

# **SPACEWALKERS**

by

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. DEEP SPACE - FLASHBACK

A journey across the Milky Way Galaxy: Constellations, nebulae, black holes, Orion-Cygnus arm, Solar System, from Pluto to Jupiter and then the Asteroid Belt.

TWO BIG, BIZARRE-LOOKING ASTEROIDS collide with each other!

The one belonging to the family of BAPTISTINA asteroids is thrown away from the asteroid belt and flies across the vast empty space toward planet Earth. It shakes violently when it reaches a dark, WHIRLING ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD. It is now enveloped in a cloud of bluish cloud of gas, and it produces WHISTLING SOUND.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Dinosaurs of all species roam around the grassland and the forests.

T. rex hunt sauropods and other species of dinosaurs.

SUPER: Cretaceous Period  
65 Million Years Ago

EXT. DEEP SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid continues flying toward planet Earth, WHISTLING as it spins on its axis covered in bluish cloud of gas.

It enters the atmosphere and burns at the surface.

EXT. YUCATAN PENINSULA, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Quetzalcoatlus, a 300-pound bird with a 36-foot wing span flies above the Earth. It is joined by many more flying dinosaurs. They hunt for preys.

SUPER: Cretaceous Period  
65 Million Years Ago

Below, different species of dinosaurs roam the grassland.

T. rex run after sauropods and other dinosaurs.

Suddenly the asteroid plunges into the ground and spews a cloud of dust hundreds of miles in diameter.

The dinosaurs are either burried under the asteroid or thrown in every direction.

The sky becomes dark and the sun is totally shrouded by the cloud of dust and debris.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

The dinosaurs MOAN as they look up the darkening sky. The cloud of dust and debris spreads over them until it is totally dark.

Panicking, the dinosaurs flee in all directions.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KOSOVO-ALBANIAN BORDER - NIGHT - PRESENT TIME

An AC-130U Spooky gunship flies over the border near Morine.

SUPER: KOSOVO WAR, 1998-1999

INT. COCKPIT OF AC-130U - NIGHT

Wearing the uniform of a Lt. Colonel in the US Air Force, JOHN SLATER, 40, ruggedly handsome, is mounted at the pilot's seat, looking out the window to his left. He is wearing a headset. The co-pilot is looking to the right.

Behind them are the navigator and flight engineer. They are looking at the instrument panels.

INT. WEAPONS BAY, AC-130U SPOOKY - NIGHT

The Sensor Operator is looking at the radar display, while the night observation operator is staring at the infrared display and the fire direction officer is looking at the television display.

EXT. BORDER CHECKPOINT, KOSOVO-ALBANIA - NIGHT

A group of Serbian soldiers aboard five T-72 tanks and ten BMP infantry fighting vehicles are blocking the road.

One of them carries a SAM-7 Strela missile launcher.

They check the vehicles passing by. They let the men get down the vehicles and frisk them first before letting them go, leaving the women and children behind. Those who try to protest are shot to death.

INT. WEAPONS BAY, AC-130U SPOOKY - NIGHT

The Sensor Operator stares into the radar.

SENSOR OPERATOR (OVER RADIO)

Targets identified. Five T-72 tanks  
and ten BMP personnel carriers...  
other unidentified vehicles.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Damn, there are civilians down  
there.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)  
Colonel Slater, sir, are we going  
to abort the mission?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
No. I'll go down there.

He goes to the weapons bay. He hitches the radio to his chest and fixes the earpiece. Then he dons a parachute as the ramp starts to open. Next he picks up an M-4 carbine SOPMOD with sound suppressor, runs to the ramp and drops out into the air.

EXT. OVER THE BORDER CHECKPOINT, KOSOVO-ALBANIA - CONTINUOUS

John releases the parachute and maneuvers it toward the back of the guardhouse.

EXT. BORDER CHECKPOINT, KOSOVO-ALBANIA - CONTINUOUS

The Serbian soldiers laugh as they herd women and children inside the guardhouse through the door at the back.

Carrying an M-4 SOPMOD, John crawls behind the guardhouse. He sees--

TWO SERBIAN SOLDIERS

They are posted at the door of the guardhouse.

From a distance, we could hear the conversation of the Serbian soldiers mounted on the tanks and BMP and on the road. They are laughing frequently.

John aims his rifle and shoots the two guards one after the other. They tumble to the ground, GROANING. They are both dead.

He runs to the door and kicks it open, then he barges inside.

About twenty women and ten children are being held inside. He signals them to follow him.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Spooky, cover me!

The Kosovar women and children storm out of the guardhouse.

The Serbian soldiers hear the noise of running footsteps.

Suddenly, the AC-130U Spooky gunships FIRES down at them from an altitude of one thousand feet.

The tanks and BMPs are hit by cannons, while the soldiers are struck by bullets from the Gatling gun.

The Serbian carrying the SAM ducks for cover and aims his weapons to the aircraft. He squeezes the trigger.

## THE MISSILE

streaks skyward and hits the portside of the plane where the guns are mounted.

## FLARES

are thrown down by the gunship.

## THE MISILE

zigzags through the shower of flares and hits the side of the gunship where the 105 cannon is located. It EXPLODES into a FIREBALL.

## INT. COCKPIT OF AC-130U SPOOKY GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS

The co-pilot struggles with the joystick as the plane descends.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)  
Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! We are hit!  
Surface-to-air-missile!

The flight engineer and the navigator SCREAM in fear.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)  
We're going down! Mayday! Mayday!

## EXT. BORDER CHECKPOINT, KOSOVO-ALBANIA - CONTINUOUS

John looks up at the flaming gunship as he runs with the women and children.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Spooky, land at the Albanian side.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)  
Colonel, sir, we're going down  
fast!

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Son of a bitch!

Serbian soldiers are chasing them. They are FIRING their guns indiscriminately. The women and children are hit.

John FIRES back. He hits three of them.

The soldiers keep on charging. The women and children SCREAM as they are hit one after the other.

John inches his way to the rear toward Albanian soil as he FIRES back at the Serbs, killing many of them.

## A SERB SOLDIER

He is carrying a sniper rifle with an attached infrared scope. He aims at John and FIRES.

JOHN

He lifts a liittle girl and raises her to his chest.

BULLET

is zooming toward John and hits the girl. She limps instantly.

John FIRES back at the Serb, hitting him on the head.

ANOTHER SERB SOLDIER

FIRES at John, htting him in the left side of his belly.

John groans as he FIRES back at the Serb, hitting him on the chest.

The gunbattle is over.

John kneels on the ground as he shakes the little girl. She is dead.

INT. WEAPONS BAY-AC-130U SPOOKY - CONTINUOUS

The gunners are on fire and they fight to extinguish it.

The Sensor Operator SCREAMS as his clothes burn.

SENSOR OPERATOR (OVER RADIO)  
Mayday! Mayday! We are burning!

EXT. KOSOVO-ALBANIAN BORDER - CONTINUOUS

The plane banks to starboard as it continues to descend. Then it levels off and crash-landed on a open field. It explodes into a big FIREBALL.

EXT. BORDER CHECKPOINT, KOSOVO-ALBANIA - CONTINUOUS

John surveys the carnage, pressing his wound with his left hand. He shakes every one of the women and children. All are dead.

Then he runs to the burning plane. He tries to locate his dead men to no avail.

A helicopter comes closer and closer, ROTORS WHIRLING.

He looks up and sees a powerful floodlight bearing down on him. He drops to his knees and cries.

The UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter touches down nearby.

Pararescuers run to him, carrying a stretcher.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. 4TH SPECIAL OPS SQUADRON, HULBURT FIELD, FL - DAY

John drives through the gate bearing the logo of the 4th Special Operations Squadron and parks his car in front of the main building.

SUPER: One week later

He gets down and walks inside the building.

INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - DAY

LT. GENERAL WILSON NEWMAN, 50, is standing in front of John's desk. He is wearing the uniform of the Air Force with the insignia of the Special Forces Command.

John enters, wearing the patch of the 4th Special Operations Squadron.

He snaps a salute and Wilson replies.

WILSON

Colonel Slater, they'll award you the Air Force Cross.

JOHN

How about my men?

WILSON

Yes, they'll also be awarded posthumously. You've to go to Washington. The ceremony will be at the Pentagon.

JOHN

Sir, I've considered retiring from the service.

WILSON

I can't stop you. But you've to receive the award first. The Secretary of the Air Force will personally pin the medal.

JOHN

You know what? It was an intelligence screw-up, General Newman, sir. They told us the Serbs were not armed with anti-aircraft missiles. What was needed in that situation was a fast attack aircraft, not the defenseless gunship.

WILSON

Sometimes we make mistakes. Intelligence gathering isn't absolutely accurate. It's a game of chance.

JOHN  
We usually call it system normal  
all fucked up!

Speechless, Wilson walks to the door.

MONTAGE:

1. John receives the Air Force Cross at the Pentagon
2. John visits the graves of his crewmen at the Arlington Memorial Cemetery.
3. John undergoes training at NASA

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - DAY

People are gathered outside the Vehicle Assembly Building and its environs watching a Delta IV heavy rocket hurtle into the sky from Space Launch Complex-37.

They break into an APPLAUSE.

SUPER: Five Years Later

The rocket keeps on ascending. The people are transfixed.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Looking at the wide screens, the mission specialists watch the rocket soar into outer space.

The two boosters separate from the Delta IV rocket and drop to the ground.

EXT. LOW EARTH ORBIT - DAY

The rocket continues to ascend into lower orbit.

The Delta IV main booster separates and recedes downward.

The payload fairings separate, exposing the Sentinel space probe.

The R-10 engines fire up and thrust the Sentinel into the dark and then separate from the satellite.

The Sentinel continues its journey into outer space.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

The mission specialists burst into loud APPLAUSE. Some shake each other's hands, others hug each other tightly.

Seated in front of a computer console, JACK CHAMBERS, 45, dons his headset. He hears different ambient NOISES. He smiles and then removes his headset.

INT. NEWSROOM-CNN CENTER, ATLANTA - DAY

Fatally attractive, SANDRA COLLINS, 35, faces the camera.

SANDRA

NASA has launched a Delta IV rocket to deploy the Sentinel space probe carrying a powerful Ultra High Resolution Instrument and Doppler sensing instrument...

INT. LIVING ROOM, JOHN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Standing in the middle of the living room, John picks up his coat from the back of a chair and wears it as he watches the TV.

Hanging on the wall above the TV are John's pictures while he was in the US Air Force. He wore a uniform with the rank of lieutenant colonel and has got a lot of decorations and ribbons in his chest, including the Air Force Cross medal worn around his neck. He is standing in front of AC-130U Spooky, A-10 Thunderbolt, F-15 and F-16 fighter jets. There are also photos showing him in NASA spacesuit.

SANDRA (ON TV)

Sentinel can visualize and pick up the sounds of asteroids and comets from the Asteroid Belt between planets Mars and Jupiter that will stray into our planet.

JOHN

You're just terrific.

A beautiful little girl emerges from one of the rooms. She goes to him and then looks at the TV.

GIRL

Oh, that'a ma mom!

SANDRA (ON TV)

Sentinel has the capability to detect even the smallest asteroids. It also carries powerful equipment for interstellar communication.

JOHN

(to daughter)

Keep watching your mom, Skinny. I'm going to Pasadena.

GIRL

Yah, daddy. Donna for-get ma candy.

JOHN

(rubbing her head)

Yeah, sure. How can I forget my little beauty.

He walks to the door and goes out.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE, DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY

John get inside his car and drives out of the garage into the road.

EXT. PASADENA FREEWAY - DAY

John's car is moving with the moderate traffic on the freeway.

INT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY

John dials his phone, holding the wheel with his left hand.

JOHN

Sandra, I watched you on TV. You're amazing.

SANDRA (VO)

(chuckling)

Where are you, John?

JOHN

Pasadena Freeway on the way to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

SANDRA (VO)

Wait for me before you leave for Florida.

JOHN

Yeah, sure. Where are you now?

SANDRA (VO)

Hartsfield-Jackson International.

JOHN

Okay. Take care, darlin'.

SANDRA (VO)

I love you, John.

JOHN

I love you too.

EXT. JET PROPULSION LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

John parks his car in front of the main building. He gets down and walks inside.

INT. FUNCTION ROOM, JET PROPULSION LAB - CONTINUOUS

PROF. WALTER PULLMAN, 50, stands behind the lectern and looks at his audience that fills all seats.

John is seated at the front row.

WALTER

Electromagnetism continues to be a mysterious physical phenomenon. Whether it has the capability to store past information remains a controversy. Most scientists believe that there exist no natural electromagnetic fields that can store information. It is only when man invented instruments that make use of electromagnets that we see the storage of information for posterity's sake.

John raises his hand.

JOHN

I'd like to ask you a personal question, Professor Pullman.

Walter nods at him.

WALTER

What is it?

JOHN

Do you believe natural and rare electromagnetic fields that can store information exist today or existed long time ago?

Walter leaves the lectern and walks to the edge of the rostrum.

WALTER

Yes, I do. If man can create such instruments, why can't the Master Architect of the Universe? You're an astronaut, and have you felt the power of God out there?

JOHN

Yes. One psychologist called it the "Overview Effect". You feel the interconnection of the celestial bodies. But I always doubt if past unwritten or unrecorded information had been stored up for retrieval later. You need a very big and very powerful instrument up there to do it.

WALTER

Do you think that's impossible to do? Physics has its own limits, Colonel Slater. The observable portion of the Universe is beyond complete understanding. How much

(MORE)

WALTER (cont'd)  
 more for the unobservable portion  
 of the Universe? You've heard about  
 curved space and curved and warped  
 time?

John nods and smiles.

JOHN  
 Yes. Relativity is convincing, but  
 going back to the past is nearly  
 impossible, because you can't have  
 a spacecraft that flies at the  
 speed of light.

WALTER  
 Let me share with you this limerick  
 from Nobel Laureate Stephen  
 Hawking:  
 (beat)  
 There was a young lady of Wight/  
 Who traveled much faster than  
 light/ She departed one day/ In a  
 relative way/ And arrived on the  
 previous night.

The audience breaks into LAUGHTER.

John smiles.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE, ALHAMBRA, LOS ANGELES - DAY

Clad in a USAF uniform with the rank of Colonel, DAVID HUNTER, 41, emerges from the door of his house carrying his suitcase and loads it inside the trunk of his car.

Then he climbs at the front seat behind the wheel. He starts the engine. The car rolls out of the driveway.

EXT. INTERSTATE 405 - DAY

David's car is cruising at moderate speed behind a long line of cars.

Suddenly the car far ahead goes amok and hits the one to its right and left. This creates a chain reaction as cars hit each other, careening and rolling across the pavement, burning.

David tries to steer clear of the mayhem, zigzagging through the rolling vehicles. He survives unscathed.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY

David breathes a SIGH of relief as he thumps the wheel.

DAVID  
 Damn! What a nice way to start my  
 day.

INT. CLASSROOM, UCLA - DAY

CATHERINE SMITH, 35, is standing in front of the blackboard facing her post-graduate students, a mixture of young and middle-aged men and women.

CATHERINE

We'll find out why muscle atrophy occurs in microgravity, and we'll also observe the effect of microgravity on a certain species of fish.

MALE STUDENT #1

Dr. Smith, how long will you stay in the International Space Station?

CATHERINE

Six months, barring any unfortunate incident.

FEMALE STUDENT #1

How about our grades?

CATHERINE

I'll give you final exam today. I'll leave for Florida in twenty-four hours.

FEMALE STUDENT #2

Ma'am, we're not prepared.

CATHERINE

In graduate school, you always expect the unexpected.

Her phone RINGS. She dips into the pocket of her coat and pulls out her phone. She raises it to her lips after pressing one key.

CATHERINE

David?

INT. DAVI'D CAR - DAY

David is seated behind the wheel, holding the phone to his left ear.

DAVID

Cathy, I'll pick you up. Am now on the way. Interstate 405.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DAVID AND CATHERINE:

CATHERINE

Give me one hour.

DAVID

Yeah, sure.

CATHERINE

Don't forget to bring flowers.

DAVID

You don't have to remind me.

CATHERINE

We'll have to fetch my suitcase.

DAVID

No problem.

EXT. SHEREMETYEVO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MOSCOW - DAY

A van bearing the decal of the Russian Federal Space Agency pulls over the curb. The driver goes down and opens the rear door.

The side door opens and an attractive Russian woman emerges from the back seat. She is IRINA LEONOVA, 40, dressed in blouse and mini-skirt. She goes to the rear and takes her suitcase from the driver.

A man is waiting for her near the entrance to the pre-departure area. He is MIKAEL, 45 years old.

She pulls her suitcase and hurries to him. He meets her midway. They kiss passionately.

MIKAEL

(Russian, subtitled)

You should have quit your job, Irina. What can you get from going to the International Space Station?

IRINA

(Russian, subtitled)

The pride of our country is at stake, Mikael. Why can't you wait for six months? We'll get married.

Mikael walks away from her and stands at the curb. She watches him pensively.

A car driven by a beautiful woman pulls over and he climbs inside. They kiss each other.

Irina is stunned.

Mikael ignores her as the car speeds off.

Irina tries to look around her, seemingly not knowing whether to scream or cry. Tears eventually roll down her face. Slowly, she turns around and walks inside the terminal building, pulling her suitcase. She is heartbroken.

INT. CHARLES DE GAULLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Pulling a suitcase, ADRIEN CHANDLER, 50, walks to the counter of Air France and presents his ticket to the woman standing behind.

WOMAN

(French, subtitled)

What will you do in America, Mr. Chandler?

ADRIEN

(French, subtitled)

I will join some American astronauts to the International Space Station.

WOMAN

(French, subtitled)

You are an astronaut?

ADRIEN

(French, subtitled)

Yes. I used to be a pilot in the French Air Force before I joined the European Space Agency.

She hands him his boarding pass.

WOMAN

(French, subtitled)

We are proud of you.

ADRIEN

(French, subtitled)

Thank you.

EXT. NASA CAUSEWAY BRIDGE, CAPE CANAVERAL - DAY

The car is cruising the bridge at moderate speed.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - DAY

Seated behind the wheel, ERIC BALTAZAR, 45, looks sideways to his girlfriend, DIANA JONES, 35, a freelance photographer. She is taking pictures of the Kennedy Space Center.

ERIC

Why are you preoccupied with your camera when I'am here? You know how long we'll stay in the International Space Station?

DIANA

Yes, Eric. Six months at least. Maybe a year. That means no sex. You'll have no outlet in outer space.

ERIC  
I don't want to hear that. You're  
implying something.

DIANA  
You've to accept human nature.

ERIC  
You're a shit, Diana!

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

A twin-seater Cessna spins over the desert and then levels off before it touches down the airstrip.

