in embarrassment.

DANIEL

R-Right.

Marie walks Daniel out. Edward stands in the middle of the room, shocked.

Janice walks up to him.

JANICE

Dr. McKenna, are you okay?

Edward ignores her.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Ed?

He shakes his head, blinks repeatedly, and looks at Janice.

EDWARD

Y-Yeah. I'm fine.

JANICE

What's the matter? You look upset.

Edward slowly nods.

EDWARD

Right before he passed out, he said
something in Latin.

Janice furls her eyebrows.

JANICE

Latin?

Edward nods again.

JANICE (CONT'D)

What did he say?

Edward sighs and looks off, blankly.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Edward...

He turns his head and looks directly at Janice.

EDWARD
"Worship the one true god."

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The door bursts open. CAPTAIN JOHNSON and ROMAN carry the PALE MAN between the two of them. JANICE runs inside followed immediately by MARIE, DANIEL, and EDWARD.

KENNETH and SUJIT look up from their work. They stand to greet the team.

KENNETH
Welcome back. How was your tour?
Unfortunately, I have some bad news
to report--

He points at the Pale Man.

KENNETH (CONT'D)
What the hell?

Sujit looks over, horrified.

SUJIT
Who is that?!

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
We found a straggler. Clear a
table!

They run over and assist Captain Johnson and Roman.

SUJIT
This is insane!

The four men place the unconscious Pale Man on a table.
Everyone else surrounds them.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Strap him down.

Sujit cocks his head in confusion.

SUJIT
Really!? The man is unconscious!

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

Trust me. Do it.

Roman cuts all the zip ties while Kenneth and Sujit work to strap him to the table. Roman lays the Pale Man flat as Sujit applies, then tightens, the restraints.

They step back and join Daniel, Edward, and Marie. They all stare at the body in awe.

DANIEL

He doesn't even look old. Who is this guy?

The Pale Man rapidly inhales.

Everyone jumps back.

SUJIT

Madarchod!

Sujit covers his heart.

The Pale Man's exhales and his chest slowly falls.

The group glances at each other uneasily.

JANICE

Alright. Everybody just sit tight; I need to radio this out.

She walks over to the communications terminal.

KENNETH

Doctor, that's what I was trying to tell you. We lost radio about a half-hour ago!

Janice picks up the microphone and presses the transmit button.

Static.

She throws the mic down at the desk in frustration.

JANICE

Damnit! This is getting out of hand.

She rubs her temples.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Alright, I need you two to learn everything you can about this person for when I report back to the States.

Sujit and Kenneth nod.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Roman keep your eye on him.

She glances at the Pale Man.

ROMAN
Right.

JANICE
Everybody be on high alert. No one goes in or out of the bunker.

DANIEL
What if there are more people down there?!

Daniel looks around the room.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
We should help them. We don't even know who they are.

JANICE
We can't risk it. Hole up until we can call for backup.

MARIE
He's got a point, though.

The group turns to Marie.

MARIE (CONT'D)
What if there was another research team just like us?

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Oh, come on. Who else would have the backing?

MARIE
Another government, here to chase Nazi secrets?

Janice looks over to Edward who stares at the ground.

MARIE (CONT'D)
This is a big find; we're in
Antarctica for Christ's sake!

JANICE
There is zero chance we are going
back inside that bunker, Dr. Blanc.

Daniel shakes his head in disbelief.

DANIEL
Bullshit, are we really going just
stand around while pe--

EDWARD
Dr. Alvarez!

Daniel freezes. Edward scans the group.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
I agree with Janice. We can't do
it.

He looks down, then back up to the group.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
We should halt interior research
for now. It's too dangerous.

Edward locks eyes with Marie.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Dr. Alvarez and I need to go over
the pictures he took in the bunker
during our down time. We have no
idea what could be in there. We
should be as informed as possible,
moving forward.

Janice looks over to Edward and nods.

JANICE
I'm posting a guard outside the
bunker. No one goes in without my
consent.

Marie shakes her head and marches out the room.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Alright, Captain Johnson and I will
work on setting up a new line of
communication to report this. Get
some rest.

INT. MCKENNAN/ALVAREZ QUARTERS - DAY

EDWARD sits in front Daniel's laptop and takes notes. He slides through pictures of the Glyph Room, one by one.

DANIEL sits on the sofa with his headphones on, and reads a book on WWII history.

He pull out his iPod, presses pause, and looks over to Edward.

DANIEL
Have you ever heard of the Black
Sun?

Edward continues to flip through the catalog of photographs.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Dad.

Edward ignores him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I had read that the Nazis were
obsessed with alien technology and
UFOs.

Edward's lips thin, he lightly smacks the table, and looks over to Daniel.

EDWARD
Daniel, I'm busy, okay? I have to
figure out what all of this means.

Edward lifts his arms toward the laptop, frustrated. He sighs, runs his hand through his hair in angst, and goes back to the pictures.

DANIEL
Jesus, I'm just trying to help. I
think maybe they were trying to
find some sorta crash site or--

Edward spins on Daniel.

EDWARD
Daniel, I've been researching
things like this my whole life.
Recycled conspiracy theories aren't
going to "help."

Daniel stands up.

DANIEL

Okay, then why in the hell am I here?

Daniel flings his arms up and looks around the room.

EDWARD

Daniel! I'm sorry, I'm sorry... Okay? This isn't what I was expecting.

Edward adjusts his reading glasses.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

What I saw in that room wasn't "alien." It was a slew of different ancient languages. Egyptian, Mayan, Sumerian, Chinese, Hebrew...

Daniel looks on, stunned.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

And some languages I've never even seen before! We're dealing with the occult, here, Daniel.

Daniel looks off to the side and exhales. He pauses for a moment and looks back to Edward.

DANIEL

And what does that mean?

EDWARD

Biblical references, a culmination of symbols painted and etched on top of one another. African, Himalayan, Norse, all in Antarctica...

He motions toward Daniel.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Come here. Look at the pictures you took.

Edward points at a few symbols on the screen.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Look. That? That's Sanskrit.

Daniel's eyes narrow.

DANIEL
This is just like you.

Daniel tossed his book on the desk.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
When the hell were you gonna tell
me? You're constantly lying, or
concealing, or... something!

Daniel walks away frustrated.

EDWARD
Sorry I get caught up in my work.

DANIEL
I just wasted the last two hours
researching something that you
already knew?

Daniel throws on his pair of boots.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I didn't come here just to look
pretty.

EDWARD
Where are you going?

Daniel grabs his jacket that hangs by the front door.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
We need to stay in--

DANIEL
The control room. Maybe I can
contribute some semblance of help
there.

He throws on his jacket and bursts through the front door.

EDWARD
Daniel, come back!

BAM! The door slams behind Daniel. Edward groans.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Man, I messed up.

He turns back to his work and stares at the images on
Daniel's laptop screen. He sighs and continues to type away.

EXT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

Snow falls lightly on the Antarctic base as a storm ominously approaches from the distance.

MCKAY patrols the area snow in a thick snow jacket, and armed with his M4.

The wind picks up.

MCKAY

Of course.

He flips the hood of his jacket over his head.

CLANG! McKay turns and aims his M4 at the right side of the Control Room.

He flips on the flashlight attached to his M4.

MCKAY (CONT'D)

Roman? ...Cap?

McKay creeps toward the source of the noise.

MCKAY (CONT'D)

Don't fuck with me; I'm not in the mood...

He puts his back on the Control Room's outer wall and slides to the corner.

McKay spins around the corner. An open gas container lays in the snow. Fuel slowly trickles out of the nozzle, and coagulates into a puddle in the snow.

MCKAY (CONT'D)

God damn it, Roman. Why the hell is this outside?

He throws his rifle over his shoulder and grabs the gas canister.

SHUCKA SHUCKA! McKay shakes the can. A minute amount of gasoline bounces off the container's walls.

MCKAY (CONT'D)

Damn.

CRUNCH! CRUNCH! Footfalls resound from behind McKay.

He freezes.

