

Cetaceans

Written by Paul S. Nurkowski

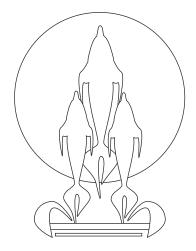
LOGLINE

As advances in bio.robotics enable inter species communication between dolphins(Cetaceans) and human scientists, who reveal that dolphins are descended from a race of aliens and smarter than people, a powerful army of men plot to destroy the scientists' work and pirate the dolphins' ancient alien technologies to rule the world.

GENRE Science Fiction

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FADE IN:

EXT. OUTER SPACE

INSERT TITLE: "SIXTY-FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO"

We see billions of stars, infinite blackness, a frozen mountain of spinning space rock speeds into view, passes a cratered moon, fades from sight as it rockets towards PLANET EARTH, a bright, blue, living world in it's path.

EXT. EARTH'S SURFACE -- DAY

Dinosaurs wander coastal lowlands, riverine landscapes, dense rainforests overgrown with angiosperm herbs, shrubs, giant podocarp trees.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN'S SURFACE -- CONTINUOUS

A colossal megalodon shark stealthily weaves back and forth, roams the prehistoric undersea in search of prey. Suddenly, it's enormous mouth agape, the monstrous shark charges upward from the ocean depths into a pack of unsuspecting snake like mosasaurs that flee, terrified, as one vanishes, it's body now a churning crimson cloud of shredded flesh and shattered bone, into the sharks cavernous mouth.

Aliens, ethereal dolphin-like beings with arms and three fingered hands, the AHKARII, witness the morbid scene as they pass by, cruise the primordial undersea piloting ring shaped vehicles suspended inside water filled spheres of pulsating energy, approach a fleet of waiting motherships.

INT. AHKARII MOTHERSHIP -- CRYO VAULTS

As the AHKARII vehicles enter the motherships, we follow one into a water filled maze of inner vaults where thousands of AHKARII sleep, frozen inside vast arrays of honeycombed cryopods.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE -- CALM SEA -- DAY

The ocean boils up into mountainous tidal waves, massive volumes of seawater cascade downward, create thundering waterfalls, as the fleet of enormous AHKARII motherships now breaks through the surf, slowly ascends, is homeward bound into outer space.

INT. AHKARII MOTHERSHIP -- COMMAND BRIDGE

AHKARII navigators work together, set destination coordinates. Religious amulets depicting their ancient god, a dolphin-like creature like them, hang from all their necks.

EXT. THE EARTH'S SURFACE - SAME

A flaming asteroid streaks downward, slams the planet, ignites the horizon.

INT. AHKARII MOTHERSHIP -- COMMAND BRIDGE

The navigators, horror-struck, watch as a churning inferno mushrooms skyward. Frantically reaching out, they join hands, pray in their melodic dolphin like language as a five mile high ring of fire explodes across the planet's surface, engulfs the exiting alien fleet, consumes everything in it's path.

FAST MONTAGE:

Traveling sixty-five million years forward in time, continents rise, oceans recede, AHKARII survivors evolve, a new species, CETACEANS, dolphins, now swim the planet's oceans and seas.

EXT. DESERT -- NIGHT

INSERT TITLE: "IRAQ - 1880"

Tattered clothes whip as young AHMAD(12), struggles, makes his way through a blinding desert sandstorm.

Through raging clouds of swirling, stinging sand, a barrier emerges, blocks his way. Exhausted, AHMAD reaches out, feels his way across it's surface, finds an opening, huddles inside, falls asleep.

INT. ANCIENT MOTHERSHIP -- SUNRISE

Sunlight explodes into AHMAD'S shelter. Startled, he momentarily shields his eyes. He sees the rock encrusted hull of one of the ancient AHKARII motherships, looks down from a small ledge into an immense, broken maze of vertical shafts disappearing into the earth.

From above, reflected beams of sunlight catch his eye. He sees the fossilized remains of countless strange, dolphin like creatures with arms, three fingered hands, scattered across the vaulted room.

AHMAD bravely climbs upward across the chasm, uses his knife to free one of the metallic dolphin-like pendants and it's chain from the fossilized remains. As he places the pendant into a pouch, the earth trembles, cracks open around him. Rivers of sand and massive shards of shattered rock plummet downward. AHMAD scrambles to escape the sinking spacecraft.

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Terrified, AHMAD flees across nearby dunes to safety. Mesmerized, he watches the ancient spacecraft vanish beneath an ocean of swirling sand. He removes the ancient pendant from his pouch, sees it's intricate details depicting the dolphin like creature with arms, hands with three fingers, reaching outward into a sea of stars. He kisses the pendant, prays, secures it around his neck.

EXT. A DESERT HIGHWAY -- MODERN DAY MIDDLE EAST -- SUNRISE

A column of armored Humvee vehicles speeds down a dusty desert highway.

INSERT TITLE: "PRESENT TIME: WESTERN IRAQ - COMMUNICATIONS RECON UNIT"

INT. LEAD HUMVEE -- CONTINUOUS

Heavily equipped soldiers occupy the back. One or two nod off.

The driver, TECHNICAL SERGEANT SAMUEL STONE(38), has eyes on the road.

CASSATTA(22) and MARKS(22) watch as INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST THOMAS KOZKY(28), holding a small flashlight in his mouth, reassembles a repaired Tactical Communications Unit.

KOZKY removes the flashlight from his mouth, shuts it off.

KOZKY

Done!

PVT 1ST CLASS JIMMIE RAMOS(24) occupies the front passenger seat.

RAMOS (TURNS TO KOZKY)

DAMN, KOZ! That was quick.

MARKS

KOZ is a freak'in genius at fix'n that techie stuff.

KOZKY

It's always been a hobby of mine, ... even as a kid.

KOZKY hands the unit to RAMOS, who turns it on. The display flickers, ... brightens, ... jumps to full screen.

RAMOS

I wish I had those skills.

CASSATA

In the field, KOZ once did a quick fix on a fried comm link circuit with paper clips, aluminum foil, and super glue.

MARKS

Right on man!

MARKS and CASSATA fist bump.

SERGEANT STONE (TO KOZKY)

Hey, TOM!

KOZKY

Yes, Sarge.

SERGEANT STONE (TO KOZKY)

What are your plans when you get back stateside?

KOZKY

That's a no brainer.

KOZKY reaches into a shirt pocket. As he pulls out a photo of his wife and three year old daughter, AMANDA, a necklace falls to the floor. KOZKY picks up the necklace, hands over the photo.

KOZKY (cont'd)

First, ... I'll make-up for lost time with my beautiful wife and baby daughter, AMANDA.

CASSATA

Sweet!

CONTINUED: (2)

KOZKY

Then I'll head back to school, ... get my degree in bio.robotic engineering.

RAMOS

Terminator stuff right?... arms ... legs?

KOZKY

Yes, repairing the human body with technology.

MARKS

Sounds like a lot of tuition.

SERGEANT STONE

You know TOM, ... there's a lot of pain, suffering dealt out here in the field. You could help our injured brothers and sisters to lead normal lives.

RAMOS

If anyone can create something as far out as robotic people, ... it'll be you KOZ.

As CASSATA returns the photo to KOZKY, who kisses the photo, places it safely into his pocket, MARKS notes the necklace KOZKY is also tucking back in.

MARKS(TO KOZKY)

What's that?

KOZKY

Something I bought for AMANDA from ISSAM, an old merchant in KABAR.

MARKS

Can I check it out?

KOZKY hands the necklace to MARKS - it's AHMAD'S pendant.

MARKS (cont'd)

A dolphin with arms?

RAMOS(EYES IT)

Looks like gold.

MARKS(HOLDS UP NECKLACE)

Yeah, but it's kinda light, ... maybe some type of aluminum.

CONTINUED: (3)

MARKS hands the pendant back to KOZKY.

KOZKY

ISSAM said it's ancient. His great great grandfather found it in a cave buried deep in the desert.

KOZKY drops the necklace back into his pocket, leans back, closes his eyes.

KOZKY (cont'd)

(sotto voce)

ISSAM said it's magical, that it would protect AMANDA.

A BLAST! ... The HUMVEE explodes, all goes black.

SFX: WHINING JET ENGINES

AMANDA (O.S.)

(yelling)

Daddy, daddy. . . Wake Up!

INSERT TITLE: "9 YEARS LATER"

INT. COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT - DAY

AMANDA KOZKY(12) sits to her father's left, hysterically shakes her father.

AMANDA

(yelling)

Daddy, please wake up!

The plane violently rocks back and forth as KOZKY'S eyes snap open. Disorientated, still half asleep, he grabs AMANDA'S hand, sees nearby passengers cowering in their seats, looks out across the wing of the plane where he's been sleeping, the aircraft is going down.

KOZKY throws his left arm around AMANDA'S shoulders, she hugs it tightly, he pulls her close, she closes her eyes.

EXT. SKY -- CONTINUOUS

The aircraft falls from the sky, slams into the sea, slides across the surface, settles in.

INT. PLANE

Water rushes in through the rear of the plane, submerges terrified passengers as they scream, struggle to free themselves from their seats.

AMANDA, frozen with fear, stares hopefully at her father, who smiles lovingly, then gently touches the ancient dolphin pendant secured around her neck.

KOZKY

(sotto voce)

Everything's going to be fine, AMANDA.

The aircraft suddenly tilts to the right and KOZKY jumps up to help MALE PASSENGER 1 struggling with the exit door.

MALE PASSENGER 1

(panicking)

The handle's stuck! I can't get it open!

KOZKY reaches out WITH A ROBOTIC RIGHT ARM, grabs hold of the inner hatch. MALE PASSENGER 1, eyes wide, falls back into his seat. He's never seen a full bionic arm before.

KOZKY cracks the door open with one effortless pull, tears the inner hatch from it's frame, discards it, pushes on the outer exit door with his robotic arm, blows it open. An emergency raft is deployed outside the cabin, falls onto the surface of the sea near the wing.

As MALE PASSENGER 1 exits the cabin, starts helping other passengers, KOZKY releases AMANDA from her seat, lifts her into the doorway.

FEMALE PASSENGER 1(0.S.)

(pleading)

Please don't leave me! I don't want to die!

A young woman is trapped by cabin debris. The water is rising and soon she'll be gone.

KOZKY gently brushes AMANDA'S left cheek with the finger tips of his robotic right hand, ...

KOZKY

(tenderly)

I love you, AMANDA.

CONTINUED: (2)

... pushes her forcefully out the exit door to MALE PASSENGER 1, now standing outside the cabin on the submerging wing.

EXT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

AMANDA, screams for her father, fights to free herself from MALE PASSENGER 1 as she's dragged towards the life raft.

INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

Propelled by bionic legs, KOZKY moves effortlessly through rising water in the cabin, reaches the woman as the aircraft slowly submerges.

KOZKY frees the woman, pulls her to him. They exchange hopeful glances as they move back towards the exit and safety.

EXT. SINKING AIRCRAFT -- LEFT WING -- LIFE RAFT

AMANDA, still struggling wildly, breaks free from MALE PASSENGER 1, wades back across the submerging wing, reenters the sinking aircraft.

INT. SINKING AIRCRAFT

KOZKY, horrified at the sight of AMANDA reentering the aircraft, instinctively releases FEMALE PASSENGER 1 to grab AMANDA. FEMALE PASSENGER 1 is instantly pulled under the rising water in the cabin as the aircraft sinks under the ocean and AMANDA is thrown violently against the cabin ceiling, knocked unconscious.

KOZKY grabs AMANDA, pulls her through the water filled cabin to the exit. He pushes her a second time from the aircraft that now carries them downward into the ocean's depths - a final glimmer of hope for her safety fading from KOZKY'S eyes as AMANDA now drifts motionless with the undersea currents, the aircraft carrying him downward into his watery grave.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE -- MOMENTS LATER

Startled into consciousness, AMANDA frantically swims towards the surface. She can't breathe, her lungs are strained, it's too far.

As a shadowy form speeds upward from the ocean's depths, AMANDA reaches out, grabs hold of the ascending object, clings to the body of a DOLPHIN as it carries her back to the surface.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE COVERED WITH DEBRIS -- DAY

At the surface, AMANDA gasps, inhales a deep breath, ... hugs the dolphin tightly, lovingly.

AMANDA

(sotto voce)

I love you, Daddy.

AMANDA opens her eyes, sees the dolphin, she's stunned.

MALE PASSENGER 1 (O.S.)

There's one over here!

The life raft approaches and in an instant the DOLPHIN is gone.

Amanda is pulled, ... shivering, ... into the life raft. Panicking, AMANDA desperately looks for her father as FEMALE PASSENGER 2 places a blanket around her.

AMANDA

(frantic)

Where's my daddy?

FEMALE PASSENGER 2(SOFTLY)

I don't know, darling.

AMANDA clutches her father's gift, the gold like pendant, holds it tightly against her chest as she thankfully watches a family of dolphins swim off in the distance. Now alone, confused, overcome with grief and fear, AMANDA leans dolefully into FEMALE PASSENGER 2, cries.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE

INSERT TITLE: "23 years later (YEAR 2041)"

Dozens of dolphins slowly swim into view, mindlessly encircle a mechanical creature, the GATHERER, that lulls them into a sleepless trance.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - THE RIFT - SAME

A massive submarine silently navigates through abyssal blackness.

INT. SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM

Teams of religious fanatics wearing black hooded robes, TEMPLARIANS, oversee banks of scrolling display monitors. Their leader, PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(60), removes his hood, impatiently watches the spellbound dolphins through cameras in the GATHERER'S eyes.

The screens go dark, BLOKOV grins. Thousands of tiny NESTLING drones swarm from the GATHERER, ignite the blackness, target the helpless dolphins with sizzling, crackling flashes of lethal drone energy. Horrible dolphin screams rise, quickly fade.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE -- MILD SEA -- DAY

AARON(45) mans the wheel of a forty foot sloop as EMILY(40) reclines on a starboard lounger, catches some sun. CHRISTIAN(18) and EVA(13) sit port side, spellbound by the motion of the ride, the cool sea spray playing against their skin.

As the wind changes, a foul stench fills the air.

CHRISTIAN

What's that horrible smell?

Thud, thud, thud-thud, ... horrified, the family watches their sailboat plow through a sea of bobbing, decomposing dolphin carcasses.

AARON

What could have happened?

EVA

(terrified)

Mom, look! ... There's more!

Thud, thud, thud-thud, ... EVA rushes starboard, hugs her mother, closes her eyes.

As CHRISTIAN takes in all the carnage.

CHRISTIAN

On the news, they've been saying that dolphins are smarter than people?

AARON(GLANCES AT CHRISTIAN)

(snappy)

We humans have the most highly developed brains on this planet, always remember that.

EVA(O.S.)

I'm gonna be sick!

ANGLE ON:

EVA leans over the side, vomits.

EMILY(TO AARON)

(pleading)

Get us out of here!

AARON steers clear of the morbid scene, gaining distance as dolphin corpses are suddenly pushed aside by the GATHERER, that now rises, peeks above the sea of dead dolphins, watches through black, soulless eyes as the sloop sails away.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN'S SURFACE -- DAY

AMANDA - now DR. AMANDA KOZKY(35), wears amphibious breathing gear, sits behind the protective glass shield of a speeding motorcycle styled URV(UNDERSEA RECREATIONAL VEHICLE) vehicle.

She glances back as three dolphins playfully weave back and forth in her wake. AMANDA smiles, hits the throttle, her vehicle shoots upward, the dolphins follow.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The URV and dolphins burst through the ocean's surface into the air, plunge back down beneath the waves, continue on their way.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE -- CONTINUOUS

AMANDA'S comm module beeps - her assistant, JANEEN PORTER(24), can be heard.

JANEEN (O.S.)

Good morning, DR. KOZKY, ... just reminding you about your scheduled arm replacement surgery.

AMANDA

(raspy robotic)

Thanks, JANEEN. ... I'm heading in.

AMANDA slows her vehicle, gives the DOLPHINS a friendly goodbye wave, heads to shore.

ANGLE ON:

Hidden in the shadows beneath a distant bed of sea rock, the GATHERER watches AMANDA speed away, it's soulless eyes now bio.scanning the three dolphins that head out to sea.