A man places a ladder by the side of the cockpit.

EDWARD DUSTER, 50, emerges from the cockpit and climbs down the ladder, followed by his student.

MAN  
There was a phone call from the  
Kennedy Space Center.

EDWARD  
What did they say?

MAN  
You will leave for the  
International Space Station in  
twenty-four hours.

EDWARD  
Damn.

He runs to his car and speeds off across the desert.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - DAY

Different cars converge around the mission control building.

David and Catherine emerge from a car and walk toward the building.

Irina and Adrien get down from a van bearing the decal of NASA.

Edward shakes hands with Eric and they proceed inside the building.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - DAY

John meets David, Catherine, Eric, Edward, Irina and Adrien and shakes hands with them.

JOHN

Welcome to the Kennedy Space Center. Irina and Adrien, feel at home. The ISS is an expensive clubhouse for all mankind.

The astronauts LAUGH.

IRINA

Are you married?

JOHN

Yes. Two kids.

Adrien SNICKERS.

ADRIEN

I will not join a bachelor.

IRINA

Are you alluding to me, Adrien?

ADRIEN

No. We French prefer responsible leaders. Being a family man is a big responsibility.

IRINA

How did you know I am not married?

ADRIEN

I saw your profile at the website of the Russian Federal Space Agency.

Irina smiles mischievously.

IRINA

We are always at odds, Adrien. When Napoleon invaded my country, he miscalculated the Russian winter. I hope you will not make the same mistake.

ADRIEN

I take lesson from history, Irina.

JACK enters. He joins the group. He hugs David.

JOHN

Ladies and gentlemen, meet Dr. Chambers. Jack Chambers. He's the chief mission specialist at the Johnson Space Center. He used to be a test pilot at Boeing.

Jack shakes hands with them.

JOHN  
 (pointing to his crewmen)  
 This is Colonel Irina Leonova and  
 Colonel Adrien Chandler... Major  
 Eric Baltazar and Captain Edward  
 Duster.

JACK  
 I came here to wish you luck.

JOHN  
 He's kidding. He'll be our master  
 controller at the space station. He  
 will tell us later what to do and  
 what not to do.

JACK  
 (chuckling)  
 No, I'll not treat you like robots.  
 We're just following certain  
 protocols.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD 39A-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

The group of John boards the space shuttle Discovery mounted  
 at Launch Pad 39-A.

It hurtles into space amidst a cloud of gas and fumes.

EXT. VAB COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

People APPLAUSE as they watch from a distance the space  
 shuttle soar to the sky.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack watches the flight of the space shuttle Discovery on  
 the big screens. He is wearing a headset.

WOMAN (VO)  
 Take it away, Houston.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 Thank you, Cape Canaveral.

The mission specialists burst into a loud APPLAUSE.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 John, do you read me?

JOHN (VO)  
 Roger, loud and clear.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 Enjoy the ride.

JOHN (VO)  
 Thank you, Jack.

Jack sips at his cup of coffee.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOW EARTH ORBIT

The shuttle Discovery approaches the International Space Station.

Slowly it docks into the PMA-2 attached to the Harmony Node.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOW EARTH ORBIT

John is wearing an EMU and hooked to a tether. He is walking in space.

JACK (VO)

John, there is a report of meteorites heading in your direction!

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Damn.

He walks back to the space station using the thrusters of the EMU.

Suddenly a shower of micrometeorites BUZZ past him, but miss hitting him or any part of the space station.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

(agitated)

Shit, that's a close call!

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Thank God you're not hit.

A solo meteorite strikes the tether, cutting it.

John flies away from the space station.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Oh, my God!

JACK (OVER RADIO)

(frantic)

John, your SAFER! Activate it now!

John seizes the hand controller in front of his suit and the thrusters ignite, propelling him back in the direction of the space station. He maneuvers his way until he reaches the grips and translates to the Quest Airlock. He is agitated, breathing hoarsely.

INT. HARMONY NODE, ISS

John's crewmen are agitated as they look through the portholes.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
Thank God the SAFER works.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack parks his car in front of the mission control building and gets down.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack sits in front of a computer console and dons his headset. There are ambient NOISES. Then they are gone. Jack exchanges glances with his neighbor, an attractive woman. Her name is DEBBIE HOLMES, 30.

JACK  
Debbie, what happened?

Debbie freezes momentarily.

DEBBIE  
There's something wrong out there,  
Jack.

Jack is agitated.

JACK  
What?

DEBBIE  
Maybe a powerful electromagnetic  
field. It effectively jammed our  
signal.

JACK  
Why didn't we anticipate that?

Debbie shrugs her shoulders and shakes her head.

DEBBIE  
There's no way to test a device  
inside an electromagnetic field.

JACK  
We might lose the Sentinel.

DEBBIE  
Science has its own limits.

Jack stands up and goes to the front.

JACK

Ladies and gentlemen, we've a very bad news for you. We lost track of the Sentinel.

The mission specialists SIGH in frustration.

EXT. DEEP SPACE - FLASHBACK

The Sentinel is caught inside an electromagnetic field and spins on its horizontal axis. The cloud of gas completely shrouds the space probe from visual detection.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOW EARTH ORBIT

The International Space Station is orbiting the Earth at 17,200 miles per hour.

In the b.g., the continental United States, with low clouds over California.

SUPER: Six Months later

Clad in astronaut's EMU spacesuit, David exits from the Quest Airlock and translates out to the starboard side of the station's integrated truss structure. He is carrying a suit-sized sequential shunt unit.

Behind him, Catherine, also in EMU spacesuit, crawls out and inches her way to the integrated truss structure.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Cathy, this will be my last peek on planet Earth.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)

Why are you saying that when you're looking down at a beautiful world?

They reach the Harmony Node.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Damn, why can't they invent a power regulator that doesn't fail?

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)

They're giving us spacewalkers the reason to go out on an excursion, uh, I mean, Extra Vehicular Activity.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

A very expensive date.

Catherine CHUCKLES.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 You should have brought some  
 flowers.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Houston is listening to us.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 Is that classified as wiretapping?

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The large screen in front shows the location of the ISS. It is orbiting above California.

Seated in front of a computer console, Jack CHUCKLES and looks sideways to the other mission specialists. They are also enjoying the conversation. They are all wearing headsets.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 David, a beautiful rose is on the  
 way there.

Debbie looks at him in surprise.

INTERCUT JACK/DAVID/CATHERINE:

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Jack, it's difficult to get married  
 when you're in orbit. There's no  
 priest here.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 Jack, don't take his joke  
 seriously. I'm not fatally  
 attracted to him.

The mission specialists explode into LAUGHTER.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Easier said than done.

Jack CHUCKLES.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 David, shut up!

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 David, can you see us down here in  
 Texas?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Yeah, of course. But we're going  
 over the Yucatan Peninsula in  
 Mexico.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 Can you recognize Chicxulub?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
What the hell is that?

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
Dinosaurs' killer. That's the name  
of the crater that was reportedly  
created by the impact of an  
asteroid sixty-five million years  
ago on my birthday, to be exact.

David LAUGHS.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
I never thought you live in  
Jurassic Park.

The mission specialists explode into LAUGHTER.

INT. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Inside the command and control deck, John and his crewmen listen to the conversation among David, Catherine and Jack over the intercom.

Jack serves cups of coffee to his crewmen, one after the other before he takes his own.

JOHN  
David and Jack are like twin  
brothers. When we were at the US  
Air Force Academy, we could hardly  
go in between them. They shared  
meals. They sat side by side. They  
even exchanged clothes.

IRINA  
How about you?

JOHN  
No, I can't do that. I put space.

IRINA  
But you've a common touch,  
Commander.

EDWARD  
I've heard you'd a fierce encounter  
in Kosovo.

JOHN  
I was trying to rescue civilians  
from some Serbian soldiers. But I  
lost them including my crewmen.

ADRIEN  
You didn't anticipate the Serbs  
were armed with Russian-made SAMs?

IRINA

You're insinuating we instigated the Serbs to commit crimes against humanity.

ADRIEN

No, I did not say that.

ERIC

Please, this is the ISS. We don't discuss politics here.

JOHN

Adrien, I'll answer your question. Intelligence work is not perfect.

He finishes his cup and looks out the porthole. Then he takes his snopy cap and wears it.

EXT. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION - CONTINUOUS

David quickly removes the equipment from its package and replaces it on the slot. He gives a thumbs-up sign.

Catherine points to --

A SPACE SHUTTLE

It is approaching from the direction of Florida.

JOHN (VO)

David, make it fast. Discovery is coming.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

We're almost finished.

He grabs the floating busted equipment and replaces it inside the casing.

JACK (VO)

David, there's a report about a shower of meteorites heading in your direction!

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Oh, my God!

Quickly David and Catherine crawls back to the Quest Airlock carrying the suit-sized busted equipment as the Space Shuttle Discovery comes closer and closer in the background.

EXT./INT. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

David opens the hatch of the Quest Airlock and lets Catherine come in first before he follows her, tagging the equipment behind him. He spins around the lock quickly.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
Latch secured.

They walk to the control room.

The other astronauts shake hands with David and Catherine.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack is wearing his headset, watching Debbie and HENRY HEDGE, 35, chatting in front of the nearby console.

Suddenly there is a WHISTLING SOUND.

He perks up.

JACK  
Henry, come over here.

Henry and Debbie hurry to him.

HENRY  
What is it?

Jack removes his headset and hands it over to Henry.

JACK  
Sentinel's back. Listen to this sound. Kinda whistle up there. Might be an asteroid producing a whistling noise as it spins.

Henry wears the headset and listens in awe.

HENRY  
You're damned right, Jack.

JACK  
Whistling sound could mean the asteroid is hollow...two narrow openings like a boy scout's whistle.

Jack jabs a button and the WHISTLING SOUND becomes louder as the PA blares.

The mission specialists stand up to listen attentively to the sound, looking over to Jack and his company.

MISSION SPECIALISTS  
Sentinel's back!

HENRY  
How far is this asteroid?

JACK

Somewhere at the periphery of the Asteroid Belt. Too far to worry about it. Sentinel's not a waste of taxpayers' money.

DEBBIE

Can we get a visual?

JACK

The electromagnetic field is still there...obscuring the camera. Anyway, the asteroid's not a threat to us. Sleep soundly.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid continues to streak toward planet Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and WHISTLING inside an electromagnetic field of bluish cloud of gas.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack stands up from his seat, yawns and flexes his limbs.

Henry rushes to him from the other side. He is agitated.

HENRY

Jack, we've got an Earth-crosser...the same whistling asteroid!

JACK

Son of a bitch!

He follows Henry to his desk.

ON SCREEN

The bizarre-shaped BAPTISTINA ASTEROID spinning in the dark, WHISTLING. The screen loses focus for a moment. Then it becomes clear again.

JACK

What's happening?

HENRY

Electromagnetic interference. But the Sentinel is still picking up signals. I guess the electromagnetic field is slowly vanishing. This will clear up soon.

JACK

How big is this son of a gun?

HENRY  
Five miles in length.

JACK  
Did you compute its trajectory?

HENRY  
Yucatan Peninsula in twenty-nine days.

JACK  
Oh, my God!  
(beat)  
Is this a repetition of the extinction of dinosaurs?

HENRY  
I don't know. I'm not so sure.

JACK  
Get the profile.

HENRY  
Yes. But you've to inform Director Whiteman quickly.

INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE, JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

HOWARD WHITEMAN, 55, is seated behind his desk when his phone RINGS. He picks it up and answers.

HOWARD  
Yes?

JACK (VO)  
Get down here right now!

INT. MISSION CONTROL, JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Howard bursts inside fuming mad.

HOWARD  
Why the fuck you want me down here!

Everyone ignores him; they are all staring transfixed at the screen...then he sees it. He freezes in midstride and gapes.

THE ASTEROID, rapidly spinning on its axis and WHISTLING.

The screen gets blurry every now and then.

HOWARD  
Oh, my God!

He continues his way to Jack and Henry and points to his ear.

HOWARD  
What the hell is this noise?

JACK

Sir, the Sentinel is back!

HOWARD

Really? Damn. So what happened?

JACK

It may have passed the dense zone of the electromagnetic field. That was why we lost it for the last six months. It's now midway between us and the Asteroid Belt. Most likely the electromagnetic field is thinning out, so the Sentinel is able to send signals. It has picked up the asteroid.

HOWARD

How big is this devil?

JACK

Five miles long, three miles wide, two miles thick. Distance to Earth - thirty-seven million five hundred eighty-four thousand miles. Speed - fifteen miles per second. It will hit us in twenty-nine days. It swims in the same electromagnetic field that caught the Sentinel. That is why the signal interference.

HOWARD

Damn. Where is the proximate impact?

JACK

It looks like it will hit the Yucatan Peninsula.

The screen changes to an aerial view of the Yucatan Peninsula.

A simulation of the impact of the asteroid flashes into the screen instantly. Clouds of dust and debris cover the whole North and half of South America, the Caribbean Islands down to Brazil, eastern Russia, China, the two Koreas, Taiwan and Japan.

HOWARD

What? That's impossible.

HENRY

Yes, sir, we've already calculated the trajectory.

HOWARD

It might collide with the Sentinel.

JACK

No, sir. We're now in control of the space probe. We'll maneuver it to get closer to the asteroid.

HOWARD

Do we have a name for this devil?

JACK

Not yet, sir. We're establishing if it's the 298 Baptistina.

HOWARD

Oh, the family of dinosaur killer.

JACK

Yes, sir.

HOWARD

Okay, we'll inform the president.

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

President HARRY BILTMORE, 55, and the members of the National Security Staff watch Howard on the screen. They are using teleconferencing.

Howard is seated in front of the big screens inside the mission control, Johnson Space Center. In the b.g., the asteroid spinning on its axis and WHISTLING.

National Security Adviser ALLEN FIELDS, 55, is seated near Harry.

HARRY

Director Whiteman, what measures do you have in mind?

HOWARD (ON SCREEN)

Two options, Mr. President, sir. One, we explode a nuclear bomb inside the core of the asteroid or on its surface. Two, we ram it with an Exo-Atmospheric Vehicle to deflect its path.

Harry looks at his men briefly.

HARRY

(to Howard)

Chances of success?

HOWARD (ON SCREEN)

The nuclear bomb inside the core is the most likely to succeed in busting the asteroid.

HARRY

Twenty-nine days is not too long. You might run out of time. Prepare to implement your plan. The defense condition now is Fast Pace. DEFCON 2. God bless America.

The screen goes blank.

Harry turns to his men.

HARRY

If we fail to destroy the asteroid, it will be the end of human civilization.

ALLEN

Mr. President, shall we inform our allies, especially the Mexicans?

HARRY

Yes, of course. The world must know the tragedy that will follow if we fail.

He stands up and leaves the room, followed by his men.

EXT. PATHWAY-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack and Howard are strolling on the pathway leading to the mission control.

HOWARD

The president has given us the go signal to destroy that asteroid. He left me the option.

JACK

Sir, if the asteroid is hollow, it will be easier to place the bomb inside the core.

HOWARD

But we saw it spinning. How can you approach that?

JACK

We can gamble our luck that it's spinning on its axis right where there's a hole.

HOWARD

What if it's not?

JACK

We'll give options to the mission specialists where to place the bomb. But definitely drilling is out of the question.

HOWARD

Okay, select the people.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Howard enter the mission control and continue walking abreast with each other.

JACK

Commander John Slater and his crewmen.

HOWARD

The Russian woman and the Frenchman may not join him.

JACK

We can ask them. If they'll refuse, we'll replace them with our veteran spacewalkers.

HOWARD

But they're still in outer space.

JACK

They're coming soon.

HOWARD

All right, contact them now. As soon as they land, we take them up again.

JACK

Yes, sir.

Howard exits from the control room.

The three large screens show the asteroid spinning on its axis, WHISTLING.

Everyone stares at it transfixed.

JACK

Damn, that looks like 298 Baptistina. That's the kind that killed the dinosaurs sixty-five million years ago.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF SHUTTLE DISCOVERY - DAY

John is seated on the commander's chair, wearing a helmet over a snoopy cap. David is to his right, at the pilot's seat, also wearing snoopy cap and helmet.

Catherine and Irina are seated behind them, also in helmets.

The shuttle is speeding toward planet Earth, shaking.

JACK (VO)  
John, listen to this.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
What's that? Ballad of Dead Ladies?

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack is wearing a headset, as Howard and Henry watch him.  
He glances briefly at them.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
John, this is serious.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF SHUTTLE DISCOVERY - CONTINUOUS

The asteroid continues to WHISTLE.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOHN AND JACK:

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
What the hell is that? You're  
whistling to me?

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
No. That's the sound of an asteroid  
bound here. It's being picked up by  
the Sentinel. We're watching it  
right now.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
So the bastard is back? Where did  
it go after all these times?

Jack shrugs his shoulders.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
We presume it was caught by the  
powerful electromagnetic field  
stretching from Mars up to the  
midpoint with Earth forming some  
kind of a cloud, possibly gaseous.  
The asteroid wasn't visible until  
it got closer to the Sentinel. The  
distance now is fifty miles.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Oh, I see.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
The president has authorized the  
mission to destroy that asteroid.  
Director Whiteman has chosen your  
team for the mission.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Are you crazy?

EXT. BORDER CHECK POINT, KOSOVO-ALBANIA - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Serbian soldiers are FIRING at the women and children, killing them.

John lifts the little girl amidst GUNFIRE. She limps, dead.

The gunship crashes into the open field, exploding in a FIREBALL.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF ENDEAVOR

John is agitated. Then he SIGHS and leans hard on his seat.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack looks at Howard, disappointed.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

John, are you listenig to me?  
Remember that you're still governed  
by military discipline. Obey first  
before you complain.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF ENDEAVOR - CONTINUOUS

John SIGHS deeply.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Jack, I'm now a civilian.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOHN AND JACK:

JACK (OVER RADIO)

I know. But the discipline is still  
in your blood. You can't forsake  
the people of the world. You can't  
abandon humanity. You've nowhere to  
go anyway. In twenty-nine days,  
we'll say good-bye to each other  
permanently. You can stay in the  
space station, but for how long?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

In twenty-nine days, I'll lose my  
loved ones. Everybody survives  
except my crew and I. It's a  
wonderful world down there, Jack.  
Let me enjoy the rest of my life.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Your conscience will kill you. No.  
Fear will grip your heart for the  
next twenty-nine days.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Give me time to think.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
We're in a hurry, John.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Okay, I'll talk to my crewmen.  
They're listening to you, but I  
don't know how they feel about it.

John turns to his crew.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
What do you think?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
I'm with you, John. This is a  
matter of life and death.

John cranes his neck at the back.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
I will defy the order of my  
superiors. If they will penalize  
me, I will defect to the United  
States.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
You're a brave woman, Irina.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
I go where David goes.