McKay drops the gas canister and spins around. He raises his gun.

THUD! A fist lands on McKay's forehead and opens a massive gash. He collapses in a heap on the ground.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

SUJIT stand over the PALE MAN and takes his temperature with an ear thermometer.

KENNETH sits at a computer terminal and inputs information. ROMAN kicks back in a chair, feet up on a desk, passed out.

SUJIT
One hundred and eight degrees.

Kenneth turns around in his chair.

KENNETH
You're kidding, right?

Sujit shakes his head.

SUJIT
I don't get it. How is this even possible? He should be dead.

Sujit walks over to a chair and plops into it. He stares intently at the Pale Man.

SUJIT (CONT'D)
Who are you...?

The Control Room door pops open. DANIEL steps inside the building.

DANIEL
Hey, guys.

SUJIT
Oh, hello, Dr. Alvarez! We could use an extra hand, if you don't mind.

Daniel takes his coat off and walks over to the Pale Man.

DANIEL
Sure. What's up?

KENNETH
Well, quite a bit, actually.

Kenneth grabs a clipboard and walks over to Daniel.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

As you can see, his vitals are scattered all over the place. His core body temperature, blood pressure, you name it.

Sujit grabs the back of the Pale Man's head and lifts it up.

A baseball-sized area of flesh on the man's head is soft and shows signs of recent scar tissue.

SUJIT

See? Right there: Brain contusions... Fresh scar tissue. Whatever may have happened, it happened recently.

Daniel leans in closer and examines the sore.

DANIEL

Jesus...

He sets the Pale Man's head back down.

KENNETH

We just finished reading the blood test, and we can't completely identify him.

Kenneth pulls his glasses off and rubs his eyes.

SUJIT

Why don't you get some rest, Ken? Dr. Alvarez can help me out with the rest of the tests, right?

KENNETH

Not a bad idea. Is that okay with you, Dr. Alvarez?

Sujit turns to Daniel.

SUJIT

Is that all right?

DANIEL

Oh, yeah, yeah. Of course.

Kenneth yawns and hands the clipboard over to Daniel.

KENNETH

Alright, see you in the morning.
Good night.

He slowly makes his way to the door. He throws on his jacket, opens the door, and steps outside.

CLAP! Sujit slaps his hands together. Daniel looks over, surprised.

SUJIT

We have just a few more tests to run. Let's finish this up.

INT. MCKENNAN/ALVAREZ QUARTERS - DAY

EDWARD sits behind Daniel's laptop and studies an article.

EDWARD

Is that right? Sneaky, sneaky.

He jots down a hand full of notes.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! The door's vibrations resonate throughout the room.

Edward casually glances toward the sound's source.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Back so soon, eh? Come on in,
Danny.

MARIE (O.S.)

Dr. McKennan? Um, it's me, Marie.

Edward's eyes light up. He quickly removes himself from the chair and rushes over to his bed. He hides a mountain of papers and clothes underneath his comforter.

EDWARD

Just a minute!

Edward runs to the bathroom, flips on the light, and looks at himself in the mirror. He turns on the small sink and splashes his face with water.

MARIE (V.O.)

Listen, I just wanted to say I'm
sorry about earlier. Can I come
in?

Edward runs to his travel bag and pulls out a container of eye drops. He squirts them all over his face.

MARIE (V.O.)

I have something I need to show
you.

Edward runs to the door and flings it open. MARIE stands in
the entryway with a satchel draped around her back.

She examines Edward's moist face and raises her eyebrow.

EDWARD

Sorry about that. Please, come in.

MARIE

Thanks, doctor. I apologize for
calling on you so late.

She steps inside the door. Edward quickly closes it behind
her.

EDWARD

No worries. Please, have a seat.
Would you like anything to drink?

MARIE

Thank you, but no.

Marie walks over to the sofa and sits down.

MARIE (CONT'D)

So, Dr. McKennan. If you didn't
know, I was the one who requested
you. I've followed your work on
the ****

EDWARD

Really? Well thanks, it means a
lot.

Marie cracks a smile.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

So, what is it you had to show me?

Marie removes her satchel and places it next to her on the
sofa. She opens the flap and removes a tattered, leather-
bound book. She clasps it in both hands and gazes deeply
into Edward's eyes.

MARIE

Before I show you this, I... I
trust you, Dr. McKennan.

Edward stares at her, confused. He cocks his head to the
side.

EDWARD
I... trust you, too?

Marie's fixation intensifies. She leans toward Edward.

MARIE
I have a bad feeling about Janice.

Edward jostles in surprise.

EDWARD
Wh--

MARIE
She's hiding something from us.
And I need your help to figure out
what that is.

She extends her arms and presents the book to Edward. He hesitantly receives it.

EDWARD
What is this?

Marie looks at the book, then back to Edward, and nods.

Edward opens up the book. He reads the first page and then quickly flips through the next few.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
These are... This is just a ledger.

Marie slides closer to Edward, and guides his hand to the back of the book.

He flips to the last few written pages. His eyes widen.

A slew of cryptic symbols and ciphers litter the pages, hastily scrawled, and with a severe disregard for order and format.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
These are the same symbols from...

Marie nods. Edward looks up from the book and locks eyes with Marie, thoroughly concerned.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Whose is this? Where did you find
this?

Marie takes a deep breath.

MARIE

I found it next to one of corpses,
and I picked it up before the
bodies were removed.

EDWARD

Did you show this to anyone?

Marie shakes her head and looks down.

MARIE

No. You're the first.

She looks back up at Edward.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Please, tell me you can help. I
have no idea what these last few
pages mean.

Edward looks around the room in disbelief.

EDWARD

I-- I... I mean, it'll take a bit,
but... Wh-- Why haven't you shown
Janice?

Marie grabs the book and flips to the middle of the book.

MARIE

Look. Read here.

She points out a paragraph. Edward scans the content.

EDWARD

Okay, and...?

Marie turns the page.

MARIE

See?

The text becomes more jagged with each passing sentence. It
eventually becomes tumultuous scribbles and violent pen
strokes.

MARIE (CONT'D)

It becomes illegible, but suddenly
turns into these codes.

Edward absently walks over to Daniel's laptop. He places the
book on the table and brings up the photographs of the Symbol
Room.

He glances back at Marie.

EDWARD

You're going to want to see these.

Marie raises her eyebrow.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

DANIEL stands near the PALE MAN while SUJIT enters data into his computer. He sifts through a stack of Sujit's notes. ROMAN is fast asleep on the chair, head tilted, and drool on his chin.

SUJIT

Can you take his temperature,
please?

Daniel snaps out of it.

DANIEL

Oh, uh, yeah. Yeah, sure.

He grabs a bandage-sized strip of black film. He places it on the Pale Man's forehead.

A white circle gradually appears underneath the 110 degree calibration.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Wow.

Sujit looks up at Daniel.

SUJIT

What?

Daniel peers closer.

DANIEL

A hundred ten...

Sujit shakes his head in disbelief.

SUJIT

No, that's not possible. Use
another one; check it again.

Daniel removes the strip and applies another one. The white circle emerges underneath the 110 degree mark once more. Sujit walks over beside Daniel.

SUJIT (CONT'D)
I don't understand.

Daniel looks at the Pale Man's chest. It rises and falls with his sporadic breaths.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! The door shakes from the pounding.
Roman jerks from his sleep.

ROMAN
What the..?!

He instinctively reaches for his rifle and stares at the Control Room door.

Daniel and Sujit snap their gazes toward the door.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

An uneasiness fills the air.

Roman looks at Daniel and Sujit, then proceeds toward the door.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Cap?

KNOCK! KNOCK!

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Cap...?

Roman inches forward. He reaches his hand out toward the door's latch.

He looks back to Daniel and Sujit. Sujit nods at him in affirmation.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

Roman hesitates, takes a deep breath, and grabs the latch. He flings the door open.

Nothing.

He turns around once more. Sujit and Daniel stare on in disbelief. They move around the Pale Man to get a better view.

