Creatures of the Caribbean

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Per-opening scene before Fade In: (OPTIONAL)

EXT. TROPICAL RAIN FOREST -- EVENING

Last rays of sunlight filter through dense tropical growth, beaded with water droplets from an earlier shower. Various sounds of the Island's wildlife increase in intensity as the SUN fades. An unexpected scream echoes through the area, the sounds like a RABID APE, in tremendous agony. All other natural sounds cease, then, sounds of a stampede fill the air.

A lone calf tangles in loose barbed wire. It struggles for freedom, only each movement tightens the wires hold. Wailing frantically, in the distance, a lone cow pauses her flight to look back at her trapped calf.

The APE like scream is heard again, nearing the fleeing animals. The cow turns, running away in terror abandoning its offspring. Foliage folds as a large Alien-Man-like creature emerges from the shadows, covered with brown-red tented fur, distilled red eyes. It's long arms extended toward the calf, razor sharp claws spring out preparing to strike anything that moves as its eyes rapidly scan the area.

The CREATURE steps closer, leans forward, opening his mouth, two razor sharp white fangs reflect in the fading light, then, thrust deep into the calf's throat. Blood is seen trickling to the ground.

Faint footsteps near, then a silent pause followed by multiple gunshots that echo throughout the jungle. Red tracer bullets speed out of the vegetation into the beast. The creature stands, emitting loud agonizing wails. If falls backwards, lifeless.

TWO MEN exit the shadows, dressed as common hunters, carrying hi-tech assault rifles. They cautiously approach the fallen beast.

One pokes at the Creature with his rifle barrel.

The SECOND pulls out a radio, keys it.

MAN Capture complete, send in a clean up crew!

CUT TO:

FADE IN:

EL YUNQUE RAINFOREST--PUERTO RICO

INT. GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION COLONIZER-2 -- DAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 1989 11:30 AM

A Command Center comes into view. Several computers monitors, and workstations are manned by various personnel.

A second wall of monitors comes into view; these are displaying live surveillance photos of the Rain forest and Compound.

Two PRIVATES are monitoring satellite images of an approaching storm; they are comparing various graphs.

One MAN guides a pointer over a monitor and a path shown on screen graph.

PRIVATE Looks like we will be spared, don't you agree?

The second MAN studies the graph a moment.

PRIVATE 2 Yes, as long as the upper level winds hold, we should be safe.

Captain HENSON 30's, walks through the control room slowly, he looks at several monitors as he makes his way toward the two men.

> HENSON Well, what is your official determination? Hit, or miss?

PRIVATE 2 Sir, it looks like we are going to be spared, it will be close, minimum impact, if any, to our area.

Henson looks at the second man.

HENSON Do you agree to this?

PRIVATE

Yes, sir. If there's no change in the current pattern, we should be out of harms way.

Behind the Men a door opens and MAJOR BRINKLEY, 50's, sternbold type, enters. He steps inside the control room, stops and looks over the room. Then clears his throat to signal Henson's attention.

Henson looks back and sees the Major and hurries over to his side.

HENSON Good news Major, we think the storm will pass by us with little or no immediate impact.

BRINKLEY

You think! Captain that's not good enough! Make the necessary preparations and have this base sealed by midnight!

HENSON

But, sir, we're already on lock down. And if the storm does some how make a direct hit, there's now way...

Brinkley's tone sharpens.

BRINKLEY

Lock down is not good enough! I want this facility sealed tight. If I see one trickle of water, or even an insect infiltrate... this base; I'll have your ass in a sling. Understand me, son!

HENSON

Yes sir... We'll seal it up before midnight, sir!

BRINKLEY

Good, there's too much at stake here! God only knows what would happen in the event of an escape, or an outside infiltration. Even if the storm passes, the press will be flogging the island following Hugo! Brinkley starts to exit.

HENSON

Understood, sir.

BRINKLEY

Have the compound's monitors manned 24 hours a day until all this is over. Notify me right away if there are any changes in Hugo's movements.

HENSON

Yes, Sir.

INT. TAVERN DAY 1:30 PM

September 18-- In a nearby Village a few villagers stand near a bar watching an old television set. The picture is distorted and fades, rolls, and at times the volume buzzes.

ANNOUNCER

KKMI Meteorologist Kevin Andrews informed us earlier; On September 10, a depression had formed, reaching tropical storm strength by September 12th. Based on satellite estimates, Hugo became a minimal hurricane late on September 13th. On September 14th, the tropical cyclone was estimated to have winds in the 110 -115 mph range. Hugo was still almost 1,000 miles away from any land area at this time.

Local VILLAGERS look over to the Bartender who's watching the news report...

VILLAGER The Americans say we are going to be spared this demon.

BARTENDER

Since when do you listen to what they say? This is the Mother of them all. I plan on evacuating later... For my Wife feels, the worst may still come.

VILLAGER 2 God forbid it hits us! (MORE)

VILLAGER 2 (CONT'D)

Those Americans do not know what will happen, this storm has it's own soul and mind!

BARTENDER

They show no signs of preparing for the storm up at their base. My wife calls them Devil breeders! Their experiments go too far!

VILLAGER

(Laughing)
Then, maybe God is sending Hugo here
to stop them!
 (Beat)
Just why does she think they breed
devils?

BARTENDER

Roomers, gossip. She heard somewhere they were experimenting with DNA from some place called Ross-Well. (Beat) What is this Ross-Well?

VILLAGER 2

It's a home base for Aliens! You know, that ET thing lives there!

VILLAGER

No, it's not... It's a crash sight! They say Alien's crashed a ship there years ago! But the Government has kept it hidden.

VILLAGER 2

Hidden... like they're trying to hide from us now? Do they think we are imbeciles, so blind we cannot see their base?

BARTENDER

Well, if all this is true, like my wife thinks. Maybe God is sending Hugo here to stop them!

The CROWD turns their attention back to the newscaster.

ANNOUNCER

The reconnaissance flight penetrated the hurricane expecting to find winds in the 100 - 115 mph range - instead; the crew and aircraft of this mission were nearly lost. Satellite estimates had greatly underestimated the hurricane's strength. In a dangerous low altitude penetration into the eye, the crew of this flight had recorded sustained winds of 190 mph, and a barometric pressure of 918 mb (27.10).

(Beat)

Based on aircraft data, Hugo was estimated to have 160 mph surface winds, a category five hurricane.

On screen behind the announcer are various graphs and projected paths, outlining the times of impact.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D) Hugo slammed into the islands of Guadeloupe and Montserrat near midnight with 140 mph winds. Twentyone people were reported killed, while 12,000 were left homeless. Leaving Montserrat, Hugo then struck the U.S. Virgin Islands. On St.Croix, the devastation was tremendous!

BARTENDER The Mother of them all!

VILLAGER 2 We will suffer greatly, for their sins!

INT. BRINKLEY'S OFFICE 4:30 PM. -- DAY

Brinkley is sitting at his desk reviewing files when a young OFFICER enters.

OFFICER Sir, we just received a communiqué from the mainland. You are wanted in Miami at 0900 this evening!

BRINKLEY

What?

OFFICER

They're planning to shut down this facility, due to budget cuts.

BRINKLEY

Those idiots! There's a category 5 storm hovering less than 600 miles away, and they want me to drop everything for a meeting?

OFFICER That was the order, sir.

BRINKLEY Get the chopper ready. I should be able to get to Miami and back before morning.

OFFICER

Yes, Sir.

Brinkley exits his office and walks down a long corridor, through a set of electronically operated doors.

INT. LAB--CONTINUOUS

As the doors open we see several men, all wearing white coats, surrounded by computers, test tubes, empty steel cages, and microscopes.

Some of the men are busy with various experiments, one, Dr. BILL MYERS, sits alone at a corner desk writing in a journal.

Brinkley walks over to Myers.

BRINKLEY What the hell?

MYERS

What, sir?

BRINKLEY Why are the experiments continuing? This base is on lock down!

MYERS Yes, I know, we lock everything up tonight at 0800.

BRINKLEY Who gave you that order?

MYERS

Henson is something wrong? I thought Hugo was passing to the east?

BRINKLEY

Get this lab closed, all work is to stop until this storm passes. Make sure all of the animals are isolated and put underground, as soon as possible!

MYERS

Yes, sir. But, it will take several hours to shut down fully, however we can have it sealed up by morning.

BRINKLEY

Where's Henson?

MYERS

I don't know for sure, sir, but I think he's in the observation room.

Brinkley angrily walks out of the lab. A PRIVATE walks over to Henson.

PRIVATE Sir, there's a call for you.

HENSON

Take a message.

PRIVATE But, sir, it's your wife.

Henson walks to a nearby office and closes the door, he sits at a desk and picks up the phone.

> HENSON Maggie, is there a problem?

MRS. HENSON No, dear. I was just worried, that storm is so close to you.

HENSON It will not hit us. Projections show it passing east of us. MRS. HENSON When are you coming home, the kids and I miss you.

HENSON I'm not sure. Soon I hope. Is Jess there?

JESS Hi, daddy, mom's been crying.

HENSON She has, why?

JESS She thinks you're going to get hurt.

HENSON Well, you make sure she doesn't worry too much.

The connection becomes static-y.

JESS Daddy, I can't hear you very good.

HENSON I know dear, we have a bad connection. Keep mom busy... love you.

The connection is broken. Henson hangs up the phone and looks at a photo of his family.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM -- LATER

Henson is standing near two Security Men that are controlling two monitors; they are looking over the eastern skies. The screens show sunshine, very few clouds and a light wind blowing throughout the forest.

> HENSON Make a more southerly scan. Then zoom in on the ocean.

The camera moves to show the southern horizon. The view is almost identical. The image shifts to open water, and closes in on the waves.

HENSON (CONT'D)

I knew there was nothing to worry about. Hell, there's not much sign of a storm near. The swells are only slightly above normal.

GUARD

The last report showed Hugo was still drifting northwest.

Brinkley enters the room still angry.

BRINKLEY

Why haven't you started the shut down process? The damn lab looks like it's still in full function!

HENSON They are to begin lock down tonight, sir.

BRINKLEY Tonight! I said to start immediately!

HENSON

But, sir, there's no indication this base is in Hugo's path.

BRINKLEY

Henson, I've been called up to Miami for an emergency meeting. In twelve hours I'll be back, and I'll be looking you in the face, and if this base isn't prepared, locked and sealed, you will be! Sealed up in the brig! Understand me, Henson?

HENSON

Yes sir, we will be prepared and sealed by 0900 tomorrow.

Brinkley walks toward the exit.

BRINKLEY

It damn well better be, and make sure those lab rats store all the animals underground!

Brinkley exits. Henson watches him, then looks at the Security Men.

HENSON I thought he'd never leave. Thank God for meetings.

The two Security Men giggle slightly.

HENSON (CONT'D) (Mocking) Okay men, let's get this base sealed.

Henson walks toward the exit.

HENSON (CONT'D) That is, start shutting her down about 1900 hours.

INT. TAVERN -- AFTERNOON

A BARTENDER is storing away breakable items as the Villagers watch the television reports.

Suddenly a villager yells.

VILLAGER 2 Mother of God! We're doomed.

BARTENDER What are you talking about?

The villager points toward the newscaster.

ANNOUNCER

Again, Hugo has shifted to a more westerly track and its forward speed has increased. If it stays on this present track, it will impact the Eastern side of Puerto Rico within twenty-four hours. People in lowlying areas should evacuate... Now!

The PEOPLE inside the Tavern hear a helicopter lifting up out of the forest.

One villager runs to the doorway and watches the craft as it passes overhead.