INT. SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM - SAME

BLOKOV waits patiently, watches as his followers continuously update the incoming dolphin bio.data.

TEMPLARIAN COMM TECH(TO BLOKOV) The GATHERER has identified KOZKY'S dolphins, EXCELLENCY.

BLOKOV smiles for a few moments, ... thinking, ... watches through GATHERER eyes as thousands of tiny NESTLING drones are released, speed away in pursuit of the unsuspecting dolphins. He quicky glances at TEMPLARIAN COMM TECH.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV (heavy Euro accent)
Override the GATHERER AI, recall the drones.

TEMPLARIAN COMM TECH frantically enters lines of command code, overides the GATHERER AI.

EXT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

As the drone swarm reverses course, heads home to the GATHERER, the dolphins now safely swim out to sea.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(O.S.) I MUST LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE GODLESS CREATURES, DR. AMANDA KOZKY, THE WORK THEY DO.

INT. SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(TO TEMPLARIAN COMM TECH)

Store their bio.files in the GATHERER database. Get me CHRONIS MACCABE.

EXT. OCEAN'S SURFACE -- MACCABE INDUSTRIES -- DAY

INSERT TITLE: "MACCABE INDUSTRIES INTERNATIONAL"

Whitecapped waves crash against the reinforced hulls of a mega complex of interconnected offshore platforms that rise above, extend below the ocean's surface.

INT. OFFICE OF CHRONIS MACCABE

Stoic, quasi-military, PRESTON MADDOX(55), HEAD OF SECURITY, stands nearby, watches as billionaire industrialist CHRONIS MACCABE(64), sits at his desk, stares at a wall mounted screen, reviews historical documents referencing primitive folk art featuring amphibious dolphin-like creatures descending from the stars. He clicks to recent photos and reports of massive dolphin killings from around the world.

PRESTON MADDOX(GESTURES TO SCREEN)
Looks like BLOKOV'S handy work. He's
one shit crazy son of a bitch, ...
I'd watch my back.

CHRONIS MACCABE
I know you had run ins with BLOKOV
when you worked Black Ops, but I've
dealt with psychos like him before,
... he doesn't scare me.

MYRA PAULSEN(25), personal assistant to CHRONIS MACCABE, politely knocks, enters his office.

MYRA PAULSEN MR. MACCABE, the PRAETOR is waiting on a comm line.

CHRONIS MACCABE I'll take it in here, MYRA.

As MYRA exits the office, PRESTON quickly heads to the back of the room, remains out of sight as PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV appears on screen. CHRONIS hides his contempt, smiles pleasantly.

CHRONIS MACCABE (cont'd)

Your EXCELLENCY, what can I do for you?

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(ON SCREEN)

(heavy Euro accent)
My GATHERER has identified KOZKY'S
DOLPHINS. You have contacted the
General?

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO BLOKOV)

Yes, ... he's accepted our terms.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(ON SCREEN) I look forward to meeting with him.

CHRONIS MACCABE

That'll never happen. The GENERAL only works unnamed, ... unseen.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(ON SCREEN)

It'll be glorious to rid our world of AMANDA KOZKY and her vile DOLPHINS.

PRESTON rolls his eyes in disgust.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(ON SCREEN) (cont'd)

One day soon, I will wield the sacred BLADE OF TRUTH to silence this betrayer of men. Until then, we must continue to work together, stay united in our sacred cause.

BLOKOV places a clenched fist over his heart.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(ON SCREEN) (cont'd)

Stay strong my brother.

The screen goes dark.

PRESTON MADDOX(APPROACHES MACCABE)

I just don't get it! You need KOZKY alive. BLOKOV wants her dead. Why involve him and his flock of jihadists in your plan?

CONTINUED: (2)

CHRONIS MACCABE

Because, my plan is to have BLOKOV deliver AMANDA to me, ... ALIVE, ... and once I have access to all her alien technologies, the world will be ours for the taking, and then you can deal with BLOKOV just like all the others who have stood in our way.

PRESTON MADDOX

(grinning)

I look forward to that day, MR. MACCABE.

CHRONIS leans back in his chair.

CHRONIS MACCABE

PRESTON, ... work with DR. TAKEO, access the PRAETOR'S databases, get me his activation codes for the GATHERER and it's NESTLING drones.

PRESTON MADDOX

Copy that.

PRESTON clutches his chest.

PRESTON MADDOX (cont'd)

(smirks)

Stay strong my brother!

As PRESTON exits the office, CHRONIS returns to his monitor, views images of AMANDA, a large dolphin using mechanical arms, as they seem to talk, work together.

EXT. KOZKY CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS -- LATER

INSERT TITLE: "KOZKY BIO.INNERVATION RESEARCH COMPLEX"

A twin turbo helicraft soars above coastal wetlands, traverses a sprawling techno complex, approaches a landing pad atop the multi-story UNIS TOWER, an architectural marvel that rises into the heavens.

INT. UNIS TOWER -- SURGICAL ROBOTICS UNIT -- MORNING

A plump DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(48), head of research and development at KOZKY.BIO, watches from an overhead gallery as AMANDA meticulously works to robotically partner a prosthetic arm with the shoulder of a sedated female patient.

Dozens of spindly, spider like, computer driven fingers, rotate, spin, magically weave a delicate bio.filament web to connect, merge, human and prosthetic neurogrid systems. Computer driven cutting, cauterizing tools, complete the process, terminate the surgical procedure.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO (via intercom)
Well done AMANDA!

AMANDA gives a thumbs up to DR. VINIEUTO, exits the surgical chamber.

INT. UNIS TOWER PENTHOUSE PAVILION -- MOMENTS LATER

The PENTHOUSE PAVILION houses a large event venue, a corporate board room, and several executive offices. An OBSERVATION DECK with HELIPORT offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding landscape.

INSERT TITLE: "UNIS TOWER PENTHOUSE PAVILION -- OFFICE OF DR. AMANDA KOZKY"

A fit and confident AMANDA enters, approaches her desk - smiles at DR. THADDEUS VINIEUTO who now sits comfortably in a plush chair, pastry and coffee in hand.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(TO AMANDA) I always enjoy watching you work.

He takes a bite.

AMANDA(TAKES A SEAT)
Why thank you TADDEUS, but it's
actually your technical genius that
makes my surgical procedures seem
effortless.

He smiles pleasantly, notes the diamond ring on AMANDA'S finger.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(EYES RING) That COOPE'S a lucky guy.

AMANDA glows, gazes lovingly at the photo of COOPE, pictured in his Naval Officer dress blues, displayed alongside her father's gift, the gold like pendant, now suspended inside a transparent cube on her ultra modern desk.

A news broadcast begins on a a wall mounted TV display.

ON TV:

CARLY PANTONE(25) stands in a studio conference setting with dolphin clips playing behind her.

ANCHORWOMAN (CARLY PANTONE)

Dolphins. We love them!
We've seen them in water parks, in
the movies, on TV. Dolphins have
entertained us for years with their
silly antics and fancy tricks. But,
... a recent report released by DR.
AMANDA KOZKY of the KOZKY corporation
has prompted us to ask the question,
"Who should be entertaining whom?".

BACK TO OFFICE:

DR. VINIEUTO shakes his head.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO

(disgusted)

All the bad network coverage we've been getting really pisses me off.

AMANDA

It'll take time and good PR to change how people think, what they believe.

BACK TO TV:

In the b.g., we see a video clip of people with prosthetic limbs performing various physical activities.

CARLY

KOZKY BIO.INNERVATION TECHNOLOGIES is known the world over for their innovative artificial limb technologies.

In the b.g., we see a college head shot of AMANDA'S father THOMAS at 21.

CONTINUED: (2)

CARLY (cont'd)

As a young undergraduate student at MIT, company founder THOMAS KOZKY earned a reputation as the "EINSTEIN of PROSTHETIC DESIGN".

BACK TO OFFICE:

DR. VINIEUTO raises his cup.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO ... to THOMAS KOZKY, a good friend and loving father!

He takes a sip. AMANDA lovingly looks at her father's picture on the TV, turns her attention to his gift, the gold like pendant.

Back to CARLY, and in the b.g., a head shot of AMANDA is super imposed over a running clip of swimming dolphins.

BACK TO OFFICE:

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO (cont'd) Looking good AMANDA!

AMANDA

Oh, shut up TAD.

She smirks playfully.

BACK TO TV:

CARLY

DR. AMANDA KOZKY, a bio.robotics scientist and prosthetic surgeon, continues to advance her father's work, ... but recently shocked the world.

A keynote speech given by AMANDA, now plays as B-roll.

DR. AMANDA KOZKY

For the first time in human history, man has successfully communicated in a one on one dialogue with another species - DOLPHINS, or as the scientific community calls them: CETACEANS. That dialogue has given us unparalleled insight into the mental capabilities of the CETACEAN brain, which greatly outperforms that of a human.

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (3)

DR. AMANDA KOZKY (cont'd)

There is now no doubt that the CETACEAN brain is the most highly evolved and complex on our planet.

BACK TO CARLY.

CARLY

So there you have it, we humans are apparently not smarter than the average dolphin, we're now ranked number two in the category of brain power. For reactions, we now go to FIONA REVELS(22) outside of KOZKY corporate headquarters.

EXT. KOZKY CORPORATE COMPLEX -- MAIN GATE -- AFTERNOON

FIONA

Thank you, CARLY.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV and a several of his black robed followers occupy a portable platform overlooking hundreds of enraged protesters.

FIONA (cont'd)

I'm here outside KOZKY headquarters with another large, angry crowd of protesters led by religious activist PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV.

BACK TO OFFICE:

AMANDA gapes at the bizarre image of BLOKOV on her TV screen.

AMANDA

What a nut-job.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO I told security to keep an eye on him.

The news report continues.

ON TV:

FIONA moves through the crowd of protestors, approaches a guy with number one painted on his bare chest.

FIONA(TO MALE PROTESTER 1) Guess you're not happy about being number two?

MALE PROTESTER 1

You're right about that sister! Those damned scientists are always pushing their lame theories on us, ... like global warming, ... animal rights, ... that dolphins are smarter than humans.

FEMALE PROTESTER 1
Scripture says that people, not dolphins, are created in the image of God.

The protesters agree, ... grow louder.

PRAETOR BLOKOV grabs a microphone on the platform.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV (heavy Euro accent)

My fellow humans!

The crowd grows silent.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV (cont'd) I have not been fooled by this new untruth, ... and neither should you be fooled. The belief that the brain of an animal is superior in any way to even the lowest functioning human brain is a venomous heresy directed towards all of humanity!

Protesters cheer in agreement.

MALE PROTESTER 2 raises his arms above his head displaying "NUMBER ONE" hand gestures.

MALE PROTESTER 2

Let's hear it for us humans!

We're number one!...
We're number one!...

We're number one!...

We're number one!. . . .

AMANDA'S security teams nervously stand down as the crowd grows louder, gets wilder.

FIONA laughs, gives a thumbs up to the chanting crowd.

FIONA(TURNS BACK)

As you can see and hear, this crowd believes that we humans are still number one. ...

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

FIONA(TURNS BACK) (cont'd) ... This is FIONA REVELS reporting from outside KOZKY headquarters.

BACK TO OFFICE:

AMANDA shuts the TV. Exhausted, she tries to relax, closes her eyes for a few moments.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO

(concerned)

How do you function on so little sleep?

AMANDA

(sighs)

It's difficult, I'm still haunted by nightmares of the crash. I wake in a panic, ... it's like I'm drowning, ... can't breathe.

AMANDA picks up the transparent cube from her desk, seems to meditate on the dolphin like creature.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(RE THE CUBE) CHRONIS will never lose interest in that little artifact of yours.

AMANDA

I'm afraid that if he knew the truth, ... what CETACEANS really are, where they're really from, he'd pirate their ancient technologies and use them to pursue his sick obsession with ruling the world.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO Pray that never happens.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - DAY

A menagerie of sea creatures dart back and forth among twisted pillars of brightly colored corals as three DOLPHINS swim by, continue on to explore the rusted hull of an old wreck. The DOLPHINS speed off, navigate a maze of shallow reefs as the surf growls, thunders overhead.

Protruding from a vertical bed of sea rock, a massive man made sea gate now appears. The KOZKY logo is displayed across it's surface.

As the DOLPHINS approach the sea gate, signaling beacons embedded in their dorsal fins actify, throb, pulsate with a ghostly bluish light. We hear rumbling as the outer portal slowly opens. The DOLPHINS navigate a dimly lit inner passageway as they enter the NIR research facility.

INSERT TITLE: "KOZKY NEURON INNERVATION RESEARCH FACILITY"

INT. AQUALAB 1

AQUALAB 1 is a technological marvel, a secured haven where humans and dolphins work together.

An upper level includes an entrance, a balcony overlooking a lower technical level, and a continuous platform that extends along both sides of an aquarium tank.

The "SEABOLT", a four man high velocity research submersible, is moored along the right side upper level.

On the lower level, technicians use a variety of specialized equipment to monitor research data.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL -- SAME

ZACK(28), a programming technician, oversees a wall of large mainframe units, quickly heads to the SEA PORTAL ACCESS TERMINAL as a red light flashes, indicates that the outer sea gate is now open. ZACK notes the terminal's updating log lines as the three DOLPHINS navigate the inner passageway into AQUALAB 1.

KATIE(21), an intern, stands nearby, assists DR. VINIEUTO working at a data entry panel.

ZACK(TO KATIE)

Hey, new kid, ... let DR. KOZKY know her DOLPHINS are back.

KATIE

On it, ZACK.

KATIE uses her comm device, sends a message to AMANDA, excitedly approaches HANNAH(28), a gifted KINEMATIC TECHNICIAN adjusting newly installed robotic arms on a bio.control unit centered near the aquarium's containment barrier.

KATIE (cont'd)

(excited)

HANNAH, the dolphins are here!

HANNAH(TO KATIE)
Cool! You'll get to meet BLUE.

INT. AQUALAB 1 - UPPER LEVEL - SAME TIME

TWEAK(28), CHIEF TECHNICAL ASSISTANT to DR. KOZKY, stands above the containment barrier on a narrow maintenance catwalk, modifies the last of three helmet like INTEGRATION PODS suspended above the aquarium tank. He calls down to HANNAH as he activates a control box and the PODS lower into the water - a dolphin connected to a synced INTEGRATION POD acquires the use of the ROBOTIC ARMS of it's BIO.CONTROL UNIT.

 $\label{thmbs} \begin{array}{c} \text{TWEAK}(\text{THUMBS UP TO HANNAH}) \\ \text{HANNAH, the PODS are good to go.} \end{array}$

INT. AQUALAB 1 - LOWER LEVEL - SAME TIME

HANNAH

Copy that, TWEAK.

HANNAH unexpectedly extends her robotic right forearm to KATIE, hands her a digital syncing module.

HANNAH (cont'd)

Here KATIE, take it, you can do this.

HANNAH and TWEAK power up the INTEGRATION PODS and BIO.CONTROL UNITS. KATIE anxiously holds the syncing module, closely examines scrolling lines of bypass data, carefully fine tunes the parameters of integrating neuro pathways. The robotic arms quickly snap upward, outward, realign at shoulder height, relieved, KATIE smiles.

KATIE

(sighs)

Integration successful, PODS synced.

The three DOLPHINS now enter, swim around the aquarium tank as TWEAK makes his way down to the lower level to greet them.

BLUE, a large, mature, male bottle nosed dolphin, is closely followed by his two adolescent daughters, ARTEMIS and ATHENA. The three DOLPHINS watch ALORIA COLLEY(24), a hand signing specialist, and communications engineer CARLTON KNOLL(30), as they adjust a voice module on an interactive display unit.

CARLTON

Sampling rates boosted. ALORIA, give me a quote?

ALORIA

"If real is what you can feel, smell, taste and see, then 'real' is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain." How's that?

CARLTON(TO ALORIA)

Perfect, ... the MATRIX?

ALORIA

Yeah, ... quess who?

CARLTON

MORPHEUS of course!

ALORIA

You know CARLTON, sometimes working here is like taking that red pill.

CARLTON nods in agreement.