Roman takes a step outside and scans the area.

Nothing.

He steps back inside and shuts the door. Roman turns to Daniel and Sujit.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
What the fuck? You heard that,
right--?

Roman's eyes widen and his jaw drops. Daniel raises his brow.

DANIEL
What...?

Roman points past the two.

Daniel and Sujit turn around and face an empty table.

SUJIT
What? Where is he?!

Sujit scans the immediate area, frantic.

SUJIT (CONT'D)
Where?!

Daniel looks down at the table. The restraints are ripped and torn.

DANIEL
Oh my god.

INT. MCKENNAN/ALVAREZ QUARTERS - DAY

MARIE stands over EDWARD as he flips through a series of pictures on Daniel's laptop.

EDWARD
Look. This symbol, here, matches
this little sequence here.

Edward points to a section of scribbles in Marie's book.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
And this one matches with... this
image.

Edward clicks on another picture. A series of Sumerian glyphs appear on top of Icelandic runes.

MARIE
What does it mean?

EDWARD

I don't quite know off the top of my head, but I think it's mentioning some kind of barrier.

He looks at her and shrugs helplessly.

MARIE

The first, er, coherent section of the ledger mentions a research facility. Base '211'?

EDWARD

Yeah, what about it? It's just a myth.

MARIE

We're nowhere near that suspected location. This is an entirely different operation.

Edward slightly shakes his head.

EDWARD

I'm not quite following...

MARIE

The book mentions a few names and an unearthly source of energy. I looked the people up, and they are all associated with the Vrill Society.

Edward stares, mouth agape. Marie nods.

MARIE (CONT'D)

A litany of people - from scientists to generals. Whoever wrote this was deeply imbedded in the occult.

Edward stares off to the side.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Dr. McKennan?

EDWARD

Wait.

He holds up his hand. He grabs the book, flips through the symbol pages, and gazes at the pictures on Daniel's laptop.

Edward looks back and forth between the screen and the ledger.

MARIE
What is it?

EDWARD
I can't believe I didn't see this
earlier.

Marie positions herself behind him and peeks over his
shoulder.

MARIE
What?

SMACK! Edward slaps the table with his hands.

EDWARD
The handwriting! Look!

Edward points out the similarities between the Symbol Room
runes and the ciphers in the book.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
...It's the same.

Marie places her hand over her heart and smiles.

MARIE
Oh, my. Do you realize what this
means, Doctor?

Edward stands up and grabs Marie's hands.

EDWARD
This is unfathomable!

Marie glances down at their hands and then back into Edward's
eyes.

MARIE
This could revolutionize the
world's outlook on World War II...

Edward pulls Marie closer to him. Marie gasps.

They embrace each other and kiss.

Marie pulls away. Edward stares at her, enamored. She
smirks.

She grabs the back of his head and they make out. He spins
her around and they awkwardly slam into things as they make
their way to the bed. They fall onto the mattress.

CRUNCH! Marie clings to Edward in fear.

MARIE (CONT'D)

What the--

Edward smiles in embarrassment and pulls out a few crinkled papers.

EDWARD

Er, sorry. I tried to clean up before you c-came in... Heh.

Marie smiles and rolls on top of him.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

ROMAN motions to SUJIT and DANIEL to join him near the door.

ROMAN

Come on! Get behind me!

He raises his rifle and scans the room. Daniel and Sujit scramble to get near Roman.

Daniel climbs over a desk and hits the ground next to Roman's feet.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Let's go!

Sujit makes his way toward Roman.

The PALE MAN's arm wraps around Sujit's neck.

SUJIT

Help!

Sujit gets thrown to the ground behind a desk and out of Roman's line of sight.

SUJIT (CONT'D)

Nooo!!

Roman runs closer.

The Pale Man lifts Sujit up and uses him as a human shield. Roman halts, hoists up his rifle, and takes aim.

ROMAN

Let him go!

The Pale Man grins.

PALE MAN

Penetrabo anima tua!

The Pale Man grabs Sujit's left eye socket.

SUJIT
Aaahh! No!!

Daniel looks back and forth between Sujit and Roman.

DANIEL
Just shoot him! God damnit!

PALE MAN
Penetrabo anima tua!

The Pale Man tenses up and rips a sizeable portion of Sujit's left orbital bone off of his face. Sujit howls in his death throes.

BANG! Roman fires a single shot. It tears into the Pale Man's neck flesh.

He recoils, brings a hand up to his wound, and stares at Roman.

ROMAN
Oh, what the fuck!?

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! Roman opens fire. He sprays the Pale Man with bullets.

The Pale Man staggers backwards. Daniel takes cover behind a rolling chair.

The Pale Man regains his composure.

Roman stares at him, astonished. The Pale Man snickers.

A PALE CLONE (30), identical to the Pale Man, leaps onto Roman's back. He wraps his arms around Roman's throat.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Dan! Help!

Daniel looks on in shock. He looks around for a weapon, spots a fire extinguisher, and rushes over to it.

The Pale Man charges Roman and tackles him.

Daniel rushes over to the melee.

CLACK! He smacks the Pale Clone in the head with the fire extinguisher. The Pale Clone rolls off of Roman, dazed.

Daniel hoists the extinguisher high into the air and readies a fatal blow.

BAM! Daniel takes a blow in the back.

He hits the floor and looks up. A DISFIGURED CLONE (30) stands above him. His facial features are under-developed and almost droop off of his head.

Daniel looks up in horror.

THUD! The Disfigured Clone slams his boot into Daniel's face.

Daniel reels backward and falls unconscious.

EXT. BASE CAMP - DAY

DANIEL rouses from his daze. He is dragged through the snow by the PALE CLONE and the DISFIGURED CLONE.

His head bounces off of the uneven terrain.

Daniel's head flops to the side. MCKAY's corpse leans against the bunker, slumped over in the snow. His face is blue and covered with frozen blood.

Daniel's eyes roll back in his head as he passes out.

INT. MCKENNAN/ALVAREZ QUARTERS - NIGHT

EDWARD and MARIE lay in bed and stare at the ceiling.

MARIE
I still don't get it.

Edward looks to Marie.

EDWARD
What? Is it something I did?

Marie sits up in bed.

MARIE
No, no...!

She laughs.

MARIE (CONT'D)
I just don't get why they would come this far.

Edward rolls over and grabs his glasses off the floor.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Besides the symbols, all the things mentioned in the journal. There is no real evidence of any of it.

EDWARD

Maybe they cleared out the base towards the end of the war. After they got word of end, they could have slipped into Argentina like some of the other higher ups.

MARIE

Maybe--

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! Edward snaps his head toward the door in surprise. Marie pulls the covers over herself and sits up.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (O.S.)

Doctor McKennan! We have an emergency; there's been an attack. We need you in the Control Room as soon as possible!

EDWARD

What... an attack?!

Edward and Marie look at each other momentarily, then fling the covers up, and get ready.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

EDWARD and MARIE burst into the room and quickly close the door behind them.

JANICE, CAPTAIN JOHNSON, and KENNETH stand before them near a desk with grim facial expressions.

EDWARD

What's going on? Where's Daniel?

He looks around. He notices legs that stick out from behind a desk.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Daniel?!

Edward rushes over to the corpse. He rounds the corner and spots ROMAN's body.

JANICE

Dr. McKennan!

Edward looks beyond Roman and spots two more bodies: SUJIT, and a thawed MCKAY. He spins on Janice.

EDWARD
Where's Daniel?!

Captain Johnson glances at Janice, then focuses back to Edward.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
We think he was taken--

Edward slams his fist on the desk.

EDWARD
Where, god damnit?!

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Inside the bunker.

Edward stares at Captain Johnson, then looks to Janice.

EDWARD
We have to find him.

Janice steps forward.

JANICE
Dr. McKennan. You have to calm down and think rationally. We must lockdown in this room and wait for pickup.

EDWARD
No... No!

Edward looks around, dazed, but quickly recovers. He marches up to Captain Johnson.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
I'm going to need a weapon.

