

THE TUNDRA LAND: EPISODE 1 - RECON TEAM

By

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FADE IN:

PROLOGUE - CAPTION "The Great Upheaval"

Various scenes of planetary disasters accompany the NARRATOR'S prologue.

NARRATOR

This is a story on how the Tundra Land came into being. The scientists of the time explained that a great tectonic shift happened where one continent slid under another, causing the great upheaval. It was an event that nearly shattered the planet. The plain was pushed up to nine thousand feet in its highest places. The planet tilted on its axis. Many devastating earthquakes happened around the world as the continents moved to realign themselves. Those of religious faith claimed it was the end of the world. Many cities were destroyed and lost. Untold numbers of people died. (PAUSE)

But, the world did continue.

Many years later, the earthquakes subsided. The planet became stable again. The people that remained still feared any slight movement. With human perseverance, faith, and determination, civilization began to grow again. There were some conflicts among the people. Some wanted to do away with their nation's laws. Others wanted to reestablish them. Out of the magnitude of what had happened, the higher laws of faith and humanity prevailed. Hospitality, concern for others wellbeing over oneself was in the majority of people. There was not one person untouched from what had happened.

A generation passed and explorers started out to investigate the changes that had happened to the planet. A team of five was sent to the place of the great upheaval. The satellite data provided had shown that the region was a relatively flat plain and a vast inland sea. The weather was one of harsh winters and a short spring-like summer due to the new elevation. The region was named The Tundra Land.

PART 1: "The Searchers"

CUT TO:

INT. THE TYLER HOME - DAY

PAUL "DIGGER" TYLER age 50, his son MARTIN age 17, and SAMANTHA REGIS-TYLER age 45 are at home. Digger and Martin are getting dressed and geared up for a hiking expedition. Two other children are present.

Samantha takes Digger aside.

SAMANTHA

Paul, do you think he is ready?

DIGGER

He's 17 now. I trained him. Pastor Samms taught him everything else he needs to know. And, he really wants to do this.

SAMANTHA

I'm just worried about he will react the first time he sees one?

DIGGER

I think he he'll do fine.

MARTIN

(Coming in to the chat)

Don't worry mom. It's springtime. We'll be off before winter.

Samantha hugs her son and kisses Digger. The two men sling on their back packs and they all walk out the door.

EXT. The TYLER HOME - DAY

The family goes to over to an off road vehicle. Samantha gives Digger and Martin a last hug and a kiss.

SAMANTHA

Give Pastor Samms my best.

DIGGER

I will. (Kisses his wife) (To Martin)
Let's go son.

Digger and Martin get in the vehicle and drive off. Samantha and the other children wave good bye.

EXT. WIDE - OPEN FIELD - DAY

Digger's vehicle drives to the Cliffs of The Tundra Land that rise high in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOMEWHERE ON THE TUNDRA LAND - DAY

Digger and Martin are walking along, hiking poles in hand. Both have a small blue pack that they did not leave home with. The landscape is semi barren with small bushes and colorful wildflowers.

Digger looks at a GPS device.

DIGGER

We're getting close. I'm glad the satellites are up again. It makes this a lot easier.

MARTIN

All the times you've been here Dad, I'm sure you can find the places without them.

DIGGER

Look around. We're here.

(Looking up - whispers) My God!

MARTIN

Dad, (pauses and looking ahead and pointing) There.

DIGGER

I see it. It's the old land rover.

The men look to see an overturned aged and rusted vehicle half buried in the ground. A gloved hand extends from a window. The two men pull out a body dressed in cold weather clothes and hooded coat, to a face down position. A small blue pack is nearby, opened and used. Digger picks it up.

DIGGER

(whispers) "If not for me, for the one who finds me". Let's find his ID and do our work. He got caught here in winter.

(Looking at the ID)

Well Mr. Harrison Lewis I pray you found God before you froze to death. Jesus have mercy on this man's soul. Amen.

After finding the Lewis's wallet and ID, Digger and Martin prepare to dig a shallow grave, getting a pile rocks ready. Martin nervously turns him over, to anticipate seeing the face of a dead man but...

MARTIN

Dad! His cheek is pink!

Digger quickly runs over and checks the man.

DIGGER

Dear Jesus he's alive! Call it in son!

MARTIN

I'm on it Dad.

Martin Pulls out a communicator from his coat and makes a call.

MARTIN (Con't)

Signal is good. (Into the communicator)
Hello S. A. R. center. This is Martin
Tyler, ID SAR329, we found a live
hiker. (Pause) Yes alive, Send an evac
right away. Track my location.

(Hearing a response)They're coming dad!

Digger pulls out some thermal packs, opens and puts them into
Lewis's coat. LEWIS MOANS. Digger then tries to give Lewis a sip
of water. Slowly, Lewis' lips move.

CUT TO:

HIGH ANGLE

A rescue helicopter approaches the men. It lands a hundred yards
from them. TWO PARAMEDICS bring out a stretcher and run over to
the small group.

CLOSE ON:

MEDIC 1

Hey Digger, got a live one! We'll take
him from here.

DIGGER

It's always a miracle Jack. Take care of him. I'm sure he has a story to tell if he lives.

MEDIC 1

No doubt. You two be careful up here.

DIGGER

(Handing the id to the MEDIC 2)

We have another month and a couple of places to go.

MEDIC 2

(Looks at the ID)

This Mr. Lewis is lucky he found your old land rover.

MEDIC 1

We'll do our best for him. See you down bottom Digger.

DIGGER

Until then Jack.

MEDIC 1

(To Martin - Shakes hands)

Keep up the good work Martin.

The medics carry MR.LEWIS to the helicopter and it takes off to the horizon as Digger and Martin watch.

DIGGER

(To Martin)

Look through the rover son. Collect anything that belongs to Mr. Lewis and we'll bring it back to him.

Martin goes into the rover and starts looking around.

MARTIN

It Looks like he was here for a while dad. He dug out a pretty deep hole and covered it over with a thermal blanket from the pack.

DIGGER

I left that pack here last year.

MARTIN

So he didn't he bring it with him?

DIGGER

From his clothes, I don't think he came up here the normal way.

MARTIN

(Coming out of the rover)

You and Mom didn't either on your first time, did you Dad?

DIGGER

(Putting a hand on the rover)

No, (pauses in thought) we didn't.

PART 2: "THE RECON TEAM"

FADE IN: CAPTION - "TWENTY YEARS EARLIER"

WIDE ON:

EXT. TOWN OF CLIFTON - DAY

Since the great upheaval, town of Clifton was founded and developed into a vibrant town, aptly named because it sits at the base of the cliffs of The Tundra Land. Water coming from Tundra Falls flows down to a river near the main population center. Buildings are not too tall but well built and spaced apart.

MOVING ANGLE ON:

Two Para-military land rover vehicles with trailers roll in to the suburban town center.

A few residents take notice of the vehicles which come to a stop in front of the town hall.

EXT. TOWN HALL

MID SHOT - TRACKING

Coming out of the town hall, MAYOR BANES and TWO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS walk down a flight of steps to meet the recon team.

The five team members step out of the vehicles to meet the Mayor.

The TEAM is lead by COMMANDER LYLE CRANE (M) survival expert and mountaineer. The other members are SGT.PAUL "DIGGER" TYLER (M), Communications Officer CHELSEA ROMANI (F), Botanist SAMANTHA REGIS (F) and Geologist Dr. RAYMOND BLACKMORE (M).

CLOSER

COMMANDER LYLE CRANE

(Extending his hand)

Mayor Banes...

(They shake hands.)

MAYOR BANES

I'm glad the government responded so quickly to our request.

CRANE

Actually Sir, we have been keeping a close eye on what's been happening on Tundra.

The information you supplied us on water levels over the past five years has confirmed our suspicions.

MAYOR BANES

How soon do you think it will be before it happens?

CRANE

That's what our team is here to find out. Let me introduce you to them.

The four other members of the team line up to shake the hands of the Mayor and his men.

Commander Crane introduces each member of his team.

MAYOR BANES

I tell you gentlemen and ladies, many people here don't think there is any problem. In light of everything this planet has gone through; I'm not surprised that there is a state of denial among the people. Additionally, after the great upheaval, some people got the idea in their heads that there must be gold up there.

The land was upturned, and concluding on faith more than fact, that precious metals must have become exposed.

There were the few driven by dreams of finding riches on Tundra that they would venture to risk their lives for it.

Don't be surprised if you see bodies up there of some of them who got caught up there in winter.

CRANE

Rest assured Mayor Banes, we'll get the facts on what is going on up there long before winter sets in.

MAYOR BANES

Be sure that you do. My officers will show you your quarters. I'll see you before you set out tomorrow.

CRANE

Thank you Sir.

The team gathers their duffle bags and follows the officers to a nearby building.

CUT TO

INT. COMMANDER CRANE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Crane is looking over some paperwork. Dr. Blackmore knocks on the door.

CRANE

Come in.

Blackmore comes in.

BLACKMORE

Commander, do we look at the orders now?

CRANE

Yes.

Commander Crane opens a sealed envelope. He reads it and pauses a moment. Then he hands it to Dr. Blackmore. He carefully reads it.

BLACKMORE

Are they serious?

CRANE

Very.

BLACKMORE

What do we tell the others?

CRANE

Nothing more than I've told them already; we are here to investigate the integrity of the barrier wall and report. The case is just an imaging and monitoring device if they ask.

BLACKMORE

How much time are they going to give us once it's in place?

CRANE

Three days, enough to get back to warn this town that the wall is weakening and will go within the month. With the team, anything we find act as if it's a new discovery. Strait forward? That's all.

BLACKMORE

Alright, then good night Sir.

CRANE

See you in the morning Doctor.

Blackmore leaves Commander Crane's room.

EXT. THE TEAM'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Sgt. Paul "DIGGER" Tyler looks up to a near full moon rising over the head cliffs of Tundra. Samantha Regis walks up behind him and places a hand on his shoulder.

DIGGER

Hi Sam, staying up late too?

SAMANTHA

Yea... just can't wait to see what it's like up there. Satellites can only show so much. I want to see what the land is doing, what's growing, especially after the harsh winters that are supposed to be happening each year.

