

REGENESIS
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET #1 - MORNING

A steady rain pours from the gray skies above downtown Roanoke, Virginia. Several tall buildings dominate the skyline as the street below bustles with traffic.

Several PEDESTRIANS march along the sidewalk and past the many storefronts on their way to work. A bluesy harmonica riff cuts through the air.

GABRIEL QUINN (32), a slender man with scraggly hair and an unkempt beard, sits under an eave and plays his harmonica. A few passersby toss spare change into a nearby hat.

A BUSINESSMAN lost in his own world pushes his way past the pedestrians. He marches down the street and loudly yammers into his cell phone.

BUSINESSMAN

You tell that son of a bitch I won't settle for anything less than high six-figures. If he screws with me --

He absentmindedly plows into Gabriel and sends them both to the pavement. The businessman scrambles to his feet and appeals to the pedestrians in the area.

BUSINESSMAN

You see that?! This bum attacked me! What the hell you doing in the middle of the sidewalk, anyway?!

GABRIEL

Hey, I'm just trying to play my --

BUSINESSMAN

Why don't you get a job like the rest of us?! God, you people are pathetic! Why don't you do something useful with your life?!

The businessman kicks Gabriel's hat and scatters loose change all over the sidewalk before he marches off. Gabriel turns to the assembled crowd for help.

The pedestrians nervously turn away and quickly go about their business. Gabriel gets down on his hands and knees and slowly gathers up the loose change.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET #2 - MORNING

A STREET VENDOR (40) mans a portable stand near a busy intersection and sells his wares to some of the PEDESTRIANS in the area. He perks up as Gabriel appears on the scene.

STREET VENDOR
Mornin', Gabe. The usual?

GABRIEL
Yeah, thanks.

Gabriel hands over a handful of change and receives a hot dog and hot pretzel in return.

STREET VENDOR
Ya look like hell, man. Ya stay at the shelter?

GABRIEL
It was full by the time I got there.

STREET VENDOR
Ya hear back 'bout that temp job?

GABRIEL
Turned me down. Said I was overqualified.

STREET VENDOR
What? That's good, ain't it?

GABRIEL
Apparently not.

STREET VENDOR
Don't get it, Gabe. Ya got a degree, ya got experience, and ya livin' on the streets?

GABRIEL
Well, when your job gets outsourced the same day your wife cleans out your accounts and leaves you for another man, maybe you'll understand.

STREET VENDOR
Oh, well, ya still got ya health --

A big rig speeds through the intersection and slams into the side of a compact car. Gabriel, the street vendor, and the pedestrians in the area quickly spin around.

The semi pushes the car down the street. A transport truck loaded with several large cast-iron pipes appears ahead of the vehicles. The second truck honks its horn to no avail.

The two large trucks collide and crush the smaller vehicle between them. Gasoline spills from the compact car's gas tank and spreads all about the area.

The two male TRUCK DRIVERS stumble out of their vehicles and approach the crippled car. The men pull a dazed YOUNG WOMAN (24) out of the vehicle and carry her away.

The drivers sit the young woman on the pavement near the portable stand. Gabriel, the street vendor, and several pedestrians gather around her.

TRUCK DRIVER #1

Oh, God! I'm so sorry! My brakes failed and I --

TRUCK DRIVER #2

Never mind that now. You all right there, lady?

YOUNG WOMAN

Where's my little girl?

The crowd looks toward the crippled compact car. The gasoline around the vehicle ignites and engulfs it in flames. The young woman points and screams hysterically.

YOUNG WOMAN

My little girl's still in there!
Somebody do something!

Gabriel waits for someone to act only to watch as they all shy away from any involvement. He narrows his eyes, pushes his way through the mob, and races toward the fire.

He shields his face and weaves through the flames. He reaches the compact car and heads for the open driver-side door. He stops as a loud clang cuts through the air.

He looks on as a cast-iron pipe tumbles out of the transport truck's trailer and heads toward him. He dives out of the way as the pipe crushes the front of the compact car.

He scrambles to his feet as a scream echoes from inside the vehicle. He looks through a side window and peers into the rear of the compact car.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. COMPACT CAR - MORNING

A YOUNG GIRL (4) screams in terror as tears stream down her face. Gabriel tries the door only to find it locked. He pounds on the window and calls out to her.

GABRIEL

Open the door! Open the door!

She fails to notice him and remains fixated on the flames which surround the vehicle. He grits his teeth, clenches his fist, and throws a punch at the window.

She spins around in shock as his fist smashes through the glass pane. He unlocks the door, crawls inside, removes the seat belt, and pulls her out of the vehicle.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET #2 - MORNING

Gabriel recoils at the heat from the flames in the area. He removes his coat, wraps it around the young girl, and searches for a path through the inferno.

The pair looks back at the transport truck as another cast-iron pipe noisily tumbles toward them. He dives onto the ground and shields her with his body.

The pipe bounces off the crippled compact car, lands on the pavement, and pins Gabriel's lower legs underneath it. He wails as tears of anguish pour down his face.

He looks through a gap in the flames and spots the young mother as she looks on from across the street. He directs the young girl toward the open space.

GABRIEL

Run! Run!

The young girl scurries through the gap. The young mother rushes onto the street and embraces her daughter.

YOUNG GIRL

Mommy!

YOUNG WOMAN

My little baby!

The young mother looks through the flames and spots Gabriel trapped amidst the inferno. She turns around and calls out to the assembled crowd.

YOUNG WOMAN

Oh, my God! He's trapped in there!

The people in the area exchange looks but none step forward. Gabriel trembles with fear and a torrent of sweat pours from his brow as the flames draw closer and closer.

He looks back as several cast-iron pipes noisily spill out of the transport truck. He watches helplessly as they tumble out of the sky and prepare to crush him to death...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A photograph of a newborn appears on a projection screen.

AUDREY (O.S.)

Life. So precious, yet so fragile.

DR. AUDREY MANNING (45), a cheerful and confident blonde, steps into view next to the screen. The spacious room is part of a large office building.

NEIL TRAYNOR (42), a gruff man in a dark suit, sits at a table and listens attentively. Four of TRAYNOR'S AIDES occupy the seats nearby and studiously take notes.

SHELTON BELIVEAU (54), a timid and bespectacled man, stands off to one side. The photograph of the newborn is replaced by a series of photos of increasingly older people.

AUDREY

We've made great strides in the treatment and prevention of disease and injury as well as the remedying of age-related afflictions. Still, despite our best efforts, the march of time will eventually claim us all.

The photograph of an elderly woman on the screen morphs into a photo of a youthful beauty.

AUDREY

Or will it? What if the clock could be stopped, or reversed? What if the clock, once expired, could be reset? Just a dream? Well, here at NexGenics, it's not a dream. It's reality, and it's called Regenesiis.

She narrates an animated video of the cell division process as it plays on the screen.

AUDREY

As the cells in our body wear out, they are replaced through division. These divisions damage the telomere which protects the chromosomes inside each cell. After fifty-two divisions or so, a cell can no longer divide.

The animation includes a fluorescent green substance which engulfs the cells on the screen.

AUDREY

This would lead to certain death if it weren't for our breakthrough. Regeneration works by entering each cell, repairing the telomere, and giving the cell division process a jumpstart. This process works even when the subject is deceased.

Traynor's aides murmur amongst themselves. Audrey and Shelton share a smile and a nod. Traynor raises his hand.

TRAYNOR

This presentation is fascinating, Dr. Manning, but I'm not interested in animations.

AUDREY

Would a recording of one of our experiments suffice?

A recording on the screen shows two LAB ASSISTANTS place a RABBIT inside a glass box. The animal panics as the box fills with water. The rabbit struggles but quickly drowns.

Traynor coldly looks on while his aides turn away. One assistant places the dead rabbit on the table while the other places a stopwatch next to the animal.

AUDREY

There's no chance of reviving an animal after two hours, especially once rigor mortis has set in.

The recording jumps ahead two hours. One assistant moves the rabbit and shows the effects of rigor mortis.

The other injects a fluorescent green fluid into the animal. The pair places the rabbit inside a locked steel cage.

AUDREY

That is, until Regeneration is introduced into the test subject.

The recording jumps another two hours ahead. The rabbit's corpse starts to twitch. Traynor and his aides lean forward as the animal convulses.

AUDREY

From death, gentlemen, comes life.

The rabbit opens its eyes and leaps to its feet. Traynor shakes his head while his aides gasp in surprise.

The animal screeches and frantically gnaws on the cage bars. Audrey beams with pride as the recording comes to an end.

TRAYNOR

That... That was real? No tricks?

AUDREY

We have dozens of experiments on file, Mr. Traynor. You're welcome to view any of them in their entirety.

TRAYNOR

You... You revived a dead animal after four hours --

AUDREY

A walk in the park.

TRAYNOR

-- and returned it to normal?

Audrey nervously smiles through clenched teeth.

AUDREY

Well, not exactly.

DIRECT CUT TO:

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - LARGE LAB - DAY

A CAT roars with fury as fresh blood drips from its mouth. Two of the many LAB ASSISTANTS in the area struggle to hold the animal down on a table.

The spacious laboratory is the home to several lab animals. The area is separated into four equal sections by walls of shelves and partitions.

The second section is home to eleven other CATS which are held in a series of stacked cages. The doors of the enclosures are managed via a control panel on the wall.

DR. HARRISON OGILVY (48), a soft-spoken gray-haired man, produces a syringe and a vial of sedative. He quickly readies the shot and approaches the ferocious animal.

HARRISON

Hold her still! Hold her still!

Harrison injects the cat with the sedative. The animal ceases its struggles and eventually falls limp. The two lab assistants place the cat back in its cage.

PETER (30), a haughty blonde lab assistant, casually steps into view. Harrison turns to him as he grabs a handkerchief and wearily wipes the sweat from his brow.

HARRISON

Wanna tell me what happened?

PETER

The incompetents you surrounded me with let the cat loose. What else is there to say?

URSULA (28), a normally cheerful redheaded lab assistant, sits on the floor and whimpers. Blood flows from a few bites and scratches on her forearm.

Harrison helps Ursula back onto her feet and examines the wounds on her arm. Peter appears a moment later and impassively leans against a nearby wall.

URSULA

I'm sorry, Dr. Ogilvy. I should've been more careful --

HARRISON

Don't blame yourself, Ursula. Well, at least you're not seriously hurt. Peter, take her to the infirmary.

Peter escorts Ursula away from the area.

URSULA

Thanks for your help, by the way. I really appreciated being used as a human shield.

PETER

Hey, I'm not getting attacked by one of those things! Quit whining, you'll be fine.

Harrison looks on as the pair leaves the room. He eyes the cats in their cages and shakes his head.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Audrey and Shelton watch as Traynor paces back and forth with an exacerbated look on his face.

TRAYNOR

You mean to tell me you've created some sort of menagerie of psychotic animals here?!

SHELTON

Don't be overdramatic, Mr. Traynor.

TRAYNOR

Overdramatic?! The Department of Defense has been funding this project for the past twelve years, Mr. Beliveau! Your company's received hundreds of millions of dollars in military grants and this is what you've done with it?!

SHELTON

Resurrecting the dead is hardly worthless! This research could have profound effects not just on the military but on society as a whole. Just imagine, no more soldiers dying in combat, no more innocent civilians killed in the crossfire --

AUDREY

Besides, we haven't even touched on the tremendous physical benefits the Regeneration formula provides.

Traynor arches an eyebrow in response.

TRAYNOR

What physical benefits?

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - LARGE LAB - DAY

Several LAB ASSISTANTS mill about the third section of the room while engaged in various tasks. Eleven DOGS are held in a series of cages along one of the walls.

Harrison examines a tranquilized twelfth DOG as it lies on a table. The animal has an abnormally muscular physique far too large for its frame.

VICTOR (32), a lab assistant with black hair and matching beard, holds a measuring tape. JEANETTE (30), another lab assistant with short blonde hair, grips a pair of calipers.

HARRISON

He's grown quite a bit, hasn't he?

VICTOR

Not only have its bones thickened, Doctor, but they've lengthened as well. I haven't run the tests yet, but I bet the tendons and ligaments have undergone the same change.

HARRISON

I'm inclined to agree, Victor. Have you altered his diet, Jeanette?

JEANETTE

I've increased its caloric intake, but its body fat keeps declining. Everything it eats is used to build and maintain its muscle mass.

HARRISON

Good work, you two.

Harrison steps away while Victor and Jeanette prepare to place the dog back in its cage.

VICTOR

Good work, huh? Looks like I'm gettin' that raise.

