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by

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WGAW
Second Draft
February 19th, 2008

OVER BLACK

We listen to the immortal music of Mozart's Adagio of the Clarinet Concerto in A.

FADE UP

EXT. THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Space, infinite and empty.

But then, slowly all nine planets of our Solar System move into frame and align.

The last of them is the giant, burning sphere of the sun.

Just as the sun enters frame, a solar storm of gigantic proportion unfolds. The eruptions shoot thousands of miles into the blackness of space.

FADE TO BLACK

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FADE UP

EXT. COUNTRY SIDE/INDIA - SUNSET

Mozart's concerto filters from a jeep's stereo, fighting the drumming sounds of the monsoon rain. PROF. FREDERIC WEST, 66, listens to the music.

An Indian BOY playing by the roadside steers his wooden toy ship across a puddle.

The Professor turns to his driver, pointing to the boy.

PROF. WEST

Watch out!

But it's too late. The jeep drives straight through the puddle at full speed, sinking the boy's toy ship.

In the background, the jeep stops in front of a building. The driver jumps out, leading the Professor towards its entrance.

The sign at the door reads: 'Institute for Astrophysics - University of New Delhi'.

INT. NAGA-DENG MINE/INDIA - SUNSET

An endless mine shaft. An old elevator cage comes to a grinding halt. When Prof. West steps out we see that he is accompanied now by a nervous DR. SATNAM TSURUTANI, 32.

PROF. WEST

How deep are we?

SATNAM

8200 feet. Used to be an old copper mine, Professor, sir.

As Prof. West follows Satnam, he takes in the unusual setting for this science lab.

PROF. WEST

Helmsley told me that the neutrino count doubled during the last sun eruptions.

SATNAM

Correct, sir. But that is not what worries me...

They enter a large room with low hanging ceilings. A small group of WHITE COATS look up from their computers, which all show images of the solar storm we witnessed earlier.

SATNAM (CONT'D)

There was a new solar storm, so strong that the physical reaction got even more severe.

PROF. WEST

How can that be?

SATNAM

We don't know, Professor, sir.

Satnam walks over into another room. There he opens a hatch on the floor and hot steam rises.

SATNAM (CONT'D)

The neutrinos suddenly act like... microwaves.

Prof. West slowly steps closer. When he discovers that the water in the tank below is boiling, his face goes pale.

CUT TO:

EXT. LARGE TERRACE/WASHINGTON D.C. - EVENING

A major fund raising party is under way. The setting is spectacular. A terrace overlooking the Washington Mall and the Capitol Building.

ADRIAN HELMSLEY, 32, stands with a group of young POLITICAL AIDES. He is the only African-American among them.

One of the aides spots CARL ANHEUSER, 58, White House Chief of Staff, working the crowd.

POLITICAL AID #1

Look at Anheuser. Anyone would think *he* was President. Did you hear, he wants us to sign in and out like school boys?

ADRIAN

I still can't believe that Wilson chose *him* of all people to run the White House.

POLITICAL AID #2

Why not? Anheuser owns the Senate *and* the Congress.

ADRIAN

Shame he's such a pompous ass.

ANHEUSER (O.S.)

Somebody mention my name?

Adrian turns to see Anheuser smiling.

ADRIAN

(shocked)

Yes sir... No, sir.

ANHEUSER

Which one is it?

ADRIAN

We were talking about what a great speech you gave tonight. Well done, sir.

ANHEUSER

It's Helmsley, right? I'll remember that.

Anheuser walks away with a dangerous smile.

POLITICAL AID #2

That guy scares the shit out of me.

At that moment Adrian's cell phone rings.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN
 (into the phone)
 Professor West?

PROF. WEST (O.S.)
 I've been trying to reach you!

INT. LIVING ROOM/SATNAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Prof. West is on the phone. In the background we make out Satnam's family around the dining room table.

PROF. WEST
 Listen, Adrian. The situation is much worse than we thought...

Satnam quiets his little son. It is the boy we saw earlier with his toy ship.

INT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Adrian follows Anheuser through a hallway of the White House, papers in hand.

ADRIAN
 Sir, the President needs to know this.

ANHEUSER
 Helmsley, how long have you been on the job as science advisor?

ADRIAN
 Four months this week.

ANHEUSER
 I would say that's enough time to learn that we have rules here. You'll just have to wait until the quarterly science briefing.

ADRIAN
 If this is about what I said last night, I am truly sorry, sir.

ANHEUSER
 So you didn't like my speech?

Exasperated, Adrian holds out the papers to him.

ADRIAN
 Can you please have a look at this, sir? It's really important.

(CONTINUED)

Finally, Anheuser rips the papers out of his hands and starts to walk away, reading.

Suddenly he slows down.

ANHEUSER

Who wrote this?

ADRIAN

An Indian astrophysicist I graduated with from Harvard and Prof. West, the preeminent geologist in the US.

ANHEUSER

Who else knows about it?

ADRIAN

No one, sir.

ANHEUSER

Let's keep it that way, Helmsley.

Anheuser walks away.

FADE TO BLACK

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FADE UP

EXT. SEVILLE/SPAIN - DAY

G8 Summit. Riot police control the unruly crowd with water cannons.

We see PROTESTERS with Anti Globalization signs behind a fence. A convoy of limousines is approaching a historic building.

INT. BIG HALL/ALHAMBRA - DAY

We follow the American delegation into the conference room, where the other G8 delegations are seated around an enormous table.

The President of the United States, THOMAS F. WILSON, 56, doesn't sit down. He addresses the room and everybody goes quiet.

PRESIDENT WILSON (O.S.)

Good Morning...

For the first time we see the President's face. He is African-American.

(CONTINUED)

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

I hereby present a motion to meet privately with my seven fellow Heads of State, kindly excluding the rest of the delegates.

A murmur erupts. The Russian President SERGEY MAKARENKO, 62, whispers to one of his interpreters.

RUSSIAN INTERPRETER

Mr. Makarenko wishes to have his interpreters present.

President Wilson looks over to the Russian Colleague.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Mr. President, judging from the conversations we've had in the past, I can assure you, your English is absolutely fine, for what I have to say.

As the Russian President waves his interpreter away, all the international delegates leave as well.

The huge doors of the hall close. A secret service officer in the sound booth switches off the recording equipment to the chamber.

The President gathers himself.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

Six months ago I was made aware of a situation so devastating, that at first, I refused to believe it.

(pause)

However through the concerted efforts of the brightest scientists of several nations, we have now confirmed its validity.

Dead silence.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

The world as we know it, will soon come to an end.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHO MING VALLEY/TIBET - DAWN

A huge Chinese military helicopter blasts through a majestic mountain valley in Tibet. We are at the top of the world.

(CONTINUED)

A Chinese COLONEL, wearing dark sun glasses, watches from the chopper as the army forces the evacuation of the villages and monasteries.

VOICE (O.S.)
(in Chinese)
You will have new houses, electricity
and running water...

EXT. VILLAGE/TIBET - DAY

Someone speaks on a megaphone in the village square as villagers are evicted by soldiers and herded into trucks.

VOICE (O.S.)
... Some among you will even have the
chance to work for the glorious
People's Republic of China building the
biggest dam project in the world...

NENG PANG, a young monk, 18, is loaded into a truck together with his PARENTS, both in their 60's.

EXT. SCHOOL/TIBET - DAY

Neng's older brother, LIN PANG, 25, is part of a huge crowd of young men and women staying behind by a Tibetan school building. He turns and yells after the truck.

LIN
I will send you money mother.

The Colonel with the dark glasses steps up, addressing the masses.

COLONEL
 Who can read and write?

Eager hands fly up in the air. An official makes notes.

COLONEL (CONT'D)
 Who can weld?

Lin's hand shoots up in the air. We hear a siren echoing through the mountains and suddenly an explosion. Lin turns.

In the BACKGROUND, a series of explosions punch enormous holes into the side of the mountain, showering rock everywhere.

FADE TO BLACK

(CONTINUED)

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FADE UP

INT. DORCHESTER HOTEL/LONDON - DAY

A MAN in a dark suit walks through a hallway of the Dorchester looking like your typical MI-6 agent. The decor is plush and luxurious. He's stopped by two security men who frisk him.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE/DORCHESTER HOTEL - DAY

Heavily ringed fingers flip through a folder.

MI-6 OFFICER (O.S.)

Has his Highness had the opportunity to study the dossier?

A SAUDI PRINCE looks up and nods without expression.

SAUDI PRINCE

You must understand I have a very big family. Mister...

MI-6 OFFICER

Isaacs.

SAUDI PRINCE

Mister Isaacs, one billion dollars is a lot of money.

MI-6 OFFICER

I'm afraid the amount is in Euros, your Highness.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUVRE/PARIS - NIGHT

A group of dark figures in overalls walk past famous Renaissance paintings. They stop at the Mona Lisa.

MANFRED PICARD, 63, head of the French National Museums, stands by LAURA, a young African-American woman in her late 20's. They observe the specialists opening the case of the famous painting.

A whoosh of air as the vacuum seal breaks.

MANFRED PICARD

Laura, I'm putting a lot of trust in your people.

(CONTINUED)

Laura answers in almost perfect French.

LAURA

There are too many crazy people who could hurt her, Manfred. The World Heritage Foundation has done this all over the world.

In the BACKGROUND the Mona Lisa is taken off the wall and replaced with a perfect replica. Picard still looks uneasy. He watches as the real Mona Lisa is sealed into an airtight case.

MANFRED PICARD

And she'll be safe now? Tucked away in the Swiss Alps?

LAURA

Perfectly safe.

Picard looks suspicious but says nothing. The CAMERA MOVES IN on the face of the fake Mona Lisa until all we see is her mysterious smile.

FADE TO BLACK

2 0 1 2

FADE UP

FUZZY TV IMAGES:

Lifeless bodies encircle a huge fire pit. They resemble the rays of the sun. In the background we see the famous step pyramids of Tikal.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

... The mass suicide was discovered by a BBC documentary crew in the ancient Mayan city of Tikal...

Many of the dead are women and children looking peaceful and are surrounded by colorful flowers.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

... the victims were said to have adhered to the Mayan-Quiche Calender which predicts the end of time to occur on the 21st of December this year, due to the sun's destructive forces...

The CAMERA slowly pulls out and we are in--

INT. JACKSON'S APARTMENT/LOS ANGELES - EARLY MORNING

A shabby apartment in Silverlake. The TV is on.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

... Strangely enough, scientific records *do* support the fact that we are heading for the biggest solar climax in recorded history...

A small tremor rocks the apartment and the dishevelled face of JACKSON CURTIS, 33, pops up from behind the couch. He fell asleep at his laptop last night.

JACKSON

Oh no. Not again.

One look at his watch and he is off running. He throws some clothes and a toothbrush in a bag. His cell phone rings.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Hello?... What do you mean? I'm not late. It's not even 10:30...

Jackson turns off the TV and darts towards the door, stopping only to slide his laptop into a knapsack. As he turns, he stumbles over a stack of books, all shrink-wrapped and identically titled: 'Farewell Atlantis'.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Damn it!

(into the phone)

Kate, I'm on my way... For god's sake...

Frustrated, he kicks them out of his way and exits. We hold on the books and realize that Jackson's photograph is on their back covers.

EXT. JACKSON'S GARAGE/LOS ANGELES - EARLY MORNING

The phone call continues as Jackson opens the garage door, struggling to pack his old SUV with camping equipment.

JACKSON

They're kids, Kate, going on vacation. It's not a doctor's appointment... it's supposed to be fun. You remember that, right? Fun?

He tries to start the engine, but the battery is dead. Frustrated, he hits the steering wheel.

EXT. JACKSON'S STREET/LOS ANGELES - EARLY MORNING

Jackson runs across the street with his camping equipment, throwing it into the trunk of a stretch limo parked by the curb.

JACKSON

... I know it's mosquito season at Yellowstone, Kate. I'll pick some up on the way.

He notices a deep crack in the asphalt. His neighbors, an elderly couple, stand there and stare at it.

NEIGHBOR

Merrill, we should move back to Wisconsin.

Jackson gets into the limo and speeds off.

INT. STREETS/LOS ANGELES - EARLY MORNING

Jackson drives through LA with the radio on.

RADIO HOST (O.S.)

... Those shake-proof coffee mugs are a genius idea, and they just show the true nature of us Californians.

We pass a family frantically loading boxes into a van.

RADIO HOST (O.S.) (CONT'D)

We'll not bow to little inconveniences like these so called 'mini-quakes'...

Jackson passes a man in a wheelchair. He's holding up a cardboard sign: 'Repent - The End is Near'.

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Jackson stops and honks in front of an upscale Westwood home.

RADIO HOST (O.S.)

... If you have a funny 'mini-quake' story you wanna share, call Lisa & Randy at 1-800...

Jackson switches the radio off. Two kids NOAH, 10, and LILLY, 7, come running down the driveway. They slow down, as they see the limo.

NOAH

Jackson, what is this?

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Don't call me Jackson, Noah, I'm your father.

Lilly yells from inside the limo.

LILLY (O.S.)

Noah! Look! Daddy's got Space-Busters in the car... and Space-Busters 2. Awesome!

Their mother, KATE CURTIS, 32, a beautiful woman appears.

KATE

So what, you're a chauffeur now? What happened to the temp work?

JACKSON

This is better hours for me. Means I can still write.

KATE

Of course.

Kate's new boyfriend, GORDON SILBERMAN, 43, pulls out of the garage in his Porsche wearing his Bluetooth.

GORDON

(on the phone)

Simone, how many times have I told you, we don't do Lipo on Fridays. It's too messy.

Jackson smiles bitterly. Gordon waves at the kids.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Have fun guys. And watch out for those bears.

(to Jackson)

Nice car.

Jackson waves grudgingly as Gordon pulls away.

KATE

Noah needs to read twenty pages from his book each day...

She follows Jackson to the car with a bag of pull-up diapers.

KATE (CONT'D)

... and Lilly has to put these on, before she goes to sleep.

JACKSON

Still?

(CONTINUED)

He shuts the trunk and gets back behind the wheel. She looks at him seriously.

KATE

Jackson, they've been really looking forward to this you know. Don't let them down.

He nods as the car pulls away.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHIP DECK/SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR - DAY

HARRY HELMSLEY, 73, and his partner TONY DELGADO, 68, board an enormous cruise ship, the '*Freedom of the Seas*'. Harry is African-American, Tony is Italian. He carries a large case. They pass a poster: '*Jazz Night with Harry Helmsley & Tony Delgado*'.

HARRY

So this time we'll hit the Japs.

TONY

So what?

HARRY

Well Tony, electronics are cheap there and... you could visit your boy Will.

TONY

Afternoon ladies...

TONY shoots a charmers smile at a couple of older single ladies on sun loungers. They smile back coyly.

HARRY

Are you even listening to me?

TONY

Yes unfortunately I am Harry.

HARRY

I heard from Audrey you're a grandpa now.

TONY

Why don't you keep your nose out of my family. You're cramping my style.

HARRY

He married a Japanese girl - how is that the end of the world? You should at least go see him.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

Why? Do you see your boy?

HARRY

Not as much as I'd like. DC is a long way. But at least we talk.

TONY

What about?

HARRY

Life, how short it is...

Suddenly they're thrown off balance by a large swell that pulls the massive 'Freedom of the Seas' away from the landing, about ten yards.

The next moment, the ship slams back against the dock with an earthshaking BOOM.

TONY

What the hell was that?

A murmur goes through the crowd. Luckily nobody is injured.

CUT TO:

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM/D.C. - EARLY MORNING

The phone rings twice before Laura switches on a light. We catch a glimpse of a framed photo of her and Adrian. She answers the phone.

MANFRED PICARD (O.S.)

Laura? They lied to us.

LAURA

Manfred is that you?

EXT. STREETS/PARIS - NIGHT

Picard is speeding in his Peugeot, anxiously checking his rear view mirror.

MANFRED PICARD

I had my suspicions. I should have said something. They are following me.

LAURA (O.S.)

Who is?

MANFRED PICARD

They may be listening to us too. Laura the Heritage Foundation is a sham.

(CONTINUED)

Picard's car approaches a tunnel.

LAURA (O.S.)

What?

MANFRED

The art you collected, it's not in the Alps.

The Peugeot enters a tunnel.

LAURA (O.S.)

Then where is it?

A huge blast rips through the tunnel as his car explodes.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

JACKSON AND LILLY

(singing along to the radio)

'We all live in a Yellow Submarine...'

They're driving through the glorious landscape of Yellowstone National Park. Noah sits in the back with headphones on playing Space-Busters 2.

As they pass over a ridge, the music station is overpowered by a talk show filtering through. We hear a raspy and excitable voice.

RADIO HOST

... After what is going on in La-La-land with all those surface cracks, I told myself: Get your stupid ass to Yellowstone. I don't want to miss all the great fun, when it finally blows...

Lilly reaches for the dial of the radio.

LILLY

What happened to the music?

JACKSON

Hang on, sweet pea, let daddy listen to this for a moment...

Jackson corrects the dial to get better reception.

RADIO HOST

... There's been government people flying in and out all morning. And trust me, they did *not* look happy...

(CONTINUED)

A huge black helicopter brushes over the limo.

RADIO HOST (CONT'D)
 ... Folks, always remember, you heard
 it first from Charlie.

They watch in awe as the chopper disappears behind a ridge.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE/WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

Laura bursts in and heads straight for the TV. The President looks up from his desk.

LAURA
 You have to see this.

Sally the President's Secretary enters, flustered.

PRESIDENT WILSON
 It's alright Sally.

Sally closes the door as Laura turns up the TV.