DIGGER

It's supposed to like the top of the foot hills of old Mount Everest or an Alaskan Spring. I'm glad it is spring time. Dr. Ray is itching to get up there too. (He pauses a moment in thought) Well, time to turn in. Good night Sam.

SAMANTHA

Good night Diggs.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. WIDE - LONG SHOT OF THE TUNDRA ROCK FACE - EARLY MORNING

The town is seen in perspective to the river and cliffs as the sun breaks on a clear day.

CUT TO

EXT. THE TEAM'S QUARTERS - MORNING

A YOUNG BOY about twelve years old walks around the recon team's land rovers, touching and admiring them.

Commander Crane steps out of his quarters and sees him.

CRANE

Hey Kid, you're up early.

KID

(Surprised)

I wasn't touching anything.

CRANE

It's alright, have a look.

KID

You people really going up there?

CRANE

That's the plan.

KID

Won't make it in these things.
(Indicating the vehicles) Only climbers
can go up there.

CRANE

(Amused) We'll get as far as we can.

KID

Can you do something for me?

CRANE

And what's that kid?

KID

My father is up there. He was wearing a
black and red jacket. If you find him,
He has a picture keeper. Can you bring
it back with you?

CRANE

How long ago has he been gone?

KID

Since last year.

CRANE

We not are going up there to find people.

The kid's face saddens.

CRANE

But if we should find him, we'll look for the picture keeper.

KID

Thank you.

CRANE

Sure thing.

The Kid runs off.

Digger comes out of his quarters in uniform and watches the kid run away.

DIGGER

A new friend Commander?

CRANE

Just a kid who I guess lost his father up there. If we find the man, he's wearing red and black jacket.

(Pauses in thought) Alright, let's get the rest of the team out here.

The other three members of the team file out with their duffle bags.

BLACKMORE

Beautiful morning today!

DIGGER

(Taking a breath)

Certainly is. Do you think it was by chance?

BLACKMORE

I'm not so sure anymore. But things do come together in a way we can appreciate.

DIGGER

Or something to fear, hence our mission.

Samantha and Chelsea Romani come from their quarters walk up to the men.

ROMANI

Sounds mysterious.

SAMANTHA

I'm looking more for the beauty up there.

Mayor Banes arrives in his car, parks, gets out holding a map, and approaches Commander Crane

MAYOR BANES

Commander Crane, this may be helpful.

(Unrolls a the map and placing it on the vehicle hood)

Commander Crane looks over the map with Romani and Digger.

MAYOR BANES (con't)

This is the best route to ascension point. Here may be the best location for your transport to pick you up.

I'd just like to say the best of luck to you and your team.

CRANE

Thank you sir, for your help and hospitality.

Romani, Digger set your trackers.

Romani sets the coordinates in her GPS tracker and beams it to Digger's device.

The team thanks the Mayor.

CRANE

Ok team, mount up. We have a rough ride ahead of us today.

The team gets into their vehicles. Commander Crane, Dr. Blackmore, and Romani are in the lead vehicle. Digger and Samantha Regis follow in the second. Every member of the team is wearing a communication head set. The engines start up and they roll out.

EXT. OPEN PLAIN - DAY

The vehicles set out to make their way from Clifton town center to "Ascension Point" along a river route. Vehicle accessible terrain ends near the Tundra cliffs.

INT. LAND ROVER 1

CRANE

(Riding in the lead vehicle with Romani and Blackmore driving)

Ok listen up people. We are staying along the river road for the next thirty clicks until we get to the river head near the cliffs.

BLACKMORE

Man these cliffs are high.

INT. LAND ROVER 2

DIGGER

(On communicator)

What are we looking for?

INT - ROVER 1

CRANE

We're looking for the only known access route to Tundra's, ascension point. I confirmed it with Mayor Banes. Chelsea has the coordinates.

After we're there, a sky lifter will take our vehicles and equipment to the cliff tops.

TUNDRA FALLS - DAY

From around a curve in the cliff face, the land rovers approach Tundra Falls, a high cascade equal to the South American Bolivian falls, coming down from the cliff top.

INT - ROVER 1

CRANE

This must be tundra falls people.

BLACKMORE

Absolutely magnificent! We're witnessing the spring thaw runoff.

ROMANI

How are we going to get across this thing?

INT - ROVER 2

DIGGER

My GPS map shows the flood plain Mayor Banes told us about five clicks south of here.

INT - ROVER 1

ROMANI

Ok, got it

CRANE

We'll head for it. Good Job Digger.

EXT - ALONG THE TUNDRA RIVER

The vehicles find a low point in the river and slowly cross over to the other bank. The lead vehicle almost gets stuck in the river but the second vehicle pushes it free.

INT - ROVER 1

A communication comes over Romani's radio.

ROMANI

Sir, we're getting a message from our transport.

CRANE

What is it?

(A garbled voice crackles over the radio.)

ROMANI

They say the sky lifter will be able to meet us tomorrow at the earliest.

CRANE

Darn, that will throw off our time table. Are they sure?

ROMANI

(To the radio) Can you confirm not possible for original time?

(Garbled voice replies)

Roger. (To Crane) That's a roger Sir, tomorrow 08:00 earliest.

CRANE

Alright, tell them they better be there.

ROMANI

(On radio again) Confirm a go for 08:00 tomorrow

(Radio voice replies)

We are confirmed for tomorrow Sir.

CRANE

(On his communicator) Digger?

INT - ROVER 2

DIGGER

Yes Sir,

(Crane's voice) Our lifter will not be here until tomorrow. We will set up camp at Ascension Point for tonight. Yes Sir, good thing we have the equipment.

EXT - ALONG THE RIVER AND THE ROCK FACE AT ASCENTION POINT.

The two land rovers drive to a suitable area for setting up camp at Ascension point. Upon arriving, the team finds CIVILIAN CLIMBERS camping out.

INT - ROVER 2

SAMANTHA

What are they doing here?

INT - ROVER 1

CRANE

Summer time climbers. We'll set up one click from them.

INT - ROVER 2

DIGGER

Roger that.

EXT - CLIMBERS' CAMP

A group of climbers wave to the team, beckoning them in an attempt to have them join them, as the vehicles go past.

CLOSE - A TENT ENTRANCE

PASTOR ORIN SAMMS, a man of about 50 years old, and a CLIMBER watch the land rovers go by.

PASTOR SAMMS

They don't look like your typical climbers.

EXT - THE TEAM'S CAMP SITE - LATE AFTERNOON

The vehicles stop in a flat dry area and the team gets out and gather to Commander Crane.

CRANE

All right team. We did not plan on camping here tonight, but that's where we at. The skylifter will be here tomorrow. It will be good set up practice.

The team sets up their tents and lights. The men help the women set up their tent. Digger catches a glance and a smile from Samantha while setting up the tent.

After the tents are up, Blackmore gets out a food storage case. Digger and Samantha set up a portable table. Romani sets up the seats.

BLACKMORE

(Opening the case)

Ok everyone what would you like for dinner?

As each member calls out the food they want, Blackmore looks at the labels and hands it to them.

Each individual prepares their ready to eat meal and they gather the table in the center of the camp.

BLACKMORE

(Sitting down with food)

I never get used to the taste of these things.

DIGGER

(Already seated)

I know what you mean. But, some are better than others.

SAMANTHA

(Approaching with her meal)

How's your meal?

DIGGER AND BLACKMORE

Fine

SAMANTHA

(Sitting)

Be glad we have this to eat.

DIGGER

That and anything we catch up there. There may be rabbits.

SAMANTHA

Not poor little bunnies!

ROMANI

(Walking over)

Who wants to eat bunnies?

SAMANTHA

Digger does.

CRANE

He better save me some.

ROMANI

Commander! Oh you boys are bad.

DIGGER

(Smiling at Samantha)

I'd settle for a home cooked meal.

BLACKMORE

(Looking out)

Who's this coming?

The team looks up to see Pastor Samms approaching on a bicycle.

PASTOR SAMMS

Hello!

CRANE

Can we help you?

PASTOR SAMMS

Just trying to be neighborly. Just seen you roll in an hour ago. I'd thought I'd stop in and say hello.

(He approaches Commander Crane and shakes his hand.)

I'm Pastor Samms.

CRANE

Pastor? Were you with the climber camp we passed by?

PASTOR SAMMS

Yes I was. As a matter of fact it's the beginning of the spring gathering. I've come to invite you over.

BLACKMORE

What exactly is that?

PASTOR SAMMS

It's where the brave and the foolish get together to prepare themselves to ascend up to Tundra. I take it that is why you all are here?

CRANE

And you are right, except for the foolish part. But we'll forgo the gathering. I need my team to be in top shape.

PASTOR SAMMS

It is a very subdued gathering and we have some good Barbecue. (smiles)

CRANE

(Thinks a moment)

Well, If anyone would like to go?

DIGGER

I'll go. I might get some valuable information about Tundra from the climbers.

PASTOR SAMMS

I'll point out some of the more experienced ones for you Sergeant?

DIGGER

Tyler. Sounds good.

SAMANTHA

I'll come along Diggs.

ROMANI

I'll go too.

BLACKMORE

That leaves us to stay and keep an eye on things.

CRANE

Ok, be back in two hours. No drinking. We need to be ready in the morning. Let me know what you find out.

DIGGER, SAMANTHA, AND ROMANI

Yes sir.

EXT - CLIMBERS CAMP - NIGHT

Digger, Samantha, and Romani approach the gathering with Pastor Samms.

A few CLIMBERS come out from the tents and barbecues and greet the team.

They engage in light conversation and share in the food. Seasoned climbers tell tales of their adventures on Tundra.

Pastor Samms guides Digger over to an older climber named Jake.

DIGGER

Have you ever been up to the great lake?

CLIMBER JAKE

I was there once about two years ago. I got to the top of the wall then I had to turn back before winter set in. I may go back there this year. Is that where you're going?

DIGGER

We'd though we've have a look.

CLIMBER JAKE

The head waters are fantastic, like nothing you have ever seen.

DIGGER

But the lake... (Samantha and Romani listen in)

CLIMBER JAKE

Fantastic, unlike anything on Earth.

The team throws smiles at each other.