VILLAGER Those cowards. They wasted no time to run away! VILLAGER 2 They think only of themselves. The weaklings.

INT. HELICOPTER -- LATER

Brinkley's flight is less than fifty miles from Miami when it hits a pocket of turbulence.

A PILOT is struggling to keep control as the aircraft rocks side to side. Brinkley and crew look concerned as the craft vibrates and spins.

BRINKLEY

What's happening?

PILOT

We hit a strong easterly wind, sir.

The Pilot slowly regains control, and the crew shows signs of relief.

PILOT (CONT'D)

The wind shift was unexpected. It just suddenly changed without warning.

BRINKLEY

Call Miami and check conditions.

PILOT

Sir, there's a report just now coming in. Upper level winds have shifted due to a developing high pressure off the Carolina coast.

BRINKLEY Easterly upper level winds?

PILOT

Yes, sir, easterly!

BRINKLEY

Get this helicopter to Miami; we need to see how this is going to affect Hugo's movement ASAP!

PILOT

I don't think we can make it to Miami; we better set down in the Keys.

INT. RESEARCH INSTALLATION LAB -- LATER

Henson walks into the lab area and nears DR. Myers. Background noise of moving equipment can be heard, along with other workers typing, giving orders and reporting to Myers.

Suddenly, there is a sound of an animal bellowing, a cross between the sound of an ape and a lion. Then several more animals can be heard.

Myers is standing at a control station typing into a main computer.

HENSON Well, doctor, are you ready to seal up the beasts?

MYERS We're just about to store them below ground now, sir.

Myers hits a button on his control panel and both him and Henson look across the room.

Three CAGE LIKE OBJECTS come into view, all three have semitransparent doors, electric motors can be heard grinding. The animal sounds increase and the cages start to lower slowly into the floor.

MYERS (CONT'D) In five minutes, they will be sealed and on ice.

HENSON

Good.

ANIMAL GROWLS increase in volume with the cage movements. Suddenly we see a small shadow inside one of the cages, as a figure is in enraged. It pounds, scratches, and screams trying to break out of the door. Soon all three cages show wilds moving shadows. The creatures are attempting to break free.

> HENSON (CONT'D) It's amazing that something that looks like glass can keep them in.

> MYERS Those partitions are strong enough to repel a grenade blast.

Without warning the lighting flickers. A HOWLING wind can be heard outside.

ALARMS are triggered and mask the sounds outside.

HENSON

What the hell?

Henson walks to the control panel and calls the observation deck.

HENSON (CONT'D) Private, what is going on?

PRIVATE (V.O.) A squall line came out of nowhere sir, and it looks like the worst is yet to come.

HENSON A squall line, where to hell from?

PRIVATE (V.O.) From Hugo, seems that some of the satellite images were missing. It took a sharp turn toward us hours ago! (Beat) Sir core of it is less than 75 miles away!

The lights flicker several times, stopping the cages from lowering completely.

Henson looks at a nearby lab TECH.

HENSON (Yelling) Get those emergency generators on line!

TECH I'm trying to, sir!

MYERS We need to get the cages below!

Myers looks to a co-worker.

MYERS (CONT'D) Engage manual controls. Myers and a WORKER start running toward the cages when a large tree crashes into the room on top of Myers.

Henson runs to Myers, he and the worker attempt to free the doctor but cannot. Parts of the lab's roof start to crumble, water pours in.

HENSON Doctor, can the cages endure a Hurricane's force?

MYERS With power yes! But without it, I don't....

The room goes dark then a loud crash can be heard, followed by screams, wind, and the animals CRIES.

INT. MIAMI BASE--LATER

Door opens, inside can be seen four high ranking military personnel, two Men in Suit's, Brinkley and a General Thompson.

A large table can be seen through the doorway with papers on it, jugs of water and tumblers can be seen on the table. Eight chairs surround the table and a large map of Puerto Rico, is at the end of the table on a wall. Smaller maps of the complex and the surrounding vicinity are attached to it.

As Brinkley and the General exit, the room other MEN can be seen discussing matters; some are still sitting around the table other's are standing talking between themselves.

The two men make there way down a corridor.

GENERAL Come on, Tom, you know it makes sense.

BRINKLEY

That's not the point and you know it, sir. This was my baby and you've taken it away.

GENERAL

Moving back to Groom Lake is for the best. All the facilities are still in place from the Varghina Project, and at least you won't have to worry about the locals. Brinkley raises his eyebrows and nods in agreement. They stop at the General's office.

Brinkley's officer can be seen waiting for the Major.

GENERAL (CONT'D) The next time I see you will be at the Lake, take care of yourself, Tom, and don't take it personal. You're doing a great job down there.

BRINKLEY Yes sir, thank you, sir.

The general opens his office door but before entering, he turns back to Brinkley.

GENERAL And, Tom, I'm sorry to hear about Martha. I know what she meant to you.

BRINKLEY Yeah of course you did sir.

Brinkley walks off towards his officer looking even more pissed off than before.

OFFICER What's the verdict, sir?

BRINKLEY Six months and it's gotta be clean. They're moving to Groom Lake.

OFFICER Area 51, Great there goes my social life.

Brinkley nods his head in agreement and lets out a little smile.

EXT. HANGAR MIAMI BASE

Brinkley and an officer enter the hangar and make their way over to the chopper. Other aircraft can be seen and some military personnel.

A PILOT and CO-PILOT check over the chopper while a crewmember loads supplies.

CREWMEMBER Sir, the Major's back.

The pilot stops what he's doing and makes his way to the Major the co-pilot follows behind him.

PILOT Have you heard, sir?

BRINKLEY

Heard what?

PILOT We aren't going no-where. Hugo hit the base!

BRINKLEY

How bad?

PILOT I don't know, sir but communication was lost about two hour's ago.

Brinkley turns toward the officer but before he can speak.

OFFICER I'll try and find out what I can, sir.

The officer runs out of the hangar. Brinkley turns his attention back to the pilot, a look of strain can be seen on his face.

BRINKLEY How long we grounded?

PILOT Last reports show we should be good to go in an hour, maybe two.

BRINKLEY Maybe two for Christ sake my men are out there find out!

PILOT

Yes, sir.

Brinkley walks off in the direction he came from.

The pilot turns to his co-pilot.

PILOT (CONT'D)

Prep for take off as soon as we get cleared. We'll get the bird in the sky that should shut the old man up.

CO-PILOT For the time being, maybe.

EXT. PUERTO RICO BASE--CONTINUED

Lot's of damage, trees are down, buildings are flattened and vehicles are overturned.

The body of a PRIVATE can seen impaled on some broken structure.

The chopper comes into view over what's left of the surrounding brush.

PILOT

Hell, this is bad.

All occupants in the chopper look out over the destroyed base.

BRINKLEY Get us down there. We need to check for an escape!

PILOT I've gotta find somewhere to put down first. There's so much debris!

Eventually the chopper lands and all of crafts occupants exit.

Brinkley cautiously approaches the main entrance as the wind steadily increases. Debris fills the air and it becomes difficult for him to walk.

The pilot follows behind Brinkley; both search the area for survivors.

BRINKLEY With this wind I can't hear a damn thing!

A large branch shifts, Brinkley looks toward it and sees a body; he struggles toward it.

(Screaming) Is it Myers?

BRINKLEY

I don't think so!

The body of a LAB TECH, lifeless, very pale purple, can bee seen.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D) Poor slob must have drowned?

Brinkley bends over and starts to pull debris off the TECH'S body.

Suddenly, Brinkley looks very worried as a tear like wound on the Tech's neck comes into view.

> BRINKLEY (CONT'D) God no! It has to be an injury from the storm. (To Pilot) Get back to the helicopter and make the call; it looks like they have escaped!

Brinkley continues to struggle against the high wind back toward the door. As he starts to enter he sees a Guard's body, shriveled from the loss of blood. He rolls the guard over to look, and a small rodent like creature streaks out from under the corpse.

In the background, we hear a tree snap.

Brinkley turns to look outside and he sees a large tree fall onto the Helicopter. It then explodes into a huge fireball.

INT. RUINED LAB -- CONTINUOUS

Brinkley and an officer enter the ruins of the lab pushing rubble out of the way to get in.

Everything is destroyed. The body of Myers can be seen under the rubble. The two men rush over to him.

> OFFICER Oh my God, Myers.

The officer turns away, covers his mouth, and then vomits.

BRINKLEY

Yes, it was.

A hole is clearly seen in Myers head. Like one a surgeon could have made in it, and he looks partially drained of blood, all grey, gaunt and dried up.

A CLANKING NOISE is heard above them from a broken cage. The two men look up startled.

OFFICER

Jesus Christ!

A high-pitched HOWL is heard coming from the broken cage and two huge red eyes are seen moving in a shifting shadow.

> OFFICER (CONT'D) Sir, look out.

A GUNSHOT is rings out. The officer yells!

Brinkley sees the officer fall onto the floor then something starts to drag his body deeper into the dark corridor.

Something makes a noise near Brinkley; he then hears a low pitch growl. A pair of glaring red eyes head toward him from a dark corner of the building.

Brinkley screams then runs for his life down a dark corridor.

EXT. JUNGLE COASTLINE -- LATER

Through a collage of shimmering HEAT-WAVES, a dark, OTHER-WORLDLY OBJECT drops into view, backlit by the fiery, ORANGE-RED sphere of a setting tropical SUN, heading north slowly towards the Colonizer 2 Base, floating at first, as if suspended by the rising heat of the jungle.

Continuing its approach, the shimmering object resolves into a MILITARY ASSAULT HELICOPTER, its rotors flickering reflective light in the fading sunlight. Soon, SOUNDS of powerful TURBINES, throbbing in the heavy air, becomes dominant, overpowering.

Guided by COLORED LASERS and landing lights. The chopper looms hard into view, pitching forward and settling to the ground, kicking up a maelstrom of trash and debris as it descends then circles near the burning Helicopter.

INT. HELICOPTER -- CONTINUOUS

A PILOT comes into view; he is seen looking hard at the burning craft.

PILOT 2 Base, this is Searcher 1. There is no visible signs on survivors, will continue a sweep and destroy mission.

Two MARINES jump out of the hovering Helicopter, they are heavily armed, wearing full body gear.

Both run into the Base in a protective pattern, enter, and moments later they can be seen carrying someone out.

The MARINES load what looks like a body, then reenter the hovering craft.

A SECOND HELICOPTER rises above the forest; it turns on a high intensity search-light then makes a full circle of the Compound.

A MAN wearing in decorated military uniform watches through the open doors of the helicopter as it continues a wide search pattern.

The FIRST HELICOPTER climbs back up then takes up an assault position.

In the distance a bank of dark clouds rapidly approach.

PILOT 2 (CONT'D) SIR, another heavy squall from Hugo is rapidly approaching. We must either take action now, or return later.

The uniformed man turns away from the window, to a FIGURE, hidden in the shadows beside him.

PILOT What do we do, sir?

MAN

Clean the area as instructed.

The uniformed man looks back out the window, then to his Pilot.

MAN (CONT'D) (To Pilot) Commence!

His craft rises high, then, it streams out of sight.

The FIRST HELICOPTER shoots two missals at the compound. One explodes into a large fireball just outside the Base's opening gate. WIND hits, tossing the craft.

> PILOT 2 She's burning. Let's get out of here before it's too late.

The ASSAULT Craft races out of sight following the same path as the first one.

MOMENT'S LATER, blinding rains fall, and the fire dwindles, then the view fades.