JEANETTE

You can keep mine as long as I get that promotion.

Harrison eyes the large dog and strokes his chin in thought.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Traynor strokes his chin and turns to Audrey.

TRAYNOR

That's all well and good, Doctor, but these physical benefits are useless if the subject can't be controlled.

AUDREY

I believe we may have solved that problem. My colleague, Dr. Ogilvy, has developed a secondary formula which has shown promising results in keeping the animals under control.

TRAYNOR

How promising?

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - LARGE LAB - DAY

Several LAB ASSISTANTS busily mill about the last section of the room. SCRAPPY, a large mountain gorilla, slumps his head against the steel bars of his cage.

CHRISTINE DEMELO (32), an amiable brunette lab assistant, calmly applies a bandage. RICHARD LIPTON (35), a sociable lab assistant with short brown hair, crouches nearby.

CHRISTINE

That's okay, Scrappy. There you go. I don't know why he keeps hitting his head on the bars.

RICHARD

Well, if he tosses or destroys the toys we give him, there's not much else for him to do.

Harrison arrives and joins the pair in front of the cage.

HARRISON

Richard, what's the latest on our friend here?

RICHARD

His metabolism, blood pressure, heart rate... Everything's returning to normal. Looks like your secondary formula's working, Doc.

HARRISON

His temperament, Christine?

CHRISTINE

He's calmed down considerably. The problem now is, instead of being angry, he's depressed.

Scrappy moans and slumps against the bars. Harrison reaches out and gently strokes his head.

HARRISON

Don't worry, Scrappy. I'll find a way to make this better, I promise.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Audrey and Shelton look on as Traynor rises to his feet.

TRAYNOR

There's a big difference between a gorilla and a man, Doctor. When will you be able to start human trials?

AUDREY

We're almost there, I promise you, but you have to understand we can't rush this type of research.

TRAYNOR

I'm sorry, but we don't have the luxury of funding research without short-term promise. If there's no immediate potential in this project, I'll have to recommend a reduction --

SHELTON

Human trials will be ready shortly.

Audrey, Traynor, and his aides are all left flabbergasted.

SHELTON

We didn't want to mention it until the Department of Defense had a chance to review the science. We didn't want to look hasty but we are ready to begin human trials.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SHELTON'S OFFICE - DAY

The large and plush room features a textured glass wall complete with a matching door. Shelton and the aides look on as Audrey hands Traynor a bound compendium.

AUDREY

This should give your colleagues an overview of our research.

Traynor eyes the compendium and turns to Shelton.

TRAYNOR

Have you completed the paperwork we discussed earlier?

SHELTON

Yes, it should be finalized in another day or two.

TRAYNOR

The security measures I requested?

SHELTON

We completed the work last week. If you'd like to inspect it yourself, I'll have Ingram give you the tour.

Traynor nods and shakes Audrey and Shelton's hands.

TRAYNOR

Dr. Manning. Mr. Beliveau.

Traynor leads his aides out of the room. Shelton turns to Audrey as she nervously paces back and forth.

AUDREY

Human trials?

SHELTON

I didn't have a choice.

AUDREY

Shelton, we're just not ready.

SHELTON

We can't lose our funding, Audrey.

AUDREY

We can apply for other grants --

SHELTON

None of which can pay us as well as the Pentagon. Look, I've poured every dollar I can into your research. I've had to sell the land and building just to keep afloat. If we don't keep our grant, I'll have to file for bankruptcy. Do you know what that will mean for your research?

She leans against his desk and wearily shakes her head.

AUDREY

I can't have my work delayed. If I can make this discovery, others will be capable of similar breakthroughs. I won't allow history to give the credit to anyone else.

SHELTON

That's the question, isn't it? Will you let the last twelve years go to waste or will you take this one last step? Will you be just another researcher or will you be the woman who saved billions of lives?

He looks on as she hangs her head and thinks to herself.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - LARGE LAB - DAY

Harrison stands across from Scrappy's cage and in front of a large window which leads to an office next door. Christine and Richard look on as he scans some forms.

RICHARD

You've found the right combination of chemicals this time, Doc.

CHRISTINE

I agree, it just finding the exact amounts of each chemical to use.

Harrison nods in agreement as Audrey arrives on the scene.

AUDREY

Harrison! I'd like a word with you.

HARRISON

What's on your mind, Audrey?

AUDREY

Not here. The office.

Harrison hands the forms to his lab assistants and follows Audrey into the office. Christine and Richard sit down at a nearby workspace and look over the forms for a moment.

RICHARD

Why didn't you tell me you're leaving, Chris?

CHRISTINE

What? How'd you find out?

RICHARD

I've got friends in Accounting.

CHRISTINE

Sorry, Rick, I was going to tell everyone on Monday.

RICHARD

Where you off to?

CHRISTINE

I'm going to teach biology at a community college in California. It's nothing special, but I've always wanted to teach.

RICHARD

I'm happy for you, honest, but why leave now? I mean, with all the progress we've been making, you have a chance to be part of something big.

CHRISTINE

I know, but with all the rumors about money troubles and pressure from the Pentagon, I'm beginning to worry we're trying to push things too far.

RICHARD

No way, not with Doc on the case.

Christine glances toward the office window and signals Richard to look as well. The pair eyes Audrey and Harrison as they have an animated conversation inside the next room.

CHRISTINE

What are they on about?

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - OFFICE - DAY

Harrison stands in the small room and glares back at Audrey.

HARRISON

Over my dead body!

AUDREY

Are you volunteering?

HARRISON

This isn't a joke, Audrey! Human trials at this stage would be disastrous! You've seen how violent the test subjects can be!

AUDREY

You've solved that problem, Harrison. Your secondary formula calmed Scrappy down from the moment he received it.

HARRISON

It's been less than a week. Who knows if the docility will last?

AUDREY

That's why a human trial would be so valuable. We could get direct feedback from the subject --

HARRISON

Assuming he doesn't try to kill us.
Does Shelton know about this?

AUDREY

Of course. I couldn't go ahead
without his say-so.

HARRISON

Well, once I'm through with him --

AUDREY

Oh, would you stop? Besides, I've
already taken the steps to accelerate
the delivery of a human subject.

HARRISON

What? It takes weeks to obtain a
human specimen. What are you gonna
do, dig up a body at the cemetery?

AUDREY

For God's sake, I'm simply talking
about pulling some strings and
cutting through the red tape.

HARRISON

How?

AUDREY

It's not that hard. You just need to
know the right people.

INT. CORONER'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

A female DEPUTY CORONER places a sheet over a body which
rests on a gurney. She signs a series of forms attached to a
clipboard and places them on top of the corpse.

A male CORONER'S ASSISTANT bursts through a set of swinging
doors and enters the room. He wheels another sheet-covered
body on a gurney toward the deputy coroner.

DEPUTY CORONER

The Good Samaritan?

CORONER'S ASSISTANT

Yeah. What a terrible way to go.

DEPUTY CORONER

At least there's only one, not two.

He hands over another clipboard filled with forms. She
gestures toward the first body.

DEPUTY CORONER

Take this one to cold storage.

The CORONER (50), a bald and rotund man, bursts into the room just as his assistant leaves. He joins his deputy and uses a handkerchief to wipe the sweat from his brow.

CORONER

Homeless man from this morning?

DEPUTY CORONER

Yes, sir.

CORONER

Any ID?

She scans the forms on the clipboard.

DEPUTY CORONER

A witness identified him as...
Gabriel Quinn.

CORONER

Family?

DEPUTY CORONER

Says they couldn't find any.

CORONER

Transient?

DEPUTY CORONER

Guess so. Looks like cremation and
the municipal cemetery --

CORONER

Say, why don't you take an early
lunch break? I'll handle this one.

DEPUTY CORONER

You sure?

CORONER

Go on, you've earned it.

DEPUTY CORONER

Really? Thanks, sir.

CORONER

Don't mention it. Really.

She hands the clipboard to her superior and steps out of the room. He scurries over to the swinging doors and locks them shut. He returns to the body and peers underneath the sheet.

CORONER

Well, beggars can't be choosers.

He marches over to a nearby telephone and places a call.

CORONER

Hello. Could you connect me to Dr.
Audrey Manning, please?

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - AUDREY'S OFFICE - DAY

The modest room features a work desk as well as a small circular table with five seats around it. Audrey sits behind the desk and wraps up a conversation over the telephone.

AUDREY

Excellent... No, thank you. Goodbye.

She ends the call and operates the phone's intercom.

AUDREY

Send for Ingram, please. Thank you.

She puts the receiver down as someone knocks on the closed office door. She rises from her seat as Shelton enters the room and shuts the door behind him.

SHELTON

You speak to Harrison?

AUDREY

He's against the plan, of course.
Don't worry, I'll use some of our
more impressionable assistants.

SHELTON

Can you get the ones working with
Scrappy? Oh, what are their names...

AUDREY

Christine DeMelo's leaving in a
couple of weeks and Richard Lipton's
too loyal to Harrison to be trusted.
Don't worry, I'm sure I can get four
others to join with me.

SHELTON

How will you stop Harrison from
interfering?

A knock on the office door cuts through the air. INGRAM
(40), the tall and athletic security chief, enters the room.

INGRAM

Called for me, ma'am?

AUDREY

Yes, Ingram, I have a job for you.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - LARGE LAB - DAY

The large room is divided into different sections separated by shelves and partitions. The space is used to carry out chemical analyses and processes.

A few LAB ASSISTANTS mill about and pass through the first section of the room. Victor and Jeanette sit at one of the many workstations in the area.

Peter and Ursula work at a second station while Christine and Richard keep busy at a third. Audrey enters the room and walks toward Victor and Jeanette.

AUDREY

Victor? Jeanette? I'd like to see you
in my office. I have a special
assignment for the both of you.

She steps away as Victor and Jeanette rise to their feet.

VICTOR

This better lead to a raise.

JEANETTE

This better lead to a promotion.

The pair leaves while Audrey approaches Peter and Ursula.

AUDREY

Peter? Ursula? I'd like to see you
both as well.

She exits the room as Peter stands up. Ursula looks on as he walks over to Christine and Richard.

PETER

Don't look so glum, you two, I'm sure
your monkeying around has Nobel
written all over it.

URSULA

Stop acting like a jackass and let's
go already.

Christine and Richard smile and shake their heads as Ursula pushes Peter toward the exit.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - LOBBY - DAY

Numerous EMPLOYEES stroll their way through the spacious area. Several large Plexiglas doors and windows let in ample amounts of sunlight.

Six SECURITY GUARDS sit behind a terminal equipped with an array of monitors and computers. Shelton appears and heads for the main doors.

HARRISON (O.S.)

Shelton! Wait up!

Shelton stops in his tracks as a mortified look washes over his face. He turns around and tries to smile as Harrison sprints onto the scene.

SHELTON

Harrison! How's your research --

HARRISON

What's this about human trials?

SHELTON

Excuse me?

HARRISON

Audrey said you gave her the go-ahead to test Regenesiis on a human subject.

SHELTON

Really?

HARRISON

Yes, and I can't stress how disastrous an idea this is from a moral and ethical perspective. Look, I know how impressive the test on Scrappy appears, but to test the formula on a deceased human being --

SHELTON

What?! No, no, no. The idea came up during today's meeting... I mean, they inquired about the feasibility of... We were just humoring them. Now, if you'll excuse me...

Shelton quickly turns tail and exits the building. Harrison folds his arms and thinks to himself.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - ENTRANCE - DAY

Harrison emerges from an elevator and marches toward the closed steel doors which lead to the animal ward. Ingram and six SECURITY GUARDS step forward and stop him in his tracks.

INGRAM

Whoa! Hold up there, Doc. Ward's off-limits.

HARRISON

Off-limits? Why?

INGRAM

That's not your concern.

HARRISON

Not my concern? What's going on?

INGRAM

I'm not at liberty to say.

HARRISON

Did Audrey put you up to this?

INGRAM

Doc, I'll hafta ask you to leave --

HARRISON

Get outta my way! I wanna see what she's up to --

Harrison tries to push his way past the group. The guards all place a hand on their service pistols and step forward. Ingram grits his teeth and glares at the doctor.

INGRAM

The ward is off-limits. I don't wanna hafta repeat myself. Now, do you need an escort back to your office?

The guards step forward and stare Harrison down.

HARRISON

I can find my own way, thanks.

Harrison marches back to the elevator and presses the call button. He turns to the others as the doors slide open.

HARRISON

If Audrey's planning what I think she is, you'll need more than those guns.