CNN ANCHOR
 ... Mr. Picard had been the director of
 the French National Museums for 24
 years. As fate would have it his
 assassination took place in the same
 Paris tunnel where Princess Diana died
 in 1997.

The President comes around his desk. Laura looks at him distraught.

LAURA
 I just talked to him, Dad. He told me
 the world Heritage Foundation is a
 sham. Is that true?

The President shoots an anxious look across the room. Laura turns and suddenly realizes that Adrian is standing in the corner.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 You knew too? You sleep with me and you
 didn't say anything?

Adrian looks ashamed.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 I can't even look at you. Either of
 you!

(CONTINUED)

PRESIDENT WILSON

Honey, calm down.

LAURA

A man was killed! I want the truth Dad.
Right now.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST TRAIL/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

A dense forest trail. We hear Lilly before we see her.

LILLY (O.S.)

Daddy, where are we going?

JACKSON

To a very special place, Lil'bee. It's
a lake. A place where mommy and daddy
fell in love.

(winking to Noah)

Remember the book I gave you?

NOAH

I don't want to know where you and mom
had sex. I'm not ready for that,
Jackson.

JACKSON

I'm your dad, Noah.

LILLY (O.S.)

Daddy!

Jackson runs to catch up with Lilly who has reached a fence
with a 'keep out' sign posted.

JACKSON

This wasn't here before.

Jackson starts to climb the fence.

NOAH

Don't you see the signs?

JACKSON

It's fine guys.

EXT. RIDGE/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Jackson and his kids crest a ridge. They look down on a
parched basin with cracked terrain.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

It's gone. The whole darn lake is gone.
I swear you guys there was a lake here.

The kids roll their eyes.

EXT. EMPTY LAKE BED/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

A puddle of water is all that remains of the lake. Jackson and the kids walk into the basin, unaware of being watched THROUGH BINOCULARS.

Jackson spots an electronic measuring device and crouches to have a closer look.

Elsewhere in the lake bed, we see sand seeping through CRACKS in the ground.

NOAH (O.S.)

Jackson!

When he looks up, he sees heavily armed soldiers coming towards them from all sides.

JACKSON

It's okay, Noh'.

Through the BINOCULARS, we see Jackson and his kids arrested and led over a ridge.

With this we reveal an ENORMOUS RESEARCH FACILITY with hundreds of tents and vehicles surrounding a massive drilling tower.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITY/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Adrian Helmsley and Prof. West exit the drilling tower, both studying papers. Adrian notices Jackson and his kids nearby, being interrogated by an OFFICER.

ADRIAN

I'll be with you in a second,
Professor.

Adrian walks towards them. Jackson stares at the officer with defiance.

OFFICER

... And then you climbed over a posted
fence? Just like that?

NOAH

I told you.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Isn't this supposed to be a National Park? There shouldn't be fences. What are you guys doing around here anyway?

ADRIAN (O.S.)

We're geologists...

Jackson turns and sees Adrian standing there.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'll handle this officer. Thank you.

The officer reluctantly hands him Jackson's license.

JACKSON

So, where did the lake go?

ADRIAN

That's what we're trying to find out. We think this whole area has become potentially unstable. I would advise you to take your kids and leave, Mr...

He throws a look at Jackson's drivers license.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

... Curtis.

He looks up at Jackson with renewed interest.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Are you by any chance *the* Jackson Curtis, the author of 'Farewell Atlantis'?

JACKSON

(surprised)

Yeah, that's me.

Jackson straightens up proudly. Lilly smiles.

ADRIAN

What a coincidence. I'm reading your book, as we speak... first third, around day 300, when the shuttle loses communication with earth and drifts off into space.

JACKSON

You're one of lucky 422 who bought it.

ADRIAN

Actually I didn't buy it. My father gave it to me.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Oh, I see.

Prof. West waves at Adrian from one of the container labs.
Adrian hands back Jackson his drivers license.

ADRIAN

Officer, can you return them to the
campgrounds, please.

(to Jackson)

Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Curtis.

Jackson and his kids look after Adrian hurrying away.

LILLY

He was very nice.

JACKSON

Yes he was, Lil'bee.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - LATER

Jackson and the kids walk back to the campgrounds when
suddenly CHARLIE FROST, 62, a crazy looking guy with
binoculars around his neck, stands in their way.

CHARLIE FROST

What did the government guys tell you?

Jackson looks at him, instinctively picking up Lilly.

JACKSON

They think it's not such a good idea to
climb over their fences. They feel the
area is unstable.

Charlie bursts out laughing.

CHARLIE FROST

Unstable! Ha-ha! They say its unstable!
That's funny...

With this he turns around and leaves.

EXT. TENT/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DUSK

Jackson is sitting on a camp chair, right outside the tent.
He's on his laptop, looking enquiringly at an aerial picture
of Yellowstone on Google earth.

In the background we see the kids are in the tent.

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

There are mosquitos in here. Did anybody spray the tent?

Jackson looks up, remembering he forgot the spray.

JACKSON

We'll get some of that tomorrow. For tonight just put your head under the blankie.

LILLY

Daddy you said you weren't gonna work on your book.

JACKSON

I'm not Honey, I promise. Are you wearing your pull-ups?

Lilly nods as Jackson walks over and tucks her into bed. He kisses her good night. He turns and is surprised to see Noah typing a text on his cell phone.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Did mommy buy you that?

NOAH

No... Gordon gave it to me for my birthday.

Jackson takes the phone from out of Noah's hands.

JACKSON

Noah. Things like a cell phone have to be discussed in the family.

NOAH

(bitter)

What family?

Jackson reads the message Noah has typed 'Hey Gordon, Camping Sucks!'. Hurt, Jackson hands back the phone.

JACKSON

Go to sleep guys.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITY/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DUSK

Commotion. The base packs up. Adrian and Prof. West duck low as they board a chopper. Adrian is on the phone.

ADRIAN

... You have to immediately inform the President, Mr Anheuser. The readings look much worse than I expected.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 Plus Satnam's neutrino figures from
 India confirm...

We hear Anheuser, yelling.

ANHEUSER (O.S.)
 ... But you guys said...

ADRIAN
 We were wrong! By five or six months...

A second later the chopper lifts off.

INT. LIMO/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DUSK

Jackson has his laptop open with the cursor blinking away on the words 'Chapter Seven'. But he can't concentrate on writing after what Noah has said.

A chopper flies overhead. Jackson follows it's path over the campsite and his eyes fall on an American flag fluttering on top of a massive radio antennae. This belongs to an RV truck.

Through the RV's window, Jackson sees the silhouette of Charlie Frost, the guy with the binoculars, speaking into a microphone.

Curious, Jackson flicks on the radio and twists the dial.

ON THE RADIO
 (Charlie's voice)
 ... We have a listener calling in. Bill from Cooke City, you're on the Charlie Frost Show.
 (Bill's voice)
 I wanted to know, where will this all start?

Jackson is intrigued. He puts his laptop down.

ON THE RADIO (CONT'D)
 (Charlie's voice)
 Well, something like this could only originate in Hollywood, Ha-Ha! But seriously, they've got the earth cracking under their asses already, Bill.

Jackson climbs out of his car and starts towards the RV. He can still hear the radio.

ON THE RADIO (CONT'D)
 (Bill's voice)
 Our family believes in the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ON THE RADIO (CONT'D)

We have nothing to fear, Charlie.

(Charlie's voice)

Good for you Bill, good for you!

INT. CHARLIE'S RV/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DUSK

Charlie hits a switch. Music starts playing. The Doors, 'The End'.

CHARLIE FROST

... This is Charlie Frost reporting
live from Yellowstone National Park,
soon to become the world's largest
active volcano.

Charlie is about to take a bite of his sandwich, when there's
a knock on the door. Jackson sticks his head in.

JACKSON

Hi. Mind if I join you?

CHARLIE FROST

I only got a few minutes.

Charlie bites into his sandwich as Jackson looks around at
all the equipment.

JACKSON

I just heard part of your broadcast...
Mind me asking a question? What exactly
is it... that will start in Hollywood?

CHARLIE FROST

(chewing)

Actually it's gonna be the whole west
coast...

JACKSON

What are you talking about?

CHARLIE FROST

The apocalypse, the end of days. The
Mayans knew it, the I Ching and the
Bible, kind of...

Charlie looks at his watch.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

I got to eat... Just check my blog. You
can download it for free.

Charlie clicks on his laptop.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

... However, we do take donations.

(CONTINUED)

A crudely animated film starts to play. Charlie narrates on screen in an overly dramatic fashion.

CHARLIE'S VOICE

In the year 2012 a cataclysmic event will unfold. Caused by an alignment of the planets in our solar system that only happens every 640,000 years... Just imagine the earth as an Orange...

Charlie appears as an animated figure holding an orange.

CHARLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)

... our sun will begin to emit such extreme amounts of radiation, that the core of the earth will melt - that's the inside part of the Orange, leaving the crust of our planet free to shift.

On screen the middle of the orange shrinks, now the skin moves freely around it.

CHARLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)

In 1958, Prof. Hapgood named it 'Earth Crust Displacement'...

A faded portrait of a scientist appears on screen.

CHARLIE FROST

... and Albert Einstein endorsed it...

The infamous photo of Einstein, sticking out his tongue.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

The forces of mother nature will be so devastating it will bring an end to this world on winter solstice 12-21-12.

The film ends with an image of the whole earth covered with water.

Charlie shuts the laptop.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

Pretty neat, huh? It's a big hit on YouTube. I did the animation myself.

(pause)

I know what you're thinking. But all the governments know about this.

JACKSON

If they all knew, don't you think somebody would tell us?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE FROST

They can't. Just think about it. First the stockmarket would crash...

Charlie opens a can of beer. Phsssh!

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

Then the economy... boom. The dollar... boom. And then the people in the streets...

(mimicking gun fire)

Boom, boom! Pandemonium, revolution, war! They would never tell us. Beer?

Jackson shakes his head still struggling to digest this.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

Only if you're some Sheik, Bill Gates, or maybe one of those Russian billionaires do you stand a chance to buy a seat.

JACKSON

A seat?

CHARLIE FROST

(intensely)

They're building spaceships, man.

JACKSON

Oh... I see.

CHARLIE FROST

No really... One of my listeners, a geography professor at UTSC, has even figured out where they're building them. He sent me a map.

JACKSON

Well... Charlie, I think I gotta go. My kids are sleeping.

Charlie looks at him bug eyed.

CHARLIE FROST

Get them out of Yellowstone, man. It's gonna get ugly here.

JACKSON

Night, Charlie.

As Jackson exits, Charlie gets back on the air.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE FROST

Sorry for the delay, folks. But even in times like these, a man has got to eat...

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT OF SUPERMARKET/LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Westwood. The parking lot of Gelson's is nearly empty.

Eerie silence. Suddenly some of the cars begin to shift in place from an unseen force. A small CRACK creases the asphalt and slowly crawls towards the brightly lit supermarket.

INT. BETWEEN AISLES/SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Muzak is playing. Kate and her boyfriend Gordon are shopping late. She picks up some pull-ups for Lilly, Gordon steps up behind her, wrapping his arms around her waist.

GORDON

Why don't we make a baby?

He reaches up and touches her breasts.

KATE

Stop it! We're in public.

Gordon lets go of her with mock disappointment.

GORDON

Honey, I created them. And now suddenly I can't touch them?

Kate pushes him away and moves on.

A few customers are paying at the checkout stand.

BEHIND THEM: Huge glass windows reveal cars slowly sliding into the ever widening crack in the parking lot. Nobody inside notices.

Gordon catches up with Kate.

GORDON (CONT'D)

You always act strange after *he* shows up?

KATE

Just because I don't care for your arrogant humor doesn't mean I'm acting strange. He is the father of my kids.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

Maybe biologically. Can I remind you what that guy did? First you gave up med school to have Noah... Then you practically raise him and Lilly by yourself while he sat glued to a laptop writing that junk.

KATE

Some of his stuff is actually... He's published Gordon.

GORDON

(mockingly)

Yeah, published! You know your mother was right. You've always been drawn to guys with lofty dreams and empty pockets. But not this time right, sweetheart?

Kate smiles awkwardly and picks up a can of soup. The shelf in front of her shakes for a moment.

KATE

Did you see that?

GORDON

See what?

Kate slowly puts the cans of soup into her cart and looks around. Gordon senses a problem between them.

GORDON (CONT'D)

You know Kate, we have to keep working at this... our relationship. Because I won't end up being just a re-run of you and Jackson.

(Pause)

I mean Honey, I feel like... something is pulling us apart?

Before Gordon finishes his sentence--

A violent ROAR! From front to back, the entire supermarket rips open right between Kate and Gordon.

The few customers scream in horror at the sight of the huge crevasse forming beneath them. Kate and Gordon are thrown up against opposite aisles holding on for dear life.

They cling to the columns as the shelves fold into the ever widening crack...

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE/YELLOWSTONE - MORNING

Jackson puts down some groceries at the checkout.

JACKSON
Just stop scratching. You'll get them
infected.

He smiles at the female cashier behind the counter who does not look friendly.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Something for Mosquito bites please?

CASHIER
Before or after?

JACKSON
What?

The woman looks at Lilly and Noah with their red lumps.

CASHIER
I'd get before and after.

She slams two mosquito products on the counter.

LILLY
(pointing)
Look! Mrs. Birnbaum, my teacher is on
TV!

On the store's TV: A heavy-set blonde WOMAN, 45, speaking to a reporter in front of Gelson's.

NOAH
That's our supermarket.

The gap in the ground is enormous now, at least half a mile long and 200 feet wide.

JACKSON
(worried)
Kids, we have to pack up and go find
mommy.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

President Wilson and Anheuser walk towards the Situation Room.

(CONTINUED)

ANHEUSER

Sir, you have to initiate the boarding process immediately.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Is this even possible? What's our information from China?

ANHEUSER

They estimate four of the ships will be ready for launch.

The President is shocked by this news.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Only four?

ANHEUSER

If it's alright with you sir, I'll brief the panel about the new development.

PRESIDENT WILSON

I'd rather have Adrian do that. They trust him. I told him to be in on the meeting.

Anheuser fumes as they enter the situation room.

INT. SITUATION ROOM/WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

Flat screens line the walls. A video conference is under way with each of the G8 members represented.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we all knew this day would come. But we never imagined it would come this soon.

He looks over to Adrian.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

I would like to pass this over to my science advisor, Adrian Helmsley.

Adrian steps up and gathers himself. Anheuser watches.

ADRIAN

I'll make this brief...

Pointing to a set of charts.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

... According to our latest data from Yellowstone, the temperature of the subterranean crust of the earth, the cement that holds our landmass in place, is increasing at a rapid rate, much faster than anticipated...

All the heads of state are glued to his words.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

... This causes extreme polar instability. The magnetic fields have decreased by more than 80% over the last 48 hours.

The German Chancellor, a woman, interrupts.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR

How much time do we have, Mr. Helmsley?

Adrian glances to Professor West, standing in the back.

ADRIAN

Two, maybe three days if we're lucky.

The Prime Minister of Italy breaks in, upset.

ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

How can you speak about *luck* in such a situation?

ANHEUSER

Apologies Prime minster. He's still new to the job.

President Wilson steps up.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Nevertheless, Mr. Antonioni, we have to make an immediate decision.

We hear CHEERING and APPLAUSE.

BOXING ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Introducing the 320 pound muscle machine from the Ukraine...

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING ARENA OF MGM GRAND/LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The arena is filled to its max. The crowd is on its feet.

(CONTINUED)

BOXING ANNOUNCER

... and tonight's challenger for the heavy weight world championship of the world. Here he is... Mister Zultan Balashin!

The crowd ROARS as the boxer and his entourage enter.

The CAMERA moves in on a tall man with blonde clean cut hair. He is well built, wearing designer clothing from head to toe. YURI KARPOV, 45, stereotypical Russian oligarch.

He approaches the ringside corner and whistles.

YURI

Zultan!

The nervous boxer turns.

ZULTAN

(in Russian)

Ah, finally, Yuri. I thought I would not see you.

Yuri hits the boxer's gloves. Zultan is nervous. His coach steps in.

COACH

He needs to concentrate now, Mister Karpov.

YURI

You shut up... when I talk to my boy, understand?

COACH

Yes, Mr. Karpov.

YURI

Good... That is good.

(in Russian to the boxer)

Zultan my friend. Do not forget. We are fighters. We never go down. We always stay on our feet...

Zultan just keeps nodding, pumping himself up.

YURI (CONT'D)

... No matter who is hitting us. No matter how hard.

GONG. First Round. The fight is on.

YURI (CONT'D)

Now, go kill the bastard.

(CONTINUED)

Yuri walks to his seat, sitting down next to his trophy:

TAMARA, 28, blonde, wears the shortest mini one can imagine, designer shoes, handbag, glasses and boobs. In her lap she holds CAESAR, a tiny dog wearing a diamond collar.

In the ring the boxers maul at each other. Yuri's cell phone beeps. It's a text message:

START BOARDING PROCEDURE

Yuri's whole demeanor changes. Without a word, he gets up and walks out of the arena.

TAMARA

Yuri bear... where are you going?

Yuri does not respond as he squeezes through the crowd.

Zultan, the boxer, notices Yuri leave. In that split second distraction, he is hit HARD and goes down for the count.

The crowd ROARS!

CUT TO:

EXT. WESTWOOD/LOS ANGELES - SUNRISE

Jackson has driven all night. The sun rises, a giant glowing orb.

PUBLIC RADIO NEWS (O.S.)

... Caltech believes that the incident in the Westwood supermarket has released most of the surface tension...

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE/LOS ANGELES - EARLY MORNING

Jackson pulls up. The kids are asleep.