CLIMBER JAKE

(To pastor Samms)

Pastor do you have the pack for me?

PASTOR SAMMS

I have it and I'll be passing them out tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

A pack?

PASTOR SAMMS

A survival pack, I pass them out to the climbers each year.
I'll show you.

The team follows Pastor Samms to his tent.

INT - PASTOR SAMM'S TENT

Pastor Samms goes to an open crate and pulls out a small blue
back pack.

DIGGER

What's in that?

PASTOR SAMMS

It s a survival pack that I like to give all the climbers, containing a few items that could help a person survive should one get stuck on Tundra after the summer.

(Pulling out items) Thermal blanket, spark stone, compass, mirror, ready to eat meals for three days, solar emergency beacon and a solar radio.

ROMANI

That's quite a lot.

PASTOR SAMMS

The climbers appreciate it. They have a saying when I give them out, 'If not for me, for the one who finds me'.

SAMANTHA

Meaning they're dead?

PASTOR SAMMS

Exactly.

DIGGER

I'll take one. (He takes a pack from Pastor Samms)

Romani's communicator sounds off.

CRANE

(Over the communicator)

Romani are you there?

ROMANI

Romani here Commander.

CRANE

Get Digger and Samantha together and return to camp. We want to be ready for the sky lifter in the morning.

ROMANI

Roger Sir. (To Digger) Diggggs, Commander wants us to get back to camp.

DIGGER

Pastor Samms, It's been a pleasure.

PASTOR SAMMS

(Shakes hands with each of the team)

It's been a pleasure meeting you Sergeant, Miss Regis, Miss Romani

EXT - PASTOR SAMM'S TENT - NIGHT

The team and Pastor Samms exit the tent and walk toward the direction of the camp past a small group of climbers and their barbecue.

PASTOR SAMMS

Good fortune with your mission. May the Lord God bless you with a safe return.

DIGGER

Thank you Pastor. Good night.

EXT THE TEAM'S CAMP - NIGHT

Digger, Romani, and Samantha return to the camp. The faint glows of the climbers' barbecues are in the distance.

BLACKMORE

Welcome back. Learn anything interesting?

DIGGER

A few things.

BLACKMORE

What's that? (Motioning to the small blue back pack)

DIGGER

It's a survival pack that Pastor Samms hands out to the climbers before they go up. I know we have better equipment with us, but it might come in handy.

BLACKMORE

I'm sure we'll be done with our mission and off Tundra before any real need of it.

DIGGER

Then I'll leave it up there to be found.

Commander Crane comes out of his tent.

CRANE

Alright everyone, time to turn in; the skylifter will be here in the morning.

The team says goodnight to each other and they retire to their tents.

EXT - THE TUNDRA RIVER- MORNING

The SKYLIFTER, a huge transport helicopter, flies low along the tundra river making its way to the team's camp.

INT - SKYLIFTER.

A screen on an instrument panel shows the position of the team's camp moving closer to the center. The NAVIGATOR talks to his PILOT.

NAVIGATOR

Stay on vector TWO-ONE-Zero. Recon team camp in three clicks.

PILOT

Roger.

EXT - THE TEAM'S CAMP - MORNING

The Skylifter flies past the climber's camp and lands a hundred yards from the Team's vehicles. The engines wind down. The team members rise up from a makeshift table where they are eating breakfast. Commander Crane walks toward the Skylifter to meet with the Pilot.

PILOT

(Salutes)

Commander Crane sir, you ordered a ride?

CRANE

Sure did. Take a break and give us an hour to load up and we'll be on our way.

PILOT

Sounds good to me Sir.

The Pilot signals his crew to stand by and walks back to the Skylifter. The recon team packs up their camp and loads the equipment into the vehicles as the rear door ramp of the Skylifter opens.

The team gets into their vehicles and at the direction of the LOADMASTER they drive into the Skylifter.

Shortly after, the engines whine up and begin to roar.

The Skylifter rises up into the sky along the Tundra cliffs.

INT - SKYLIFTER PASSENGER AREA

The recon team is seated in the passenger seats in front of their vehicles with the Loadmaster.

LOADMASTER

Your vehicles are secure. Sit back and enjoy the ride!

SAMANATHA

Who hoo! Heading to Tundra!

ROMANI

(High Fives Samantha)

Yeah!

BLACKMORE

Well ladies, you'll get to see those pretty Tundra flowers very shortly.

EXT - TUNDRA CLIFFS - DAY

The skylifter rises higher along the Tundra cliffs. Even though it is a large aircraft, it appears to be miniscule next to the gigantic cliff formations and misty cascades of the Tundra falls.

EXT - TOP OF THE CLIFFS

The Skylifter crests over the top of the cliff edge, engines straining at the high altitude.

INT - SKYLIFTER COCKPIT

PILOT

(To Navigator)

We'll set her down over there Joe.

NAVIGATOR

Roger that.

INT - SKYLIFTER CARGO HOLD

The team looks out the small windows.

SAMANTHA

Looks like we have our landing site.

EXT - THE LANDING SITE

The Skylifter lands slowly on a flat expanse. Grass and wild flowers are blown around from the engine exhaust.

The engines wind down.

INT - SKYLIFTER CARGO HOLD

CRANE

Let's get our vehicles ready to roll out.

The team and the Skylifter crew spring into action to unsecure the vehicles. The cargo master hits the controls to the cargo door. Sunlight pours in to the craft as the door lowers down.

EXT - LANDING SITE

The two vehicles roll out of the back of the Skylifter and drive at a safe distance from the craft.

CLOSE

Romani hands Crane a head set.

ROMANI

The Pilot sir.

CRANE

Thank you. (Into the microphone) Yes Captain.

INT - SKYLIFTER COCKPIT

PILOT

Commander If you're all set, we'll be on our way.

EXT - LANDING SITE

CRANE

We're good to go.

PILOT

(On radio)

Roger that. Best of fortune to you and your team and I pray you have success on your mission.

CRANE

(On communicator)

Thank you Captain. Safe journey back to base. Out.

The engines of the Skylifter WIND up. The rear cargo door closes up. The Cargo master waves good bye to the team. They wave back. Once up to full power, the craft lifts off. Dust, grass, and wild flowers are blown up again.

Digger climbs up on top of his vehicle and watches the Skylifter lift up and head toward the cliff edge.

The craft vanishes over the edge. Just the sound of its engines diminishes as it moves away out of site.

WIDE

Digger and the team look out to the expanse of the Tundra plane. The area is alive with colorful wild flowers and short green grass.

CLOSER

DIGGER

(Taking in the view)

Amazing

The rest of the team shares Digger's view and sense of awe.

BLACKMORE

Well ladies here are your flowers.

Samantha picks up a few yellow and gold flowers and looks at them closely.

CRANE

Chelsea, Ray, set up the satellite link.

ROMANI

Yes sir.

Chelsea Romani goes to her vehicle and pulls out a case.
Blackmore moves to help.

BLACKMORE

Right with you.

Together they take a heavy case and move it a few yards from the vehicles. They open it up and set up some communication equipment, satellite dish, and antennas.

CLOSER

Romani opens a small laptop. Graphics pop up on the screen indicating signal strengths. She and Blackmore make adjustments and the indicators go green.

ROMANI

That's good, lock it down.

Blackmore locks the adjustment controls in place.

ROMANI (con't)

(To Crane)

All set sir.

BLACKMORE

I'll camo' it in case some wayward climber get too close.
He sets up a small camo net over the equipment.

WIDER TO COMMANDER CRANE

CRANE

Alright team, let's roll out

Digger climbs down and the team gets into the land rovers.
Engines start up.

PAN BEHIND the land rovers as they drive off toward a higher
ridge in the background.

MOVING ALONG WITH THE LAND ROVERS.

The vehicles drive along at a good speed over the relatively
flat plain. They move along the river that feeds the tundra
falls. The river varies in width and depth in different places.

INT - LAND ROVER 2

Digger and Samantha, admiring the landscape, are following
behind the first land rover.

SAMANTHA

The landscape is beautiful. Such vibrant color; truly have
to see it to believe it.

DIGGER

The climbers said it's only in summer and for a short time.

Commander Crane's voice comes over the communicator.

INT - LAND ROVER 1

CRANE

Head's up Blackmore and Digger, this terrain can be tricky. There are no fences and no roads out here. It can be tempting to play around but keep it tight and cautious. It will take us two days to get to our destination.

I don't want any mishaps.

DIGGER(on communicator) and BLACKMORE

Yes Sir.

CRANE

Romani, how are we doing?

ROMANI

We're on course Commander. Staying on vector 278 and along the river will get us on target.

CRANE

Very good. Let's keep our eyes sharp.

EXT - LATE AFTERNOON

The sun starts setting. A colorful sunset lights the evening sky. The Land rover lights come on.

INT - LAND ROVER 2

DIGGER

It's so flat out here. It looks like we're camping out in the open tonight.

SAMANTHA

Temperature's dropping; hope you brought something warm to wear.

DIGGER

Sure did!

INT - LAND ROVER 1

CRANE

(On communicator)

Let's get ready to set up for the night. That area up ahead looks good.

EXT - CAMP SITE 1

The land rovers come to a stop on a clear flat area. The team comes out of the rovers and sets up camp as before.

DIGGER

Standard circle Commander?

CRANE

You got it Digger.

Together the team sets up the tents. Afterwards, Commander Crane goes over to Digger and Blackmore.

CRANE

Gentlemen, get your shovels and dig the latrine.

BLACKMORE

Darn! This is not the geology I had in mind!

DIGGER

(Laughing)

Let's go.

Samantha calls out to them.

SAMANTHA

Don't forget the privacy screen boys.

She throws them a moderately sized pouch that lands at their feet. Digger picks it up.

DIGGER

We won't. Thank you Miss Regis.

The two men walk a fifty yards away from the camp.

BLACKMORE

I hope this ground is soft. The soil up here is said not to be too deep.

DIGGER

We'll soon find out.

Unexpectedly, Blackmore trips on something and falls.

BLACKMORE

Dang!

DIGGER

Are you all right?

BLACKMORE

(Getting up)

I tripped on something. (Looking down)

My God!