He disappears inside the elevator as the doors slide shut.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - HARRISON'S OFFICE - DAY

Harrison enters the modest room and heads straight for a work desk. He searches a tray filled with business cards.

He removes a card from the tray which reads: Frederick Eagleson -- Office of Commonwealth Preparedness.

EXT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FRONT - DAY

Numerous EMPLOYEES enter and exit the five-story tall complex. A flag with the NexGenics logo flutters in the breeze atop a tall flagpole.

Harrison exits the building and stands underneath the flagpole. He retrieves a cell phone from his pocket and dials a number printed on the business card.

HARRISON

Hello. I'd like to speak to Frederick Eagleson, please... Really? I'm calling from Lynchburg. You have a number in town where I can reach him?

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - AUDREY'S OFFICE - DAY

Audrey sits at the circular table across from Peter, Jeanette, Victor, and Ursula.

AUDREY

I realize I've caught you off-guard, but I need an answer right now.

The four lab assistants share uneasy looks. Audrey rises from her chair and slowly walks clockwise around the table.

AUDREY

I'm not sure you realize how important your decision is.

She places her hand on Peter's shoulder.

AUDREY

If this test is successful, you'll be showered with awards and accolades.

She leans her hands on the back of Jeanette's seat.

AUDREY

Every institution on the planet will beg for the chance to work with you.

She firmly pats Victor on the back.

AUDREY

You'll earn more money than you could
ever spend in a lifetime.

She places both hands on Ursula's shoulders.

AUDREY

You'll be remembered as the person
who saved the lives of billions.

The lab assistants exchange excited looks. Audrey stands
across from the group and smiles.

AUDREY

Now, do you have plans this evening?

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

Several PATRONS enjoy their meals in the cozy eatery.
Harrison sits at a small table and fidgets nervously. He
raises his head as someone enters through the main doors.

FREDERICK EAGLESON (48), a sturdy man with short blonde
hair, scans the room. Harrison rises from his seat and waves
him over. The men exchange a warm handshake.

HARRISON

Thanks for coming, Frederick.

EAGLESON

Don't be so formal, Harry.

HARRISON

Sorry, Fred. Here, have a seat.

A WAITRESS arrives as the men sit at the table.

EAGLESON

Coffee. Black.

HARRISON

Same here, thanks.

The waitress steps away as quickly as she arrived.

EAGLESON

What did you wanna see me about?

HARRISON

I need your help. It's... It's
difficult to explain.

EAGLESON

Try me.

HARRISON

I'm worried something terrible may happen at the NexGenics Center tonight. We're doing some very dangerous research there and I'm worried one of my colleagues may try to overstep her bounds.

EAGLESON

I don't understand. What can I do?

HARRISON

I'm gonna call you at eight this evening. If you don't get my call...

The waitress reappears, hands the men their coffees, and steps away from view.

HARRISON

If you don't get my call, you hafta get to the Center before the Pentagon can cover up what happened.

EAGLESON

Cover what up? What ain't you sayin'?

HARRISON

Look, our work is classified. I'm bound by a non-disclosure agreement. I've spoken too much already.

EAGLESON

No offense, but you seem stressed out. Sure you ain't overreactin'?

HARRISON

You've known me since college, Fred. I don't fly off the handle. Please, you're the only one I can turn to.

EAGLESON

Why doncha contact the police?

HARRISON

The local and state police can't handle what may happen, but you can call on the National Guard.

EAGLESON

Harry, I can't even call on the State Defense Forces unless the Governor declares a state of emergency.

HARRISON

If I don't call you tonight, there
will be a state of emergency!

Harrison looks at his friend with a determined glare. An electronic chime cuts through the silence. Eagleson retrieves his cell phone and answers the call.

EAGLESON

Egleson... Okay, Wynne, I'll be
right there.

Egleson puts away the cell phone and rises to his feet.

EAGLESON

I've got a long drive back to
Richmond. I gotta go.

Harrison stands up as Eagleson places a five-dollar bill on the table and prepares to leave.

HARRISON

Will you wait for my call?

EAGLESON

I'll... I'll be in my office.

Egleson turns around and exits the eatery. Harrison sits back down and rubs his temple.

HARRISON

God, I hope I'm wrong about this.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - LOADING BAY - DAY

A large steel door rises up and floods the cold concrete room with light. Audrey looks on as a coroner's van parks in the bay and the coroner hops out of the vehicle.

AUDREY

You're late.

CORONER

He's not going anywhere.

He opens the rear doors of the van and she helps unload a gurney from the back of the vehicle. She unzips the body bag which rests on the transport and peeks at the corpse inside.

AUDREY

Who was he?

CORONER

Nobody important.

AUDREY

It's in terrible shape.

CORONER

What did you expect?

She closes the body bag as he produces a file folder.

CORONER

Here's his paperwork. I never saw him
and I never heard of him, understand?

She takes the folder and hands him an envelope in return.

AUDREY

Of course, and I never gave you this.

She takes hold of the gurney as he opens the envelope and
finds several hundred-dollar bills inside.

CORONER

Why do you need him, anyway?

AUDREY

The world will find out soon enough.

She leaves the scene with the corpse in tow. He looks at the
envelope and shrugs his shoulders.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - SMALL LAB - DAY

The room is roughly one-third the size of the ward's other
lab. Medical equipment, electronic devices, and chemical
supplies of all sorts are scattered about.

An operating table rests in the middle of the lab. A large
glass tank with an intake pump sits nearby. A winch and
two-axis trolley system is attached to the ceiling.

Audrey, clad in surgical garb, wheels the gurney toward the
middle of the lab. Peter and Ursula, also clad in surgical
attire, follow her into the room.

The trio transfers the body bag from the gurney onto the
operating table. Audrey completely unzips the bag and
reveals the corpse inside.

Gabriel's body is badly mangled and is covered with severe
burns from head to toe. The hair on his head and face has
been shaved clean. Peter and Ursula wince at the sight.

URSULA

Oh, no! He looks terrible!

PETER

We can't do anything with this!

AUDREY

Of course we can. We just need to prepare the body.

Victor and Jeanette, also clad in surgical garb, enter the room and wheel a pair of large drums over to the glass tank.

JEANETTE

Doctor, why soak the body in so much of the primary formula?

VICTOR

Yeah, why don't we just inject a small amount like normal?

AUDREY

This may be our only opportunity to perform a test on a human subject. I'd rather use too much than not enough. Let's get to work.

MONTAGE

- A) Audrey picks up a scalpel from a nearby surgical tray and cuts Gabriel open from the neck to the navel.
- B) Peter and Ursula each take hold of a scalpel and slice open Gabriel's mangled upper and lower legs.
- C) Victor and Jeanette pry open Gabriel's chest and use hammers, chisels, and clamps to reshape his ribs.
- D) Peter and Ursula pull the skin and muscle from Gabriel's legs and use hammers and chisels to reform the bones.
- E) Victor and Jeanette reshape Gabriel's ribs and use plates and screws to secure the bones in place.
- F) Peter and Ursula straighten Gabriel's legs and secure steel rods to the bones.
- G) Victor and Jeanette connect one of the large drums to the intake pump attached to the glass tank.
- H) Audrey sews Gabriel up, activates the winch via remote control, and positions it over the body.

I) Victor and Jeanette activate the intake pump and fill the glass tank with the familiar green fluorescent liquid.

J) Audrey, Peter, and Ursula use thick leather straps to connect Gabriel's wrists, ankles, and torso to the winch.

K) Audrey uses the remote control to hoist Gabriel into the air and move him toward the glass tank.

L) Gabriel is slowly lowered into the glass tank and is submerged underneath the green fluorescent liquid.

END MONTAGE

Audrey and her lab assistants remove their surgical masks and scrubs. They look on as Gabriel's body floats effortlessly inside the glass tank.

AUDREY

Now, ladies and gentlemen, all we need to do is show a little patience.

DIRECT CUT TO:

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SHELTON'S OFFICE - EVENING

A cork pops off the end of a champagne bottle and foam shoots out the opened end. Shelton pours Audrey and her lab assistants each a glass of the bubbly.

SHELTON

When we started this journey twelve years ago, I wasn't certain I'd live to see this day. I've never been so happy to be so wrong.

He fills his own glass with champagne and prepares a toast.

SHELTON

A toast, to a bright and glorious future for all mankind!

The group cheers as they tap their glasses and imbibe on champagne. Audrey and Shelton converse amongst themselves. The lab assistants huddle around one another.

PETER

I'd better work on my Nobel speech.

VICTOR

The Nobel Prize? What's it pay?

JEANETTE

Whatever it is, it won't pay as well
as the new gigs we'll be offered.

URSULA

I don't mean to rain on the parade,
but shouldn't we be keeping an eye on
the test subject?

Audrey and Shelton take notice of the query.

SHELTON

The process takes around two hours,
doesn't it? There's still well over
an hour to go.

AUDREY

True, but I should head back down
just in case --

SHELTON

Don't worry, Audrey, I've asked
Ingram to post two guards outside the
lab. If anything unusual happens,
they'll let us know. More champagne?

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - SMALL LAB - EVENING

The room is darkened and deserted. Gabriel's pristine and unblemished body floats in the glass tank. There is a slight twitch in one of his fingers, then another, and another.

His body starts to violently convulse and thrash about. His open hands tense up into fists. His body fiercely strains against the leather straps which bind him.

The leather straps give way and snap in two. The convulsions subside and he peacefully floats inside the tank... until he opens his eyes.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - HALLWAY #1 - EVENING

Two SECURITY GUARDS idly stand outside the small lab. The men snap to attention as a series of loud thumps emanate from inside the closed room.

The sound of shattered glass cuts through the air. The green fluorescent liquid seeps out from underneath the door. One of the guards grabs his service pistol.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Call the boss. I'll check it out.

The first guard disappears inside the lab while the second grabs hold of his radio.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Ingram, we've got a situation here --

A hellish scream echoes from the lab. The second guard trades the radio for his pistol and rushes into the room.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - ENTRANCE - EVENING

The six other security guards in the area listen intently as Ingram works his radio.

INGRAM

What situation? What's goin' on --

A horrific shriek blares over the radio until it is replaced with dead silence. A stunned look washes over Ingram's face.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - LOBBY - EVENING

The six security guards in the area stand behind their terminal. They snap to attention as Ingram's voice blares over their radios.

INGRAM (V.O.)

Red alert! Red alert! Lock down the building and report to the animal ward at once! This is not a drill!

Two of the guards each produce a key and stand at opposite ends of the terminal. They each unlock a box and reveal two number pads with red buttons next to them.

They both enter a code via the number pads and press the red buttons simultaneously. A loud alarm echoes throughout the building. The main doors automatically lock shut.

Thick steel bars slam down and block all the doors and windows in the area. The lights throughout the complex are replaced with low-level emergency lighting.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - LARGE LAB - EVENING

Harrison, Christine, Richard, and the lab assistants in the area halt their work. A highly anxious look washes over Harrison's face while the others look about in confusion.

CHRISTINE

What's going on? Is there a fire?

RICHARD

No, this isn't the fire alarm.

Harrison uneasily rises to his feet and heads for the door.

HARRISON

Christine. Richard. Gather everyone left in the building and lock yourselves in the basement.

CHRISTINE

Why, what's happening?

HARRISON

Do it! Now!

Harrison scurries out of the room. Christine and Richard exchange a nervous look and turn to the lab assistants.

RICHARD

You heard Doc. Let's go.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - ENTRANCE - EVENING

Audrey, Shelton, Victor, Jeanette, Peter, and Ursula scramble out of a nearby stairwell door. The group rushes over to Ingram as he stands outside the ward.

SHELTON

What's happened?! Why the alarm?!

INGRAM

That freak you experimented on broke out of his restraints! He's attacked two of my men already!

AUDREY

That's not possible! It's only been an hour since --

JEANETTE

You used way too much of the primary formula! I told you it was a mistake!

VICTOR

Remember how violent the test animals became with much smaller doses?!

PETER

Remember how strong the test animals became with much smaller doses?!

URSULA

Remember how we never had the chance to give him the secondary formula?!

The four lab assistants whimper with fright as they scurry away from the area and disappear inside the stairwell.

AUDREY

This... This can't be happening.

SHELTON

Those four were right, weren't they?!
Oh, God. If he escapes --

INGRAM

He won't. I've got a dozen guards in there. They'll find it and kill it.

AUDREY

No, you can't! It's too important!

SHELTON

Can't you, I don't know, subdue it --

INGRAM

I don't care about your experiment!
My job's to keep the people in this building safe! Christ, I'll pump it full of lead myself if I have to!
Thank God there's only one of it and several of us.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - LARGE LAB - EVENING

Gabriel, clad in a blood-stained security guard's uniform, enters the first section of the darkened room. Twelve RABBITS are locked in a series of stacked cages.

