

WHITEOUT

By

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FADE IN:

MONTAGE - VIBRANT COLORS TO STARK WHITE

WE SEE a color wheel. A color circle, based on the PRIMARY colors of only red, yellow and blue. We combine the SECONDARY colors of Green, orange and purple and then the TERTIARY COLORS of Yellow-orange, red-orange, red-purple, blue-purple, blue-green and yellow-green. We muck around with these colors artistically and FLASH shots of nature, car colors, Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade shots, a black athlete with chocolate brown biceps pushing up on weights, colors of flags, a koi pond, boys with freckles and red hair and ENVELOPE our view with the blue earth as seen from the POV of the moon. We OVERLOAD the scene with these color scenes and the appropriate MUSIC that further emphasizes the beauty, complexity and exquisiteness of life with color.

SHOCK CUT:

MOS. The scene of colors abruptly slams shut and all we see is WHITE. We hold on WHITE for 30 seconds. There is no sound...there is WHITE ONLY and we hold an uncomfortably long enough time for the audience to suspect that something is out of kilter with the projector.

WIPE:

EXT. ALASKA LAKE - DAY

A Dehavillian DHC-2 "BEAVER" amphibian takes off from an Alaskan lake that is almost completely frozen. Its large pontoons with retracted wheels just barely clear the ice at the end of the lake. WE SEE the mountains and valleys of Alaska, the contrast between them, the cleavage of the rock and the depths of the valleys all roll past in what seems like an unending array of mountain ranges and valleys. We follow the BEAVER as it negotiates between the mountains and the valleys. It is silent, not even the wind is heard from mountaintop to mountaintop. WE ARE HEADING NORTH and skimming the peaks with millimeters to spare. With each new vista we see additional evidence of winter-more snow on the mountains and ever INCREASING SNOW in the valleys...rivers that were running are ice clogged...and nowhere is there a human, a city, a village, a road. We are losing trees as we traverse from forest-covered mountains and valleys to TUNDRA, no less rugged but more sparse and intimidating.

RADIO DJ - FAIRBANKS, AK (V.O.)
OK, that was Hey, Buddy-Baby by All
Washed Up here on Z-ROCK ONE OH ONE
POINT SEVEN. And you are going to
(MORE)

RADIO DJ - FAIRBANKS, AK (V.O.) (cont'd)
 need a baby or something to keep
 you warm around here. We just hit
 another record. MINUS 70
 degrees. That has whacked, the
 low of 1934, can you believe
 it? Our average low is cold enough
 at minus 27 but minus 70...well,
 I'm not movin' - I am staying right
 here and they can pay me
 overtime. OK, back to the
 music...and good luck up there on
 that Haul Road...you boys and girls
 are going through hell on that
 Atigun. I'm outta here in a half
 hour and that pickup of mine I
 parked in Sadlers parking
 lot...well, at 70 below...I don't
 think so. Mama, come git me.

Now the view is becoming nothing more than white. We HOLD
 for a long period of time-perhaps 30 seconds. There is no
 sound. We begin to notice the SOUND of wind...it is passing
 us by, very low at the beginning but slowly, very slowly
 increasing in volume and suddenly, out of nowhere what could
 be a gray mountain peak flashes by and back to white. The
 roar of the wind is becoming deafening. finally, white gives
 way to clumps of gray and still just white and now clumps of
 white...snow...weighty, heavy snow and wind. Lots of
 wind. The BEAVER circles, extends wheels and has to crab
 the landing because of the heavy winds but touches down and
 parks on the icy landing strip. This is the middle of
 nowhere. Just a couple of buildings and a trailer and what
 looks like a ROAD.

EXT. COLDFOOT CAMP MILE MARKER 175 HAUL ROAD - DAY

COLDFOOT CAMP, the only mid-point services on the Dalton
 Highway Alaska State Route 11, an all weather road from
 Fairbanks to the oil fields at Prudhoe Bay. It is the
 Northernmost road in the world kept open in winter. Named
 the Dalton Highway, it is more commonly known as the "HAUL
 ROAD." We see a trailer, a few buildings with bunks and
 trucks. These are big trucks, engines running and getting
 diesel but going nowhere, a diner, Alaska State Trooper
 post...that's about it. The entrance sign at Coldfoot Camp
 will send more than shivers up your spine. A newly painted
 SIGN "Welcome to Coldfoot Camp, Mile Marker 175. Next
 services 239 Miles. On January 26th a new record was
 recorded -82 degrees F." Full sunrise is still an hour away

but it is getting lighter. Truckers getting fuel stick the nozzle in their tanks and run back inside their trucks to avoid frostbite in the wind chill. There is only full sun between 10-2 at this latitude.

SUPER: MON, FEB 2 09:10 - Temp -71F SNOW DEPTH: 9"

Leaving Coldfoot, we follow the gravel HAUL ROAD north. It is elevated above the permafrost. The wind is ferocious, easily gusting 50 MPH.

EXT. ALASKA HAUL ROAD-ATIGUN PASS-MILE MARKER 230 - DAY

Two truckers, JEFF and driver in training, ROB, are "chaining up" at the base of ATIGUN PASS, the most dangerous part of the run is ahead of them. The WIND is blowing 40-60 MPH and the road is nearly 100% whiteout conditions. Drifts are starting to pile up in the SIDE DITCHES and the road isn't looking "elevated" any longer.

INT. KENWORTH TRUCK - DAY

JEFF and ROB finish the cold work of chaining and get back in their rig. Jeff pulls out, black smoke belching out of the dual stacks on the Kenworth as he makes each shift.

As dirty as the truck is on the outside, the opposite is true of the inside of this KENWORTH truck. You could eat off the floor. Anyone who thinks trucks are low tech has not seen one of these with satellite positioning, two radios, sleeping cab, satellite television and microwaves. It is a massive 600 horsepower, with an 18 speed Eaton transmission to take the 16% grades that are just ahead. It has all the comforts of home...well almost, with double bunks. JEFF, driving this rig is far from high tech. He's a hulk of a man who looks like he could withstand the Arctic for weeks just living on his blubber. He knows this road and he knows his rig and he's training his partner to drive the HAUL ROAD. His pupil, ROB, a trucker from the lower 48, is seeing the road at its worst. ROB is no weak-kneed character either, but this experience might be more than he bargained for. Maybe truckin' on I-80 and scaring the hell out of four-wheelers, regardless of the \$100,000 a year he can make here, could be the rational option if one values his life.

JEFF

I'll take this cold weather and snow over that mush we were in a couple months ago. Once we get over this pass we can make some real time to Deadhorse assuming we don't kill ourselves getting over it. We

(MORE)

JEFF (cont'd)

will get to see who's run off the road this week. These chains will decrease the "pucker" factor. You sure as hell took your time on that last chain. You gotta be faster than that or you will die out here. I don't want your fingers falling off from frostbite. Happy Groundhog Day!

ROB

Yeah, you too. Well, maybe we shoulda stayed in Coldfoot like the rest of those guys back there.

JEFF

They said I had ta train ya kid...I can't train you much eating five eggs, 12 pieces of toast and a steak at Coldfoot. Anyway, I have to cut back on the calories to maybe only 5,000/day don't ya know? I saw a grizzly lookin' at me sorta funny like I was some kind of whore of ovaries or whatever you call 'em.

INT. KENWORTH W-900L TRUCK-ATIGUN PASS-DAY

SUPER: MON, FEB 2 11:05 - Temp -73F SNOW DEPTH: 10"

SINGIN' SAM LITTLE's "Kamikaze Trail" song about the Haul Road is on the CD player...a favorite of the truckers who drive this insane road in this insane weather. And THIS weather is the most insane since they bulldozed this road up to the oil fields. But they keep on truckin' and Sam keeps singin'.

EXT. KENWORTH W-900L TRUCK-ATIGUN PASS-DAY

We continue North in the snow and wind. The chains are starting to lose their bite in the snow and ice. This is a highway? It's 400 miles of gravel, mud, dust and chuckholes in the best of weather. Holes so big that will swallow a coffee table but today it is an elevated ski slide to oblivion. A raised roadbed above the permafrost and if you slide off, you're cooked. And they "slide off" all the time. Nearly 200 people have been killed on this highway. Black ice is at every turn. The road, if you can call it that, began turning and twisting through forest, mountain passes

out of Fairbanks and eventually to the nothingness of the tundra. The trees are thinning out and disappear entirely after the Pass. It's February and winters in Alaska have been warm, very warm, for the last three decades. Global warming was at hand. Not this February. The record low at Coldfoot in January looks like a heat wave today. Coming up on the pass at 4,459 feet, the temp is a record-setting -91 degrees F with winds at 65 MPH gusting to 85. This surely is not in keeping with the concept of global warming. This treacherous pass, the highest point on the 414 mile Haul Road, has seven trucks already in the ditch, two other ultra-large rigs are being pushed and pulled three trucks in tandem to make it over this pass. Maybe they should not have left Coldfoot either. This pass is not for the lighthearted whether you are going North or South. But north, in a blizzard with a full load...this is what makes statistics on the Dalton Haul Road. The Kenworth is making it up in a rooster tail of snow, ice and gravel in its wake. There are at least 25 trucks parked on the side, afraid to go on. Sensible. This is a 102,000 pound, 600 horsepower, Kenworth W-900L ("L" for "long-nose"), four-axle tractor-trailer filled to the gunnels with nearly 10,000 gallons of methanol, 61,000 pounds of it. At night twin spotlights in the mirror racks are aimed at both ditches to pick up moose and to see where you are going to crash. Without this methanol you can bet that the drill holes will freeze in a heartbeat in the extreme temperatures that is Deadhorse and Prudhoe Bay. That's 170 miles further north of this pass. We are well north of the Arctic Circle. There are no tourists on this road today...if they are, they're dead. The windshield is filled with cracks and stars, almost all of them put there by other truckers who don't know the rules [to slow down when passing either direction].

CUT TO:

INT. KENWORTH W-900L TRUCK-ATIGUN PASS-DAY

JEFF

(jamming through the gears)
 Rob, I've seen a lot of crazy
 shit up here but this is
 unreal. Look at that outside
 temp number. If we have to go
 outside it is frostbite within
 five minutes. (Pointing to the
 outside temp indicator on the
 dash. The dash is a maze of 16
 round gauges, lights,
 indicators, levers, and one of

them is the outside temp display that is nearing 100 below zero, a temperature never recorded in Alaska)

CUT TO:

THE TEMP GAUGE

CUT TO:

ROB

(Getting his nose closer to the windshield as if that extra 6 inches will make him see through this whiteout)

Why the hell don't you find a place and just pull over for Christ's sake? I can't see shit and I know you can't.

JEFF

Do you see a place to pull over? I don't. And kid, those guys might not make it to tell the story. You keep your engine going...OK, no problem, we get heat, we get the engine cookin.' Pull over and what happens? The tranny stops moving, the differential stops moving and all that oil, synthetic or not, freezes and you go [Jeff spells it out] N O W H E R E. Who's coming to get you, Mom? Troopers? I don't think so. We're going...tighten up that shoulder harness and pucker up.

ROB

(under his breath) Yeah, well pucker this.

EXT. ATIGUN PASS-DAY

More trucks off the road, in the ditches, rear ends sliding sideways with some catching up to the cabs twisting until they jackknife into the ditches which can't be seen any longer because of the drifts. All the drive wheels have chains but chains are not much help if the snow is kicking up in an 70MPH storm with snow so heavy the wipers and defrosters can't keep up. Still, there is no place to turn

off. Every turnout is clogged with trucks or snowdrifts 40 feet high. There is only one way and that is UP AND OVER.

INT. KENWORTH W-900L TRUCK-ATIGUN PASS-DAY

JEFF

Listen, we got a 170 miles after this pass to get to Deadhorse, sleep, offload at Prudhoe Bay, dodge other trucks and now god damn wreckers. Well, forget about getting back. No one is going back in this! Man, where's global warming when you need it? And there's no hole up there. (pointing to a black spot on the road) It's just plain ice on top. You can see the ice right? I'm not braking for that.

ROB

I don't mind telling you, I think we are going to bite the big one here. There is no way we are going to make it down this incline in one piece. Yeah, they got your picture up there at Coldfoot with the rig upside down from last year. Now I know why.

JEFF

Well, screw that. Learn by doin', kid. Learn by doin'. Well, if we do bite the big one here some jerk will stick a Polaroid picture of us in the ditch on the wall at Coldfoot or splash it all over "The Chuckhole Gazette." Shit, you'll be famous Well, son that's why you're in training. Anyone who tells you that they haven't been in the ditch is just plain lying, man...but there is a way to get down this baby in once piece. Of course, if I screw up, this tanker is going to go off the side, into the ditch and explode with such a fireball that no one will even think of picking up the pieces because they will be too small...

(laughing but scared at the same time)

EXT. HAUL ROAD-ATIGUN PASS- DITCH - DAY

More trucks have spun out. The trucks that are right side up continue to run. A truck carrying two CAT 963 DOZERS goes off right in front of them with the dozer bouncing off the side of the ditch. One of these 45,000-pound machines bounces back across the road in front of them. The tow cable from the back of the dozer comes loose and slams onto the hood of the Kenworth. Jeff and Rob continue on. Trucks still upright with heat are taking in borders for the duration.

ROB

Holy shit...Jeff, get me out of this one and Deadhorse is on me...man, we are starting to go...
(the rear end is starting to slip to the left)

CUT TO:

EXT. HAUL ROAD - DOWNHILL AT ATIGUN PASS -DAY

The Kenworth is going to jackknife unless...

JEFF

That fucking cable did a job on my truck, but we are still in one piece. OK, Rob here's the deal...I wanted that rear end to begin to slide...if it didn't we would get too much speed and we WOULD end up blown to smithereens just like that sap that was in front of us. Now watch.

CUT TO:

THE BRAKE PEDAL & STEERING WHEEL

Jeff, lightly taps on the brakes, yanks the steering wheel to the right, then hits the gas. Jeff plays this massive truck like a violin. It makes a lot of noise and kicks up a massive amount of snow.

EXT. KENWORTH TRUCK-ATIGUN PASS-DAY

The rear end that was going to the left is now swinging around, losing speed and sliding to the right creating drag and a mountain of snow in the air. But he's slowing down and he keeps repeating those violent maneuvers all the way down the mountain. In effect, they are going down the road sideways.

ROB
 (trouble breathing)
 That old lady of yours must be
 taking you to the cleaners to do
 this just for a free dinner and
 rack for the night!

JEFF
 We're not there yet and now we have
 170 miles of blow!

ROB
 Blow?

JEFF
 Yeah, the blow...whiteout
 conditions with only those stakes
 sticking up every 20 feet out of
 the snow to keep you from going off
 into the wild white yonder,
 man...yah...de blow! Let me know if
 you've had too much of the Haul
 Road...you won't be the first that
 went back to the Interstates
 tailgating 4-wheelers and watching
 'em sweat!

The Kenworth makes it swerving
 and going sideways almost like a
 skier going from side to side and
 taking up the entire
 road. Fortunately, no one coming
 has left Deadhorse for over four
 hours because of whiteout
 conditions and record-setting cold
 temps.

Eventually the road becomes a little more sane and Jeff and
 Rob relax some listening to Sam Little's "Living in a
 Pipeline Camp."

EXT. KENWORTH - THE FLATS TO DEADHORSE - DAY

Everything would be fine except for the visibility...of
 which there is none. Jeff has slowed to a crawl and if it
 wasn't for the reflectorized delineators on each side of the
 highway he wouldn't see a highway. And out of nowhere a
 truck whizzes by from Deadhorse and knocks off the inboard
 mirror and light rack.

JEFF-CB RADIO
 (grabbing the CB hanging down
 from the top of the cab to the

trucker that just whacked his
mirror rack)
Hey shit for brains, come back here
with my mirrors! Who the hell are
you anyway? CURTIS? Do you know
what you're heading into?

INTERCUT CB RADIO CONVERSATION - JEFF AND CURTIS

CURTIS-CB RADIO

Yeah, Jeff, you got the "Diesel
Weasel" - sorry about them
mirrors...I don't got no damn
mirrors now either. I know what
I'm getting into with that pass, I
heard all about it on the
radio...but I got to get to
Coldfoot...the Mrs. is having her
third and I can't miss being there
again...three strikes and I'm
out. I got a plane waiting for me
at Coldfoot to take me to
Anchorage.