The DOLPHINS now approach ALORIA, who uses sign language to communicate with them. The intern KATIE watches with fascination as ALORIA fires off a rapid series of finger, hand, and arm movements to the DOLPHINS.

KATIE (TO ZACK)

(sotto voce)

What's she saying?

ZACK(TO KATIE)

(sotto voce)

No idea. ... They've invented their own signing language.

BLUE eyes KATIE. ALORIA stops signing, gives a thumbs up to DR. VINIEUTO, winking.

ALORIA(TO DR. VINIEUTO)

BLUE'S good to go, DR. V!

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO

(grinning)

Well then, ... let's get him connected.

CONTINUED: (2)

BLUE swims over, inserts his head into one of the helmet like INTEGRATION PODS. As the POD activates, restraints tighten against his body.

Strings of coordinates begin to update as front, top, and side view images of BLUE'S complex brain expand across several monitors. A colorful, three-dimensional model of BLUE'S double lobed brain hovers, slowly rotates above a nearby holographic projection grid.

TWEAK(TO DR. VINIEUTO)

All cranial image displays are now online.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(TO TWEAK) Expand BLUE'S Sagittal neuron map.

TWEAK resizes BLUE'S neuron map, ... DR. VINIEUTO examines lines of scrolling bypass data.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO
The neuron indicators are looking really good.
... HANNAH, overlay BLUE'S cranial projection with his neural displacement sequence.

HANNAH loads the sequence. Like a million twinkling stars, neural indicators map their way across BLUE'S cranial landscape.

HANNAH

Eighty percent. . . . Ninety percent.
. . . One hundred percent!
We have full integration.

BLUE'S mechanical arms come to life as his hands, fingers, open and close.

HANNAH (cont'd)

BLUE'S prosthetic movements indicate full responsiveness and functionality.

TWEAK

Hello, BLUE!

BLUE'S right mechanical arm raises, extends, points an index finger in KATIE'S direction.

KATIE timidly approaches BLUE, raises her arm, extends her index finger.

CONTINUED: (3)

Their fingers touch.

BLUE (V.O. TO KATIE)

(loudly)

BOO!

Katie stumbles backwards, ... falls, ... lands forcefully on her rear and pride. Laughter fills the room. In the tank, ARTEMIS and ATHENA react wildly, shaking their heads, emitting high pitched sounds, ... laughing. TWEAK gives them a thumbs up, ... fist bumps with BLUE.

BLUE opens, ... closes, his hands.

BLUE (V.O.)

The wonders of modern technology!

ZACK helps KATIE up and BLUE now extends an opened hand to her and they shake as friends.

BLUE (V.O.) (cont'd)

I'm BLUE.

KATIE (AWESTRUCK)

KATIE, It's a pleasure.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL -- SAME

AMANDA laughs quietly to herself as she watches the comedy unfold from the upper level balcony, calls out ...

AMANDA

It's time to connect ARTEMIS and ATHENA.

... as she starts down the stairs to the lower level.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL

The techs return to their stations. CARLTON and HANNAH now oversee the integration progress as ARTEMIS and ATHENA engage their pods, their mechanical hands open, close.

AMANDA approaches BLUE.

AMANDA (TO BLUE)

How are your girls doing?

BLUE(V.O.)

Good! ARTEMIS, ATHENA say "Hi."

The two smaller, female DOLPHINS nod and say "Hi, AMANDA!", then turn to TWEAK.

ARTEMIS AND ATHENA(V.O.)

(simultaneously)

We love you, TWEAK!

AMANDA smiles for a moment as TWEAK winks at the young female dolphins, blows them a loving kiss.

BLUE (V.O.)(TURNS TO AMANDA)

(sadly)

AMANDA, my friend, many of the humans we meet in the wild now look at us suspiciously. We see fear in their children's faces. Humans pursue us, have brutally murdered countless pods in the open sea? Why is all this happening?

AMANDA

After I released the results of the research we've been conducting here with you, many humans now feel threatened by your highly developed brain and superior intellect.

BLUE (V.O.)

Ah yes, ... What men fear, they often destroy.

AMANDA nods, clearly stressed. BLUE studies her thoughtfully.

BLUE (V.O.) (cont'd)

If I meet your human leaders, perhaps we can convince them that they have nothing to fear from me and my kind.

AMANDA thinks this over, nods gravely.

AMANDA

It's worth a try. I'll contact the religious communities, their condemnation of my report was particularly harsh.

BLUE nods in approval.

INT. AQUALAB 1 - LOWER LEVEL- LATER

BLUE positions his robotic arms above one of CARLTON'S holographic displays, rotates his hands, wiggles his fingers.

AMANDA (TO BLUE)

It must be wonderful for you and your dolphin friends, ... having the use of arms.

BLUE nods in agreement as his fingers flash above the holographic work station where CARLTON activates technical grids, coding sequences. AMANDA nods to CARLTON.

AMANDA(TO BLUE) (cont'd) It's CARLTON'S crossover technology that makes all this possible. BLUE, ... Is there much progress at the excavation site?

BLUE initiates an upload sequence, pauses briefly.

BLUE(V.O.)(TO AMANDA)

Yes. ... my dolphin friends continue to recover artifacts and ancient technologies from the mothership. By the way, ... they really love their new EXOSUITS, are eternally indebted to you for their use of arms.

AMANDA beams, smiles gratefully. BLUE eyes his daughters, nods to them.

BLUE(V.O.)(TO AMANDA) (cont'd)

Now it's time to sleep, prepare our latest discoveries for integration into your database.

BLUE, ATHENA and ARTEMIS relax, close one eye, enter sleep mode. Now paused above holographic displays, their robotic hands flash, manipulate images of alien diagrams, technologies.

ANGLE ON:

KATIE (LEANS INTO ZACK)

What's going on?

ZACK(TO KATIE)

(sotto voce)

The DOLPHINS are now in sleep mode.

KATIE (GESTURES TO DOLPHINS)

(sotto voce)

ZACK, ... their eyes are open.

ZACK(TO KATIE)

(sotto voce)

I know, it's actually kinda cool. As half of their brain sleeps, information is processed, passed between the sleeping and active sides.

KATIE

Like a two way processor?

ZACK

Yes! It's like dolphins have two brains. They'll remain in that state for extended periods of time, switching sides, processing and updating new information for upload into DR. KOZ'S databases.

As BLUE, in sleep mode, manipulates images flashing on his holographic display, an unexpected glitch, a slight visual distortion catches CARLTON'S eye.

INT. CHRONIS RESEARCH FACILITY - UPPER CONTROL ROOM - SAME

In an elevated control room, DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO(45), Chief Engineer, and his team of skilled hackers smile as AQUALAB 1'S visual projection system now appears on their monitors.

LEAD HACKER

DR. TAKEO, we now have access to KOZKY'S databases.

A pleased DR. TAKEO carefully observes diagrams of alien technologies as they quickly appear, flow across the banks of monitors, vanish, - he eyes a ring shaped vehicle.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO(GESTURES TO MONITOR)

THERE! That's the one!... Redirect, ... merge that feed with our project's database.

LEAD HACKER triggers a data redirect.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO(ON INTERCOM)

MR. MACCABE, we've found it!

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL -- SAME

As BLUE works at his holographic display the distortions continue. CARLTON tracks the distortions on a handheld scanner, eyes HANNAH.

CARLTON

(shows scanner)

Check out these results.

INT. CHRONIS RESEARCH FACILITY - UPPER CONTROL ROOM - SAME

LEAD HACKER (TO TAKEO)

Upload completed, Sir.

INT. CHRONIS RESEARCH FACILITY - OPERATIONS FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

On the operations floor of an undersea, glass domed research laboratory, CHRONIS and PRESTON anxiously wait near their constructed replica of a five meter diameter, ringlike, alien vehicle.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO(TO CHRONIS VIA INTERCOM)

We can begin, MR. MACCABE.

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO TAKEO)

(gestures towards the

vehicle)

Initiate.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL -- SAME

More distortions. HANNAH gapes at the handheld scanner, looks at CARLTON.

HANNAH(TO CARLTON)

You're right! ... We have a serious problem.

INT. CHRONIS RESEARCH FACILITY -- UPPER CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Structural vibrations ripple across the facility as DR. TAKEO watches the vehicle come to life on his digital displays, ... is engulfed within a glowing sphere of pulsating energy.

INT. CHRONIS RESEARCH FACILITY - MAIN FLOOR - SAME

On the operations floor, CHRONIS and PRESTON watch with anticipation as the vehicle powers up, pulsates, reaches stasis, ... does nothing.

Frustrated, CHRONIS smacks the vehicle with his hand, ... looks up sullenly at DR. TAKEO working in the control room.

INT. UPPER CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

An automatic door slides open, CHRONIS and PRESTON enter the control room, quickly approach DR. TAKEO.

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO TAKEO)

(infuriated)

Why isn't it working? Try explaining it to me, ... AGAIN!

DR. TAKEO gestures to the sphere pulsating wildly on his monitor screens.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO

(calmly)

We've acquired all the specs, ... met every parameter, have on screen confirmation of activation, ...

TAKEO looks at the vehicle sitting on the operations room floor.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO (cont'd)

(confused)

... but nothing's happening.

PRESTON observes the sphere of energy pulsating on the digital displays, ... glances at the unresponsive vehicle.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO CHRONIS)

We do need AMANDA KOZKY.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO (TO CHRONIS)

AMANDA is the smartest person I've ever known. We should stop hacking her, ... arrange for her to help us.

CHRONIS MACCABE(DISMISSES BOTH MEN) Shut the damned thing down!

LEAD HACKER terminates the KOZKY data feeds. As the vehicle enters shutdown mode, powers off, ...

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL -- SAME

... HANNAH gapes at the handheld scanner, more distortions, glances at CARLTON, concerned.

HANNAH (TO CARLTON)

We have to tell DR. KOZ.

INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF CHRONIS MACCABE --- LATER

PRESTON pensively looks out a high rise window that overlooks the mega complex of interconnected offshore platforms. CHRONIS nervously taps a pen against a tabletop, examines technical diagrams of the alien vehicle that sits dormant in his OPERATIONS facility. He shakes his head, disgusted.

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO PRESTON)

Why can't they get the damned thing to work?

PRESTON pulls up a chair.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO CHRONIS)

TAKEO'S right. If we ask her nicely, AMANDA might help us.

CHRONIS frowns, dismisses PRESTON'S suggestion, continues to review his diagrams.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO CHRONIS) (cont'd)

BLOKOV is planning to attend a meet and greet session with KOZKY'S DOLPHINS Friday afternoon. My sources tell me that she's using the event to downplay the bad publicity her research is getting in the media. I believe that BLOKOV is planning to use the event to assess her facilities security. Should I arrange to attend?

CHRONIS MACCABE(TO PRESTON)

No! ... Blokov will recognize you, besides, ... the GENERAL has the event covered. Have you retrieved the PRAETOR'S GATHERER and NESTLING codes?

PRESTON MADDOX(TO CHRONIS)

Yes Sir. The data was modified, entered into our system by DR. TAKEO.

MACCABE smiles smuggly.

INT. AQUALAB 1 - AQUARIUM TANK -- FRIDAY MORNING

A splash of turbulence, a burst of bubbles, and TWEAK'S head shoots up above the surface of the water. As he takes a deep breath, BLUE moves in, cuts right, TWEAK runs a gentle hand along his side, grabs hold of his dorsal, goes for a ride.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

AMANDA and HANNAH quietly sit at a work station, sip some coffee, watch BLUE and TWEAK swim the aquarium tank.

AMANDA (TO HANNAH)

Any news on those glitches in our visual system?

HANNAH (TO AMANDA)

No, we're still trying to figure that one out.

HANNAH turns, smiles for a moment as she watches TWEAK comically wrestle with BLUE in the pool.

HANNAH(TO AMANDA) (cont'd)

(concerned)

BLUE seemed out of sorts again this morning.

AMANDA (NODS)

Who can blame him with all the mass killings of dolphins around the world. I just can't imagine who's behind it?

HANNAH looks worriedly at AMANDA.

HANNAH

People might disagree with your ideas, but to murder pods all over the world en masse?! ... ARTEMIS, ATHENA, ... Sometimes I think what might happen to them when they wander off into the open sea.

HANNAH looks down, it's a grim notion.

AMANDA (TO HANNAH)

I pray that when these religious leaders meet BLUE, they'll warm up to him, realize the good that we hope to achieve.

INT. NEURO-PROSTHETIC INTERFACING LAB - LATER

We see rows of slow moving 3d printers, machines assembling collections of intricate neurogrid components into robotic arms and legs. Technicians monitor patients confined inside circular arrays of brightly lit, vertically positioned, bio.tube chambers.

INSERT TITLE: "KOZKY BIO. - NEURO-PROSTHETIC INTERFACING LAB"

As pulsing lasers travel up, down, and across their hybrid human bodies, robotic limbed SERGEANT SAMUEL STONE(64) and six robotic limbed super soldiers, the BERSERKERS(20s), stand motionless inside their bio.tube chambers.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS(35) and her team of medical technicians continuously analyze updating lines of BERSERKER bio.data scrolling across display monitors.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS (TO BIOTECH1)

(sotto voce)

What about SERGEANT STONE?

BIOTECH1(female, 30) quickly examines STONE'S bio.scan results.

BIOTECH1(TO LAMBROS)

(whispers)

Looks normal.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS (TO BIOTECH1)

(sighs in relief)

Good, let's take a break.

As BIOTECH1 powers down diagnostics, she glances at DONADIO(male,24), who blows her a kiss from inside his bio.tube enclosure, she snickers, shakes her head.

SAM and the BERSERKERS exit their bio.tubes, stretch a bit. PRISCO(male,24) flexes his massive robotic legs and bulging robotic arms as BIOTECH1, now holding a digital tablet, follows DR. LAMBROS who approaches the super soldiers.

DONADIO

Hey Doc, can't you hook me up with a sexy pair like SARGE'S?

ANGEL(female, 24) places her hands on her hips, trusts her chest forward.

ANGEL (TO LAMBROS)

(sexy)

DONADIO means SARGE'S upgraded arms of course.

DONADIO

Yeah! I got this bad itch on my back, can't seem to get to it.

DONADIO repositions his robotic arms, fails to reach his itch.

ANGEL

Don't worry DONADIO, I've got your back, as usual!

As ANGEL scratches DONADIO'S back, BIOTECH1 steps forward, references her data device.

BIOTECH1 (GESTURES TO SAM)

SARGE, you're good to go.

SAM(TO BIOTECH1)

Awesome!

DONADIO fumes.

DONADIO (TO BIOTECH1)

Hey, what about me?

A serious DR. LAMBROS gestures towards the quietly humming diagnostic chambers.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS

The rest of you need additional testing.

ANGEL

(annoyed)

Bummer!

SAM(TURNS TO BERSERKERS)

(smirking)

I'll catch you guys later.

As SAM heads for the door, COOPE(male, 37), tall, muscular, robotic arms and legs calls out.

CONTINUED: (2)

COOPE (TO SAM)

When you see AMANDA, tell her I love her.

SAM

Copy that, COOPE.

DONADIO(TO SAM)

(joking)

Give her a little love for me to, SARGE.

SAM laughs, gives DONADIO a thumbs-up, exits the lab.

The BERSERKERS reenter the bio.tube chambers. As diagnostic lasers begin to flash across their hybrid bodies, DR. LAMBROS anxiously reexamines their updating bio.files.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS

(concerned)

I've never seen results like this before, ...

(glances at BIOTECH1)

... DR. KOZKY should know.

SFX: HELICOPTER ROTOR SOUNDS

EXT. UNIS TOWER PENTHOUSE PAVILION -OBSERVATION DECK HELIPORT - MIDDAY

A helicopter lands, it's door slides open. JANEEN, all smiles, greets colorfully dressed religious delegates BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI(male,50) and SISTER NESMA BISHARA(female,24), as they deboard their vehicle, glad hands them as they head into the event venue.

INT. DR. KOZKY'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- SAME

AMANDA sits at her computer, searches, clicks, then scrolls through recent news reports about her dolphin research, PRAETOR BLOKOV, her upcoming meet and greet event with BLUE.