Digger sees what shocked Blackmore, a dead body, partially decomposed, in a red jacket and hiking clothes.

DIGGER

Oh Lord.

Blackmore takes a few steps away quickly. Both men stare at the dead hiker for a moment.

BLACKMORE

Whoa, well then.

DIGGER

I'll call the Commander. (On the communicator) Lyle, come in please.

CRANE

(Over the communicator) Hey Diggs, what is it?

DIGGER

Ray and I found a dead hiker.

CRANE

(On Com) Serious? Where are you?

DIGGER

Fifty yards away, I'll shine my light.

Digger flashes his flashlight toward camp.

CUT TO

Commander Crane looks around and sees Diggers light.

CRANE

I see it.

Samantha and Chelsea come over to Crane.

SAMANTHA

Commander, what is it?

CRANE

Digger and Ray found something, or someone.

(On communicator)

We're coming over.

TRACKING

The three head over to where Digger, Blackmore, and the dead hiker are.

WIDER

The women react with surprise as they see the hiker illuminated by Blackmore's light.

Commander Crane bends down to examine the hiker.

CRANE

No telling how long he's been here. Red jacket, he's not that kid's father.

Samantha moves close to Digger.

SAMANTHA

(Looking at the body)

Paul. Do you notice something about him?

DIGGER

What?

SAMANTHA

There's no blue pack.

DIGGER

If he had one, someone else may have taken it to survive.

CRANE

(Searching the jacket)

I found his ID. When we return, I'll report him in as found.

DIGGER

I'll hold on to it.

Commander Crane hand the id wallet to Digger.

ROMANI

I think we should bury the poor man.

CRANE

You're right.

BLACKMORE

I got the shovels. He's yours Digger.

Digger takes the shovel.

ROMANI

(Motions to Samantha)

I think we'll head back now.

SAMANTHA

Ok. See you in a few Paul.

The women head back to the camp and the men dig a grave to bury the hiker. Blackmore records the GPS coordinates. The men put the hiker in the grave and cover him. Digger takes the hiker's pole and puts his blue survival pack on the top of it. The men bow their heads.

CRANE

Heavenly Father, we commit this man's body to the earth.
Have mercy on his soul.

ALL

Amen.

The men walk back to camp. Rabbits dart out of the light of their flashlights.

CUT TO

EXT - THE CAMP - MORNING

A morning mist rises on the landscape lit by the golden light of the dawn.

INT - DIGGER'S TENT

Digger wakes up and takes a deep breath, taking in the fresh Tundra air. He lies in his cot for a moment looking at the golden morning light creating a misty glow on the canvas of his tent. Sitting up, he puts on his boots, then gets up and puts on his coat and shakes in the chilled air.

EXT - DIGGER'S TENT

Digger comes out and looks around at the landscape, admiring the sunrise.

DIGGER

Beautiful.

WIDER

Samantha comes out of her tent fully dressed. She looks back to the ladies' tent.

SAMANTHA

(To Romani)

It's Digger, he's up.

She goes over to Digger who glanced to see her come out of her tent and sets up a table and chairs.

DIGGER

Good morning Sam.

SAMANTHA

Good morning Paul.

DIGGER

How did you sleep?

SAMANTHA

Not well, just thinking about that poor man out there.

She moves close to him.

DIGGER

We did what we needed to do for him. Don't let it worry you.

He gives her a light hug.

DIGGER (cont.)

There are others. Only if there was time to look for them. But, we have our mission.

SAMANTHA

Paul, since we're the first ones up...

DIGGER

We cook breakfast.

Digger and Samantha set up a camping stove from their rover's trailer and start cooking breakfast for the team.

BLACKMORE

(From his tent)

I smell bacon!

CRANE

(From his tent)

Make the coffee strong Digger.

DIGGER

Yes Sir!

He gets a solar powered a coffee maker going.

WIDER

The other team members come out of their tents in their uniforms, get plates, serve themselves from the quick buffet and sit at the small table.

BLACKMORE

Things smell so much better in crisp morning air.

Commander Crane is standing with his steaming cup of coffee, looking in the distance toward the inland lake.

CRANE

Good coffee Digger.

DIGGER

Thanks.

Crane moves over to Romani and sits next to her.

CRANE

Chelsea, after we get cleaned up here, I want you and Digger to get updated telemetry from the satellite and a bearing on where we need to be.

ROMANI

Yes Sir. (To Digger) Got that?

DIGGER

(Cleaning up dirty items)

Got it.

Team cleans up the camp site and packs their vehicles. Just before they get ready to move out, Commander Crane calls Romani and Digger to him. Romani brings her laptop.

CLOSE

CRANE

Ok, let's have the update.

ROMANI

Looking at the latest data, if we follow the river it will take us to the point in the barrier wall where we need to be.

DIGGER

Are there any major obstacles in the way?

ROMANI

No, it's pretty much flat.

CRANE

Very good, let's get going.

CLOSE

Blackmore is securing equipment cases in rover 1. He pays closer attention to one case.

WIDER

Commander Crane, Romani, and Blackmore get in land rover 1.
Digger and Samantha get into land rover 2

INT - LAND ROVER 2

Digger gets into the driver seat and Samantha gets in close to him.

SAMANTHA

Paul?

DIGGER

Yes?

SAMANTHA

I enjoyed making breakfast with you this morning.

DIGGER

(Smiles)

We make a good team Sam.

SAMANTHA

Anything more than that?

DIGGER

Possibly.

He takes her hand and kisses it. She pats his thigh.

Command Crane's voice comes over the communicator.

CRANE

Start it up and move out.

DIGGER

The adventure continues!

EXT - THE LAND ROVERS - DAY

The vehicles drive off toward the inland lake along the river.

CUT TO

EXT - HILLS NEAR THE INLAND LAKE - DAY

The land rovers approach and stop where the terrain becomes undrivable.

INT - ROVER 1

CRANE

This is where we stop team. (To Romani) How far off are we?

ROMANI

We're on the right vector. I guess it's just a hike from here.

EXT - THE ROVERS

The team gets out and gathers around Commander Crane.

CRANE

Team, we are three kilometers from the point in the barrier wall where we need to be. Blackmore, Digger, Regis get out the scanner equipment cases.

Blackmore goes to the rear of rover 1's trailer and takes out his special case. Digger and Samantha take a couple of cases out of rover 2. Then they get climbing equipment out of the vehicles.

BLACKMORE

How long a climb do you think it will be?

CRANE

(Looking up)

About three hours. (To Romani) Romani, send a message. Tell Central we've arrived at the base of the barrier.

Romani sends the message.

The team secures the cases from the rover on back packs and straps them on their backs. Commander Crane slings on a case longer than the others.

DIGGER

Samantha and I are all set and ready to go Commander.

ROMANI

Base acknowledges our arrival.

CRANE

OK. Let's go! (To Blackmore) Your case all set?

BLACKMORE

I'm good.

WIDER

CRANE

Link up everybody.

The team attaches their lines to the next person. Commander Crane leads, followed by Romani, Next by Blackmore, then by Samantha and Digger.

DIGGER

How's your load?

SAMANTHA

It's good, light as a feather.

BLACKMORE

Won't be for long!

They begin to hike up along a cascade of water coming down the steep side of the dam.

EXT - ALONG THE CASCADE - DAY

The team led by Commander Crane climbs higher along the rock-face. Water from the cascade splashes the team on occasion. Once in a while a team member loses footing and is helped by the others.

DIGGER

How are you doing Sam?

SAMANTHA

(Looking back to Digger)

Doing good Diggs, glad you're behind me.

They arrive at a shelf below a large waterfall. The team looks up to see almost a vertical wall with only a slim winding path leading up to the top.

ROMANI

My God that is steep.

CRANE

This will be a test of your climbing skills. We'll be using spikes from here. Check your packs and your lines team.

DIGGER et All

Yes Sir.

Digger moves close to Samantha and checks her pack's security.

He tests his climbing rope connection to her, giving a test tug pulling her closer. She smiles back at him and he returns a smile. She leans close and WHISPERS in his ear.

CLOSE

SAMANTHA

Catch me if I fall.

DIGGER

Count on it.

WIDER

Samantha is hooked up to Blackmore, who is hooked up to Romani, who is hooked up to Commander Crane.

CRANE

Are we all set?

ALL

Yes Sir!

CRANE

Excellent! Let's climb, just as we practiced.

The team starts their vertical ascent.

CLOSE

Commander Crane pulls out a hammer and a spike then drives it in to the rock.

WIDE

They practically hug the rock-face as they wind along the narrow winding ledge. The top of the waterfall streams overhead.

EXT - TOP OF THE BARRIER WALL - DAY

Commander Crane reaches the top of the rock wall and pulls himself up. He gets a firm stance and pulls the rope to bring Chelsea Romani up. Blackmore follows, Samantha and Digger follow.

The team takes off their packs and expresses their relief.

WIDE

The team turns to face the great inland lake. They stand on a wide ledge about a hundred yards wide and are in awe of the vastness of the lake, the waterfall and the crystal clear blue water.

CLOSER

CRANE

This... is... amazing.

BLACKMORE

All this pushed up during the great upheaval.

DIGGER

Look back to the valley. Just look at that view! We are really high up.

PAN WIDE with Shots of Each Team member.

The team takes in a full 360 degree view.

ANGLE ON

Commander Crane goes over to Blackmore.

CRANE

Get the unit set up.

BLACKMORE

Yes, sir.

WIDER

CRANE

Digger, Chelsea, Samantha get set up. We have two hours and then we start down again.

The team unloads their cases, opens them up and sets the equipment. The device in the case that Blackmore has catches Digger's eye.

DIGGER

What is that Ray?

BLACKMORE

It's a new seismic mapping device.

Commander Crane steps up to Digger and Blackmore.

CRANE

This will tell us where the weaknesses in the barrier wall are Digger; the reason why we are here. Once it is working, we'll up link it to Central and they can determine if there is any danger here.

DIGGER

Sounds fascinating.

SAMANTHA

You boys and your technology.

ROMANI

Girl geek here.

SAMANTHA

I'm going to get some water samples.

DIGGER

(Smiling at Samantha)

Bio-geek.