PUBLIC RADIO NEWS (O.S.)

... It looks like life in the city will soon be back to normal, Mayor Gonzales said at an early morning news conference from his home in Hancock Park.

Jackson switches off the radio and wakes his kids gently.

JACKSON

Lilly, we're home sweetie.

(to Noah)

Wake up big man.

(CONTINUED)

Kate heads to the car. Still sleepy, the kids grab their stuff and run into her arms.

KATE
Oh honey, I'm so glad you're back...
And you too, darling.

JACKSON
We tried calling but -

LILLY (O.S.)
I'm hungry Mummy.

KATE
At least it looks like the Mosquitos
ate well.

She looks at Jackson and softens.

KATE (CONT'D)
Wanna come in?

Gordon appears at the door. Jackson watches painfully as Noah runs and gives Gordon a big hug.

His cellphone beeps with a message.

YURI (O.S.)
Where are you Curtis?

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE/LAS VEGAS - EARLY MORNING

Yuri stands at a huge window overlooking the strip talking into his phone.

JACKSON (O.S.)
Back in Westwood, Mister Karpov.

YURI
Good. That is good. I'm sending the
Gulfstream to pick up Alec and Oleg.

Tamara hovers in the background packing her Louis Vuitton luggage. Caesar, her little dog, watches from the bed.

TAMARA
(in Russian)
Tell him to bring Caesar's raincoat,
it's in the Range Rover.

Yuri brushes her off.

EXT. STREET/BEL AIR - MORNING

While talking to Yuri, Jackson is standing in front of the open trunk, changing into his chauffeur suit.

YURI (O.S.)

Curtis, make sure you get my boys as fast you can.

EXT. MANSION/BEL AIR - MORNING

A palatial home. Completely gaudy. The twins, ALEC and OLEG, wait impatiently. They are 12 years old and wear identical clothing by Dior.

ALEC

Curtis, you are late.

Jackson ignores him and starts throwing the luggage into the limo. The other twin notices his muddy sneakers.

OLEG

Careful with our stuff. Don't get it dirty.

EXT. STREETS/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Ahead of the limo a crowd has formed in the streets, singing songs and chanting about the end of days. A SKINNY MAN with a ponytail preaches from the scriptures.

PREACHER

... There will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes, sayeth the Lord.

Jackson has to maneuver through the people. Banners read: 'Prepare for the End'-- 'You cannot escape his judgement'--

Alec looks up from his video game, annoyed.

ALEC

Curtis, can't you go faster?

JACKSON

Are you guys blind? I can't run people over.

OLEG

Why not? They're idiots anyway.

Jackson shoots these spoilt brats an angry look.

EXT. SANTA MONICA AIRPORT/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Jackson stops in front of the Gulfstream. SASHA, 40, Yuri's Russian pilot is expecting them.

SASHA

Hey Jackson. Took you a while...

Jackson mutters under his breath as he unloads the luggage, dropping one of them on Alec's foot on purpose.

ALEC

Ouch! Be more careful!

The other twin has noticed Jackson's intensions. He gets into his face.

OLEG

Now you're laughing, Curtis. But we are going on a big ship.

(pause)

We will live... and you will die.

Oleg grins back at Jackson as the jet door closes. The Gulfstream taxis onto the runway.

As Jackson turns back to the car a fine surface crack shoots across the tarmac. We hold on his face as it hits him like a ton of bricks:

THE CRAZY RADIO HOST, CHARLIE FROST WAS RIGHT!

Frantically Jackson looks around and spots a MAN in overalls working on a twin engine Cessna. He runs to him.

JACKSON

Where can I rent a plane?

The man points to a shabby office building.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Kate is in her kitchen cooking breakfast for the kids. Gordon watches the Governor on the news.

GOVERNOR

(with Austrian
accent)

... just this morning my people at Caltech told me that in the last 36 hours we had basically zero earthquake activity in Southern California, which is very rare...

(CONTINUED)

The phone rings. Kate picks up.

EXT. STREETS/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Jackson drives like crazy.

JACKSON

... Kate, we have to get out of LA!
I've rented a plane for us. Get the
kids ready! I'll be there in five.

KATE

The kids have plans today...

JACKSON

Are you kidding me!

KATE

No I'm not! Noah has music at 2 and
Lil' has Karate.

Gordon rolls his eyes and mutters.

GORDON

Not that we'd expect him to remember.

JACKSON

(screaming)

California is going down! Pack up the
kids!

KATE

You're crazy! The Governor just said
we're fine now.

JACKSON

The Governor's a meathead, how would he
know anything? Kate listen! You gotta
trust me over some politician. Come on.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Kate slams the phone down. Lilly stops eating.

LILLY

Mommy, why are you so angry with Daddy?

LAURA

Because your daddy is a lunatic,
darling.

On the TV, the interview comes to an end.

(CONTINUED)

GOVERNOR

... it looks to me, like the worst is over.

That moment a MASSIVE QUAKE hits Los Angeles.

Everybody dives under the table.

ON TV: The news casters and the Governor do the same. A few seconds later the signal cuts out.

Gordon pulls Kate and the kids close as the earth shakes violently for 20 seconds.

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Jackson flies into the driveway and runs into the house.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

When he enters, Lilly immediately runs into his arms. The next tremor hits. Cracks form on the kitchen floor.

JACKSON

We have to leave! Noah, let's go!

KATE

I think we're safer here!

JACKSON

Noah, now! Kate please...

The whole house rides up and down like on a wave.

GORDON

I think he's right.

Finally Kate pushes her son out from under the table. They all scramble out of the house in a panic. Kate is cut on the shoulder by falling glass but she hardly notices.

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

As they storm out of their front door the house crumbles behind them.

JACKSON

Get in the car!

The whole street starts to buckle. Left and right the houses are shaken and smashed like toys.

(CONTINUED)

Just before the wave of destruction can reach them, Jackson tears out of the driveway.

EXT. STREETS/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Jackson maneuver's the limo through the crumbling neighborhood. Right in front of their eyes, streets disappear, trees fall, electrical lines snap. Sewer pipes burst in front of the car.

NOAH

Holy shit!

Jackson has to turn on the windshield wipers.

EXT. SANTA MONICA AIRPORT/LOS ANGELES - MORNING

The limo crashes through a gate onto the tarmac, coming to a stop in front of a twin engine Cessna.

JACKSON

Damn it! Where's the pilot?

Kate turns to Gordon.

KATE

Gordon, you know how to fly.

GORDON

I... had a couple lessons...

JACKSON

Did you cover taking off?

GORDON

Yeah.

JACKSON

That's good enough for me.

They start running, when Jackson remembers something and heads back to the Limo.

He grabs his knapsack from the front seat fumbling to zip his laptop back inside it. Kate shouts.

KATE (O.S.)

Jackson, what are you doing?

JACKSON

I'm coming.

He jumps out of the car and races back after them. Behind Jackson the hangar starts to disintegrate.

(CONTINUED)

IN THE DISTANCE

A gigantic fissure forms in the earth, shooting towards Santa Monica airport.

Gordon fumbles with the controls, Jackson yells from the copilot seat.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Come on, come on...

GORDON

(pointing at the
instruments)

But I'm supposed to check all these
first...

Jackson reaches over and slams Gordon's hand down and the plane lurches forward.

As the Cessna speeds onto the tarmac the control tower goes down and explodes.

Noah discovers the giant crevasse forming behind them.

NOAH

Guys, behind us!

As the plane accelerates, the giant crack closes in on them. Gordon's hand trembles on the throttle control. Everybody screams on top of each other.

EVERYBODY

Gordon! Damn it! Lift off!

Gordon gathers his courage and pulls the lever. The plane almost rockets into the air just as the ground beneath them gives way.

They hover for a moment, almost caught in mid-air as the widening crevasse beneath them fights to suck them into the bowels of the earth. Gordon fights to maintain control but they begin to be pulled down.

The daylight vanishes. Debris and mud smashes into the plane from all sides. The canyon walls erupt.

GORDON

I can't get it up!

Taking desperate measures, Gordon nearly rips the control stick out of its joint - with a lurch the Cessna lifts out of the abyss.

(CONTINUED)

They all take a deep breath only to realize that now they are flying directly into the collapsing towers of downtown Los Angeles!

Like a roller coaster, Gordon manages to weave the little plane through the tumbling high rises.

They dive one last time to evade the plummeting US BANK TOWER, the tallest building on the west coast.

All are dead silent as they watch the whole of Los Angeles crumble beneath them. Kate covers Lilly's eyes.

NOAH
(in total shock)
That was amazing, Gordon!

Jackson looks at Kate and notices her cut.

JACKSON
Are you okay?

KATE
(brushing it off)
I'm fine. How did you know this was gonna happen?

JACKSON
I didn't.
(To Gordon)
Do we have enough fuel to make it to Yellowstone?

The plane veers off in a northeasterly direction. Behind them the destruction of Los Angeles continues.

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEDOM OF THE SEAS/PACIFIC - DAY

The gigantic cruise ship plows through the Pacific. We hear lounge music...

INT. BAR/FREEDOM OF THE SEAS - DAY

Adrian's father Harry and his partner Tony are on stage. Harry on the piano, singing, Tony playing the bass. A waiter brings drinks. Water for Harry, and a brightly colored cocktail for Tony.

WAITER
You got fans Tony...

(CONTINUED)

Tony raises his glass to two old ladies who are sitting at the bar.

WAITER (CONT'D)

There's a call for you Harry. Want me to take a message?

HARRY

(while still playing)
I'll be right there.

The waiter nods. A few more bars of music, then applause.

HARRY (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)
Thank you ladies and gentlemen. Let's hear it for the one and only Tony Delgado... And I'm Harry Helmsley and we'll be back after a short pit stop.

Applause. Harry rushes off stage.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

Dad... what I have to tell you is very serious...

INT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Adrian is standing in a dark corner. Behind him people are packing up, carrying boxes.

ADRIAN

You remember when I told you about the dam in China? Well, it's happening much sooner than we anticipated.

INT. GALLEY/CRUISE SHIP - DAY

Harry's face has turned serious.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

The President has ordered us to clear out the White House.

HARRY

Hah... About time someone cleaned up *that* mess.

INT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Adrian fights back the tears.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

Where are you, dad? What exactly is the course of the 'Freedom' right now?...

HARRY (O.S.)

It's all good, Adrian. Don't worry about your old man. You have more important things to do now.

INT. GALLEY/CRUISE SHIP - DAY

There's a tremor in Harry's voice.

HARRY

You know, your mom and I, we had a hell of a great life... and a hell of a great kid too.

(pause)

And the 'Freedom' is a pretty big ship you know... Don't write your old man off, just yet.

INT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

A tear runs down Adrian's face.

HARRY (O.S.)

... Besides, I could never leave Tony alone. You know how he can't keep decent time by himself.

Pause.

ADRIAN

I love you, dad.

INT. GALLEY/CRUISE SHIP - DAY

Harry bites his lip.

HARRY

Love you too, son.

INT. BAR/CRUISE SHIP - DAY

Back in the lounge, Tony has finished his cocktail. Harry walks up and hollers at the barkeeper.

HARRY

Hey Herb. Get me a double Jack on the rocks.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

After twenty-five years on the wagon?

HARRY

Why not? Who cares how long we do certain things? How long we drink booze, how long we talk to people... Or how long we *don't* talk to people.

Harry grabs Tony by his shirt.

TONY

Woah!... Harry, what's the matter with you? Let's go. We're back on.

Harry pulls him even closer.

HARRY

Call your kid, you stubborn old ass.

(pause)

I'm not going back on that stage unless you promise to call him.

WAITER

(interrupting)

Tony, the ladies are waiting for you.

HARRY

Promise me, Tony... please.

Harry stares him down.

TONY

Yeah, maybe I *should* call him...

Harry smiles, downs his bourbon and walks back on stage.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S OFFICE/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Adrian enters his office. The TV is on.

NEWS ANCHOR

... There is little we know at this point, but the earthquake registered at 10.1 on the Richter scale. The whole of the Western seaboard was hit...

Assistants stare at the news in shocked disbelief, some of them are crying. Prof. West appears at the door.

ADRIAN

(pointing at the TV)

Have you seen this?

(CONTINUED)

Prof. West silently nods and beckons Adrian, who follows him down the hall into a dark control room. They look at a wall-sized high def monitor.

PROF. WEST

We have satellite images. Here's the sequence we've got so far.

On the monitors, detailed satellite imagery displays how the monstrous quake unfolds, leaving California sliding into the sea.

ADRIAN

Any news from Yellowstone?

PROF. WEST

Anytime now.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITY/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The base is abandoned but for a few structures and the enormous drilling tower.

Gordon manages to land the plane next to what looks like a fueling station. Jackson leaps out checking the pump.

JACKSON

Guys, there's fuel! Fill her up and I'll look for Charlie.

KATE

You're sure about this?

JACKSON

Kate, everything this guy said so far has happened. I'll be right back.

Jackson runs off towards the hills.

LILLY

Daddy wait! I wanna come with you!

Lilly runs after him. Jackson picks her up.

KATE

Lilly! Come back!

JACKSON

It's fine! I'll take her.

Kate watches as they disappear, worried. Noah and Gordon have started to fuel the plane.

EXT. CHARLIE'S RV/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Jackson and Lilly find Charlie's RV with it's door hanging open. They enter. The key is in the ignition. The radio transmitters are on, but Charlie is gone. Jackson fiddles with the switches and Charlie's voice comes on.

CHARLIE'S VOICE

... I am standing here at the highest point on what is the rim of this super volcano...

JACKSON

He's got to be close by, Lil'bee...

Jackson jumps behind the wheel and turns the ignition.

LILLY

Let's go back, Daddy.

JACKSON

Listen to me. We have to find Charlie. He's got a secret map, you know, like Jack Sparrow in 'Pirates'.

That catches her interest.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Lil', we have to work as a team now, okay? You have to help me.

Jackson passes her his mobile phone. Lilly nods. He throws the RV into gear and they speed off over the bumpy terrain.

In their dust, we see the earth fissuring!

INT. RV/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Jackson drives like a bat out of hell.

CHARLIE'S VOICE

... The last time this baby blew, was 640,000 years ago...

JACKSON

Dial Mommy's number, sweetheart.

Jackson tears up the mountain looking for Charlie.

EXT. EMPTY ARMY BASE/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Kate's phone rings.

(CONTINUED)

LILLY (O.S.)
Hi mommy...

KATE
Where are you, honey!?

INT. RV/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Jackson hears the stress in Kate's voice. He hisses at Lilly.

JACKSON
Tell her we'll be back in ten minutes.

LILLY
(excited)
We're looking for a secret map, mommy.

Jackson grimaces.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITY/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Kate tries to keep it together for Lilly.

KATE
Let me speak to your daddy, darling.

LILLY (O.S.)
Daddy can't talk right now, he's
driving really fast...

INT. RV/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The RV runs over a boulder. Lilly hits the roof.

LILLY
Ouch!

KATE (O.S.)
LILLY!

In the background Kate hears the voice of Charlie Frost.

CHARLIE'S VOICE
... I tell you guys, any minute now...
any minute the fireworks will start...

KATE (O.S.)
Who's in the car with you? Who's that
man screaming?

LILLY
He's not in the car. He's on a mountain
waiting for fireworks.

(CONTINUED)

Lilly spots Charlie way up on a ridge. He has erected his ten foot radio antenna with the flag fluttering on top.

LILLY (CONT'D)
 (to Jackson)
 There he is! Up there!

JACKSON
 You're the best, darling. Give Daddy
 the phone...
 (into the phone)
 Kate I am sorry, I can't talk...

The road ends just below the mountain peak.

KATE (O.S.)
 Bring back my child, Jackson! NOW!

Jackson sees Charlie up above, broadcasting. He hangs up the phone and jumps out of the RV.

JACKSON
 You wait here for me! You watch the
 ship while Captain Curtis talks to the
 pirate. Okay?

LILLY
 (uncertain)
 Okay...

Jackson climbs up to Charlie.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Charlie has his broadcasting equipment strapped to his body. The antenna's flag is whipping in the wind.

CHARLIE FROST
 (into his mic)
 ... I wish you guys at home could see
 this on TV...

He notices Jackson and muffles the microphone.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)
 How did you make it up here? Thought
 you were toast.

JACKSON
 The spaceships Charlie, where are they?

CHARLIE FROST
 You can't make it there.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

We have a plane. We can get you out of here too. Let's go Charlie!

All around the landscape begins to collapse. A three mile crater forms, revealing the awe-inspiring sight of the super-volcano.

CHARLIE FROST

You'll never make it out in time. Just stay and enjoy the big bang. That your kid?

Jackson discovers Lilly standing behind him, staring at Charlie with her big brown eyes.

Jackson grabs Charlie lifting him off the ground.

JACKSON

Where is that god damn map!

CHARLIE FROST

Easy, easy. Watch the mic... I don't know. Somewhere in my camper.

A low rumble builds to a rapturous thunder as MILLIONS OF BIRDS tear into flight.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

Wow! Look at that!...

(into his mic)

Fly birdies fly! This marks the last day of the United States of America folks and by tomorrow...

The mouth of the volcano starts to break apart revealing molten lava underneath.

CHARLIE FROST (CONT'D)

... the last of mankind. Soon they'll see us from a million miles away, out there in the milky way...

Jackson grabs his wide eyed daughter and races down the mountain.

EXT. BELOW MOUNTAIN PEAK/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Jackson and Lilly jump into the RV and races off, with Charlie's broadcast still playing.

CHARLIE'S VOICE

... The ash cloud will travel everywhere.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)

First the lights will go out in Vegas,
then Dallas, St. Louis and then
Washington DC...