JEFF-CB RADIO

(pointing again to the outside
temp guage at -99)
Coldfoot, shit you got no chance of
getting to Coldfoot with that
mirrorless Peterbuilt of yours. And
flying...now there's a joke. That
pass is cooked baby,
cooked. Blocked in both directions
with maybe 25 in and out of the
ditches and another 25 just parked
hoping not to run out of diesel in
this minus 99. Some of the trucks
have five or six dudes and dudettes
in them trying to keep warm don't
ya know? Ha Ha. Turn around man.
And screw the mirrors. Who's got
time to look backwards when ya
can't see shit in front of ya,
Bra?

CURTIS-CB RADIO

Yeah, Bra, Ah shit...I guess it
will be Match.com for me...yeah,
I'm going to pack it in but turning
around is going to be some deal.
There is a turnout up about 10
miles if the drifts ain't killed it
for me.

JEFF-CB RADIO

What's it like over yer shoulder,
man into Deadhorse?

CURTIS-CB RADIO

Man, you gotta go like hell
man, The drifts are goin' get ya
with this wind. Ain't no traffic
to Deadhorse so take the entire
road. I was the last out. Did you
hear the talk about the temp there?

JEFF-CB RADIO

Nah...I got 91 below right here...I
think that's some sort of record.
I'm afraid to stop or the tranny
will freeze up on me.

CURTIS-CB RADIO

Yeah, that will happen. You got a
sidekick there to keep you warm?
You're goin' to need it. The
number...here is the number.
(slowly and spelled out) F I V E.

JEFF-CB RADIO

Five?

CURTIS-CB RADIO

Yeah Mr. Truckerman dere, ONE
HUNDRED FIVE BELOW ZERO in the
friggin' F. Anything in Deadhorse
that ain't movin' won't move. See
ya back in Deadhorse if I don't
pull a shooting star into the
ditch.

END INTERCUT

ROB is fiddling with the AM/FM and gets Deadhorse

DEADHORSE RADIO

Well you guys are a glutton for
punishment this day for sure. 103
degrees in the tank as they say-it
got to minus 105...is that the best
you can do? Bring it on. Let's
give you your weather update from
downtown Deadhorse. We are
experiencing record low temps
throughout the region. Temps in
Alaska are setting new lows in

(MORE)

DEADHORSE RADIO (cont'd)
almost every town and that includes the Yukon. The current reading in Deadhorse at the putting green and at the airstrip is an improved minus 103 degrees. The low so far recorded there was minus 105 degrees two hours ago. That is a new record for the state. Needless to say exposed skin at this temp and a wind gusting to 65 means your skin will freeze in three minutes if unprotected. We compute the wind chill at about -160. If your on the Haul road, well, haul it on in here to Deadhorse. The chili's cookin.' We are easily 70 below normal throughout the region. Large construction projects relating to the oil fields are being delayed until further notice as this cold front is expected to motor on down the freeway to the lower 48...ha, ha. Our sister station KIYU a Galena reported to the National Weather Service in Fairbanks, that the City of Galena has closed down through this weekend. This includes the City Government, meetings, and restaurants. Only emergency maintenance and services are available. The current temp is -81. Air Traffic into and out of Galena has been curtailed as the result of the extremely cold temperatures and blowing snow. The same is true of Deadhorse. Nothing is flying, nothing is moving and the Atigun Pass is in Emergency Mode with every wrecker available on the way. The reported temperature there is minus 87 degrees, a record low for Atigun Pass. We have unconfirmed reports here at KCDS of temps in the Brooks Range of minus 91 but NOAA has yet to confirm. Here is NOAA Weather: "Alaska Division of Emergency Services (ADES) repeats the Special Weather Statement issued by the Fairbanks Forecast Office on the record-setting cold temps over most

(MORE)

DEADHORSE RADIO (cont'd)
of North Central Alaska and
upgraded their readiness status to
level 2. They initiated a check of
all villages to ensure the fuel
supply was adequate, and to make
arrangements to have air taxis ship
fuel out to those locations that
reported low fuel levels. This has
been completed. ADES also urged
those facing imminent medical
problems (full-term pregnancies or
impending surgeries) in the bush
villages to leave before the
anticipated cold, while there was
still routine air service. There
were only one or two documented
cases of folks who needed to take
such action." That's the
weather...and its going to smack ya
right in the kisser with temps
lower than the lows of 1989...and
1989 was COLD brother...right now
in Fairbanks? 70 below brother and
droppin' - there's nuthin' flyin'
at the airport...like nothing.
Bettles, Northwest of Fairbanks,
just hit 81 below...that is 16
degrees colder than the cold snap
of 1999 and 11 degrees colder since
records have been kept at
Bettles. Haul Road expect
difficult to impossible driving
conditions, icy patches, packed
snow, drifting snow, blowing snow,
moose on the roadway, caribou on
the roadway, trucks in the ditches
and truck stopped on the
roadway. We have Singin' Sam again
here for ya...all about the nice
accommodations we have here for you
on the pipeline. "Living in a
Pipeline Camp" here for you again
on KCDS 88.1 FM sunning ourselves
outside by the wave pool...ha ha ha
at Deadhorse, A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A
K.

Singin' Sam plays while the Kenworth plows through the snow
in near whiteout conditions

EXT. GRAND HOTEL-MACKINAW ISLAND MI -- DAY

For the first time in decades all five of the Great Lakes have frozen over. Lake Superior is 100% frozen over, the first time since 1979. Lake Erie has nearly three feet of ice, end to end. The Grand Hotel, between ut Upper and Lower peninsulas of Michigan, well over 100 years old, is buttoned down for the winter as usual. It's been a cold winter but this temp is courtesy of the Siberian Express from the Yukon and Alaska. GUNNAR HANSEN is the caretaker and is on the porch speaking with a "year-rounder," MOLLY BENSON

SUPER: WED FEB 11 11:57 - Temp -35F SNOW DEPTH: 19"

GUNNAR HANSEN

Molly, I see you have some fish there on the back of that Ski-Doo...pretty cold out there even for trout don't ya think?

MOLLY BENSON

Oh, you have that right there Gun, but I got pretty lucky pretty fast and we know how to bundle up. But I can't stay out in this-what is is about 20 below?

GUNNAR HANSEN

It colder than that Molly...try down 35 according to HOMELESS JAKE on the radio. Well you better get in Molly, those fish look like you could pound nails in with them. They came outta the lake frozen like that, did they? I hear all the lakes are now at 100% ice. Arnold shut down the ferry service and now I go over to Mackinaw on my snowmobile too- I have to get that fresh beer you know.

MOLLY

Gun, you get inside that expensive hotel-maybe they left you a steak or two in the reefer. I think we just set a new record with that minus 35. I gotta scram and fry these fish for Herb before he gets an idea to shoot a horse for dinner.

MOLLY takes off on her Ski-Doo down the Grand Hotel entrance drive. Mackinaw Island is frozen in and snowmobiles represent the only mode of transportation on this summer island resort that bans autos. But today, no one is out with their horses and sleighs...

INT. THE GRAND HOTEL - MACKINAW ISLAND- DAY

Gunnar goes inside to warm up and tunes in to Mackinaw City radio and takes Molly's suggestion and throws on two steaks to grill in the hotel's massive kitchen. It's a cavernous place, so big that HOMELESS JAKE's voice echos. The kitchen is a madhouse in the summer, but in February, Gunnar is the only guest and he takes full advantage of the hotel's amenities with the exception of the outdoor pool. HOMELESS JAKE must have spent all his beer money; he's back on the air.

HOMELESS JAKE (V.O.)

[radio]Yeah, this is HOMELESS JAKE back at you nuts out there. I blew all my beer money up at that Indian casino up dere across the bridge in St. Ignace so here I am again doing this crap. This is, as if you didn't know Radio 95 point 5 here in boooooooooooooooooooming Mackinaw City, Michigan. And you will be glad to know if you go outside you will DIE. It is minus 35. And if you are keeping score of this crap the previous record was minus 33 and that was in...oh yes, I remember now-it WAS cold...in 1885, So no more suicides please, spring is coming. The town mortician is in Tampa for the winter so we would just have to put you on the ferry dock for a couple of months, ha ha ha, We saw that MOLLY BENSON dere down at Goldstein's fish market, the only Jewish fisherman on the Great Lakes that I know of, and he sold her a bunch of nice frozen Lake Trout. Molly was going to tell ol' Gunnar up at the hotel that she just caught them...ha ha ha, Molly, I blew your cover. So here's the stupid weather report: in the daytime it will be mainly light

(MORE)

HOMELESS JAKE (V.O.) (cont'd)
 followed by periods of dark. That's
 courtesy of the Hippy Dippy
 weatherman and the dead George
 Carlin. And it's going to be cold
 and in about four hours light will
 turn to dark...I know, just like
 yesterday. This Eskimo stuff came
 down from Alaska, well I guess it
 wouldn't come from DISMAL LAND in
 Orlando, would it? Alaska set
 records at 105 degrees below
 zero. Hey, Pittsburgh, Philly, I
 know you hate it when I say
 "Philly," and you New Yorkers in
 your penthouses...there is only two
 or three pairs of long johns in the
 city...you better get to Costco
 them. Homeless Jake on 95.5 and
 here is some music I hate but you
 love. And hey, it just moved up a
 degree. A regular heat wave!
 Where's my Bermuda shorts and
 snorkel gear? I'll have a Mai Tai.

Gunnar throws an orange at the radio, a direct hit and leans
 back for a long winter's nap.

INT. CENTER STAGE CARNEGIE HALL, NYC -- EVE

VENEXIANA MACGREGOR is on stage. She is a slight woman, 43,
 jet black hair, slender and attractive. She is Scottish,
 usually living in London, and she has a most unique and
 powerful high-pitched soprano voice that is as clear as the
 most expensive Austrian crystal you can find. VENEXIANA
 has had a good night and so has the appreciative audience at
 Carnegie Hall. There is a full orchestra and Carnegie
 Hall. is nearly sold out in spite of this being a very,
 very cold night. In her music career, she uses only the
 mononym VENEXIANA in her artistic career.

SUPER: SAT, FEB 14 22:05 - Temp 3F SNOW DEPTH: 4"

VENEXIANA MACGREGOR is singing, as her encore, Villa from
 Franz Lehar's The Merry Widow. She thinks it is her last
 song of the evening.

VENEXIANA MACGREGOR
 (singing)
 There once was a Vilia, a witch of
 the wood,
 A hunter beheld her alone as she
 stood,

(MORE)

VENEXIANA MACGREGOR (cont'd)

The spell of her beauty upon him
was laid;
He looked and he longed for the
magical maid!
For a sudden tremor ran
Right through the love-bewildered
man,
And he sighed as a hapless lover
can:

CHORUS: "Vilia, O Vilia! The witch
of the wood!
Would I not die for you, dear, if I
could?
Vilia, O Vilia, my love and my
bride!"
Softly and sadly he sighed.

The wood-maiden smiled, and no
answer she gave,
But beckoned him into the shade of
the cave;
He never had known such a rapturous
bliss,
No maiden of mortals so sweetly can
kiss!
As before her feet he lay,
She vanished in the wood away,
And he called vainly till his dying
day: CHORUS

Sadly he sighed, "Vilia!"

When she is finished she glances at the CONDUCTOR.

CUT TO:

CONDUCTOR

[mouths just one word] Beautiful

CUT TO:

VENEXIANA MACGREGOR

(with a sea of flowers at her
feet now talks directly with
the audience)

Thank you for yer very kind
reception for this little Brit.
Yes, I do have one more for ye. I
would like to sing my absolute
favorite song. Santa Lucia Luntana.
I have two passions in

(MORE)

VENEXIANA MACGREGOR (cont'd)

life...singing as you can guess and science, which ye might not have guessed-I am finishing my doctoral thesis in meteorology at Penn State. But tonight my love is singing and my dream is to someday, well, I hope I can sing this song with Andreas Bocelli as only he can sing this song about Naples.

(she takes a moment and begins. She is so small and yet her voice powerful, clear and high)

Partono 'e bastimente P' 'e terre
 assaje luntane, cantano a buordo e
 so napulitane! Cantano pe' tramente
 'O golgo già scompare, e 'a luna,
 'a miez' 'o mare, 'Nu poco 'e
 Napule Lle fa vede'... Santa Lucia,
 Luntana 'a te Quanta malincunia! Se
 gira 'o munno sano, Se va a cerca'
 furtuna, Ma quanno sponta 'a luna
 Luntana a Napule nun se po' sta! E
 sonano...Ma 'e mmane Tremmano
 n'copp' 'e corde... Quanta ricorde,
 ahimè, Quanta ricorde! E 'o core
 nun 'o sane Nemmeno cu 'e canzone,
 Sentenno voce e suone, Se mette a
 chiagnere ca vo' turna'! Santa
 Lucia, Luntana 'a te Quanta
 malincunia! Se gira 'o munno sano,
 Se va a cerca' furtuna, Ma quanno
 sponta 'a luna Luntana a Napule nun
 se po' sta! Santa Lucia tu tiene
 Solo 'nu poco 'e mare, Ma cchiù
 luntana staie, Cchiù bella pare! È
 'o canto d' 'e Ssirene Ca tesse
 ancora 'e rezze, Core', nun vo'
 ricchezze: Si è nato a Napule ce
 vo' muri'! Santa Lucia, Luntana 'a
 te Quanta malincunia! Se gira 'o
 munno sano, Se va a cerca' furtuna,
 Ma quanno sponta 'a luna Luntana a
 Napule nun se po' sta!

A standing ovation. The New Yorkers have heard of this singer and they have braved the elements to see her.

INT. CARNEGIE HALL BACKSTAGE -- EVE

She is in a hurry and it is obvious to everyone that important things are on her mind. She is trying to find her coat and her laptop.

WELL WISHER 1

Venexiana, you have to stay....you could do a third encore! And there is a party in your honor at the Plaza!

VENEXIANA

I know, I know...maybe after next week's. Please try to let everyone know. I feel horrible not going, but they may understand later. I have to get out of here, is the car waiting?

(to an aide)

WELL WISHER 2

Yes, Ms. Macgregor, we can ask them to come next time.

HER AGENT

Your night here is a triumph! You know you were almost sold out and you are sold out next Saturday! And they would like you back for a Christmas Show in November.

VENEXIANA

Kind sir, ye know I am nuts about my studies. There is something going on with my computer program and I have to get to my lab at Penn State. Like NOW. Please have the car up, I have to go to Teterboro. Please call the pilot there and tell him to be ready to fly in an hour and to file a flight plan for State College, Pennsylvania.

HER AGENT

You're going like that...in that dress? You are one strange college student.

VENEXIANA

(to the agent an assembled friends and hangers on)

Yes, I am going just like this. I can change in the plane. Thank ye all for yer kind words, these beautiful flowers but you all know the love of my life is science and meteorology. So please let me

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)
 enjoy my other passion. I'll see ye
 all next Saturday at rehearsal. ye
 were all wonderful this evening.

INT. PIPER AEROSTAR -- EVE

We are in a leased twin-engine Piper Aerostar, 6 passenger low wing plane that has taken off from Teterboro Airport in New Jersey. The plane has been leased to her agent for the singing tour of the U.S. and is headed West to Penn State at State College, Pennsylvania. The Aerostar is ready to begin its approach to the airport. Venexiana has just gotten out her floor length dress and is putting on sneakers, a Penn State Sweatshirt and sticking her hair in a pony tail all the while staring at her laptop in disbelief and sticking wires into the back of the seat that are connected to a variety of external hard drives.

VENEXIANA

Oh no. Stone the crows. Why me? Why now? No one will believe this. Holy shit...holy shit....holy, ungodly shit...this is it...this is it! This is bloody awful.

(holding her hand up to her mouth somewhat startled that she actually can swear)

She obviously can't believe her eyes. Something on that computer is exciting her beyond the pale but at the same time scaring her and putting her into panic mode.

VENEXIANA

(to the PILOT)

How long before touchdown at State College? I have to get to the computer lab! Please call and make certain the driver is meeting me.

PILOT

We will be wheels down in less than 15 minutes, Miss. The car is waiting. I am talking to the airport now for weather. There are sandwiches on the table for ye. Unicom 122.8 UNV, Good evening, this is Aerostar Nancy 387 niner - runway condition please. Is the active 2-7? Winds please, entering marker 5 miles out for 27 straight-in approach if

(MORE)

PILOT (cont'd)
possible to general
aviation? Over.

VENEXIANA
Brilliant!

INTERCUT PILOT WITH STATE COLLEGE AIRPORT

UNV AIRPORT UNICOM
Aerostar Nancy 387 niner, this is
Unicom State College - we are an
uncontrolled airfield - you are
cleared for straight-in approach
runway 2-7 at your discretion.
Winds 17 gusting to 40, from 270,
recent snow removal within 15
minutes, patches remain, elevation
1239, Altimeter 29.7 you are the
last inbound. You may reverse
direction after landing as the
taxiways have not been plowed.
Airport Unicom is closed after this
touchdown. Will you need fuel?
Over.