Samantha taps Digger in the back of the head. She picks up her sample case and analyzer then goes toward the water.

TRACKING

Samantha get to the water's edge and looks out to the lake.

POV

She sees fish casually swimming in the water.

CLOSE ON SAMANTHA

She opens her case and starts collecting samples of water and plant life. She opens up a case containing an electronic analyzer and slides a sample vial in to a receptacle in the machine. The flat screen display lights up and an analysis graph is displayed.

CLOSE ON THE DISPLAY SCREEN

The names of many substances appear on the screen with the levels in the sample. A couple display as unknown.

CLOSE ON SAMANTHA

SAMANTHA

That's strange.

She Takes another sample and runs the test again. The SCREEN displays the same results.

SAMANTHA

These should not be here. What are these?

WIDER

Digger comes up from behind Samantha.

TWO SHOT

DIGGER

What's up Sam?

SAMANTHA

Hi Diggs, it's these samples I'm running. There are elements that should not be here.

DIGGER

Like what?

He bends down to the analysis machine. Samantha points out parts of the graphs.

SAMANTHA

It's these here. They're very slight but they are things that would be found in an industrial area.

DIGGER

That is odd, considering the water here should only be from years of snow and ice melt.

SAMANTHA

Exactly. Well, I'm going to take a few more samples.

WIDER

DIGGER

I'll see how Ray is doing.

SAMANTHA

Ok. (Smiles)

TRACKING

Digger goes over to Blackmore and the seismic mapper.

POV

The screen on the mapper displays an incomplete graphic representation of the barrier wall. A low thumping comes from the machine.

WIDER

DIGGER

I see it's starting to show something.

BLACKMORE

Yea, the Commander and Romani are still placing rest of the sensors.

CUT TO

Commander Crane and Chelsea Romani are at the water's edge placing the sensors.

Crane gets up from securing a sensor to the ground.

CRANE

Now we have to get the aqua sensor in the water. Open the case.

Romani places down a long case and opens it to reveal a rocket. She lifts it up as Commander Crane turns on a switch and lights illuminate at the head. Romani calls Blackmore on her communicator.

ROMANI

Romani to Blackmore..

BLACKMORE

(On communicator)

Blackmore here...

ROMANI

We activated the aqua sensor. Do you have a signal?

BLACKMORE

Yes, I have a good signal. Go for deployment.

ROMANI

Roger. (To Crane) He has good signal. We're ready to go.

CRANE

Ok, I'll set up the launcher.

Commander Crane hands the rocket to Romani. He takes its case and converts it to a launcher. Romani hand the rocket back to him and he sets it up. He activates a switch on the rear and a red light flashes and turns green.

CRANE

She's armed. Let's go.

Commander Crane and Romani move away from the missile.

CRANE

Tell Ray we're ready.

ROMANI

(On communicator)

Ray, we are ready to launch.

CUT TO

Blackmore and Digger watch the Mapper screen. The aqua sensor indicator signal blinks on the screen.

BLACKMORE

Go for launch!

CUT TO

Commander Crane presses a launch icon on the remote control.

CLOSE

The ROCKET launches with a SHREAK.

WIDE

The rocket streaks across the sky out over the lake leaving a white trail.

CUT TO

Samantha looks up to see the rocket streaking over the water.

SAMANTHA

That's what that was.

CUT TO

The rocket reaches an apogee. The rocket engine cuts out and the projectile glides momentarily. The Aqua sensor separates from the engine and a parachute deploys. The sensor slowly drifts down to the water with a splash. Once in the water, a flotation ring keeps it upright. A high gain antenna pops up.

CUT TO

Digger and Blackmore watch the missile splash down and turn their attention to the screen in anticipation as the Mapper receives the signal from the aqua sensor.

BLACKMORE

All sensors on line, telemetry good, let's see what comes up.

The aqua sensor's pings display on the mapper's screen. A graphic of the lake bottom begins to form.

CLOSE

Digger looks intently at the screen.

DIGGER

(Slowly)

What is that?

WIDER

BLACKMORE

Interesting.

THE MAPPER SCREEN graphic displays the dam wall and what appear to be the distorted lines of city streets.

DIGGER

Was there a city here? (Calls to Samantha) Samantha! You got to see this!

(To Blackmore) Was this ever picked up by satellite?

Just then Commander Crane and Romani return.

CRANE

(Addressing Digger's question)

It was suspected Digger, but Central needed better detail to confirm it. That is another reason why we're here.

Samantha runs up to the group.

SAMANTHA

What is it Diggs?

DIGGER

Take a look at the screen. I think this may explain what you found.

CRANE

What was that?

SAMANTHA

I took an analysis of the water Sir, and found slight traces of substances that are normally found in an industrial area...

CLOSE on Samantha

She looks at the screen and sees the clearer graphic display of a city in the lake.

SAMANTHA

(Continues)

And that could explain my results.

WIDER

CRANE

Let me see what you have.

SAMANTHA

I'll get the analyzer.

Samantha goes to retrieve the sample analyzer which she left by the water.

CRANE

Chelsea, I want you to contact Central and see if they are getting the transmissions. Let them know we have additional information coming.

ROMANI

Yes Sir.

She goes to her laptop and contacts Central Command as Samantha returns. Samantha goes to Commander Crane with her analyzer and Digger joins in.

SAMANTHA

Here you are Sir.

She shows him the analyzer's screen and points out her results.

SAMANTHA

(Con't)

This one here, number eight, and these here.

CRANE

(Looking intently)

I see, yes. Excellent work Samantha. That will make for a solid confirmation. Have Chelsea up load that data to Central.

TRACK

Samantha goes over to where Romani is communicating to Central Command.

SAMANTHA

Chelsea, Commander wants my data sent to Central.

ROMANI

Let me see. (To central) I have the additional data, are you ready to receive?

An AGENT from CENTRAL COMMAND responds of the communicator.

CC AGENT

Stand by (Pause) Ok Ready to receive.

ROMANI

Sending...

CC AGENT

Connection established and receiving.

ROMANI turns her attention from communicating with central and talks with Samantha.

ROMANI

Well, they are getting the data.

SAMANTHA

Quite an eye opener... a lost city. That will get Digger's mind occupied. I'm sure he'll have thousands of questions.

ROMANI

How about you? Do you think it will take his mind off you?

SAMANTHA

(Smiling)

What do you mean?

ROMANI

Come on Samantha. It's obvious what's going on between you two.

SAMANTHA

I admit we are attracted to each other. And, maybe after this mission well, who knows?

ROMANI

He's a good man. But don't let him get too far.

SAMANTHA

As you say, he is a good man. Well, let's get back to the group.

CUT TO

Commander Crane, Digger, and Blackmore are looking at the Seismic Mapper screen. Blackmore moves the three dimensional graphic around until he comes to a certain spot on the display of the barrier wall.

BLACKMORE

Look here, I think I found it, a weakness in the wall. Blackmore enhances a profound fissure in the graphic of the barrier wall.

DIGGER

That is a significant fissure.

BLACKMORE

I would estimate another two winters and it will go altogether, taking into account the thawing and refreezing of the top ice. And when that happens...

DIGGER

We'll see what a lot of water can do in short period of time.

CRANE

No doubt. Transmit that to Central.

BLACKMORE

(Sends the information)

Sending.

DIGGER

Commander, Central needs to have Tundra put on off-limits while this danger exists. Hopefully, we will have some to warn the town and determine the damage a break will cause. It will go for miles and be unstoppable. God help anyone who gets in the way.

CRANE

You may be right Digger. I'll take it up with Central in my report.

WIDER

The two ladies rejoin the group.

SAMANTHA

Sounds like you boys found something important.

BLACKMORE

Yes, this whole area is going to be devastated within a year, depending on seismic activity.

DIGGER

That's putting it bluntly!

BLACKMORE

Yes, but no immediate danger now.

CRANE

Well team I think we got what we came here for. We've taken up too much time and we'll spend the night up here, too dangerous to climb back down in the dark. We're fortunate the weather is good tonight.

DIGGER

Good thing we brought the small tents. Let's get set up.

SAMANTHA

A good night for enjoying the stars.

EXT - TOP OF THE DAM WALL - NIGHT

The clear sky is filled with the brilliance of thousands of stars and the arms of the Milky Way galaxy unobstructed by any residual light. The team has the small tents set up in a wide area well away from the cliffs.

EXT - THE CAMP

Digger returns with Samantha, carrying wood into the light of small campfire burning within the circle of pup tents.

The other team members are sitting near the fire and chatting.

DIGGER

Here's some more. Dead wood is scarce up here.

Digger and Samantha place the wood near the fire.

ROMANI

Would you two like some fish? The Commander caught them.

CRANE

And, I did manage to find some herbs up here, so it doesn't taste too bad.

ROMANI

Come on Commander, it's good.

DIGGER

Sure, we'll have some.

Romani gets two portions out of a hot make shift pan and hands them to Digger and Samantha.

Finding a spot, they sit down and eat. The canopy of stars is overhead the constellations are different from a normal northern sky.

SAMANTHA

The stars are beautiful here.

DIGGER

Yes they are. I'd almost hate to leave.

It's so untouched and free. But, the mission is almost over. At least this part of it anyway.

SAMANTHA

I'm glad you came on this mission Paul.

DIGGER

What would you have done without me?

SAMANTHA

I don't want to find that out.

DIGGER

I tell you what, after we get back to civilization
We'll go out for dinner at a nice place and talk about
the future.

SAMANTHA

Our future?

DIGGER

Of course.

They embrace and kiss.

CUT TO

INT - CENTRAL COMMAND

A JUNIOR AID enters a darkened board room carrying minicomputer. Three "DIRECTORS", two men and one woman, are sitting at a semi circular table.

DIRECTOR 1

Is that the latest data on the Tundra Lake?

AID

Yes Sir, I'll set it up.

The Aid places the minicomputer on the center of the table. Pressing the power button, the data and graphic displays from the Recon team's seismic mapper holographically projects into the center of the room.

AID

Directors, this is alive feed from the recon team We sent to Tundra. What you see here is the complete layout of the barrier wall and the sunken city. Yes, It is there.

Director 2

Fascinating.

DIRECTOR 3 (f)

Is there any report as to the condition of the city?