Jackson's cell phone rings and he picks up.

JACKSON

We're on our way.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITY/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

KATE

Jackson, things are really looking bad
here!

In that instant, the air around them vanishes, as if sucked
from the landscape into a vacuum.

THE BIGGEST EXPLOSION THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN... At least in
the last 640,000 years.

To them, all this occurs in total silence. The sound of the
eruption has not reached them yet.

They are frozen, unable to comprehend what is happening.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The explosion begins to resembles an atomic mushroom.

CHARLIE FROST

... it's beautiful, kids! Just
beautiful!

The sound waves reach Charlie, throwing him to the ground.

EXT. DIRT ROAD/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The RV flies over the rugged terrain. Everywhere the earth is
cracking, falling apart. Jackson struggles to swerve around
the disappearing landscape.

LILLY

(screaming)
It's following us!

Lilly has discovered the expanding ASH CLOUD behind them.

JACKSON

Just don't look back, Lil'bee!

The THUNDERING sound envelopes them! On the radio, the voice
of Charlie is getting shrill.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE'S VOICE
Majestic!... Oh yeah!

EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Charlie slowly tries to stand again, silhouetted against the cloud of dust and fire towering above him.

Flaming rocks fly towards him. When they hit the ground, they detonate like fire bombs.

CHARLIE'S VOICE
Oh baby! It's coming!

EXT. DIRT ROAD/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Rocks plummet like comets around the RV as Jackson races over a collapsing bridge. On the radio, in his delirious state, Charlie begins to sing...

CHARLIE'S VOICE
'This is the end, my friend'...

Yellowstone looks like a war zone. The RV dodges the bombardment of fire and rock.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Huge tree trunks and glowing boulders fly at Charlie through the ashes. He screams at the top of his lungs.

CHARLIE FROST
... Folks, always remember, you heard
it first from Charlie.

A second later, Charlie's radio antenna comes spinning like a scythe through the air. It decapitates Charlie in an instant.

EXT. DIRT ROAD/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The radio cuts out. The forest and the camp grounds are mown flat by the extreme force of the ASH CLOUD. In the rear view mirror Jackson sees it gaining on them.

JACKSON
LILLY! DOWN!

A firebomb hits the RV, ripping half the roof off.

Lilly barely makes it under the dashboard.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Stay down there, Lil'! We're almost
there! Just keep looking at daddy.

Jackson spots the little Cessna in the distance.

EXT. EMPTY ARMY BASE/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

At the entrance to the airstrip a huge crevasse forms,
cutting the RV off from reaching the plane.

Lilly sticks out her head.

LILLY
Mommy!

Jackson swerves wildly to miss the crack, sending Lilly
flying out. Without thinking, he lets go of the wheel,
lunging after her and pulling her back inside.

JACKSON
Stay down darling.

Jackson races the RV alongside the forming crack.

Spotting a narrow point in the crevasse, he makes a decision.
Slamming the accelerator down, he races towards it at full
speed.

Moments later the RV is airborne!

Kate watches, too shocked to scream. A few drawn out seconds.

Then the RV touches down, crashing 200 feet from the plane.

Kate runs towards the wreckage of the camper. Lilly jumps
out, racing into her mom's arms. Jackson turns and sees the
cloud approaching.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
You guys go! I'll be right there!

Kate pulls Lilly back to the plane.

Jackson jumps into the back of the RV scavenging through the
shelves, looking for Charlie's map.

Kate lifts Lilly onto the wing of the plane. Gordon revs up
the engines.

NOAH
Give me your hand, Lil'.

Noah pulls his little sister into the cockpit.

(CONTINUED)

Fiery rocks rain from the sky, detonating to the right and left of their plane as Kate climbs in.

GORDON
We have to take off!

NOAH
No!

LILLY
Where's daddy?!

GORDON
Kate, I'm sorry but if we wait we'll
all die!

Gordon pushes the throttle. The plane starts to move. Kate screams.

KATE
Gordon! Wait!

Back in the RV, Jackson is frantically going through the masses of books and papers on the shelves. Finally, a map. He unfolds it. But it's only of the London underground system.

He throws it to the ground and finds another. This time he's lucky! There are markings everywhere.

As he races to the door, the ground gives way beneath the RV. Kate and the kids watch it disappear from sight.

KATE (CONT'D)
JACKSON! NO!

Noah begins to cry and Lilly clings to her mom. Gordon just stares, paralyzed.

The ASH CLOUD is almost upon them!

Gordon takes action and accelerates the plane.

Kate turns back. A hand emerges from the crevasse. Then another, holding a map. Her face lights up.

LILLY
It's daddy!

Jackson pulls himself up and sprints towards them, the map in his hand.

KATE
Jackson! Here!

Kate leans out of the cockpit reaching for him.

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

Faster Dad. You can make it!

GORDON

Kate, grab him for god sake. We're almost out of runway.

Using every last ounce of energy, Jackson leaps onto the wing and is yanked into the plane by Kate.

Just at that moment, the plane lifts off.

Jackson falls into the cockpit, completely out of breath. Lilly crawls over and hugs him.

JACKSON

Thanks for waiting guys.

Now all eyes are glued to the speedometer. 180... 190...

The violent ASH CLOUD is hitting their tail rudder. The plane swerves wildly! Gordon gets it back under control.

The speedometer finally creeps towards 200 mph and the CLOUD slowly falls back. Everybody breathes a sigh of relief.

KATE

So, now that you got your map, where are we going?

Jackson unfolds it and takes a look. Hundreds of markings clutter the map. In the left corner he discovers a large letter C followed by H - I - N - A.

He looks up.

JACKSON

We're gonna need a bigger plane.

CUT TO:

INT. WEST WING/WHITE HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The White House is being evacuated. Amidst the chaos stands Anheuser. Adrian puts down a phone and looks at him.

ADRIAN

Just a few minutes ago Yellowstone erupted, sir. The ash cloud will reach Washington in roughly 7 hours. Maybe 6. We have strong easterly winds...

ANHEUSER

And the crustal displacement?

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

No one knows, sir.

Anheuser starts walking, Adrian trails behind.

ANHEUSER

Let's get the government airborne
and... I mean now.

INT. OVAL OFFICE/WHITE HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Anheuser and Adrian burst into the Anteroom of the Oval Office. The President's secretary, SALLY, 55, is packing.

ANHEUSER

Where is the President, Sally?

Sally looks up stone faced.

SALLY

He said he wanted to spend a few
minutes alone. I think he's over at the
chapel.

ANHEUSER

The whole North American continent is
about to perish, and Wilson decides to
go to church!

Adrian shoots an angry look at Anheuser.

ADRIAN

He's praying sir. Which considering the
circumstances is not a bad idea.

ANHEUSER

Maybe. But right now I need the leader
of the free world off his knees and on
Air Force One. Wheels up 1900 hours.
Can I leave that with you Helmsley?

Anheuser walks away. Adrian and Sally exchange a look.

SALLY

I really don't like that man.

INT. CHAPEL/WHITE HOUSE - SUNSET

Adrian finds the President standing near the front of the chapel.

ADRIAN

Mr. President? We need to get you out
of Washington immediately.

(CONTINUED)

President Wilson stays with his head bowed.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Now matter how idealistic you are
taking office. You lose your innocence
behind that desk.

(pause)
Laura was right. People have died
because of the decisions I made.

ADRIAN
That's not your fault sir.

He turns to face Adrian.

PRESIDENT WILSON
You sound like Anheuser.

This quietly affects Adrian.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)
Laura's never looked at me like that
before. Only once... When I told her,
her mother had died. You knew the first
lady?

ADRIAN
A little.

PRESIDENT WILSON
You know what she said to me that night
we brought her to the hospital?

(pause)
'Tommy... I think you should do a
lottery. Every one should have a chance
to go'. That's what Dorothy said to me.
That's what we should have done.

ADRIAN
There would have been chaos, sir.

President Wilson looks Adrian in the eyes.

PRESIDENT WILSON
You know what I believe, Adrian. I
believe nature should choose *for*
itself, from itself.

Adrian takes this in.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)
Don't let her go. You'll regret it if
you do. Prove to Laura what kind of a
man you are. And I'll do the same...
You go now. And watch your back for
Anheuser.

(CONTINUED)

Adrian stares at the President in disbelief.

ADRIAN

But sir?

PRESIDENT WILSON

Go. That's an order Helmsley.

A tense moment before Adrian starts to walk away. Just as he exits the chapel, Wilson calls after him.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

Would you tell my daughter... there's nothing on earth that I cherish more than her.

We hold on President Wilson's face.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAS VEGAS - SUNSET

Most of Las Vegas is destroyed. A 200 foot wide canyon now divides sin city along its famous strip. The towering casinos still teeter along the canyon's rim.

All forms of emergency rescue operations are deployed around the city.

In the FOREGROUND, we see Las Vegas International Airport, its runway cut dramatically short. Large pieces of tarmac continue to break off into the crevasse.

EXT. AIRFIELD/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - SUNSET

Gordon maneuvers his plane through the chaos. Airplanes are strewn about the runway. Passengers everywhere.

GORDON

I told you we should have gone to my parents' in the Rockies.

KATE

Gordon's right. Look at this mess.

Jackson looks around frantically.

JACKSON

You don't understand, it's our only chance.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

This isn't one of your crazy stories now. How the hell are we gonna make it to China?

NOAH

Gordon, without Jackson, we'd never have made it out of California.

Silence. Noah is right and they know it. They taxi past a private jet whose front wheel is stuck in a hole in the tarmac.

We hear a dog barking and the CAMERA finds Tamara, with Caesar in her arms.

YURI (O.S.)

Careful with the landing gear!

(in Russian)

Tamara, get the boys out of the way!

An airport tow truck attempts to pull Yuri's Gulfstream jet out. Sasha, the pilot, helps. A safety announcement echoes through the whole area.

VOICE

(over loudspeaker)

Attention! The US National Guard has informed us, that an extremely hazardous ash cloud is headed towards the city of Las Vegas.

Tamara looks scared and secretly reaches for Sasha's hand. They share an intimate look, no one else sees.

VOICE (CONT'D)

We strongly advise every one to move indoors immediately...

The tow truck driver panics and runs inside.

We move in on Yuri. For the first time he looks helpless.

In the background, Jackson and his family join the panicked crowd heading towards the terminal building. Firemen and rescue workers usher them forward.

FIRE MAN

Let's move people! Inside the terminal!

Jackson and his family are swept along.

CUT TO:

INT. AIR FORCE ONE/ARLINGTON AIRPORT - DUSK

Adrian rushes up the stairs of Air Force One, approaching one of the flight officers.

ADRIAN

Where's Anheuser?

OFFICER

In the command center, sir.

Adrian moves on.

INT. COMMAND CENTER/AIR FORCE ONE - DUSK

Adrian enters. Anheuser immediately senses something is amiss.

ADRIAN

The President is not coming. I couldn't convince him to.

Everyone in the room looks up, speechless.

ANHEUSER

So, the captain doesn't want to leave his sinking ship?

(pause)

Well, Mr. Helmsley, we just learned that the Vice President's chopper crashed 80 miles north of Atlanta.

Adrian is shocked.

ADRIAN

What about the Speaker of the House?

ANHEUSER

In this chaos... I have no idea!

ADRIAN

But she's Commander In Chief now. Sir, I just think -

Anheuser moves in dangerously close.

ANHEUSER

I don't care what you think, Helmsley.

Laura quietly enters the Command Center, as Anheuser and Adrian stare each other down.

(CONTINUED)

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Your ass only made it into the White House, because your old man knew the First Lady... and because of all that affirmative action bullshit.

Anheuser takes it even further.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

There was a white kid, much more qualified than you. Just so you know.

Adrian's face is ashen.

LAURA (O.S.)

Where is my father?

Everyone turns to Laura. Silence.

ADRIAN

He wanted to stay with his people.

Suddenly, the engines of Air Force One turn over. Laura panics.

LAURA

We have to go back!

Adrian tries to hold her close to him. Anheuser sees this intimate moment and gives a suspicious, questioning look. A second later Laura pushes Adrian away.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Let me get out. Mr. Anheuser - tell the Captain.

ANHEUSER

There is a protocol for just this situation Ms. Wilson and I'm afraid we'll have to follow it to the letter.

Anheuser turns to an officer.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Tell the Captain, to take off immediately.

Laura looks at him incredulously.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

Emergency lights illuminate the densely populated terminal.

(CONTINUED)

RESCUE WORKER

People, stay away from the windows!

One of the rescue workers yells, pushing Jackson and his family back.

Frustrated, Jackson turns to Kate and Gordon.

JACKSON

We can't get stuck here.

Suddenly a voice...

VOICE (O.S.)

Dr. Silberman? What are you doing here?

They all turn and stare at Tamara, holding her little dog against her plump breasts.

Kate gives Gordon a look.

GORDON

(embarrassed)

She's a patient, honey.

JACKSON

(sarcastically)

Nice work.

But when Jackson discovers Yuri behind her, his tone suddenly changes. He gets in Yuri's face.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

You bastard. You knew it all along!

(at the twins)

You and those spoiled rotten sons of yours...

Sasha comes running in and cuts through this.

SASHA

I found us a plane, an Antonov. They were just about to take off, but the tower didn't let them.

YURI

Can you still fly that thing?

SASHA

Sure... But I need a copilot.

Lilly chimes in.

LILLY

Gordon is a pilot.

(CONTINUED)

Before Gordon can protest Jackson picks up Lilly.

JACKSON

Let's go!

They burst through the emergency exit, setting off an alarm. Emergency personnel yell after them.

RESCUE WORKER

Hey! Stop! You can't go out there! Come back!

But they keep on running. Sasha now leads the way.

EXT. AIR FIELD/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

They race around the corner and come to a halt. Before them, a Russian freight plane of enormous size--

The ANTONOV 225, the biggest aircraft in the world.

NOAH

Wow, *that* is a big plane.

YURI

(proudly)

It's Russian.

Sasha, who has run ahead turns back and sees:

A MASSIVE GREY WALL OF ASH moving towards the airport.

SASHA

Guys, follow me!

They all run after him up the stairs.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DUSK

Sasha enters the cockpit and puts on the headset while readying the plane for takeoff.

SASHA

(into the mic)

You'll find folding seats on each side of the cargo hold...

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DUSK

SASHA (O.S.)

... Sit down and buckle up!

They all scramble to get into their seats.

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

Wow! Look at those!

They discover the cargo they are carrying--

Sports cars, SUV's, concept cars and luxury models, some of them are labeled 'Las Vegas Auto Show 2012'.

YURI

We had VIP tickets for that.

The six engines of the Antonov come roaring to life.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DUSK

The plane is starting to move. Gordon sits uncomfortably in the copilot's seat.

SASHA

You check the main bus for the hydraulics. I'll balance the tanks.

GORDON

Uh... What?

Sasha reaches over and does it himself.

SASHA

Work the radio and keep an eye on the fuel, okay?

Gordon nods and puts on the headset, trying to focus.

INT. TERMINAL/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

People start SCREAMING, when they discover the menacing WALL OF ASH racing towards them.

RESCUE WORKER

Move back, people... down on the floor!

EXT. RUNWAY/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

The nose of the Antonov turns onto the runway. This humongous plane suddenly looks small against the wall of ash.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DUSK

Gordon is panicking.

GORDON

We have to get going!

(CONTINUED)

Sasha hits the throttle.

SASHA

(calm)

We're going, we're going.

A deafening THUNDER emanates from the engines.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DUSK

Everybody grabs their seat as the vibration of the aircraft builds.

EXT. RUNWAY/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

The Antonov steadily gains speed as it rumbles down the cracked and uneven runway.

The canyon that has swallowed half the city looms ahead. And behind them the volcanic cloud bears down.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DUSK

Sasha stares down the gap ahead, determined. Gordon's face is as white as a sheet.

GORDON

We're not gonna make it!

SASHA

Shut up! We will!

INT. TERMINAL/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

The violent cloud has finally reached the airport. The terminals are hit by flying debris.

Seconds later, Yuri's Gulfstream is whipped through the air, shattering the huge windows into a thousand pieces.

People are thrown like rag dolls as the jet explodes in a massive fireball.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DUSK

Kate and Jackson hold their kids tight. Tamara clings to little Caesar and Yuri to his twins.

EXT. RUNWAY/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

The Antonov lumbers heavily towards the inevitable drop off on the horizon. The runway is way too short...

And to make matters worse, the ground begins to move again, slowly arching the tarmac upwards, creating a crooked ramp at the end of it.

INT. COCKPIT/LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - DUSK

A drop of sweat trickles down Sasha's forehead as he pulls back the wheel.

Gordon holds on for dear life as the huge plane barely lifts off, veering sideways.

EXT. CANYON/LAS VEGAS - DUSK

The Antonov is on a collision course with the crumbling casino towers along the other side of the rim.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DUSK

SASHA
GOVNO! (*shit*). Help me pull!

Gordon grabs the wheel on his side, helping Sasha pull up the beast of a plane.

EXT. CANYON RIM/LAS VEGAS - DUSK

Very slowly the plane starts to rise and Sasha's face lights up. They barely make it over a casino called 'Paris; Las Vegas'.

But the plane clips its wheels on a high metal structure right behind it, ripping away part of the landing gear.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DUSK

After some struggle, Sasha manages to steady the Antonov. Gordon's face is green as he looks back.

GORDON
Was that the Eiffel Tower?

Sasha looks over and grins. He grabs the microphone.

(CONTINUED)

SASHA

Ladies and gentlemen, we are on our way to China.

CUT TO:

EXT. YAK LA MONASTERY/TIBET - DAY

An ancient monastery built atop a solitary mountain rock. In the distance, the sun glistens off the peaks of the Himalayas.