INT. MID-DECK OF SHUTTLE DISCOVERY - CONTINUOUS

Adrien, Edward and Eric are seated in the mid-deck. They are  
all wearing snopy caps and helmets.

ADRIEN (OVER RADIO)  
We Frenchmen have never abandoned  
the United States. If Admiral  
Lafayette could sacrifice his life  
and fortune sailing across the  
Atlantic to help General  
Washington, why can't I join you?

EDWARD (OVER RADIO)  
That leaves Eric and I with no  
other choice. Are we not ashamed of  
Irina and Adrien? But can they give  
me a little time to see my wife?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
They'll be brought to Cape  
Canaveral. Don't worry.

ERIC (OVER RADIO)  
All right. If we could stay for six  
months in outer space, why not for  
a few days aboard that asteroid?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Jack, do you hear me? The decision is unanimous. We'll go.

JACK (VO)

Thank you, John.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Notify our families. Tell them to meet us at Cape Canaveral.

JACK (VO)

Roger that. No problem.

EXT. ABOVE THE ATLANTIC OCEAN - DUSK

The shuttle Discovery enters the atmosphere and heats up.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid zooms toward planet Earth at high velocity, spinning on its axis and WHISTLING inside an electromagnetic field of bluish cloud of gas.

Behind it, the Sentinel follows its path.

FADE OUT:

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. NATIONAL STORAGE SITE, BOSSIER BASE - DUSK

A nuclear transport vehicle rolls out of the mound-like camouflaged building and turns toward Barksdale Air Force Base.

INT. NUCLEAR TRANSPORT VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

COLONEL MITCHELL SHERMAN, 45, is seated against the wall, looking at the metal box containing a B83 gravity bomb. He is wearing the uniform of the US Air Force. The nuclear radiation sign is painted on the metal box.

Five MEN also in USAF uniform are seated across from him, all carrying M-4 Carbine SOPMOD.

MITCHELL

If the atomic bomb were not invented, mankind would be at the mercy of asteroids and comets. From being an offensive weapon during the Cold War, this bomb has found its usefulness to defend the world.

SERGEANT

You're right, Colonel, sir. From being a scourge of mankind, nuclear weapon is now the savior of mankind.

Mitchell draws out his cigarette and lights it.

EXT. BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE - CONTINUOUS

The Transport Vehicle stops behind a C-5 Galaxy parked in the middle of the ramp.

Mitchell and his men get down. He is holding his cigarette.

The vehicle climbs up the ramp of the plane, followed behind by Mitchell and his men.

The ramp closes slowly.

The C-5 Galaxy taxis to the runway.

INT. C-5 GALAXY - CONTINUOUS

The MASTER LOADER approaches Mitchell and snaps a salute. He is wearing the uniform of an Airman First Class.

Mitchell returns the courtesy, his cigarette sandwiched between the fore and middle fingers of his left hand.

MASTER LOADER

Welcome aboard, sir.

MITCHELL

It's a long flight to Cape Canaveral. Can I smoke?

MASTER LOADER

Yes, sir. This cargo bay is pressurized, but the captain won't mind for a man with a very big mission.

EXT. BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE - CONTINUOUS

The C-5 Galaxy dashes down the runway.

When it has lifted off, it banks to portside toward the east.

EXT. SHUTTLE RUNWAY-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

The shuttle Discovery approaches the runway from the north and then touches down and stops away from the ramp at the other end of the runway.

Three ambulances converge around it. Crewmen and fire trucks rush to it.

John and his crewmen emerge out of the door of the shuttle wearing snoopy caps and liquid-cooling garments. They board the ambulances, two in each vehicle. John is alone inside one ambulance.

EXT. TITAN III ROAD-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

The Space Shuttle Endeavour is being rolled out aboard a Crawler-Transporter toward Launch Pad Complex-39A.

It is carrying on its back the interstellar vehicle Explorer, which has two tilt rotors on the delta-shaped wings and one on the underside of the fuselage. The spacecraft has the shape of the B-1 bomber.

A powerful floodlight is focused on the main booster tank. Cars follow it behind, crawling like snails.

EXT. CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION - NIGHT

The C-5 Galaxy carrying Mitchell and his men approaches the runway from the south-southeast and touches down. It stops at the end of the runway.

EXT./INT. C-5 GALAXY - NIGHT

The Nuclear Transport Vehicle rolls down the ramp. Mitchell and his men follow behind. The Air Force men carry their rifles. They board the vehicle and it rolls out of the runway, escorted by several vehicles.

INT. ROCKET GARDEN CAFE-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

John embraces Sandra and then they take a seat across from each other. She is ecstatic. A waiter arrives to serve them glasses of fruit juice. They start to sip at the glasses.

David and Catherine watch them from a distance at the faraway table. They are also in civilian clothes.

JOHN

I missed you so much.

Sandra grins meekly.

SANDRA

I missed you too. The only thing giving me relief is my busy schedule at CNN.

JOHN

I've to be frank with you, Sandra.

SANDRA

What is it?

JOHN

We've a mission to bust an asteroid.

SANDRA  
(suddenly grim)  
That's too far out into deep space.

JOHN  
No human being has yet reached that  
depth. We might not...

SANDRA  
(interrupting)  
You'll come back to me, John.

JOHN  
You know what we will do?

SANDRA  
No.

JOHN  
We'll place a nuclear bomb inside  
the core of the asteroid.

SANDRA  
How are you going to detonate it?

JOHN  
They said by remote control.

SANDRA  
What if it didn't work?

JOHN  
We'll do it manually.

SANDRA  
Who will do it?

JOHN  
I'm the mission commander.

SANDRA  
Oh, my God!

She is speechless for a long moment.

JOHN  
(teary-eyed)  
We'll all get killed if I don't do  
this. I don't want to repeat the  
tragedy of my men and the women and  
children during the Kosovo War.

SANDRA  
(sobbing)  
There are many spacewalkers aside  
from you. Why do you've to do it?

JOHN  
(teary-eyed)  
I've accepted the mission. I can't  
back out now.

Sandra gets to her feet, bearing down on him.

SANDRA  
(sobbing)  
It's your damned pride that's  
pushing you! What will happen to me  
and our children?

John stands up and embraces her. Then they are face-to-face.

JOHN  
(teary-eyed)  
You know me. I never give up a  
fight. If the survival of mankind  
depends on me, I'll gladly give up  
my life...for you and our little  
kids.

Sandra wipes off the tears in her face.

SANDRA  
(sniffing)  
Why do you have to do it manually?  
There are now precision remote  
control instruments.

JOHN  
(teary-eyed)  
That's just an option. I'm sure the  
remote control will work.

SANDRA  
(sniffing)  
I'll die wondering whether you'll  
come home alive or not.

JOHN  
(wiping off her tears)  
I promise I'll come back to you  
alive. Take care of little Johnny  
and litte Skinny.

SANDRA  
(sniffing)  
That's breaking my heart. I can't  
imagine seeing them without you.

She sobs louder and walks away. John tries to catch up with  
her, but she walks faster. He stops and stares at her back.

JOHN  
Sandra, I'll come back.

She ignores him and continues walking faster. Tears roll down her face profusely.

John drops to the nearby chair and cups his head with both hands. He sobs unashamedly.

David turns to Catherine.

DAVID

Can you do that to me?

CATHERINE

That's natural for a mother in her situation. I don't feel the pain because you're going with me.

DAVID

That's putting the cart before the horse. You're the one going with me. That's why you don't feel the pain of my leaving you...forever.

Catherine LAUGHS heartily.

CATHERINE

It's nice we don't have to say good-bye to each other.

DAVID

You never know, Cathy. Out there, anything can happen. Remember the movie "Gravity"?

CATHERINE

I was actually thinking of that when we were fixing the equipment. What kept me from panicking was Jack and you. Is he coming?

DAVID

Yes.

CATHERINE

He's a jolly good fellow.

David smiles.

EXT. CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION - NIGHT

A Gulfstream IV bearing the decal of NASA lands on the runway. It halts at the end and taxis to the ramp.

Dressed in NASA uniform, Jack emerges from the door and walks down the short flight of steps. He climbs aboard a waiting NASA vehicle. The car rolls off in the direction of the Vehicle Assembly Building.

EXT. ROCKET GARDEN-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

David and Catherine are strolling around the complex.

DAVID

It's a beautiful night, Cathy.

CATHERINE

I wish what you said to me outside the ISS came true. But it was not to be your last peeks on planet Earth.

They stop and face each other.

DAVID

You can never predict the future. Not a few seconds. But I can't sleep with the threat of an asteroid like the sword of Damocles hanging over my head.

CATHERINE

I can't imagine you walking in space without me.

DAVID

We'll walk together again.

CATHERINE

We'll have to postpone our wedding.

DAVID

John can solemnize our marriage on the asteroid. Don't you think that's wonderful? No one will duplicate that.

Catherine smiles.

CATHERINE

Do we have time to secure a marriage license?

DAVID

Yes. We can send someone to get us one at Titusville or Cocoa.

CATHERINE

That's not a bad idea.

EXT. ROCKET GARDEN CAFÉ-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Irina dials her phone as she walks toward a vacant table. She is in casual attire.

IRINA  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Director Sukhov, this is Colonel  
Leonova. Irina Leonova.

INT. CONTROL ROOM-RUSSIAN SPACE AGENCY - CONTINUOUS

Director VLADIMIR SUKHOV, 55, is holding a phone to his lips, walking about the floor in front of computer consoles. He is clad in dark suit.

VLADIMIR  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Yes, what can I do for you?

INTERCUT BETWEEN IRINA AND VLADIMIR:

IRINA  
(Russian, subtitled)  
I have to defer my return flight.

VLADIMIR  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Why? Your time is up.

IRINA  
(Russian, subtitled)  
We have another mission.

VLADIMIR  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Mission? Damn, your mission is  
over.

IRINA  
(Russian, subtitled)  
The Americans are going to bust an  
asteroid. They'll send our team.

VLADIMIR  
(Russian, subtitled)  
That is a stupid idea. There is no  
asteroid out there threatening  
Earth.

IRINA  
(Russian, subtitled)  
We are way behind the Americans in  
terms of technology.

VLADIMIR  
(Russian, subtitled)  
That is treasonous, Colonel  
Leonova.

EXT. ROCKET GARDEN CAFÉ-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Irina pokes one key to cut the conversation. She takes her seat.

Adrien joins her at the table. He is in casual attire.

ADRIEN

You called home?

IRINA

I talked with Director Sukhov of the Russian Space Agency. He wants me to go home. I pissed him off.

ADRIEN

What will you do when you return home?

IRINA

I may not think of coming home. You can hide me in Paris.

ADRIEN

Yes, we grant asylum to political dissenters.

Jack appears from the side.

Adrien sees him coming.

JACK

Where's David?

Adrien points to the Rocket Garden.

ADRIEN

Over there. He's with Catherine.

JACK

See you later, guys.

He hastens to the Rocket Garden.

EXT. ROCKET GARDEN-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack walks toward David and Catherine, who are standing face to face.

JACK

David and Goliath, welcome back to Earth!

David and Catherine turn to him.

DAVID

Jack of all trades, see you on the asteroid!

They run to each other and hug tightly.

Catherine looks at them in awe.

DAVID

I told Catherine you're coming.

He beckons her to come closer. Catherine walks to them.

CATHERINE

(to Jack)

Thank you for the flowers. I really thought you were joking.

JACK

I had to convince the people here to accommodate my request.

DAVID

Can you get us a marriage license?

JACK

Why?

DAVID

This is a big surprise for John.

EXT. ROCKET GARDEN CAFÉ-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Adrien stands up and leaves behind Irina at the table. His mobile phone RINGS. He draws out his phone and listens. He continues walking out of the restaurant.

ADRIEN

(German, subtitled)

Yes?

INT. ESA MISSION CONTROL, DARMSTADT, GERMANY - CONTINUOUS

JOHANN WILBERT, 55, is holding a phone to his ear, looking at the wide monitors set against the wall. He paces about the floor.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

Colonel, the Americans are out of their minds.

INTERCUT BETWEEN ADRIEN AND JOHANN:

ADRIEN

(German, subtitled)

What do you mean, Director?

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

We checked our telescopes, and there is no asteroid out there threatening the world. The Sentinel is gone berserk.

ADRIEN  
 (German, subtitled)  
 I believe the Americans.

JOHANN  
 (German, subtitled)  
 You will get killed. The Explorer  
 has not been tested for worthiness  
 in deep space flight.

ADRIEN  
 (German, subtitled)  
 Well, we will do it. It will land  
 safely on the asteroid and then  
 bring us back to Earth. We are far  
 behind, Director Wilbert.

Edward and his wife, MADONNA CARPENTER, 30, walk toward  
 Adrien. They stop before him as he pockets back his phone.

EDWARD  
 Adrien, meet my wife, Madonna.

ADRIEN  
 The singer?

Edward LAUGHS.

EDWARD  
 No, but they look like each other,  
 that's why the namesake. But her  
 full name is Madonna Carpenter.

Adrien shakes hands with Madonna.

ADRIEN  
 Nice meeting you, Madonna. My wife  
 will be glad to meet you too.

MADONNA  
 If you didn't agree to fly to that  
 asteroid, we actually had a plan to  
 visit Paris.

ADRIEN  
 We will see you there upon our  
 return.

MADONNA  
 Aren't you afraid?

ADRIEN  
 We have been used to walking in  
 space. Spacewalkers are different  
 breed of human beings. We sail  
 uncharted seas; we trek unmapped  
 lands; we fly across the Universe.

Adrien continues his way.

The couple face each other.

MADONNA  
(teary-eyed)  
I'm afraid you'll not return.

EDWARD  
(teary-eyed)  
Leave that to destiny.

EXT. NASA CAUSEWAY BRIDGE, CAPE CANAVERAL - NIGHT

A Eric's car is speeding toward the Vehicle Assembly Building.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - NIGHT

Eric is holding a phone to his lips, behind the wheel. He is driving fast.

In the b.g., we can see the Vehicle Assembly Building.

ERIC  
Honey, why didn't you come here?

INT. DIANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Diana is lying prone on the bed with a handsome man. He is fondling her back.

DIANA  
I'm busy with my work.

INTERCUT BETWEEN ERIC AND DIANA:

ERIC  
You know where we're going?

DIANA  
Space. You stare at the dark.  
Anything new?

ERIC  
We'll bust an asteroid threatening  
planet Earth.

DIANA  
Oh, that's great. You'll have one  
kiss from me if you'll return home  
alive.

ERIC  
That's not a good joke, Diana.

DIANA  
Good bye, Eric.

ERIC  
Bitch!

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid streaks towards planet Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and WHISTLING inside an electromagnetic field of bluish cloud of gas, trailed behind by the Sentinel.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack and the team of John are seated around a table behind the computer consoles together with Mitchell.

MITCHELL

The B83 bomb is now aboard the Explorer. 1.2 megatons. The remote control is secured by a combination lock system. It requires two persons to arm it, just like in a submarine.

JOHN

David will take the other key.

Mitchell takes two cards from his breast pocket. He gives each one to John and David.

MITCHELL

Scratch that card and you'll find the number sequence. It's a one-time shot. So be careful when you input the numbers.

JACK

John, you must be able to detonate the bomb at an altitude of fifty thousand miles or higher. The asteroid will be shattered to pieces and they'll be thrown in all directions. You can't return back to Earth because the shower of meteorites will catch up with you. The asteroid is flying at a speed of fifteen miles per second. You've to escape in the opposite direction.

JOHN

Where will we meet the asteroid?

JACK

If you can achieve its speed, you'll meet midway inside the electromagnetic field. We've installed a powerful communication system aboard the Explorer as a backup in case your radio failed. This equipment will link you to the Sentinel. It's now fifty miles away from the asteroid.

IRINA

Do you have a name for this asteroid?

JACK

It belongs to the family of Baptistina, and we're trying to check if it's 298 Baptistina.

IRINA

That is the one that eliminated the dinosaurs.

JACK

Yes, that's right. This might be a sister of the dinosaur killer.

ADRIEN

Where is the expected impact?

JACK

Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

ADRIEN

You are kidding, Dr. Chambers. That is the site of the first impact. Do you think asteroids are like typhoons? No, they do not follow the same paths. They fall to Earth randomly.

JACK

We've calculated the trajectory and the rotation of the Earth, and we're certain it will hit the Yucatan Peninsula.

John and his team exchange glances.

JACK

(continuing)

We've established based on telemetry and sonar imaging sent by the Sentinel that the asteroid is hollow inside and has two openings, that's why the whistling sound.

CATHERINE

How can it produce sound when there's no air out there?

Jack shakes his head in resignation.

JACK

That remains a mystery to us. But we can guess the sound isn't produced by air, but by radio waves created by the electromagnetic

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)  
field. The sound can't be heard by the human ear, but the powerful Doppler instrument aboard the Sentinel can pick up all sounds and ambient noises out there.

JOHN  
How wide are the openings?

JACK  
Very wide. The diameter is one hundred feet.

JOHN  
Colonel, how big is the bomb?

MITCHELL  
Twelve feet long, eighteen inches in diameter. It weighs more than one thousand kilos. It's transportable by two persons in a weightless environment.

Jack stands up and walks to the front. John, David and Mitchell follow him.

JACK  
John, we've got the cut-away view of the asteroid using echo sounding and telemetry. Look at this.

The large screen flashes a cut-away view of the asteroid. It shows a very wide cavern inside connected to the outside by two canals, one horizontal and one vertical.

They stop away from the screen.

JACK  
Fortunately, the vertical hole is located on its axis. That's the shorter route to the cavern inside. You hover over the surface and then drop into the hole. The bomb has to float inside the hole.

JOHN  
Are you sure there's no living creature inside that cavern?

JACK  
You still remember the movie "Alien"?

JOHN  
Just to be prepared for the encounter.

JACK  
No, there's no alien there.

JOHN  
All right, all systems go.

He shakes hands with Jack and Mitchell.

Mitchell pulls him to the side away from his group.

MITCHELL  
(whispering)  
There are guns inside the locker  
located aft. Five M-4 carbines  
SOPMOD plus ammunition. The number  
combination is your first name.

JOHN  
(whispering)  
Why did you bother?

Mitchell shields his mouth with his palm.

MITCHELL  
(whispering)  
We suspect the Russian woman is a  
spy. She used to work at the KGB,  
now Federal Security Service. She  
could sabotage the mission.

John shoots a furtive glance at Irina.

JOHN  
(whispering)  
Damn. We don't need those guns.

John and his crewmen leave the mission control room after  
shaking hands with Jack and Mitchell.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD 39A-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - DAY

John and his crewmen walk abreast across the pavement of the  
launch pad toward the launch rail of the spacecraft.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD 39A-KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The space shuttle Endeavor hurtles into the sky, carrying  
the Explorer on its back, BLASTING smoke, fume and gas.