AID

The graphics are consistent with a city that has been

through an earthquake, pretty much ruins. But we did get some interesting data from the biologist on the team.

DIRECTOR 2

What? Information on mutant fish?

AID

No, Sir. Trace compounds in the water.

DIRECTOR 3

What trace compounds?

The Aid brings up the graphic of Samantha's findings.

AID

We are still analyzing the data, but we think that This (indicating a particular spike on the graph) May be what we're looking for.

DIRECTOR 1

If you can get it confirmed, then we can go to phase Two. Are we agreed?

DIRECTOR 2

Yes.

DIRECTOR 3

Yes.

CUT TO

EXT - THE TUNDRA DAM WALL - MORNING

The early morning sun breaks the horizon lighting the barrier wall in golden light.

ANGLE ON

Five small tents are illuminated atop the rock face.

EXT - COMMANDER CRANE'S TENT

Chelsea Romani calls into the tent.

ROMANI

Commander Crane?

CRANE

Yes?

ROMANI

Central just contacted us. They want to talk to you.

CRANE

Come in.

INT - COMMANDER CRANE'S TENT

Romani enters and hands Commander Crane a communicator.

ROMANI

Here Sir.

Commander Crane takes the communicator.

CRANE

Commander Crane here.

The VOICE of the Director's Aid comes over the communicator.

AID

Commander Crane, Central wants your team to run another water test, specifically for element eight from the data you sent us.

CRANE

Why?

AID

We need a confirmation on its levels. Get it done within the next two hours. Over and out.

CRANE

Little punk. (To Romani)

Well that was interesting. Chelsea, get Samantha and

Have her prepare her water tests again.

ROMANI

Yes Sir.

She leaves the tent.

CRANE

(To himself)

Element eight?

EXT - SAMANTHA'S TENT - DAY

Romani goes to Samantha's tent entrance.

ROMANI

Sam, are you up?

SAMANTHA

Yes Chelsea, come on in.

INT - THE TENT

ROMANI

Alone?

SAMANTHA

Of course. (Smiling) What is it?

ROMANI

Commander got a call from Central just now. He wants to see you. They told him that they need you to do another water test.

SAMANTHA

Humm, that's interesting. Let's go.

The two women leave the tent.

EXT - THE CAMP

On the way to Commander Crane's tent they pass Digger who is shaving.

DIGGER

G'morning ladies, what's up?

SAMANTHA

Central wants another water test. I'm going to see the Commander now.

DIGGER

I'll finish and join you. Ray has breakfast today.

SAMANTHA

Ok.

Samantha walks on and Romani lags behind with Digger. She places a hand on his shoulder.

ROMANI

You're a good man Paul, stay honorable, she's worth it.

DIGGER

I know it.

Romani catches up with Samantha at Commander Crane's tent.

SAMANTHA

Commander Crane Sir?

INT - COMMANDER CRANE'S TENT

CRANE

Officer Regis, come in please.

Samantha and Romani come into the tent.

SAMANTHA

Sir, Chelsea said that Central wants another water test?

CRANE

Yes, they do. Specifically, for element eight on your graph. What is that?

SAMANTHA

I really don't know. My analyzer could not determine what it was and called it element eight.

CRANE

Well they are interested in it and they want the results in two hours.

SAMANTHA

Ok I'll get on it.

CRANE

(To ROMANI)

Here's the communicator back. Stay with Regis and send the data when she is ready.

ROMANI

Yes Sir.

She leaves to follow Samantha.

A second later, Blackmore comes to the tent.

BLACKMORE

Commander, can I come in?

CRANE

Sure Ray.

Blackmore comes in the tent.

BLACKMORE

Sir, is Central up to something?

CRANE

They just want some additional data about something in the water. As far as I know plans haven't changed.

BLACKMORE

So, nothing about the city or the barrier wall fissures?

CRANE

No, nothing. I feel that is a little odd.

(Pauses)

Well, as soon as Samantha does her test, we'll be heading back.

CUT TO

EXT - THE WATER'S EDGE

Samantha, Romani, and Digger are analyzing a fresh water sample. Samantha takes a sample from the water.

DIGGER

It's hot up her today. I feel like jumping in!

SAMANTHA

This water is frigid Paul.

Romani is sitting on a rock with her bare feet in the water.

ROMANI

I'll settle for cooling my feet.

DIGGER

This "element 8" isn't dangerous is it?

Samantha puts the sample into her analyzer.

SAMANTHA

Not sure, but it does not seem so. See here...

(Indicating the new readout)

CLOSE

The screen displays the level of "Element 8".

SAMANTHA

...the level is traceable but not high. No change since yesterday.

WIDER

DIGGER

Well if that's it, then we're done.

SAMANTHA

Yes, that's it. No more to do here.

Romani gets up, dries feet and puts her shoes back on.

ROMANI

Ok. I'll send the results to Central.

TWO SHOT CLOSE - DIGGER and SAMANTHA

DIGGER

(Whispers)

I think we should keep a sample of the water.

SAMANTHA

Do you think something is up?

DIGGER

Possibly.

CLOSE ON ROMANI

Romani attaches a device to Samantha's analyzer and from her hand held device makes the transmission and uploads the information.

ROMANI

Finished.

WIDER

The three team members pack up their equipment and head back to the tents.

EXT - THE CAMP - DAY

Digger, Samantha, and Romani meet up with Commander Crane and Blackmore.

ROMANI

Sir, the analysis is done and the data sent.

CRANE

Very good team. (To Samantha) did you find this "Element eight"?

SAMANTHA

Yes Sir.

CRANE

(To Romani)

Get Central. Let's see if we're done here.

ROMANI

(Adjusting her communicator)

Calling...Recon team to Central...come in please.

A COMMUNICATION OFFICER's voice comes over the communicator.

Com Officer

I read you recon team.

ROMANI

I Have Commander Crane here...

COM OFFICER

Ok, put him on.

ROMANI hands the communicator to CRANE.

After a brief conversation Crane addresses the group.

CRANE

Ladies and gentlemen, we are done here. Central
Gives their thanks and congratulations for a job
well done. Let's get back to civilization.

Each team member goes to their tents and starts to pack up as Commander Crane talks further to Central.

He hands the communicator back to Romani. The team finishes packing. They check each other's back packs and lines to make sure they are ready for the climb down.

INT - CENTRAL COMMAND

The three directors take their seats.

DIRECTOR 1

We got the confirmation from the recon team.

"Element eight" is there.

DIRECTOR 2

But, the data shows it is not in high concentrations.

Is that enough of a concern?

DIRECTOR 1

The fact that it is in the water is a concern.

DIRECTOR 3

Gentlemen, I think we need to take action on this.

DIRECTOR 2

Should we step up phase two?

DIRECTOR 1

Yes.

DIRECTOR 3

I'll issue the orders.

CUT TO

EXT - CLIFF FACE BELOW THE LAKE - DAY

The team makes their way back down the rock face, helping each other belay down dangerous spots.

As the ground becomes less vertical, they hike along the cascading water.

CRANE

I think we can detach ourselves now and wrap up the lines.

The team unhooks the lines, wraps them up and hands them to Digger. On the walk back to the rovers, they enjoy the beauty of the landscape.

CLOSE

Samantha picks some plant samples along the way.

WIDER

DIGGER

Some more souvenirs?

SAMANTHA

I don't when I'll have the opportunity again.

EXT - THE LAND ROVERS - DAY

The Team arrives at the rovers and loads their equipment into the back of the trailers.

CRANE

We'll head back for the next five hours today and make camp tonight before proceeding to our pickup at the cliffs.

ALL

Yes sir.

WIDE

Getting in their rovers, the team sets out away from the cascade leaving the looming barrier wall behind.

EXT - THE TUNDA PLANE - AFTERNOON

As the sun sets the team stops at a level area along the river to set up camp for the night.

EXT - THE CAMP - NIGHT

The air is warm but cooling and the sky is clear. Digger brings a couple of hot drinks to Samantha and Romani who are sitting near a camp fire. Blackmore is reclining on a cot.

BLACKMORE

Great night for our last night here.

ROMANI

I can understand why those climbers want to keep coming up here.

SAMANTHA

Really, this is the true treasure of Tundra. Not the fools' gold they're looking for.

DIGGER

(Sitting down)

If they knew about what we found yesterday, they'd be packing tanks and flippers!

BLACKMORE

I'm not going to say a word.

DIGGER

What do we tell Mayor Banes when he asks what we found?

Commander Crane is standing by his tent.

CRANE

We tell him nothing about the lost city. His only concern is the integrity of the barrier wall and that's it. Do we have an understanding?

DIGGER

Yes Sir.

CRANE

I agree with you Digger, that crazy bunch would be up there with tanks and flippers.

The team lightly laughs at the thought of it.

EXT - ABOVE THE TUNDA PLANE - MORNING

A jet fighter aircraft lies over the Tundra plane. The PILOT sees the recon team's camp in the distance and heads for it.

INT - COMMANDER CRANE'S TENT - MORNING

Commander Crane wakes up to the SOUND OF A JET ENGINE WHINE, going overhead going toward the lake.

He gets up and heads to his tent door.

EXT - THE CAMP

He comes out of the tent.

CRANE

What that doing here?

(Calling out)

Romani!

Chelsea Romani comes out of the ladies' tent.

ROMANI

I heard the jet, what's up?

CRANE

Get Central for me.

ROMANI

Yes Sir.

She goes to the Rover to get her equipment.

The other team members come out of their tents.

DIGGER

Was that a jet overhead?

CRANE

Sure was.

Romani comes back with a communicator.

EXT - NEAR THE BARRIER WALL

The jet approaches the lake.

INT - THE JET COCKPIT

The pilot checks his instruments. They display the terrain and additional information. He presses an icon and the sensors the team left behind show up on the display.

PILOT

Roger Central, the sensors are good and showing the fissure and the city.

A VOICE responds back.

CENTRAL OFFICER

You have a go for three passes, over.

PILOT

Roger, a go for three passes.

EXT - LONG SHOT - THE JET

The jet makes a pass over the lake.

INT - COCKPIT

The Pilot looks out over the lake. He adjusts his controls.