The rabbits gnaw and claw at the bars on their enclosures. They take notice of Gabriel, cease their antics, and sit quietly. He works a control panel and opens the cages.

The animals follow Gabriel into the second section of the lab. The dozen confined cats in the area react to his presence in the same way as the rabbits.

Gabriel uses another control panel to free the animals from their enclosures. The rabbits and cats follow him into the third section of the room.

The dozen dogs in the area also quiet down and sit still in Gabriel's presence. He uses the nearby control panel to unlock and open the cages.

He leads his menagerie into the last section of the lab. Scrappy responds to his appearance with a fearful look. Gabriel uses a control panel to unlock his enclosure.

Scrappy stays inside his cage while the rest of the animals gather around their leader. Gabriel eyes the menagerie and speaks with a deep and dark voice.

GABRIEL

Is this hell? Certainly feels like it. You saw the light, didn't you? You saw the light, and these people snatched you away from it. They took you away from the light to, what, experiment on you? They think they own us. They think they can use us. They took heaven away from us. I say, we give them hell in return.

Gabriel sneers with delight as the rabbits, cats, and dogs shriek in approval and follow him out of the room. Scrappy moans to himself and takes a cautious step out of his cage.

INT. PENTAGON - TRAYNOR'S OFFICE - EVENING

Traynor sits at a desk in the plush office and leafs through the Regensis compendium. KELLY (34), a petite woman with short blonde hair, rushes into the room.

KELLY

Traynor! We have a situation! The NexGenics Center's sounded its alarm!

He glances at the front cover of the compendium and sets it aside. He rises to his feet with an uneasy look on his face.

TRAYNOR

Kelly, contact the local and state authorities. Tell them it's a false alarm. I have preparations to make.

She nods in response and slips out of the room. He picks up the telephone on his desk and places a call.

TRAYNOR

Connect me to Bragg.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - STAIRWELL - EVENING

Christine and Richard arrive at the bottom of the stairs and escort several fellow EMPLOYEES into the basement.

CHRISTINE

Okay, everyone, stay calm.

RICHARD

Single file, everybody.

The pair turns to each other as the employees shuffle past.

RICHARD

Doc looked terrified up there, Chris.

CHRISTINE

I know, Rick, and that frightens me.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - HALLWAY #2 - EVENING

Four of the security guards appear at one end of the long corridor. They slowly walk down the path and peek inside the many rooms they pass along the way.

They stop when one of the rabbits hops into view at the end of the path. The guards look on as another rabbit appears, then another, and another.

The guards exchange nervous looks as six of the animals appear and stare back at them. They turn around to retreat only to find the other six rabbits behind them.

The guards reach for their pistols as the animals screech in unison and charge at them. Four of rabbits leap into the air and chomp down on each of their hands.

The guards scream in pain, drop their pistols, and fall to the floor. They wail in terror while Ingram's voice blares over their radios.

INGRAM (V.O.)

Team One, what's your status? Team
One, do you copy?

The rabbits screech as they pounce on top of the guards. The animals tear the flesh from their faces, bite into their throats, and claw out their eyes.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - ENTRANCE - EVENING

Audrey and Shelton stand by as the final desperate screams of the guards blare over Ingram's radio.

SHELTON

Oh, God! He's let the test animals
loose! We've got to get out of here!

Shelton scurries away as Audrey mutters to herself.

AUDREY

Increased intelligence... Advanced
communication skills...

INGRAM

You can mutter gibberish if you want,
but I'm goin' after the thing myself!

He grabs his service pistol and enters the ward. She shakes her head and saunters away from the scene.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - HARRISON'S OFFICE - EVENING

Harrison bursts into his office and grabs hold of the telephone on his desk. He tries to place a call only to discover there is no dial tone.

He slams the receiver down and retrieves his cell phone. He attempts to dial a number only to find there is no signal. He puts the cell phone away and searches a desk drawer.

He finds a Blackberry-like device and puts it in his pocket. He glances at a clock on the wall which reads five minutes past eight. He shakes his head and leaves the room.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - STAIRWELL - EVENING

Christine and Richard shepherd the last of their fellow employees into the basement.

CHRISTINE

Should we wait for Dr. Ogilvy?

RICHARD

Doc wouldn't leave us behind.

The pair exchanges a nod and marches up the stairs.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - HALLWAY #3 - EVENING

Four of the security guards in the area grip their pistols and slowly advance down the corridor. They peek inside the rooms they pass on their way down the path.

A soft meow cuts through the air. The guards tense up and exchange nervous looks. They slowly move toward the sound of the noise with their pistols at the ready.

The guards stop as one of the cats strolls into view at the end of the corridor and softly mews. They turn to each other with looks of confusion.

The animal glares at the group, arches its back, and roars ferociously. The guards turn around as the other eleven cats pour out of the nearby rooms.

The guards take aim with their pistols as the animals charge forward. Four of the cats jump into the air and clamp their teeth down on each of their hands.

The guards wail in anguish, drop their pistols, and fall to the floor. The cats shred their faces, scratch out their eyes, and bite into their necks.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - ENTRANCE - EVENING

Harrison bursts through the stairwell door and rushes onto the scene. He finds the area deserted and shakes his head.

Someone approaches him from behind and clamps a hand on his shoulder. He gasps in shock, spins around, and finds...

AUDREY

Fascinating, isn't it?

HARRISON

You... You did it, didn't you?

AUDREY

Yes, and it worked! Okay, the subject escaped, but the important thing --

HARRISON

What?! How could you let him escape?!

AUDREY

The subject reawakened after one hour, not two.

HARRISON

How? The injections we give always --

AUDREY

I had to make sure it worked, so I used an alternate method. External osmosis pressure.

HARRISON

External osmosis pressure?

AUDREY

I saturated the subject with several dozen gallons of the formula.

HARRISON

What?! That's thousands of times the recommended dose! Who knows what side-effects... You didn't administer my secondary formula, did you?!

AUDREY

No, but the important thing is all of the subjects, including the test animals, have higher intelligence and communication skills --

HARRISON

The test animals escaped, too?!

AUDREY

Yes, and they're working in teams! When the rabbits killed four of the guards, they coordinated their attacks with verbal commands!

He shakes his head with exasperation.

HARRISON

What the hell have you done, Audrey?

AUDREY

It's okay, Harrison, I can fix it.

She wanders off away from view. He rubs his head in anguish and heads for the stairwell door.

INT. OCP BUILDING - EAGLESON'S OFFICE - EVENING

The windows of the cluttered office give a view of downtown Charleston, Virginia. Eagleson sits at his desk and glances at a digital clock which reads twelve minutes past eight.

He opens an address book and leafs through the pages. He picks up a nearby telephone and dials a number. WYNNE (38), a slender and bespectacled woman, knocks on the open door.

WYNNE

Ready to call it a night?

EAGLESON

No, not yet.

WYNNE

Still haven't heard from your friend?

EAGLESON

No, he ain't in his office.

He resets the receiver and dials another number.

WYNNE

Look, Eagleson, it's probably nothing. You told me yourself he seemed stressed out.

EAGLESON

I've known him for thirty years,
Wynne. I'm willin' to give him the
benefit of the doubt. Damn it, he
ain't answerin' his cell.

WYNNE

If you're really worried about him,
just phone the main desk and ask to
speak with someone in charge.

He hangs up the telephone and dials a third number. The line
rings and rings but there is no response.

EAGLESON

No answer.

WYNNE

Okay, that's worrisome.

He rises to his feet and grabs his coat.

EAGLESON

Get the car ready. I'll be down in a
few minutes.

WYNNE

Where are we going?

EAGLESON

We've got an appointment with the
Governor.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - HALLWAY #4 - EVENING

The last four security guards in the building creep down the
corridor. They check the rooms they pass along the way and
keep their pistols at the ready.

One of the massive dogs appears at the end of the hallway.
The animal barks menacingly as it stares down the group. The
guards take aim and fire their pistols.

The dog yelps and safely scampers into one of two side
hallways. The guards sprint down the corridor in pursuit and
reach the entrances to the other paths.

The guards stop in their tracks as six of the dogs emerge
from one of the side hallways. They turn to run only to find
the other six dogs appear from the other side hallway.

The guards take aim with their pistols as the animals rush
forward and attack. Four of the dogs leap through the air
and bite down on each of their arms.

The guards scream in pain, drop their pistols, and collapse to the floor. The dogs scratch their faces, bite into their skin, and rip out their throats.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - SMALL LAB - DAY

The door to the darkened and deserted room slowly opens. Ingram cautiously enters the lab with his pistol in hand. His feet crunch on the broken glass scattered on the floor.

He lays his eyes upon the two dead guards in the room. Shards of glass have been thrust through their eyes, ears, and mouths. One of the men has been stripped of his uniform.

Ingram grimaces and turns away from the men in disgust. He clenches his teeth and storms out of the room with a determined look on his face.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - HALLWAY #5 - EVENING

Ingram tightly grips his pistol as he appears at one end of the corridor. He slowly walks down the path and checks the rooms he passes along the way.

Someone obscured by shadow appears at the other end of the corridor. Ingram takes aim with his pistol and calls out to the new arrival.

INGRAM

Hey! Hold it right there!

The person stops in his tracks and turns toward Ingram.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Could you help me, please?

Gabriel steps into the light and moves up the corridor.

GABRIEL

I'm looking for the people who brought me here. I want to say thank you in my own special way.

INGRAM

Not a chance, you freak. Time to send you back to the grave.

Ingram opens fire and empties his pistol into his target. The fired rounds slam into Gabriel's chest and his lifeless body collapses to the floor.

Ingram slowly advances toward Gabriel's body. He kicks the corpse in the ribs but does draw any reaction. He ejects the spent cartridge from his pistol and smiles.

He turns around and takes a few steps away from the corpse. Gabriel's body starts to violently shake and spasm. Ingram spins back around as the tremors increase in intensity.

Gabriel's muscles rapidly swell to bodybuilder-like proportions and tear through his clothes. The blood vessels near the surface threaten to burst through his skin.

Ingram's eyes widen as the bullets are ejected from the wounds in Gabriel's chest. Ingram reloads his pistol as Gabriel's body ceases its tremors.

Gabriel opens his eyes and stares daggers back at his attacker. Ingram takes aim only for his target to reach up and grab hold of his arm.

Gabriel effortlessly flips his adversary over and slams him onto the floor. He calmly rises to his feet and kicks the pistol from Ingram's hand.

Ingram scrambles back to his feet and throws a punch. Gabriel casually blocks the blow, grabs hold of his arm, and hurls him against the wall.

Gabriel delivers a series of blows and flings his victim around like a rag doll. Ingram is tossed against the wall and slumps onto the floor in anguish.

Gabriel places a foot against his victim's torso and grabs hold of one of his arms. Ingram screams as his attacker tears the limb right out of its socket.

Blood gushes out of Ingram's shoulder as his attacker casually tosses the severed limb away. Gabriel grabs hold of his victim's other arm and pulls it clean from his torso.

Ingram trembles as his body goes into shock. Gabriel smiles as he crouches down, stares into his victim's eyes, and grabs him by the throat.

GABRIEL

Who's the freak now?

Gabriel tightens his grip and crushes Ingram's throat with his bare hand. He tosses the dismembered body aside and marches away from the scene.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - HALLWAY #1 - EVENING

Christine and Richard appear at one end of the corridor and rush toward a small laboratory. She looks on as he opens the door and peeks inside the room.

RICHARD

Doc's not here either, Chris.

CHRISTINE

Let's keep moving, Rick.

The pair scurries down the corridor and approaches the entrance to a side hallway. Harrison abruptly emerges from the opening and runs smack into them.

HARRISON

What the hell?! I told you to lock yourselves in the basement!

RICHARD

What's happening, Doc?

HARRISON

I... I can't explain --

CHRISTINE

What is going on, Doctor?

Harrison rubs his temple in anguish.

HARRISON

Audrey tested the Regenesys formula on a human subject. He's escaped and running loose in the building.

CHRISTINE

Oh, my God.

HARRISON

The test animals have also been set free and they've killed some of the guards already.

RICHARD

You serious?

HARRISON

Yes, and there's more. Audrey used thousands of times the recommended dose on the human subject. Remember how bad Scrappy used to be?

RICHARD

Oh, no.

CHRISTINE

Why haven't you called the police?

HARRISON

The phones don't work and my cell
can't get a signal. Yours?

Christine and Richard retrieve their cell phones.