SFX: HELICOPTER ROTOR SOUNDS

A helicopter passes overhead, attempts to outrun an offshore storm moving in across tidal pooled wetlands towards her NIR research facility.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{DR}}\xspace.$ VINIEUTO enters the office, approaches AMANDA at her computer \ldots

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO

They're all here!

... holds out an armful of informational materials.

DR. THADDEUS VINIEUTO

IT'S SHOWTIME!

AMANDA takes a shallow breath, powers off her computer, grabs the packets from DR. VINIEUTO as she stands, and they exit into a glass breezeway that offers a breathtaking view of the ocean, surrounding coastline.

INT. BREEZEWAY

As they hurry along, AMANDA receives an alert from DR. LAMBROS, SUPERVISOR of ERGONOMIC DESIGN.

AMANDA (READING ALERT)

(stressed)

Really bad timing. There's a problem in ERGONOMICS. ... DR. LAMBROS said something about the BERSERKER medical scans.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO

Go! ... I'll greet your guests, dazzle them with our hi-tech bio.labs, then head over to our medical facility and wait for you there.

AMANDA returns the packets to DR. VINIEUTO, heads to the elevator.

INT. PENTHOUSE PAVILION -- EVENT VENUE -- MOMENTS LATER

DR. VINIEUTO enters the Penthouse venue, finds two dozen religious leaders dressed in ethnic attire mingling in small groups. PRAETOR BLOKOV and his bodyguard, BROTHER VALENTIN DELOV(35), stand together in a back corner of the room, sneering at the others.

JANEEN nervously rushes up to DR. VINIEUTO.

JANEEN (TO DR. VENIEUTO)

Where's DR. KOZKY?

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO There was a problem, she'll be joining us later.

JANEEN directs DR. VIENUTO's attention to BLOKOV and DELOV.

JANEEN (GESTURING TO BLOKOV)

(whispers)

You invited those lunatics?

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(WHISPERS IN HER EAR)

Had to, the PRAETOR is connected to some very powerful people.

DR. VINIEUTO now glad-hands the crowd as he heads to the front of the room, steps onto a stage, leans into a microphone.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(TO GROUP)
Good morning. My name is DR. TADDEUS
VINIEUTO. I'd like to welcome you to
KOZKY BIO.INNERVATION TECHNOLOGIES.

As the crowd grows silent, JANEEN distributes the materials and ID tags to each guest, nervously hands one to BLOKOV, who stares coldly.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(TO GROUP) (cont'd) I know you fear that the highly intelligent CETACEANS may pose some sort of threat to humans, but rest assured, after you meet BLUE, you'll realize that they're no threat and some of the friendliest braniacs you could ever hope to meet.

DELOV removes a mobile communicator from a robe pocket, attempts to use it, can't catch a signal - Vinieuto notes from stage.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO(TO DELOV)

(politely)

You won't receive any external signals this close to our labs. ... They're secured areas. ... All incoming and outgoing communications are blocked.

DELOV remains stone-faced, then leans into BLOKOV whispering.

INT. BREEZEWAY -- SHORT WHILE LATER

As the group now enters the breezeway, heads to the elevators, BISHOP SANNJHANI and SISTER BISHARA approach PRAETOR BLOKOV.

BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI(EXTENDS HIS OPENED HAND)

Good day EXCELLENCY. My name is BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI.

BLOKOV ignores him, continues to the elevators. BROTHER DELOV shakes the BISHOP'S hand as he walks by.

BROTHER VALENTIN DELOV(TO SANNJHANI)

(heavy euro accent)

You must forgive my PRAETOR. He has much on his mind.

DELOV follows BLOKOV as SANNJHANI exchanges a wary glance with BISHARA.

INT. NEURO-PROSTHETIC INTERFACING - SAME

AMANDA stands with DR. LAMBROS, studies the BERSERKERS' latest computer generated medical files, grows concerned as the animations play.

AMANDA (TO LAMBROS)

It's incredible, ... Their prosthetic limbs and human bodies have fused into a singular entity.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS
I've never seen anything like it What's odd is that SERGEANT STONE
isn't effected for some reason.

AMANDA appears relieved, takes a closer look at his medical profile.

DR. KIRSTEN LAMBROS (cont'd) Should we give the BERSERKERS a heads up, explain what's happening to them?

AMANDA

No! Don't alarm them. Let's determine if their condition is benign or may require some sort of medical treatment.

DR. LAMBROS nods, noting AMANDA'S worried expression.

AMANDA (cont'd)

I'll get back to you after this plea for acceptance tour is over.

INT. HALLWAY

AMANDA hurries along a dimly lit windowed corridor lined with reinforced bunkers, gun turrets firing wildly at manikins encased in experimental battle armor.

A secured doorway slides open and two soldiers, wearing white body armor, follow an armory tech from a room filled with high powered weapons.

The names DONADIO and ANGEL are stamped across the front of the soldiers' helmets.

DONADIO(TO AMANDA)

(raspy robotic)

Hey Doc! Hold up a minute.

DONADIO and ANGEL remove their helmets, trot up to AMANDA.

AMANDA (SMILES)

Hi, DONADIO, ANGEL, ... having a good day?

DONADIO

You bet! We went live - the turrets hit us with everything they had. Check it out!

DONADIO, like a happy child spins around ... shows AMANDA his back.

DONADIO(TO AMANDA)

... not even a dent!... This new body armor is awesome, indestructible!

ANGEL

To me, the incoming rounds felt like a soothing, full body massage.

The MARINES fist bump, OOH-RAH with each other.

AMANDA (MASKING HER ANGST)

How have you guys been feeling lately, okay?

ANGEL glances at DONADIO.

DONADIO

Better than ever DOC!

AMANDA

Just make sure you report any unusual sensations or physical changes to DR. LAMBROS in ERGONOMICS.

AMANDA heads to the medical wing.

ANGEL(LOOKS AT DONADIO)

What was up with that?

INT. INNERVATION CENTER

DR. VINIEUTO has paused the tour group outside the SEQUENCING ROOM of the Innervation Center - a high tech medical facility. As they stand in a corridor lined with military portraits, AMANDA joins them, smiling.

AMANDA (TO GROUP)

I apologize for the delay. Please, let's proceed into the Sequencing Room before we move to the aquarium facility and meet with BLUE.

CAROLYN(O.S.)

DR. KOZKY ma'am, ... excuse me.

AMANDA turns as CAROLYN, a naval officer(female,21) approaches, extends her right robotic hand.

AMANDA (SHAKES HAND)

(delighted)

CAROLYN! It's so good to see you again.

CAROLYN

DR. KOZKY, ...

She quickly glances across the room at her waiting family, smiles.

CAROLYN(TURNS BACK)

... I'm going home!

AMANDA

That's wonderful news.

CAROLYN

I just wanted to say goodbye, ... thank you for helping me.

A brief goodbye hug later, CAROLYN rejoins her family, waves to AMANDA as she exits the Innervation Center. The visitors, impressed, now quietly discuss the portraits as they move down the hallway towards the SEQUENCING ROOM. BLOKOV and DELOV scan their surroundings and KOZKY'S security.

SISTER NESMA BISHARA(GESTURES TOWARDS THE PORTRAITS)

Dr. KOZKY, who are these men and women?

AMANDA (TO NESMA)

They are former patients of our "Always a Soldier" program. We offer injured veterans free limb replacements, upgrades, and post operative medical support.

INT. SEQUENCING ROOM

Inside the SEQUENCING ROOM, patients use specialized equipment, run their robotic limbs through sequencing and responsiveness activities as technicians monitor them.

AMANDA (TO GROUP)

This is a post-operative sequencing center. We monitor our patients until their bodies adapt to their bio.robotic limb replacements.

BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI(TO AMANDA)

How long does that take?

AMANDA (TO SANNJHANI)

Up to a year.

AMANDA directs the groups attention to a smaller, glass enclosed, interior FITTING ROOM filled with diagnostic equipment and examination tables.

INT. FITTING ROOM

SGT. SAMUEL STONE, sporting robotic arms and legs himself, activates a sensor attached to a male patient's prosthetic forearm. The patient(35) rotates his wrist, flexes his mechanical fingers, happily exits.

INT. SEQUENCING ROOM

AMANDA waves SAM out. He exits the fitting room, gives her a welcoming hug, smiles, nods to the crowd.

AMANDA(GESTURES TOWARDS SAM)
This is SERGEANT SAMUEL STONE, an old
friend. He and my father served
together in the Mideast War.

SAM(TO GROUP)

I was in bad shape for a long time after our Humvee was hit by an IED. AMANDA hooked me up. Now look at me! From no legs, ... to super limbs!

In an unexpected display of incredible speed, Sam throws punches, shuffles his feet back and forth, runs up a wall, kicks off and flips to a perfect landing. BLOKOV and DELOV, astounded, glance at each other, talk quietly in their ancient, arcane dialect.

AMANDA (TO GROUP)

Our newest innervation technologies are so successful that most of our patients opt for total limb replacement rather than simple nerve replenishment.

SISTER NESMA BISHARA(TO AMANDA)

What about ... you know, ... do the replacements effect their "special" parts.

SAM(ROTATING HIPS)

(joking)

Sister, ... life's never been sweeter for this old Joe.

AMANDA

SAM'S procedure was funded through a pilot DOD program designed to create super soldiers.

SAM sees PRISCO has entered the FITTING ROOM - SAM points at him.

SAM(TO GROUP)

Yeah, we call them BERSERKERS, the greatest warriors ever!

BLOKOV and DELOV exchange uneasy glances, seeing PRISCO'S massive robotic legs and bulging robotic arms through the FITTING ROOM window.

AMANDA (TO SAM)

Is COOPE around?

SAM

Last time I saw COOPE, he was headed into the INFUSION CHAMBER for one of his treatments.

SAM notes AMANDA seems anxious as she nods, smiles goodbye and leads the group out of the room to the INFUSION CHAMBER.

INT. INFUSION CHAMBER

Inner doors slide open to reveal technicians overseeing a network of glowing, horizontally positioned INFUSION PODS.

AMANDA (TO GROUP)

Over time, the SKELETAL INFUSION process fuses prosthetic limbs seamlessly with a patient's skeleton.

As the group walks down a perimeter ramp, a glowing pod rotates upward, locks into a vertical position. The pod opens, COOPE steps out, smiles tenderly as he sees AMANDA leading the group.

BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI(TO AMANDA)

Is that guy a BERSERKER?

AMANDA

Yes, ... COOPE'S NAVY.

AMANDA waves to COOPE as they pass by, ... COOPE senses somethings not right, sees it in her face, follows behind them.

INT. PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

The group enters the PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM, COOPE inches his way to AMANDA, pulls her aside as the others fan out.

COOPE

(sotto voce)

So, beautiful, ... you okay?

AMANDA nods, gives a weak smile, ... he sees she isn't.

AMANDA (TO COOPE)

(whispers)

I'll tell you about it later.

COOPE understands, ... backs off.

COOPE

(whispering)

Sure babe, just remember, ... I've always got your back.

She smiles, gives him a loving look, then the two join DR.VINIEUTO and the clerics who are watching PRISCO now working out on heavily modified resistance equipment.

DR.VINIEUTO(TO GROUP)

With artificial limbs, endurance and resistance training are essential to sustain maximum core efficiency.

BLOKOV and DELOV exchange increasingly concerned glances as they note the superhuman speed of two other BERSERKERS, COLLELA(male, 24) and LOZANO(male, 24), running on treadmills. SISTER BISHARA is amazed.

SISTER NESMA BISHARA(TO BISHOP)

They're so fast!

SAM now enters the room with robotic-limbed, DONADIO and ANGEL.

BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI(TO SAM)

BERSERKERS?

SAM(NODS)

Marines!

COLLELA and LOZANO slow down, jump off the treadmills, approach AMANDA.

COLLELA(TO AMANDA)

I love these new legs, DOC! They've been feel'in ... like ... real lately!

AMANDA tries to mask her concern, smiles. COOPE studies her with worry.

PRISCO(O.S.)

Yo, COOPE, ... catch!

CONTINUED: (2)

PRISCO suddenly hurls a massive weight plate to COOPE, who effortlessly captures the flying disk with super human speed, maintains his balance, drops the heavy plate to the floor. BLOKOV and DELOV gape.

NESMA shakes her head in disbelief.

PRISCO nods in agreement.

INT. UNIS EMPLOYEE SHUTTLE STATION - SHORT WHILE LATER

An underground shuttle system transports workers between the UNIS building and the NIR facility located one mile southeast of the UNIS complex.

INT. UNIS EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE STATION - SAME

A private EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE is docked at the rear of the employee station. AMANDA leads her guests towards it, passing armed guards that manage security for the EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE STATION and an adjacent POWER GENERATING FACILITY.

PRAETOR BLOKOV and BROTHER DELOV slow their pace, glimpse inside the power facility, see massive generators humming. Two security guards stare suspiciously, gesture to BLOKOV and DELOV to quickly rejoin their group. The men do so, exchanging glances.

The guards watch as BLOKOV and DELOV follow AMANDA onto the EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE, the doors closing behind them.

INT. SHUTTLE TUNNEL -- MOMENTS LATER

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS, located midway down the tunnel in windowed control booths, track the approaching shuttle. They wave as the EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE passes, disappears down a dimly lit tunnel.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL -- MINUTES LATER

ALORIA now greets AMANDA, DR.VINIEUTO, and the entourage on the upper level of AQUALAB 1, ... head down to the lower level.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

CARLTON updating a mainframe unit, approaches AMANDA as she enters the lower level.

CARLTON(WHISPERS IN AMANDA'S EAR)

I have an update on those glitches, ... we traced the source to CHRONIS.

AMANDA

I knew it!

AMANDA, now annoyed, heads back to the group. BLUE, ATHENA and ARTEMIS swim back and forth in their pool, observe the excited clerics as they survey the three DOLPHINS, the helmet shaped integration pods suspended in the aquarium tank. ZACK, KATIE, TWEAK, and HANNAH complete some last minute adjustments to the robotic arms and bio.control units.

AMANDA (TO ALORIA)

I'm relieved that ATHENA and ARTEMIS are safe.

ALORIA(TO AMANDA)

I directed all of them not to connect until after the visitors have arrived.

AMANDA(TO ALORIA)

Now's a good time.

BLOKOV shoves through the clerics, positions himself at the glass barrier in front of BLUE. As ALORIA hand gestures, BLUE inserts his head into an INTEGRATION POD. Restraints tighten against his body, shoulders rotate, arms bend, fingers open, close. Horrified, BLOKOV watches the mechanical arms come to life.

BLUE extends his right mechanical arm directly at BLOKOV.

BLUE (V.O. TO BLOKOV)

Hello friend. My name is BLUE.

Stunned, BLOKOV backs away from BLUE'S extended arm.

PRAETOR LUDOMIR BLOKOV(TURNS TO AMANDA)

(yelling)

Nievet, Nievet! Detan zeta iludda dolphine nievet ista davina huminizator.

BLUE(V.O. TO BLOKOV)

(joking)

Don't be afraid, ... I won't bite!

BLOKOV pounds his fist against the glass barrier.

PRAETOR LUDOMIR BLOKOV

(yelling)

Ti bozst prozit vastu svor vienta vatt portura.

AMANDA, shocked by the PRAETOR'S outburst, helplessly watches as ATHENA and ARTEMIS, panic-stricken, speed away through the sea conduit, head for safety in the open ocean. BLUE lowers his arm, totally perplexed.

DELOV follows BLOKOV as he pushes his way back through the clerics, storms up to the upper level. Security guards look at AMANDA, who nods for them to follow.

BLUE(V.O. TO TWEAK)

(sotto voce)

I've never met a human like that before.

TWEAK (GESTURES AT BLOKOV)

That human, ... is an asshole.

BLUE(V.O. TO TWEAK)

(sotto voce)

I've never met a dolphin who was an asshole.

Embarrassed by BLOKOV, the other clerics murmur amongst themselves and the BISHOP approaches AMANDA.

BISHOP FARSHEED SANNJHANI We truly understand the good that you hope to achieve through your work. ... Please, allow us to learn more about your dolphins.

AMANDA takes a deep breath, eyes BLUE.

AMANDA (TO BLUE)

Ready?