PILOT

Coming around for my second pass. Ready to arm depth charge.

CENTRAL OFFICER

Go for arm.

CLOSE

The Pilot taps an icon on his screen. "Depth charge armed" displays on the screen with a flashing icon.

PROFILE

PILOT

I have the coordinates of the city. I'll drop it on the next pass.

EXT - THE JET

Approaches over the lake from the far side on another pass. A bird gets sucked into the jet's engine.

INT - COCKPIT

An alarm sounds. "BIRD STRIKE" sounds repeatedly over the speaker.

PILOT

What the! Central I have a problem.

He quickly presses a few icons.

EXT - JET'S ENGINE

The engine bursts into flames and smoke billows out.

INT - COCKPIT

Smoke starts to surround the pilot.

PILOT

I lost my engine! I have to eject.

He reaches above his head for the ejection handles. He pulls them over his head. The canopy pops off and the ejections seat shoots out of the aircraft.

EXT - THE JET

Streaming smoke and flames heads toward the barrier wall.

The pilot in the ejection seat goes upright and a parachute pops out of the rear. A life raft falls from the bottom of the seat.

EXT - THE BARRIER WALL

The flaming jet crashes into lake near the barrier wall. A wing flies off.

EXT - UNDER THE WATER

The jet, mostly intact, drifts toward the wall. Once hitting the wall, it slides down and rolls over.

INT - COCKPIT

The weapon's display shorts out, still displaying that the depth charge is armed.

EXT - UNDER THE WATER

CLOSE

The jet sinks deeper and comes to a rest on a ledge mid way down the wall.

EXT - THE LAKE

The Pilot, exhausted, climbs into the life raft and lies down.

EXT - RECON TEAM'S CAMP - DAY

Chelsea Romani receives an urgent transmission from Central Command.

ROMANI

Roger Central, I'll get him right away.

She runs over to Commander Crane's tent.

ROMANI (con't)

Commander Crane!

Commander Crane comes out of his tent.

CRANE

What is it?

ROMANI

The Directors want to talk to you about the recon jet.

CRANE

It's about time!

She hands him the communicator.

CRANE (Con't)

Yes Director, Crane here. (Pause) You got to be kidding me! (Pause) and then what? (Pause)

Oh my God! (Pause) The pilot is he alright? (Pause) We were heading back to ascension point. It will take us about six hours to get back to the lake. (Pause) Ok, I take my best climber and we'll go back. (Pause) I'll keep you updated. (Pause) yes Director. Over and out.

Digger!

EXT - DIGGER'S TENT

DIGGER and SAMANTHA are sitting outside his tent looking over the data from her analyzer.

SAMANTHA

I think the Commander wants you Paul.

DIGGER

Sounds important, he rarely shouts.

Later Sam.

She smiles as he gets up to head over to Commander Crane.

EXT - CRANE'S TENT

Digger meets up with Commander Crane.

CRANE

Paul, get ready to move out, just you and me.

DIGGER

What's up?

CRANE

Remember that jet this morning?

DIGGER

Ya.

CRANE

Central tells me it was there to follow up on our recon. Well, it crashed, the pilot is alright and we have to go get him. It will be faster with the two of us. We'll take rover two in ten minutes.

DIGGER

Yes sir.

Digger goes back to his tent.

EXT - DIGGER'S TENT

Samantha is packing up her analysis equipment.

SAMANTHA

What's up Diggs?

DIGGER

I'm going with the Commander to rescue the pilot of the jet that came by this morning. Something is up. I read it in Lyle's face. Hold on to the water sample for us.

He pulls out a small bottle with the lake water he kept and hands it to Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Ok. (She pockets the bottle) How soon are you going?

DIGGER

Now.

She quickly kisses him. He touches her cheek.

SAMANTHA

You come back safe now.

DIGGER

I will.

EXT - ROVER 2

Commander Crane calls the team to himself at Rover 2.

WIDE

All the members go over to him.

CRANE

Team, Digger and I are heading back to the lake.

Ray, Sam, Chelsea, the jet from this morning went down. Chelsea, you're senior and will be in charge until we get back.

ROMANI

Yes Sir.

CRANE

Keep communications open. If all goes well, we should be back tomorrow morning. Digger, let's go.

As Commander Crane passes by Blackmore, he whispers in his ear.

CRANE

The situation may be more serious. I'll let you know.

(Louder)

Detach the trailer.

Blackmore nods and goes to the back of the rover to detach the trailer. Crane gives an assuring hand touch to Romani and back pat to Blackmore as he passes him. The two women pat Digger's back.

ROMANI

Good luck guys, be safe.

The two men get into the rover.

The engine starts up, the team backs away, and the rover drives off back to toward the barrier wall.

REVERSE ANGLE

Just then, Climber Jake comes into the camp. He is ragged, dusty, and slightly overloaded with aged back packs.

JAKE

Hi what's all the excitement?

The team is surprised to see him.

BLACKMORE

Who are you?

Samantha and Romani recognize him.

SAMANTHA

Jake is it?

JAKE

That's my name.

ROMANI

How did you find us?

JAKE

The weather has been good, just followed the tracks.
By the way, I saw what you did for that other climber
back there, thank you. Do you know who he was?

BLACKMORE

We got his ID and we were going to give it to the
mayor when we got back to Clifton.

JAKE

Be sure to do that. Well if I could have a cup of
coffee, then I'll be on my way.

ROMANI

Sure thing.

Chelsea goes to get him a coffee.

BLACKMORE

So where are you heading to Jake?

JAKE

Oh to a valley about two days from here. I'm going to see if I can plant some pine trees. Got 'em right here in my pack.

SAMANTHA

Can I see one?

JAKE

Sure.

He pulls out a small plant and hand it to Samantha.

Chelsea returns with the coffee and hands it to Jake.

JAKE

Thank you Miss. (Taking the cup)

SAMANTHA

These might survive in the right place. Have you had any success so far?

JAKE

Nope. Maybe this valley I'm going to will be the place. (He downs his coffee) Well, I'll be on my way now.

ROMANI

Good luck to you.

Jake gives a quick tip of his hat, almost like a salute, and heads away from the camp.

BLACKMORE

Something tells me he was in the military.

CUT TO

INT - ROVER 2

Digger is driving the rover.

DIGGER

Commander, can I ask you something.

CRANE

What is it Diggs?

DIGGER

Was this jet out here because of this "element eight"?

CRANE

Digger, we have been serving together a long time and since you know about the city, the answer to your question I would have to say is "yes".

DIGGER

But there is more isn't there? But, if saying anything more would get you in trouble..

CRANE

No, I don't mind. We were sent to confirm that the city was there. However, seeing that jet told me they went off the time table. I can assume "element eight" had something to do with it. I'm sure the pilot will be able to tell us more.

DIGGER

Let's go get him.

EXT - BARRIER WALL FOOT HILLS - DAY

The rover comes to a stop. DIGGER and CRANE step out of the vehicle. The two men look up to the wall.

POV - the barrier wall and cascade.

TWO SHOT

DIGGER

Well, there it is again.

CRANE

Yep, again. Sun's going down. We'll wait until morning. I'll contact Romani and have them tell the pilot he'll have to spend the night up there.

(On communicator) Romani, come in.

ROMANI

(On communicator) Here Commander.

CRANE

Contact Central for me.

ROMANI

(On communicator) Connected commander.

ANGLE ON

Digger as he looks around and then back toward Commander Crane.

DIGGER

(Quietly)

Well Lord, what strange things are happening?

CUT TO

UNDER THE LAKE

The sunken jet sits next to the barrier wall.

ANGLE ON

The armed depth charge timer beeps and flashes increase in speed.

CUT TO

EXT - THE LAKE SURFACE - DUSK

The Pilot in his life raft paddles his way toward the barrier wall. He stops rowing and pulls out his PDA style communicator. He touches the screen.

CLOSE

The Pilot's Communicator displays a message: "Meet the rescue team at the barrier wall in the AM. Advise status of jet and ordinance - Central".

The Pilot presses another icon. A graphic of the jet and depth charge displays. "Time to detonate: 15:00 hrs|38:00 min"

He presses an icon to deactivate the depth charge. Message "Unit not responding" returns on the display.

WIDE

PILOT

Damn!

He puts the communicator back in a zipper pocket and starts rowing again toward the wall.

CUT TO

EXT - BELOW THE BARRIER WALL - MORNING

Digger and Commander Crane secure their climbing gear and extra rope and head along the cascade to the vertical wall.

EXT - The VERTICLE WALL

The men arrive where their first anchor is attached to the rock.

CRANE

We're going to move faster than last time Digger.

DIGGER

You got it Sir.

They climb carefully and expertly up the vertical wall occasionally getting splashed by the nearby cascade and falls.

EXT - TOP OF THE BARRIER WALL - DAY

The two men reach the crest. Commander Crane pulls Digger up.

CRANE

Let's see where this guy is.

Pulling out their binoculars they scan out into the lake, looking for the Pilot.

DIGGER

It was nicer being up here the first time.

POV - CRANE

Through his binoculars, Commander Crane spots the orange life raft.

TWO SHOT

CRANE

There he is.

Commander Crane points out toward the raft. Digger looks in that direction.

POV - DIGGER

Through his binoculars, Digger sees the pilot rowing toward the barrier wall.

DIGGER

Looks like he's heading off to the left.

TWO SHOT

CRANE

Get the air horn. Get his attention.

Digger pulls out a small air horn, points it toward, the rowing pilot and BLASTS THE HORN.

EXT - THE LIFE RAFT

The pilot, rowing intentionally toward the barrier wall, HEARS the air horn. He looks toward the sound.

POV

He sees Digger and Commander Crane waving to him.

CLOSE - PILOT

He changes his course to the rescuers.

PILOT

There they are.

He momentarily stops and checks his communicator for the status of the depth charge. It displays "Time to detonate: 3:00 hr | 20:00 min" He tried to deactivate it but the same "Unit not responding" message displays.

PILOT

Cutting it close.

EXT - TOP OF THE BARRIER WALL

Crane and Digger go over to help the pilot get out of the water.

PILOT

Commander Crane?

CRANE

Yes sir. What is the situation?

PILOT

I don't know how much Central told you, but the situation is not very good. Look here...