EXT. VAB COMPLEX, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

People around the VAB complex CHEER as they watch the  
shuttle soars to the sky amidst a cloud of smoke, gas and  
fume.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF ENDEAVOR - CONTINUOUS

Wearing an astronaut's EMU spacesuit, John is seated on the  
commander's seat, while David is to his right, also clad in

astronaut's EMU suit.

Behind them, Catherine and Irina are strapped around their seats, both clad in astronaut's suit.

They exchange glances, anxiety covering their faces.

The shuttle shakes as it climbs up to the sky, producing a RUMBLING NOISE.

INT. MID-DECK OF ENDEAVOR - CONTINUOUS

Clad in astronaut's suits, Eric, Edward, and Adrien are strapped to their seats, shaking as the shuttle hurtles up to the sky.

They close their eyes, gritting their teeth tightly.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack picks up the phone and dials the numbers.

JACK

Sandra, your husband is a brave man.

SANDRA (VO)

You sent him to his graveyard.

JACK

Think positive. Now, I'll send you the detail of the mission. This is a scoop of a lifetime.

SANDRA (VO)

Thank you, Jack.

INT. WALTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Seated behind his desk, Walter is watching CNN. The inset shows the asteroid spinning on its axis WHISTLING.

SANDRA (ON TV)

The threat of the asteroid 277 Baptistina cannot be ignored. The United States has sent a mission to try to destroy the asteroid. With a length of five miles, width of three miles, breadth of two miles, the asteroid can annihilate mankind.

Walter sips at his glass of steaming coffee.

SANDRA (ON TV)

(continuing)

The European Space Agency has estimated that the impact of a five-kilometer asteroid will

(MORE)

SANDRA (ON TV) (cont'd)  
 release an estimated energy of ten million megatons of TNT. It will produce a crater of one hundred kilometers, and will cause the death of billions of people, and global climate change.

The inset changes to the image of the Sentinel shrouded inside the dark electromagnetic field.

SANDRA (ON TV)  
 (continuing)  
 The asteroid is reportedly caught in a powerful electromagnetic field that interferes with communication. But the Sentinel is able to get a closer view of the asteroid, thanks to the marvel of science.

Walter stands up and walks to the phone. He dials the numbers.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack picks up the phone atop his table.

In the b.g., the wide screen shows the Endeavor and the Explorer hurtling up to the sky.

JACK  
 Hello?

INTERCUT BETWEEN JACK AND WALTER:

WALTER  
 Dr. Chambers, this is Professor Pullman. Walter Pullman. Caltech. Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

JACK  
 Oh, yes, sir, I remember you. It's been a long time. I didn't recognize your voice. What can I do for you?

WALTER  
 I'm just being curious because CNN reported that the asteroid is caught in a powerful electromagnetic field.

JACK  
 Yes, that's right.

WALTER  
 But the European Space Agency has denied sighting the asteroid.

JACK

The Sentinel has taken a visual image of the asteroid. It's now fifty miles away from the asteroid.

WALTER

I'm fantasizing if this electromagnetic field could serve as some kind of a time machine.

JACK

What do you mean?

WALTER

The Sentinel is retrieving data recorded inside the electromagnetic field.

Jack LAUGHS heartily.

JACK

Sir, that's in the realm of science fiction and fantasy films. Maybe the electromagnetic field is shielding the asteroid from visual detection.

WALTER

I hope you'll have the last laugh.

EXT. MEXICO CITY - DAY

There is chaos everywhere.

People take to the streets their belongings and race to board vehicles of all kinds.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

There is panic in the streets as people hoard foods and other supplies.

Vandals ransack stores and shops. They carry placards that read: "End of the World", "Doomsday!", "Nostradamus!", "Welcome asteroid!", "Death to tyrants!", "Dinosaur killer!"

EXT. PARIS - DAY

People seize everything their hands can lay on. There is widespread rioting. Anarchists battle policemen with molotov bombs and tear gas.

EXT. TOKYO - NIGHT

People set fire to cars and buses. Looters ransack stores and warehouses.

MONTAGE:

1. Religious people go and pray inside places of worship: churches, mosques, synagogues, temples all over the world.
2. Military tanks, armored carriers, aircraft and ships are mobilized to quell disturbances.
3. People dig bunkers all over the state capitals of the world.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The shuttle Endeavor carrying the Explorer on its back continues to soar to outer space until it reaches a low level orbit. Then it levels off.

Slowly it approaches the International Space Station.

Two spacewalkers emerge from the ISS. They are moving toward the Endeavor.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF ENDEAVOR

John looks out the window to his left and sees the sun shining bright.

He flips the switches and pushes the buttons.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to  
rock and roll.

He removes the seat belt around his body and floats into the air.

David follows him, while Catherine and Irina also float ahead of them toward the aft control panels.

John climbs down the ladder to the mid-deck, followed by David.

INT. MID-DECK OF ENDEAVOR

Eric, Edward, and Adrien are waiting for John to emerge from the flight deck above.

John steps down from the last rung of the ladder, looking at Eric, Edwin, and Adrien. He gives them the signal to go.

David also emerges from the ladder and follows John to the airlock. John unlocks it by spinning the pivot.

Led by John, the five men crawl through the hole. Catherine and Irina follow them behind.

EXT./INT. CARGO BAY

John takes the Manned Maneuvering Unit (MMU) and dons it, followed by his crewmen.

John walks to the docking port and unlocks the hatch and pushes it open.

He hooks himself to a tether hanging by the door.

Then he walks out and clings on the edge of the door. He climbs up the side of the cargo bay toward the Explorer taking the grips.

EXT. SPACECRAFT EXPLORER

John reaches the portside of the Explorer. He sees the two spacewalkers from the ISS and waves at them. They give him a thumbs-up sign.

His crewmen follow him from behind, Irina and Catherine first before David, Eric, Edward and Adrien. They are all tethered.

John opens the door located midway of the fuselage and climbs onboard.

His crewmen follow him.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER

John removes his MMU and leaves it behind in the cabin.

He swims to the flight deck, followed by David.

Catherine, Irina, Eric, Edward and Adrien stay behind in the cabin, where sensor suites and instrument panels are located.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John flips the switches and pushes buttons. David also straps himself and grabs the joystick.

EXT. SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR/EXPLORER

Using its tilt rotors located on both wingspans and underbelly, the Explorer lifts off the back of the Endeavor.

The tilt rotors shut down and the rear engines blaze as the spacecraft shoots off into the sunny space.

The two spacewalkers from the ISS enters the Endeavor.

The space shuttle docks on into the ISS.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John slowly pushes the throttle and looks sideways to David.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

John, we still have a lot of time.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

The instruction is for us to  
achieve a speed of fifteen miles  
per second.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

This spacecraft might disintegrate.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

I trust the craftsmanship of our  
people. All right, full throttle.

He pushes the throttle to its maximum level.

The odometer registers the figures 15 miles/sec.

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The Explorer flies at a top speed.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John peers at the computer monitor showing the location of  
the asteroid just away from Planet Mars.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Houston, we're right on course.  
Speed: fifteen miles per second.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

The mission specialists burst into loud APPLAUSE.

Wearing a headset, Jack breaks into a wide smile.

JACK

Explorer, you've broken all  
records. Congratulations. Happy New  
Year.

JOHN (VO)

Thank you, Houston.

Henry shakes hands with Jack. Debbie pats him on the back.

HENRY

The fate of the world is now in the  
hands of John and his spacewalkers.

JACK

God bless America.

Henry and Debbie return back to their seats.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER

Eric, Edward and Adrien are asleep, floating on the floor.

Catherine is browsing the Internet.

Irina watches the radar screen.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Commander Slater, I've got a  
situation here.

JOHN (VO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
What is it?

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
A dark field lies ahead, five  
hundred thousand miles away.

JOHN (VO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
That might be an electromagnetic  
field, because there's no  
atmosphere there carrying air.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
What are we going to do?

JOHN (VO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
We'll fight our way through.  
There's no way to skirt around it.  
We might get off course. We've to  
keep within range of the Sentinel.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Roger that, Commander.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
What did you say?

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
There's danger ahead. I informed  
the commander.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
Why did you have to speak in  
Russian?

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
I was trying to rehearse Commander  
Slater on his Russian language.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
Can you teach me?

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Yeah, sure. But I'll take a rest  
first.

Irina leaves the chair and removes her spacesuit. She is now clad in liquid-cooling garment. Then she stretches her body, floating in the air. She falls asleep.

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The Explorer hurtles across the outer space.

In the b.g., planet Earth is quickly receding from view, getting smaller and smaller.

EXT. DEEP SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid continues to streak toward planet Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and WHISTLING inside an electromagnetic field of bluish cloud of gas, trailed by the Sentinel.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John and David are leaning on their seats, without helmets and snoopy caps.

JOHN  
Why didn't you get married?

DAVID  
Actually, Catherine and I are  
planning to get married.

JOHN  
That's fine.

DAVID  
Soon.

JOHN  
How soon?

DAVID  
I'll tell you later. Just be  
prepared.

JOHN  
What?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER

Irina wakes up. She rubs her eyes and looks at Catherine, who is waking up also.

Eric, Edward, and Adrien are in the rear section, stirring their glasses of steaming coffee.

CATHERINE

What time is it?

IRINA

Twelve hundred hours GMT.

CATHERINE

Fifteen days is a long wait.

IRINA

You'll learn many Russian words.

CATHERINE

How's life in the former Soviet Union?

IRINA

It depends on where you were. If you're part of the system, the system worked. If you're in the opposition, the system was fucked up.

CATHERINE

Where were you?

IRINA

I was part of the system, but I switched side at the last. That's why I retained my position at the Federal Security Service before I joined the Russian Space Agency.

Adrien, Eric and Edward join them.

ADRIEN

Gorbachev was a good man.

EDWARD

I call him traitor, because he admitted that his mission was to liquidate Communism in the Soviet Union. He was part of the system that he destroyed. He should have exited before he started his demolition job.

ADRIEN

He could not have done it from the outside. He'd to work inside the system to guarantee success.

IRINA

I usually shy away from political discussions.

ERIC

Do you have a boyfriend?

IRINA  
 (hesitating)  
 No. I didn't have time to find a  
 good man.

ERIC  
 Oh, that's just terrific.

John enters the cabin.

JOHN  
 (Russian, subtitled)  
 Beware of these men.

Irina LAUGHS.

IRINA  
 (Russian, subtitled)  
 They'd better watch themselves. In  
 the former KGB, we practiced  
 martial arts.

JOHN  
 (Russian, subtitled)  
 I know.

EDWARD  
 What the hell are you talking  
 about?

JOHN  
 I told Irina you are not playboys.

EDWARD  
 (laughing)  
 That's good.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The Explorer approaches a dark cloud of gas. Lightning  
 flashes. The cloud of gas spins around in a whirlwind.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

Wearing his helmet and snoopy cap, John looks at David, who  
 is also wearing helmet and snoopy cap.

In the b.g., lightning flashes are seen through the windows.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Damn, they didn't tell us this is  
 the appearance of the  
 electromagnetic field.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 They didn't want to scare us. But  
 we've no choice now.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Hold the joystick.

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The Explorer plunges into the dark and spins around on its longitudinal axis.

INT. FLIGHT DECK

The spacecraft rattles and shakes as it spins on its longitudinal axis.

John and David hang on to the joysticks.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Houston, we're in trouble!

JACK (VO)  
What's going on?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
We've hit the electromagnetic field!

JACK (VO)  
Son of a bitch!

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Cabin crew, hold on! This is going to be a rollercoaster ride!

The spacecraft spins faster.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER

Catherine, Irina, Eric, Edward and Adrien hang tightly on the computer consoles as the spacecraft spins around on its longitudinal axis.

They swing around clockwise.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
Damn, David, this spacecraft will disintegrate!

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
Just hold on! We'll survive!

ADRIEN (OVER RADIO)  
I should have listened to Director Wilbert!

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Director Sukhov was right. There's no asteroid out there!

ERIC (OVER RADIO)  
I didn't listen to my girlfriend!

JOHN (VO)  
Damn! You all shut up!

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John and David cling onto the joysticks as the spacecraft spins on its longitudinal axis.

JACK (VO)  
John, are you all right?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Yeah, damn, this is fucking terrible!

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The electromagnetic field instantly disappears.

The Explorer stops spinning and levels off.

In the b.g., planet Mars.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER

The crewmen breathe a SIGH of relief as they take their seats in front of the computer consoles.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John and David glance at each other as they breathe a SIGH of relief.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Where the hell are we now?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
We're very close. Five thousand miles to the target. Let's slow down.

John pulls the throttle slowly.

He looks at the computer monitor and sees the asteroid spinning on its axis.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Damn. We're almost there.

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The Explorer approaches the asteroid slowly. It swings around into the path of the asteroid, facing Earth.

The rear engines shut down and the tilt rotors on the wings and underbelly rev.

The spacecraft waits for the asteroid to come nearer and nearer. The tilt rotors shuts down and the rear engines

spark the instant the asteroid comes fifty feet underneath.

The spacecraft and the asteroid now fly at the same speed.

In the b.g., the sun shines bright on the spacecraft and the asteroid.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John flips the switches and pushes the buttons of the controls, as David looks out the window.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

You stay behind. Keep the joystick.  
If anything happens down there, you  
leave immediately.

David scratches his helmet.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Damn. Catherine and I are supposed  
to get married at the asteroid.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Oh, what a funny idea. All right,  
you and I will go. Eric and Edward  
will take charge. Catherine, Irina  
and Adrien will take care of the  
cameras and video. We'll not pass  
this way again.

They unbuckle their seat belts and swim toward the cabin.

John leads the way, followed behind by David.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John and David emerge from the flight deck and join the crewmen. They don their MMU.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Eric and Edward, take care of the  
flight deck. If anything happens  
down there, you go. Dead men tell  
no tales.

ERIC (OVER RADIO)

Yes, Commander.

The rest of the crewmen don their MMU.

John and David swim to the matte metal box lying on the aft section of the cabin. John fingers the combination lock and lifts up the lid. The bomb lies on the bottom. John and David lift it out of the box and carry it to the door. It floats aimlessly. John unlocks the door and looks outside. It is all dark, the sun on the opposite side.

They hook themselves to the retractable tethers hanging on the ceiling above the upper door jamb.

They see the asteroid spinning on its axis, WHISTLING.

John gestures David to move on. He pulls the bomb while David pushes it. They use the thrusters of the MMU. John points down to David the hole of the asteroid. David gives a thumbs-up sign and continues pushing the bomb.

Catherine, Irina, and Adrien also hook themselves to the tethers and follow them, using the thrusters of the MMU.

EXT. SURFACE OF ASTEROID

Slowly, John and David land over the surface of the asteroid near the hole, carrying the bomb. They use the thrusters to move up and down and sideways. Adrien, Catherine and Irina are taking video and pictures of them from different points.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack and Henry together with the others watch anxiously John and his team walk over the surface of the asteroid.

INT. ESA MISSION CONTROL, DARMSTADT, GERMANY - NIGHT

Johann watches the TV screen showing John and his team on the surface of the asteroid, dragging the bomb toward the hole.

Chief Mission specialist RIKERT STEFAN, 30, is standing beside him.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

Damn, it's real! But why we didn't see it through the telescope?

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

Maybe they're following a script.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

Script? What do you mean?

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

You know what people in Hollywood can do.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

That is bullshit! NASA will never ruin its name. You know what media hype this asteroid has generated? People are scared. They are getting crazy. Now you say this is bogus?

MONTAGE:

People throughout the world watch CNN and other TV networks broadcast the spacewalkers going about the asteroid. They are transfixed.

EXT. SURFACE OF ASTEROID

John and David reach the middle of the hole dragging the bomb, as the asteroid spins on its axis, WHISTLING. He gestures David to push the bomb down through the mouth of the hole. They drop inside using the thrusters on the MMU. The tethers stretch as they continue to fall inside the hole. The depth of the hole is one thousand feet. It is pitch dark inside. They use powerful headlights.

They enter the cavern and leave the bomb in the middle. They never touch the wall or bottom. Water splashes on them. There is a small lagoon at the bottom of the cavern. The spinning of the asteroid creates an image of a whirlwind inside.

Catherine, Adrien and Irina are taking pictures and video of them from above the edge of the mouth of the hole.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

David, there's water here.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

That's the theory of the origin of life on Earth. Asteroids and comets carried water to the planet after it had started to cool down. The water then formed clouds which fell as rain.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

If we'd brought a cup, it would be nice to taste this water before it turns into vapor.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

If you can hold your breath for a minute, you can try the taste. This is most likely distilled water.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Never mind. So what's next?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

I brought with me our wedding license.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

You're damned crazy, David. You beat me. Come' let's do it for memories sake.

Using the MMU's thrusters, they rise up through the hole as the tethers retract, pulling them upward.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Irina and Adrien, you will witness  
the wedding of David and Catherine.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Damn. This is just fantastic.

ADRIEN (OVER RADIO)  
You'll make it to the Guinness Book  
of World Records.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
That's the beauty of thinking big.  
The world is now watching us.

Once out of the hole, John gestures David and Catherine to come closer to him. David holds Catherine by the waist.

Irina and Adrien focus the camera and video to the couple.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
By virtue of the authority vested  
in me by the laws of the United  
States of America, I now pronounce  
you husband and wife.

(beat)

David, do you accept Catherine as  
your lawful wife for good or bad,  
in happiness and adversity, till  
death do you part?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
I do.

Adrien and Irina keep on taking pictures and video. John faces Catherine.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Catherine, do you accept David as  
your lawful husband, for good or  
bad, in happiness and adversity,  
till death do you part?

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
Yes, I do.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
David, you may now kiss the bride,  
or you can do it later aboard the  
Explorer.

Adrien and Irina set the video and camera and do a selfie together with the trio. Lights flash.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Watching the big screen showing the wedding, Jack and the other mission specialists burst into a loud APPLAUSE.

Howard smiles and slowly claps his hands.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
Congratulations, David. You've made  
your dream come true in a unique  
way.

DAVID (VO)  
Thank you, Jack.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
Don't forget the time.

JOHN (VO)  
Don't worry, Jack. This goddamn  
asteroid is a goner.

MONTAGE:

People all over the world clap their hands as they watch the wedding ceremony on CNN and other TV networks.

EXT. SURFACE OF ASTEROID

Using their MMUs' thrusters, the team moves back to the Explorer as the tethers retract. The first to leave is Catherine, followed by Irina, and then Adrien.

John and David lift off together.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER

John shuts back the door and removes his helmet and gloves. The rest of the crew does likewise.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
David, you may now kiss the bride.

Irina and Adrien LAUGH as they clap their hands.