Edward motions toward the Captain's rifle. Captain Johnson stares him down, silent.

JANICE
We can't do that. You need--

EDWARD
Damn it, Janice, I have to find him!

Edward turns and walks to a table near the door. A metal first-aid box rests on top. He flips open the lid and digs through the contents.

He removes a flare gun.

Edward storms past Marie toward the door.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
You coming?

Edward doesn't wait for her response, forces open the door, and walks into the snow.

Marie hesitates.

MARIE
We need to go after him.

Janice and Captain Johnson remain still. Kenneth shifts uncomfortably.

MARIE (CONT'D)
This is wrong! You know there's a possibility he could be alive. We have to help them!

Marie rushes out of the Control Room.

Janice faces Captain Johnson. He nods.

She snaps her gaze to Kenneth.

JANICE
Dr. Cheng. Lock the doors. Stay here and man the radio.

Kenneth nods as Janice and Captain Johnson bail out after Edward and Marie.

EXT. BUNKER ENTRANCE - DAY

MARIE runs up to EDWARD who crouches down and inspects the ice. She places her hand on his shoulder.

MARIE
Edward...

Edward points to the disturbed snow.

EDWARD
Look. They dragged him.

His finger traces a path into the bunker.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
He's alive.

Edward hops up and walks to the bunker door.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (O.S.)
Stop! Do not go inside that
bunker!

Edward and Marie spin around. JANICE and CAPTAIN JOHNSON jog up to them.

Edward gets in Captain Johnson's face.

EDWARD
And why the hell not?

Captain Johnson looks down his nose at Edward.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Because I'm going in first.

Edward stares at him and nods. He steps aside as Captain Johnson opens the bunker door.

Everyone files inside.

INT. BUNKER ENTRANCE - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON flips on his flash light as EDWARD, MARIE, and JANICE follow him into the darkness.

He scans the floor: A trail of blood smears lead further inward.

Edward purses his lips and inhales deeply.

EDWARD
Daniel? Daniel!?

Marie places her hand on his back.

Captain Johnson approaches the generator and rips the cord. The motor barely turns over. He yanks on the cord a couple more times and the generator fires up.

The bunker slowly illuminates as the various strings of light come to life.

Captain Johnson looks around.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
We might not have a lot of time.

Janice looks at him, puzzled.

JANICE

Why?

Captain Johnson spreads his arms out.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

There's no gas cans. We're gonna hafta make this quick.

JANICE

Alright. Let's get this over with.

A figure dashes across a hallway just out of sight. Marie shrieks.

MARIE

Oh my god!

Edward rushes over to her.

EDWARD

What?!

Marie trembles.

MARIE

I saw something! Someone ran down that hall!

Edward's eyes light up.

EDWARD

Was it Daniel?!

Marie looks away.

MARIE

I don't know...

Captain Johnson hoists his gun up and slowly walks toward the hallway in question.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

Stay close.

Janice follows immediately behind him. Marie follows her as Edward brings up the rear, flare gun at the ready.

INT. BUNKER - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON, JANICE, EDWARD, and MARIE creep down the staircase deeper into the bunker. They approach a "T" intersection.

CLANG! CLING! CRASH! A series of noises echo from the Western Hallway.

Captain Johnson spins around and signals for the group to follow him.

He jogs down the hall toward the Symbol Room, lays flat against the wall, and slides toward the open door.

He peeks around the corner: Empty.

Captain Johnson glances back to the group and signals them forward.

INT. SYMBOL ROOM - DAY

Recently disturbed dust lingers in the air.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON steps inside followed by JANICE, EDWARD, and MARIE.

Captain Johnson's light beams through the dirt particles.

EDWARD

What is that?

Edward rushes to the end of the room and stands before a destroyed section of the wall.

Large boulders have been ripped away from the wall. Marie and Janice move to inspect the hole. Captain Johnson looks around the room nervously.

Edward pulls out his flashlight and shines it down into hole. Captain Johnson stands off to the side, gun at the ready.

JANICE

What the hell? Th-This wasn't there before... I--

She grabs Edward's sleeve and pulls him toward her. He shakes his head in confusion.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Your research; what have you found out?

EDWARD

Wh--

She stares at him, wide-eyed and holds her hand out to the room.

Edward scans the walls, then looks back to her.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I--

Edward stammers and stumbles backward. Janice leans into him.

JANICE

We hired you on to figure out what all of this means, now, tell me something! Anything!

Edward pulls away.

EDWARD

What the hell are you talking about? I've only been here for a day!

Janice shakes her head.

JANICE

Well, we need to head back to base. We don't know what's down there.

Edward remains stunned.

EDWARD

What? But he's my s--

Marie interjects.

MARIE

We mustn't leave a member of our team behind!

Marie casts Edward a sideways glance. Edward furls his brow.

JANICE

We have no choice but to--

EDWARD

Daniel is my son.

The group falls silent and stares at him.

Janice narrows her eyes and purses her lips at Edward.

JANICE

We cannot risk the information we've extracted.

EDWARD
My son's life isn't something to be
bartered with!

Janice stands silent, and she coldly stares at Edward.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
God damn you, Janice.

JANICE
I needed your expertise! This is a
government operation, not a damn
day care center. Is he even
qualified to be here?!

Edward and Janice gaze intensely at one another.

JANICE (CONT'D)
I want you - and your son - off the
team. I will radio for someone to
pick you up, and--

Marie steps in between Edward and Janice.

MARIE
Janice! I-I found a book...

JANICE
What book?

MARIE
I found it on our very first
exploration, near the corpse of Dr.
Schnee. Dr. McKennan has been
helping me decipher the text.

Janice looks back and forth between Edward and Marie.

EDWARD
We haven't been able to confirm our
theory, but the journal infers the
Nazis were cloning humans here in
the '40s.

Janice's looks at Marie taken aback by her deception..

EDWARD (CONT'D)
It's littered with various symbols
of death in a dozen different
languages - some ancient. I can't
leave my son alone with whatever is
down there!

Janice turns on Marie.

JANICE

How could you not tell me about this, Marie?

MARIE

I'm a scientist; I don't know your intentions, nor who's funding this research. I don't trust your mercenaries, either.

Captain Johnson relaxes his gun.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

I was a Captain in the U.S. Army. Not some outsourced ragtag.

Marie locks eyes with Captain Johnson.

MARIE

And that's supposed to make me feel safe?

Marie focuses her glare on Janice.

MARIE (CONT'D)

I know this information will trickle down to the military eventually, and who knows what you'll do with it?!

Janice rubs her temples.

JANICE

I can't believe this.

MARIE

What did you expect Janice?! You came and whisked me away in the dead of night--

JANICE

I expected you to trust me!

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

You know what? I'm sick of this. If y'all are done standing around, there's a man's life that needs saving.

Captain Johnson turns to Edward.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)

You want your son? Come with me.

Captain Johnson ducks down and climbs into the hole in the wall. He hunches over as he heads through the tunnel.

Edward looks to Janice with a smile, then turns to Marie and nods. Edward and Marie climb into the hole. Janice looks back to the hallway, sighs, then follows in after them.

INT. ORNATE FOYER - DAY

DANIEL slowly regains consciousness and opens his eyes. He lays on a stone floor surrounded by circular, gray stone walls. He stares straight up at a massive, gilded dome beautifully carved from the bedrock. The room is dimly lit by eleven evenly spaced candles mounted on the walls.

DANIEL
...unh... Where...?

He flops his head to the left and spots a wooden door. Daniel struggles to get to his feet, but is met with resistance.

He looks down at his arms: They are firmly shackled to the floor. Daniel quickly scans the room, frantic. He notices thick lines of blood angled all around him.

CLACK! The wooden door unlatches. Daniel jerks his head toward the sound.

Eleven hooded CLONES in brown robes ceremonially, and solemnly, enter the foyer and encircle Daniel.

They still their movements equidistant from one another.

Daniel intensifies his struggle in futility. The Clones pull back their hoods simultaneously, and reveal identical, pale faces with disheveled, blonde hair.