The Pilot shows the men his communicator.

PILOT

My jet took a bird strike, blew its engine, and crashed not far from here. Before that happened, I armed the depth charge-

DIGGER

Depth charge? For what?

The Pilot gives a confused look toward Digger.

CRANE

Let the man talk.

PILOT

They didn't tell me, just gave me coordinates on this lake to drop it.

DIGGER

(Upset)

Nothing about the city?

CRANE

There's a lost city under the lake.

PILOT

Interesting, I guess they wanted it gone for some reason. (pause)

Unfortunately, the depth charge is still armed and will detonate in three hours.

CRANE

Are we talking about a Mark 90 Mike November?

PILOT

Yes.

DIGGER

A micro nuke! That is just great!

CRANE

We better get out of here.

(To the Pilot) Get what you need and let's go.

Digger, get him ready. I'll call the team and let them know the situation.

CUT TO

EXT - RECON TEAM CAMP - DAY

Samantha, Romani, and Blackmore are impatiently waiting to hear from Crane and Digger.

Romani's communicator BUZZES.

ROMANI

Yes Commander?

The team pays attention.

CRANE

(On communicator)

Romani, we have a situation. The jet went down near the barrier wall carrying a live Mark90. Have Ray run an analysis on the effects of this thing and get back to me. We're on our way back.

BLACKMORE

I'm on it.

Blackmore goes to his tent.

ROMANI

Be safe Commander.

CUT TO

EXT - TOP OF THE BARRIER WALL - DAY

Commander Crane, Digger and the Pilot check their equipment and head to the edge of the wall.

CRANE

We're not going to get to the bottom before it blows.

DIGGER

I'm not as good a geologist as Ray is. The fissures will weaken.

Pilot

Is that important?

DIGGER

A bit of history my friend, World War Two, the Dam busters? If the jet is sitting next to the wall, the concussion could take the whole wall down.

CRANE

Let's pray that it holds.

CUT TO

INT - BLACKMORE'S TENT

Ray has the seismic monitor display up.

Romani and Samantha come into the tent.

BLACKMORE

I have good telemetry.

SAMANTHA

Where's the jet?

Ray moves some icons.

BLACKMORE

Checking...

The GRAPHIC of the barrier wall shows the shape of the jet on a ledge.

...Oh my!

SAMANTHA

What is it Ray?

BLACKMORE

From where it is sitting, a Mark90 could take the whole thing down.

ROMANI

I'll tell the Commander.
She leaves the tent.

SAMANTHA

Paul's got to get out of there!

BLACKMORE

It may not come down right away. The rock could hold for a day or two.

SAMANTHA

But that does not make the danger any less real.

BLACKMORE

I'll check our best options. But, there might not be any.

Samantha leaves the tent.

EXT - TOP OF THE BARRIER WALL

Commander Crane is on the communicator.

CRANE

We're about to head down now. OK, I'll put him on.

(To Digger)

Digger, Regis wants to talk to you.

Crane hands Digger the communicator.

EXT - BLACKMORE'S TENT

Samantha takes the communicator from Romani

SAMANTHA

Paul, Ray says the jet is sitting in a bad place. When the charge goes off, he thinks the wall should hold for a day or two at most. (Pause) I want to say I love you. Please get back here safe.

DIGGER

(On Communicator)

I love you too Sam. Have Ray check to see where the water is going to go. We may need an escape route if we can't get an airlift.

SAMANTHA

He's on it.

EXT - TOP OF THE BARRIER WALL

DIGGER

Alright, see you by tomorrow morning. I mean it.

SAMANTHA

(On communicator)

I know you won't disappoint me. No get back here!

DIGGER

Yes Ma'am.

Digger gives the communicator back to Crane.

CRANE

I'll have Romani see if she can get an airlift for us.

You were right Digger. No let's move it!

The three men start their descent down the vertical wall.

EXT - THE VERTICAL WALL

As the three men descend, the Pilot slips and the other two men strain to stop him from falling.

DIGGER and CRANE

Whoa!

The Pilot gets a secure footing.

DIGGER

Are you alright?

PILOT

It must be the altitude. I'm used to pressurized air.

CRANE

Get moving gents. How long do we have?

PILOT

(Checks his communicator)

One hour and ten minutes.

EXT - THE SUNKEN JET

A few sparks shoot across the depth charge. Inside, the clock speeds up, hits zero and blinks.

The depth charge EXPLODES!

A shockwave goes out and doubles back to the wall.

EXT - THE VERTICAL WALL

A huge spray of water shoots up into the sky. The rock wall shakes.

CLOSE

The three climbers are jolted by the shockwave and lose their footing. The ropes hold fast to the anchors and they are dangling.

CRANE

That was not an hour!

DIGGER

(Looks up)

Look out!

Large chunks of rocks and water fall past the climbers. They cover their heads as the debris falls past.

CUT TO

INT - BLACKMORE'S TENT

Blackmore is watching his screen as it goes bright. "No signal" appears on the screen.

BLACKMORE

Something just happened to the sensors!

EXT - THE RECON TEAM'S CAMP

Samantha and Romani look toward the barrier wall.

POV

A plume of white appears on the horizon.

EXT - ON THE TUNDRA PLANE

Climber Jake HEARS a BOOM in the distance. He looks toward the barrier wall to see the white plume in the distance.

JAKE

What was that?

EXT - THE VERTICAL WALL

Digger, Commander Crane, and the Pilot have regained their footing. A heavier water flow is coming from the cascade.

CRANE

We only have a thousand more meters to go on this wall.

DIGGER

The water flow has definitely increased.

CRANE

Soon it will be all of it Digger!

Romani's voice comes over the communicator.

ROMANI

(On Communicator)

Commander, are you alright? Are you there?

Crane secures himself and takes out the communicator.

CRANE

Romani, Crane here. We are ok. Just jolted.

ROMANI

(On Communicator)

Thank God!

CRANE

We'll need His help to get out of this. Contact Central and get us an airlift. We should be back in eight hours.

ROMANI

(On communicator)

I'm on it.

DIGGER

Just pray this wall holds.

EXT - RECON TEAM'S CAMP

Romani and Samantha are relieved that Digger and Crane are alive. While they are waiting for the men to return, Samantha notices the nearby stream starting to rise in water level.

EXT - BOTTOM OF THE BARRIER WALL

The three men reach the bottom of the wall and start toward the rover.

Digger turns to look at the barrier wall. He stands in amazement.

DIGGER

Oh Good Lord!

POV - A huge plume of water fans out from a fresh fissure in the barrier wall.

WIDER - THE MEN

DIGGER

Commander, I think the situation is getting serious.

I think the town needs to be warned Sir.

Commander Crane and the Pilot look up in controlled apprehension at the water break in the wall.

CRANE

I think you are right Digger. Let's move.

All three quickly move to get to the rover.

EXT - THE ROVER

The men jump into the vehicle, start it up and drive off.

INT - THE ROVER

Digger is in the driver's seat. Commander Crane calls Romani on the communicator.

CRANE

Romani, come in...

ROMANI

(On Communicator)

Here Commander.

CRANE

I need you to get a message off to Mayor Banes in Clifton. Tell him the town may be in danger. Definitely get him to clear ascension point from any climbers. The barrier wall may not hold long.

ROMANI

(On Communicator)

Will do Sir. And Sir, I'm trying to get an air lift, but Central said there are none available.

CRANE

Good work Chelsea. Keep trying. We'll meet up soon.

CUT TO

EXT - NOT FAR FROM THE TEAM'S CAMP - AFTERNOON

Climber Jake looks toward the barrier wall and sees in the distance, the plume of water shooting out.

JAKE

Well that's interesting.

CUT TO

EXT - THE TEAM'S CAMP

Blackmore comes out of his tent and goes to the two women.

BLACKMORE

I've been checking a satellite map of this area. We need to head three clicks north to get out of the water's path if that wall gives way. I suggest we go now.

ROMANI

Alright, I call the Commander.

INT - THE ROVER

Commander Crane answers the call.

CRANE

Ok Chelsea, send us the rendezvous coordinates.

EXT - THE BARRIER WALL

Water cavitations start to break large chunks of rock off the wall. The fissure widens. More rock breaks off. Half the rock wall breaks apart in a torrential wall of water and debris.

INT - THE ROVER

Digger checks the rover's GPS.

DIGGER

I got the rendezvous point Commander.

CRANE

Head for it.

The Pilot looks back toward the barrier wall and sees a wall of muddy water and debris coming fast from behind the rover.

PILOT

Make that turn quick!

Commander Crane looks back at the rushing water.

CRANE

Floor it Digger!

Digger cuts the wheel and slams the accelerator down.

EXT - THE ROVER - HIGH ANGLE - TRACKING

Speeding just ahead of the muddy torrent, the rover veers away from the river bed.

The water catches up.

INT - THE ROVER

Small rocks and then larger rocks splashed with water start to pelt the rover with bigger THUMPS. The rear glass window cracks.

CRANE

(Shouting)

Hold on!

EXT - THE ROVER - MOVING

The muddy wall of water engulfs the rover and carries it along. The rover flips and rolls. A wave of water carries the rover to the edge of the torrent and it comes to a sudden stop against a hill. Nose down and half buried, waves splash against the underside of the vehicle.

CUT TO

EXT - ROVER 1 - TWENTY YEARS LATER - DAY

Digger is leaning against the now rusted rover, still in the same position it ended up in years earlier after the barrier wall broke. Martin Tyler is next to him.

DIGGER

And that is how the rover got here.

MARTIN

But Dad, what happened to Mom, Aunt Chelsea and Mr. Blackmore?

DIGGER

Well obviously we lived.

MARTIN

Duh! Details Dad, details! You never talked too much about this.

Tell me about Commander Crane and the pilot!

DIGGER

That is the end of one story and the beginning of another. I wanted to tell you everything son. What better place to tell you then where it happened.

MARTIN

Thanks Dad.

DIGGER

Let's head to where the lost city was. It's suspected some missing climbers may be there. On the way I'll tell you that story as well.

WIDE ANGLE

The two men walk along the ridge of a large water carved canyon.

FADE OUT

END - EPISODE ONE

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