PILOT
Unicom UNV, Aerostar cleared for
runway 2, 7, winds 17 gusting 40 in
snow altimeter 29.7, now 2 miles
from airport for straight-in
approach. Affirmative on the fuel
please and hangar. Over.

UNV AIRPORT UNICOM
Aerostar, welcome to State College,
enjoy your evening please stop at
the desk inside the hangar. Flight
service will top you off and direct
you to the hangar. You are the last
incoming this evening that is for
sure. Unicom UNV out.

PILOT
Good evening, Aerostar, out.

END INTERCUT

(CONTINUING)

Ms. Macgregor, we are going to
have to go in pretty fast and hot
so we are not blown off the runway
because of the winds. I want power
all the way to touchdown. I've

(MORE)

PILOT (cont'd)
 done this many times but please
 fasten your seat belt. This storm
 is kicking up!

VENEXIANA
 Landing this plane doesn't scare me
 half as much as WHIT I see on this
 laptop!

The plane does come in fast and hot and stops just short of the end of the runway sliding slightly on the snow-covered runway. The pilot revs both engines blowing snow 50 feet in the air. But they made it with 300 feet to spare. Venexiana barely notices, her head buried in the computer and scribbling away on a yellow pad with a HP Scientific hand computer.

INT. PENN STATE DEPT METEOROLOGY NEW WEATHER CENTER -- DAY
 SUPER: SUN, FEB 15 09:05 - Temp -6 SNOW DEPTH: 10"

This is Penn State's brand new weather station with state of the art computer modeling equipment, satellite connections and screen upon screen of graphic displays all spitting out all manner of paper and alerts and connected to NOAA [National Aeronautics and Atmospheric Agency] For a Sunday morning students and faculty holding impromptu seminars on worldwide weather systems as they develop in real time. VENEXIANA MACGREGOR is barely 5 feet tall; slender with unique high-pitched voice that reminds you of a small girl, not a deep-minded scientist. That voice has done her well and with the money she makes as a world-class light opera singer, it has funded her own love of meteorology, her undergraduate education at the University of Reading in the U.K., her own computer programs and her book, "The 1,000-Year Storm" published by the Royal Meteorological Society as a Chartered Meteorologist in the U.K. She's an unusual package.

Zack Farnsworthy, PhD is Venexiana's mentor and is the reason she is at Penn State. Zack read her book, "The 1,000 Year Storm" and enticed her to go get her doctoral degree in meteorology in the U.S. He is supportive and amazed by her insights into weather and weather computer models that she designed in England. He is 45, athletic and has a passion for cars in the 50's, his favorite a 1957 Continental Mark II that he drives every day except in bad weather. He did NOT drive it today. He has more than a passing intellectual interest in his PhD candidate, Venexiana, but she is the whirlwind and he is the locked in ice, college professor. He does not like being called "Dr."

ZACK FARNSWORTHY

Venexiana, you made it back already. You certainly have the staff and me wondering why you think it is so important for us to come in on a Sunday morning. Fortunately, I gave up going to church for Lent. I don't know about the others. I think some have had a rough beginning of the weekend if you ask me.

(Some of the students do look like they have had a rough Saturday night, but to their credit, they heard something was up and here they are)

VENEXIANA

Well, 12 hours and one concert ago, I was in Carnegie Hall. This plane has been a lifesaver. I didn't expect you to get the entire department here on a Sunday morning...still I think they will find it interesting. There is just no way I can do this concert series here in the U.S. and get this degree from ye. What do ye have on the models. I see most of the students are arse over elbow. Hopefully, they can work a little. I have some pretty scary stuff on mine!

ZACK FARNSWORTHY

A storm for sure, but it looks like the freeze line is going to stay inland and spare most of the coast. Just some very heavy rain. The blocking high over Boston moves into the Atlantic and warm wet weather comes up from the South. Rain on the coast and some snow around here. And that is pretty much what NOAA in College Park has too. Only one of their models says anything much different. What does yer magic machine saying...Your book, your 1,000 Year Storm?

VENEXIANA

1,000? I think a thousand year storm will pretty much do the trick. Here is where it gets scary. The center is not some unpopulated farm county in New York State but the epicenter is Central Park! That temp event in Alaska is going to punch the living hell out of us and in particular New York.

Students continue to mill around and with a weather system approaching, weather geeks naturally start making noise. More and more students arrive, both undergrad and grad students and pretty soon the entire place is filled with scientists and wanna-be weather people. They have heard something is up because Zack does not work on Sundays, in fact he barely works at all, and if his Prima Dona from England has something, it could be interesting. Papers are thrust into Zack's hand, computer printouts start pouring out of machines...it's almost exciting and there is a buzz in the lab.

VENEXIANA

Zack, ye have to look at my laptop.
The laptop, not the LAP,
Zack...concentrate!

(Zack is caught doing the goo
goo eyes on Venexiana)

Let's put it up on the display. We have not seen a setup like this since the 1950's...La Nina and a "negative" phase. ye know that means the potential for some very strong episodes and with the record-setting temps coming out of Alaska and Canada. I mean it's -4 degrees in NYC and the ground has been cold for weeks. Ye can skate across the Hudson now, the first time in decades.

ZACK

And the East River, ditto. Well, all you need is a big southerly shift in the Jet Stream to pile a lot of moisture from the Gulf right up the coast to hit those arctic temps that are already comin' at us! Your laptop says that Jet Stream is in process of moving South as we speak...way South and then up the coast like a freight

(MORE)

ZACK (cont'd)

train. That Southern trippin' Jet Stream is the key and it is in the process of goin' South for the Winter? So, why aren't all the other computer programs coming up with the same thing?

VENEXIANA

Because, beeeeeeeeeeebecause those computer programs are weighted to whit has been happening for the last 40 years...La Nino not La Nina and a positive North Atlantic Oscillator not a negative oscillator and, the extratropical cyclone of course. Global warming has put all the computers and most of the guys at NOAA to sleep. I just hope they are not too blinkered.

ZACK

"Blinkered?" Oh, you mean with blinders on. OK, I've read your book...after all that's why you're here and not singing. Let's take your North Atlantic Oscillator and turn it negative, let's plug in the Arctic temps that are currently whacking Canada and now us and let's just say for arguments sake that a high over Canada creates a block so that any system that comes up from the Gulf courtesy of a very low Jet Stream, as you suggest, gets to NYC and stalls...for how many hours, Venexiana...8 hours, ten, 15 hours?

VENEXIANA

...15 hours...no try 72 hours, with that blocking high over Canada and temps below zero and all that moisture from the Gulf...this thing could stall for three days and we better pray it's not four! When I saw this, I mean ye could blow me.

ZACK

"Blow me?"

VENEXIANA

Zack, out of the gutter..it means knock me over with a feather or blow on me and I will fall over...blimey and as rare as rocking horse shite.

(putting in another idiom for good measure and grinning ear to ear)

ZACK

Well, then you will have your 1,000 year storm...if it's four days, your 2,000 year storm. You may be right...we and the models have been lulled into complacency about the climate. Global Warming is the real deal but Mother Nature may have been at the movies lately and forgot. I think we have a problem all right. That Jet Stream does look very, very scary to me too. But who says NOAA is going to see things your way? There are not indicating anything close to what you have. Our models now confirm what you are suggesting and it is scary. Very scary.

VENEXIANA

Well, they have to listen. Let's go to College Park and flog it to them. We have to make them warn Philadelphia and New York. They won't listen to me...but in spite of your work ethic Zack, they WILL listen to ye. I see that we have a week or so before this bugger hits. let's go, we can sleep on the Aerostar. They gassed up last night.

ZACK

Yes, let's do "flog" it to them.

(having a little fun with the difference in language always at Venexiana's expense)

The airport is closed. Nothing is flying into it now. "Flogging could be a problem.

VENEXIANA

Hey ye are a smart bloke, aren't ye? We are not flying in, we are flying OUT. The pilot flew for Alaska Airlines before flying these corporate things...I know he can do it. ye think I'm barking mad, don't ye?

ZACK

You THINK?

EXT. STATE COLLEGE AIRPORT -- DAY

There has been a lull in the snow. The Piper Aerostar Twin is at the end of the runway but the tires have stuck in the snow. The pilot is lurching forward and backward to free itself. It's an uncontrolled field-if he can free the wheels, they can leave if they want.

INT. AEROSTAR COCKPIT -- DAY

SUPER: SUN, FEB 15 17.22 - Temp -2F SNOW DEPTH: 7"

PILOT

The wheels are loose now but there is too much snow to make a shot down this runway. We will never get to lift off speed. The cold weather helps lift but the snow... We will never lift off. I have to snow blow this thing.

ZACK

Snow blow?

PILOT

Here's how it works. This snow is like powder. If I taxi at high RPMs up and down the runway a couple of times I can blow enough of this powder off to take off no sweat for Ronald Reagan Airport which is only 12 miles from College Park. Here we go...

The pilot runs the twin-engine Aerostar down the runway twice using the props to blow the snow, returns to the end of the runway and leaps in the air for Washington and the HQ NOAA in College Park, Maryland,

INT. NOAA - NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
- COLLEGE PARK, MD - DAY

SUPER: MON, FEB 16 10:55 - Temp 11F SNOW DEPTH: 1"

The NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction is located on a new 50-acre section of the University of Maryland's M-Square Research and Technology Park in College Park, MD. It is a brand-new facility. Gathered around a desk with five separate computer screens are Venexiana and DR. GEORGE LETTERMAN who heads NOAA's severe weather forecasting group.

DR GEORGE LETTERMAN

Zack, I have great respect for you and your school. Over a third of the people working in meteorology here in College Park are graduates of Penn State. 25% of all meteorologists worldwide have come through Penn State. But you are here telling me that this little opera-singing Brit has a laptop computer program that is forecasting a 1,000 year snow event for New York City less than ten days from now? Are you serious? We don't have a single model that is accurate to ten days for such an event. I'll say one thing, you guys got my attention and, yes, Venexiana, I have indeed read your book but what you are suggesting is not shaping up. I mean your background is...well...singing?
(dismissive look and manner)

VENEXIANA

Dr. Letterman...I admit that your people here in this magnificent new facility must be doing something more in depth than anything I am doing. But when it comes to analysis of sea ice thickness, snow depth, water equivalent, sea ice growth rates and the u and v components of sea ice velocity coupled with sea ice advection and ocean heat flux, I think that I have something to say about these issues.

DR. LETTERMAN

(interrupting)

With all due respect...

VENEXIANA

(interrupting)

Let me stop ye right there, whenever I hear the phrase "with all due respect" I know one thing is for certain and that is someone is just about to show me NO respect. So knock your phony "with all due respect." Ye may think of me only as a singer. I am more than that. The fact that ye CAN'T sing is not my problem. Ye guys did a great job a few years ago when ye gave the Northeast 5 days notice. It saved lives and property. Your reputation is known to the world. Ye won a Nobel prize for your science and I will never reach whit ye have attained in the field. I am no expert in most weather events, crikey moses, but I know my math, I know my models and I got my Masters in the U.K. and I think when ye see how the numbers are shaping up, ye will have to admit that an opera singer from England just might have something in this tiny, tiny area of meteorology and that your precious "models" are gone up the spout and a sandwich short of a picnic. Now after all that ass kissing on my part, let me say this: I think it will be more like a 2.000 year event and an event like that will gain your "respect."

DR GEORGE LETTERMAN

(feinting being upset)

Oh great, write some kind of book and you're an expert are you? If you are so much of an expert why are you taking courses from Zack? He should be taking them from you, for crikey moses, shouldn't he?

VENEXIANA

(not taking the bait)

OK, very funny, here's the deal. Listen, I'm not cheesed off, but I think this model of mine is telling us something we have to

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)

know. Zack, head of the most prestigious school of meteorology in the world, agrees with me or else he would not be here. We risked our lives coming here from a closed airport and landed in a bonny snowstorm, it was, and if I have to leave this place and use my star power to get the word out I will. I can have CNN and the BBC downstairs in an hour and I will alert the public and you can piss up a wall. Now, Yank, ye have an important decision to make. I suggest ye make that decision very, very carefully.

(as threatening as a woman
5'1" tall can be)

ZACK

(trying to smooth ruffled
feathers)

George, I know, I know but...when you see what is on this laptop of hers and you plug that stuff into your own computers, like we did at State College, you will see that maybe we should be taking at least one class from Venexiana and that class is on major snow events.

DR. LETTERMAN

I see some snow...of course, but what you two are suggesting...

ZACK

(interrupting)

Remember the PC really came from Apple, operating software from some little company called Microsoft, not IBM and copying machines not from the Mimeograph Company but Xerox. Instant photography from Land, not Kodak and Hewlett Packard started in Dave Packard's garage in Palo Alto. This METEOROLOGIST has something you have to look at and in spite of that recent comment of yours. I know you want to see it too or else we wouldn't be standing here, would we? So why don't we knock off the shit and start saving

(MORE)

ZACK (cont'd)
 lives or kick us out of here if we
 are off the mark.

Zack pulls George into a large, vacant, glass-enclosed conference/situation room. It is a high tech wonder with at least seven large plasma screens all showing a variety of weather models. He slams Venexiana's computer and external hard drives down on the table and hooks up to one of the large screen video displays. Venexiana is not invited. Dr. Letterman motions to an assistant. Still, Venexiana can still hear and see what is going on.

DR. LETTERMAN (V.O.)
 Hook the god-damn thing up and
 let's see what they got. Put hers
 in the center display and surround
 with the Advanced Weather
 Interactive Processing System, the
 Situational Awareness Display and
 the WSR-88D the Doppler radars. And
 I want double the number of
 balloons sent up with Radiosondes.
 Find out what is going on at the
 upper levels?

They talk, they drink coffee, they run to other computers and they talk some more. More graphic displays are put up in the conference room. The discussion is heated, very heated and loud. Arguments center on the visual displays. The room is standing room only. No one knows where this is going to end, but they are running a lot of models all of a sudden and more people are brought into the conference room...but again, Venexiana is not invited. After about an hour and everyone is totally drained from the emotion in the room, Dr. Letterman sticks his head out the door and yells at some clerk in front of a video display.

DR. LETTERMAN (V.O.)
 Here's what I need now...I want the
 data load from the Western Arctic
 regional ice chart. I want all the
 stuff from the National Snow and
 Ice Data Center. Get that up on the
 screens from The International Ice
 Charting Working Group in Luleå,
 Sweden, the same data that this
 Venexiana seems to have and we
 don't! I want reports on the ground
 not only in Alaska but Whitehorse,
 Yellowknife and Churchill, Hudson
 Bay...like YESTERDAY! Put up
 everything on the screens side by

(MORE)

DR. LETTERMAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
 side and run the models. I want
 the data we have on the Jet Stream
 updated again and if we see
 anything breaking out of the
 pattern.

(Venexiana just sits quietly
 like a church mouse with the
 knowledge that once the
 numbers are plugged in there
 will be some vindication. She
 could not help but overhear
 various arguments, sometimes
 heated and a hint of a smile
 appears on her face)

DR. LETTERMAN (CONTD VO)
 And get this, I want the ice
 conditions for the Western and
 Eastern Arctic from the
 Meteorological Service of Canada
 and I want that plugged into our
 computers as well.

(There are about seven
 displays in the room. The
 center is label "PENN STATE"
 As more and more of the Arctic
 data is plugged in the more
 they begin to look like PENN
 STATE - Dr. Letterman would
 not label the computer screen
 "Venexiana" at this stage)

DR. LETTERMAN (CONTD VO)
 How the hell can we not have this
 data in our data bank every day if
 it is in this goddamn laptop of an
 opera singer? Venexiana, yeah,
 you heard right, please get in
 here.

(he motions to Venexiana to
 come into the packed
 conference room. Letterman is
 standing next to the video
 displays adjusting the angle)

You just may have saved our ass
 and maybe you are full of crap. We
 are going to find that out RIGHT
 NOW. Anyone else have a
 theory? Maybe Madonna or Kiera
 Knightly has been on the case!
 Venexiana, if you are right we are
 in deep shit. If you are wrong,

(MORE)

DR. LETTERMAN (CONTD VO) (cont'd)
 you better not give up yer night
 job. (yelling at the staff) Stick
 up the numbers! Whaddawegot?
 (Venexiana walks in and sits
 in Dr. Letterman's vacant
 chair pushing his notes to the
 side as if the notes are
 meaningless to the current
 discussion)

VENEXIANA

Quite a posh set of computers ye
 have her Doc...I bet they cost a
 few quid...maybe a billion? I
 think my laptop cost \$3,000 at
 Crazy Franklin.