The Clones stand still - silent - before they chant, in unison, a low, monotonous drone.

Daniel looks around, horrified.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Please! Please, let me go!

The Clones continue to chant, unfazed.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Stop! Please...!

Their note crescendos in volume until it audibly distorts. The floor and walls shake under the intense vibration.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No!!!

INT. CAVERNOUS HALLWAY - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON creeps through a cramped tunnel, hunched over. MARIE follows immediately after him with EDWARD close behind, who tightly grips the flare gun.

JANICE brings up the rear. She periodically, and nervously, glances over her shoulder as they delve deeper through the tunnel system hewn into the Earth. She firmly clutches her pistol.

Marie clings to Edward's arm as they follow Captain Johnson further into the darkness.

The cramped tunnel, illuminated only by the Captain's flashlight, suddenly gives way to a gargantuan cavern.

Stalactites drip water from the ceiling into a knee-deep lake. Steam slowly rises off the surface.

They approach a foot-high ridge that edges up against the lake.

EDWARD

Daniel!

His voice echoes throughout the expansive cavern.

Captain Johnson smacks him on the arm to get his attention. They lock eyes as the Captain puts his index finger against his own lips.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

Shh!

He points off in the distance and reveals a large temple carved from a single block of stone.

EDWARD

My god... What is this?

Marie and Janice stand on either side of them, awe-stricken.

The stone building's dome and spires tower fifty feet off the ground - not even halfway to the cave's ceiling.

MARIE

It looks like a temple.

They stare, amazed, until Captain Johnson reaches down and places his arm in the lake. Everyone looks at him, anxious.

He removes his arm and looks at his hand, then back to the group.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

It's warm.

He looks off to the side, perturbed, then shrugs it off, and jumps in the lake. The others cautiously follow his lead.

They trudge through the lake and struggle to see clearly through the mist.

Janice mutters under her breath.

JANICE

This is incredible...

Edward spins on her.

EDWARD

Yeah, and when did you plan on telling the rest of us about it?!

She looks at him, equally as confused.

JANICE

We had no idea. We've never seen anything like this before.

Edward turns to Captain Johnson, helpless, who simply shakes his head and shrugs.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

KENNETH stands over the radio, headphones on, and microphone in hand. He adjusts the frequency with his free hand.

KENNETH

Echo base to any ships receiving this message. Come in. Repeat: Echo base to any ships receiving this message. Please respond.

He holds the microphone away from his face and listens: Static.

Kenneth brings the mic back up to his mouth.

KENNETH (CONT'D)
Echo base to any ships receiving
this message. Please, please
respond!

More static.

Kenneth slams his fist onto the console.

KENNETH (CONT'D)
God damnit, come in!

THUD! Kenneth snaps his head to the side and stares at the
portion of wall that emitted the sound.

THUD! The same low impact resounds once more.

He hesitantly places the microphone down and slowly reaches
for a nearby drawer. He opens it and removes a pistol.

THUD! Another object strikes the control room's wall.
Kenneth tentatively steps toward the noise.

INT. CAVE TEMPLE ENTRANCE - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON, EDWARD, MARIE, and JANICE slush out of the
lake and onto the shoreline. Steam billows off of them,
upward, toward the darkened ceiling.

They approach a gigantic archway, intricately carved and
strewn with various unknown symbols and glyphs.

Marie walks up to the arch and runs her fingers along the
rock.

MARIE
What language is this?

Edward stands still, stunned.

EDWARD
I-I have no idea...

MARIE
What?

EDWARD
I've never seen this before.

MARIE
What do you mean?

Edward, at a loss, shakes his head.

Captain Johnson places himself in front of the multi-ton stone doors, squares up, and shoves on it.

The door slowly swings open as if it were weightless. The Captain pauses, puzzled by how little force it required.

He peers inside, turns to the group, and motions them inside.

INT. ORNATE FOYER - DAY

DANIEL lays in the center of the eleven CLONES as they ritualistically chant. He writhes under their intense volume, and strains to free himself from his restraints.

CLOP! CLOP! CLOP! Daniel hears footfalls behind him and struggles for a glimpse.

Two more hooded Clones enter the foyer.

DANIEL

Who are you?! We came to help!
Please, let me go!

They bend over at the waist and reach toward him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No! Don't you fucking touch me!

The two Clones hold him down as they release his restraints.

Daniel fails. They grab his arm and pin it back down with supernatural strength. One of the Clones pulls a small dagger out from his robe. He kneels down beside Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No!!

The Clone places the blade's edge on Daniel's forehead. Daniel quickly turns his head to the side, but the Clone grabs his chin and re-centers him. Daniel gazes deep into the Clone's black eyes.

CLONE

Your soul is lost, boy. No one can
save you from him.

The knife slips slightly into Daniel's forehead as the Clone carves a symbol. Daniel shrieks in pain and thrashes violently.

The Clone finishes his carving. They stand him up and spin him around. Blood streams between Daniel's eyes and down his nose.

Daniel looks down: the angled red lines on the floor form a pentagram, painted in blood.

He looks back up toward a hole in the cave wall. Beyond the cavity, in a large, naturally-formed alcove, lies a shallow pool of luminous green liquid.

DANIEL

Wh-What is that? What the hell is going on?!

The three Clones dig their hands deep into Daniel's arms as they carry him toward the pool.

Daniel howls in agony and resists, but to no avail.

INT. SUMMONING POOL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANIEL is dragged into a large cave by the two hooded CLONES. Thirteen altars, hewn from the natural rock formations, surround a green body of liquid in the center.

The eleven other Clones enter in single file and take their place. They resume their chant, one at a time, as they each stand behind an altar.

The two hooded Clones hoist Daniel up and carry him to the water's edge. The chant grows louder.

DANIEL

No, please! What are you doing? Please!

The hooded Clones grasp Daniel tighter as they hoist him above their heads.

Daniel howls in agony as the two Clones toss him head-first into the green lake.

SPLASH! Daniel flails under water as the two hooded Clones take their positions behind the remaining altars and join in the chant

The Clones simultaneously remove daggers and hold them up into the sky.

CLONES

(in Latin)

Come forth, Dark One. Bringer of the end!

Daniel resurfaces. He wipes the thick green goo from his eyes and coughs up some as he struggles to regain his breath.

The blurred images of the Clones comes into view. They bring the daggers up to their throats.

CLONES (CONT'D)

(in Latin)

Come forth and reclaim your
rightful throne upon the ashes of
your enemies!

One by one, the Clones dig the blades deep into their necks and slice across their throats. Blood gushes forth as the Clones gargle and collapse to the floor.

Daniel's eyes widen. He quickly snaps out of it and swims toward the lake's edge.

A low rumble vibrates the cave. The ground quakes and the green goo ripples.

Daniel looks around, panicked.

He is suddenly jerked beneath the lake's surface. His hands flail as he's dragged under.

INT. BASE CAMP CONTROL ROOM - DAY

KENNETH cautiously approaches the wall.

THUD! Another heavy object slams into the side of the control room.

Kenneth tentatively raises his pistol up at the wall toward the sounds.

THUD! Kenneth flinches. He steadies the gun and takes a couple deep breaths.

He readies himself.

KSSHT! The radio comes to life. Kenneth jumps to the side and nearly topples over a desk. He looks at the radio.

RADIO

Calling Echo Base. Come in Echo
Base. This is the U.S.S. Barrack
Obama. Do you read?

Kenneth's eyes widen, he holsters his pistol, and he scrambles over to the radio. He frantically puts on the headphones and grabs the microphone.

KENNETH

Y-Yes! This is Echo Base, please
come in! Repeat: This is Echo
Base, please respond... over!

Kenneth holds his breath. After a long pause, the radio
relays another transmission.

RADIO

Echo Base, this is the U.S.S.
Barrack Obama. We received your
distress call earlier but were
unable to make contact. What's
your status?

Kenneth sighs in relief.

KENNETH

Thank god. The research project
has been terminated. We're under
attack.

