

"N"

By

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EXT. NIGHT SKY

We open on the night sky. An BRIGHT OBJECT trails overhead.

We follow through various amateur clips, keeping our eyes on what now looks like a METEOR come crashing down over Western Quebec.

A jumble of audio from news reports plays overhead:

NEWS REPORT #1

Breaking news: meteor spotted in the night sky.

NEWS REPORT #2

Meteor strike reported in Western Quebec.

NEWS REPORT #3

Reports are confused but...

NEWS REPORT #4

Meteorologist in Quebec rejoice! A possible meteor landing in the vicinity of Ste-Justine.

INT. STUDY

An EXPERT (40), sits in a chair, off-centered. He faces an INTERVIEWER who's off-screen.

INTERVIEWER (O.C.)

Okay, we rolling? Good. Let's take it from the beginning. What was so special about that night in December.

EXPERT

Scientifically speaking, very little. However, what does science have to do with the machinations of our minds?

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

NEWS CLIP

OVERLAY: WQC NEWS - METEOR IMPACT IN WESTERN QUEBEC

Winter street. Old snow and ice cover everything.

(CONTINUED)

A MAN (50), stands at the end of his driveway, leaning on a shovel. His eyes are on a REPORTER standing nearby.

The man speaks in FRENCH but a woman's voice with ENGLISH TRANSLATION plays over him.

MAN

There was a light, overhead, like a flare, trailing in the sky. Then, a loud noise. BOOM! Over there, beyond the forest.

He points to the dark, thick woods in the background.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

We find ourselves on the inside of a moving vehicle. We're driving along an old country road. High beams light up the road ahead while dense forest boxes in both sides of the street.

NATHAN (30), sits in the passenger seat. He's holding a hand-held camera. DAVID (32), his brother, drives, while MARIE (25), his girlfriend, sits in the backseat leaning forward.

MARIE

We must be close.

Nathan spots a light beyond the trees.

NATHAN

Stop the car! It's nearby!

QUICK CUTS:

The car pulls over;

The three passengers file out, and slam their doors.

EXPERT (V.O.)

It's not the first time debris has fallen to earth.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY

EXPERT  
Nor the last.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSIDE

Nathan, David and Marie hurry through the woods towards the light.

David leads the way. As they push past a patch of evergreens, David approaches a large and misshapen CYLINDER in the snow trapped behind some broken branches.

DAVID  
What the hell is this?!

NATHAN  
Wait! Don't touch it! Let me get the camera.

SUDDENLY --

AGENT #1 (O.C.)  
Hold it right there!

We turn to see AGENT #1, a figure in uniform wearing a surgical mask and gloves. He approaches the newcomers.

There's a rustling in the bushes. AGENT #2 emerges, carrying a handgun.

AGENT #2  
This is a restricted area. Turn around and go back to your vehicle now!

Nathan argues with the Agents but the audio is clipped by his voice over.

NATHAN (V.O.)  
I tried to tell them that I was a journalist, but they had none of it. They just sent us away, told us they were part of the surete...

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT

WEBCAM FOOTAGE

We're in Nathan's messy apartment. Nathan and David sit in the frame, looking into the computer monitor that films them. Marie hovers in the background nervously.

NATHAN

... but they didn't look like any  
cops we've ever seen.

David SNEEZES! and covers his lower face with his hand nervously.

INT. STUDY

EXPERT

Meteors, comets, auroras, every  
sort of astral event... they've all  
held a certain mythological  
significance to our species. I  
mean, how else are they going to  
explain what they cannot  
understand?

INT. BASEMENT

WEBCAM

We're in a small room. Christian extremist posters cover the walls behind us. A large crucifix hangs from a hook.

A fiery RELIGIOUS NUT (30) waves a bible and addresses his unseen audience.

RELIGIOUS NUT

This is the end times. It's all in  
here! You saw it in the news. Well,  
I saw it in this book.

He flicks to a page and begins to recite.

RELIGIOUS NUT (CONT.)

They shall be marked on the right  
hand and their forehead. The name  
of the beast and the number of its  
name!

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nathan is seated at his computer.

We hear coughing from the other room, followed by a CRASH!

Nathan gets up and we follow him to the kitchen.

NATHAN

David?

As he rounds the corner, cutlery is scattered over the floor. We discover David, facing away and leaning over a sink. There's blood all around the basin.

He's moving his arm up and down, but we can't see what's in his hand.

DAVID

Gotta get them out. Gotta get them out.

NATHAN

David?! Stop!

David turns around. His forehead is a cut to ribbons, and so is the back of one hand. In the free hand, he holds a bloody kitchen knife!

DAVID

They're in me. Can't you feel them too?

David slumps to the floor as Nathan rushes over.

NATHAN

Marie! Help!