EXT. MOUNT WEATHER EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER --
 BERRYSVILLE, VA - DAY

SUPER: THURS FEB 19 10:55 - Temp 9F SNOW DEPTH: 4"

FEMA command center, permanent Executive Branch substitute -
 used as the center of operations for the Federal Emergency
 Management Agency (FEMA. Mount Weather is the location of a
 control station for the FEMA National Radio System It is a
 coincidence that the name is "Weather." The place looks
 like a control room for a major television studio.

INT. MOUNT WEATHER EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER RADIO ROOM --
 DAY

The President is speaking. It is now obvious what the
 outcome has been in College Park. Seated near the PRESIDENT
 and the VICE PRESIDENT, Dr. Letterman and Venexiana. All
 look serious and the room is filled with all sorts of
 communication equipment, video, audio, microphones,
 television displays and Secret Service types.

THE PRESIDENT

I am speaking to from the Mount
 Weather Operations Center some 50
 miles from the White House in
 Berryville, Virginia. My reasons
 for addressing you from here will
 be apparent in a moment. I have
 alerted all governmental offices
 both Federal and State to a very
 dangerous winter storm that will be
 soon tracking up the Eastern

(MORE)

THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)
Seaboard with very serious implications for Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and most seriously for the New York City metro area. Thanks for the work of NOAA, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, the Meteorological Service of Canada, FEMA, Penn State University at State College, Pennsylvania and a Scottish meteorologist, Venexiana Macgregor. You may have heard her name associated with things other than weather. Without her work, the work of Penn State and the confirmation work of NOAA, we might not have had a timely warning of this storm. In the snow event of 1976 that crippled much of the Eastern Seaboard that early warning saved lives. This early warning will do the same. DR. LETTERMAN of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.
(pushes the mic over)

Letterman takes the mic and leans into the camera.

DR. LETTERMAN
(Continues)
At the direction of the President, I have spoken with the Governors of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and the mayors of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Hartford, Trenton, Newark and New York City. Weather predicting is mostly science but to an important degree it is an art as well. This region will face, within the next four days a winter storm unlike any that modern man has seen in this populated region of the world. It is approaching very quickly and there is little time to effect an evacuation of the cities. MR. JACK REYNOLDS of FEMA has more detail

LETTERMAN hands the floor to JACK REYNOLDS a no nonsense MIT graduated professional who knows what he's doing. He looks like a cross between Hulk Hogan and the late Carl Sagan and a manner more like General George Patton. He's got a brush cut, a shirt protector with five pens in it and a look that suggests if you cross him you will get one of those pens in your eye.

JACK REYNOLDS

(takes the mic)

Here's the real world. After four days there is a 95% chance that you will be without electricity, heat and you WILL NOT have the ability to obtain food and there will be NO transportation of any kind. All airports will be closed within two and all forms of transportation will come to a halt. No businesses will be open and hospitals could be running under emergency power. Resultantly, I have declared an immediate state of emergency from Petersburg, Virginia north to and including the State of Connecticut. You may not see a snowflake in the sky yet but this is still an emergency. We are not going to react like Katrina and wait for the city to be submerged before we act and before YOU act. Got it? I hope you do!

(His eyes are bulging out of his head. MIT? Maybe he was a drill instructor at Parris Island - but he is getting his point across)

That means that effective immediately all non-essential businesses must close to allow its workers to go to their homes and families so that they might prepare for this storm. There is no time for evacuation out of the storm zone because the storm will affect the entire Eastern Seaboard. In effect, there is no safe venue that you can reach by driving West, North or South. Don't try to go-getting stuck in your car in a blizzard on I-80 with no gas is a bad outcome. Don't go. Outbound flights currently scheduled from

(MORE)

JACK REYNOLDS (cont'd)
 airports East of the Mississippi may fly only if their destinations are West. Tran and Bus scheduled transportation to the West may continue for another 24 hours only. No east bound traffic will be allowed to depart effective immediately. If you are in the West, stay there. All flights to all NYC, Long Island, Philadelphia, Allentown, Hartford, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Westchester County and NJ airports are canceled. If you have an "essential" business such as a supermarket, home supply companies, local transportation companies, medical facilities, transportation workers, police and fire...you people are classified as "essential" and must remain open and on the job until FEMA determines that you should also close for your own safety. No ships may leave ports on the East Coast. Ships at sea are urged to stay at sea to ride out the storm if they cannot dock today. Non-essential workers are not to report to work for a period of at least one week and possibly longer as we deal with this major event. The safest place for you and your families is your own home. Prepare for this very strong winter snowstorm. We think that the American people given ample warning have the intellect and strength to protect themselves and come out of this event unharmed.

CUT TO

INT. SPENCER SECURITIES-NYC -- TUES AFTERNOON

SUPER: THUR, FEB 19 11:30 AM - Temp 13F SNOW DEPTH: 5"

The trading room is in panic. Normally cool "boy wonders" dressed in their braces and ties thrown over their shoulders to look as cool as possible are running around for someone with gray hair to explain what is going on. LOU SULLIVAN is

just one of those "boy wonders" trying his best to look like Gordon Gecko. Unfortunately, he is obese and it doesn't really come off that way. Panic and disbelief is on the trading floor. Outside there are just a few light flurries. Cold yes, storm? What are they talking about? The market is going to get creamed.

LOU SULLIVAN

MILT, MILT what the hell is this?
We're we are shutting down for a
week, maybe more? What the hell is
that? Hit the bids, we're goin'
south. Short the livin' daylights
out of this market, right?

SULLIVAN starts hitting buttons and selling everything he can find, bonds, stocks, funds, you name it. MILT, the senior trader and head of floor operations for Spencer, spends his days acting like an orchestra conductor, telephone headset strapped to his head and Bluetooth on the other ear that doesn't quite fit right. He squeezes a yellow tennis ball just to relieve his constant state of anxiety about everything. He sports a little gray hair, very expensive shoes, watch and a \$500 haircut. He's seen this kind of thing before in 1987 and 2008. He loves the short side and it shows.

MILT-SENIOR TRADER

Are all you jackasses in this room
daft? Of course, short this
market. You get your god damn hands
on the keyboards. We are going to
make a zillion if you can get short
now and fast. GET IT DONE! This
floor is in lock-down and nobody
leaves until we are out of every
long trade and net short by at
least \$200,000,000 now get it
done. Liquid stocks-short, got it?
Upticks? I don't care. And what
the hell are you doing SULLIVAN?
Don't listen to me like you are
some rock concert or a Weight
Watchers meeting, get on the god
damn keyboard and make Spencer some
money!

(throwing the tennis ball at
Sullivan barely missing him
but hitting a carafe of coffee
and sending it flying)

I want Spencer to be zero long and
net short at least \$200 million.
Get it done folks. Sorry about just

(MORE)

MILT-SENIOR TRADER (cont'd)
missing you with the tennis ball
Sullivan...I WANTED to hit you with
it.

CUT TO

INT. MOUNT WEATHER EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER RADIO ROOM --
DAY

THE PRESIDENT

This storm will bring with it snow in excess of 50 inches, very strong winds up to 75 MPH. Tornadoes may occur in some places and very, very cold temperatures, well below the current 7-8 degrees we have been experiencing over the last couple of weeks. Low temperatures could reach as low as 20 below zero as this Arctic air hits the East Coast and plants itself. That coupled with an equally fast stream of moisture from the Gulf and offshore Atlantic Ocean will mean a massive snowfall. If that high over Canada stays where it is, snow could continue for days. Your home is your safest place. Get there. Stay there. Leave work now and take care of your family. Pick up any elderly members of your family and bring them close to you in your home. Spend the next two days acquiring flashlights, candles, enough food for a week and fill your cars with gasoline and order fuel oil for your home only if you are low. MR. JACK REYNOLDS, Director of FEMA has additional directives he wishes to make. I urge you to listen.

JACK REYNOLDS

Thank you Mr. President. You picked me to revamp FEMA from the ground up and that is what we have done. People are going to die. You are going to lose property. This snowstorm holds more punch by a factor of 100 than Katrina because it is spread over the entire Eastern Seaboard and its

(MORE)

JACK REYNOLDS (cont'd)

hardest punch will come in the places least able to function well in snow, our heavily populated major cities and in particular New York. Here is what we want you to do. We have enlisted the entire call center facilities of the IRS to field telephone calls regarding these orders. By the way, the President has authorized me to announce that Federal and State Taxes will be due two months later for all residents east of the Mississippi on June 15th. The last thing we want you to do this week is your taxes. Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, Securities markets in the United States are to effect no trades as of this second. Any short sales of any securities that were placed in effect since the beginning of this announcement are rescinded and null and void. No short sales of any securities may take place on U.S. markets for a period of three months. Foreign institutions that effect short sales will not have securities delivered to them from U.S. entities if they are determined to contravene this directive.

INT. SPENCER SECURITIES NYC - DAY

MILT-SENIOR TRADER

(Staring at his multiple screens, one of which has the TV coverage of the announcement-mumbling to himself)

Since when does government know what it's doing? God damn it...I hate this administration.

(now yelling)

The short trades do not exist. The Feds have whacked us good. The positions will not be delivered. Our net short position of, what do we have now \$77 million is down the drain. Go

(MORE)

MILT-SENIOR TRADER (cont'd)

home. That's it. Damn. Damn.
Damn.

The tennis ball does not go at Sullivan's head this time but at the Plasma screen suspended from the ceiling above Sullivan's desk. He hits his mark this time and the screen changes from Bloomberg Financial Network to Martha Stewart Living, dims and goes blank. A delayed reaction and the plasma screen shatters with a small puff of smoke coming out of the rear of it. The glass does end up on Sullivan's desk. Martha Stewart's voice continues about the joys of re-potting cactus without stabbing oneself.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WEATHER MOUNTAIN-LATER

THE PRESIDENT

I want the MAYOR OF NEW YORK, GENE
ALTEC to further expand on our
plans. MR. MAYOR.

The MAYOR slides over and takes center stage. He just arrived aboard Marine Two from Andrews Air Force Base and is all business. GENE ALTEC, won the 2009 mayoralty race and holds office until 2013. He beat out the incumbent and a prominent actor in that race. He was a Marine who was captured in Afghanistan. He managed to escape and take with him 3 women who were slated to be tortured by the Taliban for various infractions. He has adopted the management style of Rudolph Giuliani whom he admires as a role model for a city mayor.

MAYOR ALTEC

Thank you Mr. President for sending Marine Two to pick me up-I happened to be on Capitol Hill this morning. That's quite a machine. If you have a retail store that sells consumer items such as candles, home products, fire logs, food, gasoline etc. please stay open and to ration those items in a common sense manner. We urge you to stay open only another 24 hours straight to accommodate the needs of your community. After 24 hours you will likely be under the same restrictions as the general population. See the FEMA site for detail, Residents in lower floors

(MORE)

MAYOR ALTEC (cont'd)

of apartment buildings are urged to take advantage of the hospitality of those on higher floors. Those on higher floors please offer that hospitality. Stay with them...be good guests, be generous hosts. Search out older citizens in your community and safeguard them any way you can. Determine public buildings that are best able to provide protection, heat and food and notify the public as to access. We want no one on the street, no one driving, no one at work, no one at play and no one thinking this is some joke.

THE PRESIDENT

This government is intent on keeping the loss of life and property to a minimum. There will be deaths...even one is too many but don't let it be yours or your neighbor's. We want police and fire stations manned at 100%. All able-bodied retired police, fire and military please report to any place that you think may make sense to you. Police and fire departments have the authority to commandeer 4-wheel drive vehicles for use during this emergency - compensation will be paid to the owners at some point in the future. Utility crews will be overloaded and will have priority on all highways. If you live next door to a utility worker, a supermarket employee, a road crew member, a police or fireman, an EMT worker, help his or her family out. Any person driving a non-essential vehicle in the no-drive period will be arrested and their vehicle seized without compensation on the spot.

JACK REYNOLDS

(taking over)

Any acts of violence, robbery or looting will be met with one warning and the possibility of

(MORE)

JACK REYNOLDS (cont'd)
immediate lethal force by the police, National Guard and the U.S. military. We will maintain absolute public order and deal harshly with those who try to take advantage of their neighbor's misery. IF YOU LOOT, WE SHOOT. Directors of public transportation are urged to continue service as long as safety permits. At some point, public transportation will cease to move. That includes, buses, trains, air traffic, subways. We want no one on public transportation at that point. As of this moment, no flights to the east coast may leave anywhere in the United States or any international airport if the arrival airport is East of the Mississippi excepting aircraft currently aloft. The National Guards in the various states have been called up and must report to their facilities immediately. Anyone needing an emergency fuel oil delivery can call their supplier. The President has declared a State of Emergency from this moment. Emergency powers are now in place. Government employees must think out of the box and determine how to best make things work. I want the public to take in people who are stranded, look cold or hungry. It will save lives. We are going to lose lives in this snow event...we know it and now you know it. We are going to lose property and the potential for unusual events is likely.

INT. INDEPENDENCE HALL-PHILADELPHIA -DAY

Tourists are being booted out. Guards are taking the President's warnings seriously and the people are grumbling not knowing the full extent of the impending storm. Some are reluctant to leave and some are demanding a refund of their fees. The guards will hear none of it and they are intent on moving everyone out. A GUARD is shooin patrons out the door. A "closed" sign goes on the door.

GUARD 1

(shooing patrons out the door)
 Because of an impending snow storm
 we must clear the Hall. Everyone
 out please. Keep your ticket stubs
 for a future entrance to the
 Hall. Please move to the exit.

GUARD 2

(Trying to explain to a
 patron)
 Now you know as much as me. All
 government facilities are closing
 early and that includes us.

EXT. WALL STREET AREA-DAY

Wall Street's great communications got the word out and people did not wait for their bosses to tell them to go home. They left. Wall Streeters know when to leave after the events of 9-11. The North wind is bringing snow but it is a dry powder. The wind is starting to pile up some snowdrifts around the New York Stock Exchange and Federal Hall. Wind comes down Wall Street from Trinity Church like a tornado blowing snow 40 feet in the air around Federal Hall and the NYSE. The workers are managing and buses are coping fairly well on Broadway. The subways look like rush hour. Employees are going home. The Coast Guard has kept a channel open in the frozen harbor for the Staten Island Ferry. ferry comes in and has a rough time of it. The Captain has not anticipated the winds. He is too fast using power to keep his ship under control with the winds. It is no use. The ferry starts slipping sideways. The bow thrusters are overcome by the wind, high speed of the approach and the ice. The ferry swings around and hits the pilings sideways with such force that the pilings engage the side of the ship and nearly cut the ship in half. It stops dead in its tracks. It is the single worst loss of life in the storm. Downtown NYC has turned into a major mess with EMT, Police and Fire all responding.

EXT. NYC MIDTOWN-DAY

A busier traffic situation in Midtown exists. Some buses won't be pulled off the line until there are 12 inches. So far the plows have kept most of the avenues passable. The numbered streets are beginning to look a little tough for the cabs. The theater district, Lincoln Center is dark. The Port Authority Bus Terminal is jammed. So too,

Penn Station and Grand Central, but they are coping and trains are getting out to Westchester, Long Island and New Jersey. The airports are taking their last incoming flights. It is getting harder to keep ahead of the snow and the runways will soon be impossible. The ferries crossing the Hudson have not been running for a week with the Hudson River frozen solid.

The scene is being repeated all over the Eastern seaboard. In New York the skyscrapers are emptying early and no one is trying to impress anyone by working late this day. The word is out and they are leaving.

INT. CONTINENTAL AIRLINES CONTROL TOWER-NEWARK AIRPORT-NIGHT

High above the taxiways and runways, the Continental Airlines and International Control Tower above Terminal Three is taking in the last few international flights inward from Europe. New flights to the East coast have been canceled. It is a tall, glass enclosed tower with 40 computer desks manned by controllers responsible for the efficient running of this, Continental's most important hub.

CONTINENTAL CONTROLLER

(to incoming flight)

Good evening, Continental 14 heavy, you are cleared 22R, drop to 8,000 how was your flight from Dublin, sir? Over.

CONTINENTAL PILOT

Continental 14 Heavy, roger, cleared for 22R now to 8,000. Turbulence moderate to severe from Gander south and I have never seen so many icebergs in the North Atlantic. Nothing much is melting in the ocean yet. Now I know what the Titanic was facing. Over.