NENG PANG, a young monk, 20, sits with his superior and teacher LAMA YAK LA, 65. They have tea beneath a huge bronze bell.

LAMA YAK LA

(in Chinese)

Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it, Neng.

NENG

But Lin is my brother. He is working inside the big tunnels, where the ships are made.

The Lama remains silent.

NENG (CONT'D)

What is in your wisdom for us to do, great Lama... if Lin is right, if our world is indeed coming to an end?

Instead of answering, the Lama serves him more tea.

When the cup is full, the Lama doesn't stop pouring. Neng watches the tea overflow until he can no longer restrain himself.

NENG (CONT'D)

It's full, great Lama. It can hold no more!

The Lama stops pouring and looks at Neng.

LAMA YAK LA

Like this cup, Neng, you are full of your own opinions and speculations. How can I show you wisdom unless you first empty your cup?

Neng bows his head in embarrassment.

The Lama smiles to himself and takes a chain from around his neck. On it hangs a set of rusty car keys.

(CONTINUED)

LAMA YAK LA (CONT'D)

Be careful with the clutch. It tends to slide.

The Lama throws him the keys and the young monk catches them, smiling from ear to ear. They bow to each other and Neng runs off.

Lama Yak La looks after him as a father would. He gets up and strikes the bronze bell with a wooden mallet.

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT/TIBET - DAY

As far as you can see is a series of identical little houses. The house in the foreground has a chicken coop in the garden.

Mrs. Pang enters the coop. We last saw her when the village was being evacuated. She grabs one of the hens. She places its head on a woodblock and picks up a rusty hatchet.

Just about to strike, she hears a strange RATTLING noise.

An old truck comes driving towards the house. Behind the wheel sits her son Neng. She puts down the hatchet, yelling.

MRS. PANG

(in Chinese)

Bata! Neng is coming!

The young monk jumps out, quickly bowing.

NENG

Mother, I got a message from Lin. He wants us to meet him in Cho Ming, at the west gate. He says he can get us on one of the ships he is working on.

Mrs. Pang is still holding the chicken by its throat.

MRS. PANG

I thought Lin is working on the dam?

NENG

The dam is a ship, Mother. The government lied to us. There will be a big flood.

The chicken hangs limp in Mrs. Pang's hand.

MRS. PANG

Not here in the mountains... Let's eat first.

The hen panics as she puts its head back on the block, raising the hatchet again.

(CONTINUED)

NENG

No mother! We must pack up right away.

NENG'S MOTHER

We took a trip with the Laem Song ferry once. Your father was throwing up the whole way.

The door opens and Mr. Pang appears.

MR. PANG

Neng, I did not know you were coming for dinner.

At that moment the hatchet drops with a THUD!

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTONOV/OVER THE PACIFIC - NIGHT

The majestic Antonov is flying high in the Pacific skies.

OLEG (O.S.)

Look, the new Bentley.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - NIGHT

The boys are exploring the huge freight deck. Caesar, the little dog, is traipsing along.

Alec, Oleg and Noah marvel at a stylish mixture of luxury and performance cars.

ALEC

Our dad had one on order. We were supposed to get it next year.

OLEG

But then he cancelled it again, because of the ships.

Noah points to a 2012 Aston Martin parked further back.

NOAH

If I was rich, I'd get one of those.

OLEG

We have one. How many cars does your family have?

NOAH

My Mom's boyfriend has a Porsche, a Carrera 4.

(CONTINUED)

ALEC

Our parents are divorced too.

The boys share a moment of understanding.

NOAH

Nothing we can do about that.

Noah reaches for the door of the Bentley. To his surprise, it opens.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Wow... look at this.

Noah jumps into the car.

KATE (O.S.)

Be careful, Noh'!

Kate and Lilly are still belted in next to Tamara. Jackson and Yuri sit on the other side of the Antonov.

TAMARA

How did you meet Dr. Silberman? He's great, isn't he?

KATE

I think for the same reasons you did. You know, after breast feeding two kids...

Kate looks at Tamara.

KATE (CONT'D)

Did your husband ask you to get your's done?

TAMARA

We are not married. And we probably never will... But he paid for them.

KATE

I bet he did.

They laugh.

LILLY

What did the man pay for mommy?

KATE

Nothing, Lil'bee.

Kate looks over at Jackson who's trying to make sense of Charlie's map. Tamara catches her looking.

(CONTINUED)

TAMARA

What's *your* situation?

Kate lets out a sigh.

KATE

Way too complicated...

On the other side of the plane, Yuri has been watching the two women talk.

YURI

They seem to like each other.

JACKSON

I guess... So tell me Mr. Karpov - how much did you pay?

YURI

One billion euro, per seat.

JACKSON

That's disgusting.

YURI

You know Curtis, I wasn't always businessman. I am a boxer. Was my only playing when I was a boy, back in Murmansk. My coach...

(smiling)

... his name also Yuri... He always said: 'Someone wants to beat you... he has to kill you first'.

Yuri puts his hand on Jackson's shoulder.

YURI (CONT'D)

What would you have done, if you rich like me? Just look at your gorgeous kids. And call me Yuri...

Yuri offers his hand but Jackson doesn't shake it.

Sasha's voice comes over the radio.

SASHA (O.S.)

Hi guys. The plan is to refuel in Hawaii. So, buckle up... Gordon and I will do the rest.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - NIGHT

Gordon turns to Sasha.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

Let's get this straight, Sasha. I'm not a pilot. I'm a plastic surgeon. I just took some lessons to overcome my fear of flying.

SASHA

Why did you give up?

GORDON

It didn't work.

Gordon points to the declining altimeter.

GORDON (CONT'D)

What about the wheels we lost at take-off?

SASHA

There's 14 on each side. Some of them must still be there.

With that, Sasha commences the landing procedure.

EXT. ANTONOV/OVER HAWAII - NIGHT

The Antonov dives into a thick layer of clouds.

SASHA (O.S.)

Still nothing from the tower?

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - NIGHT

Gordon shakes his head.

The two pilots stare ahead watching as the clouds slowly change color, from yellow... to orange.

They stare out the window in disbelief.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - NIGHT

Gordon comes climbing down the metal ladder whispering to Jackson and Yuri.

GORDON

Guys, you really oughta take a look at this.

Jackson and Yuri follow Gordon back into the cockpit. The women exchange a worried glance.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - NIGHT

When Jackson and Yuri enter, they don't believe their eyes.

YURI

What is that?

SASHA

The State of Hawaii!

YURI

Not good. That is not good.

EXT. ANTONOV/OVER HAWAII - NIGHT

From above we watch as the Antonov flies over an endless ocean of fiery red lava. The Islands of Hawaii have turned into one big volcano.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - NIGHT

JACKSON

How much fuel do we have?

SASHA

Not enough. We'll have to make a water landing somewhere in the South China Sea.

GORDON

At least we won't need our landing gear.

Yuri wonders.

YURI

What about it?

GORDON

We lost it all... in Vegas.

EXT. ANTONOV/OVER HAWAII - NIGHT

The damaged landing gear slowly retracts into the vast belly of the Antonov as it veers off to the east.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESIDENTIAL CABIN/AIR FORCE ONE - NIGHT

Adrian knocks quietly and sticks his head around the door. Laura is sitting in her father's chair.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

Can I come in?

LAURA

I've got nothing to say to you.

ADRIAN

But I do...

Adrian enters. He has his travel bag in one hand. He looks at Laura and gathers himself.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Your Dad and I... we were trying to protect you.

LAURA

(exploding)

I'm a big girl Adrian. I don't need protection. You used me. You guys had me gallivanting around the world, as part of your little cover-up.

ADRIAN

But you were doing a good job.

LAURA

Sure, if your name's Da Vinci or Picasso. But if you're some young talent in Podunk, Texas, sorry you're not famous enough. People like you and Anheuser and my father - you think you can play God.

Adrian takes a moment, he's desperate to make her see.

ADRIAN

You know what your father believed. That nature will choose *itself from itself*.

LAURA

That's bullshit and you know it. It's the fittest, the richest and the strongest that survive.

ADRIAN

That's not true.

Adrian glances down and spots Jackson's book poking out of his bag.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

What would you say were the chances of a first time, middle-aged writer, who barely sold 500 copies of his novel making it on board this plane?

LAURA

Zero. What's your point?

Adrian pulls out the book from his bag. He shows her.

ADRIAN

It's called 'Farewell Atlantis' and it's a fantastic read. It's part of our legacy now.

Laura takes this in. The plane's intercom cuts through the moment.

INTERCOM (O.S.)

Mr. Helmsley, Prof. West requests your presence immediately.

Adrian takes a breath, but before he leaves -

ADRIAN

What if I tried to sort some of this mess out? I need to know you can forgive me...

Laura looks at him sadly, but with a little hope.

LAURA

I need to know that too, Adrian.

Adrian moves for the door. He stops.

ADRIAN

One more thing. Your father told me you were the most precious thing to him in the whole world... You are to me too.

As Adrian exits, we hold on Laura's conflicted face.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE/WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

The cloud from the Yellowstone eruption has hit Washington D.C. hard. Pennsylvania Avenue resembles a war zone. A ten inch layer of ash lies on the ground.

The gates of the White House are wide open, with ash-covered rescue workers running about, resembling ghosts.

INT. WEST WING/WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President has turned the whole West Wing into a shelter. He walks through the packed rooms assisting where he can.

An old African-American LADY holds a crying young girl. President Wilson kneels down to her.

OLD LADY
She can't find her mother.

PRESIDENT
Why don't you two girls make yourself comfy on that big couch? I'll see what I can do.

The child nods. The President gets up.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Sally, can you take care of them. I'll go check with the Red Cross...

As he leaves, the old lady looks up at Sally and smiles.

OLD LADY
No wonder the First Lady fell for him. I knew Miss Dorothy Jones long before the President, when she was still singing jazz down in Atlanta with Harry Helmsley.

SALLY
I know, she was amazing.

EXT. FRONT LAWN/WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President walks up to the Red Cross tents placed on the front lawn. He stops one of the Red Cross volunteers.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Who can help me with missing persons?

Without looking up, the young guy responds.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEER
Sorry man, I'm busy right now.

He then recognizes who he's talking to.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEER (CONT'D)
I mean, of course sir. I didn't realize... What can I do for you, Mr. President?

The President pats him on the shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

PRESIDENT WILSON

Don't worry about it. You're doing a great job son...

A deep, low rumble begins, stopping everybody in place.

As it builds, the President grabs onto a tent pole to secure himself. He looks out over Washington D.C. His eyes grow wide...

The National Mall bends like rubber. The towering Washington Monument breaks into pieces.

An even more deafening sound makes him turn--

The Capitol Building rises from behind the trees, lifted up by earth's incredible force.

As the whole building breaks apart, the President is thrown to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTER/AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

All the officers and scientists are glued to monitors that show satellite images from all over the globe. Adrian and Prof. West stare in disbelief.

SCIENCE OFFICER

The capitol was hit by a 9.4.

Laura enters the command center unnoticed.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

We lost communication with the White House, sir.

She stands there frozen, emotionless. She looks over to Anheuser, who is shouting orders. Another officer hands him a phone.

LIEUTENANT #2

President Makarenko for you sir. He's just entered Chinese air space.

Anheuser takes the phone and after a beat answers.

ANHEUSER

That's affirmative, Mr. President. Until communication is restored, I am in command.

Adrian and Laura look to each other baffled.

(CONTINUED)

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

... It seems all other Heads of State are en route, however there are unconfirmed reports that the Italian Prime Minister has also decided to stay behind and trust in prayer rather than action...

CUT TO:

EXT. ST. PETER'S SQUARE/ROME - DAWN

Pope Benedict XVI holds mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Millions of followers flood Vatican City. It's a sea of candles.

Amidst the mass of believers we see the Italian Prime Minister Antonioni with his family clinging to him. They all are praying.

A low RUMBLE. People look around frightened. In the distance we hear SCREAMING.

INT. SISTINE CHAPEL/CEILING - DAWN

A few cardinals huddle together in silent prayer under Michelangelo's famous fresco. Most prominent above them is 'The Creation of Adam'.

The cardinals look up in horror as the rumbling intensifies. A crack forms on the ceiling, shooting straight through God touching the finger of Adam.

Then the whole fresco breaks apart.

EXT. ST. PETER'S SQUARE/ROME - DAWN

The people in St. Peter's square begin to panic--

The entire Vatican is lifted up in the air. We hold on the Prime Minister and his family, as the basilica collapses onto the fleeing masses.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNT CORCOVADO/RIO DE JANEIRO - DAY

The giant statue of 'Christ the Redeemer' on Mount Corcovado. Behind it, we see Rio de Janeiro being obliterated by violent quakes.

(CONTINUED)

The famous statue of Jesus Christ begins to topple over and crashes down the mountain.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS/TIBET - NIGHT

Neng Pang, the young Tibetan monk drives his truck up a bumpy mountain pass. His parents huddle in the back of the pick-up.

The steering wheel is vibrating badly in his hands as he slides the clutch and downshifts. As the vehicle slows on the steep incline, the vibrations become much worse. Neng worries that the truck may be breaking down.

He pulls up and switches off the engine but to his surprise the steering wheel continues to vibrate.

Looking out the windshield, he sees the whole earth shaking violently.

NENG
(*in Chinese*)
Hold on back there!

Rocks fall all around them.

CUT TO:

INT. THE ANTONOV - NIGHT

Jackson sits inside one of the luxury cars and tries the radio. Kate opens the passenger door and gets in.

JACKSON
Couldn't sleep huh? Me neither.

KATE
Anything?

JACKSON
Nothing, just static. Not even an emergency signal.

KATE
I can't think about what's going on down there.

Jackson switches off the radio.

KATE (CONT'D)
I wanted to thank you. For coming back for us.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON
I couldn't have left you...

Silence. They both look out through the front windshield at Lilly and Noah curled up together.

KATE
Do you think people change?

JACKSON
By 'people' are we talking about me?

KATE
Do you think you've changed since we separated?

JACKSON
Well I certainly eat a lot more cereal now...

KATE
You know, you always had tunnel vision. You could always just block things out and write. You blocked all of us out Jackson.

He thinks about this and can't help asking.

JACKSON
Do you love him? Gordon...

KATE
I love him enough.

Kate gets out of the car and shuts the door. He watches her go.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTER/AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

The computers buzz with the incoming data.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
... Cho Ming reports the first tremors, however none higher than 5.0.

Anheuser looks relieved. Then the big news hits.

SCIENCE OFFICER #1
The crust has begun to shift, Prof. West.

PROF. WEST
By what degree?

(CONTINUED)

SCIENCE OFFICER #1
1.2 percent, but still moving.

ANHEUSER
Any clue what to expect next,
Professor?

PROF. WEST
Once the movement of our land masses
comes to a halt, we expect the
formation of tidal waves, sir...
proportional to the magnitude of the
corresponding quakes.

Adrian looks distressed as he turns to one of the officers.

ADRIAN
Do we have any news from the Japanese
seaboard?

Laura notices Adrian's concern.

SCIENCE OFFICER #2
We've recorded two quakes averaging
8.3.

She grabs Adrian's hand. Anheuser sees this and his
suspicions about them are confirmed. A cold little smile
appears on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. SALON/CRUISE SHIP - NIGHT

Tony is watching TV with a group of passengers. Harry has
just entered and stands near the back of the room.

A TEENAGE BOY with bad acne searches for an available channel
that is still broadcasting. He finds a news program with
lousy reception.

NEWSCASTER
... Tokyo seems to have taken the
severity of the hit... Unconfirmed
reports indicate that the entire island
of Japan is below water...

The signal gets weaker.

Harry watches Tony slowly stand up. As he turns to his
friend, his knees begin to buckle. His face is pale.

TONY
I called... But I never got through.

(CONTINUED)

HARRY

I'm so sorry.

Tony only stares back at him.

Behind them, the TV rolls to the side, as the whole room begins to tilt.

Harry grabs on to the door frame, as the passengers along with Tony fall like dominoes.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Tony!!

As the ship rolls to the side, Harry finds himself hanging from the door frame now 20 feet off the ground. He's barely able to pull himself up and roll onto the middle deck.

EXT. MIDDLE DECK/CRUISE SHIP - NIGHT

On his back, Harry is shocked to see the star field and the moon shifting across the sky.

An eerie sound fills the air. A gigantic swell has formed off to his right. It's a mountain of water.

Harry turns to see another gargantuan swell close in from the other side of the 'Freedom of the Seas'.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHIBAM/YEMEN - DAY

The old walled city of Shibam is in ruins. The 2,000-year-old towers lie on the desert ground. Hundreds of believers have gathered to pray towards Mecca.

As they raise their hands to heaven in unison, they slow their motion and the chanting dissipates.

They stare into the distance not knowing if what they see is reality or only a mirage.

A monstrous tidal wave rises from the desert sands thundering towards them.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE/WASHINGTON DC - NIGHT

President Wilson's body lays between the rubble. As he slowly regains consciousness, all he can hear is the flapping sound of the collapsed Red Cross tents.

(CONTINUED)

As President Wilson gets to his feet, he sees--

A tidal wave come sweeping over the remains of the Washington Mall and it carries with it the battleships of the 14th Fleet of the US Navy that were anchored in Chesapeake Bay.

The President looks ahead, calm and peaceful.

PRESIDENT WILSON

I'm coming home Dorothy...

The CAMERA follows the aircraft carrier 'USS John F. Kennedy' as it slams broadside into the White House.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTER/AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

Hushed voices. Anheuser, Adrian and Prof. West stand amongst a group of officers and analysts.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER #1

All global ground communication has ceased sir.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER #2

The only signal our satellites are picking up are coming from the vessels in Cho Ming.