EXT. COMMUNITY - DAY

NEWS CLIP

WQC NEWS - DEADLY INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

We see footage of a quiet, rural Quebec community in the middle of winter. A single car passes down the empty town.

REPORTER (O.C.)

We turn to the small community of St-Joseph where the seasonal influenza outbreak turned deadly this year, having already claimed

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER (O.C.) (cont'd)  
five lives. Health authorities are  
quick to point out that this is not  
H1N1 or any other...

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

WEBCAM

Nathan sits in front of his computer, alone. His face is red  
and his eyes are watery.

NATHAN  
David never made it to the  
hospital. They said it was the flu,  
but it was bullshit.

He pauses to wipe his face.

NATHAN (CONT.)  
They lied to me. They fucking lied  
to me.

Marie appears in the background. She approaches Nathan and  
hugs him from behind.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

We're in inside a well-lit conference room. Two GOVERNMENT  
REPS, well-dressed and looking controlled, sit behind a  
table. Two JOURNALISTS are in the frame, but the clamor  
suggests there are more.

REP #1  
Next question! You there from WQC.

She points to a hand in the audience.

JOURNALIST  
What about the allegations  
spreading across the internet and  
in the wake of the recent email  
leaks? There's all this talk of a  
'strain N' - are we looking at a  
cover up?

(CONTINUED)

REP #2  
Cover up? Cover what up?

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT

NATHAN  
My brother is... David, he...

Nathan can't finish his sentence.

MARIE  
It's okay. It's okay.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

JOURNALIST  
So you're saying a little cough and  
cold cost the lives of --

He flips through a notepad.

JOURNALIST (CONT.)  
Eighteen people as of yesterday's  
count, all in a single small town?

REP #2  
There's nothing to suggest this is  
anything other than the seasonal  
influenza.

The room gets rowdy. The Reps try to restore order.

REP #1  
Next question!

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is in disarray. The front door is open, and  
the room is lit up from the headlights of a car parked  
outside. Snow is tumbles into the room.

Nathan and Marie scurry back and forth with boxes and bags  
of things into the car.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

What else are we missing?

MARIE

Just one more bag then we're good  
to go.

NATHAN

Okay, but hurry!

We follow Marie as she heads into the bedroom. She goes to take a bag from the bed by a window, but as she approaches...

SUDDENLY -- we briefly see a BLOODIED FACE behind the glass!  
But then it's gone.

MARIE

What the hell!

Nathan rushes in.

NATHAN

What is it?

MARIE

A face. There was someone in the  
window.

Nathan takes her hand.

NATHAN

Let's get out of here.

The two of them rush back out the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

REP #1

Listen, we see no reason to  
quarantine the area around the  
crash site.

REP #2

Last one. You there!

The Rep signals a person in the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

JOURNALIST #2

Excuse me minister, but is it  
policy to refer to a meteor impact  
as a crash site?

The Reps look like they slipped up.

Rep #2 is about to respond but SNEEZES. Her face is  
surprised. Blood leaks through her fingers and onto the  
table.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

HAND-HELD

We're with Nathan and Marie driving through the night.  
There's heavy snow outside and the wipers are on full tilt.

Marie plays with the radio, but all they receive is static  
and emergency broadcasts.

As the vehicle rounds a corner we make out multiple FIGURES  
standing still in the street. Nathan slows the vehicle down.

MARIE

Why are you stopping? Just go! Just  
go!

NATHAN

I can't just run them over!

He flicks on the high beams and honks. The figures turn  
towards the car.

MARIE

They're coming here!

NATHAN

Calm down. Think clearly. Maybe  
they just need help.

Marie tugs at his coat, but Nathan is indecisive.

EXPERT (V.O.)

People are going to see signs and  
portents where they will...

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY

EXPERT

The lore around UFOS,  
extra-terrestrials, visitations...  
it's all very much wrapped up in a  
belief of the paranormal and the  
supernatural.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The figures are approaching the car out front. As they near,  
we see that they are covered in blood - with marks on their  
forehead and hands.

NATHAN

Oh shit!

MARIE

Back up, back up, back up!

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT

RELIGIOUS NUT

But the dead will live, their  
bodies rise, and the earth will  
give birth to her dead once again!

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Marie turns to lock her door.

SUDDENLY -- Agent #1 with a bloody surgical mask appears in  
her window. A bloodied hand slams against the glass.

EXPERT (V.O.)

Angels, demons...

INT. STUDY

EXPERT

They're symbols; humanity's way of  
coping with the unknown.

What it all comes down to, when you  
stop and look at the data, is that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EXPERT (cont'd)  
99% of all these occurrences can be  
attributed to natural phenomena.

INTERVIEWER (O.C.)  
What about the other 1%?

The Expert looks annoyed and is about to speak, but then he sneezes!

When he takes away his hand, it's covered with blood.

END