RADIO

Under attack? By who?

KENNETH

We don't know! Just, please, send
help immediately!

A wisp of smoke rises up between Kenneth and the radio.
Kenneth sniffs the air.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

...fire?

RADIO

We c--...

KCHHHHT! A stream of static overtakes the transmission.
Kenneth adjusts a few knobs on the radio.

KENNETH

This is Echo Base, come in. Come
in...

KCHHHHT! More static. Kenneth slams his fists into the
radio.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

God damnit!

He turns around and sees a thin column of smoke that rises
from underneath the front door.

KENNETH (CONT'D)
What the hell?!

Kenneth rushes over to the door and looks out the window. More smoke rises up from outside, and the faint orange glow of flames flickers off to the side.

He looks around for the fire extinguisher, spots it across the room, and rushes over to retrieve it.

Kenneth unhooks it from the wall and sprints back to the door. Just before he reaches it, the door bursts open, and a CLONE enters as flames wick off his body.

Kenneth stumbles, frightened, and drops the fire extinguisher. The Clone pounces on him and reaches for his neck.

He squirms under the Clone's strength as he reaches out for the fire extinguisher.

The flames from outside quickly encroach on the control room.

Kenneth's hand inches ever closer to the handle as he struggles for a breath of air.

The Clone looks around and spots a scalpel on the medical table. He grabs it and jabs it toward Kenneth who blocks it at the last second.

The fire consumes a nearby desk and chair.

The Clone recovers and jabs the scalpel into Kenneth's leg. Kenneth howls in agony. The Clone removes the scalpel and stabs Kenneth repeatedly.

Kenneth desperately reaches out for the extinguisher as the Clone shreds apart his thigh.

His fingertips grasp hold of the fire extinguisher and barely pull it into reach. He rips it toward him and bashes the Clone over the head.

The Clone rolls over, unconscious.

Kenneth slumps to the ground, exhausted and pale, but notices the ever-expanding fire. He crawls toward the door and the heart of the blaze.

Blood flows out from his numerous stab wounds. He gradually dozes off into unconsciousness as he tries to manipulate the fire extinguisher.

He grips the handle, aims the hose, and closes his eyes.

The fire extinguisher rolls out from his hands as the flames move in and consume the rest of the building.

INT. SUMMONING POOL - DAY

DANIEL floats in the dense green goo deep under the surface. He panics and looks around for a point of reference.

He spastically swims toward what he thinks is up.

A movement catches his eye. He turns his head and spots a SHADOWY FIGURE in the distance. Two red eyes glow through the green liquid.

Daniel freaks out and resumes his upward swim, out of breath. The Shadowy Figure rapidly approaches Daniel and reaches out for him.

Daniel nears the surface.

The Shadowy Figure grabs Daniel and hurls him downward toward the bottom of the lake.

Daniel slams into the lake bed and loses the rest of his oxygen. He looks up and sees two dark hands envelope his vision.

Daniel watches helplessly as his body floats toward the surface and is consumed by the Shadowy Figure.

Daniel closes his eyes.

INT. THE VOID - CONTINUOUS

As DANIEL opens his eyes, he drifts through a pitch black void. He looks around, but can't see anything.

He thrashes around but doesn't feel anything. He tries to scream but no sound emits.

INT. CAVE TEMPLE - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHNSON carefully makes his way through a gaudy, stone hallway. He sporadically juts the flashlight beam back and forth, up and down. EDWARD follows close behind with MARIE and JANICE right beside him.

The narrow passage quickly gives way to a long room with a tall ceiling. Two rows of pillars extend into the darkness.

Edward looks to Captain Johnson who sifts through his pack. The Captain removes a set of flares.

He cracks one. A flame emerges from the tip and illuminates the surrounding area in a deep red glow.

Captain Johnson hands the flare back to Marie. She looks at him hesitantly. After a moment, she accepts the flare.

The Captain cracks the other flare and scans the group.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Get ready. Keep your eyes up.

Captain Johnson rears back and hurls the flare deep into the blackened void.

Pillars light up as the flare bounces past them. Shadows move and angle themselves away from the flare as it rolls by.

One shadow angles against the shadows' uniform motion.

EDWARD
What's that?!

Edward points down the hall. A shadowy figure bolts behind one of the pillars.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
What?

EDWARD
I-I just saw something.

Captain Johnson raises his brow. Janice and Marie shift uncomfortably.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Everyone stay alert.

The Captain looks to Marie. She diligently clutches the flare.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Stay close.

Marie nods and the group slowly proceeds into the temple. They shuffle along toward the flare on the floor up ahead.

CLACK! A loud footfall resounds from somewhere in the hallway.

The group freezes in place. They nervously glance at each other. Edward increases his grip on the flare gun.

Captain Johnson narrows his eyes and peers into the blackness. He strains to make out anything.

CLACK! Another footfall echoes much closer to them. They all spin to the side toward the noise.

Janice places both hands on her pistol and raises it up.

JANICE

Come out! Come out or we'll shoot!

Silence.

Janice takes a step forward. Her pistol shakes in her hands.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Come out!

A DERANGED CLONE emerges behind them. He lunges forward.

Edward spins around at the last second and is tackled to the ground.

EDWARD

Help!

Captain Johnson turns and raises his rifle as another DEMENTED CLONE leaps out from behind a pillar. The Demented Clone latches onto Captain Johnson's back and wrestles him to the floor.

Edward struggles underneath the Deranged Clone as it tries to dig its fingers into his eyes.

Marie runs up and jams her flare into the Deranged Clone's throat. It shrieks and rolls off of Edward.

Janice frantically aims at the two Clones as Captain Johnson flips the Demented Clone from his back. Janice quickly takes aim.

POP! POP! POP! She connects with the Demented Clone's torso.

BANG! BANG! Captain Johnson fires two rounds into the Deranged Clone's skull. The Deranged Clone rolls off of Edward and violently convulses.

Edward regains his composure and looks down at the corpse at his feet.

Janice steps forward.

JANICE
We need to get out of here, now!

Edward glares at Janice.

EDWARD
I can't let my son--

JANICE
I don't care about your son!

Captain Johnson places himself between the two of them.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Shh! Be quiet!

Everyone falls silent.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Did you hear that?

Edward listens closely. A voice faintly resounds from deeper within the temple.

DANIEL (O.S.)
Dad!

Edward perks up.

EDWARD
Daniel?! Daniel!

Edward rushes off through a nearby passageway.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Doctor McKennan!

Captain Johnson looks back at Janice and Marie.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Keep close!

Captain Johnson runs after Edward.

CLACK! CLACK! More footfalls crunch from behind them. Marie spins around and looks back into the darkness.

JANICE
Marie!

Marie snaps out of it and follows after Janice.

INT. TEMPLE PASSAGEWAYS - DAY

EDWARD sprints through the labyrinth of corridors followed closely behind by CAPTAIN JOHNSON, MARIE, and JANICE.

They twist and turn through the dark passages lit only by Marie's flare.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Slow down! Where are you going?!

Edward rounds a final corner and skids to a halt.

INT. SUMMONING POOL ROOM - DAY

EDWARD, CAPTAIN JOHNSON, MARIE, and JANICE charge into the cavernous, candlelit room that houses the green lake.

Edward looks around at the thirteen corpses strewn all around the floor. He runs up to one of them.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Doctor!

Edward flips one of the corpses over and reveals a CLONE. He quickly gets up and moves to the next corpse - another Clone.

He looks back at the group, exasperated.

MARIE
Is it Daniel?

EDWARD
No... these are all clones.

Marie somberly looks down.

Edward walks to the lake's edge. The gooey surface lies undisturbed.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Daniel!!

Captain Johnson and Marie look around the room. Dozens of carvings litter the walls. One prominent inscription encircles the entire lake.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Daniel!?!

Janice marches up to Edward, grabs him by the shoulder, and spins him around.

JANICE

Edward! Daniel is gone! We can't find him! He's likely dead, and we should get out before we die, as well!

EDWARD

I'm not leaving my son.