CONTINENTAL CONTROLLER

Continental 14, you are the last in sir. After you there is nothing for a week. Maintain heading for straight in approach 2-2 right. Over.

CONTINENTAL PILOT

I can see the setup for this storm on my weather radar. That Jet Stream is going to hit this place like a ton of bricks and carry with

(MORE)

CONTINENTAL PILOT (cont'd)
 it half of the Gulf of Mexico by
 the looks of it from what we hear
 and with this cold air...well,
 forget it. Continental 14 heavy,
 out.

EXT . "K" STREET-DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON DC- DAY

It is no different in the Capitol. K Street is leaving early, buses are filled and taxis scarce. Everyone coming out and no one going in. This will be a ghost town soon.

EXT. THE CAPITOL MALL-LINCOLN MEMORIAL -DAY

SUPER: THUR, FEB 19 5:00PM - Local Temp 11F SNOW DEPTH: 5"
 Wind 15 gusting to 20 from 275 degrees

The sun will set in 45 minutes but the view from the Lincoln Memorial is still magical; so too from the George Washington Monument. The setting sun is framing the White House as Marine One from Weather Mountain lands on the snow covered White House Lawn. The President's wife runs out to the helicopter returning from Weather Mountain and it takes off leaving the White House in the setting sun. All over the Mall area government workers are leaving for the day and an uncertain week ahead. It's all very orderly...for now.

EXT. LOWES HOME STORE-2ND AVE-BROOKLYN NY -- NIGHT

SUPER: THUR, FEB 19 7:18PM - Local Temp 9F SNOW DEPTH: 5"
 Wind 15 gusting to 25 from 290 degrees

All of a sudden the place is mobbed with shoppers buying batteries, snow shovels, salt, kerosene heaters, electric heaters, ice picks for the sidewalks, duct tape, submersible water pumps, trouble lights, extension cords, gasoline and kerosene cans, mops you name it.

INT. LOWES HOME STORE- BROOKLYN-CHECKOUT STAND -- NIGHT

Mob scene and long lines with customers checking out plywood for windows, shovels, salt, pumps and flashlights.

MANAGER-LOWES
 Sir, may I ask you what you are
 going to do with 100 batteries?

CUSTOMER 1

Batteries, well for the snowstorm.
Why do you care?

MANAGER-LOWES

I care because there are 50 people
in back of you that need batteries
too and if I let everyone like you
take a 100 of them, we will run out
and some will not be able to get
any. You can have eight. That's
it.

CUSTOMER 1

Eight...screw you, I want all of
these
(grasping more than he can
hold)

MANAGER-LOWES

OK, have it your way. Now you are
leaving the store. Next.
(The manager exudes an unusual
confidence. The rude customer
senses that this might not be
the argument in which to place
one's flag and meekly decides
to retreat with NO batteries)

EXT. HESS GAS STATION-RT 22W-BRIDGewater, NJ -- EVE

Lines are forming to fill up on gas. It looks like 1973 all
over again with 20 cars in each line for each of six sets of
pumps. Except for the diesel pump. There is only one car
there. Sometimes it pays to have the odd fuel.

FUEL CUSTOMER

(to station attendant)
Nah, I'll pump it myself, I'm just
about done. You look pretty
busy. I love my diesel on days
like this-all those gas cars
waiting in line, but not me. I zip
right up. Hey, here's your thirty
bucks. And NJ doesn't allow you to
pump your own gas.

INT. 225 S. FIFTH ST - BROOKLYN -- EVE

This is a working class two-story home just off Ocean Parkway. It is well maintained and has a nice porch on the front. All the homes on the block are about 70 years old but S. Fifth is still a nice tree-lined street and the home of BARBARA AND BILL DORIC. Both are in their early 40's and have twin boys about 4. They are home as well. BILL works at Home Depot in Brooklyn and is getting ready to go to work as a kitchen designer and BARBARA sells real estate. She picked up the boys early from the day care center after hearing about the weather alert from the President. They have just heard a replay of the President's speech from Weather Mountain on CNN.

BARBARA DORIC

[concerned...maybe even frightened]

Bill, what do you think of that?
The more I hear of this thing the
more scared I get.

BILL DORIC

I am not used to a President
telling the truth...but I think
this could be very, very rough and
with two kids we can't just sit
back and wait to see what happens
when we have been told point blank
that this storm is going to be a
living hell. I stopped by the store
and loaded up with batteries,
shovels, salt. I went out and I
picked up these blankets and some
warm hats and more gloves. The food
store was starting to get busy so I
got enough stuff for the week.

Bill hands Barbara the remote

BILL

[continuing]

See what the other channels are
saying. Look, almost everything at
Kings Plaza is shut - no one is
going to need a tux or new
underwear for the next week or so
by the looks of it. A couple of
guys were in such a rush to get
home after the President talked
that they crashed into each other
in the parking garage. Their cars

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)
 look pretty messed up. Pretty
 funny actually.

The President's speech is all over the television and Barbara is getting more and more upset by the minute. The two boys want there cartoon show back. Bill comes back into the living room, cell phone in his hand.

BILL
 BILL (CONT'D)

[trying to be calm vs. Barbara's hyper state of anxiety]The store wants everyone in for the next 24 hours. I'm not going to be doing any kitchen design there but they think there will be a run on the store for supplies and I have to help. That puts us in a pickle doesn't it?

BARBARA
 [very upset]Yes Bill, but the word "pickle" doesn't exactly come to mind. What comes to mind is that Home Depot wants to sell some more crap even if your family freezes to death right here on Fifth. We have two little boys here.

BILL
 The President wanted all those dealing with items useful to the public in this emergency to work for 24 hours and then quit. We have 48 hours before things get bad. I have to do it.

BARBARA
 [angry...steaming] I don't recall the Speaker of the House calling you. Nor do I recall the Vice President dropping by or giving you a buzz and I sure as hell doubt very, very much if the President called you on your cell phone and asked, "Gee, Bill if it's not too much to ask, would you mind putting your family in harm's way so Home Depot can sell another gross of snow shovels." No, Bill, I don't recall that phone call.

BILL

OK, here's the plan. I can't help anyone but us because of Home Depot. But you have two brothers and I have one able-bodied sister able to pitch in and help over the next day. Take the boys to your Mom's. Coordinate with her which of your brothers is going to take responsibility for her house. I will make up a list with you of all the stuff we need and you will have to get it and organize it. We should board up the West facing windows on the lower level to protect them from snow and ice. Please knock off the drama and get to work.

Hold on the family for a moment, the conversations go on but we can't hear it...then...the unmistakable sound of helicopter rotor blades.

EXT. BACK TO MARINE ONE OVER THE WHITE HOUSE -- DAY

We are trailing Marine One. From the ground there are three Marine Ones in the air. Two are decoys and they play hopscotch with each other so no one knows which one the President is in. The president, Zack, Venexiana, Dr. Letterman and VICE PRESIDENT RACE BAINS are on board. It is beginning to snow and snow hard. Marine One lands on the White House snow-covered lawn and the First Lady runs out to the chopper and climbs on board. It takes off again and Marine One makes a sharp turn to the Southeast towards Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland 15 miles away.

INT. MARINE ONE -- DAY

THE PRESIDENT

Guys, I am not going to sit here in Washington twiddling my thumbs when we all know the main target of this storm is New York City. Thanks for coming with me and being part of the emergency response. I want the First Lady to be able to talk to the people too during this storm and I want to be where the action is, see it for myself and be able to react to it. All the communications that we will need

(MORE)

THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)

are already set up in New York. This government is going to get ahead of this situation as best we can. There's Air Force One ready to take us to Newark. Marine One will follow.

Venexiana, Zack, and Dr. Letterman look at each other in disbelief. Is this a government that is actually trying to work in advance of crisis? And here they are in Marine One. The look at each other in disbelief.

VENEXIANA

[determined]Mr. President, I think you have it sorted and we are here to give ye the best we can.

Zack, Dr. Letterman nod in agreement and all shake the President's outstretched hand. Marine One lands and everyone piles into Air Force One. Air Force One takes off in what is the beginnings of a snowstorm.

THE PRESIDENT

[smiling]I hope I have it "sorted." You have an hour to EWR touchdown. Air Force One is serving you lunch and after that try to get a catnap...you won't be sleeping much in the next two days. Feel free to steal the napkins.

The President turns toward the cockpit and fires an instruction

Captain, after you drop us off use your discretion to get this plane out of harm's way. If that means St. Louis, take her there. I have everything I need on the ground in New York. This plane is too important and too expensive to risk in this storm. Got it?

CAPTAIN OF AIR FORCE ONE

Aye sir, protect the property.

Air Force One stewards serve lunch on the plane. Not unlike any other beginning storm, light at first with some bursts of heavy snow. The temperature outside had dropped to a chilling 9 degrees. It has been freezing for a month and a half and the ground is frozen. The snow is sticking on the ground and highways.

THE PRESIDENT

[to the Vice President], RACE what are we hearing from NOAA now and from down South?

VICE PRESIDENT RACE BURROWS

Vice President Burrows is 70 years old, slender, drives a Kawasaki 750 CC motorcycle that he has had for over 30 years and drives the Secret Service mad with his jaunts into the Maryland countryside. He runs almost five miles a day and looks 45. He is a graduate of Annapolis and went into the Marine Corps and ended up as head of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He is well liked.

Mr. President, NOAA continues to confirm the storm track identified by Venexiana and Dr. Letterman. A lot of moisture, and they are saying a LOT, is coming up the coast carried by that maverick Jet Stream. Temperatures are falling like a son-of-a-bitch across the region-we now have 7 degrees in Washington, 10 degrees in Richmond and 15 degrees as far South as Atlanta in snow. Tampa is at 27 degrees and is seeing sleet. The panhandle of Florida already has 6 inches on the ground! Zack, when has Florida seen snow?

ZACK

Mr. Vice President,

VICE PRESIDENT RACE BURROWS

(Interrupting)

It's Race, Zack. Keep it simple, Marine. I think you were in the Corps?

ZACK

Sir, Yes Sir!

(imitating a typical response of a Marine recruit to a drill instructor)

(continuing.)

And through MCRD-San Diego, Platoon 151

RACE BURROWS-VP

Ah, a "Hollywood" Marine. Well, I hope we weren't too rough on you back then.

ZACK

Sir, you were VERY rough on me but you got rid of my baby fat pretty fast. Florida? it hasn't seen that kind of snow event since 1977. This time around the temp there will go to 19 with six inches of snow. You can forget about the orange crop this year! In 1989 Miami had its first White Christmas. In 1996 there was about four inches in the Panhandle and every ten years or so, Northern Florida might get a quick dusting of snow. But we have Ocean Effect Snow now in Florida.

Venexiana, ZACK and Dr. Letterman are taking the president up on the catnap. Air Force One barely reached cruising altitude of 35,000 feet before the pilot announces that they are beginning their descent into EWR. The president is on the phone...so too the VP

CUT TO;

EXT. NEWARK INTERNATIONAL RUNWAY 22 -- DAY

SUPER: THUR, FEB 18 5:18PM - Local Temp 6F SNOW DEPTH: 6"
Wind 20 gusting to 30 from 180 degrees

Air Force One has swung around EWR and heading south to land into the wind on Runway 22L. The 747 touches down and the plane stirs up a plume of snow. The plane taxis to a remote section of the airfield where all manner of vehicles, black Chevy Suburbans and a variety of Port Authority Police and N.J. State Troopers position themselves around the aircraft. No presidential limo has been delivered because it is useless in snow. Everyone departs the plane and the Chevy Suburbans leave for Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn, the location of the NYC Office of Emergency Management. No aircraft are taking off. An Aer Lingus flight from Dublin and a Lufthansa 777 from Frankfurt land on 22R. Traffic getting out of New York is bumper to bumper. The NJ Turnpike is the same. People are on the move while they can. The President's motorcade zips into the Holland Tunnel, across Canal Street and across the Brooklyn Bridge which is having the beginning of traffic problems with disabled cars.

INT. NOAA-COLLEGE PARK, MD -- NIGHT

The offices, normally closed at this hour, are a beehive of activity. Computers and large video screens have workers and scientists of all sorts discussing the various computer-generated storm tracks. It is obvious to all these this is no ordinary day in the lives of these meteorologists.

BRAD-METEOROLOGIST

Jamie, (to another meteorologist)
this track looks like absolute
shit. If this continues not only
will Dr. Letterman be right but
Venexiana will certainly have her
1,000 year storm...maybe a 2,000
year storm. The ground is so cold
that all this moisture coming up
from the Gulf will make it to snow
and that snow will not melt.

JAMIE-METEOROLOGIST 2

Look at these temps in Florida! I
have never seen anything like
this...19 degrees and falling in
Tampa? It is snowing and snowing
hard! The Coast Guard has its hands
full in the Gulf. A work boat is
missing with 11 crew members. The
Coast Guard has these assets on the
move:• Four HH-65C Dolphin rescue
helicopters and crews
• Two 87-foot patrol boats and
crews
• A 41-foot utility boat and
crew
• An HU-144A Ocean Sentry plane
and crew
• An HU-25 Falcon jet and crew

The pilot of the Falcon Jet is on
5675 and would like you input as to
weather outlook. They are getting
blown around pretty good.

BRAD-METEOROLOGIST

Have Miller talk to the pilot, she
has the latest for the Gulf. This
will pass over Florida pretty fast.
Good news for them. This storm is
picking up speed and will slam into
Kiawah Island and Charleston next
and they are going to get at least

(MORE)

BRAD-METEOROLOGIST (cont'd)
 8 inches of snow and the temps
 there are lower than Tampa. We are
 seeing low double digits F right
 now and massive moisture in this
 system. This is not looking good.
 The President? Of course.

(Brad is handed the phone. He
 has been expecting a call from
 Dr. Letterman and is not
 surprised that it is the
 President calling)

BRAD-METEOROLOGIST
 (CONTINUING)

Mr. President there is no change in
 the models. Only one is suggesting
 that this may take a track out over
 the Atlantic and miss moving up the
 coast. That is a very, very
 doubtful model. We all think that
 Dr. Letterman and ZACK are correct
 in their concern. You are right in
 preparing for the worst because we
 do now expect the worst. Please
 tell Venexiana, ..."this does look
 like your storm now. I hope they
 don't name it after you!"

THE PRESIDENT
 I'll tell her...and the worst is?

BRAD-METEOROLOGIST
 We are getting a very, very strong
 negative North Atlantic
 Oscillator. We classify winter
 storms as "Notable, significant,
 major, crippling and extreme." We
 now classify this storm as Major in
 Florida, Major in Charleston
 Crippling in the Outer Banks of
 North Carolina, Extreme in Virginia
 and Washington, DC and off the
 charts in Philadelphia and New York
 City. Boston will escape entirely
 because it is blocking and holding
 the weather system in place at New
 York. The Red Sox revenge.

THE PRESIDENT
 Brad, get this done. Somehow,
 arrange with Reynolds at FEMA to
 get trains out of NYC and to

(MORE)

THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)
Boston. I want TV announcements that anyone who thinks they cannot handle the storm in NYC that we will get them to Boston. I want Interstate 95 to go NORTHBOUND from NYC both sets of lanes. Get it done. Brad, we are going into the OEM here in Brooklyn. Either me or Vice President Burrows will be back to you. You will take the call?

BRAD

Take the call, Mr. President...I should think so.

THE PRESIDENT

Great...do me a favor...cancel any dentist appointment you might have there...I need you in front of those computers for the next two days. Get some food in there for everyone.

The black Suburbans roll up to Cadman Plaza and the President, the First Lady, Dr. Letterman, Mayor ALTEC, ZACK and Venexiana arrive at the OEM and are greeted by the Mayor of New York who was out of the cars first.

INT. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MGT-NYC -- NIGHT

SUPER: THUR, FEB 19 6.22PM - Local Temp 5F SNOW DEPTH: 6"
Wind 20 gusting to 30 from 190 degrees

MAYOR ALTEC

Mr. President. This is our Office of Emergency Management funded to a great extent after the attack by those swine on 9-11. I can't tell you how pleased we are that you are taking such a direct hand in this. The City will has put in place different kinds of public messaging, including email, text messaging and telephone to get the word, your word, out to the people. We had nearly 27 inches in February, 2006 and we had no serious injuries. We had learned some important lessons from previous storms like the President's Day Storm of 2003 and

(MORE)

MAYOR ALTEC (cont'd)
 even the Blizzard of 1947. One thing about New York...we learn. I am leaving for the Staten Island Ferry accident. I think we lost 60 people in the water and in the impact. Fortunately, another departing ferry rescued immediately

THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Mayor this is shaping up to eclipse Katrina by factor of 100 but the results can be managed. Katrina was an unmanaged response. You heard the reports in Air Force One coming up. It is an event of major proportion from Virginia to Cadman Plaza and we are not going to have a Katrina non-response if I can help it.