ANHEUSER

At least *some* good news.

Anheuser turns to Adrian.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Would our science advisor care to give us *his* assessment?

ADRIAN

We expect enormous tsunamis to reach landfall in every continent. The Cho Ming area will be impacted in approximately six hours.

He nods to one of the analysts, who types in a couple of commands.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

... and it looks like the crust has shifted by nearly 23 degrees in a south-westerly direction. Here's the computer simulation.

(CONTINUED)

Everybody stares as the graphic illustrates what happened to planet Earth.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Our data also shows, that our earth's poles have reversed their magnetic fields...

(pointing)

... These are their new positions.

Anheuser looks at the monitor, then turns to Adrian.

ANHEUSER

So Helmsley, what you're telling us here is that... the north pole is now somewhere in Wisconsin?

Silence. Adrian clears his throat.

ADRIAN

It's the south pole, sir.

An ALARM SIGNAL goes off--

CUT TO:

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DAWN

A red light blinks on the plane's instrument panel.

YURI (O.S.)

What's that?

SASHA

Engine failure. GOVNO! Two of six are down. We must get ready.

Yuri and Jackson are standing behind the pilots.

JACKSON

Let's go wake up the kids.

Yuri nods and they make their way back to the lower deck.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DAWN

Jackson's family are all asleep in their seats, Lilly in her mom's lap. She looks like a little angel. Jackson can't bear to wake them. He caresses Lilly's face.

NOAH (O.S.)

Why do you hate Gordon?

Jackson turns to see Noah is awake.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

What are you talking about? I don't hate Gordon.

NOAH

But you don't *like* him either.

JACKSON

I don't know him that well.

NOAH

But *I know* him. He's really nice. You should talk to him more often. You guys would get along really well.

This breaks Jackson's heart. He pulls Noah tightly to his chest.

JACKSON

I'll give it a try, Noah. I promise.

Kate opens her eyes.

KATE

Is it time?

Jackson nods.

KATE (CONT'D)

Wake up Lil'bee. We're getting ready to land.

On the opposite side of the aircraft, Yuri and Tamara help the twins get into their life vests. Noah is suspicious.

NOAH

What's wrong?

Jackson looks at his kids. They both look scared.

JACKSON

Sasha told us, it could get a little bumpy... and wet.

The Antonov jerks to the side. Two more engines out. Alarm signals flash.

EXT. ANTONOV - DAWN

The remaining two engines barely hold the plane in the air as it dives into the clouds.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DAWN

Jackson and his family huddle together. He puts his arms around Lilly and Noah.

JACKSON
Your daddy has to tell you something.

In the background, Gordon climbs down from the cockpit. He is about to speak when he hears Jackson's voice.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
I know that with my writing and work I
didn't have a lot of time for you
both...

Jackson glances at Kate.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
I wasn't there for you, the way I
should have been.

Jackson looks Kate directly in the eyes.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
... And I am so very sorry for that.

Gordon watches as Kate pulls the kids and Jackson tight. For the first time, they seem a little like the family they once were.

GORDON (O.S.)
Jackson, Yuri... I think you guys
should come back up here.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DAWN

First Jackson and then Yuri enter the cockpit. Sasha points out of the window.

SASHA
Don't ask me how *that* happened.

Behind them Yuri and Jackson stare at the snow covered mountains of the Himalayas.

SASHA (CONT'D)
There's no more ocean, and it looks
like we're pretty close to where we
wanted to go.

GORDON
It's as if the whole earth shifted by
1500 miles...

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

No shit.

(beat)

It's called 'Earth Crust Displacement'
Gordon... Prof. Hapgood, 1958.

Jackson brims with joy.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Way to go Charlie!

A JOLT!

SASHA

We lost our last two engines.

The plane drops rapidly, nearly scraping the tip of a mountain. Sasha and Gordon are doing all they can to keep the Antonov in the air.

A vast glacier spreads out in front of them.

SASHA (CONT'D)

I'll shoot for that glacier. Drain the
brake fluids. It's going to get
rocky... There, the blue levers!

The plane plummets, losing altitude fast.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Listen up guys! This may sound a little
crazy, but here's what you got to do...

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DAWN

Jackson and Yuri come running. Yuri yells at his boys.

YURI

(in Russian)

Get up! Follow me!

TAMARA

Yuri bear, what are we doing?

YURI

We're taking the Bentley!

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DAWN

Sasha is struggling with the gyrating wheel. The glittering snow field comes flying towards them.

(CONTINUED)

SASHA
 CHTO ZA... Gordon! We're still too
 fast!

Sasha pulls the Antonov back up.

SASHA (CONT'D)
 Now! Open it!

Gordon yanks with all his might. A loud NOISE.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DAWN

The cargo door drops open. The Antonov is extremely close to the glacier's surface.

Jackson tries to start the Bentley, but nothing happens. Everyone screams in panic.

YURI
 SHUT UP EVERY ONE!

They all go quiet, except for a few muffled barks from Caesar. Yuri speaks towards the dashboard, slowly and clearly.

YURI (CONT'D)
 Engine... start...

The motor revs to life. Yuri looks at Jackson.

YURI (CONT'D)
 Voice control... Sold me on it.

INT. COCKPIT/ANTONOV - DAWN

Sasha barely holds on. He yells at Gordon.

SASHA
 Your turn Gordon! Go! Make sure that
 they make it out of here before I touch
 down!

GORDON
 What about you?!

SASHA
 I'll be fine! I have to land this
 thing!

Gordon hesitates.

SASHA (CONT'D)
 What are you waiting for!

(CONTINUED)

Sasha nods at him reassuringly. Gordon bolts out.

INT. CARGO HOLD/ANTONOV - DAWN

The cargo door scrapes against the glacier, hurling ice everywhere. The Bentley roars.

YURI (O.S.)
Push it Curtis!

JACKSON
We're waiting for Sasha and Gordon.

Noah turns and sees Gordon.

NOAH
Tamara! Open the door!

Gordon jumps in. Tamara yells at him in desperation.

TAMARA
Where's Sasha?

GORDON
He said he'll be fine and we should get
out of here before he touches down.

Yuri notices Tamara's distress as she keeps looking back to the cockpit. Jackson slams the pedal down trying to gain as much speed as possible to soften their landing.

LILLY
Daaaddy!

The Bentley shoots out the back of the plane. As it hits the snow, the air bags deploy cushioning the passengers.

The Antonov hits the ice and catapults the rest of the luxury cars out of the back cargo hold. They barrel past the Bentley like skittles, narrowly missing it as they fly off in opposite directions.

The plane skids across the glacier, clipping its wing and causing the aircraft to break apart.

Sasha has no control anymore and watches helplessly as he shoots towards the ledge in the Antonov, plunging into the deep.

The plane crashes and explodes.

EXT. GLACIER/TIBET - DAWN

As the snow settles we see that the glacier is scattered with luxury cars tomb-stoned in the snow.

The Bentley is half buried. We hear Caesar barking.

JACKSON (O.S.)
Everybody okay back there?

KATE (O.S.)
We're all fine.

The door opens and Jackson climbs out, looking around. Just above the wind, he hears the SOUND OF HELICOPTER BLADES.

One by one the others appear behind Jackson and stare at a surreal sight--

Several Chinese Mil-26 choppers airlift animals over the mountain pass.

GIRAFFES, ZEBRAS, EVEN ELEPHANTS hang by huge straps from these flying machines.

One of the smaller helicopters veers from the transport fleet and lands near the Bentley.

Armed soldiers jump out. Their Commander speaks to them in a sharp tone.

CHINESE COMMANDER
Welcome to the People's Republic of
China.

Jackson nods to them.

JACKSON
Thank you...
(to Lilly and Noah)
Say thank you, kids.

The others acknowledge the soldiers as well. Hi... Hello...

CHINESE COMMANDER
What color are your passes?

Jackson stands dumbfounded. The Commander repeats.

CHINESE COMMANDER (CONT'D)
What color are your boarding passes?

Still no answer. He yells an order. The soldiers point their guns at them.

(CONTINUED)

YURI (O.S.)
I have green card.

Surprised, Jackson turns to Yuri who's holding up three green plastic cards.

YURI (CONT'D)
For my boys and me.

Tamara can't believe what she's hearing.

TAMARA
It's a joke... a mistake...
(laughing)
Right Yuri?

Yuri shrugs. Tamara lunges at him.

TAMARA (CONT'D)
(*in Russian*)
You disgust me. You pig.

Yuri brushes her off, coldly. And then speaks so they can all understand him.

YURI
You think I did not know about you and Sasha? May god rest that poor bastard's soul.

With that Yuri turns to the others.

YURI (CONT'D)
I am sorry guys. Good luck. And Jackson remember, if someone wants to beat you... he has to kill you first. Come boys!

The twins grab Caesar and climb into the helicopter. The dog barks furiously, wanting to stay with Tamara.

The next moment, the helicopter takes off.

GORDON
What!... Did that just happen!?

They're stranded.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRFIELD IN CHO MING VALLEY/TIBET - DAWN

Air Force One is in the background as Laura, Anheuser, and other members of the crew are rushed towards a group of waiting helicopters.

(CONTINUED)

Adrian is a little way back in the middle of the pack. A Chinese Officer with a list shouts over the noise.

CHINESE OFFICER

(pointing)

Mr. Anheuser - you're in Chopper 1. Dr. Wilson the same.

Laura and Anheuser reach the chopper. An authoritative Naval Officer greets them, and raises his voice.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

I'm Captain Richard Michaels. I'm the skipper of the American boat sir. After you!

Anheuser nods and climbs in the chopper. Captain Michaels helps Laura in. Adrian arrives just as the Chopper door slides shut and it lifts off.

INT. HELICOPTER/CHO MING VALLEY/TIBET - DAWN

Laura catches Adrian's look of unease before they soar away.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

My sincerest condolences Dr. Wilson, for your father...

Laura's look thanks him for this. He turns to Anheuser.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (CONT'D)

Your party is the last to arrive.

ANHEUSER

I've been told of damages?

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

We haven't completed the assessment but it looks like we lost Number 4 when the crust shifted.

Captain Michaels looks up and points into the distance.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (CONT'D)

There it is!

EXT. CHO MING VALLEY/TIBET - DAWN

The CAMERA follows the choppers revealing--

Nine gigantic oval gates that measure at least 60 stories, built into the face of a mountain.

(CONTINUED)

In front of every gate there is a line of huge 'Y' shaped metal support structures, which are the launching towers for the ships. They are each at least 800 feet high. It's an unparalleled feat of engineering.

EXT. CHOPPER/CHO MING VALLEY - DAWN

The lead chopper descends onto a platform in front of one of the gates, dwarfed against this majestic setting.

The door slides open and Anheuser jumps out. Laura follows. She looks around in awe.

Even the utility entrances that lead into the mountain are immense. The Captain guides them into the hollow mountain.

In the BACKGROUND we see an angry Yuri scream and argue with military personnel, waving his tickets.

YURI

What do mean we can't board Number 4? I want to speak to your supervisor.

SOLDIER

I am the supervisor! Now get in line with all the others while we make arrangements.

YURI

I want your name!

SOLDIER

(pointing to his badge)

Can you read? Now get the hell back with the other green cards, or I'll have you detained.

The twins stand nearby, holding Caesar. They look afraid.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE GLACIER/CHO MING - DAWN

Jackson and his group are small specks in a barren landscape. They have made it down the glacier and are now walking over a scree field.

It is hard going. Jackson carries Lilly.

JACKSON

Keep thinking warm thoughts sweetheart. You're doing great.

(CONTINUED)

Kate holds Noah by the hand. Gordon and Tamara trail behind. She's still very upset.

TAMARA

I should have listened to you, Dr. Silberman. I actually liked the way I looked before that monster talked me into it.

GORDON

Did you know he asked for a discount... and he paid in installments?

TAMARA

Cheap bastard.

GORDON

You're better off without him. What he said about you and Sasha, is it true?

Tamara nods silently.

TAMARA

Now that he's gone I think he was worth a hundred times a man like Yuri.

Suddenly they hear the PUTTERING of an engine.

JACKSON

You guys hear that?

In the distance, an old rusty truck comes bumping down the dirt road. Jackson puts down Lilly and chases after it.

EXT. DIRT ROAD/NEAR CHO MING - DAWN

Neng and his parents drive past, billowing a huge cloud of dust just as Jackson reaches the road.

JACKSON

(out of breath)

Hey! Help! Wait for us!

But Neng doesn't hear him over the rattling truck. Jackson, pissed, kicks at the rocks on the road.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Shit! Shit!

Just then, Neng's mother, sitting in the back of the truck, turns and sees his tantrum. She bangs on the rear window of the cabin.

Neng looks in the mirror and hits the brakes. Jackson can't believe his luck.

(CONTINUED)

The others show up and they all run towards the truck.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE MOUNTAIN/CHO MING - DAWN

Anheuser and Laura follow Captain Michaels and a Chinese Steward over one of the many boarding bridges erected inside the cavernous mountain that lead to one of the monstrous arks. Laura stops halfway, gazing in awe--

Deep down below, thousands of workers are swarming over the ship, readying it for launch.

Laura looks up and sees the contrast, spotting the SHEIK we met in the Dorchester Hotel as he boards comfortably with his huge family.

Laura points down at the workers.

LAURA

Captain Michaels? What happens to all those people?

The Captain doesn't know what to say. Anheuser turns.

ANHEUSER

Dr. Wilson, there's a protocol for all that. You just stick to your art. We'll handle the rest.

Laura hates him in that moment.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Captain? Where is the Bridge?

Anheuser and Captain Michaels move away as Laura stands and watches the frantic workers who are now boarding the animals we saw being airlifted over the mountains.

CHINESE STEWARD (O.S.)

Dr. Wilson? Your cabin is this way.

Laura has a look of guilt as she follows the steward.

CUT TO:

EXT. NAMPAN MOUNTAINS/EAST COAST OF INDIA - SUNRISE

Thousands are on the march up the mountains. Behind them a valley stretches into the horizon. Plumes of smoke rise from destroyed cities in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

Amongst the refugees, we discover Satnam, the young astrophysicist, holding his little son. The rest of Satnam's family trails behind.

Distant WARNING SIRENS pierce the silent march, coming from the cities below.

People start to scream and run, but Satnam stands there frozen. He fumbles for his satellite phone, then hits a number on its speed dial.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS/AMERICAN SHIP - SUNRISE

Adrian is unpacking. He lays down his copy of 'Farewell Atlantis' just as his cell phone rings.

ADRIAN

Satnam?

(confused)

Where are you?

SATNAM (O.S.)

On the Nampan Plateau...

Adrian's face goes pale.

ADRIAN

What?!

SATNAM

There's a tidal wave coming from the East! It's huge!

ADRIAN

Satnam, what happened?

SATNAM (O.S.)

We never got picked up, Adrian, the airlift never came!

Adrian closes his eyes.

EXT. NAMPAN MOUNTAINS/EAST COAST OF INDIA - SUNRISE

Satnam swallows hard. He stares out into the valley.

SATNAM

I have to go!

A wall of undulating foam and debris comes rolling towards him. A tidal wave of gigantic height.

Everybody panics and scratches for a higher elevation. But for Satnam it is clear, they do not stand a chance.

(CONTINUED)

He picks up his little son, squeezing him tightly to his chest, humming an Indian lullaby for the scared child.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS/AMERICAN SHIP - SUNRISE

Adrian hears SCREAMING on the phone and the deafening sound of the approaching wave. He tenses up, desperate but unable to do anything.

As the noise reaches its height, the line goes dead. Adrian is left breathless.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - SUNRISE

Adrian storms onto the bridge. Many officers and analysts are at work under Captain Michaels.

ADRIAN

Do we have the latest satellite images of Napam, India?

SCIENCE OFFICER

One moment, sir.

Anheuser and Prof. West step over and join him.

ANHEUSER

Helmsley, what's going on here?

ADRIAN

Looks like our model was wrong.

They all stare at the monitor showing several tidal waves coming in from the south.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Satnam was talking about a wave from the East.

A science officer selects a different quadrant on the satellite display. They all stare at the new tidal wave that's coming from the East of the Cho Ming valley.

PROF. WEST

Jesus!

Anheuser is shocked.

ANHEUSER

What does this mean?

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

The flooding will happen earlier.
Bobby, can you plug in the new data
please?

As the officer does this, Prof. West looks at Adrian with
questioning eyes.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Satnam didn't get picked up.

Prof. West is horrified.

SCIENCE OFFICER (O.S.)

Ready sir.

Adrian turns back to the monitor and sees the new tidal wave
that is coming towards the Cho Ming valley.

ADRIAN

This one is at least 1500 meters high!

ANHEUSER

Talk to me Helmsley. What does this
mean for us?

ADRIAN

Bobby, plug in the new data and adjust
the count down?

Every one on the bridge stares at a display. It reads--

02hrs - 09min - 07sec

The science officer nervously hits a few keys and the display
changes to--

00hrs - 28min - 10sec... and counting.

We see the shock on Anheuser's face.

ANHEUSER

Get me the other Heads of State.

CUT TO:

EXT. GATE/CHO MING SITE - EARLY MORNING

Neng's truck, loaded with Jackson and the others, creeps up
to the service entrance of the launch site.

A lone figure awaits them. This is Neng's older brother Lin,
who we saw signing up for the 'Chinese Dam Project'.

Lin notices the strangers in the pick-up truck.

(CONTINUED)

LIN
(in Chinese)
 Who are they?

Neng answers hesitantly.

NENG
*We found them by the side of the road,
 my brother.*

LIN
You must send them back.