SIX MONTHS LATER:

EXT. RURAL HOME OUTSIDE OF GUAYNABO -- NIGHT

A gentle breeze blends with the native WILDLIFE SOUNDS, suddenly there's a rustling noise deep in the darkened forest surrounding a rural farm. Unexpectedly, the wildlife goes silent as the thrashing brush combines with a pattering of footsteps.

A faint GROWL can be heard and the movements stop for a moment. There's a strange snorting sound as if something was sniffing the air. Then, the footsteps resume.

Dogs at the farmhouse begin to bark at the approaching intruder, their bark soon turns to whimpers as something hurls them in flight.

The RIPPING sounds of wood echoes into the night, then chickens cackle and screech. The noise alerts the rancher and a light comes on inside a dilapidated home.

A screen door screeches open, and a light shines out toward the chicken coop.

SCOTT ANNEXES stands searching the area looking for the source of the noise. He steps off his porch and starts to walk toward the coop when a high-pitched growl stops him cold. Then, he hears slicing type sounds, followed by sounds of something running from the pen toward the thick woods. Scott turns back to his home and hurries inside, grabs his telephone, and nervously dials.

SHERIFF Sheriff's office, how may I direct your call?

SCOTT Sheriff! This is Annexes, it's happening again!

SHERIFF Are you drinking, Scott?

SCOTT

No, Sheriff, I swear. Something is after my animals again. It came out of the jungle just like last time.

SHERIFF

If I come down there, I better not see the signs of a fox attacking your varmints again. If so, I just may bring you in!

SCOTT

It was no fox... I heard it growl, then it run away like a man!

SHERIFF

I'll be there.

Scott hangs up and walks to a window looking off into the darkness.

MINUTES PASS:

EXT. RURAL FARM -- CONTINUOUS

Headlights pull up a dirt trail and a Sheriff's car stops in front of Annexes' home.

Scott hurries out to meet the Sheriff and a Deputy LUCAS as they exit the auto.

SCOTT It sounds wild, like a wild man! But it growls like some damn wild animal! SHERIFF Settle down, where did you hear it last?

SCOTT In the chicken coop!

The three walk toward the coop looking over the area with lights as they near it.

Suddenly, the Deputy stops walking; he looks amazed.

DEPUTY

Look!

He points the light to a dead animal. The three walk toward it, move it slightly with a rifle.

DEPUTY (CONT'D) It has no head!

SCOTT See, no fox takes off a rabbit head and leaves the rest!

SHERIFF

It might!

Scott shines his light toward the pen. He can see the wood ripped from the caged area.

SCOTT Can a fox do that?

SHERIFF (Sarcastic) Possibly, if it's hungry for chicken!

The men enter the pen and see several dead chickens lying on the ground.

DEPUTY All these are like the rabbit! No heads.

SHERIFF It means nothing.

SCOTT I see no blood from them either, why? There should be blood all over the damn place!

The deputy picks up a chicken and holds it upside down.

DEPUTY He's right! No blood is coming out!

SHERIFF I still say a fox or something wild animal did this!

The three start to exit the pen when the Sheriff walks up on a fresh track.

SHERIFF (CONT'D) Lucas, come look at this.

Deputy walks near the Sheriff.

DEPUTY Is it a footprint?

SHERIFF It's a print, but what kind of animal made it?

The three look closer; the print resembles one made by a small child, but with long claw like depressions in the dirt.

SCOTT It's no animal print!

SHERIFF Then you have a poacher! A chicken thief!

SCOTT

A poacher?

DEPUTY A cannibal type poacher?

SHERIFF Okay, we'll come back in the light of day and look around. If it comes back before then, call us! SCOTT

But...

SHERIFF There's nothing else I can do tonight! Stay inside and call if the thing comes back.

The Sheriff and Deputy walk back to their car.

Scott returns to his porch and watches as the car starts, then fades down the trail.

In the distance, the growl can be heard again.

SCOTT Poacher's who just steal heads. And suck out the blood! I'm getting out of here, tonight.

Scott enters his home.

Moments later an old rusty pickup starts and pulls away from the home. It fades taking the same path the Sheriff did.

INT. TAVERN -- NIGHT

Minutes later, we see Scott walking into the local tavern, distressed. He heads straight to the bar and looks hard at the attendant.

SCOTT Give me the strongest you got!

A BARTENDER looks at Scott a moment then reaches under the bar and brings out a bottle of clear liquid.

BARTENDER Pure corn squeezin's. It's the strongest I got.

Scott nods okay, and the Bartender pours him a glass full.

BARTENDER (CONT'D) You have problems tonight, Scott? You look like you've seen a ghost.

SCOTT More like the Devil, maybe!

BARTENDER

What?

SCOTT Something is killing my chickens again!

BARTENDER Oh. See the guys in the corner?

The bartender points toward three men sitting in the corner of the bar talking.

SCOTT

Yeah, so?

BARTENDER The one in the center, he has also lost livestock!

The bartender looks at the man.

BARTENDER (CONT'D) Hey, Ricky. Wasn't it you that lost the goats?

RICKY Yes, three in one night!

BARTENDER

Wild dogs?

RICKY

No, unless they were thirsty dogs! The goats were drained of blood, like someone stuck needles in them!

Scott looks toward Ricky.

SCOTT

I too, lost some animals like that. Something even took the heads off the chickens and used their necks like straws!

A man close by hears the two.

MAN I lost my dog two nights ago. She was cut up badly. (MORE) MAN (CONT'D) Like someone used a sharp knife, and there was no blood on the ground.

Chattering in the bar increases.

VOICE I seen rabbits like this a week ago, several miles from here!

BARTENDER Scott, did you tell the Sheriff?

SCOTT Yes, but it was a waste of time.

RICKY An imbecile, one with no brains at all. That's our Sheriff!

MAN He has no balls to speak of either!

Laughs mix with the chatter.

BARTENDER Go to the Mayor, and complain.

MAN Yes, make the fools search for answers before it gets worse.

RICKY Before someone gets killed!

SCOTT We go then. Who's with me?

The tavern fills with angry talk.

EXT. OUTSIDE MAYOR'S OFFICE -- LATER

The crowd from the Tavern gathers outside the Mayors office. They complain loudly to each other.

Scott then pounds the office door.

SCOTT (Yelling) Jose, we want something done, now! MAYOR Jose Salvador opens his office door.

MAYOR What is the meaning of this outburst?

SCOTT We want you to do something about the creature killing our livestock.

MAN

Yes, before we lose everything?

Salvador looks at the crowd puzzled.

MAYOR What are you people talking about?

RICKY The thing that's killing goats, chickens, and rabbits! The Bloodsucker!

MAN Yes, do something before it starts killing people or our children!

MAYOR

I already had it looked into. I sent the guards in search of your phantom a month ago. They found nothing!

RICKY

They didn't look at my place! Send them to me. I'll show them something they won't forget!

MAN Yes, send them to my farm!

SCOTT

I don't care who looks, we need action to find out who, or what is doing this!

MAYOR I'll order more searches. Now, you people must go home, before I have you removed!

There is angry grumbling as Salvador closes his door.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Salvador closes his door, and picks up his telephone then dials a number.

MAYOR Yes, I need to speak with General Thompson.

OPERATOR Sorry, sir, but he's out of the office right now. May I take a message?

MAYOR Tell him to call, Jose Salvador in, Puerto Rico, soon as possible!

Salvador hangs up the phone then walks over to a window and looks outside.

MAYOR (CONT'D) Maybe he will know what it is, and what to do?

INT. GENERAL THOMPSON'S OFFICE -- DAY

An upset Mrs. Henson is sitting holding a four-year old boy, sitting beside her is a fifteen-year old girl named Jess. They are waiting for the General to return to his desk.

Moments Pass, the General reenters the room.

GENERAL I'm sorry, Mrs. Henson, but there's still no word on what happened to Captain Henson.

MRS. HENSON No, please General, this can't go on. We have been waiting for months. (She fights back tears) The Army says he's missing in action, or deserted his post.

GENERAL I'm aware of what his status is.

MRS. HENSON We can't receive death benefits without a death certificate. Or file a claim on his life insurance.

GENERAL

I'm sorry Mrs. But we've been through this already. Nobody has any proof, he's dead.

MRS. HENSON

You know that hurricane was catastrophic. Death and destruction was so wide-spread in Puerto Rico, and many bodies were never found.

GENERAL Yes, I know. But as I said, my hands are tied.

MRS. HENSON What happened to the others in his outfit? Did they die? Were their bodies found?

GENERAL Some died, some were found, but not everyone.

MRS. HENSON What about his commander?

GENERAL That was Major Brinkley. (Clears his throat) I'm not sure what happened to him. But, I'll keep checking into the matter.

Mrs. Henson gets up in tears, prepares to leave.

BOY Mom, when's daddy coming home?

MRS. HENSON Jess; let's go home.

JESS He's not coming home, is he?

Mrs. Henson walks to the door with the baby in one arm, Jess by the hand.

GENERAL Mrs. Henson. (MORE) GENERAL (CONT'D)

I'll see what I can do about the death benefit. But I can't promise they will give it to you. But I'll try.

MRS. HENSON (Mumbles) Thank you.

The general's intercom buzzes moments after Mrs. Henson exits.

GENERAL Yes, Betty, what is it?

BETTY

There's a Mayor named, Jose Salvador, from Puerto Rico on line two. This is twice he's called.

GENERAL Just what I need, more bullshit! (Beat) Put him through. (Beat) Salvador, what's the problem?

MAYOR

The farmers are complaining about losing livestock. The same way as before! You promised then to help with this matter.

GENERAL

I thought you sent out search parties and used some of my officers months ago.

MAYOR

Si, I did. But nothing was found.

GENERAL

What makes you think something will be found now?

MAYOR

Because, there's more attacks, more complaints, and more animals dying in strange ways!

GENERAL

Have you any proof to their claims.

MAYOR

No, not at the moment!

GENERAL

Well, Salvador. The United States Army doesn't have time to run down there and chase rumors!

MAYOR

But...you promised before to help! What are you waiting for, a child to be killed, or it to come up there and bite you on your fat ass!

GENERAL

That was then, and I did help. Now, I don't have the time for farytails!

MAYOR

But... If you don't at least look, I just might seek help elsewhere!

The General pauses, clears his throat.

GENERAL

Okay, if it will keep you quiet, I'll have one more search ordered. But, if nothing's found, not another word. Agreed?

MAYOR

Agreed!

The General hangs up on the Mayor.

EXT. JUNGLE -- DAY

We see a team of five US GI's searching through dense jungle. One GI slaps at his neck.

GI

Damn bug infested hell-hole!

LEADER

Them little critters love you soldier!

The other GI'S laugh at the leaders remark.

GΙ Funny Captain! (Beat) Tell me again just what the hell we are looking for? LEADER We're looking for anything strange. My orders were very vague. The group shows signs of uprest, then a heavy rain starts falling. GI 2 I'll tell you what's strange. Us standing here looking like idiots! The others agree. LEADER I'll be damned, that is strange! Pack 'em up. GI Where to now. LEADER Home, we found what we were looking for. The squad leader picks up a cell phone and dials. LEADER (CONT'D) General, nothing found we're aborting search. EXT. RURAL FARM -- NIGHT Scott is returning in his old truck from the town meeting at the Mayor's office. He pulls up to his home, notices an eerie silence. Scott exits the truck, looks around wondering why it's so quiet then, sees a window broken out in his home. SCOTT Those damn crooks have returned. He rushes to the door and finds it unlocked. It squeaks open slowly.

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The room is dark and he can hear HEAVY BREATHING.