VENEXIANA

Your address to the nation from Mount Weather has already had good effect, Mr. President. It shows that the government is not asleep at the switch and that ye did deploy assets quickly. We have emptied our skyscrapers, evacuated at risk areas of New York, eliminated all traffic and parking on snow emergency routes, identified shelters with emergency power as rescue facilities and have our hospitals on full alert. We have acquired 1000 4-wheel drive SUV's from our own citizens for the police and rescue workers. Can ye fill the responders in this facility on what we can expect so that they can make more informed judgments going forward?

THE PRESIDENT

Mayor Altec I think that Venexiana here can best fill us in on your studies about the 1,000 year storm and your communication with College Park.

VENEXIANA

We have to do more. Stone the crows, I mean it is imperative that
 (MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)

people stay in their houses and not venture out in the weather. If they go out they will die. If there is no heat in their homes they can survive these temps if bundled up. They will not survive outside or if they get in their cars. Even if they lost electricity, which will surely be the case, they CANNOT go outside and they cannot try to use their cars. If they do, they will likely die. As it is, if our actions were perfect, I predict that 1,000 will die...maybe 2,000 and over half of them will be in the City.

MAYOR ALTEC

2,000? Good God! Why New York?

DR. LETTERMAN

Well, maybe not such a "Good God." It's called the New York bight. Storms, hurricanes usually, come up the coast and slam into the "L" that makes up Sandy Hook, New Jersey and Manhattan. Long Island is on a direct Easterly track and the storms bunch up in the crook of that L and then let loose their worst or stall and dump inch after inch of rain or in this case snow.

MAYOR ALTEC

How much snow are we talking about? We had about 26 inches in '93 and going back to 1888 about 22.

VENEXIANA

Here is the problem...very cold temps-we are nearly at zero here. And a lot...I mean a stonking lot of moisture coming up from the Gulf carried by a low Jet Stream that usually does not make a turn this far South. A real bugger it is. That Jet Stream is sucking up all the moisture available in the Gulf, and it is a lot, and FedExing all of it to Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and finally

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)
 New York where a Boston High blocks
 it from moving any further North
 and stalls it right over Times
 Square. ye are going to see
 upwards of 75 inches and Bob's your
 uncle.

THE PRESIDENT
 Bob's your uncle?

VENEXIANA
 I mean "and that's it." Sorry, Mr.
 President.

THE PRESIDENT
 Is that the worst case? 75 inches!

ZACK
 The worst case? It's right
 here. Take a look. Dr. Letterman,
 please take a look too.

ZACK pushes Venexiana's laptop over for all to see. On the
 screen are projections for New York. They can't believe
 their eyes.

THE PRESIDENT
 105 inches? George...is this in
 any way confirmed by the computers
 in College Park? We were just
 talking to Brad...

MAYOR ALTEC
 Mr. President, he's on the screen,
 you can ask him yourself.

THE PRESIDENT
 Brad, say it isn't so. 105 inches?

BRAD
 Mr. President, I have to say that
 our computers now agree with
 Venexiana's. We now predict with a
 small margin of error an event that
 will leave Washington with 34
 inches, Baltimore with 39,
 Philadelphia with 58 and New York
 City with 75 and our upper limit is
 105 inches because of the bight
 effect and the stalled low over New
 York dumping snow for as long as
 3-4 days

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC -- DAY

SUPER: FRI, FEB 20 8:22AM - Local Temp 2F SNOW DEPTH: 15"
Wind 222 gusting to 31 from 195 degrees

Temps continued to drop during the night and the Capitol is beginning to look like a winter wonderland. All non-essential government workers did not come into Washington and most private companies have closed. The president's message from Weather Mountain seems had good effect. The snow continues to come down and the Metro is still operating taking passengers to the suburbs. Police here too, have acquired SUV's but soon, even those vehicles will have a hard time making any headway. Plows are operating but are running out of places to put the snow. Some snow is being loaded into dump trucks and taken to the Potomac to be dumped in the river, but the river is starting to freeze. The buses have stopped running. Airports are closed. There is some traffic on the Interstates but less and less every hour.

INT. NBC-4 TELEVISION STUDIO-WASHINGTON -- DAY

Washington's NBC affiliate is broadcasting only one story. The storm. Their weather anchor TIM KIERNAN is in front of the camera and his weather map.

TIM KIERNAN

You all heard the president and his address from Weather Mountain. Well, Weather Mountain doesn't have much to do with weather actually, but it does have a lot to do with the Emergency Broadcast System and he made good use of it today scaring the living daylights out of us. And that is maybe just what we needed. Office buildings and businesses up and down the Eastern seaboard from Virginia to Hartford have sent their employees home so that they may prepare for what our friends at NOAA in College Park are now calling a 1,000 year storm ironically just as a British singer, Venexiana Macgregor predicted in her book, The 1,000 Year Storm. She is with the President in New York City in the emergency HQ for New York along with Zack Farnsworthy of Penn States Department of Meteorology

(MORE)

TIM KIERNAN (cont'd)
and George Letterman of NOAA. They
are now predicting as much as 100
inches of snow in New York! You
heard me right...100.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE ELECTRONIC WEATHER MAP

Kienan starts explaining the nuances of the weather system
when he is interrupted

CUT TO:

THE NEWS ANCHOR DESK

SALLY BROGAN-NEWS ANCHOR
Tim, we have video of some
disturbing activity taking
place this instant here in
Washington. Police have
cornered six young men who
apparently have tried to take
advantage of the situation and
broken into an electronics
store. According to police
there were at least 45-70
marauding men breaking into
any store that look closed and
starting taking plasma screen
TVs, cell phones, DVD
players. After ignoring
warnings from the police and
seeing another group of
perhaps 50 more, the police
shot and injured three of the
men, Tasered another 15 and
the others decided the police
were serious and ran from the
scene. Here we see four of
the suspects in custody.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL PARK -- DAY

SUPER: FRI, FEB 20 9:15AM - Local Temp 1F SNOW DEPTH: 11"
Wind 15 gusting to 35 from 340 degrees

The parents may have taken the day off but so too have the
kids. The snow is making Central Park something out of a

Currier & Ives painting. If it wasn't so cold these kids and their snow saucers flying down the hills would be having the time of their life. But because of the warnings about the extreme temperature most parents are keeping their kids inside or closely monitoring how cold they are getting. Still at this point in the storm it is more fun than fright. Wind chill is a real concern and NYC seems to be getting hit by a storm from both the North and the South.

EXT. MADISON AVE -- DAY

Subways are running but the buses are starting to have problems with the snow. It is falling at about an inch and a half an hour and the plows are having the same problems as they were having a few hours ago in Washington. Where to put the snow? There used to be a lot of piers and vacant lots where snow could be dumped but now it's into the East River or the Hudson. Most of those piers are gone and it is getting impossible to get the dump trucks to efficiently get to their dump locations. Still there are some and there is a conveyor line of sorts with trucks heading for the rivers to dump their loads. The Hudson River which has only frozen three times since 1720 is now frozen solid as a brick. The ferries stopped running last week because of the ice in the Hudson. The East River froze last week and today people are ice skating on it.

EXT. FDR HIGHWAY/BROOKLYN BRIDGE -- DAY

Flying over the city there is no let up. It is 8 PM and snow continues to fall. It has been a steady 1 1/2 inches an hour since 11 in the morning and there is no letup in sight. Measurements at Central Park show a total accumulation of 13 inches since this morning. Plows have given up using salt because they just have plow it away again in two hours. The West Side Highway has shut down with cars unable to move as they attempt to gain entrance to the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels. Entrances to both tunnels are now blocked with cars unable to move. The same is true with the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. A mess. Traffic on the East River bridge crossings are now at a complete standstill with cars unable to move on the Brooklyn side. Drivers are leaving their cars on the bridges and walking to get off the bridges which are experiencing winds that gust to 50-60 MPH. The snow load on the Brooklyn Bridge is so severe coupled with the weight of cars stranded on the roadway that the bridge is developing an odd canter to one side.

INT. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MGT-NYC -- DAY

Another beehive of activity. The Mayor and his deputies are talking on phones and via video displays as are the President, the First Lady and Vice-President. Dr. Letterman, Zack and Venexiana are in front of video displays talking to NOAA at College PARK. Traffic outside Cadman Plaza is at a standstill. No one can get in and no one can leave. Drifts have reached halfway over the first floor doorways.

MAYOR ALTEC

(on the phone)

Then get everyone off the bridge. Get as many tow trucks to that bridge as possible and get the weight off it. Throw the cars into the East River. I want that bridge saved. And close all the other bridges immediately and get all the parked and disabled cars off. I don't care how you do it. Anyone who stands in your way, arrest them.

VENEXIANA

Mr. President, the storm hasn't even thrown a wobbler at us yet. What we have is just some normal precip off the ocean and these beastly temps. When that moisture passes Philadelphia we will be zonked for sure.

DR. LETTERMAN

[to himself, but to everyone]

If she would only speak English!

DR. LETTERMAN [CONTD]

Our alerts to the Army and National Guard are out but the response is almost non-existent. The commanders of the units are not prepared for winter deployment-they have been training since 2001 for a desert battle and here they can't deploy 20 miles because of no fucking earmuffs! I think I will throw a wobbler right now!

ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR

Mr. Mayor, there are over 400 cars on the West Side Highway that cannot move and the people do not want to leave their cars.

ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR 2

Mayor Altec, the F, A and the LEX Ave subways have flooded and trains are stuck between stations. Most of the subway entrances in Brooklyn and Queens are clogged with snow and people can't get in or out of the stations.

MAYOR ALTEC

Tell them we will find a way to get them out. Shut all the power to the third rails and get the MTA to use whatever means they have to safeguard life in those subways. Are there any problems with suffocation? Any more on the ferry losses?

ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR 2

I haven't heard of any problem with that suffocation. It looks still at 71 now.

MAYOR ALTEC

Are you going to tell me in an hour or five or six that we lost 1,500 people in the god damn subway because of lack of air? Now you people better start thinking and doing or I will start having some of you fuckers shot...got it? What's going on at the god damn bridge?

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE ROADWAY -- NIGHT

SUPER: FRI, FEB 20 8:22PM Temp -6F SNOW DEPTH: 28" Wind 30 gusting to 65 from 160 degrees

Wind and snow are beating the living daylights out of the Brooklyn Bridge. There are four tow trucks on the bridge and they take the cars to center span where cables are at their low point and drop them off the bridge. Of the 300 cars stuck on the bridge, 100 are now in the East River. A bridge inspector, nearly frozen to death is coming down from one of the towers.

BRIDGE INSPECTOR

[Answering cell call from the Mayor] Mr. Mayor, here is the situation. The cables on the bridge are fine, but the two cables on the northernmost side on the Manhattan side have slipped off their saddles. The potential for this was first noticed in 1922 and the cables have been stable and inspected every three months without any further slippage. Tonight the wind whacked them and there is very measurable slippage. The roadway has cantered 4% to the South. This, in turn creates a new problem.

THE PRESIDENT

Bridge Inspector...what is your name?

BRIDGE INSPECTOR

Matthews, sir Jay Matthews.

THE PRESIDENT

OK, Matthews what is the "new problem

MATTHEWS

It's the wind, sir...it's the goddamn wind.

THE PRESIDENT

Spit it out man, the city is coming down around our ears. Tell me what is going on and what to do.

MATTHEWS

The roadway is tilted 4% to the South. The wind is taking that tilt and pushing against the columns holding the cables and the bridge is beginning to sway back and forth. Each swing gets a little higher. Eventually, one of those cables is going to slip completely off the saddles at the top of the tower and the roadway will end up in the East River. Everyone has to get off this structure now.

MAYOR ALTEC

Matthews, the President and I agree. I want you to be responsible to get everyone and your self off that bridge now. Close both entrances to the bridge.

The mayor shaking his head is beside himself and hits the table so hard with his fist that a leg snaps and almost hits the President. First the ferry and now this!

MAYOR ALTEC

(CONTINUES)

A hundred and twenty-five years that bridge has been there. A "little slippage noted in 1922," and now the goddamn thing is headed for Davy Jones Locker. In 1922? A little slippage...I mean, isn't that like a "little pregnant?"

THE PRESIDENT

You are saving lives all over this city. That bridge will be rebuilt, We have to concentrate on the people.

VENEXIANA

Mr. President, I have CAPTAIN LARS JOHANSSSEN of the Swedish American Cruise Line on 12. I think ye should speak with him.

THE PRESIDENT

Put him up on the speaker. I am in no mood for a cruise just now.

CAPTAIN JOHANSSSEN (SPEAKER)

Mr. President, this is Captain Lars Johanssen of the Stockholm Genesis we are 75 miles offshore from the Verazanno Narrows and would like your assistance. We have not called a Mayday yet but if we don't get some help soon, I am afraid we may lose the ship. We have 2870 passengers and crew on board and the ice buildup is making us top heavy. If the winds get any worse and we are at gusting 65 knots now, we may lose her, sir, over.

THE PRESIDENT

Is the Coast Guard in contact with you?

CAPTAIN JOHNATHAN (SPEAKER)

Yes, but all they have is a small cruiser and the winds are too strong for the helicopter to be of any assistance. Anyway, we have too many people for such an evacuation. If we are forced to abandon ship in these seas, I feel we will lose well over half of the lifeboats. I do have an idea but I need your authorization, over.

PRESIDENT

To do what?

CAPTAIN JOHNANSEN (SPEAKER)

Mr. President, you have two destroyers escorting a submarine that is on the surface. I want those two destroyers to come along side of my ship, one on each side to provide more stability in this wind. They can use their outboard thrusters to maintain stability in this wind. Then I want those sailors to come board my ship and start chipping away at the ice on the upper levels and get that weight into the sea. The Captains of the destroyers say that it could be done but there will be damage to their vessels and that they cannot authorize such an undertaking without high authority. Mr. President...you seem to us to be that authority. Over.

PRESIDENT

Captain that will go down as the looniest idea I have ever heard. You are in luck Captain, I have Adm. Mark Mullen who is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the video screen here and I see him shaking his head yes. He wants you on 132.8 frequency to coordinate with his ships. Adm. Mullen, please get that sub submerged. Keep it and the cruiser

(MORE)

PRESIDENT (cont'd)
nearby. Release the destroyers to assist the Stockholm Genesis. If there is damage to the destroyers, get them to Newport News. I don't want that thing fighting the weather on the surface. Zack Farnsworthy here will give you an update on the weather situation.

CAPTAIN JOHANSEN (SPEAKER)
Thank you Mr. President. I thank you and the 2869 other souls on the Stockholm Genesis thank you. Please hand me over for the weather update. I'm sure it's not going to be good news if my weather radar is working correctly.

ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR
Sir, most of Queens has just lost power.

ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR 2
And LaGuardia is on emergency power.

MAYOR ALTEC
I don't care about LaGuardia. Or JFK. They are finished for the duration. Tell those people to go home to their families if there are no incoming flights left. I think that was the first to close and we diverted to Boston? Right...yeah, right. We still had some flights come into EWR, but they have emergency power and just that one Continental from Dublin. Let's ignore that situation for the moment and concentrate where we have people at risk.

VENEXIANA
Mr. Mayor the biggest risk is in Queens for those that have electric heat. Temp outside is now minus 5 degrees and there will be no improvement this night in that reading.

MAYOR ALTEC

Commonwealth Edison is aware of the potential problem this presents. They have given us a list of all their customers that rely solely on electricity for heat. I want the police to check on those residents get out of their homes. They think they can wait this storm out, but Venexiana, Dr. Letterman and Zack Farnsworthy all agree on one thing...get those people into shelters in the next 12 hours. Ladies and gentlemen, get that done now. Priority #
1. What's going on at the bridge.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE -- DAY

SUPER: SAT, FEB 21 1:25pm - Local Temp 1F SNOW DEPTH: 17"
Wind 35 gusting to 50 from 175 degrees

The winds died down somewhat in the middle of the night. But now they are worse than ever. The snow has not abated and in fact has increased to about 2" per hour. With the sun rising the winds increased and the bridge has begun to sway back and forth not unlike the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in 1940. Matthews is on the Manhattan side of the bridge and picks up the call from the Mayor. He is disheveled, ice crusting in his long beard and looks like he may have suffered frostbite of his hands. He can barely hold the cell phone.