David approaches Catherine and kisses her on the lips.

John, Irina and Adrien CLAP their hands vigorously.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Let's toast to that.

He walks to a refrigerator at a corner and takes out a bottle of wine. Next he picks up a glass and joins his group. They toast. Eric and Edward emerge from the cockpit and join the group. John pours each of them a drink.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Okay, let's get down to business.

He takes out the card from his pocket and scratches the thin film over the number sequence. David does likewise.

They both walk to the metal box. They remove the remote control and John fingers the computerized lock combination. Then he opens it and sees --

TWO NUMBER SEQUENCES on both ends, from one to nine, formed in a square like an ordinary calculator.

John and David start to finger the keys.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Nine...five...eight...three...one..  
 .two...six.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Three...Two...nine...four...seven..  
 .Five...eight.

The digital counter in the middle reads: ARMED

The red button beside it glows. John and David exchange glances.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Houston, the bomb is armed.

JACK (VO)  
 Very good. Now, the safe distance  
 from the epicenter is fifty miles.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Roger that, Houston.

John catches his helmet and gloves which are floating and wear them quickly. David and Catherine do likewise. John and David swim to the flight deck.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

John takes his seat as David does likewise. They strap themselves around with the seat belts. They hurriedly flip switches and buttons.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Cabin crew, prepare for takeoff.

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The Explorer shoots away from the asteroid and swings around in the direction of planet Mars.

A dark cloud looms ahead. It is spinning in a whirlwind, sending lightning flashes frequently.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER

As the Explorer shoots at top speed, John sees the dark cloud. Then lightning flashes.

The spacecraft spins on its longitudinal axis violently.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Houston, we're in trouble again.  
It's the damn electromagnetic  
field! It's very violent this time.  
Mayday! Mayday!

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack and the other mission specialist get to their feet in anxiety as they watch the spacecraft spins on its longitudinal axis.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
Oh, my God!

Suddenly the screens turn blank.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
(frantic)  
Explorer, do you read me!

The mission specialists look at him anxiously.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
(continuing)  
John, do you read me! John, do you  
copy!

Stunned, Jack looks at his colleagues.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
Damn, we lost the spacecraft!

EXT. OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Explorer morphs instantly over the Gulf of Mexico at higher altitude. Then it stops spinning and levels off.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Shaken, John looks at David, who is also stricken.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Damn, where are we?

David looks at the instrument panel.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
I don't know...I guess we're  
falling to Earth! Look at the  
altimeter! Fifty thousand feet!

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Oh, my God! What happened?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
The electromagnetic field has  
thrown us away in the wrong  
direction. The coordinates say  
we're over the Gulf of Mexico.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Houston, do you read me!

JACK (VO)  
Damn, what happened to you?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Damn, we're falling down to Earth!  
Emergency landing!

JACK (VO)  
Oh, my God! Where are you?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
We're over the Gulf of Mexico!

JACK (VO)  
Okay, just hold on. We'll clear the  
Houston-Hobby International.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Roger that, Houston.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A multitude of giant fireflies line the flat grassland  
forming two rows away from each other about two miles long.

Everywhere, the fireflies dot the open landscape. It is like  
an urban area, more or less the number of lights in Houston.

EXT. HOUSTON-HOBBY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NIGHT

The planes taxiing down the ramps stop. The runway is now  
clear of aircraft. Fire trucks BLAST their sirens. Ground  
crewmembers line the sides of the runway.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack is standing in front of the wide screen, looking  
anxiously at the dark. He is wearing a headset.

The mission specialists watch the screen anxiously.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
John, can you hear me?

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

John is looking out the window.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Roger.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOHN AND JACK:

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Your altitude?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Ten thousand feet and descending.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Can you see the airport?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Roger. It is lined by a series of lights on both sides.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Okay, keep holding the joystick. You'll make it.

INT. CONTROL TOWER-HOUSTON-HOBBY INT'L AIRPORT - NIGHT

The senior flight controller trains his infrared binoculars into the dark sky. Then he turns to his partner.

CONTROLLER #1

There's no spacecraft out there.

The assistant controller is struck.

CONTROLLER #2

What do you mean? NASA called us that the spacecraft Explorer will make an emergency landing.

CONTROLLER #1

Look at it.

Controller #2 takes the binoculars.

CONTROLLER #2

Don't make fun of me. I'm not stupid.

He raises the binoculars to his eyes. He scans the sky over the Gulf of Mexico. Then he lowers it.

CONTROLLER #2

You're damn right! There's no spacecraft out there!

CONTROLLER #1

They're making fun of us.

Controller #2 takes the microphone of the radio.

CONTROLLER #2  
 Break, Explorer! Do you read me?  
 Explorer, do you copy?

STATIC.

CONTROLLER #2  
 Explorer, do you copy?

STATIC.

He looks at his superior and shakes his head in disbelief.  
 The senior controller takes the phone and dials the numbers.

CONTROLLER #1  
 Johnson, there's no spacecraft  
 coming!

JACK (VO)  
 Damn, what do you mean no  
 spacecraft?

CONTROLLER #1  
 Yes, sir. The spacecraft may have  
 been missing. We can't see it. We  
 can't also contact the crew by  
 radio.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The spacecraft shakes violently as it loses altitude. David  
 grips the joystick tightly as he pushes it slowly forward.  
 John looks at him sideways.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Are you sure this is Houston  
 International?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Yes, of course. Look at the bright  
 lights. The heading says we're due  
 north-northwest. We'll land on  
 runway 12R/30L. I've flown here  
 many times at night.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Execute vertical landing.

David hits a red button on the instrument panel in between  
 them marked "vertical rotors". The button does not light  
 "green".

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 No green light. Damn, the tilt  
 rotors are no longer working.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Son of a bitch!

JACK (VO)

John, are you sure you're not off course?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

David knows this airport perfectly well.

JACK (VO)

But the traffic controllers told me they can't see you and they can't contact you by radio.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

They're sleepy. It's past midnight.

JACK (VO)

John, they're not kidding.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Explorer glides down on the grassland and stops at the end of the long line of fireflies, which disperse quickly.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John looks at David, stunned.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Damn, where are we? We've crashed!  
You've felt the humps and bumps?  
It's not concrete runway.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

I don't know...

(pointing to panel)

But look at the GPS. The coordinates say 29 degrees, 38 minutes, 54 seconds North, 95 degrees, 16 minutes, 56.66 West. This is the exact location of the northwest end of 12R/30L runway.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Houston, can you read us?

JACK (VO)

Roger. Where are you? The airport controllers told us you didn't land.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

We've crashed somewhere else.

JACK (VO)

Damn, we'll look for you!

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

You'll waste your time.

JACK (VO)  
What do you mean?

John nearly breaks into tears.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Houston, we're lost.

JACK (VO)  
What do you mean, "lost"? Why can  
we read you loud and clear?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
That's the marvel of science.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

The mission specialists scramble to contact the rescue units of the Air Force, Air National Guard, US Navy, 911 and other agencies. They call for "S.O.S", "Mayday, Mayday!" "911", "Houston calling" followed by "The Explorer has crashed", "Whereabouts unknown", "They can be contacted by radio".

Jack drops to his seat, speechless.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hurtles toward Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and WHISTLING inside an electromagnetic field of bluish cloud of gas.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

John removes his helmet.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Cabin crew, prepare for a long  
haul. We're lost in time.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

Irina looks at Catherine in surprise. They have removed their helmets and snoopy caps.

IRINA  
What he meant, "lost in time"?

Catherine shakes her head.

CATHERINE  
I don't know. We can't see the  
outside.

ADRIEN  
You've heard their conversation?

CATHERINE  
Yes, of course.

Adrien stands up and throws his hands into the air.

ADRIEN

This is the location of the Houston-Hobby International Airport, but they're not coming to rescue us. What does it mean? We're either in the future or in the past.

Catherine gags her mouth in anguish.

CATHERINE

Oh, my God!

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack paces about the floor, frantic.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

John, what happened to the remote control of the bomb?

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

John is lounging lazily on his seat.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

I don't know if it's still intact.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOHN AND JACK:

JACK (OVER RADIO)

You've fifteen days to detonate the bomb.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Do you think it will still work?

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Yes, of course. The asteroid is coming closer. The Sentinel is following its path.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Damn, Jack, that asteroid doesn't exist in your time! The Sentinel is gone berserk.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

What do you mean it doesn't exist? You placed the bomb inside its core and you solemnized there the wedding of David and Catherine. I'm not an idiot, John.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

That asteroid will not hit you twice.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 Of course, it will hit us once.  
 Don't be crazy, John. Get ready  
 with the detonator. The asteroid is  
 nineteen million four hundred forty  
 thousand miles away.

John looks sideways at David.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Yes, that's true. But it will hit  
 us, not you.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 I can't understand this.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 I told you this is the marvel of  
 science.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 Damn.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack runs out of the mission control, as the mission  
 specialists look at him in surprise.

INT. JACK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jack is seated behind the wheel, running at top speed on  
 Saturn's Lane. He is still wearing his headset.

EXT. RUNWAY 12R/30L, HOUSTON INT'L AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Jack stops the car and jumps out hurriedly, carrying a GPS.  
 He is wearing his headset. He stops at the end of the  
 runway.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 John, can you hear me?

JOHN (VO)  
 Loud and clear.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 I'm now standing on the coordinates  
 given by David.

JOHN (VO)  
 I'm right here.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
 You mean to say, we can exist at  
 the same time in the same place?

JOHN (VO)

Remember Einstein's Theory of Relativity? Time is warped, Jack, so is space. There's no clear proof now.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

You mean, you're now sixty-five million years back in time?

JOHN (VO)

Yes. This is the age of dinosaurs. The lights we saw were giant fireflies. That asteroid will hit the Yucatan Peninsula.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Oh, my God!

He removes his headset and draws out his mobile phone. He fingers the keys frantically.

JACK

Good morning, Professor Pullman.

INT. WALTER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lying on the bed, Walter turns away from his wife. He is holding a mobile phone to his ear.

WALTER

(drowsy)

Good morning too, Dr. Chambers. Is this an emergency?

INTERCUT BETWEEN JACK AND WALTER:

JACK

Yes. We lost the crew of the Explorer.

WALTER

(alert)

Son of a bitch!

JACK

Can you see us at the Johnson Space Center?

WALTER

Yes, right now. I'll try to catch a plane.

EXT. RUNWAY 12R/30L, HOUSTON INT'L AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Jack pokes one key and pockets back his phone.

A car stops behind Jack's car and Howard leaps to the ground. He runs to Jack. He stops before him.

HOWARD

Jack, what happened?

JACK

Sir, the crewmen of the Explorer are missing.

HOWARD

What do you mean, "missing"?

JACK

They're supposed to land here, right on this spot, but they're not here.

(beat)

Damn, they're here. You can talk to Commander Slater.

Howard is puzzled.

HOWARD

What do you mean by "here and not here"?

JACK

You better try it.

Jack gives him the headset. Howard dons it around his head.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)

Good morning, Commander Slater. This is Director Whiteman.

JOHN (VO)

Good morning too, Director.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)

Where are you?

JOHN (VO)

We're lost in time.

Howard freezes briefly.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)

What?

JOHN (VO)

Yes, we're shuttled back to the past by that electromagnetic field. We've traveled through time. We've surpassed the speed of light. From the rendezvous with that asteroid, it took us less than a minute to cover a distance which would have

(MORE)

JOHN (VO) (cont'd)  
taken light to reach in one hundred  
and four seconds. This is the age  
of the dinosaurs.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)  
Damn, you're kidding. You must have  
crashed somewhere else.

JOHN (VO)  
You can search for us. We'll wait  
for you.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)  
You've got a GPS. Give us the  
coordinates.

JOHN (VO)  
Go back to the Mission Control.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)  
Why?

JOHN (VO)  
We'll show you the coordinates in  
the GPS.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)  
Why don't you tell me now?

JOHN (VO)  
I've given it to Jack. You don't  
believe him.

HOWARD (OVER RADIO)  
All right, stay where you are. Help  
is coming.

JOHN (VO)  
Thank you, Director.

Howard removes the headset and returns it to Jack. He runs  
to his car and climbs onboard. He disappears quickly.

Jack dons the headset.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
John, are you still there?

JOHN (VO)  
Roger.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
You'll generate a lot of  
controversy. People will never  
believe you're now waltzing with  
dinosaurs.

JOHN (VO)

We'll gather evidence to prove our location.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Of course, I believe you. Keep in touch.

John CHUCKLES.

JOHN (VO)

You're supposed to keep in touch with us. But forget about rescue mission. This will be our graveyard.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

No, John, we won't abandon you. We'll come to you.

JOHN (VO)

That's impossible.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Never underestimate NASA. We can find you anywhere in the world. Past or present.

He removes his headset and walks back to his car, tears rolling down his face. He realizes his friends are as good as dead.

EXT. TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - NIGHT

A flight of ten MH-53 Pave Low II helicopters carrying search lights departs from the base and fans out in several directions.

EXT. HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO - NIGHT

One by one, five F-16 jet fighters fly out of the base.

EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - NIGHT

A P-3C Orion takes off the flight deck of the carrier USS George Bush.

A pair of CH-53K Super Stallion helicopters follows the Orion.

INT. ESA MISSION CONTROL, DARMSTADT, GERMANY - DAY

Johann looks at the wide screen showing the Baptistina asteroid spinning on its axis. He is transfixed.

Rikert is standing beside him, also transfixed.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

Damn. The Americans are right. The asteroid will hit the Yucatan Peninsula in fifteen days.

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

What happened to their mission? The asteroid is still alive and kicking.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

We don't know. Maybe the bomb didn't explode.

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

Not only that. My contact in NASA told me the spacecraft is missing. The Americans are keeping a lid on this story in the meantime.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

How did you get the story?

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

You know human behavior in organization. The urge to give a scoop is very difficult to control.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

Colonel Chandler didn't listen to me. I told him the Explorer hasn't been tested in deep space flight, but he ignored me.

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

The world is full of risk-takers. That's human nature also.

Johann walks away from him.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Howard looks at the wide screen. Henry and Debbie are standing beside him.

John shows his face on screen, carrying a GPS.

The GPS display reads: 29°38'54"N 95°16'56.66"W

HOWARD

Oh, my God!

He picks up the phone nearby.

HOWARD

Mr. President, the crewmen of the Explorer are missing.

HARRY (VO)

Damn. What happened?

HOWARD

The Explorer was caught in an electromagnetic field which transported them to the past.

HARRY (VO)

What?

HOWARD

Yes, sir. Sixty-five million years ago.

HARRY (VO)

You mean to say, they're still alive?

HOWARD

Yes, sir. They're now located at the site of the Houston-Hobby International Airport.

HARRY (VO)

Are you kidding, Director Whiteman?

HOWARD

No, sir. You can speak to them.

HARRY (VO)

Patch them to me.

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

Harry is seated at the head of the table, surrounded by members of the National Security Staff.

The screen on the wall shows John inside the flight deck of the Explorer. He is wearing snoopy cap without helmet.

JOHN (ON SCREEN)

Good morning, Mr. President, sir.

HARRY

Good morning too, Commander Slater. I wonder if we're really talking, or this is a recorded conversation, or you've got a double.

JOHN (ON SCREEN)

It's very difficult to explain, Mr. President. This is an extraordinary physical phenomenon few people will understand.

HARRY

I'm listening, Commander Slater. Are you really missing in action?

JOHN (ON SCREEN)

Missing and not really missing. It's really complicated. They must have told you that we're now in the time of dinosaurs. The asteroid 277 Baptistina is an illusion, some kind of a holographic effect created by the electromagnetic field. The real asteroid will hit the Yucatan Peninsula in fifteen days.

HARRY

Damn. You're making up a story. The asteroid will hit us, not you. The entire world is now in extreme fear. You can't divert our attention. So, please, tell me what happened to the remote control of the bomb.

JOHN (ON SCREEN)

Yes, sir, it's still intact. But we can't blow up the asteroid because mankind will perish.

HARRY

Son of a bitch! We'll perish if you won't blow up the asteroid.

JOHN (ON SCREEN)

You don't understand, Mr. President, sir. If the asteroid is destroyed, dinosaurs will continue to roam and rule the world. Mankind cannot co-exist with them.

HARRY

Cut the crap, Commander Slater. Blow up that asteroid right now, or you'll face court-martial!

JOHN (ON SCREEN)

I'm no longer in the service, sir. I'm now a civilian. You can prosecute me, but you can't imprison me, because I'm now inside a prison sixty-five million years ago by your reckoning.

HARRY  
You'll murder billions of people!

JOHN (ON SCREEN)  
My men and I will die for you.

The screen goes blank.

HARRY  
Darn.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hurtles toward Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and producing a WHISTLING SOUND.

EXT. OVER THE DAVY CROCKET NAT'L FOREST, TEXAS - NIGHT

The Pave Low II helicopters scour the mountainous areas, scanning the ground with their search lights.

INT. PAVE LOW HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The pilot is looking out the window, seeing the lighted portion of the ground.

PILOT (OVER RADIO)  
Houston, there's no sign here of  
the spacecraft.

JACK (VO)  
Don't stop until you find it and  
its crew.

PILOT (OVER RADIO)  
Yes, sir.

EXT. OVER CHEESELAND, TEXAS - NIGHT

The five F-16 Fighting Falcons fly low over the valley.

INT. F-16 COCKPIT - NIGHT

The pilot looks down the ground. Then he looks to the right to his wingman.

PILOT #1  
We can't see what's down there.

PILOT #2  
We're providing cover for the  
search and rescue teams.

PILOT #1  
I don't think terrorists will  
attack the crew of the spacecraft.

PILOT #2

You never know. People are getting scared by the threat of the asteroid. Doomsday sayers are having a heyday.

BELOW

Pave Low II helicopters are searching the valley using searchlights mounted on the undersides.

The helicopters fly around the place.

EXT. OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO - NIGHT

The P-3C Orion flies low over the waters of the gulf.

INT. P-3C ORION - CONTINUOUS

The pilot is looking side by side out the window. The co-pilot is looking at the panel.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)

They could not have fallen into the water.

PILOT (OVER RADIO)

That's not entirely impossible.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)

Why can they still communicate with Houston?

PILOT (OVER RADIO)

That's a mystery to me.

CO-PILOT (OVER RADIO)

There's nothing mysterious there. They've crashed on land. This search here is an exercise in futility.

PILOT (OVER RADIO)

The order is to locate the spacecraft no matter how long it will take us.

BELOW

The Sea Stallion is skimming the water, and the crewmen are scanning the water with powerful flashlights.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - EARLY MORNING - FLASHBACK

John and David leave the flight deck.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John and David enter, carrying their helmets. Catherine looks at David suspiciously. The rest of the crewmen look at them anxiously.