SCOTT (CONT'D) Who's in here? Show yourself now!

The BREATHING grows louder. Scavenging noises follow.

SCOTT (CONT'D) Show yourself maggots, low life thieves!

A ROAR fills the room. Scott becomes frightened, then, a pair of red-eyes open close by.

SCOTT (CONT'D) Mother of Jesus!

SCOTT tries to run out the door, but something grabs his legs. He screams, struggles, then all goes silent.

A flood of brilliant white light.

INT. PUERTO RICO RESORT TOUR PRESENT-DAY

Looking at the brightest summer sky you've ever seen Pan down to a breath-takingly beautiful scene of an island coast and marina. The same marina we saw destroyed in earlier shots of Puerto Rico. Today it is tranquil, Serene, lovely, palm-lined beaches of pure white sand, picturesque villages, beautiful people playing beautiful games on beautiful beaches sipping beautiful cocktails whilst, talking beautiful. A real tropical island paradise idyll.

American TOURIST are everywhere, we can tell by their pale skins, cameras and cloths!

We see that the entire island is reconstructed with no hint whatsoever of the devastation of the previous sequence. We move into some sort of museum, a tourist attraction telling the islands history, geography, etc.

A guide is showing a bunch of bored teenage American school kids around the exhibits She points out the special geography of the island, the mountainous interior, the caves and the flatter, beach exterior, most populated by tourists. She tells them about Hurricane Hugo that hit 15 years earlier, and how most of the island has been rebuilt since--into the tropical paradise you see today!

Two young adults a beautiful boy and girl BOB & BRITNEY are particularly bored by the tour.
They are much more interested in each other and are petting and necking as much as they dare, his hand down her pants, etc.

Bob whispers in her ear.

BOB Let's get out of here!

BRITTANY (She giggles) Nasty mind!

BOB My mind isn't what I want to get dirty!

BRITTANY

Let's go.

Once outside, they laugh and pet and run as fast as they can away from the boring group toward the cool jungle interior.

Bob and Brittany are now well into the inner jungle and she is egging him on, pulling him forward, into more and more remote areas. Eventually they stumble across a beautiful, secluded waterfall and pool, an absolute paradise.

She whispers to him and he starts to strip. He strips too and they both dive naked into the warm water They swim, splash about, caress, separate, and play with each other for a while.

They leave the pool and stand, dripping, on its edge.

BRITTANY (CONT'D) There's a cave under the falls!

She whispers in his ear, suggests something that he may well like, and his face shows approval. She caresses his body from his face down to his chest down to his waist. She slips down out of frame. But, his face shows us what she's up to. He pulls her up, takes her hand and leads her into the cave.

INT. CAVE -- MOMENTS LATER

Both enter laughing and Bob attempts to push Brittany on the ground and climb onto her.

BRITTANY

Give it to me!

They are on the ground and start to make love. Caress follows caress, he licks her, and she responds and gives back in return.

FROM A P.O.V SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS WATCHING THEIR LOVE-MAKING

Bob and Brittany are getting really active now and he wants to mount her but she stops Bob's advance.

> BRITTANY (CONT'D) You know how I like it!

> > BOB

Let's do it!

Bob stands up, watching Brittany kneeling on all fours, she looks back and at Bob.

BRITTANY

Ready!

They're now fucking away merrily "doggy style", she is moaning her appreciation, and he is equally voluble in his joy... We are watching her face, contorted with pleasure.

Unexpectedly, then violently and volubly something happens and the boy is grabbed from behind by a massively strong force and dragged off into the jungle. Brittany, shocked by Bob's sudden withdrawal, turns to see him being dismembered by an unknown force. In the bushes, blood and body parts are thrown randomly.

His screams rise in volume until abruptly cut off - her screams of fear rise in a similar crescendo. Bits of body and blood seep from the scene of carnage. She can hardly bear to look that way, but fear and fascination force her to approach. Suddenly, Bob's armless head and torso are lobbed back into the clearing. Her screams could be heard from the moon!

THEN - AGAIN IN POV "SOMETHING" EMERGES FROM THE BUSHES

She sees "it." "It" sees her in all her naked splendor. She screams as never before and "It" advances closer and closer.

The sequence closes with her bloodied feet being dragged off into the bushes of the jungle.

INT. 2003 JESS SMITHSON'S HOME -- EVENING JIM SMITHSON 20's, enters her home and sees his wife JESSICA 20's, sitting on a sofa watching television. JESS Home a little early today? JIM Yeah, a bit early. It's been a quiet day. Jim walks over and sits next to Jessica. JIM (CONT'D) What are you watching? Jim walks past Jessica and picks up the local paper, then he sits near her on the sofa. JIM (CONT'D) What are you watching? JESS A newscast on an incident in Puerto Rico. JIM Oh, someday I'd like to visit that island. Jessica looks at Jess puzzled. JESS Strange you said that. JIM Why? JESS I might be going there soon. JIM Why? JESS To look for the Chupacabra. Jim gives Jessica a "are you feeling okay look?"

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The what?

Jessica turns down the volume on the television.

JESS Chupacabra means, goat-suckers. For years there's been reports of mysterious livestock killings in Puerto Rico. Farmers claim a beast attacks at night, killing live animals by draining their blood.

Jim looks cross and confused.

JIM

That's gross! (Beat) Why would you go there? Need something to nip on your neck?

Jessica laughs but Jim is not amused.

JESS I have been trying to get the research department to do a research project on the problem for years.

Jessica picks up a remote to his VCR and pushes the on button.

ON SCREEN, the camera pans over an area of heavy growth, the shot zooms closer and blood can be seen splattered on leaves, and the ground, it zooms closer and a dismembered body comes into view.

> JESS (CONT'D) But they claimed it was only an island myth, and turned us down, saying the Zoo's funding is limited.

JIM Why would they change their minds now?

JESS Tim O Bryan and myself showed the funding committee this. There's been a killing, now maybe they will find the funding! She points to the television set, and turns up the volume. A news report is detailing the legend.

NEWSCASTER

For years, farmers have claimed the Chupacabra have plagued the islands causing substantial loss. Their claims of wild beasts fell onto deaf ears as no proof ever surfaced, well, maybe until now. Was this man the first victim?

The picture jumps and a farmer is shown holding the skeletal remains of a strange looking animal.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D) Joseph Vandez claimed he shot one of these mysterious beasts several weeks ago, and today he accidentally discovered the remains.

Jessica points to the skeleton.

JESS That may be our ticket.

Jim studies the photo hard.

JIM

I don't know. It could be a deformed dog!

NEWSCASTER

Local authorities have yet to confirm exactly what the skeleton could be from, due to the severe decomposition. The tourist may have been mauled by some kind of wild animal. But, if it is one of the mysterious Chupacabra, it's the first real proof of their existence since the legend began right after Hugo's extensive destruction.

Jessica clicks off the television.

JIM Hugo? The sightings started after Hugo hit?

JESS About six months later, yes. JIM Wasn't your father in Puerto Rico when Hugo hit? JESS Yes, and we never heard from him after the storm hit. Jim starts out of the room toward the kitchen. JESS (CONT'D) Where are you going? JIM I'm hungry. Want a snack? JESS No thanks. JIM If you go, I'M going with you. JESS I don't think you can. JIM I'm going to make sure you have a safe trip, and maybe we can take a vacation too? JESS I'll learn find out tomorrow when the board makes a decision. Jim exits and yells back into the room. JIM (O.S.) You tell them at that meeting... I'm going! Jessica looks in JIM'S direction shaking her head. JESS We'll see? Jessica walks out of the living room into her bedroom. INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Jessica enters her bedroom, lays on the bed a moment in thought. Then she picks up the telephone and dials.

JESS

Hi mom. Hope you're doing okay.

INT. BETTY HENSON'S HOME -- CONTINUOUS

BETTY now looking much older is sitting in a chair talking on the phone.

BETTY Yes dear, I'm fine. I was just sitting here sewing, and thinking about you too.

JESS (V.O.)

Mom, I may be going to Puerto Rico soon, and if it's not too much trouble I may have you look after Jimmy.

BETTY Puerto Rico? Whatever for?

JESS (O.S.)

Just a simple research trip, work related. But, while I'm there, I may check into Dad's disappearance.

BETTY

Dear, why don't you just let it go? It's been too long now. No one will remember him after so many years.

JESS (O.S.)

Someone might. It's still worth trying. Who knows, maybe he's still alive, had amnesia and forgot who he was or something.

BETTY

Honey, that's just wishful thinking. But, I guess you need closure; I learned to live with what I have, you and your brother Billy. JESS

Remember that General you talked to years ago? Well, I saw him on television. He's running for Governor!

BETTY

Yes, I know. I've seen his ads, claiming to be an honest American, ready to work for the people.

JESS (O.S.) I don't think he could help me, but maybe Dad's commander can. Do you remember what his name was?

BETTY

Major Brinkley. But the last time I heard about him, he was in a hospital somewhere near you. They say he had a mental breakdown.

JESS (O.S.) You think he's still in one?

BETTY I really wouldn't know, dear.

JESS (O.S.) Wouldn't it be nice if he were a patient where Jim worked?

INT. JESS'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Jessica is sitting on her bedside, she reaches out to a dresser drawer and opens it, takes out a folder of old photos, opens it to a picture of captain Henson. She runs her finger across the photo and mumbles.

> JESS (Low voice) I'd really like to know what happened to him?

BETTY (O.S.) I know dear?

JESS I guess I'll let you get back to your sewing. Call me if you need anything.

BETTY (O.S.)

All right, and you might want to check the hospital where Jim works. My memory fails me sometimes. But...that might be where Brinkley was sent.

JESS I will, Mom, gotta go. Love you.

Zoom In on Jessica's face. A lone tear trails down her cheek as she looks hard at her father's photo.

INT. SMITHSON HOME KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Jessica enters the room and walks up behind Jim. He's standing at a counter fixing a sandwich; she slowly puts her arms around his waist.

JESS I'll make you a deal. I'll ask if you can go with us if you check something for me.

JIM

Sure, what?

JESS See if there's a Major Brinkley in your hospital files. He still might be a patient there.

JIM Here we go again!

JESS

What?

JIM You're still searching for your father.

INT. JOSEPH VANDEZ FARM PUERTO RICO -- LATER

Joseph is working in a field when he hears an auto approaching in the distance. He walks toward his home and sees a BLACK car with dark tinted windows entering his drive. The car pulls up in front of his house and stops. (To self) I wonder if this is another sightseer wanting a free look.

Joseph walks to the front of his home and stops, looking hard at the mysterious auto.

Suddenly, two men, both dressed in black suits and dark glasses exit at the same instant. They walk toward Joseph.

A DOG runs loose in the yard; it BARKS at the strangers as they exit the car.

JOESPH Quiet down and sit, Ric!

The dog stops barking and sits near Joseph.

AGENT Are you Joseph Vandez?

JOSEPH Yes, and who might you be?

AGENT 2 Reports claim you may have a Chupacabra skeleton?

JOSEPH

Si, I have one. I think it's the same one that killed my goats last week. I shot at it, but it still run away. I found the bones several days later.

AGENT Where is it?

JOSEPH In the barn, why?

AGENT 2 Come with me, sir.

Agent 2 reaches out to the bewildered Joseph and attempts to take his arm. Joseph is reluctant, but obeys.

JOSEPH

To where?

AGENT 2

Inside your home. We need to talk!

Agent 2 escorts JOSEPH into his house, as AGENT 1 walks toward the barn.