RICHARD

No signal.

CHRISTINE

Same here.

HARRISON

Shielding. They musta installed
shielding during the renovations.
Look, the only way I can stop the
human subject is with the secondary
formula. I'll be in the small lab --

CHRISTINE

Count us in.

HARRISON

No, head back to the basement and --

RICHARD

C'mon, Doc.

HARRISON

If you wanna help, try to get outta
the building or find a way to contact
the authorities.

He retrieves the Blackberry-like device from his pocket.

HARRISON

Here, take this.

Christine examines the device.

CHRISTINE

What is it?

HARRISON

This detects the RFID tags in each of
the test animals. You'll be one step
ahead of them. Be careful, you two.

RICHARD

Stay safe, Doc.

Christine and Richard turn around and head back down the
corridor. Harrison watches them leave, slips inside the
small lab, and locks the door behind him.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RECORDS ROOM - EVENING

A maze of steel filing cabinets dominates the middle of the spacious and darkened area. The end of the room furthest from the entrance features a wall of glass-fronted cabinets.

Several work tables and chairs are positioned in front of the glass cabinets. Victor stands in front of one of the filing cabinets and rummages through a series of folders.

VICTOR

Behavior... Cardiovascular...
Metabolism... Muscularity... C'mon,
where are the money files?

He stops as he discovers a folder marked: Formula, Primary. The folder behind features the label: Formula, Secondary. He smiles as he plucks the files from the cabinet.

VICTOR

Well, at least my bank account will
benefit from this fiasco.

He tucks the folders under his arm and turns to leave. He stops and recoils in shock as a loud noise emanates from the entrance to the room.

His back loudly slams into the open drawer behind him. He quietly slides the drawer shut, crouches down, and uses the filing cabinets as cover.

He wipes his brow in relief as a long moment passes without incident. He leaps to his feet as numerous filing cabinets noisily topple over like dominoes.

He scurries away from the area and heads for the back of the room. He stands by the glass-fronted cabinets as the cacophony of noise draws closer and closer.

The last row of filing cabinets tip over and Gabriel steps into view. He stares Victor down for a moment only to smile and calmly raise his voice.

GABRIEL

Hello.

VICTOR

Hi. Well, nice meetin' you. I think
I'll be goin' --

Victor tries to scurry past. Gabriel steps in his path.

GABRIEL

No, I think you'll be staying.

Gabriel advances a few steps toward him. Victor frantically waves the two folders in response.

VICTOR

You know what's in these files? The information in here's worth millions! No, billions! They're yours, okay?! Go ahead, take 'em!

GABRIEL

Why?

VICTOR

They'll make you rich! Don't you realize what that means for someone in your condition? You'll be rich forever! Just lemme go, okay?

Gabriel sizes him up for a moment and calmly takes hold of the folders. Victor looks on in shock as he tosses the files away and spills the papers inside onto the floor.

GABRIEL

Do I look like I care about money?

VICTOR

Everybody cares about money!

GABRIEL

There's something more valuable I want from you.

VICTOR

What?

GABRIEL

Your life.

Victor yelps in fright as Gabriel quickly grabs hold of him. Gabriel mightily hurls him against the glass-fronted cabinets. Victor crumples to the ground in anguish.

Several shards of glass spill onto the floor nearby. Gabriel grabs Victor by the hair and drags him toward a pile of very sharp glass shards.

GABRIEL

Blinded by greed, huh? Very well, stay blind.

Victor unleashes a hellish scream as Gabriel grinds his face into the shards of glass. His legs kick and spasm as a torrent of blood seeps out from underneath his face.

Victor's yells subside as his body falls limp and lifeless. Gabriel releases his grip, shakes his head with contempt, and marches away from view.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - LOBBY - EVENING

Christine and Richard arrive in the deserted area. He examines the barred doors and windows. She scurries over to the nearby terminal.

She examines the terminal and presses a few buttons on a nearby control panel. He spins around as the security alarm abruptly ceases.

RICHARD

Hey, you did it!

CHRISTINE

No, I just muted the alarm.

He joins her behind the terminal as she shakes her head.

CHRISTINE

We need two sets of keys and a combination to open the door.

RICHARD

We don't have either. We'll hafta do this the old-fashioned way.

He grabs a nearby chair and heads toward the main doors. She tries to wave him off as he strikes the barred entrance with the chair over and over again.

CHRISTINE

Rick, there's no point --

RICHARD

I can do it, Chris!

She rubs her forehead in frustration as he takes more futile swings at the doors. He finally stops when the chair breaks apart in his hands.

CHRISTINE

Don't worry, we'll get out of here.

RICHARD

How? Where are we supposed to go?

CHRISTINE

The roof. Even if we can't use our cell phones, we can still use the window washing rig to escape.

RICHARD

You're right, but first we need some supplies. C'mon!

She lags behind as he excitedly sprints from the scene.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RECORDS ROOM - EVENING

Jeanette appears in the open doorway with a flashlight in hand. She turns on the beam and looks upon the sea of overturned filing cabinets in the area.

She weaves her way through the filing cabinets and arrives at the back of the room. She stops in her tracks and shines her flashlight upon Victor's dead body.

JEANETTE

Oh, my God. I can't believe this.

She gathers up the papers spilled all over the floor.

JEANETTE

You were just going to sell these, weren't you?

She places the papers back in their folders and smiles.

JEANETTE

I guess working here wasn't such a waste of my talents after all.

A series of slow claps cut through the air. She spins around as Gabriel casually strolls into view and shakes his head.

GABRIEL

You had a chance to escape, and you stayed behind just to find some files to sell? You people amaze me.

JEANETTE

I don't care about money! With these files, I can secure a top position at any institution in the world... and I'm willing to take you with me.

GABRIEL

Your generosity knows no bounds.

JEANETTE

Yes, everyone will be beating down my doors just to get their hands on such an amazing specimen --

He glares at her as a look of rage washes over his face.

GABRIEL
Specimen? Specimen?!

She screams with fright as he picks up a filing cabinet and violently hurls it across the room.

GABRIEL
That's all I am to you?! Who gave you
the right to use me just to further
your career?! Who gave you the right
to treat me like property?!

She drops the folders as he rushes toward her. She grabs a nearby chair and desperately flings it at him. She slips past him as he swats the chair aside.

She frantically scrambles her way over and through the overturned filing cabinets. He chases after her as she whimpers in terror and races toward the door.

JEANETTE
I'm not getting killed by some failed
experiment!

She wades her way past the filing cabinets and rushes toward the exit. He springs out of the darkness and violently tackles her into the wall.

She wails in agony and collapses facedown onto the floor. He pulls her back up by the hair and takes hold of her head with both hands.

GABRIEL
Failed experiment?!

She screams in horror as he slowly and painfully twists her skull. Her neck loudly snaps in two as he spins her head completely around.

Her body flops forward onto the floor while her lifeless eyes stare at the ceiling. He looks over his handiwork and smirks to himself.

GABRIEL
Looks like a success to me.

Blood flows from her mouth as he walks away from the area.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - CHEMICAL SUPPLY ROOM - EVENING

Numerous rows of tall shelves which feature all sorts of chemical compounds and materials dominate the large room. Christine and Richard place two tote bags on a nearby table.

CHRISTINE

Do you want to tell me what we're doing here?

RICHARD

We need to arm ourselves if we're gonna get outta here or stop the test subjects from escaping.

CHRISTINE

Well, I can make a Molotov cocktail with a glass bottle, some gasoline, a rag, and a chlorine tablet.

RICHARD

Chlorine? Look, just soak the rag with gasoline and light it --

CHRISTINE

And watch as the rag fails to ignite the gas in the bottle? When gasoline comes into contact with chlorine, on the other hand...

RICHARD

Clever, but I can do you one better with ammonium nitrate and hydrazine.

CHRISTINE

What does that make?

RICHARD

Rocket fuel.

CHRISTINE

Rocket fuel?!

RICHARD

I'll need a fuse. Let's see... Steel wool, aluminum foil, copper wires, a flashlight battery, and gunpowder.

CHRISTINE

Gunpowder?!

RICHARD

I can make some with sodium chlorate, charcoal, sulfur, and graphite.

CHRISTINE

Who are you, MacGyver?! Where did you learn all that?

RICHARD

Oh, let's call it the product of a misspent youth.

The pair searches the room for their desired supplies.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - COMPUTER LAB - EVENING

Several rows of expensive computer terminals dominate the room. Ursula sits at one of the terminals as a series of computer files are copied onto a DVD.

She removes the disc once it is ejected and uses a marker to label the disc: Regenesiis Project. She rises to her feet and looks at the DVD in her hand.

URSULA

Well, no mater what happens, someone can continue the research.

She turns toward the room's open door and spots a shadow in the hallway outside. She takes a step back as the sounds of footsteps in the corridor draw closer and closer.

She absentmindedly bumps into her chair and noisily knocks it to the floor. She yelps with nerves and cowers behind one of the terminals.

Gabriel enters the room and scans the area. He approaches the first row of terminals and examines the equipment. He violently smashes the computers to pieces.

Tears stream down Ursula's face as he systematically destroys the computer equipment in the room. Gabriel's path of destruction draws him closer to her position.

She yelps and leaps to her feet as a computer monitor lands next to her. She whimpers and backs into a corner of the room. He calmly raises his hands and speaks softly.

GABRIEL

Don't cry. I won't hurt you.

URSULA

You... You won't?

His voice takes on a darker tone as he responds.

GABRIEL

Why would I hurt you? You only forced me to be a guinea pig in your experiments. Really, is that anything to get upset about?

URSULA

I... I can't speak for the others,
but I was only trying to help.

GABRIEL

That makes what you did to me okay?

URSULA

I knew Dr. Manning went about things
the wrong way, but I helped her
because what she's been doing for the
past decade is a net good.

GABRIEL

A net good?

URSULA

The experiments we do here have the
potential to help billions of people.
I'd gladly trade just one life --

He lunges forward and grabs hold of her. He flings her
across the room and slams her against the wall. She whimpers
in anguish and lands facedown onto the floor.

The disc slips from her grasp, rolls several feet away, and
settles on the floor. She whimpers in anguish as he angrily
stalks his way toward her.

GABRIEL

Who said you get to make that
choice?! Who said you get to decide?!

He places a knee against her lower back and wraps his arms
around her upper torso. She wails in horror as he pulls her
upper body back with all his might.

Blood spurts from her mouth as her spine snaps in two. He
releases his grip and leaves her body folded in half with
her torso pressed against the backs of her legs.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - CHEMICAL SUPPLY ROOM - EVENING

Christine and Richard sit at the table across from one
another. She places a glass bottle filled with gasoline as
well as a rag and a chlorine tablet into her tote bag.

He places two jars of his clear rocket fuel mixture into his
tote bag. He takes hold of a small aluminum foil cylinder. A
strand of steel wool sticks out either end of the cylinder.

CHRISTINE

One of your fuses?

RICHARD

Yeah, the current heats up the steel wool and ignites the gunpowder.

He places two circular disks filed with a solid material on the table. A wooden match rises out of the middle of each caramel-colored disk.

CHRISTINE

What are those?

RICHARD

Smoke bombs. Saltpeter and sugar. Light the match and thick white smoke appears everywhere.

CHRISTINE

Will we really need them?

RICHARD

I'm not taking any chances.

CHRISTINE

Well, in that case, it's time to break out the chemical bombs.

RICHARD

Chemical bombs?

CHRISTINE

First, you mix potassium chlorate and sugar in boiling water. Coat a cloth with the cooled mixture and wrap it around a glass bottle filled with gasoline and sulfuric acid.

RICHARD

Why wrap the bottle with a cloth? If there's gasoline inside --

CHRISTINE

The treated cloth is shock-sensitive and reacts with the sulfuric acid. When the bottle strikes its target...

RICHARD

Where'd you learn all that?

CHRISTINE

You're not the only one who had an adventurous childhood.

She rises to her feet as he places the fuses and smoke bombs inside his tote bag.

RICHARD

Hey, if you still have any gas left,
see if you can find some dish soap.

CHRISTINE

Dish soap? Why?

RICHARD

Know what you get when you mix
gasoline with dish soap?

CHRISTINE

What?

RICHARD

Napalm.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - COMPUTER LAB - EVENING

Peter steps through the open doorway and scans the darkened room. He turns on a flashlight and wades through the destroyed computer terminals.

He arrives next to Ursula's dead body and shines the beam on the corpse. He focuses the flashlight on the DVD which rests on the floor a short distance away.

He kneels on the floor and retrieves the disc. He examines the DVD for a moment and turns to his deceased colleague with a smile on his face.