JOHN

Who among you believe in God?

Irina raises her hand.

IRINA

I'm a registered agnostic, because Communism has taught us that it is only material things that matter. Lenin once said that the economy is the main field of battle for Communism.

Adrien stands up.

ADRIEN

I'm not a bit religious, but I believe in God.

ERIC

This is silly. Why God comes out here? When we were leaving, no one remembered Him. Now, you talk of Him?

JOHN

Eric, God has taught us a lesson in humility. What you will see outside will steal your breath.

CATHERINE

David, are we lost?

DAVID

This is the real "Jurassic Park".

EDWARD

Please, spare me the agony. Where the hell are we?

JOHN

Come with me. To see is to believe. Bring your video and cameras.

He puts down his helmet and snoopy cap. Then he walks to the cabin door and opens it.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

One by one, John and his crewmen step out of the cabin door, looking around them. They are clad in Shuttle spacesuits. No snoopy caps and no helmets.

From a distance, they see --

SAUROPOD DINOSAURS, the females herding their kids, along the side of a thick forest. Their long necks could reach the top of the trees.

John and his crewmen are transfixed.

ASTRONAUTS

Oh, my God!

Adrien trains his camera on the herd. The shutter starts CLICKING.

Catherine focuses her video on the giant sauropods.

IRINA

They are so beautiful. I wish I could touch them.

JOHN

Upload that to the Internet, if it's still working.

DAVID

John, are we going to go out there?

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Standing in front of the computer consoles, the mission specialists are transfixed as they look at the wide screens showing the video of the dinosaurs being taken by Catherine.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

John starts to walk toward the dinosaurs. They follow him.

JOHN

This is going to be our home. We might as well familiarize ourselves with the environment.

ERIC

Commander Slater, if we beget children here, will they become the father and mother of man?

JOHN

We've fifteen days to live here. When that asteroid hits the Yucatan Peninsula, we'll be the first to be buried here under a cloud of dust and debris.

Eric cries woefully.

ERIC

I shouldn't have joined you.

JOHN

I thought it was all for one, one for all? I thought we were like the Knights of the Round Table. We'll save mankind. It's a small price to pay.

EDWARD

Small price? You're kidding, Commander Slater. We'll die here.

CATHERINE

John, we just got married. Is this the kind of honeymoon you'll let us enjoy?

JOHN

Nobody wanted this to happen.

EDWARD

Damn it! You're the mission commander, and you damn well know what to do!

IRINA

(Russian, subtitled)

I thought you Americans are brave men.

JOHN

(Russian, subtitled)

Like I told you, beware of these men. They're not playboys.

IRINA

(Russian, subtitled)

They'll soon catch you backbiting them.

JOHN

(Russian, subtitled)

Don't laugh. They'll not know.

EDWARD

What the hell are you talking about?

JOHN

Irina told me that Russian cosmonauts don't fear to go anywhere in the cosmos. They would have rejoiced seeing this place.

EDWARD

This is no joke, Commander Slater!

CATHERINE  
(Russian, subtitled)  
John, you're conspiring with Irina  
to show the bravery of your men.

John is surprised.

JOHN  
(Russian, subtitled)  
You're a fast learner, Catherine.  
Now the three of us will conspire  
to play on the space cowboys.

CATHERINE  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Are you not afraid?

JOHN  
(Russian, subtitled)  
Who's not afraid? But they say that  
courage is not the absence of fear,  
but the ability to conquer fear.

DAVID  
Cathy, you've learned Russian? How  
fast.

CATHERINE  
Fifteen days inside the cabin with  
nothing to do except eat and sleep.  
I didn't waste my time.

DAVID  
But you didn't try to learn when we  
were aboard the ISS for six months.

CATHERINE  
Everything has an appointed time.

JOHN  
Like our time here. If we survive,  
we'll validate physical laws.

EDWARD  
We'll perish here, Commander  
Slater.

John rolls his eyes upward.

Suddenly the sauropods scatter in all directions.

John freezes, and then he points to the spacecraft.

JOHN  
T. rex is coming! Hide inside the  
spacecraft!

They run inside the cabin.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John and David look out the window. A T. rex is running after a small sauropod. The adult sauropods watch their young agonize in fear.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

The T. rex leaps into the small sauropod and catches it with its powerful jaw. The sauropod SCREAMS in pain and limps quickly, dead. The T. rex starts to devour it.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John looks fearfully at David.

JOHN

Son of a bitch! It can devour us all in one bite!

DAVID

We're trapped here. We can't get out now.

JOHN

I have an idea. Let's go hunting. Follow me.

They exit the flight deck.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John enters, followed behind by David.

JOHN

Colonel Sherman thought Irina would sabotage this mission, so he gave us some kind of protection.

Irina is nonplussed. She exchanges quick glances with Adrien.

John proceeds to the rear section of the spacecraft and opens the locker, fingering the combination lock. He sees five M-4 Carbines SOPMOD with lot of ammos and five bayonets. He removes one rifle and hands it to David, who is standing behind him. He turns to Adrien.

JOHN

Colonel Chandler, you'd like to hunt reptiles?

ADRIEN

What a good sport. I'd like that we put up a scoreboard.

JOHN

You bet.

He takes another rifle and gives it to the Frenchman. Edward and Eric walk to him to get their own rifles.

Suddenly the spacecraft shakes violently.

Catherine and Irina SCREAM.

John runs to the flight deck.

EXT. SPACECRAFT EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

The T. rex is ramming the door of the spacecraft with its bloody snout.

EXT./INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John looks up the emergency hatch located on the ceiling and opens it by pressing a button on the instrument panel. He slings the rifle around his shoulder, leaps upward and pokes his head out. David props him upward, carrying him on his shoulder. John sees--

T. REX

It is hitting the side of the spacecraft. He aims his rifle and shoots the T. rex in the head. The reptile GROANS and falls to the ground.

ANOTHER T. REX

is coming from behind him. He turns around and sees it charging toward him. He aims again. BANG! The dinosaur tumbles to the ground and hits the nose of the spacecraft. The flight deck shakes by the impact.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Bingo!

He gets down and walks out of the flight deck to the cabin.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

Wearing his snoopy cap, John opens the door of the cabin and gets out, carrying his weapon, followed by his crewmen, who also wear their snoopy caps. Their radios are slung to their waists. They wear liquid-cooling garments.

The sauropods are being hunted by a flock of ten T. rex.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

We've to go against Darwin's  
Theory. These predators will rule  
the planet if they're left alive.

He gestures his crewmen to move forward, as he aims his gun.

One by one, they shoot the predators. The T. rex tumble to the ground as they are hit on the head.

It is a virtual massacre.

The sauropods stop running around.

John and his company walk to the dead dinosaurs and inspect them.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Do you want to try a dinosaur's  
meat?

Catherine throws out.

Irina winces.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

We've no choice when we run out of  
food. Our supply will last us two  
weeks only.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)

David, I'll rather die of hunger  
than eat a dinosaur's meat.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Who would like to taste it?

ADRIEN (OVER RADIO)

There's no tastier meat. You know  
how to cook?

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Of course. Catherine taught me.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)

(Russian, subtitled)

I didn't know I'm married to a  
cannibal.

Irina LAUGHS profusely.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)

(Russian, subtitled)

You mean, carnivore?

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)

(Russian, subtitled)

No. I mean, cannibal, as in  
cannibal. The reptile is a  
man-eater. David will eat his kind.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Damn, you Russians are making fun  
of us. You'll see when we run out  
of food.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)

(Russian, subtitled)

Irina, will you eat that?

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
 (Russian, subtitled)  
 We've to survive. That's the first  
 instinct of self-preservation. I'll  
 eat human flesh just to live for  
 the next day.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 (Russian, subtitled)  
 I hope you won't eat me when I die  
 here.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Walter and Jack are seated side by side, wearing headsets.  
 They are listening to the conversation of the astronauts.

ADRIEN (VO)  
 Get a match or lighter. We'll grill  
 this one here.

DAVID (VO)  
 Wait for me.

Walter exchanges glances with Jack as they remove their  
 headsets.

WALTER  
 The dialogue is very natural. They  
 couldn't be following a script.  
 They're really lost.

JACK  
 How can we rescue them?

Walter SIGHS deeply.

WALTER  
 That's next to impossible. But they  
 can still get back to the present  
 time if they could get inside the  
 electromagnetic field again.

JACK  
 I wonder if their spacecraft wasn't  
 crippled. Besides, they can't fly  
 again to outer space because they  
 lack booster. The tilt rotors of  
 the Explorer can't lift them to  
 higher altitude.

WALTER  
 It will be suicidal to send a  
 rescue aircraft.

JACK  
 I've contemplated doing it. My  
 conscience bothers me. I was the  
 (MORE)

JACK (cont'd)  
one who sent them to their  
graveyards.

WALTER  
They've to do it before the  
asteroid plunges down to the  
Yucatan Peninsula. The  
electromagnetic field can't  
penetrate the atmosphere. It will  
dissipate instantly. I suspect the  
asteroid is dragging it toward  
Earth. That's why the spacecraft  
was thrust into the heading of the  
asteroid.

JACK  
I wonder, because they were  
supposed to escape in the opposite  
direction.

WALTER  
May I speak to Commander Slater?

JACK  
Yeah, sure.

Walter and Jack don their headsets again.

WALTER (OVER RADIO)  
Commander Slater, are you still  
there?

JOHN (VO)  
Roger. Who is this?

WALTER (OVER RADIO)  
This is Professor Pullman.

JOHN (VO)  
Oh, Professor. You're damn right.  
Electromagnetic fields can store  
information from the past. The  
Sentinel was able to capture the  
information stored in the  
electromagnetic field out there.

WALTER (OVER RADIO)  
The only possible route of escape  
for you is to enter the  
electromagnetic field again. It  
might thrust you back in the  
present time.

JOHN (VO)  
That's out of the question because  
our spacecraft has been crippled.  
The tilt rotors aren't working.

(MORE)

JOHN (VO) (cont'd)  
 There's no runway here for  
 horizontal take-off. Besides, the  
 spacecraft needs booster to reach  
 outer space.

WALTER (OVER RADIO)  
 I'm so sorry, Commander Slater. I  
 wish I could help you.

JOHN (VO)  
 Nice talking to you. At least we've  
 proved Einstein's Theory of General  
 and Special Relativity.

WALTER (OVER RADIO)  
 It would be more exciting if you  
 could return back here.

JOHN (VO)  
 We've set that possibility aside.  
 We'll disappear with the dinosaurs.

WALTER (OVER RADIO)  
 So unfortunate.

He removes his headset and turns to Jack.

WALTER  
 It's only miracle that can save  
 them.

Jack resists the tears from rolling down his face to no  
 avail. He wipes off the traces of liquid with his palm.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hurtles toward Earth at top speed, spinning on  
 its axis and producing a WHISTLING SOUND, trailed by the  
 Sentinel.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Gripping a bayonet, David tries to slice the skin of the  
 dead dinosaur while his colleagues watch him. They are not  
 wearing snoopy caps.

Catherine keeps on taking video.

DAVID  
 Damn, it's very hard.

They LAUGH.

JOHN  
 You need a chainsaw to cut the  
 skin.

David stands up and kicks the dinosaur.

DAVID

You don't taste good anyway.

The astronauts LAUGH.

JOHN

We've to bury this beast.

EDWARD

Why?

JOHN

His flock might smell him. Besides, when he rots, he'll attract flies and maybe vultures. Disease might strike here.

ERIC

Damned, this is too big, and we don't have pickaxes and shovels.

DAVID

We'll just drag these beasts away from here. We'll use them as bait for other beasts.

JOHN

David, we might run out of ammunition. You don't know how many of them out there. I guess these twelve are just scouts.

DAVID

Damn, we need backhoes to dig twelve holes this big. Let them rot here. Fifteen days is not too long. We don't have to worry about disease striking here.

JOHN

We might contract an incurable disease.

DAVID

So what? We'll die anyway. We'll just enjoy the rest of our life here while we still have time.

JOHN

Can you bear the smell later? In three days time, these beasts will smell terribly. You will never get out of the spacecraft.

David plunges his bayonet into the ground.

DAVID

That's part of our ordeal. We're dead men walking, John.

EDWARD

David is right. Why do we've to worry about our safety when this is already our graveyard?

John leaves them and goes inside the spacecraft.

The crewmen exchange glances.

John comes out of the cabin carrying a lighter. He walks over to the nose of the spacecraft.

JOHN

Help me pull this one out. We've to burn their carcasses.

The men come to his aid. They drag the T. rex away from the spacecraft.

John takes a pile of dried grass and puts it around the carcass.

He lights the grass and fire erupts around the T. rex. The carcass starts to burn.

ADRIEN

Oh, what a fucking bad smell!

John and his crewmen back off from the beast.

Suddenly a Quetzalcoatlus, a 250-pound bird with a 30-foot wing span sweeps down on them.

John sees it coming.

JOHN

Vulture!

They crane their necks to the southern sky and see the flying dinosaur heading down toward them.

They run to the spacecraft.

The dinosaur circles over the spacecraft. Then it lands on the roof and walks to and fro.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John and his crewmen look frighten.

The FOOTSTEPS of the flying dinosaur is very loud.

John seizes his gun and storms out of the door.

The dinosaur leaps over to seize him with its claws, but John FIRES at it, emptying his magazine.

The beast rolls down the ground, dead.

JOHN

Damn!

His crewmen join him and inspect the dinosaur.

INT. RUSSIAN FEDERAL SPACE AGENCY - DAY

Vladimir looks at the wide TV screen. It shows the asteroid spinning on its axis in outer space, WHISTLING.

He turns to his staff.

VLADIMIR

The asteroid is still out there.

He starts pacing the floor, worried.

VLADIMIR

(continuing)

It's getting closer. The Americans have failed to destroy it.

He stops in front of the three men.

VLADIMIR

(continuing)

What are we going to do?

STAFF #1

We can try hitting it with missiles when it draws near.

STAFF #2

Why don't we ignore it? Mexico is far from here.

STAFF #3

We'll get rid of our archrival the easy way. Their concept of mutual assured destruction no longer holds true. We've nothing to do with their destruction. Clean job.

Vladimir grins sardonically.

VLADIMIR

You don't realize the worldwide disaster the asteroid will bring to us. We cannot exist for so long without our economic partners. Everything will collapse like a balloon. Don't be merry.

INT. LOBBY OF CNN CENTER-ATLANTA - DAY

Sandra walks across the lobby. A woman accosts her.

WOMAN

Miss Collins, can I ask you some questions?

SANDRA

What is it?

WOMAN

I'm from The New York Times, and I'd like to know the latest information about the mission led by your husband.

Sandra looks around her.

SANDRA

I'm sorry. I'm not privy to the missions of NASA. We get stories from that agency. So far, they've not informed us about the Explorer. I suggest you go to Houston.

WOMAN

They're supposed to update you on the fate of your husband and his crew.

SANDRA

I don't worry about that. I trust the people at NASA.  
(beat)  
Please, excuse me.

Sandra proceeds to the newsroom.

INT. NEWSROOM-CNN CENTER-ATLANTA - CONTINUOUS

Sandra sits on the chair behind the desk. All cameras are now focused on her.

SANDRA

This is Sandra Collins in Atlanta, and this is the headline news.

(beat)

NASA has said the mission on the asteroid 277 Baptistina has been going on smoothly. The Explorer is getting away from the asteroid.

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE-AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

Harry is seated behind his desk, watching CNN.

SANDRA (ON TV)

We can expect that in twelve days time, the asteroid will be destroyed by the nuclear bomb. NASA mission specialists have predicted

(MORE)

SANDRA (ON TV) (cont'd)  
 that the debris of the asteroid  
 will not hit planet Earth, because  
 the point of explosion will be very  
 far from us.

He picks up the phone.

Sandra is still talking in the background, but the words are  
 indiscernible.

HARRY  
 Director Whiteman, I've watched the  
 CNN report. We can't keep on lying  
 to the American people. We'll tell  
 them that the bomb has failed to  
 detonate, but they don't have to  
 worry because the asteroid won't  
 hit the Yucatan Peninsula.

HOWARD (VO)  
 Mr. President, how about the fate  
 of the astronauts, shall we tell  
 them also?

HARRY  
 No. Keep that secret until the last  
 minute.

HOWARD (VO)  
 Yes, sir.

EXT. JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Air Force One touches down at the airport. Harry climbs down  
 the stairwell. He boards a limo, surrounded by Secret  
 Service agents.

EXT. UN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The limo bearing Harry stops in front of the main building  
 of the United Nations.

INT. UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY HALL - CONTINUOUS

Harry strides in front of the rows of seats and stands  
 behind the lectern as the delegates break into APPLAUSE.

HARRY  
 The president of the General  
 Assembly, the Secretary General,  
 the President of the Security  
 Council, Excellencies:  
 (beat)  
 Fifteen days ago we sent our brave  
 men and women on a mission  
 everybody thought would save  
 humanity from extinction. They were  
 (MORE)

HARRY (cont'd)  
 supposed to rendezvous with the asteroid 277 Baptistina midway between us and planet Mars. They placed a powerful nuclear bomb in the interior of the asteroid. But they could not sacrifice their lives when there was another option to destroy the asteroid by remote control. The spacecraft Explorer had to escape in the opposite direction to avoid being caught in the explosion. Unfortunately, the remote control did not work.

There are loud exchanges of QUIPS among the delegates.

HARRY  
 (continuing)  
 But the world does not have to be afraid. The asteroid does not exist in outer space. We have proved that it is an imagery of a too distant past, dating back to the era of dinosaurs. That is the same asteroid that struck the Yucatan Peninsula and killed the dinosaurs.

The NOISE grows louder.

HARRY  
 (continuing)  
 Excellencies, we apologize to the world for the anxiety we have caused as a result of the malfunction of the space probe we call Sentinel. It has captured images of the past stored inside the electromagnetic field out there. Like I said, you do not have to worry. The bomb is gone with the asteroid.

Harry leaves the lectern and exits the hall as the delegates APPLAUSE.

INT. ESA MISSION CONTROL-DARMSTADT, GERMANY - DAY

Johann is standing in front of the big screen, looking at the imagery of the asteroid.

Rikert joins him.

RIKERT  
 (German, subtitled)  
 Sir, the Americans have finally admitted that the mission has failed to destroy the asteroid. But  
 (MORE)

RIKERT (cont'd)  
we have nothing to worry because  
the asteroid will not hit the  
Yucatan Peninsula.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
So where will it fall?

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
It had fallen already sixty-five  
million years ago.

Johann is puzzled. He seems unable to grasp the information.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
What?

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
Yes, sir. This asteroid we are  
watching is a phantom image of the  
dinosaur killer. The Sentinel is  
retrieving information from the  
past stored inside that  
electromagnetic field.