Agent 1 enters, searches a moment, tearing into locked storage bins then, finds the skeleton wrapped in a plastic bag. He picks up the bag and walks back to the auto, pushes a button on his key. The trunk opens, and he puts the bag into the trunk, closes it then, gets back into the drivers side of the car.

MOMENT'S PASS

Agent 2 exits the home and enters the car.

AGENT

Did it work?

AGENT 2

Jobs a goodun.

The CAR starts and ambles down the drive.

Joseph steps back outside his home. He pulls off his cap, wipes sweat off his brow and then his neck, as his hand moves the shirt collar, a red mark becomes visible. He watches the car pulling away.

> JOSEPH They must have been looking for someone else?

Joseph puts his cap back on and walks back to the field.

JOSEPH (CONT'D) Come on boy, we've got work to do.

INT. MIAMI ZOO CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Jessica is sitting at a TABLE with KACY HADDON 30's, the Zoo's CEO, and finance officer. In the background, maps of Puerto Rico, charts, and a television, on screen, the image of the skeleton from the news report.

> JESS We have the proof. There's some type of strange creature hiding in that jungle, and we need to find it.

COUNCILOR

(Pointing to image) That report means nothing. For all we know, that may be a malformed dog.

KACY

That's why we need this grant...to gather the proof. If the thing doesn't exist, the rumors can be laid to rest.

JESS

Dean, even if there is no real Chupacabra. Think of the benefits to this establishment if we aid the farmers.

CEO

Aid them how?

JESS

By helping them find out what really is killing their livestock. We find the culprit and a way of stopping the slaughter.

CEO Yes, I see your point. If it is a wild animal, we can help the locals track it.

COUNCILOR I see no benefit to us.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

A PRIVATE room comes into view. A figure is sitting in a chair; his back turned away from the camera. A television is playing in front of the figure.

ON SCREEN: An advertisement comes into view.

General Thompson is shown shaking hands in a crowded mall.

A SIGN reads, Thompson for Governor.

ANNOUNCER Thompson, an experienced, hardworking, and honest man. The right man for the state of Florida! A FIGURE leans forward; Brinkley comes into view.

BRINKLEY

Honest, my ass!

Brinkley picks up his tray of food and throws it toward the television. Mashed POTATOES splatter over the screen.

INT. HOSPITAL RECORDS ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Jim is sitting at a computer looking over files.

JIM Well, Brinkley has been right under our nose for years.

Jim clicks the mouse, several documents print out. He gathers the papers and exits the room.

INT. ZOO CONFERENCE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Jessica's cell phone rings, she looks at the caller's ID then answers.

JESS Jim, I'm a little busy right now.

JIM (V.O.) Too, busy to hear about Brinkley?

JESS Did you find something?

JIM (V.O.) Yeah, he's here.

JESS Can you get me in to see him?

JIM (V.O.)

I can try.

JESS Thanks babe, love you!

INT. MIAMI ZOO CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Jessica is packing her briefcase as the meeting concludes.

JESS Thank you, Dean, for this opportunity. We'll surely find the creature...if it exists.

CEO Well, I think a week in that tropical rainforest, and you'll be ready to give up this foolishness.

JESS In a week, we'll have one bagged and brought back to study. I just hope Jim doesn't slow us down.

The CEO walks to the exit then, stop and looks back at Jessica.

CEO What's that about your husband?

JESS He's wanting to tag along with us.

CEO The University cannot pay for his trip. He's not a staff member.

JESS

I know.

CEO If you do decide to take him, it will be at your expense.

JESS I know, sir. I'll be completely responsible for his expenses and actions.

CEO Very well then.

The CEO exits the room and Kacy looks at Jessica hard, he then laughs.

KACY You're going to be responsible for his actions? That is a joke, isn't it? JESS No, not really.

KACY I can see the hot water flowing now!

Kacy laughs again, as does Jess, then both pick up their graphs and maps and start toward the door.

JESS You know, I guess I should have thought before claiming responsibility.

KACY Well, it's a little late now. Who else are we taking on this field trip?

JESS I'm thinking Mac from my homeroom class. He's really into the Chupacabra and he's built for the rugged outdoors.

KACY

Good choice.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM--LATER

Brinkley sits quietly staring at the television set when there is a low tap on his door. He does not respond.

Jessica pushes the door open slowly.

JESS Major Brinkley, are you awake?

She enters and sees Brinkley STARING at the set, unresponsive. He picks up a remote and begins flipping through channels.

Jessica walks slowly over to Brinkley's side then stops and reviews his records.

JESS (CONT'D) Are you Major John Brinkley?

Brinkley continues to ignore Jess as if he's deaf.

JESS (CONT'D) I can see you're not a talkative person. (Beat) My name is Jessica Smithson, formally Jess Henson. Do you remember a Captain Henson serving under you years ago? Brinkley turns toward the irritating woman. BRINKLEY (Snaps) A slacker! Jessica looks surprised by his reply. JESS So, you can talk. What do you mean by slacker? Brinkley turns back to the television and mumbles. BRINKLEY He was an incompetent slacker! And very disrespectful! Suddenly, the station changes and Thompson's ad appears. BRINKLEY (CONT'D) That lying son of a bitch shouldn't be allowed to run for Governor. Jessica sees an empty chair near the television and she walks over to it, watching Brinkley's response to her, and the ad. JESS So, you dislike him too? Brinkley turns to Jess looking furious. BRINKLEY That bastard put me in here! Jessica looks over his chart. JESS

I don't see that information here, but I know he's a liar.

BRINKLEY

How could YOU know that?

JESS

He promised to help my mother years ago after Hugo hit Puerto Rico. He never did follow through.

Brinkley's expressions calms a bit.

BRINKLEY

Help her how?

JESS

He wouldn't help her find my father, or have him declared dead, so she could receive widow's benefits.

Brinkley laughs in an insulting tone.

BRINKLEY Yeah, that sounds like the ass hole! (Beat) Cut the crap. What do you want?

JESS

Information.

BRINKLEY About your father, I assume.

JESS Yes. I am going to Puerto Rico soon on an expedition.

Brinkley looks surprised, and interrupts.

BRINKLEY

An expedition to Puerto Rico? Then let me guess. You're looking for the Chupacabra?

Jessica looks surprised, and gives Brinkley a hard look.

JESS

Yes, but how...

BRINKLEY

How did I know about the creatures? Well, doesn't everyone know about them? JESS

Yes. Until I have heard of the things. It's still hard to believe an unknown creature could exist these days. Don't you think?

BRINKLEY Maybe they do, maybe they don't. (Beat) I would assume then, you want me to tell you where your father is?

JESS Something like that.

BRINKLEY

How the hell would I know where he is?

JESS According to records, you went back to the Puerto Rico base after Hugo hit.

BRINKLEY

(Rude tone) Yeah. So what?

Jessica looks worried, and in thought.

JESS You're going to stonewall me aren't you? (Beat) His body was never found, so we never knew what happened.

BRINKLEY

Look, lady, our return that day was cut short because of Hugo's backlash. We only found a couple of bodies before being forced to leave.

Brinkley stops talking and thinks back to that day.

EXT. GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION COLONIZER- FLASHBACK

Guided by COLORED LASERS and LANDING LIGHTS, the chopper looms hard into view, pitching forward and settling to the ground, kicking up a maelstrom of trash and debris as it descends then circles near the burning Helicopter. A PILOT comes into view; he can be seen looking hard at the burning craft.

PILOT 2 Base, this is Searcher 1. There is no visible signs of survivors, will continue a sweep and destroy mission.

Two MARINES jump out of the hovering Helicopter, they are heavily armed with full body gear. Both run into the Base in a protective pattern, enter, and moments later they can be seen carrying someone out.

The marines load what looks like a body, then reenter the hovering craft.

A SECOND HELICOPTER rises above the forest; it turns on a high intensity search-light, then makes a full circle of the Compound.

A MAN wearing a military uniform watches through the large open windows as the helicopter as it continues a wide search pattern. It makes a close pass by the first helicopter, and the man's face comes into view. It's General Thompson. He picks up a microphone and keys it to talk.

> GENERAL Is the survivor Brinkley?

PILOT 2

Yes, sir, it is.

The FIRST HELICOPTER rises back up then takes up an assault position.

In the distance a bank of dark clouds rapidly approach.

PILOT 2 (CONT'D) Sir, another heavy squall from Hugo is rapidly approaching. We must either take action now, or return later.

The General turns away from the window, to a FIGURE, hidden in the shadows beside him.

MAN What do we do, sir? The General looks back out the window, then to his Pilot.

MAN (To Pilot) Commence!

His craft then rises high then, it streams out of sight.

INT. FIRST HELICOPTER -- CONTINUOUS

BRINKLEY (Low tone weak) No, we need to finish the search...

PILOT 2 Sorry, Major, it's too late.

The FIRST HELICOPTER shoots two missals at the compound. One explodes into a large fireball just outside the Base's main gate. Wind hits, tossing the craft. The other hits the ground and fails to ignite.

> PILOT 2 (CONT'D) She's burning, let's get the hell out of here.

The assault Craft races out of sight.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- RESUMED

Jessica walks toward the door then, she pauses still looking hard at Brinkley.

JESS I'll leave you alone then, I was just hoping...

BRINKLEY I know. But I can't help you, I wish I... (Beat) Take my advice, stay at home.

JESS

What?

BRINKLEY Don't go looking for things that are best left alone.

Jessica looks at Brinkley, puzzled, and thinks.

JESS (Thought) You know more than you're telling, Major. (Beat) I'll think about what you said. But, I'd really like to put my father's death to rest. And those rumors about his foolishness!

Jessica slams the door as she exits.

Brinkley resumes his channel surfing.

BRINKLEY Foolishness will get you killed, and so will a search for Chupacabra!

EXT. JOSEPH VANDEZ FARM PUERTO RICO -- NIGHT

The jungle is alive with nighttime noises, bugs, birds, and wildlife sounds give way to rustling leaves.

There is a LOW PANTING sound followed by a GROWL. The wildlife goes silent as a dog barks intensely at the rustling sounds approaching.

INT. JOSEPH VANDEZ'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Joseph turns in his bed, awakened by the barking dog. He hears a goat in distress, then chickens cackling, upset. He springs out of bed and reaches into a nearby closet.

EXT. JOSEPH VANDEZ FARM -- CONTINUOUS

The DOG'S GROWL intensifies as it runs toward the forest.

Joseph steps out onto his porch and hears the dog yelp loudly. He turns on a flashlight, points it in the sound's direction.

> JOSEPH Ric, come here boy.

The dog is now silent and makes no reappearance.

JOSEPH (CONT'D) Fine time for you to stray!

Chickens become louder, one screeches in pain, then tearing wood sounds can be heard. As something is clawing into the coop.

> JOSEPH (CONT'D) Mother Mary! They have returned to kill more!

Joseph shines his light toward the shredding wood. Two red eyes reflect in the beam. He brings up a shotgun and starts to aim then, suddenly, the eyes vanish. He scours the area with light, and sees movement behind brush near the chicken pen.

> JOSEPH (CONT'D) No longer will you kill my livestock, you monster!

Joseph steps off the porch, ready to shoot, the eyes return in the beam of light. He pulls back the hammer and then screams in pain as a pair of red eyes open behind him.

The light falls to the ground then the gun hits the ground and discharges.

Joseph continues to scream as a horrendous growling beast knocks him to his knees.

A cloud drifts past, and the moon peeks out.

Standing behind Joseph is an Alien/Man-like creature; it's long arm extended with claws imbedded into Joseph's back.

The creature leans forward, opening his mouth, two razor sharp white fangs reflect in the moonlight, then are thrust deep into Joseph's throat, blood is seen spurting in the reflecting light.