BLUE(V.O. TO AMANDA)

Yes.

INT. AQUALAB 1 CORRIDOR -- SAME TIME

BLOKOV and DELOV hurry towards the shuttle station, followed by security.

PRAETOR LUDOMIR BLOKOV(TO BROTHER DELOV)

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - LATER

ARTEMIS and ATHENA swim peacefully through their undersea paradise. Suddenly, a small object speeds by, disappears into a field of sea grasses. They've never seen a little creature like this before, swim over to investigate.

The tiny creature darts away, the dolphins give chase. As the creature slows, turns, the curious dolphins bravely move in for a closer look.

SFX: SIZZLE, CRACK ... SIZZLE, CRACK

Pulses of blue energy explode from the creature, which is a NESTLING drone, striking the two young dolphins. Agonizing dolphin screams rise then quickly fade as the drone speeds away towards a mountain of sea rock, disappears into the shadows beneath the silhouette of the PRAETOR'S mechanical dolphin hunter, the GATHERER, that now watches the DOLPHINS drifting motionless through it's multiple black, soulless eyes.

INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF CHRONIS MACCABE - LATER

A comm link opens. BLOKOV appears on screen.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV(TO CHRONIS) I've delivered the female dolphins to you. ... When will DR. KOZKY be delivered to me?

CHRONIS MACCABE
As soon as the GENERAL completes his mission.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV ... and those so-called BERSERKERS?

CHRONIS MACCABE
The GENERAL will deal with them.

INT. UNIS EMPLOYEE SHUTTLE STATION - PREDAWN - DAYS LATER

Employees arrive early at the shuttle station, pass through the security checkpoint. As they await the morning shuttle's arrival, a security guard stationed at the executive shuttle checkpoint observes their minimal activity from inside his booth.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- LOWER LEVEL - SAME

KATIE and ZACK sit impatiently at the SEA PORTAL ACCESS TERMINAL, their night shift is about to end. KATIE glances at a digital clock mounted on a nearby wall.

KATIE(TO ZACK)

(yawning)

I hate these boring graveyard shifts, it's like they never end.

The control panel flashes, indicates the outer sea gate is opening. ZACK observes updating log entries.

ZACK(TO KATIE)

Looks like the girls are back.

KATIE

Finally! I gotta tell KOZKY, I know she's been so worried - they've been out wandering a really long time.

ZACK

Yeah, BLUE'S out looking for them now. He'll be happy to know they're safe when he gets back.

KATIE

Where's Dr. KOZ?

ZACK

She's pulling another all nighter in the NOVA lab.

KATIE sends her message to Dr. KOZKY.

ZACK (cont'd)

Damn it! The outer portal won't close, it's stuck.

KATIE

A systems reboot is a good fix for that problem.

ZACK triggers a reboot. The portal remains open.

KATIE (cont'd)

You better file a maintenance report.

As ZACK submits his maintenance report, KATIE notices several dark reflections moving across her monitor screen.

She turns towards the aquarium barrier, ... raises her arms above her head.

ZACK

KATIE?

Zack sees two heavily armed figures wearing wet gear, their faces hidden behind black respirator masks, positioned at the top of the barrier. Lasers from their plasma weapons target the techs.

MERC1

(raspy robotic)

Don't move.

ZACK and KATIE freeze.

ZACK(WHISPERS TO KATIE)

There goes your, so boring', theory.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

Eight large submersible transports emerge from the access conduit, enter the aquarium tank, rise to the surface. Each transport ferries six mercenaries (MERCS).

INT. AOUALAB 1 - LOWER LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

ZACK and KATIE kneel as MERC1 and MERC2 stand guard. CAPTAIN KRATO exits the stairway, slowly opens, closes, his right hand. As arcing veins of blue energy pulse between his finger tips, ZACK and KATIE exchange worried glances.

CAPTAIN KRATO(TO KATIE)

(raspy robotic)

Where is Dr. KOZKY?

Katie stares nervously, silently.

CAPTAIN KRATO

(raspy robotic)

I'll ask you again, ... Where is DR.

KOZKY?

KATIE

(stutters)

I'm ... I'm DR. KOZKY.

The MERCS laugh. CAPTAIN KRATO leans close.

CAPTAIN KRATO

(raspy robotic)

You silly, little girl!

CAPTAIN KRATO quickly circles his fingertips. A sphere of pulsating red energy spikes, now hovers threateningly in the palm of his hand.

CAPTAIN KRATO(OMINOUSLY TO KATIE)

(raspy robotic)

Stop playing or I'll have to hurt you.

ZACK

Leave her alone!

KATIE'S comm module activates.

CAPTAIN KRATO grabs it - the ball of energy vanishes.

CAPTAIN KRATO

(raspy robotic)

Perfect, ... KOZKY'S on her way.

CAPTAIN KRATO(TO MERC1, MERC2)

(raspy robotic)

We'll lock them in storage.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

The MERCS occupy the upper level. A MERC GENERAL directs his troops as weapons, munitions and body armor are removed from the transports. Several MERCS take defensive positions.

ZACK notices one transport is unopened, looks different.

ZACK(TO KRATO)

Is that a bomb?

CAPTAIN KRATO (raspy robotic)

No.

CAPTAIN KRATO gestures to four metal casings being removed from another transport.

CAPTAIN KRATO(GESTURING TOWARDS THE DEVICES)

(raspy robotic)

Those are bombs.

Horrified, ZACK and KATIE are locked in an upper level storage room. MERC1 and MERC2 stand guard.

CAPTAIN KRATO now stands alone at the lab's entrance. As AMANDA, TWEAK, ALORIA and a security guard enter the lab, they stop at the sight of the MERC activity.

CAPTAIN KRATO

(raspy robotic)

Follow me please.

The security guard quickly draws his pistol, targets CAPTAIN KRATO but ...

SFX: POP, THUD

A high velocity energy round explodes through his chest, slams him to the floor. His body is dragged away as AMANDA, TWEAK and ALORIA are escorted to a side wall on the upper deck. MERC1 gestures for them to sit.

TWEAK scans the high ground, watches as a solitary figure emerges from the shadows, chambers another round, disappears, ... SNIPER.

As massive plates of battle armor are unloaded from one transport, a giant, towering above the other MERCS, secures the heavily riveted plates across his upper body.

TWEAK (WHISPERS TO AMANDA)

Look at the size of that guy! He must be eight feet tall.

CAPTAIN KRATO(TO TWEAK)

We call him GOLIATH.
WHEREVER GOLIATH STANDS. . . THE
ENEMY FALLS.

AMANDA watches two squads of merc troops exit AQUALAB 1, double time down the corridor, make their way to the shuttle station. The MERC GENERAL turns, stares at AMANDA.

INT. SHUTTLE TUNNEL MAINTENANCE CONTROL BOOTH

A MAINTENANCE TECH leisurely leans back, feet up, listens to some retro sonic vibes while flipping through the digital pages of an old bio.med publication. A shuttle activity monitor sounds an alert, the EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE is headed in his direction from the NIR facility.

MAINTENANCE TECH ALBERT? JUAN? come in. Who ordered this unscheduled maintenance run?

INT. NIR SHUTTLE STATION

The security booths are unmanned, their window glass shattered.

INT. MAINTENANCE CONTROL BOOTH

MAINTENANCE TECH Oh, come on, ... where are you guys?

INT. SHUTTLE TUNNEL

As the EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE slows to a stop, red lasers dance across the front of the maintenance booth, ... target the tech.

INT. MAINTENANCE CONTROL BOOTH - RIGHT SIDE OF TUNNEL

MAINTENANCE TECH

What the f-?

As the tech drops to the floor, the MERCS open fire, blow out the shuttles windows, blanket the command booth with several volleys of plasma rounds, ... cease firing. CAPTAIN STRADKA now enters the booth, takes control as the MAINTENANCE TECH slowly stands, raises his arms, is led away.

CAPTAIN STRADKA(TO VEEGE) (raspy robotic)

Maintenance platform secured.
Shall I initiate shuttle deployment?

COMMANDER VEEGE (O.S.)

(raspy_robotic)

Deploy shuttle.

CAPTAIN STRADKA activates the shuttle deployment terminal, ...inputs a shuttle run sequence.

INT. NIR SHUTTLE STATION

COMMANDER VEEGE and a dozen heavily armed MERCS watch as the employee shuttle silently leaves the NIR station, speeds away.

INT. SHUTTLE TUNNEL -- MAINTENANCE PLATFORM

The shuttle shoots by, heads towards the UNIS TOWER station, ... accelerates.

INT. EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE SECURITY BOOTH

Something's not right, SECURITY GUARD 4 notices the flashing red light flying across the shuttle activity monitor in his direction. Panicking, he sprints out of the security booth towards the employee platform.

INT. EMPLOYEE SHUTTLE STATION

SECURITY GUARD 4 (screaming)
Everyone run! Get out of here!

As the terrified employees flee, head for safety, SECURITY GUARD 4 turns, watches in horror as the speeding shuttle reaches the end of the line.

As the security booth explodes into a swirling gray cloud of pulverized concrete, metal, and glass, the shuttle crashes through reinforced supports, walls.

INT. POWER FACILITY

The shuttle continues it's destructive path, penetrates deep into the heart of the generating facility.

As generators violently implode, workers run for their lives, are instantly vaporized by the intensity of an electrical firestorm.

The UNIS TOWER quakes, ... goes dark. Emergency lights engage as halls fill with the shrill sounds of warning sirens, the screams of terrified people.

INT. SAMUEL STONE'S LIVING QUARTERS

SAMUEL STONE asleep, ... suddenly sits up in his bed, fully awake, ... alert.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

AMANDA, ALORIA, and TWEAK now stand before the MERC GENERAL.

MERC GENERAL

(raspy robotic)

DR. KOZKY, we meet again.

AMANDA

I know that voice.

The MERC GENERAL removes his helmet.

AMANDA (cont'd)

(horrified)

BISHOP SANNJHANI? You're responsible for all this?

GENERAL SANNJHANI

AMANDA, my name is GENERAL FARSHEED SANNJHANI. I truly understand the good that you hope to achieve through your work.

... Unfortunately, there are many powerful people who will pay any price to stop your research. That's why I'm here.

INT. MAINTENANCE PLATFORM CONTROL BOOTH - SAME

CAPTAIN STRADKA watches, concerned, as a blinking red dot moves across the shuttle activity monitor screen in his direction from the UNIS TOWER STATION.

INT. NIR SHUTTLE STATION PLATFORM

COMMANDER VEEGE

(raspy robotic)

General, come in.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

GENERAL SANNJHANI

Yes, COMMANDER.

COMMANDER VEEGE (O.S.)

(raspy robotic)

CAPTAIN STRADKA reports inbound movement through the upper tunnel.

AMANDA, ALORIA and TWEAK exchange hopeful glances, help may now be on the way.

GENERAL SANNJHANI

Source of movement?

COMMANDER VEEGE (O.S.)

(raspy robotic)

Unidentified.

GENERAL SANNJHANI

Have STRADKA prepare to engage.

INT. SHUTTLE TUNNEL -- MAINTENANCE PLATFORM

CAPTAIN STRADKA(TO VEEGE)

Dispersing troops for engagement.

The MERCS secure defensive positions on the maintenance platforms, inside the EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE.

INT. NIR SHUTTLE STATION PLATFORM

COMMANDER VEEGE paces impatiently, observes the muzzle flashes and sounds of heavy automatic weapons fire as STRADKA'S squad is engaged in an intense firefight down the dimly lit tunnel. The firefight increases in intensity until all is now dark, quiet.

COMMANDER VEEGE

(raspy robotic)

STRADKA, ... Respond.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

COMMANDER VEEGE(O.S.)

(raspy robotic)

General - come in.

GENERAL SANNJHANI

Yes, COMMANDER.

COMMANDER VEEGE(O.S.)

(raspy robotic)

No response from STRADKA.

GENERAL SANNJHANI

And the source of earlier movement, identified?

COMMANDER VEEGE(O.S.)

(raspy robotic)

Negative.

GENERAL SANNJHANI

Withdraw your troops, prepare to engage.

INT. NIR SHUTTLE STATION PLATFORM

The squad of MERCS double time up the platform stairs, quickly take up defensive positions in the employee lounge as a plasma torch is used to weld the entrance doors shut.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL -- SAME

GENERAL SANNJHANI approaches the unopened transport. AMANDA, TWEAK, and ALORIA watch as he accesses a display panel, inputs a security code, then turns smirking as his code clears and the transport's outer hatch slowly opens. He reaches into a satchel, holds out two small signaling beacons.

GENERAL SANNJHANI(TO TWEAK) Here, take your little friends.

TWEAK, furious, swings his right arm wildly, strikes the GENERAL solidly in the face. Still clutching the signaling beacons in his fist, the GENERAL is thrown off balance, the beacons go flying. Two MERC guards tackle TWEAK, knocking him to the ground.

GENERAL SANNJHANI rotates his jaw.

GENERAL SANNJHANI

Put them with the others. ... Leave the good doctor.

AMANDA watches helplessly as TWEAK and ALORIA are dragged off. GENERAL SANNJHANI nods to CAPTAIN KRATO, who circles his fingers again, generating veins of blue energy from the fingertips of his right hand. He places his hand on AMANDA'S shoulder. With a slight moan, she drifts into unconsciousness. Two MERCS catch her as she collapses. A breathing unit is secured across her face. AMANDA is placed into the open transport.

The GENERAL reenters his code, the outer hatch closes. As engines engage, the transport submerges moving slowly, silently down the access conduit. AMANDA is carried out to sea.

INT. EMPLOYEE LOUNGE

A thundering blast, the lounge doors explode inward. Sirens blare, warning lights flash. Targeting lasers slice through the churning cloud of smoke and dust that fills the room as MERCS search for targets.

Weapons blazing, the BERSERKERS, wearing white battle armor, advance into the lounge - the headgear labeled PRISCO, COLLELA, ANGEL, COOPE, DONODIO, LOZANO, and STONE.

The MERCS open fire, a maelstrom of plasma bolts engulfs the advancing BERSERKERS - their body armor absorbing the pounding of incoming rounds as they issue massive fire power back throughout the room.

EXT. LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Walls explode, columns fragment. COMMANDER VEEGE and his remaining troops retreat, take up defensive positions alongside a second squad of MERCS dug in outside the lounge and up the hallway leading to AQUALAB 1.

INT. LOUNGE - SAME

The BERSERKERS regroup.

ANGEL

(raspy robotic)

They ain't nothin'.

DONADIO

(raspy robotic)

Yeah, this is like shooting targets in a penny arcade. Too easy!

LOZANO

(raspy robotic)

Damned right, Bro!

SAM

(raspy robotic)

Don't get cocky people!

COOPE and COLLELA stand watch at the lounge exit.

COLLELA

(raspy robotic)

I've got point this time.

EXT. EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - HALLWAY

COLLELA steps into the hallway, is thrown back by an unexpected volley of firepower.

SFX: CRACK! CRACK!

COLLELA'S right leg takes two massive hits, and he cries out in agonizing pain.

COOPE charges into the hall, grabs COLLELA, drags him back into the lounge.

INT. EMPLOYEE LOUNGE

The armor protecting COLLELA'S right leg is gone. His bionic thigh, a twisted tangled mass of exotic alloys and electronic circuitry sizzles.

COLLELA screams in agonizing pain.

COLLELA

My leq!

SAM kneels at COLLELA'S side.

COLLELA (cont'd)

It's killing me, SARGE! I've never had pain this bad before.

PRISCO

(raspy robotic)

But that's impossible!

ANGEL

(raspy robotic)

Yeah! That can't happen, ... these things ain't real!

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

Have you guys looked at yourselves in the mirror lately?

PRISCO

(raspy robotic)

What of it?

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

If your bodies look, feel, like mine, you know something's different, ... haven't thought about it much til now,... it's just been a ... feeling.

Silently, the BERSERKERS exchange glances as COOPE'S words sink in.

ANGEL

(raspy robotic)

DOC told me and DONADIO to report anything weird happening to our bodies, ... it's like she knew something was going on.

PRISCO readies his weapon, watches as COLLELA grimaces, painfully repositions his damaged robotic leg,

PRISCO

(raspy robotic)

Pain or no pain, ... Let's finish this!