PETER

Good work, Ursula. Thanks for bending
over backwards for me.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

What compassion.

Peter spins around as Gabriel steps through the doorway with two steel containers in hand.

GABRIEL

You people care so much about your
fellow human beings, don't you?

Peter glares disdainfully as Gabriel slowly steps forward.

PETER

Do you know who you're dealing with?
I'm fifth-generation legacy at
Harvard. My father's a state senator
and my grandfather was a congressman.

GABRIEL

I'm sorry, am I supposed to care?

PETER

The formula didn't make you any smarter, did it? You'd better care because I'm a very important person you do not want to mess with!

Peter grabs a nearby computer monitor, raises it over his head, and charges forward. Gabriel casually grabs his attacker by the throat.

Peter gasps for breath and drops the monitor onto the floor. Gabriel hoists him into the air and laughs as his captive desperately tries to wriggle free.

GABRIEL

VIP! Fifth-generation Harvard grad!
I'm supposed to be scared of you?

Gabriel tosses his victim across the length of the room and slams his head against the wall. Peter slumps to the floor and struggles to remain conscious.

Gabriel steps forward and sets the two steel containers down next to his victim. Peter's eyes widen in terror as he scans the labels on the containers.

GABRIEL

Okay, college boy, time for an experiment. What's more dangerous, hydrochloric or sulfuric acid?

Gabriel opens the hydrochloric acid canister and stands over his victim. Peter vainly covers his face and wails in terror as his attacker empties the canister.

Peter screams as the hydrochloric acid burns his hands and face. Gabriel opens the sulfuric acid container and splashes it onto his victim's head.

Peter flails about as the compound eats through his skull. Gabriel looks on as his victim's head is reduced to a bloody and unrecognizable stump.

GABRIEL

What do you know? They're both dangerous.

He snickers to himself and saunters away from the scene.

EXT. PENTAGON - NIGHT

Traynor and Kelly exit the five-sided building and march their way toward a military helicopter nearby.

KELLY

What's the plan once we get to Lynchburg?

TRAYNOR

We're not going to Lynchburg, Kelly. Not yet, anyway.

KELLY

What? Why not?

TRAYNOR

We're going to Fort Bragg first. I want a platoon of soldiers to lock down the building once we get there. I'm not taking any chances.

KELLY

We can't do that, Traynor! Doesn't the Posse Comitatus Act mean anything to you? We can't use the army outside federal property --

TRAYNOR

I know, which is why I asked Shelton Beliveau to transfer title to the land and building to us.

KELLY

Has the paperwork gone through?

TRAYNOR

As far as I'm concerned, the NexGenics Center is federal property until someone tells me otherwise.

He escorts her inside the military helicopter.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

Richard appears at one end of the long corridor and cautiously makes his way down the path. He glances at the Blackberry-like device in his hand and shakes his head.

RICHARD

Dad, where are you and your hunting buddies when I need you? I shoulda brought carrots.

He stops as one of the rabbits hops into view at the end of the hallway. The animal unleashes a hellish screech and the rest of the rabbits appear beside it.

RICHARD

I really shoulda brought carrots.

He slowly backs away as the rabbits screech in unison. He turns around and sprints up the corridor as the animals chase after him.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Richard appears from around a corner and scurries down the corridor. The rabbits appear a moment later and steadily gain ground on their target.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

Richard appears at the end of the corridor and races down the path. The rabbits arrive seconds later and draw closer and closer to their intended victim.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY #4 - NIGHT

Richard enters the corridor and sprints past an open jar of rocket fuel primed with one of his fuses. He ducks behind a corner at the end of the path just as the rabbits arrive.

He takes cover beside Christine as she holds the copper wires just above the lantern battery. The rabbits scurry down the path and approach the open jar of rocket fuel.

She touches the ends of the wires to the battery's terminals. Christine and Richard turn away as a massive fireball engulfs the corridor.

The fire settles down, the fire alarm sounds, and water pours from the sprinklers above. Christine and Richard rise to their feet and look down the destroyed corridor.

The bodies of the twelve rabbits have been dismembered by the blast and burnt to a crisp. Christine gathers their belongings as Richard glances at the Blackberry-like device.

RICHARD

I'm getting more signals from upstairs. Let's go.

INT. EXECUTIVE MANSION - STATEROOM - NIGHT

The grand room is lavishly decorated and designed in a Federalist style. Several of the GOVERNOR'S AIDES scurry about the area engaged in various tasks.

The GOVERNOR (56), a distinguished man with white hair, stands before a mirror and adjusts the tie on his tuxedo. He turns around and faces Eagleson and Wynne.

GOVERNOR

Let me get this straight, you want me to declare a state of emergency because you didn't get a phone call from an old college buddy?

EAGLESON

I ain't askin' for the National Guard to rush in with guns blazin', sir. I'd just like permission to send a platoon of State Defense Forces to check out the buildin'.

GOVERNOR

Do you really expect me to waste valuable state resources on such a pointless exercise?

WYNNE

We haven't been able to contact anyone inside the building, sir. That includes Shelton Beliveau who, you may recall, has been a very generous donor to several of your campaigns.

The Governor strokes his chin in thought.

GOVERNOR

What would I tell the press?

EAGLESON

You declared a state of emergency on instructions from the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness so they could test the readiness of the State Defense Forces in the event of a terrorist attack.

The Governor thinks to himself for a moment.

GOVERNOR

Let me see that order.

Eagleson produces a document and hands it to him.

GOVERNOR

I'm not taking the fall if a scandal erupts over this.

EAGLESON

I'm prepared to take that risk.

The Governor takes out a pen, signs the document, and hands it back to Eagleson.

GOVERNOR

Go on, get out of here before I change my mind.

Eagleson and Wynne exchange a relieved smile as the Governor steps away to tend to other matters.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - SHELTON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Shelton grips a steel letter opener as he cowers underneath his desk. He trembles with fear as he glances at his watch.

SHELTON

For God's sake, Traynor, it's been an hour. Where the hell are you?

He stops as a loud thump emanates from outside the room. He peers over his desk, looks toward the textured glass wall, and spots the outline of someone outside the room.

He looks on as the person appears to pick up a large object. He ducks back down as an office chair is hurled through the textured glass wall.

Gabriel appears through the hole in the wall and enters the room. The shards of glass crunch underneath his feet as he carefully scans the room.

GABRIEL

Come out, come out wherever you are.

Gabriel stops in front of the desk and smiles. He flips it over and reveals Shelton underneath. Shelton leaps to his feet with the letter opener behind his back.

GABRIEL

Well, if it isn't the big man himself! Your stockholders must be very proud of you, hiding under your desk like a frightened child.

SHELTON

You... You lay a hand on me and you'll be in big trouble!

GABRIEL

What are you going to do, sue me? You can't sue a dead man, especially when you're dead yourself.

Gabriel grits his teeth and lunges forward. Shelton produces the letter opener from behind his back.

Shelton plunges the blade into his attacker's chest. Gabriel stops and stares at the letter opener.

SHELTON

I... I did it!

Shelton's smile dissipates as Gabriel calmly removes the letter opener from his chest and shakes his head.

GABRIEL

No, you didn't.

Gabriel tightly grips the blade as he draws closer and closer. Shelton presses his back against the wall and raises his hands defensively.

SHELTON

For God's sake, you've already won!
I'm ruined! You've destroyed my
career, my finances, my company...
Isn't that enough?

Gabriel stops in his tracks and glares at Shelton.

GABRIEL

Enough? You've destroyed my soul.
What do you think?

Gabriel lunges forward and grabs his victim by the throat. He hoists Shelton into the air, presses him against the wall, and raises the letter opener in his other hand.

Gabriel plunges the blade into his victim's ear, through his brain, and into the wall on the other side. Shelton's body convulses as the life leaves his eyes.

Gabriel releases his grip and looks on as his victim's head slides down the blade. The letter opener dislodges from the wall and Shelton's corpse falls to the floor.

EXT. FORT BRAGG - NIGHT

The familiar military helicopter touches down in the expansive US Army base. An ARMY PLATOON shields themselves from the winds kicked up by the rotors.

An ARMY LIEUTENANT wades his way through the soldiers and approaches the helicopter. Traynor and Kelly exit the craft and show him their IDs.

TRAYNOR

Traynor. Kelly. DOD.

ARMY LIEUTENANT

Sir. Ma'am. Welcome to Fort Bragg.
May I ask what our mission is exactly?

KELLY

We need you to secure a building which houses valuable intellectual property. You may have to confront some hostile beings inside.

ARMY LIEUTENANT

Yes, ma'am.

TRAYNOR

Your boys have any problem slaughtering animals?

ARMY LIEUTENANT

Animals, sir?

TRAYNOR

We'll explain on the way. Let's move.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - THIRD FLOOR - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

Christine slowly wanders down the corridor. She glances at the Blackberry-like device and nervously sings to herself.

CHRISTINE

Oh, the cat came back the very next day... The cat came back, they thought he was a goner... But the cat came back...

She stops as a series of meows emanate from the end of the hallway. She slowly backs away as the cats saunter into view and menacingly glare back at her.

CHRISTINE

He just couldn't stay away.

She turns around and scurries away as the cats roar in unison and sprint down the corridor in pursuit.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - THIRD FLOOR - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Christine emerges from around a corner and sprints down the corridor. The cats appear a moment later and quickly gain ground on their next victim.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - THIRD FLOOR - HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

Christine arrives in the corridor and sprints down the length of the path. The cats swiftly appear on the scene and steadily gain ground on their target.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - THIRD FLOOR - HALLWAY #4 - NIGHT

Christine enters the long corridor and sprints down the path. The floor is saturated with rocket fuel and a primed fuse rests in the middle of the floor.

The cats arrive just as she turns the corner at the end of the corridor. She curls up into a ball across from Richard as he holds the copper wires above the lantern battery.

RICHARD

Watch your feet!

They turn away from the path as he touches the wires to the battery's terminals. The corridor is engulfed with flames which reach from floor to ceiling.

The fire dies down, the fire alarm sounds, and the sprinklers put out the blaze. Christine and Richard rise to their feet and look down the corridor.

The bodies of all twelve cats have been completely incinerated. Richard collects their supplies while Christine looks at the Blackberry-like device.

CHRISTINE

I'm getting signals from the next floor. We'd better get moving.

EXT. FORT PICKETT - NIGHT

Two military transport trucks are parked in a lot inside the large State Defense Forces base. An SDF PLATOON sprints into view and hops inside the back of the vehicles.

An SDF LIEUTENANT oversees the soldiers under his command for a moment. He approaches Eagleson and Wynne as they look on from in front of a black sedan.

SDF LIEUTENANT

Sir? Ma'am? What exactly is the emergency?

WYNNE

We have to secure a building as soon as possible and prevent anyone else from tampering with the scene.

EAGLESON

How well-trained are they?

SDF LIEUTENANT

Most have served in the Armed Forces, sir, and the rest have put in time with the National Guard.

EAGLESON

Good. Hopefully they won't hafta prove themselves.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ANIMAL WARD - SMALL LAB - NIGHT

Audrey places a white sheet over the two dead guards in the room. She folds her arms and examines the disheveled lab.

She avoids the numerous glass shards where the large tank once stood. She stops in her tracks and smiles.

AUDREY

I knew my subject would return.

She turns around as Gabriel stands in the open doorway. She places a hand over her mouth in astonishment as he steps inside and stares her down.

AUDREY

Unbelievable. So much more than I was expecting. Tell me, did the muscle growth occur before or after removal from the primary formula?

GABRIEL

You. You're in charge here.

AUDREY

My name is Dr. Audrey Manning and I head the Regenesys project. My God, this is incredible.

GABRIEL

Incredible?

AUDREY

I've spent twelve years working toward this moment. I can't express how exciting a display this is.

He clenches his fists and takes a few steps forward.

AUDREY

I see the violent impulses haven't abated. Luckily, I came prepared.

He looks on with curiosity as she produces a large syringe filled with a fluorescent blue liquid.

GABRIEL

What's this, your clumsy attempt at poisoning me?

AUDREY

No, this is my attempt at preserving the greatest scientific discovery in history. This formula will moderate your physical growth and restrict the violent impulses which affect rational thought. Your arm, please.

He glares at her for a moment only to do as instructed. She removes the cover from the syringe and prepares to inject the solution into his arm.

He tightly grasps her by the wrist. Her knees buckle as she yelps with fright. He leans forward and speaks mere inches from her face.

GABRIEL

What is my name?

AUDREY

Huh?