Johann bits his lip, visibly pissed off. He paces about the  
floor as Rikert watches him.

He stops and faces Rikert.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
We are not connected to the  
Sentinel. We are using the Rosetta.  
Why are we picking up images of the  
asteroid?

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
The Rosetta might also have been  
caught in the electromagnetic  
field.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
Why did they keep this information  
from the world? People are scared.  
It has caused panic in the  
Caribbean Islands and Latin  
America.

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

I guess the Americans were not sure whether the asteroid would fall here or not.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

How about the bomb?

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

It's also thrown into the past along with the crew of the Explorer. They were caught in the electromagnetic field. But the Americans are keeping this one secret.

JOHANN

(German, subtitled)

So we can forget all about the story?

RIKERT

(German, subtitled)

Yes, sir. You can sleep soundly tonight.

Smiling, Johann exits from the mission control room.

EXT. TEXAS FOREST-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

John and his crewmen are walking along with the sauropods, carrying their weapons. They wear snoopy caps, liquid-cooling garments and boots. The radios are hooked to the snoopy caps.

David is carrying a GPS. Catherine is carrying a video, while Irina and Adrien are carrying cameras.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

John, this is the site of the Johnson Space Center. It's thirteen miles away from the airport.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

We're the first to discover this land. We'll apply for homestead patent.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

That means we will own the entire United States?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Not only that. I think it's the entire world. We get a paper and  
(MORE)

JOHN (OVER RADIO) (cont'd)  
execute a document to the effect  
that we've discovered this planet  
and have applied for a Torrens  
Title over all lands, seas, lakes,  
rivers and other fluvial, aerial  
and terrestrial domains.

JACK (VO)  
(interrupting)  
Are you crazy, guys? All lands have  
already been titled. You can't  
rewrite history.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
You're mistaken, Jack. We've an  
existing law on first discovery.  
We've antedated the First  
Americans. We'll make a drawing to  
demarcate the territories of the  
United States. The materials here  
will date back to the cretaceous  
period, sixty-five million years  
ago on your birthday, to be exact.

JACK (VO)  
(laughing)  
John, my punch lines are patented.  
You can be sued for copyright  
infringement.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
You're wrong again. I've antedated  
you sixty-five million years ahead  
by your own reckoning.

John's crewmen break into LAUGHTER.

They come upon a creek. They see--

A BIG T. REX

is waiting for them menacingly across the bank.

Catherine and Irina SCREAM in fear and run away. David goes  
after them.

Eric, Edward and Adrien back off in fear. John stands his  
ground, aiming his weapon at the reptile.

The reptile ROARS and then leaps into the air to cross the  
creek.

John opens FIRE, hitting it on the neck and jaw with three  
bullets.

The reptile GROANS as it falls into the creek splashing  
water over the bank, dead.

David catches up with Catherine and Irina and pulls them along.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Son of a bitch!

JACK (VO)  
John, what's that?

John walks to the edge to look at the reptile.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Another one of your ancestors!

JACK (VO)  
Is that some kind of Texas Chain  
Saw Massacre?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
No. This is Darwin's law of the  
survival of the fittest. These  
reptiles are not fit to live on  
planet Earth.

JACK (VO)  
That's the law of the Wild West. I  
guess you've patented that law  
also.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
(laughing)  
We are the Earp brothers. We're  
implementing the law of the jungle.  
An eye for an eye, a tooth for a  
tooth. For every sauropod killed by  
T. rex, ten T. rex will pay.

JACK (VO)  
John, you'll forget the time.  
Fourteen days more.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Forget that asteroid. It won't hit  
you anyway.

JACK (VO)  
Can you get near the point of  
impact?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Why?

JACK (VO)  
Get a video. That will beat all  
records. Money will flow to your  
family.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

We can't cross the Gulf of Mexico. There's no time to trek to that place. But maybe we can get a picture from this location. Just wait.

JACK (VO)

Okay. Stay where you are. Help is coming.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

You're dreaming.

They go down the creek and wade across the waist-deep water. Then they climb up the other bank. They continue walking on the edge of the forest. They come upon a large nest of dinosaur eggs. They are transfixed.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Whose eggs are these?

David looks around yonder. Then he picks up one of the eggs and starts tossing it in the air.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

We don't know. Could be sauropods, could be T. rex. Have you tried a dinosaur sunny side up?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Damn, when they hatch, we'll run out of bullets.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Shall we destroy them now?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

We'll waste our bullets if they'll turn out to be sauropods.

EDWARD (OVER RADIO)

This isn't far from our location. It will take them less than one hour to find us.

ERIC (OVER RADIO)

Let's get out of here. The older raptors might catch us playing on their eggs.

ADRIEN

Are you afraid of them?

Catherine, Irina and Adrien keeps on taking video and pictures of the eggs.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 Why don't we get one to observe how  
 it will hatch?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 I think that's a good idea.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 John, the raptors will go after us.  
 They can smell their young.  
 Remember the movie "Jurassic Park"?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 That's a work of fiction.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 Do you think this egg I'm holding  
 is a work of fiction?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Okay, you bring that one. We'll  
 hatch it quickly, so we'll know  
 what kind of raptors they are.  
 We'll ask people in NASA to help us  
 how to hatch the egg quickly.

David examines the egg closely.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
 I think it's nice to fry this.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
 David, stop it!

John and his crewmen trek back to the location of the  
 spacecraft.

Two miles away inside a clearing in the forest, thousands of  
 T. rex eggs start to hatch in a very wide nest. The young  
 dinosaurs leap from the egg shells.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hurtles toward Earth at top speed, spinning on  
 its axis and producing a WHISTLING SOUND, trailed by the  
 Sentinel.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - DAY - FLASHBACK

David and Catherine are alone. She pours a glass of wine and  
 gives it to him. He starts to sip at it.

CATHERINE  
 Time is so short for us, David.

DAVID  
 Forget the asteroid and time will  
 stop.

CATHERINE

You can't remove the damn Damocle's sword hanging over your neck.

DAVID

The theory about the asteroid is doubtful. According to some paleontologists, the asteroid didn't actually eliminate the dinosaurs. It was something else that did it. So, we'll survive here after the impact.

CATHERINE

What if your theory is wrong?

DAVID

Positive thinking.

CATHERINE

Why don't you detonate the bomb?

DAVID

John is in command. I've to maintain discipline.

John enters, seeing them standing face to face.

JOHN

I'm sorry to interrupt you.

DAVID

There's nothing important.

CATHERINE

That's not true. I told David to detonate the bomb, but he deferred to you.

John approaches them.

JOHN

We'll not save mankind.

He opens the box containing the detonator. He sees--

THE RED LIGHT BLINKS: ARMED!

JOHN

I'm not so sure if this will work. We're millions of miles away from the asteroid.

CATHERINE

The Sentinel will transmit the signal.

John rubs his palms against each other.

JOHN

We'll be cutting off our means of survival.

CATHERINE

Damn, John, this is our only hope of survival. If we can destroy the asteroid, we can sleep soundly for the next two weeks.

JOHN

How do we know that the bomb will explode or the asteroid will be destroyed?

Catherine SIGHS deeply.

CATHERINE

There's no way to do that. We'll gamble our luck. We'll assume that when you push the button, the bomb will explode and the asteroid will be destroyed. We'll wait for the next two weeks.

John turns around, cupping his head with both hands.

JOHN

No, we can't gamble our small fortune. We'll wait for the asteroid to fall into the Yucatan Peninsula.

CATHERINE

You'll seal our fate, John. Our wedding in heaven has ended in a honeymoon in hell.

Catherine storms out of the cabin.

JOHN

Damn.

DAVID

John, it's not your fault.

JOHN

You know what? It's another screw-up. The bomb is floating inside the electromagnetic field, not the asteroid. It's useless to detonate it.

DAVID

How did you know?

JOHN

We were transported to the past after we'd planted the bomb, not before.

DAVID

But we'd two encounters with the electromagnetic field.

JOHN

If the first one transported us to the past, we would have gone here straight. The asteroid was a phantom image.

DAVID

But you saw the splash of water in the visor of your helmet.

JOHN

That was another illusion. The bomb will explode in Mexico.

DAVID

Oh, my God!

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The Sentinel follows the asteroid as it streaks toward planet Earth, spinning on its axis and WHISTLING.

FADE OUT:

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

John and his crew are seated on stones away from the spacecraft. He removes his helmet and snoopy cap. Then he gestures his crewmen to follow him.

JOHN

We'll stop communicating over the radio. Houston is picking up all our conversations.

DAVID

What's the difference, John?

JOHN

I have a plan.

DAVID

Plan? What is it?

JOHN

We'll get out of here.

ADRIEN

You think we can get out of here?

JOHN

Yes.

IRINA

How?

John stands up and faces his men.

JOHN

We'll get back to the  
electromagnetic field.

Edward throws the small stone he is holding into the ground.  
He is obviously pissed off.

EDWARD

That's a stupid idea. We're trapped  
here.

JOHN

It's your mind that keeps us  
trapped here.

Edward becomes furious. He stands up to face John.

EDWARD

Son of a bitch!

CATHERINE

Gentlemen, don't quarrel here!  
Edward, stand down! Maintain  
discipline! Show respect to the  
mission commander!

Edward leaves for the spacecraft, seething.

ERIC

Commander, I still have respect for  
your intelligence. When you said we  
could get out of here, I believed  
you. So tell us your plan.

JOHN

This is a long shot...  
(gesturing with his  
fingers)  
We'll cross the path of the  
asteroid. We hope that the force of  
the impact will catapult us into  
outer space to catch up with the  
electromagnetic field.

ADRIEN

That's a fantastic idea. But the  
spacecraft is busted.

JOHN

We'll have a lot of work to do.  
We'll have two options. Vertical  
and horizontal take-off. We'll try  
to fix the tilt rotors and we'll  
also flatten the ground here in  
case the tilt rotors are not fixed.

DAVID

That's terrific. Okay, I'm sold to  
it.

CATHERINE

I think there's no objection.

JOHN

Okay. Let's get down to work.

They disperse and start removing big stones dotting the path  
of the spacecraft. David uses his bayonet to cut the tall  
grass.

INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Howard picks up the phone and dials the numbers. Jack enters  
and takes his seat in front of the desk.

HOWARD

Mr. President, we seek your  
authorization whether we'll inform  
the families of the astronauts that  
they're missing.

HARRY (VO)

That's a big problem. The story  
will get out of control.

Jack gestures to Howard by pointing to his breast.

HOWARD

But we can't keep them second  
guessing what happened to their  
loved ones.

HARRY (VO)

Let's do it this way. Talk to them  
individually and bring them to  
Houston. Let them talk to the  
astronauts, on condition that they  
will keep the story secret.

INT. SANDRA'S OFFICE-CNN CENTER - DAY

Sandra enters the room. The phone RINGS. She rushes to pick  
it up.

SANDRA

Hello?

JACK (VO)  
Sandra, this is Jack. Can you come here?

Sandra is agitated.

SANDRA  
Why?

JACK (VO)  
We've something important to tell you.

SANDRA  
Can you tell me now?

JACK (VO)  
No. You've to come here. John has something to tell you.

Sandra looks at her watch.

SANDRA  
Okay. I'll try to catch up with the first flight there.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack wears his headset. He paces about the floor.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
John, do you hear me?

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

John is pushing a large rock across the path of the spacecraft, wearing his snoopy cap and the radio slung to his waist.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Roger.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOHN AND JACK:

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
We haven't been receiving information from you.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Maybe the Sentinel is having problems transmitting signals.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
The president has instructed us to inform your families. They'll come here.

John stops pushing the rock.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

That's good, so they'll be prepared for the inevitable.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

This is top secret.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Why don't you admit NASA made a terrible mistake?

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Many heads will roll. The contractor of the Sentinel Project will have a lot to explain.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Let them explain to the American people because what they did was the worst crime of the century. It is mass murder.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

John, we've to be discreet. Our rivals are watching us. They mustn't discover we've committed a fatal mistake. We'll lose our prestige.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

That's why you call us expendables?

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Kind of.

JOHN (VO)

Son of a bitch!

Jack winces and removes his headset.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hurtles toward Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and producing a WHISTLING SOUND, trailed by the Sentinel.

EXT. HOUSTON-HOBBY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

A PANAM airplane lands at the airport.

INT. CABIN OF AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Seated in the front row, Sandra stands up and walks to the door.

EXT. ARRIVAL AREA-HOUSTON-HOBBY INT'L AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Sandra climbs aboard a car bearing the decal of NASA.

It leaves the driveway and speeds away.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Sandra enters and Jack meets her.

JACK  
Welcome to Houston.

SANDRA  
Thank you.

They start walking across the room.

JACK  
We've to tell you now the very bad news.

SANDRA  
(surprised)  
What is it?

JACK  
John and his crewmen have been missing, but not actually missing.

SANDRA  
(puzzled)  
What do you mean, "missing and not actually missing"?

JACK  
We can't explain to you the detail. That's why we asked you to come here. The Explorer, according to John, crashed and is lost in time. But they can still be contacted. They're now in the cretaceous period, sixty-five million years ago.

They stop before Jack's computer console.

SANDRA  
Are you making a fool of me?

JACK  
No. You'll understand when you talk to John.

He takes another headset and hands it to her. Sandra dons it reluctantly.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
Hello, John?

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

John paces about the grass away from the spacecraft. His crewmen are watching him.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Sandra, what Jack told you was true. The Explorer has been caught in an electromagnetic field and...

INTERCUT JOHN/SANDRA/JACK:

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
(interrupting)  
What?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Yes, we were thrown into the past. It's the era of dinosaurs.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
You're kidding me.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
No. I'll show you images of our location.

The big screens in front display the video taken by Catherine showing John and his crewmen shooting at the T. rex and killing ten of them.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
Oh, my God!

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
We tried to slaughter one dinosaur, but its skin is very tough.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
You'll eat dinosaur's meat? How can you do that? That's cruelty to animals.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
These are beasts. If they're not eliminated, they'll continue to rule planet Earth.

Sandra cups her face with both hands.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
So this is real.

John stops pacing about the ground.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Yes. And this might be our last conversation. We've got a one-way ticket. I hope you'll understand.

Sandra frees her face.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
What happened to the bomb you  
planted on the asteroid?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
It's going to explode at the  
Yucatan Peninsula.

Sandra freezes briefly.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
What?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
The asteroid is a holographic image  
of the past. The bomb is floating  
inside the electromagnetic field.  
It isn't inside the asteroid.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)  
Oh, my God!

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
(interrupting)  
John, what do you mean it's going  
to explode at the Yucatan  
Peninsula?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
There's no asteroid out there. The  
bomb is flying alone inside that  
electromagnetic field. It will drop  
on the Yucatan Peninsula.

JACK (OVER RADIO)  
Oh, my God!

He jumps to the phone atop the desk.

INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Howard picks up the phone from the table.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JACK AND HOWARD:

HOWARD  
Hello?

JACK  
Director Whiteman, sir, the bomb is  
going to explode at the Yucatan  
Peninsula!

HOWARD  
Who told you?

JACK

John. He said the bomb is flying alone. There's no asteroid out there.

HOWARD

But astronomers all over the world are saying the asteroid is getting nearer and nearer.

Jack becomes frantic.

JACK

Sir, that's an illusion. It's a holographic image of the asteroid that struck the Yucatan Peninsula sixty-five million years ago. The image was stored in an electromagnetic field and it's now being retrieved by the Sentinel.

HOWARD

Son of a bitch!

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Sandra paces the floor in front of the wide screens, away from Jack. She is wearing a headset. The mission specialists watch her curiously.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)

This is another intelligence screw-up, like your mission in Kosovo.

JOHN (VO)

It's the fault of NASA.

SANDRA (OVER RADIO)

(sobbing)

John, this is what I told you. You will never come back. You are as good as dead. You are a dead man walking.

JOHN (VO)

I'll keep my promise. I'll see you again.

Sandra yanks the headset from her head and throws it down to the floor. Then she storms out of the mission control, sobbing.

EXT. ESA MISSION CONTROL, DARMSTADT, GERMANY - NIGHT

Johann paces the floor, worried. Rikert goes to him.

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
Sir, there's an advisory from NASA.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
What is it?

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
They said the bomb is going to  
explode at the Yucatan Peninsula.

Johann freezes momentarily.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
Damn. The Americans are making fool  
of us. They told us earlier the  
asteroid does not exist out there,  
and the bomb is lost also. Now,  
they're saying it's going to  
explode. That's one megaton. It can  
flatten the Yucatan Peninsula.

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
I think we've to believe them this  
time.

JOHANN  
(German, subtitled)  
NATO ships and aircraft will have  
to help in the evacuation. We'll  
notify the Chancellor.

RIKERT  
(German, subtitled)  
That is a good idea.

INT. NATO HQ, BRUSSELS - DAY

NATO secretary general KLAUS EMMERICH, 55, looks at the map  
of the Yucatan Peninsula projected on the screen.

Members of the NATO general staff are standing with him,  
including generals GRANT EMORY 50, ANTOINE PETREUS 55, and  
LEMERK HUGO, 53.

The screen zooms on the Yucatan Peninsula and the Gulf of  
Mexico.

KLAUS  
We have ten days to sail to the  
Gulf of Mexico. We will transport  
the people first to the ships  
before sending them back when the  
explosion is over.

GRANT

We expect nuclear fallout, Mr.  
Secretary General.

Klaus moves to the conference table. The men follow him.

KLAUS

We cannot avoid that. Our task is  
to minimize casualties.

LEMERK

The most expeditious way is by  
overland evacuation. The US  
government can expropriate all  
vehicles in the west coast to be  
used in transporting evacuees.

They take their seats.

KLAUS

General Emory here knows the  
preparations being undertaken by  
his country, but we've to show  
solidarity with them. NATO is a  
collective organization. All for  
one.

EXT. SPACECRAFT EXPLORER - DAY - FLASHBACK

John and David inspect the tilt rotors located at the wings.  
They are not wearing snopy caps or helmets.

JOHN

David, could it be a busted wire?

DAVID

I hope not, because we've no  
replacement.

JOHN

Broken bearing?

DAVID

Maybe yes, maybe no. It gets me  
nervous.

JOHN

How far have we cleared in the air  
strip?

DAVID

Less than one mile. We need at  
least two miles and a half.

JOHN

Can we make it in time?

David shrugs his shoulders as he touches the blade of the  
rotor.

DAVID

We've to double our efforts. It's hard removing those stones. We're really lucky we didn't somersault when we hit the ground.

John pats him on the shoulder. Then he walks to the other crewmen cutting the grass with their bayonets.

EXT. FRONT LAWN-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Jack is walking across the lawn in front of the mission control building, holding a mobile phone to his lips.

JACK

Colonel Sherman, you've to find ways to disable the bomb.