PRISCO, DONADIO, LAZANO, and ANGEL exit.

INT. LOUNGE HALLWAY

An incoming firestorm of ordinance blankets the four BERSERKERS. They advance up the hallway, concentrate their fire power, take out a dozen MERCS. The surviving MERCS fall back, retreat into AQUALAB 1.

ANGEL(TO BERSERKERS)

(raspy robotic)

Let's get'em!

As ANGEL sprints up the hallway, SWISH-THUMP, SWISH-THUMP, SWISH-THUMP, ... a gargantuan figure wearing massive plates of battle armor suddenly emerges from AQUALAB 1.

Eight feet tall, GOLIATH towers above ANGEL. He powers up his high energy projectile cannon, proton rifle, looks down at her menacingly.

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

Holy Shit!

The BERSERKERS open fire, pulse rounds striking harmlessly against the giant's thick battle armor.

ANGEL panics, goes into a skidding, spinning slide. As she runs back up the corridor, GOLIATH targets ANGEL with proton bolts that hammer her reinforced upper torso then shatter the armor protecting her left leg. ANGEL screams, falls to the ground, drags her sizzling leg, hides behind damaged wall supports.

DONADIO continues firing his weapon at GOLIATH, moves from cover, advances up the hallway.

ANGEL (raspy robotic)
DONADIO! Are you crazy?

GOLIATH takes aim. High energy proton bolts blow away the protective armor from DONADIO'S right arm. DONADIO stumbles against a sidewall, falls to the floor, his smoldering right arm dangles limply at his side as he crawls to cover.

LOZANO and PRISCO hide behind damaged support columns down the hallway, continue firing at GOLIATH. Energy rounds from PRISCO'S high impact plasma rifle hammer GOLIATH, but do no damage.

GOLIATH powers up his projectile cannon. A high energy projectile streaks down the corridor, explodes into a wall near PRISCO, who ducks, continues to hammer GOLIATH with plasma rounds. A second projectile explodes, PRISCO is buried beneath an avalanche of shattered wall tiles and large crumbling blocks of concrete.

LOZANO
(raspy robotic
yelling)
SARGE! PRISCO'S down!

SAM

(raspy robotic)

Cover me!

COOPE and LOZANO target GOLIATH as SAM scurries up the hallway, makes his way to PRISCO.

GOLIATH targets SAM with proton bolts that pound his body armor. SAM dives for cover, crouches behind fallen debris, pulls PRISCO from beneath the rubble.

SAM (cont'd)
(raspy robotic)
PRISCO! ... you still with us?

PRISCO slowly stirs.

CONTINUED: (2)

PRISCO

(raspy robotic)

Yeah, SARGE. My heads pounding. ...

hurts like hell!

GOLIATH powers up his projectile cannon, takes out another section of wall near SAM and PRISCO.

PRISCO (cont'd)

(raspy robotic)

That guy's pissing me off!!

SAM leans back, catches his breath, thinks for a few moments, shakes his head back and forth.

SAM

(whispers to self)

I'm too old for this shit.

SAM now picks up PRISCO'S high impact rifle, places a fatherly hand on PRISCO'S shoulder, ...

SAM(TO PRISCO)

(raspy robotic)

Stay down son, I've got this.

... then rushes from cover, targets GOLIATH, advances up the hallway toward AQUALAB1.

GOLIATH returns fire, his rounds stripping away the protective armor from SAM'S robotic arms and legs.

GOLIATH readies his projectile cannon, fires a quick round. SAM ducks. The round streaks past, explodes into a wall near PRISCO. Debris flies, PRISCO'S ears ring.

PRISCO

(raspy robotic)

That did it! Now I'm pissed.

PRISCO, unarmed, moves from cover, sprints up the corridor as GOLIATH targets SAM with his projectile cannon. PRISCO reaches down, picks up an enormous shard of broken tile spins, hurls the shard with all his strength, sends it flying up the corridor frisbee style.

SFX: CRASH, CRUNCH, CRACK

The incoming shard smashes into GOLIATH'S helmet, crushes his face, cracks his neck. GOLIATH goes down. As SAM reaches the fallen giant, he discards his weapon, picks up GOLIATH'S battle rifle, enters AQUALAB 1.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

SAM stands alone on the upper level of AQUALAB 1. Targeting lasers flash across his body from every corner of the room.

SFX: POP, THUD

A sniper round slams harmlessly into SAM'S chest, he wields right, aims high. A volley from his proton rifle brings the SNIPER down.

A firestorm of ordinance rains down on SAM. Clouds of debris and dust explode upward from the floor, support structures. His upper body armor holding, his robotic limbs still intact, SAM indestructible, targets the MERCS with proton bolts, projectile rounds. MERC bodies explode, debris pummels the surface of the aquarium tank.

INT. LOCKED STORAGE ROOM

As the firefight increases in intensity, TWEAK, ALORIA, ZACK and KATIE sit against a back wall, anxiously exchange glances. KATIE covers her ears with her hands.

INT. AQUALAB 1 CORRIDOR

The sound of the firefight echoes through the hallways. The BERSERKERS remove their helmets, ready their weapons. DONADIO stands, ANGEL holds on, stands on her undamaged leg, ... leans on his undamaged shoulder.

ANGEL

Thanks! D.

COOPE

I'll get COLLELA!

PRISCO

Let's move.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

SAM hammers the MERCS, takes out the last of them with projectile, proton rounds. His fellow BERSERKERS enter amazed: SAM stands alone, unscathed, amid the carnage in the devastated lab.

DONADIO

DAMN, SARGE!

PRISCO

Not bad for an old man!

ANGEL

I definitely gotta get me a sexy pair like SARGE'S!

The BERSERKERS eye ANGEL'S stealth, womanly physique.

ANGEL (GESTURES TO SAM'S ARMS)

I was talking about his arms, you robo-morons!

INT. LOCKED STORAGE ROOM

TWEAK pounds on the storage room door, backs away as it begins to buckle, is torn open. SAM enters, looks around the room, removes his helmet, extends a hand to ALORIA, helps her to her feet.

SAM(TO ALORIA)

I'm SERGEANT SAMUEL STONE. Where's AMANDA?

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- UPPER LEVEL

The BERSERKERS and techs regroup on the upper level. The MERC transports are inoperable, partially submerged. The high speed "SEABOLT" has sustained minimal damage.

TWEAK (TO SAM)

I saw the GENERAL put DR. KOZ in one of those transports, ... it took her out to sea.

COOPE

I can use the "SEABOLT" to follow their transport, but first we have to find it!

ALORIA(TO TWEAK)

What's the range of the dolphin's signaling beacons?

TWEAK

Huh? Why?

ALORIA

When you hit the GENERAL, a beacon landed inside the transport before they put DR. KOZKY in it.

SAM(TO TWEAK)

So we can track her by satellite.

TWEAK

Yes, if the CONTROL TERMINAL isn't damaged.

PRISCO(TO TWEAK)

Me and LOZANO will head down to the lower level, ... check it out.

ALORIA(TO SAM)

You'll need to open the transport. ... I memorized the GENERAL'S code when he accessed it's outer hatch.

TWEAK

ALORIA, ... you're beautiful!

TWEAK embraces ALORIA, kisses her, and she kisses him back.

ZACK(O.S.)

(frantic)

Hey guys, ... what about the bombs?

They turn to ZACK, pointing at rubble near the pool.

SAM

Bombs! What bombs?

ZACK(GESTURES TO A BURIED

EXPLOSIVE)

This one wasn't activated but they had three more.

INT. LOWER LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

As PRISCO and LOZANO check the lower tech level for damage, three metal casings, red timers flashing, are stacked between two large main frame units.

PRISCO

OH SHIT! . . . SHIT! SHIT! We gotta go! ... We gotta get out of here, ... NOW!

INT. AQUALAB 1 CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The techs and BERZERKERS rush out the lab, help each other as they move guickly down the corridor.

SAM(TO PRISCO)

How much time?

PRISCO

A minute!

A damaged door blocks the entrance to another lab down the hallway.

COLLELA

COOPE, ... in there!

COOPE delivers a powerful kick with his right robotic leg, ... blows the door open, ... sends it flying inward.

SAM

Everybody in, ... now!

INT. BLOCKED WORKROOM

The group rushes into the room, dive for cover, huddle together beneath a maze of steel framed tables as time runs out.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW NIR RESEARCH FACILITY

As thundering explosions rock the facility, a fireball roars upward, billowing clouds of black smoke rise from the devastated lab.

INT. AQUALAB 1 -- MOMENTS LATER

As backup generators come online, emergency lights power up. Hopelessly dismayed, SAM, COOPE, TWEAK, and ALORIA stand at the entrance to devastated AQUALAB 1 - the containment barrier destroyed, the lower level flooded, a smoldering wall collapses, sends massive slabs of concrete and steel thundering down, crushes the partially submerged "SEABOLT" mini-sub.

SAM

(grief-stricken)

AMANDA'S gone.

A disturbance breaks the surface of the water, and amidst the carnage a dolphin's head pops up.

TWEAK

BLUE?

BLUE restlessly bobs in the water, eyes his friends, senses their sadness, begins to shake his head, squeals at TWEAK.

TWEAK (cont'd)

ALORIA, tell BLUE to meet us in the NOVA TERMINAL. We'll use it's tracking system to locate Dr. KOZKY, ... bring her home!

ALORIA signs to BLUE, who quickly disappears beneath the water.

INT. STAIRWELL

TWEAK and ALORIA lead SAM and COOPE down several flights of stairs into a deserted, brightly lit sea rock tunnel.

SAM(TO COOPE)

I've never been down here before.

COOPE(TO SAM)

Me neither.

They approach the unguarded entrance to the NOVA TERMINAL lab.

INT. TUNNEL - NOVA TERMINAL ENTRANCE

Two spherical hand scanners glow red, secure the reinforced gateway to NOVA TERMINAL.

As TWEAK places an opened hand on each scanner, they change color from red to green, the doors slowly open.

TWEAK(GLANCES AT SAM AND COOPE)

(smiles devilishly)

Only a few of us know about this lab.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL LOWER LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

Reflections of a brightly lit aquarium tank bathe the room in living, moving, webs of refracted light.

TWEAK accesses a control panel, throws a first, ... a second, ... a third breaker switch. The dull hum of electrical activity fills the room as computer mainframes, monitors, holographic displays, come back to life.

Perimeter lights engage, illuminate both the lower, upper levels.

SAM and COOPE carefully study the room filled with ancient stone encrusted artifacts, fossilized skeletons of dolphin like creatures with arms, three fingered hands. They see glass cases filled with shards of cryopod crystals, objects made from a golden, metallic substance. Several large fragments of a partially reconstructed metallic ring shaped vehicle are arranged on a raised platform.

SAM(TO TWEAK)

What is this place?

As TWEAK engages an interactive display table, the holographic image of a strange dolphin like creature with arms manifests, hovers above the table, rotates before their eyes.

TWEAK

This is one of BLUE'S ancestors, ... sixty-five million years ago they were stranded on our planet.

COOPE (TO TWEAK)

Hold up! ... you're saying ...

SAM

That DOLPHINS came from outer space.

TWEAK

Yes, ... their species is alien to our planet.

TWEAK (GESTURES TO ARTIFACTS)

These artifacts are remnants of their ancient technologies. BLUE and the other dolphins recovered them from a spaceship buried in the ocean floor, brought them to us.

SAM and COOPE are amazed by what they're hearing, seeing. COOPE stares at the holographic dolphin with arms.

COOPE

SARGE, I've seen that creature before.

SAM(TO COOPE)

Yeah, ... me to, ... in AMANDA'S office, the design on her pendant.

COOPE (TO TWEAK)

You said other dolphins?

CONTINUED: (2)

TWEAK

We invited them to work with us, help with the excavation of the ancient spacecraft. In return, we give them EXOSUITS, transport vehicles.

SAM(TO TWEAK)

Exosuits?

TWEAK

I'll show you.

TWEAK accesses a control panel, fires up a pulley system of thick steel cables that runs the length of the lab above the aquarium tank. SAM and COOPE watch with anticipation as automated doors slowly open, and a CETACEAN EXOSUIT is hoisted into view.

COOPE

My God! ... It looks like half a man!

The DOLPHIN designed EXOSUIT includes a helmet, holographic visor display, full body armor, functional robotic arms, and an amphibious breathing unit.

TWEAK

BLUE designed that EXOSUIT to have mobile access to the bio.robotic integration technologies.

COOPE observes two robotic arms dangling from the EXOSUIT as TWEAK lowers it into the tank.

COOPE (GESTURES TO ARMS)

Hey! ... Those look like SARGE'S arms?

TWEAK

Of course they do, \dots BLUE designed them.

SAM looks down at his arms.

SAM

HOLY CRAP! KOZKY.BIO is run by a DOLPHIN!

BLUE enters the aquarium tank through the sea conduit, inserts his head into the EXOSUIT. It tightens around his body, is released from it's supports. BLUE swims over to the glass barrier.

CONTINUED: (3)

BLUE (V.O. TO TWEAK)

Where's AMANDA?

TWEAK

They put her in a transport, took her away. ... BLUE, about ATHENA, ARTEMIS, ...

COOPE and SAM stare, amazed by what they're seeing, hearing.

BLUE lowers his head, ... clutches his robotic hands into fists of rage.

BLUE (V.O.)

(extreme anger)

I know. ... They killed my babies! (beat)

... So, how can I help?

TWEAK

I'll use Nova's satellite tracking system to locate DR. KOZKY. You'll catch the transport, open the outer hatch, ... get her out.

BLUE points at COOPE.

BLUE (V.O.)

You will come with me.

COOPE is astounded, nods.

SAM(TO BLUE)

I've got an idea. ... Don't leave until I get back.

SAM runs out the door towards the devastated lab.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL -- UPPER LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

COOPE grabs wet gear hanging on a wall, discards his body armor. As he strips down to a pair of skin tight shorts, he senses ALORIA and TWEAK gawking.

COOPE

(smiling)

What? ... Haven't you two ever seen a male body before?

ALORIA

Not one like yours!

COOPE'S bio.robotic limbs transition seamlessly with his flesh, his flesh transitions seamlessly with his bio.robotic limbs, a perfect fusion between man, machine, a sculptured masterpiece, ... BEAUTIFUL.

TWEAK

COOPE, ... you're a cyborg!

COOPE looks down at his hybrid body, smiles.

COOPE

Cool! Isn't it?

ALORIA

Very cool!

TWEAK

Very hot!

ALORIA smirks at TWEAK.

TWEAK (cont'd)

Hot, ... in a cool sort of way, ... you know what I mean!

INT. NOVA TERMINAL -- AQUARIUM TANK

BLUE grabs AMANDA'S military equipped sea cycle moored in the aquarium tank. He positions himself behind it's protective glass shield, hovers above the driver's seat. He takes hold of the controls, hits the starter switch.

The sea cycle fires up. BLUE revs it's powerful magnetopulse engines ... once, ... twice, ... tilts his head towards the audience, gives us all a time to go get her thumbs up.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL -- UPPER LEVEL

SAM sprints up the stairs carrying the discarded bomb from the destroyed lab, catches his breath.

SAM(TO TWEAK)

(gasping)

Where's BLUE?

BLUE, riding his sea cycle, explodes upward through the surface of the aquarium tank, approaches the humans, revs the engines.

SAM

That's something you don't see every day.

BLUE sees the bomb, extends an arm towards SAM.

BLUE (V.O. TO SAM)

Good idea, ... I'll take that.

SAM hands the bomb to BLUE, ... who tucks it away.

BLUE (V.O. TO COOPE)

Climb aboard!

EXT. SEA ACCESS TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

COOPE hangs on as BLUE maneuvers the rumbling sea cycle out the access tunnel into the open sea.

BLUE (V.O.)

Ready to roll, TWEAK.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL -- SAME TIME

SAM watches, amazed, as TWEAK and ALORIA meticulously quadrate satellite feeds, now pinpoint the prison transport on illuminated, rotating, radar scanners.

ALORIA(TO TWEAK)

We've got a lock!

TWEAK(TO ALORIA)

Location?