MATTHEWS (V.O.)

(on cell to the Mayor)

Mr. Mayor...everyone is off the bridge including me, thank God. I think this thing is going to go any minute. The winds are just too much and that Northern cable just looks like shit. The angle of the roadway now has a tilt of over 6% and the wind is just using that as a wing and moving the cables back and forth over the saddles. The cables are too old and worn smooth. There is no resistance any longer to the saddles that keep them in place.

MAYOR ALTEC

Well, that's god damn shitty news. Great work getting everyone

(MORE)

MAYOR ALTEC (cont'd)
off. What's with the Northern
Cable? Get inside-80 Pine Street
is open and has plenty of food and
heat.You're done for the day.

MATTHEWS (V.O.)
It has just about slipped off it's
saddle. It's just slipping off,
simple as that. And if that
goes...well, you will have a
helluva splash when the roadway
hits the ice.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE -- 2PM

It has been snowing almost continuously for over 30
hours. What began as flurries yesterday morning has now
developed into wet, thick snow and the intensity has
increased to almost two inches an hour. In Central Park
there is now 31 inches of snow and is easily the most snow
the city has seen since records exist. It is more than a
storm of the century...it may be the storm of the
millennium. Our POV is from a luxury Manhattan Co-op-the
28th floor with a magnificent view of the Downtown Racquet
Club and the heliport and the Brooklyn Bridge. It is the
apartment of JULES RAPPAPORT and his wife, ELANA.

INT. 14 WATER ST - 28TH FLOOR -- DAY

JULES RAPPAPORT
ELANA, come look at the bridge...it
doesn't look right to me.

ELANA RAPPAPORT
That bridge is messed up. That big
cable on the left has too much
slack in it and the one on the
right looks so tight it may snap
and the bridge itself...what do you
think...it's moving sideways...back
and forth?

JULES RAPPAPORT
Exactly...I don't see anyone on
it. I wish this snow would lighten
up so I can see better. Elana, get
the binoculars please...I think
there are some kids on the bridge
playing hockey!

Elana brings the binoculars but looks through them herself first

ELANA RAPPAPORT

Jules...look, there are about 15 kids down there in the snow playing hockey or something and this bridge looks like a goner to me...call 911.

Jules grabs the binoculars and peers out the large picture window to the bridge

JULES RAPPAPORT

Elana, call now...right now.

INT. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-NYC -- DAY

Phones are ringing amid mass activity. People's nerves are frayed from the pressures and demands that are coming in non-stop for assistance all over the city. People stuck in subways, on buses, in buildings with snowdrifts up to the second floor windows. People with no heat, no food, lost and missing children...it is non stop but Venexiana overhears one cry for help...

VENEXIANA

[yelling at a worker on the phone]Did ye say there are 15 kids playing hockey on the Brooklyn Bridge? Whit are ye doing about it?

WORKER ON PHONE

I'm not doing jack shit about it because I don't have any resources that are left that can respond to it and who the hell are you, bitch?

She doesn't respond but just drops the phone

VENEXIANA

Zack, Dr. Letterman I'm outta here I'm going to get those kids off that bridge.

ZACK

Are you nuts? You have 30 foot drifts out there and no boots and it is 6 below zero. Let's at least get you suited up. I'm coming with you.

ZACK

Mr. President...can I have your boots please?

THE PRESIDENT

You think my boots are going to fit her?

Zack takes the President's boots and gets six pair of cops winter socks from their lockers and stuffs them into the President's boots. A perfect fit! Venexiana lifts one of the uniformed cop's 45 automatics that was draped over a chair and stuffs it in someone's coat that she throws on. Zack and Venexiana are out the 2nd story window sliding down the snow drift to the street and the Brooklyn Bridge 2 blocks away

INT. OUTSIDE OEM-CADMAN PLAZA BROOKLYN -- DAY

It is still snowing. Drifts are easily up to second story windows on one side of the street and quite normal on the other. There is no movement of any kind on the roads as nothing can move. Even the commandeered SUV's are stuck or can't get by stalled cars and buses that have blocked all streets. No one is on the street.

ZACK

Why the gun?

VENEXIANA

For the same reason ye carry that pack of rubbers in your wallet...just in case man, just in case.

ZACK

[trudging through the snow]You know you are due at Carnegie Hall Saturday.

VENEXIANA

Yeah right...geez I almost forgot, I better stop and do some scales! There are the kids and this bridge is really whacked!

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE-BROOKLYN SIDE -- DAY

The towers of the bridge give the impression of strength. The twisted main cables of the bridge say something completely different. There are 15 kids on the bridge with hockey sticks with four cars set up as goalposts. The bridge is swaying back and forth making playing hockey even without skates difficult n the extreme. Still it is all fun and games for these teens who obviously don't have a clue as to the danger.

VENEXIANA

Hey...ye kids have to get off this bridge. This thing is going to collapse any minute.

The kids ignore her. After all she is barely five feet tall and well, who is she anyway? Zack tries.

ZACK

Can't you see this bridge is cooked? Look at the cables, man! Have you ever seen a bridge move sideways? Well, have you?

VENEXIANA

Stop the game...get the fuck off. Are ye guys just stupid, nuts or both? Look at how this bridge is swaying back and forth...if this thing drops, you're all dead.

TALLEST KID

Listen...you get the fuck off. got it? You're no god damn cop or anything so if you know what's good for you, back off.

VENEXIANA

That was the wrong thing to say to a five foot woman...with a gun...

Without thinking twice, she pulls the 45 she shoots the kid in the ankle.

TALLEST KID

[on the ground, holding his ankle]What the fuck is wrong with you, bitch?

VENEXIANA

Whit's wrong with me? Maybe, I was aiming for your head! Keep that talk up potty mouth and ye won't have a leg to stand on. Now are any of ye jackasses really intent on keeping this game up with me and are ye going to get off my bridge? I don't want to shoot all ye dimwits in the ankle do I? I'm such a shitty shot I might hit all ye jerks in the head!

The kids get off the bridge...so do Venexiana and Zack...the bridge is looking sickly.

ZACK

There's a possibility we could get in some trouble for that incident!

VENEXIANA

[Laughing uncontrollably] Well, Zack we have recently acquired friends in high places...how is the President going to explain to the First Lady that I'm wearing his boots? I have his pants?

ZACK

Well, at least you didn't ask for his pants!

EXT. 75 MILES E OF VZ BRIDGE -- DAY

SUPER: SAT, FEB 21 3:40pm 40 Degrees, 20'56.56 North & 73 degrees 10' 23.56 West - Local Temp -4F. Snowing. Wind 35 gusting to 50 from 350 degrees

Three ships are tossing in the strong winds and waves of the Atlantic. The large, 14 deck Stockholm Genesis is top heavy from ice accumulation and wind gusts to 85 MPH. One of the destroyers has managed to lash itself to the side of the cruise ship and that has helped. The second destroyer is having a more difficult time of it and there is a danger that one could crash into the other and sink it. About 100 sailors from the destroyer have taken positions on the Genesis to remove as much ice as possible from the superstructure to make it less top heavy. All passengers have been removed from the upper decks of the ship and are huddles on the first four decks of the Stockholm Genesis

INT. ON BOARD DESTROYER DDG-51 -- DAY

We are on the bridge of the Destroyer DDG-51 the "Arleigh Burke" with the CAPTAIN ENRICO WAREZ on the bridge. The seas are rough and the visibility only 1000 yards.

CAPTAIN ENRICO WAREZ
[on the radio]Stockholm Genesis,
this Captain Warez of the United
States Destroyer DDG-51, come in,
over.

CAPTAIN JOHANSEN (V.O.)
United States Destroyer DDG-51,
this is Captain Johansen of the
Swedish Cruise Line ship, Stockholm
Genesis. You appear to be lined up
as good as possible but because we
are lashed to your ship DDG-55 we
find that we can only use our
thrusters to your side or
starboard. Can you engage your
starboard thrusters to come along
side, we have crew and cables ready
to lash if you can, over.

CAPTAIN ENRICO WAREZ
This is Warez, DD51. Captain, this
ship of mine cost the taxpayers
over one billion dollars and that
is just half the price tag the
President has put in our hands to
save your ship and your passengers.
Yes, we are in position to use our
starboard thrusters and are so
doing on my mark. Over.

CAPTAIN JOHANSEN (V.O.)
DDG-51 this is the Stockholm
Genesis we are ready on your mark.
Over.

CAPTAIN ENRICO WAREZ
Stockholm Genesis, my mark is 5, 4,
3, 2, 1 MARK! Over.

CAPTAIN JOHANSEN (V.O.)
DDG-51, that was perfect and we are
now lashed. The Coast Guard has
advised us to not enter port until
after the storm. Can you stay with
us? Over.

CAPTAIN ENRICO WAREZ

Affirmative. We are with you until we get you into port. I think you agree that given your current stability with our two ships that you stay at sea and not risk the Verrazano Narrows in wind like this. Our submarine has submerged to ride out this storm. Over.

INT. 14 WATER STREET-NYC-28TH FLOOR -- DAY

ELANA RAPPAPORT

Jules, I am not kidding. To people came out on that swinging bridge and got those kids off...but get this, one of those people look like they shot one of the kids in the foot!

JULES RAPPAPORT

Well, if that's what it took to get the off...look part of the roadway is falling off!

The wind has picked up and the roadway is acting like a sail creating tremendous force against the strained Southern cable. Part of the roadway has fallen and the bridge is becoming more unstable by the minute. Finally, the South cable snaps and the North cable loses all tension. The center of the bridge is falling into the East River. The bridge hits the frozen river and crashes through it sending a plume of water a hundred feet high. Without the corresponding weight of the center sections both roadway approaches on the Brooklyn and then the Manhattan side sag and break in half. The two granite towers of the bridge remain intact. No one is injured.

INT. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES -- DAY

POLICE OFFICER

Mr. Mayor, this woman took my service automatic and shot some kid in the ankle. I am going to arrest her.

MAYOR ALTEC

[to Venexiana]I suppose these were the kids who were on the bridge?

VENEXIANA

Yes

MAYOR ALTEC

And they wouldn't get off right?
 And you had to use some gentle persuasion, right? Yes, I think that is right. Officer, I think her action saved 15 lives...not only are you not pressing charges, we are giving her the key to the city assuming we can ever get back to City Hall. And you can forget about the paperwork. You have enough to do

It is now 3 PM and the President wants to use a break in the storm to survey the city. The brand new Lockheed-Martin US101 Marine One, and two decoy Marine Ones have flown up from Andrews AFB and and one has landed on top of the Office of Emergency Services Building. Venexiana, Zack, Dr. Letterman, the Mayor and the President scramble into Marine One...it takes off.

It is both better and worse than expected. Snow drifts caused by 70 MPH winds gusting through the caverns of the skyscrapers force the winds to over 100MPH and yet the reports coming in from the police stations are gratifying. The early warning by the President to leave work, to get home and to stay there and to stay off the streets has made an important difference. Diverting planes to safer airports has resulted in no injuries from air travel. The swift action by the Coast Guard has limited property damage to the local marinas and the Cruise Ship Stockholm Genesis is safe and riding out the storm in stable condition. Its passengers have returned to the upper decks. The Hudson River is frozen over for the fourth time in 300 years, so too the East River. The Brooklyn Bridge is in the East River but its towers remain as if to say "I will rise again." There is still one more day of snow and the current level at Central Park stands now at 41 inches.

INT. ABOARD MARINE ONE -- DAY

Marine One's rotors are so powerful they form a mini tornado funnel off the roof. It takes off and swings over the Brooklyn Bridge, Governor's Island, the Statue of Liberty and the Battery.

MAYOR ALTEC

[looking at the Hudson River] Those snowdrifts have to be at least 30

(MORE)

MAYOR ALTEC (cont'd)

feet high. The wind has blown the snow over the West Side Highway and piled it up against anything to the East of the roadway. It will take weeks to open that road.

THE PRESIDENT

In some ways the fact that Manhattan is high rise actually is making the situation for the people on the ground less severe than what we saw in Brooklyn when we took off. Every bulldozer, every truck, every loader that the Army and Marine Corps owns is on the way from the West to New York, Washington and Philadelphia. Please pass that on to the mayors for me,

DR. LETTERMAN

(interrupting)

Mr. President, it looks as if this break in the snow is not going to last more than a half hour. Venexiana, I think you agree?

VENEXIANA

It is beginning to look a little dodgy again. Zack agrees as well by the looks of it. Now would be a good time to see Queens and the rest of Brooklyn. This helicopter is full of beans, isn't it?

COL L'HEUREUX

(translating)

You mean it has a lot of power, correct.

VENEXIANA

Well, horses for courses.
(now everyone is trying to translate)

Marine One, commanded by Marine COL. RAY L'HEUREUX has made the loop from the downed Brooklyn Bridge, around Governor's Island, the Battery, the Statue of Liberty and downtown New York. He grew up in Salem, MA and has a heavy Boston accent.

THE PRESIDENT

COL L'HEUREUX I think you have seen a lot of snow in Boston...have you ever seen anything like this?

COL L'HEUREUX

Sir, No sir...never. The closest I saw in Boston, Sir, was blizzard conditions and the drifts had made Route 128, the Boston circular artery impossible to get off because every exit ramp was blocked with snowdrifts. I had to just keep driving waiting for a break of some kind.

THE PRESIDENT

Colonel, take it low over the North end of Manhattan. Then the Mayor and I want to see Queens and Brooklyn. I think that is where our primary risk is. So how the hell did you get off the 128?

COL L'HEUREUX

[On radio talking to military flight controller]

Marine One, heading zero two zero at 800, 34th Street to end of Manhattan and to Queens and Brooklyn and back to OES roof and EWR. Marine One, over. Sir, sorry for the airplane yacking... fortunately I had a VW Beetle and I just picked an exit ramp and hit it hard and the snow just moved up and over the hood of that VW just like a Beetle going through sand. Others were not so lucky. [Back to radio] Understand, Queen, Brooklyn OES and EWR climbing to 900. Marine One, out.

EXT. JACKSON HEIGHTS, QUEENS -- DAY

What Marine One cannot possibly see from the air is that SNOWDRIFTS have actually covered many store fronts that have flat roofs and snowdrifts on the Eastern side of streets have made it impossible for people to get out of their houses on the first floor. We see people leaving their

houses with shovels doing what they can in a losing battle. They leave by climbing out second story windows onto the snowdrifts. There are almost no vehicles that can be seen on the streets as most of them are now buried. Winds have died down somewhat and so has the snow...but it has not stopped in well over 24 hours. JOHN O'CONNOLLY and his sons are digging a tunnel from their front door to the street.

JOHN O'CONNOLLY

Boys over there...keep digging and compacting the roof of the tunnel. Dig, compact, dig, compact, I think we are almost to the street!

SON 1

Dad, who cares? No one else is doing this madness. Why us?

JOHN O'CONNOLLY

Because your mother said she is not crawling out any second floor window, that's why. Now dig!

They break through and celebrate as if they had just completed the "Chunnel" from France to England

EXT. 225 S. FIFTH STREET-BROOKLYN --DAY

What a difference a day and a half makes. Bill and Barbara Corrina apparently got over the initial shock of the President's original address to the nation and have boarded up the lower windows of the house and have managed with the help of an electric snow thrower to make a path to the street. Not that it will do them much good because the street is impassable because of stranded cars up the block and no one has a clue where the owners are. The boys look like they have made a sledding hill from the porch to the area of the street.

BILL DORIC

Boys only one more run and we have to go in. It is way too cold to be out here in this for very long. One more and that's it!

Exhausted the boys take their last run and obediently go with their father into the house. It looks like the Corina's will do OK.

EXT.SUBWAY ENTRANCE-FT HAMILTON PKWY BROOKLYN -- DAY

Two NYC Police SUVs have managed to get to this subway entrance where 40-50 people are trapped. Snow had blocked the entrance and the heat from the subway tunnel melted the snow but when the temps dropped to below zero that snow froze and a solid block of ice 9 feet thick has caused a plug blocking any escape from this station. The subway has flooded to four feet and no one is willing to venture down the tunnel to another station not knowing the status of the third rail. Police and EMT have tried everything to remove that plug or put a hole in it...to no avail. Marine One arrives and is overhead.

THE PRESIDENT

Colonel, does this new fangled helicopter have anything on board that can get through that block of ice?

COL L'HEUREUX

Yes, sir. We have a laser guided gun that is meant to hit incoming missiles. It is very accurate and one pop would pretty much do it to that ice blockage. I would want all the people inside to lay on the deck face down and on the ends of the platform because some ice is bound to be in the air when it hits.