INT. HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Mitchell is cruising toward the Barksdale Air Force Base. A wireless receiver is stuck to his ear.

MITCHELL

Damn. It is equipped with a SWESS.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JACK AND MITCHELL:

JACK

What the hell is that?

MITCHELL

Special Weapons Emergency Separation System, or in layman's term, dead man's switch! The bomb will detonate at a predetermined altitude. Two thousand five hundred feet.

JACK

Why did you install that?

MITCHELL

We wanted to make sure that the bomb would explode in case the crew of the spacecraft became debilitated or incapacitated.

JACK

You'll be responsible for killing thousands, if not millions, of innocent people.

MITCHELL

We're just following orders.

JACK

You mean to say, the president has authorized the arming of the bomb automatically?

MITCHELL

Yes. The authorization was confirmed by the Secretary of Defense.

JACK

Damn.

MITCHELL

But you're to blame because you created the story. We delivered the bomb to you on the assumption that the asteroid is going to hit the Yucatan Peninsula.

JACK

Our understanding is that the bomb is going to be detonated by remote control or manually.

MITCHELL

That's true. But your men are incapacitated now. There's a standard operating procedure. We can't leave anything to chance.

JACK

Son of a bitch!

MITCHELL

Dr. Chambers, leave that to the big people. Let them worry about the impact of the bomb. We're just doing our job.

Jack pockets his phone and enters the mission control.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack enters and Howard meets him. They start walking across the room. The mission specialists watch them.

HOWARD

Jack, we've a problem.

JACK

What is it?

HOWARD

We'll lose the Sentinel if we let it fall with the bomb.

JACK

Damn. We can't break contact with the astronauts.

HOWARD

They're gone, Jack. There's nothing we can do.

JACK

I want to keep tab of them to the last minute of their life.

HOWARD

You can't sacrifice precious equipment.

JACK

Sir, we need to document the actual impact of the asteroid in the Yucatan Peninsula. That's a scoop that will never be duplicated through the ages.

HOWARD

We can always come back to that event when we perfected the time machine. What's important now is to preserve the Sentinel.

EXT. TEXAS FOREST, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

The T. rex hatchlings begin to roam around the forest. They have grown bigger.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hurtles toward Earth at top speed, spinning on its axis and producing a WHISTLING SOUND, trailed by the Sentinel.

EXT. MERIDA, YUCATAN PENINSULA, MEXICO - DAY

There is flurry of cars as people evacuate the place, carrying what their hands can hold. The roads are clogged.

The vehicles HONK, and those who leave on foot ignore the vehicles behind.

Helicopters land on open grounds to ferry people out of the place.

EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - DAY

There is flurry of activity as helicopters ferry people aboard the transport ships and warships of the US and NATO.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - DAY - FLASHBACK

John is seated in front of the computer console wearing a headset. Jack is on the screen, also wearing headset.

JACK (ON SCREEN)  
John, we've a problem.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
What is it?

JACK (ON SCREEN)  
They'll pull out the Sentinel from  
the electromagnetic field.

John freezes momentarily.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Damn. Why didn't you tell them we  
need the exact timing of the impact  
of the asteroid?

JACK (ON SCREEN)  
I pleaded to Director Whiteman, but  
he ignored me.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Son of a bitch!

JACK (ON SCREEN)  
This might be our last  
conversation.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Can you try cutting off the link to  
the Sentinel?

JACK (ON SCREEN)  
No. They've secured everything  
here. They've brought in personnel  
from the National Security Agency.  
It's the president's order. You're  
marked expendable. I'm so sorry,  
John.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
One last favor, Jack. What is the  
ETA of the bomb?

JACK (ON SCREEN)  
1900 HOURS GMT. Seventy-two hours  
from now.

The screen turns black.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Jack, are you still there?  
(MORE)

JOHN (OVER RADIO) (cont'd)

(beat)

Jack?

(beat)

Son of a bitch!

John runs to the door.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

John emerges out of the door of the spacecraft and stops in front of his crewmen. They are seated on rocks away from the spacecraft. The dinosaur egg lies on a nest closer to Irina.

JOHN

Son of a bitch! They've cut our communication line!

DAVID

We're finished!

CATHERINE

This is your fault, David! You can't abandon your friend!

DAVID

I never thought we'd find our way here!

IRINA

Stop it! You get nothing by screaming at each other!

JOHN

Listen to me. I'm still the commander of this mission. It's my responsibility to bring you back home. The Sentinel is secondary to our survival. We've to fix first this one here.

He points to the spacecraft.

JOHN

(continuing)

This is the key to our survival. Without this, the Sentinel is useless for us for all intents and purposes. So let's get down to work. Clear the strip faster. We've seventy-two hours left.

IRINA

Why has the dinosaur egg not hatched yet?

ERIC

You don't have to worry about the reptiles.

EDWARD

We'll shoot them again if they ever  
come back here.

ADRIEN

You never know the number out  
there.

EDWARD

I thought you'd the courage of  
Admiral Lafayette.

Adrien stands up and leaves the ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack looks at the big screen in the middle of the wall.

The other mission specialists are also watching the screen.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Time to impact: two hours.

HENRY (OVER RADIO)

NORAD informed us that all people  
at the Yucatan Peninsula have been  
evacuated to safer places and  
aboard US and NATO ships in the  
Gulf of Mexico.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

John is standing in front of his crewmen. They are few yards  
away from the spacecraft.

JOHN

NASA has abandoned us to preserve  
the Sentinel. They've now written  
us off, like bad debts. We will  
make our way back home!

Suddenly a small T. rex appears from a distance. John sees  
it.

JOHN

Oh, my God!

The astronauts turn in the direction of the reptile.

The number grows to thousands.

John and his crewmen all EXCLAIM in fear.

JOHN

David, the guns!

Irina leaps to the dinosaur's egg and grabs it.

The men and women scamper inside the cabin of the spacecraft, Irina the last to enter. The door shuts back.

The herd of small reptiles appears around the grassland. They number about ten thousand.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

Carrying his M-4 carbine, John climbs up the emergency exit and pokes out his head.

He sees -

THOUSANDS OF BIGGER T. REX coming closer to the spacecraft from all sides, charging menacingly.

JOHN

Damn. David, start the engines!

David flips the switches and jabs the buttons. The spacecraft shakes as the engines REV.

JOHN

Can you make it to the airstrip?

DAVID

We're now trapped! They've blocked our path!

JOHN

They're coming closer! Hit the tilt rotor button!

David stabs the red button in the instrument panel.

John leaps up to the emergency hatch, carrying his gun.

EXT. SPACECRAFT EXPLORER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The engines of the tilt rotors start simultaneously.

The dinosaurs get nearer and nearer.

The spacecraft lifts off as the dinosaurs converge around, missing it by just few feet.

Few of them try to leap into the spacecraft but fail to reach the wings.

One is able to hang on the retracting landing gear.

John swings his gun below and opens FIRE.

The T. rex fall one by one.

The herd flees in haste amidst a hail of GUNFIRE.

EXT. OVER THE TEXAS GRASSLAND-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

The spacecraft goes higher and higher.

The adult T. rex hangs on the landing gear. As its eyes roll around, it opens its jaw and drops to the ground, the rest of the herd looking up at it. It hits the ground and GROANS. It slowly closes its eyes. The herd converges around it.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John drops from the emergency hatch and it closes back.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Son of a bitch! They nearly caught us.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

How do we know if we'll get back to the year 2000?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

We'll see the explosion of the bomb. If it's the asteroid, we'll die here one by one or all at once.

EXT. OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

The spacecraft Explorer flies high over the Gulf of Mexico towards the Yucatan Peninsula.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John checks the altimeter.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Distance to the path of the asteroid?

IRINA (VO)

Five hundred miles.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Wearing a headset, Jack looks at the watch hanging against the wall to his left.

JACK (OVER RADIO)

Forty-six seconds to impact.

EXT. THERMOSPHERE-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

The asteroid hits the thermosphere and burns at the surface.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Irina looks at the timer on the instrument panel.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Forty seconds to impact!

JOHN (VO)  
Cabin crew, prepare for the leap to  
freedom.

CATHERINE (OVER RADIO)  
Roger that, Commander. We're geared  
for another rollercoaster.

EXT. OVER GULF OF MEXICO - DAY

An American E-3 Sentry AWACS is flying over the Gulf of  
Mexico at an altitude of fifty-thousand feet.

INT. COMMUNICATION CABIN OF SENTRY - DAY

The communications officer is seated in front of a computer  
console, wearing a headset.

OFFICER (OVER RADIO)  
NORAD, the airspace over the  
Yucatan Peninsula is clear of  
aircraft.

MAN (VO)  
Roger that, Sentry.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Irina looks at the timer on the instrument panel.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Thirty-five seconds to impact.

ERIC (OVER RADIO)  
Commander, are you sure the  
asteroid's force of impact will  
throw us up to the Karman Line?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Yes. It's a matter of about  
sixty-two miles. We've to stay at  
nine thousand miles or fifty  
thousand feet above the impact  
zone. That was the altitude the  
electromagnetic field threw us  
here. That is the mesosphere layer.  
That means it can penetrate most of  
the atmosphere.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Excluding the Exosphere, the next  
two layers below have a combined  
thickness of about five hundred  
miles. It will take the asteroid  
thirty-three seconds to cross the  
layers.

Catherine looks at her in astonishment.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John looks out the window and then turns to David.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Make sure you'll hold the joystick  
tightly. The asteroid will suck us  
down momentarily.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)  
Son of a bitch!

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

Irina glances at the timer.

IRINA (OVER RADIO)  
Commander Slater, thirty seconds to  
impact.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

John pushes the throttle to the maximum level.

EXT. OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

The spacecraft streaks at the speed of fifteen miles per  
second.

EXT. YUCATAN PENINSULA, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quetzalcoatlus, a 300-pound bird with a 36-foot wing span  
flies above the Earth. It is joined by many more flying  
dinosaurs. They hunt for preys.

Below, different species of dinosaurs roam the grassland.

T. rex run after sauropods and other dinosaurs.

The asteroid streaks down from the sky and smashes into the  
ground. The dinosaurs are wiped out instantly.

The Explorer crosses the path of the asteroid and is pulled  
down with it, spinning around on its horizontal axis.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

The spacecraft shakes as it spins around on its horizontal  
axis and starts to fall down to the ground.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Hold on! The vacuum created by the  
asteroid is pulling us down!

David sweats profusely as he holds the joystick tightly.

John doubles up to hold the joystick tightly.

EXT. YUCATAN PENINSULA-CRETACEOUS PERIOD - CONTINUOUS

The cloud of dust and debris envelops the peninsula and shoots up to the sky, catapulting the Explorer into outer space.

EXT. MESOSPHERE - CONTINUOUS

The electromagnetic field keeps on spinning and sucks in the Explorer.

Instantly the spacecraft disappears.

EXT. YUCATAN PENINSULA - DAY - PRESENT TIME

The nuclear bomb has exploded and is spreading outward in a very big fireball.

The fire burns everything in its path.

EXT. OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO - DAY - PRESENT TIME

The Explorer morphs instantly and plummets to Earth.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - DAY

Shaken, John pulls the joystick and the spacecraft levels off.

He looks out the window and sees the spreading fireball that engulfs the Yucatan Peninsula to his left.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)

Son of a bitch! The bomb has exploded! We're back home!

David raises a clenched fist.

DAVID (OVER RADIO)

Long live the United States of America!

They shake hands enthusiastically.

INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - DAY

The astronauts rejoice. They embrace each other tightly.

Catherine and Irina cry as they hug each other.

Eric and Edward start to dance on the floor in ecstasy.

EXT. TEXAS GRASSLAND, CRETACEOUS PERIOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

The dinosaurs MOAN as they look up the darkening sky. The cloud of dust and debris spreads over them until it is totally dark.

Panicking, the dinosaurs flee in all directions. A shower of broken rocks and stones hit them. They tumble to the ground as they are hit one by one. The hail of broken rocks and stones keep on striking them as they lay dead on the ground. The broken rocks and stones pile up over them.

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jack watches the screen showing the explosion of the bomb in the Yucatan Peninsula taken by the E-3 Sentry.

JACK

Oh, my God!

Henry goes to him. He pats Jack on the shoulder.

HENRY

Happy birthday, Jack.

JACK

Thank you. But this tragedy...

HENRY

(interrupting)

It's our fault...

INT. CONTROL TOWER-HOUSTON INT'L AIRPORT - DAY

The chief controller is holding a pair of binoculars. He is wearing a headset. His assistant is seated beside him.

JOHN (VO)

Break, Houston! This is the Explorer!

The man is stunned.

CONTROLLER #1

Explorer, you're coming in loud and clear!

JOHN (VO)

This is Commander John Slater!

CONTROLLER #1

You're alive?

JOHN (VO)

We're going to make an emergency landing!

CONTROLLER #1

I thought you're lost. NASA has written you off as missing in action.

JOHN (VO)

Yes, you're right. But we're now back.

The other controller looks at his superior in surprise.

CONTROLLER #2  
Is this some kind of a joke?

The chief controller gives him the binoculars.

CONTROLLER #1  
You better check the sky.

The man raises the binoculars to his eyes and trains them to the southern sky.

CONTROLLER #2  
Damn. It's the Explorer. Over the Gulf of Mexico.

The chief controller takes the phone hurriedly.

CONTROLLER #1  
Houston, the Explorer is coming back!

INT. MISSION CONTROL-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Holding a phone to his lips, Jack is stunned.

JACK  
What do you mean "coming back"?

CONTROLLER #1  
Yes, sir. The Explorer is back!

JACK  
Oh, my God!  
(to mission specialists)  
The Explorer is back!

The mission specialists break into a loud APPLAUSE.

INT. FLIGHT DECK OF EXPLORER - DAY

John is holding the joystick tightly as he looks at the altimeter.

JACK (VO)  
John, do you read me?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
Roger.

JACK (VO)  
How did you make it?

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
It's a long, long story. You've to buy your own copy.

JACK (VO)  
 (laughing)  
 I admire your wit. You can still  
 make us laugh even in adversity.

JOHN (OVER RADIO)  
 Laughter is the best medicine. But  
 you people in NASA have got a lot  
 to explain to the American people.

EXT. HOUSTON-HOBBY INTER'L AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

The Explorer glides smoothly into the 12R/30L runway and  
 stops at the end.

The short flight of steps is released automatically.

Fire trucks move to surround it.

Ambulances rush to the portside where the door is located.

EXT./INT. CABIN OF EXPLORER - DAY

Teary-eyed, the astronauts led by John walk out of the door  
 and negotiate the short steps.

EXT. RUNWAY 12R/30L, HOUSTON INT'L AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Doctors and nurses receive them and bring them inside the  
 ambulances.

The ambulances blow their SIREN as they disperse from the  
 runway.

INT. VETERINARY LAB, UCLA - DAY

John and his crewmen watch the dinosaur's eggs being laid  
 inside an incubator by a veterinarian.

IRINA  
 Whose egg is this?

JOHN  
 It could be a sauropod's, because  
 it didn't hatch together with the  
 T. rex eggs.

DAVID  
 So there was another nest aside  
 from the one we found.

JOHN  
 That was most likely.

IRINA  
 I wish this is a T. rex, so I can  
 bring it home to my boyfriend when  
 it gets bigger.

CATHERINE

(laughing)

It will have a very special meal.

INT. HEARING ROOM-U.S. CONGRESS - DAY

John and his crewmen are seated in front of the members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Howard and Jack are seated at another table. The seats are filled to capacity. Journalists train their videos and cameras to the congressmen and the resource persons.

Congressman FRED JACKSON, 65, is seated in the middle of his colleagues behind a long semi-circular table.

FRED

Commander Slater, why did you refuse to carry out a legal order from a lawful superior, no less than the president of the United States? You didn't blow up the bomb.

JOHN

It was a complicated situation, Congressman Jackson, sir. We thought the asteroid was real. We did not have the chance to feel it.

There is an exchange of QUIPS among the audience.

FRED

Why?

JOHN

Your honor, we were floating in space, and the asteroid was spinning on its horizontal axis. We thought we would be thrown away if we attempted to land our foot on it.

Fred exchanges glances with his colleagues.

FRED

But you confirmed later that it was an illusion, and yet you allowed the bomb to explode over the Yucatan Peninsula.

JOHN

Sir, I was also guessing. If it were real, the dinosaurs would have survived. We would have destroyed the killer asteroid.

FRED

You believe in the grandfather paradox?

JOHN

No. We would have altered the past - and the future.

FRED

(to Howard)

Director Whiteman, why did you send into space an instrument that was faulty in design from the beginning?

HOWARD

Your honor, the Sentinel was designed to capture images from the past. It's some kind of a time machine.

FRED

Oh, that's not part of the original design you presented to us during the budget hearing.

HOWARD

We'd to preserve the secrecy of the mission.

FRED

Well, you're vindicated, except that you'd caused a lot of displacement in the Yucatan Peninsula. We've to compensate the Mexicans.

Congresswoman ALICE LAWRENCE, 56, takes the floor.

ALICE

Director Whiteman, why did you cut the communication link to the astronauts when you ordered that the Sentinel be pulled out from the electromagnetic field?

HOWARD

Your honor, we wanted to preserve the space probe. The data it had captured was worth the cost. The United States has kept its lead in the research on time machine.

Alice grins sardonically.

ALICE

Why, do you intend to construct a working time machine?

HOWARD

That is not a remote possibility,  
your honor.

ALICE

Damn. You'll create chaos in this  
world.

FRED

(to Alice)

Congresswoman Lawrence, the United  
States is an intellectual country.  
We can't stop our people from  
pushing into the limits of  
scientific discoveries. In the  
meantime, this hearing is  
terminated.

EXT. U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

John and his crewmen exit the door and walk down the tall  
stairway. Jack is way behind them.

A large crowd is waiting for them, waving flags of the  
United States.

Sandra makes her way through the crowd and hugs John  
tightly.

SANDRA

John, they can never put a good man  
down.

John smiles broadly.

JOHN

They've not seen life in Jurassic  
Park.

SANDRA

Did you eat dinosaur's meat?

JOHN

I'll tell you at the dining table.

Sandra jabs him on the side. John wraps his arm around her  
shoulder.

JOHN

I kept my promise. I have returned.

Jack joins them. John shakes hands with him.

JOHN

Belated happy birthday, Jack. I  
missed you for the last sixty-five  
million years.

Jack LAUGHS heartily.

JACK  
You're a survivor, John. This is  
just the beginning...

SANDRA  
(interrupting)  
You'll kill me, Jack.

JACK  
John has nine lives.

SANDRA  
He'll eventually run out of luck.

She grabs John's hand and leads him down the flight of  
stairs.

They force their way through the crowd and ride their car as  
Jack watches them, shaking his head and smiling.

The car moves out of the throng.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END