INT. PUERTO RICO--A WEEK LATER:

A light shower passes through the trees. The sky clears, revealing a lush and exotic ocean of foliage. Birds are beginning to SING but otherwise, all is SILENT.

The dense growth seems impenetrable, but by a solid wall of undergrowth, a distant animal roams out of thick brush.

Suddenly, the beast, a large tan Chupacabra looks up through a clearing in the canopy.

Distance SOUNDS of an approaching plane can be heard. It nears the area where the creature stands. The Creature looks up angrily toward the approaching sound, growls and runs into thick brush.

INT. AIRPLANE--CONTINUOUS

Jessica leans against the glass window inside the small plane looking over the lush tropical jungle.

JESS

Look!

Jessica points to an area within her view.

JIM Look at what, Jess?

JESS I saw something. It was quite large.

JIM What did it look like?

JESS Couldn't really tell, but it sure could run!

PILOT (Native of Island) You might have seen a monkey, Miss.

JESS Then you must have some awfully large one's here!

JIM

Your mind wants to find something, dear. But looking from up here is impossible.

Jessica fails to reply and resumes scanning the forest through the window.

PILOT We'll be landing in five minutes. Mayor Salvador has a car waiting for you at the airport. Jessica looks toward the pilot.

JESS Could you please circle around for a bit?

JIM Jessica, now is not the time. You need to go through proper channels then you can start your creature hunt.

PILOT Miss, we have a flight plan and schedule to follow. And our fuel is low.

JESS (Upset tone) Okay, I'll wait.

INT. MAYOR SALVADOR'S OFFICE -- LATER

Mayor Salvador is sitting at his desk when Jessica, Jim, and Kacy are escorted into his office. He stands and walks over to Jessica and takes her hand.

> MAYOR So, glad to see you, Mrs. Smithson.

> JESS Call me Jess, Mayor Salvador. This is my husband and associate Kacy Haddon.

Salvador escorts Jessica to a chair in front of his desk. She sits and then he gestures the others to sit nearby.

MAYOR

Please, everyone sit. (Beat) I hear very good things about you Mrs...I mean Jessica. Your knowledge of tropical animals is very impressive.

JESS Thank you. I'm delighted to have this chance to come to your beautiful island. KACY

So am I.

MAYOR If there is such a thing!

JESS I thought you believed the creatures existed?

Mayor Salvador looks uncertain.

MAYOR

Sometimes I do, but my mind also finds it difficult. We do have something strange on the island. A mysterious livestock killer of some type.

KACY

But, you like many others, never found proof of the Chupacabra?

MAYOR

Si, nothing.

JIM

What about that news report? The one where a farmer found a skeleton.

MAYOR

Seems the farmer, and his skeleton have vanished.

JESS

The photo looked genuine.

MAYOR

Yes, but there are so many hoaxes. (Beat) We hope Jessica can solve this mystery. I have two guides read to escort you to the area where the last sightings occurred.

JESS

We'll do our best to solve this mystery, Mayor.

MAYOR Is there more to your party?

KACY

We have an assistant, Mac Gorden. He's waiting out with the driver.

JESS

Yes, Mac is one of our student's that has excelled in Zoological sciences. He will be a great assistant.

MAYOR Good, I will have the guides carry side arms. Just in case some protection is needed.

Jessica stands and walks over to JIM. She takes his hand.

JESS Jim will protect me.

JIM (Teasing) I will... Yes, of course I will. But who will protect me.

KACY (Laughing) Don't look at me. You're on you own!

JESS We'll get started today, Mayor.

Mayor Salvador walks toward Jessica, and hands her maps, documents, and then a set of keys.

MAYOR I have rooms reserved for you at the Plaza Motel.

JESS Rooms! We'll be pitching a tents in the jungle, Mayor.

Jessica looks toward Jim then to Kacy. Thinking they would object to her response.

JESS (CONT'D) Do we need the rooms?

JIM We might. Some of us may not be as outdoorsy as you.

Kacy smiles but refrains from comment.

JESS

I see.

Jessica takes the keys and hands them to Jim.

JESS (CONT'D) Then hang onto them... In case they're needed. (Beat) Good day, Mayor. We'll give you an update soon.

EXT. JUNGLE -- DAY

Two jeeps can be seen traveling down a NARROW-WINDING road through dense growth. In the first jeep, a driver, Jessica, and Jim, camping supplies and a rifle are also seen. In the second Jeep, a driver, Kacy, Mac, and supplies.

THE vehicles travel deeper into the wilderness then turn off the main road onto a rough trail. A rundown farmhouse can be seen in the distance.

EXT. JOSEPH VANDEZ FARM -- LATER

The jeeps stop in front of Vandez's farmhouse. The area and home is in disrepair. The home looks vandalized, windows broken, cut marks in the screen doors and windows. The yard has been neglected and has excessive growth.

Jessica looks at the driver.

JESS Didn't Salvador say this Vandez guy has only been missing a week?

DRIVER Si, is only a week.

JIM It must have been in bad shape before he disappeared? Everyone exits the jeeps and walk toward the front of the house.

MAC It sure is quiet, isn't it?

KACY Too quiet for a jungle.

JESS Mac, knock on the door for safety. We'll look the area over for signs of life.

Mac starts to walk up to the front door then, suddenly he covers his nose.

MAC Damn! What a smell.

Mac knocks on the door. It creaks open on its own. A powerful odor makes him gasp for air; he then hurries away from the house. The others in the group stop.

JIM What is it?

MAC Something smells in that house.

JESS What does it smell like?

MAC Something, or someone dead!

INT. MAYOR SALVADOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

Salvador's telephone rings, he answers.

MAYOR

Yes.

GENERAL What are you trying to pull, Salvador?

MAYOR Ah, General Thompson. It has been a long time since we spoke.

GENERAL

Cut the bullshit, Salvador. Why did you bring in those damn Zoologists?

MAYOR To do what you failed to do.

GENERAL Again with your false creature claims!

MAYOR General, you know, and I know it is not false.

GENERAL

Why now, I'm in the middle of a campaign. You could have waited and asked me for help.

MAYOR

I have waited, and waited. You promised time after time to assist, but never followed through. So now, if these people find the beasts, you'll do something!

Salvador angrily slams the receiver down hanging up on Thompson.

EXT. JOSEPH VANDEZ FARM -- CONTINUOUS

Jessica, Jim, and Kacy walk up to the front door, all are forced to cover their mouths and noses.

Mac walks back to the jeeps and watches.

MAC I'm not going in there!

Kacy looks toward MAC.

KACY

Coward!

MAC No, just a weak stomach.

Jessica steps into the house, followed by Jim.

INT. JOSEPH VANDEZ HOME

Animals litter the living room, chickens with their heads missing, rabbits with knife like incisions in the neck, wild animals disfigured.

JIM

Look!

Jim points to a hallway. In the dark hall, a dead goat lays severely dehydrated.

Jessica walks to it, turns it with her foot, and a surgical looking wound appears in the animal's throat and stomach areas.

JESS It looks like its been drained.

A DRIVER appears at the door and looks inside.

DRIVER God! They have had a feast.

The driver runs away from the door.

Kacy cannot stand the sight or smell and follows the driver.

INT. BEDROOM

Jessica steps over the goat and enters the bedroom. Jim follows but he's looking ill.

The bedroom also has dead animals scattered on the bed and covering the floor.

JESS I don't see blood anywhere, do you?

Jim shakes his head no, then turns and runs out of the house.

EXT. HOME

Kacy calls out from near the chicken coop.

KACY Come here, I found someone.

Jessica exits the house and all walk toward Kacy. AS they near, a body can be seen lying next to the coop.

Kacy reaches down and rolls the body over. The shriveled up corpse of Vandez is seen. He has a wound in his throat filled with maggots.

Mac runs into the woods and vomits.

One driver runs to a jeep and grabs a radio.

Jessica looks to the second driver.

JESS Is it Vandez?

DRIVER 2 Si, senora. I think so.

Jessica sees the other driver call in their find.

JESS Mac, you and Kacy grab the cameras, let's take some photos of this massacre before the authorities arrive.

INT. TAVERN -- LATER

Jessica enters a tavern. She is followed by Jim, Mac, and Kacy.

JESS How dare them, making us leave like that!

The group walks to an empty table. All sit showing their anger.

JIM You expected it to happen. That's why you wanted the photos. It's a crime scene and they didn't want us butting in.

JESS The cameras, did we get them?

KACY Don't worry I hid them in the jeep. Those guys never knew we had them.

A BARTENDER walks up to the table.

BARTENDER Welcome to The Wetlands. What can I get you folks? MAC What do you have? The bartender pulls out a drink list and hands it to Mac. BARTENDER Look this over and I'll be right back to take your order. KACY What's the strongest drink they got? MAC Scotch whiskey, I think. It's hard to read this scribble. KACY After seeing Vandez's body, I'll take a double. JIM Two doubles! Jessica looks hard at the Men. JESS Guys! I don't want to be going back to Vandez's with a bunch of drunks! JIM Going back? We were told to leave...remember? JESS Yeah, but the authorities will be gone later. So tonight we'll return to the farm and set up camp. All look hard at Jessica. BARTENDER Excuse me, but are you folks by chance talking about Joseph Vandez? JESS Yes. We found him dead a short time

ago.

67.

BARTENDER I was wondering what became of him. Such a shame...he was a good man.

The bartender walks away shaking his head.

BARTENDER (CONT'D) More strange mysteries!

Jessica watches the Bartender for a moment. She then stands up and starts to walk away from the table.

> JESS I'll be back in a little while.

JIM Need me to go with you, honey?

JESS I think I can manage the bathroom by myself, thanks anyway.

Mac looks over the room.

MAC From the looks of this dump, you may need help!

Jessica walks to the back of the Tavern. She waits until the men are talking among themselves, then she walks up to the bartender.

JESS

Excuse me, but I was wondering if you've lived in this area very long.

BARTENDER All my life! I was born here in Canovanas.

Jessica pulls a photo of her father out of a pocket.

JESS Then maybe you can help me. My father was stationed in this area years ago before Hugo hit.

She hands the photo to the bartender.

JESS (CONT'D) I was wondering if...

BARTENDER

(Inturrpts) Si, I know him. Captain Henson.

JESS Yes, it is. Have you by chance seen him after the hurricane hit?

BARTENDER

No, sorry.

Jessicas expression crosses with hope and doubt.

JESS Are you sure?

BARTENDER

Si.

JESS Thanks anyway.

BARTENDER Anything I can do to help, just ask.

Jim walks up behind Jessica.

JIM Is this a social visit, or can anyone join in?

Jessica turns startled.

JESS Jim, I didn't hear you walk up. I was just asking for directions.

JIM Directions to the bathroom? Over there below the sign.

JESS

Oh, I didn't see that, thanks.

Jessica walks toward the rest room, Jim returns to the table.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

Mayor Salvador is sitting at his desk when the secretary calls him on the intercom.

SECRETARY Mayor, I finally reached the mainland.

MAYOR Good, and thanks.

Salvador picks up his receiver.

MAYOR (CONT'D) So, looks like it will begin soon.

VOICE You have proof?

MAYOR Si, a dead body, and it is infected!

VOICE That's all I need. Keep me informed!

Salvador hangs up, then buzzes the secretary.

MAYOR Get me General Thompson.

EXT. JOSEPH VANDEZ FARM -- EVENING

The sun is almost below the horizon as the jeeps pull back into Vandez's driveway.

Jessica is the first to exit the jeep and she looks at the driver.