NENG
*I am a follower of the great Lama Yak
 La. You know I cannot do that.*

The others watch the interaction but do not understand.
 Jackson senses a problem. He grabs Lilly and Noah.

JACKSON
 Come with daddy.

Gordon and Tamara stare perplexed as Jackson approaches Lin
 with his kids.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
 At least take our children with you.
 Please.

Lin answers in broken English.

LIN
 Why should I do that?

JACKSON
 For the same reason you sent for *your*
 parents.

Lin stares at him stone faced. In desperation, Kate turns to
 Mrs. Pang.

KATE
 I have no clue if you understand what
 I'm saying, but I ask you as a mother,
 please take my kids with you!

Silence. A beat. The old Chinese lady turns to Lin.

MRS. PANG
(in Chinese)
We are all children of this earth.

LIN
*My plan will not work for so many,
 mother.*

(CONTINUED)

She looks up at her son, determined.

MRS. PANG

We will take them all. Bata?

Mr. Pang nods and reluctantly, Lin motions to Jackson to follow. Kate bows to Mrs. Pang.

KATE

Thank you ma'am. Thank you so much.

Jackson and the others acknowledge what Kate has done.

CUT TO:

INT. SHIP BAY/CHO MING - EARLY MORNING

We finally reveal the unbelievable magnitude of this ship yard, built into the hollow belly of the mountains.

Nine gargantuan vessels are lined up next to each other. Their size is at least four times that of the 'Freedom of the Seas'. However, they look more like spaceships than anything, having been built aerodynamically to withstand the full force of nature.

But only three of these monstrous ARKS are complete. Number 4 is being repaired, all the others are still under construction, surrounded by scaffolding.

Suddenly SIRENS goes off!

The boarding bridges to the finished vessels begin to retract. There's growing confusion among the thousands of workers and security personnel.

INT. PLATFORM, SHIP BAY/CHO MING - EARLY MORNING

Opposite the boarding bridges, on a large platform, Yuri and his boys sit in line with the other waiting passengers.

They watch as massive stern gates begin to close. Yuri jumps up and yells to the others.

YURI

They're leaving without us!

The soldier from earlier points his gun at him.

SOLDIER

What did I tell you!

Caesar barks at the guy.

(CONTINUED)

YURI
 (pointing)
 Look! Idiot! They are leaving you
 behind too!

The soldier turns to the ships and Yuri knocks him out. He grabs his boys and runs towards the closing gates. All the other passengers surge forward with him.

In the distance, on the bow side of the ships, the huge mountain gates of the bay open, revealing a stunning view of Cho Ming Valley.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE/CHO MING - MORNING

Lin leads his group over a ridge. In front of their eyes--
 The gates to the mountain open!

LIN
 (in Chinese)
We have to hurry!
 (to Jackson)
 They launch! We run out of time!

They follow Lin rushing down the hill, towards one of the many Y-shaped launch structures towering in front of the gates. Neng and Kate help Mr. and Mrs. Pang down the rocky terrain.

INT. SHIP BAY/CHO MING - MORNING

A screeching and thundering noise!

THE THREE COMPLETED VESSELS BEGIN TO INCH FORWARD on metal girders connecting the Y-shaped launch towers.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS/AMERICAN SHIP - MORNING

Laura feels a jolt. She rushes out of her small cabin and into a swarm of people moving down a cramped endless corridor. She struggles to fight her way through.

A digital voice blares over the speakers.

COMPUTER VOICE
 Countdown to departure. Launch in 17
 minutes - 42 seconds.

Laura bumps into one of Adrian's Science Officers.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Where can I find Adrian Helmsley?

SCIENCE OFFICER

He's in the Technical Command Centre.
Follow me.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE/CHO MING VALLEY - MORNING

The three gigantic vessels emerge from the mountain, into the open. Support helicopters swarm around them like flies.

EXT. BENEATH A LAUNCHING TOWER/CHO-MING - MORNING

Lin and his group look like ants as they scale the metal ladders of one of the launch towers.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - MORNING

Verbal commands fly back and forth. Anheuser watches the preparations from a large window.

He looks over to the command bridges of the other vessels as they continue to be pulled into place.

INT. COMMAND BRIDGES/OTHER SHIPS - MORNING

We cut to the various Heads of State, all at their command posts.

EXT. TOP OF LAUNCHING TOWER/CHO MING - MORNING

A hatch opens at the top of the launch tower. Lin is the first to climb out.

Right before his eyes, the hull of the American Ship slowly creeps towards him. He's but a speck against this man-made behemoth.

Lin hastily pulls the others up.

LIN

(in Chinese)

Faster, Neng! Help father! Mother, give me your hand.

It's a race against time. The huge ship's hull closes in fast. Lin and his family crawl up the side arm while Jackson hurries to pull up the rest of the group.

Lilly freezes at the sight of the approaching ship.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Move Lil'bee!

Jackson rips her out of harm's way, just in time. In a frenzy, he pushes her up the support arm where the others are already huddled on a small platform.

As the towering wall of steel passes by them, inches from their faces, Mr. Pang loses his balance. Jackson and Lin both see this, but Jackson is closer--

He grabs the old man by his arm, saving him from falling to his death.

For the first time, Lin acknowledges Jackson with a nod.

EXT. SHIP BAY/CHO MING SITE - MORNING

The three completed ships are half way out, grinding to their final launching position.

A mob of passengers led by Yuri has fought their way to the ship. More and more people join them, including soldiers.

EXT. TOP OF LAUNCHING TOWER/CHO MING - MORNING

Lin, Jackson and the group are huddled on the platform.

The sound of SCREAMING PEOPLE makes them turn. The storming masses have arrived at the access platform. There is now a huge drop off between them and the tails of the ships.

TAMARA

(pointing)

Oh my god, that's Yuri!

Next to Yuri are his twins, holding Caesar. She yells!

TAMARA (CONT'D)

Caesar!

EXT. ACCESS PLATFORM/CHO MING SITE - MORNING

The little dog hears Tamara and jumps out of Oleg's arms, leaping onto one of the thick cables, that connects the platform with the launching towers.

Alec and Oleg attempt to run after Caesar, but Yuri grabs them by their necks.

YURI

Let that stupid dog go!

(CONTINUED)

He's panicked. The arriving masses are pushing them to the drop off at the edge of the platform.

EXT. TOP OF LAUNCHING TOWER/CHO MING - MORNING

The ship has reached its targeted position. A small hatch lines up directly in front of Lin and his group.

LIN
(in Chinese)
Okay. Now!

One by one they all climb into the hatch. Jackson being the last in, notices that Tamara has stayed back.

JACKSON
 Tamara! Come on! Get in!

She doesn't move, anxiously waiting for her beloved dog darting towards her.

EXT. ACCESS PLATFORM/CHO MING SITE - MORNING

The mob pushes at Yuri and his boys. Passengers on either side tumble off the platform.

Yuri watches one of them fall, hitting his head against a tiny ledge 8 feet below. To his right, he sees a small ladder leading down.

YURI
(in Russian)
Down there! Oleg, you go first!

As they hurry down the ladder, people keep tumbling into the deep. Reaching the ledge, Oleg discovers Caesar running towards Tamara.

OLEG
Daddy look, Tamara!

Yuri cannot believe his eyes.

EXT. TOP OF LAUNCHING TOWER/CHO MING SITE - MORNING

The hatch behind Tamara begins to move. The hydraulic supports are being lifted, sealing up the vessel.

TAMARA
 Caesar darling!

Jackson reaches out from the closing hatch.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Tamara! Get in!

Tamara climbs inside the hatch and turns.

TAMARA

Come to mommy!

Caesar leaps into her arms only seconds before the hatch seals. As a last gesture, Tamara sticks out her arm and gives Yuri the finger.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - MORNING

Lin leads the group into a long and narrow chamber where the hydraulics for the tail gate are located.

He opens a tool cabinet, retrieving a giant electrical power drill, almost too big to be carried by one person.

Lin climbs to a hatch near the ceiling and begins to unscrew the huge bolts. He looks at Jackson.

LIN

I need your help.

INT. TECHNICAL COMMAND CENTER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Laura and the Science Officer enter the Technical Command Center. She finds Adrian staring at a wall of monitors showing the horrifying scenario on the platforms.

People are falling to their deaths in large numbers in their desperation to board the ship.

LAURA

What in god's name is happening Adrian?

ADRIAN

Anheuser convinced them all to launch.

Outside, panicking workers, screaming for their life!
Deserted passengers waving their green cards!

Adrian makes a decision and rushes out.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Anheuser turns hearing Adrian storming onto the bridge.

ADRIAN

Anheuser! We have to stop this madness.

(CONTINUED)

With that, Adrian turns to the Communication Officer.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Bobby, make sure the other bridges can hear this.

The officer hesitates as Laura enters in the background.

ANHEUSER

What do you think you're doing?

ADRIAN

I know exactly what I'm doing.

(To Bobby)

Turn it on!

Bobby flicks a switch. Adrian's voice echoes through all the ships.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

This is Adrian Helmsley, science advisor to President Wilson...

INT. BRIDGE/EUROPEAN SHIP - DAY

The German Chancellor turns to one of the technicians on the bridge of the European Ship.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Can you please turn up the volume, Mr. Hoffmann?

Next to her stand the British and French Prime Ministers.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

I know we've all been involved in making difficult decisions... to save our human civilization...

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Anheuser looks on stoney faced.

ADRIAN

... But to be human means to care for each other, and civilization means to work together to create a better life. If that's true there is nothing human and nothing civilized about what we're doing here. Ask yourselves ... Can we really stand by and let all those people out there die?

Laura watches him proudly.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

A civilization that allows that, does not deserve to survive.

(pause)

Or at least I don't want to be part of it.

Anheuser cuts in with sarcasm.

ANHEUSER

We'll miss you Helmsley but somehow we'll get by. Officer switch that off.

The Communications Officer looks at Adrian.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

That's an order soldier.

ADRIAN

Don't do it!

INT. BRIDGE/ASIAN SHIP - DAY

The Russian President, together with the heads of state from China and Japan, listen in as Adrian responds.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

We have to open our gates and let these people in. All of them.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Anheuser has had enough.

ANHEUSER

Have you lost your mind? Look at the countdown. We have less than five minutes left... And none of our ships have the resources to feed those people. If you save them today we all starve tomorrow.

He's almost screaming now.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Do you wanna be responsible for the extinction of the human race? Can you handle that, Adrian?!

Silence.

Adrian's battle seems lost. But he doesn't give up, and instead speaks softly now.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

There is a young astrophysicist from India who is the reason we are all here, trying to give mankind a second chance. He's the *one* who discovered it all, the *one* who connected the dots. We all owe him our lives.

All eyes are glued to Adrian.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I just learned that he was killed with his family by a tsunami in eastern India. You know why?

Adrian stares Anheuser in the eyes as he continues.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

He died because we forgot to pick him up.

(pause)

I beg you... whatever our future holds don't let us start it with an act of cruelty. What will you tell your children... and their children?

Silence. Laura steps up alongside Adrian.

LAURA

If my father were here, he would open the gates.

Adrian and Laura share a look.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT (O.S.)

The people of Russia along with...

INT. BRIDGE/ASIAN SHIP - DAY

His Asian colleagues nod in approval.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

... China and Japan agree to open the gates.

INT. BRIDGE/EUROPEAN SHIP - DAY

The German Chancellor speaks up.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR

The United Kingdom, Spain, France and Germany, and I believe I can also speak for the Italian Prime Minister...

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

GERMAN CHANCELLOR (O.S.)

... We vote to open the gates.

Laura and Adrian watch Anheuser shaking his head in defeat. Bobby, the Communications Officer smiles with relief. Adrian turns to the Captain.

ADRIAN

Captain Michaels, you heard them.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE/CHO MING VALLEY - DAY

One by one the gigantic gates at the stern of the three ships begin to creek open.

The masses gathered on the platform CHEER wildly!

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Lilly crawls through the CONNECTING TUNNEL meeting up with Kate in a large bay on the other side.

LILLY

Phew... It stinks in here.

Together with Neng and his parents, they all look up in disbelief--

A Giraffe, chewing her cud, smiles down at them. Caesar barks at her.

TAMARA

Sssh...Caesar.

A second later, hundreds of different ANIMALS RESPOND. They are in the zoological bay.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Gordon helps Noah up the small ladder leading to the connecting tunnel.

Just as he goes to hand him Jackson's backpack, the HYDRAULIC MOTORS begin to GROWL! Lin looks up in panic. He screams.

LIN

They're opening the gate! It will crush us!

The whole ceiling begins to lower towards them. From down below, Jackson sees his son about to be hit by it.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Noah! Watch out!

Gordon makes a split second decision. With all his strength, he shoves the boy into the tunnel.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

From the other side of the tunnel, Kate watches as the metal ceiling misses Noah by a hair, but catches Gordon, wiping him off the ladder.

KATE

No!

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson watches helplessly as Gordon falls past him. He survives his landing and desperately tries to grab on to the sloping surface, but he can't. He slips.

Gordon is crushed between the gears, sharing his last look with Jackson before he dies.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Kate helps a trembling Noah out of the tunnel.

NOAH

Something happened, mom.

Kate pulls him close and shuts her eyes tightly. She fights back the tears.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson and Lin know they're running out of time, their remaining space is shrinking every second.

JACKSON

We have to stop it!

Lin grabs the huge electrical power drill nearby and attempts to jam it between the hydraulic arm and the wall.

As it digs deeper into the metal, the hydraulic starts to slow down.

EXT. ACCESS PLATFORM/CHO MING - DAY

Still on the ledge, Yuri and the boys watch as the huge boarding gate lowers towards them. They are trapped.

Just then, the gates begin to slow, but surely they will be crushed.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Back in the chamber, Lin still struggles with the drill. Suddenly he slips.

Jackson manages to catch his fall. But in the process Lin's foot gets caught between the gears, mangling it.

He screams in pain as the hydraulic slowly grinds towards a halt.

JACKSON

You did it, man. You did it.

In great pain, Lin grins back at him.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE/CHO MING VALLEY - DAY

The gates of the ships hit the access platform with a thundering noise. People begin to rush on board.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Alarm signals go off. The Captain turns to one of his officers.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

What's wrong with the gate?

OFFICER

I don't know. Maybe there's something jamming it, sir.

The countdown on the monitor reads 2 min. 40 sec. Laura and Adrian share a worried look.

We hear a HOLLOW BELL ring!

CUT TO:

EXT. YAK LA MONASTERY/TIBET - DAY

Lama Yak La rings the large bronze bell of his monastery.

(CONTINUED)

The booming sound echoes through the Cho Ming valley. As a gentle wind catches the Lama's clothes, he looks up--

A tidal wave of immeasurable proportion crests the mountains.

The Lama continues to strike the bell as the monastery is wiped clean from the earth.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The technicians desperately try to figure out what's wrong. An officer waves Adrian over.

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

Sir, we have a breach in the zoological bay.

ADRIAN

Can you zoom in?

The video camera moves in on Kate, Noah and Lilly. Adrian can't believe his eyes. He turns to Laura.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I know those kids. Remember the book I told you about? Their father wrote it.

Captain Michaels shouts across the room.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

We're loaded. We can close the gates sir.

ANHEUSER

Do it!

Anheuser looks nervously at the countdown. It reads 1:34

EXT. ACCESS PLATFORM/CHO MING SITE - DAY

Above Yuri and the boys, people are leaping from the access platform onto the stern gate of the American ship.

Yuri looks for a hole in the flow of people before seizing his chance and lifting the first of his boys up.

YURI

(in Russian)

Pull yourself up!

Oleg manages to reach up and hold onto the gate.

(CONTINUED)

Inside the ship, officers yell.

DECK OFFICER (O.S.)
To the lower decks people!

The gates suddenly screech back into life and begin to close. Yuri doubles his efforts lifting Alec higher, but Alec cannot quite reach.

Yuri strains with all his effort before deciding.

YURI
Oleg! Catch your brother!

Yuri leaps forward holding Alec out in his arms.

Oleg manages to grab his brother's hands as Yuri lets go and falls into the deep crevasse below. He makes no noise until he hits the rocks beneath.

Oleg pulls his brother from above.

INT. INSIDE LOADING GATE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

A SIREN blasts. Both of Yuri's sons are now on deck. A loading officer pulls them back, away from the gate.

DECK OFFICER
Boys, you gotta move.

ALEC
We wait for our father! He's still down there!

The loading officer attempts to comfort them.

DECK OFFICER
There's no one down there.
(gentle)
Come on boys, come...

The Officer and the boys look back as the stern gate slowly closes. But with a SCREECHING sound it grinds to a halt.

The gate is jammed open leaving a twenty foot gap.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

ALARMS sound. Anheuser and the Captain stare at the monitors.

ANHEUSER
Why is the stern gate not closing?

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN MICHAELS
Something's wrong with the hydraulics,
sir.

ADRIAN (O.S.)
Captain, over here.

They race over. Adrian points to a monitor.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
I think we found the problem.

On the monitor, they see Sarah and the others desperately waiting for Jackson and Lin.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
How did they get in there?

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER
They must have come through the
hydraulic chamber. There...

Bobby, the Surveillance Officer, selects a different camera and we now see inside the tunnel in which Jackson is pulling along a wounded Lin.

LAURA
That guy is injured. Something must
have gone wrong.

ANHEUSER
You're damn right something went wrong!
Congratulations Helmsley, you may have
just killed us all but as long as your
conscience is clean...

Adrian tries to ignore this.

ADRIAN
Let's get an emergency crew there right
now. I'll meet them at the Hydraulic
Chamber.