Janice glares at him.

JANICE

Well we are. Captain, let's go.

Captain Johnson looks at Edward, then back to Janice.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON

Yes, ma'am.

Janice and the Captain turn and walk toward the room's exit.

Marie rushes up to the edge of the lake near Edward and grabs his arm.

MARIE

Look! Look, it's Daniel!

Edward gazes out over the lake and spots DANIEL who floats face down in the middle of the goo.

EDWARD

Oh my god! Daniel!

Edward leaps into the goo and wades his way to Daniel. He throws his arm under Daniel and pulls him back toward the rocks. Janice and Captain Johnson stop to observe.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Daniel, hang in there damnit!

They make it to the shore and Edward drags Daniel out of the goo and places him on his back. Edward gets down on a knee and starts CPR on Daniel's chest.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Don't leave me, again!

Marie crouches down by Daniel's head.

MARIE

Edward, the symbol...

She brushes Daniel's hair away and reveals the circular symbol carved into his forehead.

MARIE (CONT'D)
...they carved it onto him.

Edward stops the CPR and looks at the scar in awe.

EDWARD
We were too late.

Edward rolls over in shock. Captain Johnson walks up next to them and looks down at Daniel.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
What the hell is going on?

Janice steps forward from the entrance.

JANICE
It all makes sense.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
What does?

JANICE
I know who these people are. This is... the Vrill Society.

Marie looks up.

JANICE (CONT'D)
This is their end game; they're using the clones as vessels.

MARIE
What do you mean?

JANICE
They killed your son in order to summon a demon! He was a sacrifice.

Edward casts a sideways glance at Janice.

EDWARD
You knew this could happen and you didn't tell anyone?!

Janice narrows her eyes and stares at Edward.

JANICE
Everyone knew that needed to know.

Edward jumps up to his feet.

EDWARD
Obviously not!

He flings his arm out toward Daniel.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
I think Daniel should've known, but
now he's dead!

Daniel's leg twitches.

Everyone looks down at his body. His leg twitches again.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Daniel!

Edward falls back to his knees and cradles Daniel's head in his arms.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
Daniel, thank god!

Daniel slowly opens his eyes and turns his head toward Edward. Edward stares back into deep black orbs.

Edward recoils in horror and slides away from his son. Marie, frightened, takes a few steps back.

Daniel hovers up off of the ground, goo drips from his extended arms and down his legs.

DANIEL
Ego veni. Titulus metus.

Daniel's deep voice booms.

Edward's jaw drops. Marie looks back and forth between Daniel and Edward.

MARIE
What? What did he say?

Edward stands, stunned.

EDWARD
"I have come. Pillar of fear."

CAPTAIN JOHNSON
Fuck that!

Captain Johnson hoists his rifle up and takes aim at Daniel's head.

Daniel quickly touches down on the ground and lunges forward at Captain Johnson. The Captain's eyes widen as Daniel reaches his hand out toward his head.

Daniel grabs Captain Johnson's face.

CAPTAIN JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Ah--!

Claws grow from Daniel's hand and into the Captain's skull. His skin chars underneath Daniel's grip.

Janice, Edward, and Marie stumble away from the spectacle, terrified.

JANICE

Get back! Run! Now!

Daniel lifts Captain Johnson off of the ground by his face.

Marie grabs the mesmerized Edward by the arm and drags him to the door.

Captain Johnson's limbs stiffen. His knee cracks and splinters as his leg bends backward.

Captain Johnson howls in agony. Melted skin drips from his head.

His arm bends backward at the elbow and violently contorts behind his back.

Captain Johnson wriggles in the air until his back snaps and his body folds in on itself.

The Captain's screams stop.

Daniel drops his corpse onto the ground and marches toward Edward.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Run!

Janice turns around and sprints out of the room. Edward and Marie scramble after her.

MARIE

Janice, wait!

Daniel continues his steady march after them.

INT. TEMPLE PASSAGEWAYS - CONTINUOUS

JANICE weaves through the twisted hallways. EDWARD and MARIE chase after her.

EDWARD
Janice, slow down!

MARIE
Wait!

Janice approaches a "T" intersection and turns right. Marie and Edward jog up to the same intersection. Marie starts to head after Janice. Edward tugs on her arm.

EDWARD
We can't... I can't leave him.

MARIE
But--

EDWARD
I can't leave him!

Marie nods.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
There has to be something we can do.

MARIE
I think there is. There was an inscription in that room along the wall that I'd never seen before. I think that's the one described in the journal.

Edward's heart races.

EDWARD
We have to try.

Edward glances down the hallway and then pulls Marie to the left.

INT. UNDERGROUND TEMPLE - DAY

JANICE breaks out of the side passageways and into the main temple hallway. The flare in the middle of the room is almost burnt out and only illuminates a small area around it.

She checks over her shoulder multiple times as she makes her way to the temple's exit.

Janice looks forward and spots Daniel who stands in the middle of the doorway. Janice grinds to a halt.

JANICE
St-stay away...

Janice holds up her pistol with both hands.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Stay back!

POP! POP! POP! She fires at Daniel who steps toward her, unfazed.

Janice's jaw drops.

POP! POP! She discharges two more rounds. Daniel strides forward without a flinch.

Janice backs up, horrified.

JANICE (CONT'D)
God damn you...

Janice lowers the gun as she continues to back pedal.

Daniel smirks and reaches out for her head.

JANICE (CONT'D)
God damn you!

Janice brings the pistol up to her head. She closes her eyes and squeezes the trigger.

POP! The muzzle flashes.

Janice opens her eyes. Daniel stands inches from her face and holds her wrist to the side. Her flesh burns under his grasp and she drops the gun to the floor.

Daniel uses his other hand to grip Janice by the throat. Her neck flesh sings against his touch.

JANICE (CONT'D)
No! Ahh!!!

Janice's screech echoes throughout the temple.

INT. SUMMONING POOL ROOM - DAY

EDWARD and MARIE exit the passageway maze and step back into the cavernous lake room.

A scream resonates from within the temple. Edward and Marie look at each other.

MARIE

We have to hurry. Janice called it a sacrifice, but the book mentioned an exchange. We might still be able to save him.

Edward nods.

EDWARD

Where's the inscription?

Marie points around the room. Edward sees a Latin phrase scrawled into the walls.

MARIE

But the journal mentioned that "blood is the key." How are we supposed to get his blood?

Edward sighs.

EDWARD

We don't need his blood.

Marie cocks her head slightly. Edward faces her.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

We'll use mine.

Marie gasps as Edward hands her the flare gun and picks up a knife from a nearby Clone.

MARIE

No! Edward, you can't...

EDWARD

I'll do anything to get my son back. I was never there for him when he was a kid. I've already hurt him so much, I can't do it anymore.

MARIE

Edward no, please--

Edward rips off one of his sleeves and ties it around his arm.

DANIEL rounds the corner and stands in the entryway.

EDWARD

Get back!

Marie shuffles away from Edward and up against the wall.

Daniel strides closer to Edward.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I don't want to hurt you, Danny. I
love you, son.

Daniel snickers.

DANIEL

Your son is dead.

Edward digs the dagger into his palm. He grimaces as blood
emerges from the deep wound.

Edward spins around as he reads the inscription.

EDWARD

(in Latin)

Blood is life. Life for death.
Death is blood.

Daniel pauses in his tracks. Blood from Edward's hand drips
to the floor.

Edward watches curiously as Daniel chuckles.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Uh, Marie? Why isn't it working?

Daniel roars with laughter, winds up, and backhands Edward
clear across the room. Edward slams into the wall and plops
to the ground. He rolls over in pain and clutches a burn
mark on his cheek.

MARIE

Edward!

Marie takes a few steps forward. Daniel marches over to
Edward.

MARIE (CONT'D)

No!

FWOOSH! Marie fires the flare gun. The flare rockets across
the room, connects with the back of Daniel's head, and
bounces to the floor.

Daniel stops and slowly turns. Marie locks in with Daniel's
black, soulless eyes.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Edward!