JESS Unload the gear; we'll camp here tonight.

DRIVER Si, but I don't like this. I say we should return tomorrow, in the daylight.

JIM I think he may have a good point, Jess. This place is a bit creepy!

JESS We stay here! We came here to search out this mystery. Not to run back to town and hide. KACY Gee, Jess. It's only us, no need to be melodramatic.

JESS Sorry, guys. I just have a lot on my mind.

JIM Must have been something the Bartender said?

JESS Yes, it was, Jim. But we'll talk about that later, for now let's just get set up for tonight.

EXT. OUTSIDE VANDEZ'S HOME -- NIGHT

Four tents come into view, Jim and Jessica are laying in one closest to the house. Max lies nearby snoring, Kacy's tent is emitting a dim light and we see him in his tent reading a novel.

The fourth tent has a driver, lying silently listening to the nighttime noises as he watches the moon fade behind clouds. The SECOND DRIVER is sitting in a jeep, holding a rifle, keeping watch.

A shot of Jim and Jessica shows them sharing a romantic moment. Jim caresses her hair as she looks out of the tent opening into the dark jungle.

> JESS I asked the Bartender about my Father. JIM I kind of figured that. (Beat) What did he say? He knew him from years ago. JIM Oh?

on?

JESS

But.

She holds back a tear.
JIM Go on. Think he was telling the truth?

JESS I don't know. Maybe, he seemed straightforward.

The driver breaks into the conversation.

DRIVER Do you hear that?

JESS What? I don't hear a thing.

Kacy lays down his reading and listens.

KACY

Strange.

DRIVER

Yes, very.

JIM What are you talking about?

KACY The jungle is silent!

Jessica and Jim exit the tent, confused.

Kacy climbs out of his soon after. They stand looking into the darkness.

JIM I wonder why?

JESS Something must have spooked the wildlife?

RUSTLING brush sounds can be heard in the distance.

KACY Someone must be out there?

DRIVER

Or something.

Jim walks over to Mac's tent, he kicks a foot that is hanging out from under a flap.

JIM

Wake up, we've got company.

Kacy hurries back to his tent. He climbs in and searches for a light.

JESS (To Driver standing guard) Do you see anything?

DRIVER 2

No Miss.

Driver 2 looks down into the jeep's floorboard and picks up his rifle and a light. He walks toward the others.

Kacy is now shining the light into the jungle.

Suddenly, more STRANGE SOUNDS can be heard in different directions.

DRIVER 2 (CONT'D) There's more than one.

Kacy's light beam scans through the woods, unexpectedly, two red reflections dart past the beam of light.

Mac now wide awake sees the glowing eyes.

MAC What was that?

KACY

What?

MAC Your light just reflected off of something. Go back.

Kacy re-scans the area where the EYES were seen. The brush moves violently, followed by an ungodly roar.

FROM BEHIND THE GROUP:

A LARGE CREATURE shoots out of the woods and grabs driver 1. It's long sharp knife like-claws penetrate the Drivers back. He SCREAMS at the top of his lungs.

The other's turn and look. They see a LARGE CHUPACABRA standing behind driver 1. It's claws deeply embedded into the man's flesh. It growls then, the driver is lifted off the ground and the claws penetrate through his body and exit out of his stomach. Blood drips down the creatures arms.

Jessica screams. Kacy and Mac turn to light up the beast. Jim tries to calm Jessica.

The CREATURE flips the driver off its claws then, grabs him by the foot and drags his dead body toward the jungle.

A SECOND CREATURE streaks out and jumps up on one of the jeeps. It lets out an intense howl, as if it was signaling the start of an attack.

A THIRD LARGER CREATURE emerges; it jumps onto the tent where the second driver is hiding. We hear the driver's bones crack as he screams in agony. The CREATURE slices through the tent with its razor claws, then bend down and bites the driver's throat. HE quivers in convulsions and goes limp.

TWO SMALLER creatures materialize, they run toward Mac and Kacy.

Jim pulls Jessica toward the farmhouse, but she resists. The smaller creatures attack Mac first. Tearing at him as he attempts to run. They slice at his clothing and flesh.

The CREATURE on the jeep jumps at Kacy, thrusting his powerful claws deep into his chest.

Again, Jim tries to protect Jessica, but she bolts away and jumps for the rifle.

Mac screams in agony, he sees Jessica standing with the rifle.

MAC (CONT'D) Shoot the damn things.

Mac makes a grunting sound right after the last word. Four knife like blades tear through his body.

The LARGE CREATURE drops Kacy's lifeless body, and one of the smaller CREATURE'S runs to the body and pulls it toward the dense growth. The larger CREATURE then GROWLS and moves toward Jim. He turns to run, as he does a shot rings out, the creature emits a loud squeal of pain.

Jessica shoots again. The smaller creatures run into the woods in fear, as the larger one turns toward Jessica.

Jessica shoots again hitting the beast in the upper right chest. IT stops moving for a moment then, it runs into the woods. The SHOTS scare off the remaining CREATURES. The jungle goes eerily quiet.

Jim runs to Jessica side as she drops to her knees in fear and in tears.

An OVERVIEW of the area shows Kacy dead lying in a pool of blood.

Mac lays lifeless, his body and clothing shredded almost beyond recognition.

The tent and second driver's body is missing. There is a trail where he was dragged away.

JIM Get in the jeep before they return.

Jim struggles with Jessica, takes the rifle then pushes her toward one of the jeeps. He puts her into the passenger side and then jumps into the back, then over into the drivers seat.

JIM (CONT'D) Jessica, are you all right?

Jessica does not reply. Tears are trailing down her face as she trembles all over.

Jim cranks the jeep several times before it starts. Then shifts into gear, the wheels spin.

JIM (CONT'D) Jessica, talk to me.

Jim looks worried, eye looks at her and the road, driving fast and erratic.

JIM (CONT'D) She must be in shock.

Jessica looks at Jim, shocked and stuttering.

JESS What in God's name were those things?

JIM You're asking me? You're the zoologist! JESS

Brinkley! He knows what these thing are.

JIM We'll go to the tavern and get help.

EXT. TAVERN -- NIGHT

The jeep pulls up to he darkened tavern. Jim jumps out of the jeep and starts toward the door.

JESS It looks closed!

JIM Maybe someone is inside.

Jim pounds on he door several times, finally a WOMAN cracks open the door slightly.

WOMAN Closed senor, come back tomorrow.

JIM We need to call for help.

Jessica walks up beside Jim.

WOMAN Closed, go away.

JESS Please, miss, we need to call for help.

FOOTSTEPS approach the door.

BARTENDER I know her, let them in.

Jessica enters first and goes up to the bartender.

JESS Thanks, we need to call the police and Mayor Salvador.

EXT. JUNGLE -- MORNING

An overview of the jungle near the Vandez farm comes into view. Birds are beginning to SING as the sun rises. The dense growth seems impenetrable, but from a solid wall of undergrowth, a hand appears and signals in a downward motion.

As if by magic, an assault team materializes, quietly, cautiously. An OFFICER makes another gesture and the team moves forward in perfect harmony in POINT-LOCK step, taking their cue. They are highly focused and alert to every sound and movement.

EXT. JUNGLE HILLSIDE - DAY

The large team continues descending the steep slope, they encounter an even denser growth of jungle, at times moving by instinct, as they are often visually separated.

The LEADER flashing some hand signals indicating a new direction. Half continue down the slope, half turn in a different direction.

INT. TAVERN -- MORNING

The tavern is empty except for Jim and Jessica. They are sitting together on the floor leaning into a corner, partially covered and sleeping.

Loud turbine sounds near the tavern wake up Jessica.

JESS Something is happening!

The SOUNDS grow louder as a Helicopter passes overhead.

Jim and Jessica run to a nearby window and catch a glimpse of a green combat craft.

JESS (CONT'D) It's an army assault craft.

JIM I wonder where it's going?

JESS I wonder why it's here?

EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING - DAY

In a defensive position, the soldiers sweep the jungle slowly. The first half steps out into a field near Vandez's home. The Second half approaches from the opposite side. Shots ring out from the second team. Suddenly, the large CREATURE Jessica shot runs out of the woods in front of the second team. It growls as it runs to the house.

The first half hears the shots and drops in a defensive position. When the Creature comes into view, they open fire.

The beast takes several hits then, falls to the ground just outside of the house. Soldiers run up to the beast and see it is still moving slightly. One shot rings out hitting the creature in the head.

The teams regroup around the house, some bust out windows and kick in doors searching inside.

A group of unarmed men walk over to the dead creature. It is placed into a black zipperbag.

OFFICER (Into radio) We have one ready for transport.

Soldiers continue searching the house, barn and areas around the farm.

The assault helicopter comes into view, hovers over the dead creature then lowers a cable. The soldiers tie the body and make a gesture to the hovering craft. The creature's body slowly ascends up to the craft.

> VOICE (Over radio) Clear the area! In five minutes we disinfect.

The soldiers scramble back into the forest as the craft circles the farm. When all the men are out of sight it fires two missiles into the house, a large fireball rises.

The craft circles again then fires a missile into the barn and one at a storage shed.

INT. TAVERN

Jessica and Jim are still looking out of the window. They hear EXPLOSIONS then see two different helicopters in the distance making large circling sweeps.

> JESS This is some kind of cover up!

Certainly looks that way.

FOOTSTEPS approach the tavern from outside, but Jessica and Jim are too busy watching to notice. The door opens and a man steps into the bar.

BRINKLEY I told you, you should have stayed home.

Jessica and Jim turn, and look shocked when they see major Brinkley.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D) Well, did you find your father?

More EXPLOSIONS are heard in the distance.

JIM How did you get out of the hospital?

BRINKLEY I could have left that place anytime I wanted. Just never had a reason to, until now.

JESS What's going on? Why all the explosions and helicopters?

Brinkley walks over to them and sits across from Jessica.

BRINKLEY We're destroying a nest of Chup's at the Vandez farm.

JIM

What nest?

Jessica shows anger and distrust toward Brinkley.

JESS We searched that farm. There was no nest. And how do you know what they are?

Brinkley reaches into his jacket and pulls some documents out of a pocket then lays them on the table.

BRINKLEY

Oh, there was a nest, a large nest of eggs under the home, and a large female guarding it. That's how they knew your group returned. Those things have a type of sensory communication ability. (Beat) It's a miracle you two weren't killed!

Jessica pulls the documents closer. We see they are marked Colonizer 2 Project-Confidential.

JESS I thought you knew more than you were telling!

Brinkley looks hard at Jessica.

BRINKLEY If I had told you all I knew back at the hospital, you wouldn't have believed a word of it.

JIM She had to see it her self!

BRINKLEY That's correct. Now, I'm here to correct this disaster. Them damn things are hard to kill.

JESS What the hell are they?

Brinkley opens the document. A photo of a Chupacabra appears.

BRINKLEY

The Chupacabras are a product of crossing Alien DNA from Area 51 with human embryos. The smaller creatures are a cross with Alien DNA, and ape embryos. Thompson was attempting to develop the ultimate fighting machine.

Brinkley thinks back to before Hugo.

EXT. COLONIZER 2 BASE- SECURED AREA MORNING

Several heavily armed Soldiers run into a compound behind the base that is surrounded by security fences. High voltage humming can be heard from the fencing. They position themselves in different areas.

A viewing glass can be seen above the compound. Thompson and Brinkley walk up to the glass.

INT. VIEWING AREA -- CONTINUOUS

GENERAL Are your men ready?

BRINKLEY

Yes, sir.

Thompson leans over to a control panel, pushes a button.