ALORIA (TO TWEAK)

Updating.

TWEAK watches coordinates load, monitors refresh, the pulsing red signal being tracked as it slowly traverses a mountainous subsurface plateau.

TWEAK (TO BLUE)

The transport carrying AMANDA is moving on a south by southeast heading along the oceanic ridge, ... speed, 10 knots.

BLUE(V.O. TO TWEAK)

COPY! Updating coordinates, heading out.

INT. OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

As the sea cycle rockets away, schools of fish scatter, sea grasses fly in the vortex of their wake.

POV. Through BLUE'S VISUAL DISPLAY we see updating lines of coordinates, triangular grids that transpose, resize, rotate, as the undersea landscape whizzes by.

INT. PRISON TRANSPORT

AMANDA regains consciousness, sees the dimly lit interior of the coffin like compartment. She panics, can't catch her breath, uses her hands, frantically searches it's inner surface for a way out. Trapped, frustrated, AMANDA closes her eyes.

AMANDA

(sighs)

SHIT!!

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - LATER

As BLUE and COOPE forge ahead, the RED DOT they're following vanishes on the VISUAL DISPLAY.

BLUE (V.O.)

(frantic)

TWEAK! Something's wrong. We lost the signal. Do something.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL - SAME

TWEAK (TO BLUE)

On it!

TWEAK quickly jumps into action, types furiously at a comm link control board. He redirects electrical power inputs, realigns satellite to transponder connections, until, a colossal effort later, he hits 'enter'.

INT. UNDERSEA - SAME

BLUE anxiously waits for his display to reboot.

BLUE (V.O)

TWEAK, nothing's happening!

TWEAK (O.S.)

I'll try again.

Seconds later, Blue's display flickers, glows steady, the red dot reappears, blinking.

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

TWEAK, you're a freak'n genius.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL - SAME

TWEAK slides back in his chair, throws up his arms, glances at ALORIA, dumbfounded.

ALORIA(TO TWEAK)

What's wrong?

TWEAK (GESTURES TOWARDS DISPLAYS)

That wasn't me.

INT. UNDERSEA - SAME

Coope spots the slow moving, torpedo shaped transport coming into view in the distance.

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

There!!

BLUE (V.O. TO TWEAK)

Hallelujah! Maneuvering to intercept.

BLUE slows his approach, pulls alongside the transport. As COOPE goes for a handhold, the transport suddenly accelerates, banks, quickly shoots away, heads for a black void looming beneath them in the distance.

COOPE (TO BLUE)

(raspy robotic)

Crap! We've been detected!

INT. SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY - SAME

SECURITY PROGRAMMER

MR. MADDOX, the transport's been compromised.

PRESTON tracks the two vehicles, observes the BLACKNESS now inching across his monitor screens.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO SECURITY PROGRAMMER)

(smirking)

In a few moments, it won't matter.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL -- LOWER LEVEL

TWEAK and ALORIA exchange worrisome glances as the BLACKNESS appears on screen, readings on depth gauges plummet, indicate the sea floor's sudden drop of ten thousand feet.

ALORIA(TO TWEAK)

(panicking)

They're headed for the rift.

SAM

(confused)

Why is that a problem?

TWEAK (TO SAM)

When the transport enters the abyss, it'll dive hard, go deep. If BLUE and COOPE try to keep up, they'll be crushed, killed by the extreme pressure.

ALORIA

(sadly)

We'll lose her.

INT. BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

COOPE frantically gestures at the black void beneath them.

BLUE(V.O. TO COOPE)

I know.

COOPE (TO BLUE)

(raspy robotic)

Push it, we gotta be quick!

BLUE revs the engines, pulls up alongside the now speeding transport. As they descend into abyssal darkness, COOPE reaches for the transport, attempts to secure a handhold but has to back off.

COOPE(TO BLUE) (cont'd)

(raspy robotic)

Get me above it.

BLUE maneuvers the sea cycle. As it rises above the prison transport, COOPE drops down, crashes onto the vehicle, slams back against, then locks onto the transport's rear vertical fin with one of his bionic hands. He hangs on for dear life as the turbulence pitches him back and forth like a rag doll.

BLUE backs off, watches helplessly as COOPE struggles to get a foothold, climbs aboard the transport. Suddenly, COOPE lifts his robotic legs, jams them forcefully into the rear thruster vents of the transport's powerful engines.

His body shakes violently as he presses his legs inward, deeper.

The engines scream.

One final push, ... and the transport slows.

COOPE(TO BLUE) (cont'd)

(raspy robotic)

Get her out!

BLUE releases his sea cycle, grabs hold of AMANDA'S prison transport. He rips open the outer hatch's control panel, enters the access code. As the hatch opens, ... an empty inner compartment is revealed.

BLUE(V.O. TO COOPE)

(panicking)

AMANDA'S not here!

COOPE

(panicking)

That's impossible! ... Activate, place the bomb! ... It'll give us time to figure this out.

BLUE activates the bomb, places it into the TRANSPORT, seals the hatch.

COOPE releases his grip, is propelled away from the transport as it rockets downward, disappears into blackness.

TWEAK (O.S.)

COOPE, what's your status?

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

Dead end! ... The transport's empty, heading home.

CONTINUED: (2)

TWEAK (O.S.)

Did you deliver SARGE'S package?

BLUE (V.O.)

Package delivered.

INT. THE RIFT - SHORT WHILE LATER

A massive submarine silently traverses through abyssal blackness as the small TRANSPORT crosses it's bow, enters an illuminated portal that lies ahead.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY - SAME

PRESTON MADDOX gloats, watches through a hidden on board camera as the transport enters the submarine, disappears into a dark inner sanctum.

SECURITY PROGRAMMER(TO MADDOX) Sir, the transport's in. Shall I initiate destruct sequences?

PRESTON MADDOX

No! ... I'll handle this.

INT. SUBMARINE -- THE DARK CATHEDRAL -- CONTINUOUS

Within a dimly lit, cathedral sized chamber, a legion of black robed TEMPLARIANS whisper arcane prayers. They watch as their PRAETOR ascends several flights of stairs, positions himself in front of an ancient, blood stained altar stone. BROTHER DELOV stands nearby, cradles a double edged sword in his hands.

Massive doors grind open as the PRISON TRANSPORT, ferried on a solitary hover platform, now emerges from the inner sanctum, slowly rotates above the altar stone. PRAETOR BLOKOV raises his arms triumphantly.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV

(chants)

Virrat ta rheit!

FOLLOWERS

(continuous chanting)

Virrat ta rheit!...

Virrat ta rheit! ...

Virrat ta rheit! ...

BLOKOV accesses a control panel, enters his security code. He grins as the transport's outer hatch opens, then coldly stares into the empty compartment where AMANDA was imprisoned to see a red light flashing - the activated bomb counting down, set to detonate. BLOKOV, in a panic, quickly steps forward. The chamber grows silent as he reaches in, removes the bomb, manually enters a safe code, shuts it down.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY -- CONTINUOUS

PRESTON grins smugly, now flips an activator switch.

INT. SUBMARINE -- THE DARK CATHEDRAL -- CONTINUOUS

As the transport's controls power on, BLOKOV is startled to see PRESTON on a video feed inside the transport, then horrified as he speaks in the PRAETOR'S ancient, arcane dialect.

PRESTON MADDOX(ON SCREEN)

(snarky)

Avit, ZULTON, ... Vastu svorta?

(subtitled)

Hello, ZULTON! ... Lose something?

INT. SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY -- SAME

PRESTON stares at his monitor, keeps smirking as BLOKOV'S expression changes from horror to unbridled hatred.

PRAETOR ZULTON BLOKOV (heavy Euro accent)

YOU!

PRESTON MADDOX (TO BLOKOV)

(snarky)

Temvie ast svat, ... "GOODBYE".

(subtitled)

Time to say, ... "GOODBYE".

PRESTON flips the detonator switch. A blinding white flash later, ... the PRAETOR is gone.

PRESTON opens an audio link to CHRONIS.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO MACCABE)

It's done.

INT. CHRONIS MACCABE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

CHRONIS leans back at his desk.

CHRONIS MACCABE(TO PRESTON)
Override BLOKOV'S controls, bring the
GATHERER here, ... to me.

INT. NOVA TERMINAL -- LOWER LEVEL

BLUE, SAM, COOPE, ALORIA, and TWEAK wait impatiently for an update on AMANDA'S whereabouts from CARLTON and HANNAH, now remotely headquartered in the UNIS TOWER.

TWEAK grabs a small transparent sphere from a nearby display, nervously shuffles it between his hands, throws it to the floor, ... it flashes brightly, bounces back into his hand.

COOPE (TO TWEAK)

I had one of those flashy balls when I was a kid.

TWEAK bounces the ball to COOPE, ... it flashes.

TWEAK (TO COOPE)

I don't think so. ... Give it a squeeze, ... try to crush it.

COOPE smirks confidently as his robotic hand tightens around the ball. The harder he squeezes, the brighter it glows. TWEAK and the others cover their eyes as the room is engulfed in a blinding light.

As COOPE releases the ball, the room darkens, he tosses the transparent sphere to TWEAK.

COOPE (TO TWEAK)

What is that thing?

BLUE(TO COOPE)

It's a pressure activated ILLUMINATOR. ... We use them to light our way in the ocean's depths.

Two monitors power up, CARLTON and HANNAH appear on screen.

ON SCREEN A:

CARLTON

HANNAH and I noticed several glitches in AQUALAB 1's display systems.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARLTON (cont'd)

We traced their origin to a research facility located inside MACCABE'S headquarters. ... Those suckers hacked us!

ON SCREEN B:

HANNAH

We piggybacked their hacks, back doored their system, ... successfully retrieved facility maps, floor plans.

HANNAH inputs several commands into a display pad.

BACK TO ROOM:

As the group watches, structural diagrams of MACCABE'S submerged facility appear, hover above a holographic display table. Two locations on the map glow red.

CARLTON(O.S.)

We performed several DNA bio.scans,... located DR. KOZKY on that upper level.

TWEAK studies the diagram.

TWEAK (GESTURES TO THE GLOWING LOWER

LEVEL)

What's that one?

ON SCREEN A:

CARLTON

Sadly, ... it's ATHENA and ARTEMIS.

BACK TO ROOM:

Silence, ... sadness.

BLUE(V.O.)

(sadly)

I'll find my little girls,, ... bring their lifeless bodies home.

COOPE (TO CARLTON)

Where's DR. V.?

DR. VINIEUTO jumps on screen.

ON SCREEN B.

DR. TADDEUS VINIEUTO

Right here, COOPE.

BACK TO LAB:

COOPE

DOC, send the BERSERKERS to the armory, ... we need guns.

BLUE (V.O.)

... lots of powerful guns for me and my friends.

EXT. OCEAN'S DEPTHS

BLUE riding a high speed sea cycle, is followed by SAM and COOPE, piloting a tractor trailer sized undersea transport filled with high powered weapons, toward a jagged, sea rock mountain looming in the distance.

INT. TRANSPORT COCKPIT -- SAME

SAM(TO COOPE)

(gestures to cargo

bay)

That's one shitload of firepower the BERSERKERS brought over, ... enough for an entire army of dolphins. What the hell were they thinking?

COOPE (TO SAM)

Don't know, but BLUE got what he asked for, ... lots of guns, for all his friends.

EXT. OCEAN'S DEPTHS -- CONTINUOUS

BLUE banks his sea cycle, makes for a brightly lit opening leading into the mountain's interior.

INT. TRANSPORT COCKPIT -- SAME

COOPE (TO SAM)

He's heading for that opening.

COOPE and SAM now see the enormous rock encrusted hull of an ancient AHKARII mothership protruding from the ocean floor.

(CONTINUED)

SAM (stunned)

That ain't no mountain.

EXT. OCEAN'S DEPTHS -- CONTINUOUS

The transport follows BLUE into the vast, brightly lit interior of the ancient AHKARII mothership.

INT. MOTHERSHIP EXCAVATION -- CONTINUOUS

Hundreds of ILLUMINATORS light their way. Countless EXOSUITED dolphins pilot transports, zoom by on high speed URVs, maneuver massive excavators to clear an entrance into a rock encrusted shaft of crushed cyropods.

INT. TRANSPORT COCKPIT -- CONTINUOUS

SAM and COOPE are awestruck. BLUE approaches the cockpit, signals for them to wait, then speeds off into the mothership's interior. As COOPE performs an all point systems check, BLUE returns with an army of EXOSUITED dolphins.

BLUE(V.O.)(GESTURES TO HIS ARMY)
These, ... are my friends!

SAM(TO COOPE)

We're gonna need more guns!

INT. MACCABE COMPOUND - AMANDA'S OUARTERS

AMANDA, alive and angry, tries the door, locked. She sits on a bed, observes the sparsely decorated room, schools of colorful fish swimming by an outer portal window.

INT. MACCABE RESEARCH FACILITY - OPERATIONS FLOOR

AMANDA escorted by two guards, enters the operations room.

CHRONIS MACCABE(TO AMANDA)

I hope you've enjoyed your stay so far?

AMANDA is startled to see the ringlike alien vehicle.

CHRONIS MACCABE(TO AMANDA) (cont'd) So you know what it is.

CHRONIS looks up towards the upper control booth, nods to DR. TAKEO who activates the vehicle.

The room rumbles, the alien vehicle pulsates, throbs, does nothing else.

CHRONIS MACCABE(TO AMANDA) (cont'd) I was hoping that you could help me get it to work.

AMANDA

By blowing up my lab, killing my dolphins!

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO AMANDA)

(smirking)

Not guilty on both counts!

AMANDA

You can't manipulate me, ... I'm not my father!

(she's hurt saying
this)

... You can go to hell!

INT. SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY

Countless blips travel across radar screens towards the undersea compound.

SECURITY PROGRAMMER

MR. MADDOX, ... there's a problem.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO SECURITY PROGRAMMER)

Quickly, get me a visual.

SECURITY PROGRAMMER activates a remote camera feed.

PRESTON identifies the threat, ... an approaching army of heavily armed, EXOSUITED dolphins riding high speed URVs.

He notifies CHRONIS.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO MACCABE)

MR. MACCABE, AMANDA'S friends have arrived.

INT. MACCABE RESEARCH FACILITY - OPERATIONS FLOOR

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO MADDOX)

Deploy your security teams.

MACCABE signals DR. TAKEO, who shuts down the vehicle.

CHRONIS MACCABE (TO GUARDS)

Return her to quarters.

AMANDA is led away.

EXT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX

As the army of exosuited DOLPHINS approach the undersea facility, BLUE communicates with them using high pitched sounds.

COOPE (TO SAM)

(raspy robotic)

Strange, ... I thought they spoke English.

BLUE(V.O. TO COOPE)

They do speak human when necessary.

Squads of security teams, heavily armed human divers, battle transports, appear, block the DOLPHINS' advance.

BLUE(V.O. TO SAM)

It has been suggested that you and COOPE use your URVs, ... breach an outer wall, ... enter a few levels below where AMANDA is being held.

Squads of DOLPHINS abandon their vehicles, attack the humans weapons blazing. The security teams return fire, target the DOLPHINS with plasma rounds, submersible mounted proton cannons. As DOLPHINS fall, other DOLPHINS retaliate, use shoulder rockets, ram speeding URVs into the security vehicles. As the dolphin warriors blast the humans with plasma rounds, fight hand to hand, viciously hammer human bodies with their robotic arms, SAM and COOPE are amazed by the speed, agility, ferocity of the DOLPHIN warriors.

COOPE

(raspy robotic)

SARGE! They're BERSERKERS!

INT.SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY

MADDOX watches in disbelief as his security force is decimated, retreats.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO SECURITY PROGRAMMER)

Access the PRAETOR'S activation codes, deploy the GATHERER.

EXT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX

As the DOLPHINS pursue the retreating HUMANS, they freeze, back away terrified, as a mechanical horror exits the shadows from beneath a nearby substructure.

SAM(TO BLUE)

(raspy robotic) What is that thing?

BLUE (V.O.)

It's a hunter, ... an abomination created by men that lures my kind, ... lulls them into a sleepless trance while it's killer swarm attacks savagely, without hesitation, without mercy.