GABRIEL

What is my name?!

AUDREY

I don't know! What does it matter?

She wails in pain as he tightens his grip. She falls to her knees and drops the syringe on the floor.

GABRIEL

Because I am not an experiment, I am not a discovery, and I will not be treated like a lab rat!

He grabs her by the throat and flings her clear across the lab. She crashes into a wall of shelves filled with chemical supplies and crumples to the floor.

AUDREY

You can't... I made you!

Gabriel growls as he rushes forward, grabs a hold of her, and tosses her across the room. She slams into another wall of shelves and falls to the floor.

A few steel cylindrical canisters fall from the shelves and roll onto the floor. Tears stream down Audrey's face as he marches toward her once more.

GABRIEL

You should have left me like I'm
about to leave you.

He grabs her by the hair and drags her toward the pile of glass shards in the middle of the room. She vainly struggles as he picks her up and tosses her into the pile.

She screams in agony as several glass shards pierce her skin. The shards create more cuts and deeper wounds with every movement she makes.

He marches over to the steel cylinders on the floor and examines them. He sets one of the canisters upright and finds it contains liquid nitrogen.

He picks up the canister and walks toward the pile of glass shards. She wails as he kicks her in the ribs. She flips over and lands her back onto the shards of glass.

He removes the cap from the steel cylinder. She wails in terror as he pours the liquid nitrogen onto her face. A large cloud of white steam obscures the area.

The cloud dissipates and reveals her head has been completely frozen by the liquid nitrogen. He glares as her lifeless body for a moment.

He stomps his foot down upon her face and shatters her skull into countless little pieces. He tosses the empty canister aside and leaves the room.

INT. MILITARY HELICOPTER - NIGHT

Traynor and Kelly sit in the rear of the craft. He raises his voice so as to be heard above the din of the rotors.

TRAYNOR

How are we for time?

She glances at her watch.

KELLY

We're a half-hour away.

An electronic chime cuts through the air. She retrieves her cell phone and answers the call.

KELLY

Kelly... Speak up, I can barely hear you... State of emergency? You sure?... Thanks, I owe you one. Bye.

He turns to her as she puts away the cell phone.

TRAYNOR

What's going on?

KELLY

I have a cousin in Richmond. There are rumors the Governor's declared a state of emergency and sent the State Defense Forces to the NexGenics Center. What do we do now?

He grits his teeth as a scowl washes over his face.

TRAYNOR

Tell the pilot to go faster.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FOURTH FLOOR - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

Christine and Richard step through a pair of steel doors which connect a perpendicular hallway to the corridor.

She glances down both ends of the path while he looks at the Blackberry-like device in his hand.

RICHARD

You up for this?

CHRISTINE

No, not really. Be careful.

The pair heads down the corridor in opposite directions.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FOURTH FLOOR - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Richard emerges at one end of the corridor and noisily stomps his way down the path.

RICHARD

C'mon, you mutts. Show yourselves.

He reaches the midpoint of the corridor when one of the dogs appears at the end of the path. The animal barks in response and five more dogs appear next to it.

The dogs growl menacingly as they slowly move forward. Richard raises his hands defensively and slowly backpedals his way up the corridor.

RICHARD

Nice... Nice doggies...

He turns heel and runs for his life as the dogs howl with fury and rapidly sprint down the path after him.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FOURTH FLOOR - HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

Christine enters the corridor and softly sings to herself as she silently walks down the path.

CHRISTINE

There was a farmer who had a dog...
And Bingo was his name-o...
B-I-N-G-O... B-I-N-G-O...
B-I-N-G-O...

She stops in her tracks as several low growls echo down the corridor. The other six dogs appear at the end of the path and stare her down.

CHRISTINE

And Bingo was his name-o.

She spins around and rushes back up the path as the dogs bark ferociously and quickly chase after her.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FOURTH FLOOR - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

Richard turns the corner and arrives at the steel doors as barks echo throughout the area. He gasps for breath and frantically scans the corridor.

RICHARD

Chris?! Chris?!

Christine appears at the other end of the corridor.

CHRISTINE

Open the doors!

Both sets of dogs arrive in the corridor just as the pair slips behind the steel doors.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FOURTH FLOOR - HALLWAY #4 - NIGHT

Richard locks the set of bolts at the top and bottom of both doors. Christine removes an axe from a nearby fire station on the wall and shoves it through the door handles.

The twelve dogs arrive outside the pair of steel doors and ram their muscular bodies against them. The doors dent in response and the bolts start to bend.

Christine and Richard crouch down in the middle of the corridor. She removes a large jar of napalm from one of the tote bags while he prepares one of his fuses.

The dogs foam at the mouth as they hurl themselves against the locked doors. The bolts threaten to give way and the doors become increasingly misshapen.

Christine and Richard set up the napalm and grab hold of their tote bags. The pair rushes toward a table which rests near the end of the corridor.

They flip the table over onto its side and take cover behind it. She peers at the steel doors as he holds the copper wires above the lantern battery.

The bolts fail, the axe handle breaks, and the dogs burst through the steel doors. She cowers behind the table as he touches the wires to the battery's terminals.

A stream of fiery napalm shoots out of the jar and engulfs the dogs in flames. The animals thrash and howl in agony as they are consumed by the blaze.

The fire alarm sounds and the sprinklers put out the flames. Christine and Richard peer over the table and find all twelve dogs have been burnt to a crisp.

RICHARD

That takes care of the animals.

CHRISTINE

There's still one more on the loose.

RICHARD

Think Doc's ready yet?

CHRISTINE

Let's find out.

The pair gathers their belongings and leaves the scene.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Two STATE POLICEMEN use their vehicles to block the stretch of road. The black sedan and two transport trucks appear and come to a stop in front of the roadblock.

Eagleson and Wynne exit the sedan and approach the officers on duty. The pair displays their IDs as the policemen step forward and meet them.

EAGLESON

Eagleson. Wynne. OCP. What happened?

STATE POLICEMAN #1

Chemical spill a half-mile away.

STATE POLICEMAN #2

Sorry, can't let anyone through.

WYNNE

We have orders from the Governor. We must get to Lynchburg right away.

STATE POLICEMAN #1

We have orders not to allow anyone past this point. The fumes are just too strong.

STATE POLICEMAN #2

Unless you've got hazmat suits, you'll have to take the side road a few miles back.

Eagleson and Wynne nod and head back toward the sedan.

WYNNE

This'll delay us by ten minutes.

EAGLESON

I don't think we've got ten minutes.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - SMALL LAB - NIGHT

The modest room is ringed with steel shelves and steel chests of drawers. Harrison stands at one of the worktables and heats a pale yellow liquid over a Bunsen burner.

He turns the burner off and pours the liquid from its test tube into a beaker filled with a bright purple liquid. He stirs the solution as it turns fluorescent blue.

He takes hold of a large syringe and slowly fills it with the prepared solution. He eyes the needle in his hand and smiles with relief.

HARRISON

Now, I just need to find a way to administer it.

He jumps up with fright as someone furiously pounds on the locked door to the room. He takes cover behind the worktables as the noise grows louder and more intense.

The door flies off its hinges as Gabriel bursts into the lab. He scans the area for a moment and slowly stalks his way around the room.

GABRIEL

I know you're here.

He approaches the lab equipment Harrison used a moment ago and angrily swats it off the worktable. He calls out as he weaves his way through the room.

GABRIEL

What, you think you can stop me with your chemicals and your formulas? It didn't work for the good doctor. It won't work for you.

Harrison rises up from behind a nearby worktable. Gabriel turns around as he lunges forward. Harrison plunges the syringe into Gabriel's chest and injects the solution.

Harrison rushes toward the door to the room. Gabriel removes the syringe from his chest, leaps from worktable to worktable, and tackles him to the floor.

GABRIEL

What did you do to me?!

Gabriel hoists him over his head and throws him clear across the room. Harrison slams into the steel shelves and lands on the floor in a heap.

GABRIEL

What the hell did you do?!

Gabriel rushes over to his side, hoists him overhead once more, and hurls him across the lab. Harrison slams into another set of steel shelves and collapses to the floor.

Gabriel picks up one of the steel chest of drawers and holds it above his head. Harrison cowers in terror as his attacker slams the chest of drawers down upon him.

Gabriel slams it down upon his victim a second and a third time. Harrison's body falls limp underneath the chest of drawers as a torrent of blood spills onto the floor.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

Christine and Richard emerge at one end of the corridor. The pair stops as someone obscured by darkness steps out of the small lab. She takes a few excited steps toward the man.

CHRISTINE

Doctor! Did you finish --

Richard grabs Christine by the arm with panic on his face.

RICHARD

That's not Doc!

Gabriel steps into the light and stares the pair down. Christine and Richard turn heel and run for their lives.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Christine and Richard burst through a pair of steel doors at one end of the lengthy corridor. They lock the set of bolts at the top and bottom of each door.

The pair sprints toward the other end of the hall and crouches down on the floor. They rummage through their tote bags as Gabriel furiously pounds on the doors.

Richard produces a matchbox and both of his smoke bombs from his bag. Christine rummages through her bag as he strikes one of the matches.

RICHARD

These'll give us a chance to escape.

CHRISTINE

No, we just need to disorient him.

The steel doors warp under Gabriel's assault and the bolts threaten to give way.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!

Christine reaches into her bag and carefully removes her chemical bomb.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Not by the hairs of your chinny chin
chins?

Richard slides the lit smoke bombs down the corridor.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Then I'll huff, and I'll puff...

Thick white smoke envelops the end of the hallway. Christine anxiously grips the chemical bomb in her hands.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

And I'll blow your house in!

A loud bang cuts through the air and a gust of wind causes the smoke to swirl. Christine jumps up as Gabriel steps into view and hurls the chemical bomb down the corridor.

The glass bottle shatters as it strikes Gabriel in the chest. He screams in anguish as he is sprayed with sulfuric acid and set on fire.

Christine and Richard look on as he wails in agony and desperately thrashes about. He disappears inside the cloud of smoke as silence envelops the area.

The fire alarm sounds and water rains down from the sprinklers above. Richard stands up next to Christine, smiles in relief, and places an arm around her shoulders.

RICHARD

You did it, Chris! Thank God! Just wait 'til Doc... Oh, no. Doc's...

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry, Rick.

RICHARD

I... I shoulda --

CHRISTINE

It's not your fault. Look, let's head to the roof and --

Christine and Richard spin around as a hellish scream echoes down the corridor. The pair looks on as Gabriel emerges from the white smoke and stares them down.

Gabriel's body is covered with serious fire and chemical burns. Christine and Richard scream with fright and sprint down the corridor with their adversary in pursuit.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - SMALL LAB - NIGHT

Scrappy cautiously enters the room and scans the disheveled lab. He spots Harrison's body underneath the steel chest of drawers and moans with despair.

He grabs the chest of drawers and tosses it across the room. He cradles the mangled body in his arms, strokes the doctor's head, and slowly rocks back and forth.

He gently sets the body down on the floor and closes the doctor's eyes with a wave of his hand. He stares off into space, slams his fists on the ground, and growls with fury.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Christine and Richard sprint around the corner and scan the area as they tear down the path.

CHRISTINE

Where do we go now?!

RICHARD

Quick, the large lab!

The pair rushes toward a door which leads to the large lab.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - LARGE LAB - NIGHT

Christine and Richard scurry into the room, lock the door behind them, and rush toward the far end of the lab. Gabriel smashes through the wall like a human wrecking ball.

The pair weaves their way past the many obstacles in the room. Their pursuer tears through the shelves, worktables, and partitions as if they were not even there.

Christine and Richard reach the far end of the room where a large window leads to an office next door. Gabriel bursts through the last of the obstacles and stares them down.

Christine and Richard grab all sorts of items from the nearby shelves and hurl them at their attacker. Gabriel effortlessly swats the obstacles aside and moves forward.

GABRIEL

You thought your little stunt would
hurt me? Physical pain is only
skin-deep. Would you like to know
what real pain is? Let me show you.

Christine and Richard hold each other as Gabriel prepares to attack. He stops as a mighty roar echoes throughout the room. He turns around as Scrappy leaps into view.

Gabriel yelps in surprise as the mountain gorilla tackles him to the floor. Scrappy screeches with fury as he frantically bites and scratches his target.

Scrappy delivers several brutal punches and blows to the focus of his ire. Gabriel moans with shock as the mountain gorilla picks him up and tosses him about like a rag doll.

Scrappy viciously slams his target into the walls, shelves, worktables, and partitions in the area. The mountain gorilla growls as he picks Gabriel up and hurls him through the air.