Edward reels in agony and slowly gets up.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Remember the book, Edward!

Daniel rushes forward and slams into Marie. She's knocked from her feet and crashes to the ground.

Edward looks on absently as Daniel bends over and grabs Marie's leg. She howls in excruciating pain as Daniel lifts her off the ground. His hand melts into her thigh as she writhes and flails to get free.

EDWARD

(to himself)

"Reverse the circle."

Edward grips the dagger and stares at the inscription once more.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

(in Latin)

Blood is death...

SNAP! Daniel wrenches Marie's hip out of its socket and drops her on her head. Smoke rises from her severe burn.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

(in Latin)

Death for life...

Daniel raises his foot over Marie's head. Daniel smiles.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

(in Latin)

Life is blood!

Edward slits his other palm.

Daniel stumbles forward. A distorted spiritual image fades in and out and blurs his form.

Daniel spins on Edward.

DANIEL

Fool! Die!

Daniel lunges toward Edward. Edward gasps in horror at Daniel's persistence.

Edward snarls and jams the dagger into his own stomach.

Daniel immediately stops as if he were held back by some invisible force.

A demonic spirit is ripped back from Daniel's body. It struggles to regain total control of Daniel.

Edward and Daniel lock eyes. The blackness recedes and Daniel momentarily regains consciousness.

EDWARD
I'm sorry, son.

DANIEL
...D-Dad?

Edward twists the knife. Blood seeps through his shirt and gushes down his pants.

INT. THE VOID - NIGHT

DANIEL floats in the emptiness, curled in the fetal position. His skin is pale and his lips are blue.

WHOOSH! He shivers in dread as an enormous shadow ominously moves past him.

A pinpoint of light shines in the distance.

EDWARD (O.S.)
I'm sorry, son.

The light grows in size and brightens intensely.

DANIEL
...D-Dad?

The light blinds Daniel and consumes his body.

INT. SUMMONING POOL ROOM - DAY

The spirit is torn from DANIEL's body and hurtles into the green goo. Daniel is pulled backward and splashes into the lake, as well.

EDWARD falls to his knees, dizzy.

MARIE struggles to get to her feet. She hobbles over to Edward and winces with every step. She bends down over him.

MARIE
No, Edward. No...

She sobs.

MARIE (CONT'D)
You'll be okay.

The Earth begins to rumble. Marie looks around the cave as rocks start to fall from the ceiling.

MARIE (CONT'D)
We have to get out of here!

SPLASH! Daniel breaks the surface of the lake and gasps. He poorly treads goo as he tries to swim to shore.

Edward tilts his head to the side, smiles, and closes his eyes.

The earthquake rages even harder. A large boulder separates from the roof and crashes into the pool inches from Daniel.

Marie limps to the lake's edge.

MARIE (CONT'D)
Hurry, Daniel! This place is
caving in!

Marie bends over and offers out her hand. Daniel grasps onto her forearm and together they lift him out of the pool.

Marie yelps due to the sudden pain. Daniel looks down at her leg.

DANIEL
Oh my god, are you okay? You're
hurt!

MARIE
I'm fine. We need to go.

Daniel looks around and spots his father's corpse.

DANIEL
Dad...? Dad!

Daniel starts to run toward him, but Marie grabs his arm. He looks back at her, puzzled.

MARIE
Your father knew what he was doing.

DANIEL
I can't just leave him here!

Marie pulls Daniel close.

MARIE

If you have any love for your
father, you will run.

The temple shakes violently. A large chunk of the ceiling
smashes on the floor nearby.

MARIE (CONT'D)

We have to go now!

Daniel takes one last look at Edward and leaves the room.
Marie limps after him.

INT. UNDERGROUND TEMPLE - DAY

DANIEL and MARIE exit the maze of passageways and into the
main hallway. The flare flickers; the room is almost pitch
black. The pillars crack and groan under the immense
vibration.

Daniel holds onto Marie as they run down the corridor toward
the temple's entrance.

THUD! Marie trips over something on the floor. Daniel is
jerked backward as Marie hits the ground.

Marie wails in pain.

DANIEL

What the hell was that?

Daniel looks down and sees Janice's scorched remains.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Holy shit! Come on, let's go!

Daniel bends over to help Marie to her feet.

The quake shakes a pillar loose.

SLAM! It collapses on top of Marie and crushes her lower
half. She spits up blood.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No!

Daniel rams his shoulder into the pillar and tries to move it
off of her.

MARIE

Just go!

She coughs up more blood.

MARIE (CONT'D)

It's okay...

She smiles. Her teeth are completely red. Blood trickles from the corner of her mouth.

Daniel slowly backs up as Marie sets her head on the ground. He stands still, shocked, mouth agape.

CRACK! A massive section of the temple's ceiling separates and cascades downward.

Daniel looks up and dives off to the side as the massive chunks bury Marie and Janice. Daniel quickly gets to his feet and sprints out of the temple.

EXT. BUNKER ENTRANCE - DAY

The cold wind whips up as the ice rumbles.

The bunker door bursts open and Daniel dives out onto the snow.

The structure gives way and heavy chunks of ice collapse the entrance.

The earthquake subsides.

Daniel, exhausted, gets to his feet and brushes himself off. He surveys the base camp.

The control room and all of the living quarters have been burnt down, reduced to nothing more than smoldering ruins.

Daniel stumbles toward the control room. He scans the ruins in disbelief.

He sighs, defeated.

CRUNCH! Snow compacts behind him.

Daniel spins around and comes face to face with a CLONE that lunges at him. Half of his body is charred and deformed.

The Clone connects with Daniel's chest and tackles him.

Daniel wrestles free and crawls toward the burnt debris. The Clone jumps on top of Daniel and strangles him.

Daniel spots a deformed metal rod that juts out from the ashes.

He reaches for it as the Clone tightens his hold.

Daniel's face starts to turn purple as he strains to reach the rod.

Daniel kicks the Clone off of him and jumps forward. He breaks off a section of the rod as the Clone resumes its attack.

He turns just in time to drive the rod through the Clone's eye and out the back of his head.

Daniel and the Clone collapse to the snow simultaneously. Daniel gasps for air as the Clone lay still, lifeless.

Daniel looks up to the sky. Snow falls onto his face as he drifts in and out of consciousness.

A low hum catches his attention. He turns his head to the left.

A helicopter pierces through the clouds. Daniel sighs in relief and closes his eyes.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

"15 Years Later"

A female ANCHOR (32) sits behind a desk in front of large monitors. She glosses over her notes as the crew readies the various lights and cameras. A spray-tanned WEATHERMAN (50) stands off to the side in front of a green screen.

A PRODUCER (34) in a dark blue suit with slicked back hair steps onto the set.

PRODUCER

Alright, we're on in five...
four... three...

He holds out two fingers, then one as he walks off stage. The camera man manipulates the jib for a sweeping shot.

ANCHOR

Good evening and welcome to
Primetime News at 10:00. Tonight's
leading story: Fringe scientist,
Dr. Daniel McKennan, has been
reported missing after a video
showing an apparent public freak-
out went viral.

The Anchor taps her notes on the desk into a neat pile.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

You might recognize him as the disenfranchised archeologist who recently published a book containing numerous conspiracy theories, as well as his own personal experiences, on hidden Nazi technology in Antarctica and potential government involvement.

WEATHERMAN (O.S.)

Antarctica, huh? I hope he had a jacket.

The Weatherman chuckles at his own joke. The Anchor smiles and turns back to the camera.

ANCHOR

Haha, I hope so, too.

A video plays on the screens behind her. She proceeds to describe how it unfolds.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

In the video, McKennan can be seen arguing with a group of reporters he alleges were harassing him after a recent speaking event. The encounter spilled out onto the street before McKennan fled on foot from the scene. No one has seen or heard from him since.

The Anchor turns to another camera.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

And coming up after your Primetime weather report: A cat parade through downtown. But first, what's the weather going to be like for that parade, Jim?

FADE OUT.