Anheuser sneers him, shooting a look to Laura.

ANHEUSER
You think you're the main man now, just
because your fucking the President's
daughter?

Without thinking, Adrian turns and punches Anheuser hard in the face. He drops to the floor, out cold.

Everyone stands in stunned silence. Laura smiles. Adrian looks around.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

What are you all waiting for?

They speed off. The countdown reads 0 min. 53 sec.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRFIELD/TIBET - DAY

Further down in the valley, the tidal wave has reached the Cho Ming airfield, blasting away the planes with overwhelming force.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE/CHO MING VALLEY - DAY

The massive propellers of the ships begin to turn. However, the props of the American ship don't move.

In the background, the huge tidal wave comes thundering towards them.

INT. HALLWAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

An IMPACT WARNING sounds as Adrian and Laura race through the cramped hallways with members of the rescue crew. One of the officers explains.

TECHNICAL OFFICER

If we can't close the stern gate, then the engines won't start.

ADRIAN

There's no way to override it?

TECHNICAL OFFICER

No sir, it has to be done manually.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Kate, Noah and Lilly watch as Jackson nears the end of the tunnel with Lin. Neng comforts his brother who's about to pass out.

NENG

(in Chinese)

Almost there, Lin...

CUT TO:

EXT. LAUNCH SITE/CHO MING VALLEY - DAY

THE WAVE FINALLY HITS!

All three vessels are now engulfed in churning water.

They rock back and forth. Only the huge support towers they're resting on, keep them anchored.

INT. INSIDE LOADING GATE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

A new ALARM sounds as water begins to shoot through the open stern gate of the American ship.

The people on the loading bay panic, among them we see Alec and Oleg.

INT. HALLWAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The same ALARM rings out in the hallways of the ship. Laura, Adrian and their party are all braced against the corridor, as the vessel undulates back and forth.

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

Water has penetrated the stern!

Laura looks unsure.

LAURA

What now?

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

The rear of the ship will start sealing itself up one compartment at a time.

Adrian looks at him.

ADRIAN

Then how will we get to the hydraulic chamber?

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

If we don't hurry, we won't be able to.

Despite the violent movement of the ship, Adrian pushes on down the corridor towards the back of the boat. They follow.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Water is also now rushing into the Zoological Bay and only the giraffe can manage to keep her head dry.

Jackson is not yet out of the tunnel with an unconscious Lin.

(CONTINUED)

Kate shouts across to Tamara.

KATE

Tamara! Take Lilly and Noah.

Kate reaches in to help Jackson as Tamara begins to move with Lilly. Noah remains back with his mother.

Jackson finally makes it through with Lin. Kate is almost tearful with relief to see him.

KATE (CONT'D)

I was so worried about you.

Suddenly the Zoological bay begins to seal itself off.

Lilly, already in the next compartment with Tamara and her dog, screams out as a chamber door quickly slides up, from the floor to the ceiling. It separates Lilly from her family.

LILLY

Mummy!

Jackson and Kate turn but it's too late. They only catch a glimpse of Lilly before they are sealed in. The water level continues to rise.

INT. ANTE-CHAMBER ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Panicked, Tamara turns and looks around. Down the corridor, in the distance, she sees Adrian, Laura and the rescue crew approaching.

But between them she spots the next chamber door rising quickly.

TAMARA

Lilly run!

Lilly starts moving as Tamara turns and picks up Caesar.

Moving quickly, Lilly is able to climb up and over the fast rising door. But as she dangles from the other side, she looks down and is too scared to jump.

TAMARA (O.S) (CONT'D)

Lilly! Take him.

Lilly looks up and sees two hands straining to hold Caesar above the quickly narrowing gap.

In a courageous move, Lilly grabs the little dog before he gets crushed and together they fall to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

Back on the other side of the chamber door, Tamara looks around. She is trapped now as the water continues to rush in.

INT. CONNECTING CORRIDOR/ZOOLOGICAL BAY - DAY

Laura picks Lilly up and comforts her. Adrian realizes they are too late. He turns to the rescue crew.

ADRIAN

Is there any way to talk to them?

Lilly is close to tears.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The water continues to flood in as Jackson helps Neng with his unconscious brother.

JACKSON

We have to move him higher.

(looks around)

Over there!

Suddenly, a VIOLENT SHAKE throws them all off balance, pitching them into the water.

EXT. LAUNCH PILLAR/UNDER WATER - DAY

In the debris-filled, murky waters we see that the fuselage of Air Force One has slammed against the first of the ship's launch towers.

Slowly it begins to bend, finally giving way. The other launch towers follow like dominos.

The ship is ripped from its anchorage and sent drifting sideways, rudderless.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Chaos. Fear. Everybody holds on for dear life.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE/CHO MING VALLEY - DAY

The vessel is swept away, over the mountain ridge.

INT. HALLWAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Alec and Oleg scream, desperately trying to hold on as the whole ship capsizes.

EXT. DARJEELING VALLEY/HIMALAYA - DAY

The giant ship drifts upside down and rudderless - smashed around by the debris and raging waters.

But then, as it hits another ridge, it rolls right side up and seems to steady itself.

However, the strong currents continue to force it through the mountain ranges of the Himalayas.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The officers try to regain some control.

NAVAL OFFICER
Moving at 34 knots, sir.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS
What is our position?

NAVIGATION OFFICER
Darjeeling valley, heading south east, sir.

The Captain's face drops.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS
You must be kidding!

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The water rises fast as Kate sees the severity of Lin's wound for the first time.

KATE
We need something to stop the bleeding or he'll die.

A split second later Noah holds out his belt.

NOAH
Mum, will this do?

Suddenly Jackson hears a voice over a speaker.

ADRIAN
(Over a speaker)
Mr. Curtis... I'm Adrian Helmsley. We met once before. Your daughter is with me.

Kate screams with relief.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

Lilly!

INT. CONNECTING CORRIDOR/ZOOLOGICAL BAY - DAY

Adrian is using an emergency wall intercom, with Laura next to him, holding Lilly.

LILLY

I'm alright Mom!

Caesar barks.

INT. ANTE-CHAMBER ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Tamara hears Caesar over the speaker in her compartment and smiles with relief. She is struggling to stay afloat though, and is running out of air.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson discovers the wall speaker. He moves closer to it.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

We can't get to you. Whatever you did,
jammed the hydraulics. If you can't get
it out... None of us will make it.

INT. CONNECTING CORRIDOR/ZOOLOGICAL BAY - DAY

All eyes are on Adrian as he speaks.

ADRIAN

You're our only hope.

Adrian looks at Laura.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

JACKSON

I'll go back. I'll try my best.

NOAH

I'll go with you.

JACKSON

You stay with Mommy.

Jackson looks at Kate.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I'll be right back...

The water is up to their chest now. Jackson takes a breath and disappears underwater.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Back on the bridge, Anheuser regains consciousness and gets to his feet. His nose is bleeding. He looks around him.

ANHEUSER

Captain, what's happening?

The Captain looks at him annoyed.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

What's happening?...

(pauses)

We're heading straight for the north face of Mount Everest, Mr. Anheuser.

Anheuser looks at him dumbfounded as he stumbles to the window and sees the massive rock face of Mount Everest in the distance.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson swims down into the dark chamber and reaches the jammed power tool, pulling at it. But it doesn't budge.

INT. ANTE-CHAMBER ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The water level in Tamara's compartment is at its height now and she goes under.

She struggles below the surface for a moment, looking around desperately for a way out but there is none.

Tamara drowns.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson manages to find an air pocket. He fills up his lungs with air and thinks hard.

As he strips off his jacket, he seems to have a plan. He dives under again.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Lin is being held up in the water by his brother and parents.

Kate has wrapped the belt around his lower leg and now pulls it tight. Lin screams.

Noah uses this as the moment to dive underwater, unnoticed, to go and help his father.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Back under water, Jackson is using the extension cord of the power drill to pull himself down to the tool cabinet.

Jackson opens it, retrieving a giant crowbar. He begins to use it to dislodge the tool but it's hard work.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Anheuser and everybody on the bridge stares as the north face of Mount Everest is almost upon them.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Kate and the Pangs are desperately close to running out of air now, but despite this, Kate still tends to Lin.

After a moment she turns and is first confused then horrified to see that Noah is nowhere to be found.

KATE

Noah!

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson pulls with all his might, but he can't quite shift the drill.

To his surprise, a pair of young hands join his on the handle of the crowbar. Noah is alongside him now, helping.

Working as father and son, they manage, little by little, to loosen it before finally the drill comes free.

Adrian gives Noah the thumbs up and the boy heads back to the surface. Jackson goes to follow but in the last moment he spots the knapsack containing his laptop.

He dives back down for it.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Noah emerges from the water.

NOAH

Mom, we did it!

Kate pulls him to her, relieved he is safe. Noah smiles and calls out towards the nearly submerged speaker.

INT. CONNECTING CORRIDOR/ZOOLOGICAL BAY - DAY

Lilly and Laura wait nervously. They hear a muffled voice.

NOAH (O.S.)

We got it free. Can you hear me? We did it!

Adrian leaps up when he hears this. He flicks a button on the intercom.

ADRIAN

Captain Michaels - close the gate!

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Hearing this, the Captain yells the eagerly awaited order.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

That's affirmative. Close the gate!

TECHNICAL OFFICER

Ay, ay, Sir.

EXT. DARJEELING VALLEY/HIMALAYAS - DAY

We hear a BOOMING sound as the tail gate finally seals.

INT. HYDRAULIC CHAMBER/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson reaches his knapsack, but when sees Noah's cell phone lying next to it, he makes a decision and reaches for that instead.

He hears the muffled sound of the engines and smiles. But as he turns to swim back, his face freezes--

He's looking into the lifeless eyes of Gordon, who floats inches from his face.

EXT. PROPELLERS/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The gigantic propellers fight against the current, hitting rock at the base of the mountain.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

The battle seems hopeless. Captain Michaels yells at the top of his lungs.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

Engage starboard stabilizers!

OFFICERS

One is engaged... two is engaged...
number three is out, sir!

The vessel scrapes against the rocks, throwing Anheuser to the floor.

EXT. DARJEELING VALLEY/HIMALAYA - DAY

The giant ship escapes the mountain with an inch to spare.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Everyone on the bridge watches in awe as Mount Everest, earth's highest peak, drifts slowly past.

After a long beat, they begin to holler and cheer.

INT. ZOOLOGICAL BAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Kate hears the CHEERING coming from the speakers. The water level stops rising but she still looks around in panic.

KATE

Noah! Where is he?

Noah begins to cry.

NOAH

He was just behind me...

Finally! Jackson bursts out of the water and takes a lungfull of wonderful air.

Kate and Noah are overjoyed. The Pangs smile to one another.

Jackson looks Kate squarely in the eyes.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

If you would ever consider to give me another chance... I promise, I'll always be there when you need me.

Kate embraces him tightly.

KATE

Whatever you do... I will never let you go again.

Noah is all smiles.

FADE TO BLACK

2 0 1 3

We hear a voice.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

... Day 988. No one is waiting for anything to happen...

FADE UP

The CAMERA moves over the last lines of Jackson's novel.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Adrian sits in his cabin, his copy of 'Farewell Atlantis' in his lap.

ADRIAN

... and all we can hear is the sound of our own breathing that reminds us we are still sharing our memories, hopes and ideas.

Opposite him, Laura sits listening to him read.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

... And funny, just today we found out that the entire crew of the Atlantis, somehow or another, has relatives in Wisconsin.

(pause)

The end.

Adrian closes the book. There's a moment of silence.

LAURA

How many copies did you say that sold?

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN

Less than 500.
 (with a smile)
 It's what you might call a cult
 classic.

Laura looks at him grinning.

LAURA

It seems we have very different tastes
 Mr. Helmsley?

ADRIAN

(playful)
 Well that's healthy Dr. Wilson.
 Something we could maybe explore...
 unless you have other pressing
 engagements.

LAURA

Actually my diary's pretty open.

The intimate moment is cut short.

OFFICER (O.S.)

(over loudspeaker)
 Mr. Helmsley to the bridge please.

INT. HALLWAY/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Adrian and Laura make their way to the bridge.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Captain
 Michaels speaking. In a few minutes, I
 will be giving the orders to unseal the
 decks.

INT. FRONT DECK/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Jackson and his family stand amongst thousands of other
 people who are gathering in anticipation.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (O.S.)

Please be careful when you step out and
 of course... enjoy the fresh air.

Jackson kneels down and zips up Lilly's jacket. She is
 holding Caesar, whose still wearing his diamond collar.

LILLY

Daddy? When can we go back home?

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

There's nothing we can go back to
Lil'bee. Whatever's out there, that's
our home now. Don't be scared.

LILLY

I'm not Daddy. No more pull-ups.

JACKSON

(proudly)
That's my big girl.

Jackson squeezes Lilly's shoulder.

OLEG (O.S.)

Can we pet him?

Lilly turns to see Yuri's boys standing next to her.

LILLY

Of course you can. He's your doggie.

The boys both smile at her.

INT. BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Adrian and Laura enter the bridge.

ADRIAN

You called for me, sir?

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

Prof. West has something to show you,
Mr. Helmsley.

The Captain directs him to a monitor.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (CONT'D)

Looks like your scientific projections
are way off again.

The Captain grins at Prof. West.

PROF. WEST

The water is receding much faster than
we projected, Adrian...

A monitor reveals an image of the African continent, however
its shape changed dramatically. The image of the southern tip
is enlarged.

LAURA

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

PROF. WEST

It's hard to believe, but the Himalayas are no longer the roof of the world. It's now the Drakensberg mountains of Kwa-Zulu Natal. The whole African continent has risen several thousand feet and most likely, never even flooded.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

Our European colleagues have already set course for it.

Captain Michaels hands Adrian a short wave radio.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (CONT'D)

Here, somebody wants to talk to you.

Adrian curious, grabs the mic.

ADRIAN

This is Helmsley.

We hear a muffled, raspy voice through the speakers.

INT. COMMAND BRIDGE/FREEDOM OF THE SEAS - DAY

Harry Helmsley stands beside the cruise ship's Captain.

VOICE

No, *this* is Helmsley.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

Dad!... Is that you?

INT. COMMAND BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Adrian is ecstatic. Captain Michaels explains.

CAPTAIN MICHAELS

We should have a visual of the 'Freedom of the Seas' shortly.

ADRIAN

Dad. We're coming to pick you guys up. How's Tony?

INT. COMMAND BRIDGE/FREEDOM OF THE SEAS - DAY

Harry looks over at Tony who's listening, smiling.

HARRY HELMSLEY

He's fine, son. We're all fine.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN (O.S.)

See you guys soon. Bye dad.

Harry hangs up. He picks up Tony, embracing him wildly.

INT. COMMAND BRIDGE/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

Adrian, still excited from speaking with his dad, grabs Laura and kisses her on the lips. She squeals.

ANHEUSER (O.S.)

Put that woman down Helmsley.

Adrian looks at Anheuser, unsure of what he might say.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Young guys like you with your idealistic dreams, you think you can change the world...

Adrian and Laura exchange a look.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

I just pray to God, that you keep on making the right calls... in this new world of ours.

Adrian nods and with a smile to Laura turns to leave.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

Mr. Helmsley, one more thing.

Adrian turns back.

ANHEUSER (CONT'D)

There was no one.

ADRIAN

Pardon me?

ANHEUSER

There was no white kid better than you. I'm terribly sorry I said that.

Anheuser puts out his hand. Adrian takes it.

INT. FRONT DECK/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

CAPTAIN MICHAELS (O.S.)

This is your Captain speaking. Standby to open Deck 1.

OFFICER

Standing by Sir.

(CONTINUED)

Neng pushes his brother Lin in a wheelchair onto the deck next to his parents. Mrs. Pang turns to her husband.

MRS. PANG

(in Chinese)

*I wonder will the clouds look the same
and the stars?*

MR. PANG

*Do not fear. Some things will never
change.*

The old Chinese man forces a little smile. Closer to the front of this crowd Jackson approaches Noah.

JACKSON

I thought you might want this.

He takes Noah's cell phone from his pocket and hands it to him.

NOAH

Do you think I'll still get a signal
... Dad?

Jackson is touched to hear him use that word. He smiles and hugs him. Adrian, Laura and Anheuser arrive alongside them.

ADRIAN

I finally finished your book Jackson.

KATE

Really? You may well be the first
person who ever got to the end.

Jackson looks at her, smiling playfully.

JACKSON

Excuse me, I believe he's addressing
the author. Well, what did you think?

Adrian smiles.

ADRIAN

I'd say... those astronauts of yours
would be shitting themselves, if they
knew all their relatives are now stuck
in the South Pole.

Suddenly a horn sounds and the sealed deck doors let off a burst of pressurised air. A murmur goes through the crowd.

Everyone is silent as the huge deck doors slowly begin to roll back and light streams in.

(CONTINUED)

The Pang family try to see over people's heads, even Anheuser looks hopeful. Jackson pulls his family close as the first rays of daylight hit their faces.

EXT. AMERICAN SHIP/SOMEWHERE IN THE HIMALAYAS - DAY

Hatches unseal all around the ship. Sun streams through the clouds. Everywhere people emerge outside, into the light of day. A majestic moment.

EXT. FRONT DECK/AMERICAN SHIP - DAY

They all stare in awe at the waters receding against the ice-covered mountain peaks. Caesar lets out a YELP of joy.

Almost as soon as the doors have opened, the ship's HELICOPTERS take off, flying towards a stunning site--

The 'Freedom of the Seas' is perched on a mountain peak, surrounded by calm waters. Behind it, they see the most beautiful rainbow. This is the new world.

And again we hear Mozart's Adagio...

The End