Gabriel smashes through the large window and disappears inside the office next door. Several large shards of glass poke out of the bottom of the window frame.

Scrappy turns to Christine and Richard as they look on with a mix of fear and astonishment. He barks at the pair and gestures toward the exit.

Christine and Richard nod their heads, grab their tote bags, and flee the scene. Gabriel rises into view beyond the broken window with a dazed look on his face.

Scrappy roars with fury and rushes toward the window. Gabriel wails as the mountain gorilla leaps through the opening and tackles him out of view.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Christine and Richard emerge from the large hole in the wall and look through their tote bags.

RICHARD

You have anything left?

CHRISTINE

My Molotov cocktail. You?

RICHARD

I'm down to fuses.

CHRISTINE

Come on, to the roof.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - RESEARCH WARD - LARGE LAB - NIGHT

Gabriel is flung through the broken window and lands on the floor in a heap. Scrappy jumps through the window frame and continues the assault.

Scrappy scratches and bites his adversary until Gabriel manages to roll on top of him. He straddles the mountain gorilla and frantically punches and throttles the animal.

Gabriel and Scrappy roll around on the floor and trade a series of blows. The pair separates from one another, scrambles to their feet, and locks each other in a bear hug.

Scrappy pins his adversary against the wall and tries to gouge out his eyes. Gabriel presses his feet against the wall and uses leverage to force the gorilla onto the floor.

Gabriel straddles Scrappy and delivers a series of brutal elbows to the side of the head. He drags the gorilla onto his feet and hurls the animal toward the broken window.

A large shard of glass thrusts into Scrappy's neck. The glass snaps from the frame and the mountain gorilla wearily slumps to the floor.

Scrappy holds his hands to his neck as blood gushes from his mouth. Gabriel stares at the mortally wounded mountain gorilla and cackles with delight.

His laughter ceases as Scrappy falls over in death. A look of despair washes over Gabriel's face. He puts his head in his hands as tears well up in his eyes.

GABRIEL

What am I doing? What's happened to me? Why can't I stop? Why...

His eyes roll to the back of his head as he falls faint. He collapses to the floor as his body shakes and trembles. His skin ripples and the burns which cover it vanish.

The muscles all over his body grow even larger and are barely contained by his skin. The blood vessels near the surface visibly throb and pulse.

His bones grow dramatically and add a foot to his height. He opens his bloodshot eyes and sits up on the floor. He growls with a low and demonic tone and rises to his feet.

INT. NEXGENICS CENTER - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Christine and Richard reach the top of the stairs and arrive at a steel door. She tries to open the door to no avail.

CHRISTINE

It's locked!

RICHARD

Move! Move!

He retrieves a fuse from his tote bag, prepares it for use, and jams it into the door's lock. The pair sits several steps away with their backs to the door.

Christine covers her ears as Richard holds the copper wires over the lantern battery. A loud slam echoes throughout the area as a deep and menacing voice calls out from below.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

You can't hide from me forever!

Richard touches the ends of the wires to the battery's terminals and blows the door lock. Christine grabs her tote bag and leads him toward the door.

EXT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ROOF - NIGHT

Christine and Richard step onto the desolate rooftop and scan the area. A window washing platform rests beside the ledge. A blue tarp sits by the ledge a fair distance away.

CHRISTINE

There's the rig!

RICHARD

Set it up! I'll hold him off!

She rushes over to the window washing platform. He sprints over to the blue tarp, pulls it back, and reveals steel pipes which are part of some disassembled scaffolds.

Christine arrives next to the platform and looks off into the distance. She eyes a series of headlights as they draw closer and closer to the building.

CHRISTINE

Someone's coming! I think we're going to make it!

Gabriel knocks the stairwell door off its hinges and arrives on the rooftop. Richard grabs one of the steel pipes and rushes toward him.

Richard mightily swings the pipe and rains down several firm blows. Gabriel growls with fury as he absorbs the strikes with little pain.

Gabriel surges forward and strikes Richard in the side of the head with the back of his hand. Christine sets her tote bag aside and rushes to his aid.

Gabriel stands over Richard and prepares to continue the assault. Christine screams as she leaps onto his back and frantically claws at his eyes and face.

Gabriel spins around and tries to throw her off his back. He flips Christine forward and sends her to the ground. She scrambles to her feet as he charges at her.

Gabriel strikes her flush across the face with the back of his hand. Christine flies several feet through the air and lands in a heap next to her tote bag.

Christine moans in agony as blood pours from her nose. Richard reclaims the steel pipe, leaps back onto his feet, and mightily slams it against Gabriel's prone ribs.

The pipe not only fails to injure Gabriel but reacts as though it has struck a solid object. The reverberations cause Richard to drop the pipe and clench his hands in pain.

Richard grits his teeth and throws a punch at Gabriel's face. Gabriel grabs Richard's fist and blocks the blow. Richard falls to his knees as Gabriel tightens his grip.

Richard wails in anguish as the bones in his hand snap like twigs one after the other. Gabriel stands over his victim and speaks with a low and demonic tone.

GABRIEL

You people think you can do anything you want?! You people think you have the right to play God?! Well, you're not God anymore. I'm God now, and I'm a very, very vengeful God.

Gabriel hoists his target into the air by the neck and throws him several feet across the rooftop. Richard lands next to the disassembled scaffolds in a heap.

Christine quietly retrieves the glass bottle of gasoline and the rag from her tote bag. She hurriedly shoves the rag into the narrow neck of the bottle.

Gabriel approaches the disassembled scaffolds and stares at his victim. Richard cradles his injured hand as tears of anguish pour down his face.

RICHARD

Why?

GABRIEL

Why? Why?! I didn't choose this! I didn't choose to be here! I had a life! I had a great life until...

He stops as tears well up in his eyes and a despondent look washes over his face. He speaks with his normal voice.

GABRIEL

I lost my job, I lost my wife, I lost my money, I lost my possessions, and now I've lost my soul to this place.

Christine quietly retrieves a chlorine tablet from her tote bag and forces it into the neck of the glass bottle.

GABRIEL

I've lost everything a man can lose.
Now, it's time for you and your
friend to do the same.

Gabriel grabs Richard by the neck, hoists him in the air,
and moves toward the ledge.

GABRIEL

Burn in hell.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)

You first!

Gabriel turns around as Christine rises to her feet and
hurls the glass bottle through the air. Richard slips from
his grasp as the bottle smashes against his chest.

Gabriel screams as the gasoline ignites and sets him ablaze
from head to toe. He runs and flails about in a vain attempt
to extinguish the flames.

Richard grabs another pipe with his good hand as Gabriel
rushes toward him. Richard thrusts the pipe into Gabriel's
chest and uses momentum to vault him over the ledge.

EXT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FRONT - NIGHT

The black sedan and the two transport trucks screech to a
stop in front of the building. Eagleson and Wynne exit their
vehicle and stare at the heavens.

Gabriel tumbles through the air while still on fire and
heads for the flagpole below. He screams as the end of the
pole plunges through his chest.

He desperately grabs the NexGenics flag as it rises through
his torso. He nearly rips the flag away but cannot stop
himself as he slides down the pole.

Eagleson and Wynne rush toward the building as he slowly
spirals down the flagpole. Gabriel's desperate screams and
shouts become increasingly faint.

Gabriel's lifeless body comes to a rest at the base of the
pole. His unrecognizable corpse has been burnt to a crisp
right down to the skeleton.

The NexGenics flag flutters down from the sky and drapes
over Gabriel's body. Eagleson and Wynne stare at the corpse,
exchange a stunned look, and glance up at the rooftop.

EXT. NEXGENICS CENTER - ROOF - NIGHT

Christine wipes the blood from her nose while Richard tosses the steel pipe away and cradles his injured hand.

The pair smiles in relief, embraces one another, peers over the ledge, and looks down at the scene below.

RICHARD

It's over. It is over, right?

CHRISTINE

Come on, let's get you an ambulance.

She puts an arm around his shoulders and leads him away.

EXT. NEXGENICS CENTER - FRONT - NIGHT

State police vehicles, fire trucks, and ambulances are on the scene. Several STATE POLICEMEN and FIREFIGHTERS escort a group of EMPLOYEES away from the building.

Christine sits down in the open back end of an ambulance with a bandage over her nose. Eagleson leans against the vehicle as he speaks with her.

EAGLESON

I tried Harry's cell, his office, and the front desk but couldn't get through. That's when I knew he was right. God, if I only acted sooner --

CHRISTINE

Don't blame yourself. What are you going to do with...

EAGLESON

Don't know yet. Sorry, you'll hafta excuse me --

CHRISTINE

Do you know who that man was?

EAGLESON

You catch the news this mornin'? There was a car accident in Roanoke.

CHRISTINE

I heard about that. A homeless man saved a little girl before he was...

A stunned look washes over her face as he nods his head in response. She shakes her head with disbelief as he steps away from view.

The SDF lieutenant leads his platoon out of the building while Wynne trails behind. Two pairs of soldiers each carry a stretcher which holds a body covered by a sheet.

The four soldiers place the stretchers in the back of one of the military transport trucks. Eagleson arrives on the scene and approaches Wynne and the lieutenant.

SDF LIEUTENANT

Every person and animal inside is accounted for, sir. What should we do with the male and the gorilla?

EAGLESON

Take 'em back to Fort Pickett and keep 'em under guard 'til we figure out what to do.

SDF LIEUTENANT

Yes, sir.

Wynne steps forward as the lieutenant steps away.

EAGLESON

Find anythin' of value?

WYNNE

Most of the records were damaged or destroyed, but I did find this.

She reaches inside her coat and produces the familiar DVD.

WYNNE

I haven't had the chance to examine the disc, but I bet it contains all the information on the project.

EAGLESON

Guard that disc with your life.

WYNNE

Guard it? We should destroy it.

EAGLESON

Technology ain't good or evil, Wynne, only the people who use it.

The pair turns around as three military helicopters swoop into view and land nearby. Traynor and Kelly exit one craft while the army lieutenant leads his platoon out the others.

The new arrivals march their way toward the front of the building. Traynor holds his ID high in the air and shows it to everyone in the vicinity.

TRAYNOR

Neil Traynor, Department of Defense.
You are all on federal property. You
will turn over any possessions you
have illegally seized and you will
vacate the premises at once.

EAGLESON

We ain't goin' nowhere.

Traynor spins around and glares at Eagleson.

TRAYNOR

Who the hell are you?

Eagleson displays his ID in response.

EAGLESON

Frederick Eagleson, Office of
Commonwealth Preparedness.

TRAYNOR

State Homeland Security? Well, I
don't see Osama bin Laden anywhere so
I guess you can go.

Eagleson hands over a sheet of paper.

EAGLESON

We're here under orders signed by the
Governor. You're the ones who can go.

Traynor crumples the paper and tosses it away.

TRAYNOR

This is federal property!

EAGLESON

Really? Let's see the deed.

TRAYNOR

I... I don't have it on me --

EAGLESON

'Til I see proof of ownership, we
ain't goin' nowhere.

The two men stare each other down. Traynor waves off his
charges and glares back at Eagleson.

TRAYNOR

Let's go. I'll deal with you later.

Traynor, Kelly, and the army platoon march back toward their helicopters. The SDF lieutenant and his charges snicker. Eagleson and Wynne share a smile in relief.

Richard sits in the open back end of another ambulance. His injured hand is wrapped in bandages. He raises his head as Christine arrives on the scene.

CHRISTINE

Hey, Rick. How are you?

He responds with a silly grin on his face.

RICHARD

Oh, I feel fantastic.

She laughs and shakes her head.

CHRISTINE

You're high as a kite.

RICHARD

Yeah, but I've stopped crying.

CHRISTINE

Is your hand going to be okay?

RICHARD

I'll hafta see a specialist to find out if I need surgery. Still, can't complain considering what's happened. Guess you can't keep me company, with your move to California and all.

CHRISTINE

No, probably not. I have to go to the hospital, so... I'll be in touch.

She turns and walks away. He rises from his seat.

RICHARD

Chris?

She turns back around as he steps forward.

RICHARD

If we don't see each other again --

CHRISTINE

We'll see each other again.

RICHARD

If we don't see each other again, I just wanna say...

The pair looks at each other for a moment unsure what to do next. They both smile and warmly embrace one another.

RICHARD

Take care, Chris.

CHRISTINE

You too, Rick.

He looks on as she turns around and walks away from the ambulance. Several state policemen and firefighters lead more of the employees through the area.

Christine enters the throng of people and disappears into the crowd. Richard smiles to himself, turns around, and walks away from view.

FADE OUT.

THE END