BLUE talks to the other DOLPHINS, ... they raise their weapons high.

BLUE (V.O. TO SAM)

Today, ... we fight back.

The DOLPHINS ready their weapons, prepare to engage the NESTLING swarm.

BLUE (V.O. TO SAM) (cont'd) When the swarm attacks, we'll lead it away. That should give you and COOPE time to get in, find AMANDA, ... get her out.

COOPE extends a grateful hand to a nearby DOLPHIN.

COOPE(TO DOLPHIN WARRIOR 1)

(raspy robotic)

It's an honor to fight at your side.

The DOLPHIN reaches out, grasps COOPE'S hand.

DOLPHIN WARRIOR 1 (FEMALE V.O.)

The honor has been mine.

COOPE is pleasantly surprised.

COOPE (TO DOLPHIN WARRIOR 1)

(raspy robotic)

You do speak English!

DOLPHIN WARRIOR 1 (FEMALE V.O. TO

COOPE)

Yes, ... I speak many human

languages. ... We all do.

COOPE(TO DOLPHIN WARRIOR 1)

(raspy robotic)

But ... how?

DOLPHIN WARRIOR 2 (MALE V.O. TO

COOPE)

(jokingly)

Haven't you heard? ... DOLPHINS are

smarter than humans.

The DOLPHINS roar with laughter, COOPE and SAM glance at each other, begin to laugh, join with the DOLPHINS for a few moments of interspecies comradery.

INT.SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY

Multiple displays light up as GATHERER eyes scan, analyze the attacking bio.forms.

SECURITY PROGRAMMER (TO MADDOX)

Humans have also been detected.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO SECURITY

PROGRAMMER)

Forget about them, override the GATHERER AI, target those DOLPHINS!

SECURITY PROGRAMMER confirms the DOLPHIN targets.

PRESTON MADDOX(TO SECURITY

PROGRAMMER) (cont'd)

Release the NESTLINGS.

EXT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX

Thousands of tiny Nestling drones swarm from the undersea compound.

(CONTINUED)

SAM and COOPE watch as the DOLPHINS turn, speed away. A number of DOLPHIN'S stand their ground, fire on the approaching drone cloud. Their plasma rounds take out scores of drones as sizzling, crackling pulses of drone energy blanket their battle armor. The brave warrior DOLPHINS disappear, firing, into the NESTLING cloud.

The menacing NESTLING swarm continues to advance, ... closes on the retreating DOLPHINS.

INT. MACCABE COMPOUND - AMANDA'S QUARTERS

AMANDA paces about, trapped - hears a tapping on the outer portal. At the sight of COOPE and SAM, she runs to the window. COOPE and AMANDA place opened hands on the glass. SAM gestures to AMANDA, points to his right, gives a thumbs up. AMANDA nods her head, understands that she should head down to the lower levels when it's time.

INT. OCEAN

As the DOLPHIN'S retreat, BLUE raises an arm, opens his hand.

The DOLPHINS turn, fire on the approaching swarm. Hundreds of NESTLINGS explode against a wall of constant DOLPHIN firepower. As the NESTLINGS close in, BLUE tightens his raised hand into a fist, ... signals the DOLPHINS to gather around him, align themselves tail to tail, shoulder to shoulder, creating a defensive sphere, an impenetrable Testudo of firepower.

The defensive sphere is engulfed by the swarm. NESTLINGS explode by the hundreds. Weapons flare, drone energy crackles, scores of DOLPHIN warriors fall in the chaos. Those remaining fight on, blow away wave after wave of attacking drones. Finally, the last NESTLINGS fall.

Blue and the surviving DOLPHINS head back to the complex, surround the GATHERER, take it out.

EXT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- LOWER LEVEL

SAM and COOPE position their sea cycles between two sections of perimeter wall, initiate overload sequences, take cover. The vehicles detonate, ... breach the outer hull.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX

Sea water surges in, floods the lower levels as, ... emergency sirens blare, terrified humans enter evacuation pods, rush to upper levels, run for their lives.

INT.SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY

The screams of sirens and fleeing workers fill the halls.

 $\label{eq:preston maddox} {\tt PRESTON MADDOX(TO SECURITY TEAM)} \\ {\tt It's time for you to go.}$

INT. AMANDA'S QUARTERS

AMANDA nervously sits on her bed, listens to the chaos outside her room.

INT. ARMORY -- MACCABE SECURITY

As PRESTON MADDOX strips down, armors up, we see robotic arms and legs. He grabs a customized battle rifle, rocket launcher, ... heads out the door.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- FLOODED LOWER LEVEL

SAM and COOPE enter through the breached outer wall.

SAM(TO BLUE)

(raspy robotic)

We're in, ... heading to the upper levels to get AMANDA.

BLUE (V.O. TO SAM)

I'm right behind you.

BLUE enters the breach, heads to the lower levels in search of his daughters.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- UPPER LEVEL

SAM and COOPE swim up flooded hallways, reach dry ground, remove their breathing gear, search for AMANDA.

INT.SITUATION ROOM - MACCABE SECURITY

PRESTON checks his security monitors, glimpses SAM and COOPE running, unarmed, through an upper level corridor.

PRESTON MADDOX

(smugly)

STONE, ... I can't believe it!

PRESTON readies his weapon, ... heads out.

INT. AMANDA'S QUARTERS

The outer door lock buzzes. As AMANDA rushes to the door, DR. TAKEO bursts into the room.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO(TO AMANDA)

DR. KOZKY! ... I'm TAGUCHI TAKEO,

AMANDA

(suspiciously)

I know who you are.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO(TO AMANDA)

I'm sorry for what they've done, how they've mistreated you, but you have to trust me, ... this place is going down, we gotta get out now.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- UPPER LEVEL CORRIDOR

AMANDA and TAKEO rush into the corridor. TAKEO heads left, AMANDA heads right towards the flooded lower levels.

DR. TAGUCHI TAKEO (TO AMANDA)

Where are you going?

AMANDA

Sorry, I have to go this way. ... Thanks for your help!

She flees without another word.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- FLOODED LOWER LEVEL

BLUE swims downward through flooded corridors looking for his daughters, follows CARLTON'S signal, approaches a windowed aqua chamber.

INT. AQUA CHAMBER

ARTEMIS and ATHENA, their dorsal fins disfigured, surgically altered, swim back and forth behind a glass barrier. They see their father, make loving sounds, excitedly shake their heads up and down.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- FLOODED LOWER LEVEL

BLUE'S heart races at the sight of his children.

BLUE(V.O. TO SAM)
They're alive! My children are alive!

SAM(O.S. TO BLUE)
That's wonderful news, my friend!

BLUE hand signs to his girls, tells them to back away. His robotic right arm explodes outward, shatters the glass wall. BLUE hugs his daughters lovingly, then signs to them, tells them to get out, leave the doomed facility. ARTEMIS and ATHENA turn, speed off, make their way to the open sea.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- UPPER LEVEL

SAM and COOPE search through corridors, collide with AMANDA, who throws her arms around COOPE.

SAM

Come on guys. We don't have much time.

A rocket explodes into SAM'S chest, blasts him back against a wall. AMANDA and COOPE, propelled through a nearby doorway, quickly recover, rush over to help SAM as a grinning PRESTON MADDOX advances up the corridor towards them, reloads his projectile weapon.

Broken, bleeding, dying, SAM places his breathing gear into AMANDA'S trembling hands.

SAM(TO AMANDA)

Take it, get out of here!

AMANDA (EMBRACES SAM)

Oh no SAM, I can't lose you too, you've been like a father to me, ... I love you.

COOPE pulls AMANDA away, moves her towards the lower levels, gives a final brotherly nod to SAM, who returns the gesture, ... closes his eyes.

PRESTON MADDOX (yelling to AMANDA and COOPE as they flee)

There's no where to run.

PRESTON approaches SAM, stands above him. Still grinning, he painfully thrusts the barrel of his battle rifle into SAM'S broken, bleeding, chest. SAM winches, his eyes snap open.

PRESTON MADDOX (cont'd)

(snarky)

Hello STONE, ... it's been a long time since Iraq.

SAM

(mumbling)

PRESTON, ... still the same old asshole.

PRESTON MADDOX

Except this time, ... I get to finish it.

SAM grabs PRESTON'S weapon, forcefully pulls him close, looks him dead in the eyes.

SAM

(whispers)

No, I will.

Sam triggers the projectile launcher.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- LOWER LEVEL

AMANDA and COOPE hear an explosion rock the corridor behind them, are heartbroken but keep moving.

The facility jerks downward. COOPE and AMANDA, thrown against a sidewall, put on their breathing gear as sea water surges in, quickly fills the space.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- FLOODED OPERATIONS ROOM

BLUE passes through the operations room, briefly pauses above the now submerged alien vehicle, then speeds off in search of his friends.

INT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX -- FLOODED LOWER LEVEL

BLUE(V.O. TO SAM)

SAM come in.

COOPE (TO BLUE)

(raspy robotic)

SAM'S gone.

A moment of silence.

BLUE(V.O. TO COOPE)

(sadly)

I should be there shortly.

As BLUE sweeps past AMANDA and COOPE, they grab hold of his EXOSUIT, are now carried back into the flooded operations room.

INT. MACCABE RESEARCH FACILITY - FLOODED OPERATIONS ROOM

AMANDA and COOPE hang on as BLUE quickly approaches then enters the alien vehicle, watch as he activates it's controls.

AMANDA (TO BLUE)

(raspy robotic)

CHRONIS said it doesn't work.

BLUE(V.O.)(TURNS TO AMANDA)

It does - in water.

There is a slight vibration as the alien vehicle is now enclosed within a water filled sphere of pulsating energy.

AMANDA closes her eyes.

Like a shimmering, flying snow globe, the sphere with the alien vehicle inside it shoots upward, crashes through the domed ceiling.

EXT. UNDERWATER COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

We see multiple levels of the undersea facility break off, plunge downward into the ocean's depths, ... as the small blue sphere carrying the alien vehicle streaks towards the surface.

INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF CHRONIS MACCABE

As CHRONIS MACCABE observes the destruction of his complex, a brilliant ball of pulsating light explodes from the sea, disappears with a flash into the clouds. He gapes in disbelief.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Blue slows the sphere from the controls of the alien vehicle and the ball of light settles into orbit.

INT. ALIEN TRANSPORT

BLUE (V.O. TO AMANDA)

You can let go now.

As AMANDA releases BLUE'S EXOSUIT, ... opens her eyes, she is overwhelmed by the beauty, the vastness, of the planet below her. She reaches out, ... ripples of colored light cascade across the surface of the energy sphere at the touch of her fingertips.

Their beautiful world below, the infinite universe above, AMANDA and COOPE, awestruck, tightly hold hands as a full moon peeks above the horizon, ... comes into view.

BLUE (V.O. TO COOPE AND AMANDA) Have you ever wondered why a full moon is the symbol of love, romance, to humans?

AMANDA and COOPE glance lovingly at each other, ... nod to BLUE.

BLUE (V.O.)

Let's find out, ... go for a little ride.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The sphere streaks away, ... heads towards the distant Lover's Moon.

INT. AQUARIUM FACILITY - DOLPHIN AQUATORIUM - 75 YEARS LATER

SIDNEY PATTERSEN(25) and her class of second grade students watch as a pod of DOLPHINS swim playfully in their aquarium tank.

CASSIOPIA, a young female dolphin, observes the human children, approaches the containment barrier, inserts her head into a nearby integration pod. As restraints tightly compress against her CETACEAN body, a mechanical hand extends outward to the little children.

CASSIOPIA (FEMALE V.O.)

Hello! My name is CASSIOPIA.

Startled, the children back away from the extended arm.

Little GRACIE (7) bravely steps forward, gently grasps the robotic hand.

GRACIE

Hi! I'm GRACIE!

CASSIOPIA (FEMALE V.O.)

I'm happy to meet you, GRACIE.

A glowing smile transforms GRACIE'S face.

As the children greet their new CETACEAN friend, a reflection catches CASSIOPIA'S eye. She observes the pendant around SIDNEY'S neck, it's details - a dolphin like creature with arms, three fingered hands, reaching outward into a sea of stars.

CASSIOPIA (FEMALE V.O.)(GESTURES TO

SIDNEY'S PENDANT)

Your pendant is beautiful.

SIDNEY(TO CASSIOPIA)

When my grandmother passed, my grandfather gave it to me, ... said it's magical, ... would protect me.

The children, now silent, are amazed as they watch the interaction between dolphin and teacher.

CASSIOPIA (FEMALE V.O.)

(curious)

What was her name?

SIDNEY(TO CASSIOPIA)

AMANDA KOZKY.

As the other dolphins gather around, CASSIOPIA lowers her head in reverence to their departed friend.

CONTINUED: (2)

CASSIOPIA (FEMALE V.O.)

May she endure a timeless sleep until the sun once again opens her eyes to the day of life.

As SIDNEY holds her pendant, smiles at CASSIOPIA, her face transforms into her older self, now PROFESSOR SIDNEY PATTERSEN, at 75.

INT. UNDERSEA OBSERVATION DECK

PROF. PATTERSEN emotionally holds her pendant, stares out through a large, undersea portal, watches a pod of EXOSUITED dolphins swim by, head off into the distance.

ASSISTANT 1(0.S.)

Professor, are you coming? The final movement is about to begin!

PROFESSOR PATTERSEN(TURNS)

(composes herself)

Yes, ... of course.

I was just remembering something that happened a long time ago.

PROFESSOR PATTERSEN and ASSISTANT 1 hurry down an inner corridor, approach the entrance to a dimly lit concert hall. They pass a large wall mounted sculpture displaying the KOZKY logo with the words ... "KOZKY MEMORIAL - INTERSPECIES INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT".

INT. CONCERT HALL

PROFESSOR PATTERSEN and ASSISTANT 1 settle into their seats. They observe the orchestra pit filled with bio.control units, their robotic arms holding cellos, cradling violins. Integrated dolphins float behind a massive, transparent, wall of glass.

A transparent, water filled globe rises above the stage. Inside the globe, the CETACEAN conductor, wearing an EXOSUIT, takes a bow, receives a standing ovation, deafening round of applause. He turns to face the waiting integrated dolphins and a grand human chorus.

As the conductor's robotic arms rise, his baton comes into play. The final movement begins.

Dolphin driven mechanical fingers dance along fingerboards, their silken bows travel in unison across tightened strings.

As the harmonious sounds of their cellos and violins fill the concert hall with the most beautiful music, a choir of human voices joins in, rises together, singing, "HALLELUJAH!, "HALLELUJAH!, and PEACE shall reign forever and ever!"

The human audience sits spellbound.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - DAY

The sky is blue, the sea crystal clear, as pods of dolphins weave through passing swells, their EXOSUITS sparkle in the sunlight.

They journey towards a distant city, an architectural marvel rising into the heavens on a far horizon.

We see massive, translucent domes constructed using alien technologies, alien materials, surrounded by gleaming towers.

We see high altitude vehicles streak by, vapor trails follow in their wake.

EXT. POV - PLANETARY VIEW FROM ORBIT - SUNRISE ON HORIZON

The sun, hidden by the planetary disk, explodes into view, illuminates the metallic hull of a massive starship drifting in orbit.

INT. STARSHIP ENGINE ROOM

INTEGRATED DOLPHINS and HUMAN TECHNICIANS, working together, oversee massive cauldrons of pulsating energy, ... a sudden structural vibration now confirms the starship drives are ready to fly.

INT. STARSHIP COMMAND DECK

The HUMAN BRIDGE COMMANDER alerts his CETACEAN CAPTAIN.

HUMAN BRIDGE COMMANDER Engines are now online, CAPTAIN.

Teams of EXOSUITED CETACEAN NAVIGATORS, housed in hydropods, finalize destination coordinates.

CETACEAN CHIEF NAVIGATOR(V.O. TO

CAPTAIN)

Destination confirmed.

CETACEAN CAPTAIN(V.O.)

ENGAGE COURSE!

EXT. STARSHIP IN ORBIT

The starship is propelled spiraling into the vast, nebulous, voids of space, as HUMANS and CETACEANS journey together, ... take their place among the stars.

FADE TO BLACK