GENERAL

Open the door!

EXT. SECURED AREA -- CONTINUOUS

We see a wall panel sliding open, slowly, bars of a cage can be seen. Then a large cage rolls out into the daylight. A large Chupacabra comes into view, wailing madly as the compound light contacts it. The beast becomes violent, shaking at the cage. It tries to bend the bars. Suddenly, there is a click, the door opens and the beast steps out of the cage into the compound.

Looking over the area, the Chupacabra sniffs the air as it rises to a height of six feet tall. A soldier rustles some brush, the beast lunges toward the sounds. He then steps into sight and open fires on the approaching creature. It hesitates with a roar that vibrates the viewing glass. Turns toward the fence and grabs the wire.

Explosive voltage lights up the area, shaking the creature and making it extremely violent. In one huge leap, it jumps in front of the soldier, grabs the firing weapon, slings it into the electric fence. There is another power flash.

Several other soldiers are now in the open, firing. The beast slams its long knife-like claws deep into the first soldier's chest. Ignoring the bullets the beast continues its rage unscratched.

The soldier's limp body is thrown toward the remaining soldiers, knocking one man to the ground. The dead man lands on top, pinning the others down. Instantly the beast is on top of the other two shredding their bodies, Blood and flesh is rain all over the compound. The remaining soldiers retreat still firing as they withdraw.

INT. VIEWING AREA -- CONTINUOUS

A MAN'S severed hand hits the glass and slides down leaving a trail of blood.

BRINKLEY For God's sake, stop this. It's going to kill them all!

Thompson is enraptured and does not respond.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D) Stop this now!

GENERAL

Very well.

Thompson leans back to the control panel.

GENERAL (CONT'D) Get it back in the cage!

Through the glass we see a high intensity a light from guard post above the compound. The beam hits the creature as a second light comes on. The attack stops as the creature covers its eyes and it starts backing toward the compound as if the light is frightening the beast. Within moments, the lights guild the creature, and it backs into its cage. The door closes.

> BRINKLEY This is a bunch of shit! You killed them for no reason!

GENERAL It had to be done... for testing.

Thompson smiles as he watches the creature roll back into the building.

GENERAL (CONT'D) (Mumbling) Perfect!

Brinkley looks very angry and exits the room.

EXT. TAVERN--PRESENT TIME

Brinkley returns his train of thought. He looks at Jessica.

BRINKLEY

I'm taking a team to where the old base once stood. Care to join me?

Jessica stands up, enthusiastic.

JESS You damn right!

Jim and Brinkley stand and all three start toward the exit.

JIM

By the way, why were you in the hospital, if you could have left at any time?

Brinkley stops walking a moment, looks hard at the two of them.

BRINKLEY

I was put there by Thompson years ago in an attempt to keep me silent. Then Salvador called me, I pulled a few strings, showed some proof to the military, and here I am.

JIM

If Thompson is responsible for all this, how is he running for office?

BRINKLEY

(Laughing) When we get back, we'll expose his little secret!

EXT. COLONIZER 2 BASE- SECURED AREA--NIGHT -- LATER

Several JEEPS and a TRUCK pull up in front of the base. The building covered in vines and other native growth, through the vegetation, the structure can be seen still intact, only showing a few burned out areas.

The first jeep stops, a searchlight suddenly turns on. We see Brinkley, Jim, and Jessica and an armed soldier sitting in the first jeep.

BRINKLEY I didn't think it was destroyed.

JESS Looks like Hugo did do this damage.

BRINKLEY

It didn't. The army ordered it destroyed right after Hugo. I was here with a team searching for survivors. Everyone in my outfit was killed by those damn beasts!

JIM

How did you escape?

BRINKLEY

I almost didn't! One of the beast attacked, but I managed to escape its hold. I hid out in a tunnel, thankfully, the team sent to destroy the base made a fast search and found me half dead.

JESS

You searched for survivors? Were there any?

BRINKLEY

Your father couldn't have survived. If he made it through Hugo's fury, those creatures would have killed him. I hope the storm kill him so he wouldn't have been massacred.

Several searchlights are now shining over the area and a team of soldiers jump out of the truck all heavily armed.

JESS

But you didn't find his body. He might have survived.

BRINKLEY

Jessica, we found the people he worked closely with...all dead. If his body was here, it wasn't recognizable. There would have been no way he could have escaped.

JIM

Give it up Jess, it's over, he's gone.

BRINKLEY

I called Henson a slacker, but he was a good man, and a good officer.

The three exit and start toward the base. The armed team follows closely.

JIM Sure you have enough firepower?

BRINKLEY Those men are carrying armor piercing bullets. They will tear those things in half.

CRACKLING BRUSH sounds puts the team on alert. Then, loud thrashing of the growth combines with running sounds; suddenly a large Chupacabra jumps out of the forest emitting a powerful BELLOW. It stands upright, nearly reaching six feet tall.

Jim grabs Jessica in fear. Brinkley pulls the civilians behind him.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D)

Kill it!

The creature lunges toward the soldiers and the open fire. The powerful bullets shred the creature, hair, blood, claws, and limbs fly off of the beast, then it falls lifeless.

They all advance to the Base's gate. TWO SOLDIERS step inside prepared to shoot; another turns on a powerful light as Brinkly enters.

INT. COLONIZER 2 BASE

RUNNING sounds are heard.

A SOLDIER shoots toward a small creature that attempts to run toward a darkened hall. It falls dead. More running sounds fill the air then, the base becomes silent.

Jim and Jessica step inside behind Brinkley.

JESS How many do you think?

BRINKLEY Too damn many! They have run into the lower levels.

JIM Lower levels? How many levels does this place have? The group moves deeper into the base. Several offices come into view.

JESS

Look!

Jessica points to an office that still bears the name "Captain Henson." She runs toward the office, Jim and Brinkley try to stop her but fail.

BRINKLEY It might not be safe!

They follow her.

INT. OFFICE

Jessica finds her fathers desk, looks over old photos then, looks in the drawers. She finds documents, then a journal. The pages are filled with notes to his wife then, a page comes into view.

DEAR JESS

If you're reading this then I guess I'm dead. Don't think badly of me, I was only following orders. We were playing God, mixing DNA of two separate races, human and alien and the results most often died excruciating deaths. But eventually, we learned how to suppress the cell tissue rejection and created, hybrid monsters, which if they were allowed to grow to maturity would be strong, powerful and almost indestructible. This is what the US Military under, General Thompson wanted all along: a fighting being that would take almost any punishment. We had problems controlling our hybrids. Their emotions were never stable and they would kill indiscriminately. It had been decided to close the operation down. Then three hours ago, Hurricane Hugo hit the base I have been trying to kill the remaining hybrids. (MORE)

DEAR JESS (CONT'D)

Heaven help this island if any were to escape! I'm going now to the holding room to finish off the last ones Prey that I can complete my task.

(Beat)

Love Dad.

Brinkley looks toward his soldiers.

BRINKLEY Start a sweep; kill every creature!

Jessica is standing at the desk crying. Jim is trying to comfort Jessica.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D) There is one thing Henson didn't mention. We both thought Thompson was betraying the government. Filing false reports, and maybe even hiding some of the DNA for future research.

SEVERAL SHOTS echo through the corridors. Then voices echo into the office.

SOLDIER My god, someone's alive!

Brinkley exits the office; Jessica and Jim follow him. Halfway down a corridor an office comes into view, inside, Brittny, nude, unconscious, her body has many cuts and she is in extreme shock.

A SOLDIER reaches down to check her pulse.

SOLDIER (CONT'D) She's alive, but barely!

BRINKLEY Get her out to the truck!

More SHOTS echo through the compound, then a soldier calls out.

SOLDIER 2 Major, you better come look at this! Brinkly, Jim, and Jessica walk out of the room and toward the soldiers. They have a door opened to a lover floor. As the three near, they see the floor below covered with eggcrate looking cases.

> BRINKLEY (To Jessica and Jim) You two get back out of here. Soldier, take then to the jeep.

JESS What are you going to do?

BRINKLEY We are setting several explosive charges. Now go.

A SOLDIER leads Jessica and Jim out.

Brinkley looks at the remaining soldiers.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D)

Blow it.

A SOLDIER takes a backpack off; he opens it and places several charges near the door. They start back toward the exit, leaving a trail of explosives behind.

EXT. COLONIZER 2 BASE -- MOMENTS LATER

Brinkley and his men make a fast exit.

BRINKLEY Load up and pull back.

The jeeps and truck pull back a safe distance.

JESS Will those charges be enough?

BRINKLEY Yes, with a little help!

Brinkley picks up a radio.

BRINKLEY (CONT'D) Bring em' in and hit it hard!

Morning twilight shows TWO ASSAULT HELICOPTERS appearing on the horizon. They speed toward the base and launch several missiles. BRINKLEY (CONT'D) With those bunker busters, and the toxic explosives we set. Nothing should survive!

Loud explosions vibrate the team.

Jessica covers her ears then, a brilliant fireball rises high in the sky.

JIM Think that's all of them?

BRINKLEY I hope, but we'll keep several teams searching the area, just in case. (Beat) Now, should we go cast our vote?

EXT. MIAMI -- DAY

A political rally comes into view. Thompson is mingling in a crowd of voters. He shakes the hand of a woman holding a small child.

> GENERAL It's his future we need to conceder.

Thompson rubs the child's head.

GENERAL (CONT'D) With your help, I'll do my best to make sure his future is one he can look forward too!

An AIDE walks up to the General, he whispers in his ear.

GENERAL (CONT'D) Please excuse me, Miss.

WOMAN Thank you for your views, General.

GENERAL

Your welcome!

Thompson looks worried; he scans through the crowd and sees Brinkley with Jessica, Jim and TWO OFFICERS approaching. He scurries through the crowd; the officers give chase but lose him. THE crowd sees the chase, questions flare up and chatter fills the air.

VOICE I wonder what that was about?

INT. GENERAL THOMPSON'S HOME -- LATER

Thompson is searching his basement, finds a box and hid in a secret compartment then, hurries back up to his den. He opens a file cabinet filled with documents, crumbles one up, sets it on fire and throws it into the files. He starts to his living room door, but stops when he sees Brinkley and two officers attempting to enter his home. He turns and runs to the back door.

BRINKLEY

He's going out the back.

Brinkley runs around the house, followed by the officers.

Thompson runs to a rail overlooking the ocean, looks down on the rocky beach 50 feet below. Brinkley corners him.

> BRINKLEY (CONT'D) Did you really think you'd keep this a secret?

Thompson turns to Brinkley, anger fills his expression then, a strange red glow fills his eyes.

> BRINKLEY (CONT'D) I knew it! You're infected.

GENERAL You should have kept you mouth shut, and stayed in that hospital!

Thompson pulls a pistol out of his pocket.

Brinkly jumps him, they struggle, a shot is heard and a gaping hole explodes open in Thompson's back, it does not weaken him. HE grabs Brinkley's throat, they struggle. Thompson pushes Brinkley against the safety rail. He starts to fall over, but grab's Thompson. The two plunge to their deaths.

THE officers hear an explosion; they look back and see the home in flames.

Jesica and Jim approach the officers.

JESS He destroyed the proof we needed!

JIM Looks like it. I guess we'll never know what he was up to?

EXT. GENERAL THOMPSON'S HOME DAYS LATER

There are only piles of derbies, some still smoking.

A SHOT zooms in on the destruction, then, drifts below ground. A case comes into view, inside Chupacabra eggs.

FADE OUT

Can Add a scene her showing Brittney in a secret lab, being tested.