MAYOR ALTEC

[who has been in contact with the police on the ground] Mr. President, go for it. The Captain on the ground says that he will move everyone away. When he lights a red flare he wants you to fire one shot.

Police have communicated with the trapped subway riders and every one has been cleared away...a red laser indicator can be seen on the ice block.

COL L'HEUREUX

There's the flare...permission to fire Sir?

MAYOR OF NYC

I'm in agreement Mr. President

THE PRESIDENT
Colonel...hit it!

COL L'HEUREUX
That was a direct hit, sir. I saw
the impact. But it is still
plugged!

A delayed reaction...the ice sheet begins to crack...slowly
at first then all of a sudden it collapses inward and a
large hole is opened. The trapped passengers scamper to
safety and Marine One flies back to Cadman Plaza and OEM.

INT. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-BROOKLYN -- NIGHT

The place is starting to smell. Too many people too many
spilled cups of coffee, too much trash and uneaten pizza and
still the snow comes and comes. Marine One lands but will
take off for a safer landing site as the winds are wicked. .
The power goes in and out and the emergency power
automatically switches on and off. Communications are
working well.

MAYOR ALTEC
[standing on a computer display
bank and yelling at the top of his
voice over the din] Attention
everyone. We have been on the case
here non-stop for almost two days
without sleep. Thank you for your
dedication. Everyone in here
should be proud of the work you did
here - you have saved lives, you
have communicated the real world to
our city so that they can in their
own best way use their intellect
and muscle to overcome this weather
disaster. But you need sleep. All
of us do, including you Mr.
President. Over the next six hours
I want you to arrange with the
person to your left three hours of
sleep somewhere in this facility
and they are to do the same for
you. Get it done.

THE PRESIDENT
[whispering to the Mayor] Mr.
Mayor, I really don't want to sleep
with you.

MAYOR ALTEC

OK, that's it, the chief over there has found a place for you for then next three hours...I will hold down the fort here. I appears most citizens have figured life out for themselves and are in cruise control. That is what I love about New Yorkers. NOTHING fazes them; they can work out of anything.

911 SUPERVISOR AT OEM

Is there a Venexiana or Neeanna something like that in the facility?

VENEXIANA

Yes, Miss, that is me, Venexiana.

911 SUPERVISOR AT OEM

Honey, I got a call for you here...man you are a tiny thing...you watch out they could lock this place up and forget you here. OK, here's your call I am going to patch it over to that screen over there. You won't be able to see the person but I think they are speaking some foreign language or maybe just too fast...anyway honey here it is...

MOTHER'S VOICE

Are you this Neeiana or Venexiana?

(laughing)

Yes, it is me. How can I help you? Who is this?

MOTHER'S VOICE

It is Venexihonna? This is GLADYS WASHINGTON. Now let me ask you Venexihonna, how often do you go about shooting boys in the foot, Venexihonna?

VENEXIANA

Mrs. Washington, it is surely not my usual practice.

GLADYS WASHINGTON

It is Ms. Washington - my husband is who knows where? Well, I bet it is not your usual practice to go

(MORE)

GLADYS WASHINGTON (cont'd)
 about town shooting young boys...is
 it?

VENEXIANA

[now a little scared - she has a
 right to be angry] No, it is not.

GLADYS WASHINGTON

Well, let me tell you something
 Voonexihonna, you saved William's
 life today and his two brothers and
 3 of his cousins and about 7 of
 their not much good for nuthin'
 hairy-necked friends when you
 forced them off that bridge
 roadway. I talked to the people
 there in that building of yours-I
 know what they do in there. They
 told me what you did and these boys
 owe their life to you and this one
 in particular wants to apologize to
 you...here is William...

VENEXIANA

Ms. Washington, he
 doesn't...[interrupted by WILLIAM]

WILLIAM

Mrs. Venexiana? Me and my friends
 were jerks today and you saved all
 of our lives. I still can't
 believe what you did and what
 happened to that bridge! I am sorry
 I called you those names. Thank
 you for me, my brothers, my cousins
 and all of my friends today that
 you ran off that bridge of death.
 Anytime you thinks I am outta line,
 you go ahead and pop me one, you
 know what I'm sain? Thank you.
 Thank you.

(in the background to his
 mother)

Mama what do you mean them
 hairy-necked....

(fades)

VENEXIANA

William, ye are welcome. I am going
 to keep track of ye William and if
 I have to come over here from
 England and "pop ye one" that is

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)

whit I will do, ye know whit I'm
"sain?" Thanks for calling here - I
was worried about your foot. How
is it?

WILLIAM

To be honest I will not be playing
hockey for a while. We couldn't
get to no doctor because of the
snow but we called Kings County and
the doctor told me what to do and
it is better. I will be OK. You
had to do it...you had to and you
did. They said you was a
singer? What kind of songs do you
sing about?

VENEXIANA

I don't think that ye and your
friends are into my kind of music,
but one week from today I hope I
will be back at Carnegie Hall and
ye and your friends have 15 tickets
plus two for your mother at
Carnegie Hall under the name of
Washington at the box office. But
ye got to dress up a little ye
know. Do ye sing?

WILLIAM

Well, we will be there for
sure. We sings our own songs...you
might like 'em a little, you know
what I'm sain? We do one really
good.

VENEXIANA

I think I know whit ye are SAYING,
yes. See ye in a week! Be there,
don't make me shoot you!

EXT. NEW YORK METRO AREA -- NIGHT

Snow levels already extreme are now going through the
roof. The city has stopped trying keep anything operating
outside and like a fire, now just letting the storm burn
itself out. Snow is coming down now at 1 1/2 - 2" an hour.
Houses in Brooklyn and Queens now have in almost every area
snow up to the second floor windows depending on how the
wind blows and the wind is blowing hard at 50 MPH. Police
were able to remove vehicles on all the other NYC bridges

and they are holding up under the snow load. In Manhattan, residents of high rise apartments have taken in people they never met who could not make it home. Some apartments in Manhattan have 40 people sleeping in them.

INT. NOAA-College PARK, MD -- NIGHT

It is as busy as ever and the worst part of the storm now hits NYC. The scientists and meteorologists are exhausted and no one has been home for three days. Outside the scene is even worse than NYC currently...College Park has had 51 inches of snow but the snow has stopped. Finally. In Baltimore...53 inches, Philadelphia 59 inches and now only flurries. This is what the NOAA satellites and screens are telling them. The Director of NOAA, DR. RONALD BARNES speaks to Dr. Paul Letterman in Brooklyn.

DR. RONALD BARNES

George. I'm glad to know you and Zack and that Venexiana are OK. Pretty heady stuff you and the President and V-President up there. He has been broadcasting from OMS every chance he gets taking our information here and getting it out fast. It has saved a lot of lives.

DR. LETTERMAN

What are numbers so far?

DR. RONALD BARNES

In terms of physical damage, it will be a record setter. Awful. In terms of lives lost, we have done very, very well indeed. In Virginia we lost 15 people in one stretch of I-95 that went to whiteout conditions. It was a 117+ car pile up. Two people got out of their cars got lost in the blizzard conditions and froze to death, 11 more are missing. Washington, well it was mainly car accidents, 350 so far, and we lost only five. The President got everyone out of town and that saved the day. Philadelphia the same story about 9 people only and that was mainly from lack of heat and they were elderly with no people to look after them. These are the people who always slip through the

(MORE)

DR. RONALD BARNES (cont'd)
 cracks. Philadelphia had a list of such people, but these nine were not on the list. In New York City, the Mayor said the death toll is under 10 plus I hear one kid got shot in the ankle by a singer who thinks she is a meteorologist, is that true?

DR. LETTERMAN
 You heard? It is true and I have to say she is one of the best meteorologists I have ever met and I hope to hear her sing a week from today if we can get Carnegie Hall open. Come up and see her!

DR. RONALD BARNES
 The Vice-President has already invited me and I will be there. Quite a group for this young lady, I would say. Let me tell you what you are faced with in these last two days.

Barnes moves over to the video displays, the same ones that Dr. Letterman can see in Brooklyn at the OMS.

DR. RONALD BARNES
 [continuing] Same deal, extratropical cyclone of immense proportion. Blocking high still in place means more snow for NYC. A freighter has sunk 95 miles off Montauk. There is a change in the moisture content.

DR. LETTERMAN
 So the stuff from the south is going to make this snow heavy and wet vs. what we have now as powder and wind-blown?

DR. RONALD BARNES
 Yes, the snow/water equivalent has moved down from 25:1 to under 8:1. The temps are lower in NY than in Washington by 5 degrees so you are looking at 8-11 below zero. That newer heavier snow is going to have a bad effect on flat-topped roofs. I think you should evacuate

(MORE)

DR. RONALD BARNES (cont'd)
the first three to five levels of
flat-topped structures if
possible. There will be no change
over to rain or sleet anywhere
along the Northeast corridor from
Pittsburgh, East. Look at what we
have here at the bight.

Barnes is pointing to the "L" where NYC and Long Island
stick out from the coast and where precip builds and builds
and dumps and dumps. In this case snow, and lots of it.

DR. LETTERMAN
I'm staring right at it Ron and if
that High does not start moving
into the Atlantic this thing could
be around for another four or five
days!

DR. RONALD BARNES
We don't see five days at this
point. See what Venexiana has but
I bet we are looking at three days
aren't we? If that were to happen
with the current conditions of very
frigid temps from Alaska and
Northern Canada, this moisture
courtesy of that low Jet Stream
grabbing moisture from the Gulf and
a high that blocks for almost a
week, you would not get Venexiana's
1,000 Year Storm, you would get a
25,000 year storm. We would have to
go find some really old Native
American to confirm that,
George. It could happen, but you
are in luck and I told this to the
President, that High is starting to
move. You are going to get
hit...for sure...but just one big,
huge sucker punch that will nearly
knock you out and then it's over.

DR. LETTERMAN
How big a sucker punch do you
see. I am guessing another 45
inches in the next 24. Let's ask
the expert, Venexiana...your
laptop...what do you think?

VENEXIANA

The system coming up from Florida is even stronger than first thought. We have cold temps hitting very moist Gulf of Mexico air and we had reports of at least 15 tornadoes in and around St. Petersburg/Tampa. Three hit Kiawah Island, which is 17 miles south of Charleston. That community is no more and the loss of life there is estimated at 840. Every single structure is gone! A strong extratropical cyclone and this strong frigid storm from Alaska and Canada. This will be a freight train of a storm. No tornadoes, but everything else. The Coast Guard has rescued over 160 people in the Gulf of Mexico alone. There is just too much moisture coming up, the ground has been freezing for weeks and that Arctic air, that record-setting air from Alaska and the Yukon...there's the formula for the 1,000 year storm.

DR. LETTERMAN

Yes, that is the way we see it in College PARK. When you talk about the "Storm of the Century" it lulls you into a sense of safety because you have some safe parameters with which to deal. But history is not made up of 100 year cycles...it is made up of 25,000 year cycles and over that time frame just what kind of weather could a place like this experience? A hundred inches could be child's play in that concept.

THE PRESIDENT

This is the President. You said 850 in South Carolina at Kiawah?

DR. RONALD BARNES

Yes, Mr. President. It is my understanding that the Vice-President is on top of the South Carolina situation up there. It shows you just how powerful this system is that is coming at you. You better duck!

THE PRESIDENT

The Vice-President is on this case. Now that is how government has to work. See a problem and deal with it without being told.

(now yelling at the VP)

We have the entire East Coast a National Disaster Area. I want these municipalities to do whatever they have to - we will pay them back. Save lives and property.

RACE BURROWS - VP

Mr. President, it is not as bad as all that. Only the first really two rows of structures are gone. It is like the thing just traveled up the beach and took out all the AIG-type beach houses.

SUPER: SAT, FEB 21 8:41 AM - Local Temp 13F SNOW DEPTH: 49"
Wind 15 gusting to 20 from 175 degrees

The snow overnight has increased to about 2"/hour. There is not much wind any longer but the snow just keeps coming and coming in clumps straight down. The trees in Central Park are losing limbs because of the weight of the snow. Ice has formed on electric lines and they are a jumble particularly at intersections. There is no power anywhere in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, the coastal counties of New Jersey, Westchester County, NY, Greenwich and Stamford, CT. By some miracle, power has been restored to most of Manhattan. The "Reservoir" in Central Park has not been used for water in decades. The old pump house had been maintained on the edge of it and the pumps and power may be working, The pumps upstate NY in Westchester County at the NYC watershed reservoirs has stopped working and no one can get to them because of the storm. But one man, KRAMER PARRY, nicknamed "The Frogman" because he and his wife "LILY PAD" dive in that reservoir during the summer and clean it out of junk that New Yorkers throw into it. On this day in February FROGMAN and LILY PAD are trying to convince MITCH LEVINE of the DEP Department of Environmental Protection, who has juristic ton over the pump house and the reservoir, to open the valves in the old reservoir to allow NYC to get water from this reservoir like they used to in 1991 before it was closed. They are in the old PUMP HOUSE on the South end of the reservoir and they are going to get water pumping in New York City one way or another.

FROGMAN (KRAMER PARRY}

MITCH, you have to open these valves. This reservoir and the

(MORE)

FROGMAN (KRAMER PARRY} (cont'd)

lines have enough water to supply New York for almost a week. I know you guys have maintained this pump house just in case. Well, guess what...this is "just in case!"

MITCH LEVINE

listen Frogman, I just can't go opening these valves without authorization from the Bureau of Water and I can't reach any of those guys.

FROGMAN (KRAMER PARRY}

You may be right but Columbia Presbyterian and I bet all of the other hospitals in NY don't have any water. The main Croton Reservoir lines are broken-this is the only source of water, this old system built in, when Mitch 1850?

MITCH LEVINE

1842.

FROGMAN (KRAMER PARRY}

Yeah, 1842 STILL WORKS...open the valve and let's get this thing going. The only question I have is that the reservoir is frozen solid; will the water be able to make it through the pipe?

MITCH LEVINE

That's not a problem, when we open that line, assuming I agree with you about this, 23 miles of water in those old pipes is going to come crashing into the reservoir and will break that ice up. The water will be rusty for the first 10 minutes...but after that, it is 100% pure. OK, Frogman, I need Lily Pad to help me too...all these valves have to be turned counterclockwise and they are going to be stiff. After that, throw all those toggle switches on the left console over there to on, and stand back...you are going to see a miracle.

All three struggle with the valves but one by one they begin to open with a "whoosh" of air, bad air. The toggle switches are thrown and sure enough, red water enters the reservoir from the north end and the ice explodes. Everything has a red tint to it now but water is running through the pipes and into the NY system.

FROGMAN

Is that water, that red rusty water drinkable?

MITCH LEVINE

You won't have to worry about iron anemia. But, yes, a few could get sick, but it gets dissipated pretty fast. But if the power goes out everyone is cooked again.

SUPER: SAT, FEB 21 11.50 AM - Local Temp 8F SNOW DEPTH: 60"
Wind 25 gusting to 40 from 185 degrees

All of the side streets in Manhattan are clogged with cars. Now with the snow continuing to drop 2 1/2 -3" an hour without a single break those cars are buried. The avenues are better, but not by much. The people have heeded the President's warning. They have prepared, they have stayed off the roads and they have stayed home. Snow drifts now easily cover the entrances of all the subway entrances, the subways stopped running long ago because of flooding. But there are acts of kindness everywhere.

INT. 450 YORK AVE - MANHATTAN - DAY

The heating boiler in the apartment next door stopped working because snow infiltrated into the basement from a roof that partially gave way. The melted water submerged the boiler. The residents have been trying to get out their apartment house and are being aided by the neighbors next door who are dragging them out of windows and into their windows as the drifts have covered up all doorways. The "super" of 450 York, MARIO CAMPEZIE had taken charge

MARIO CAMPEZIE

(helping an older woman out a window nest door)

Come with me honey, I know it's scary but we have a path to our building and it's nice and warm and we want you to stay with us. Let me help

(she has problems but MARIO is has patience)

OLDER WOMAN

Oh my god, it's so cold, I want to go back!

MARIO CAMPEZIE

Honey, you can't. It is freezing in that building and you have to come with us now.

(now he gets a little more forceful and she finally gives up the fight and goes with him to 450 York and joins the others)

Another man comes running into the window of 450 York

RESCUER 1

Mario, that is the last one. No one is left in 435! Where are you going to put all those people?

MARIO CAMPEZIE

Just come with me and I'll show you! Let's go up to the Goldbaum's apartment on 12.

(they knock on the door and MRS.GOLDBAUM answers the door)

MRS. GOLDBAUM

Mario, did you get everyone out. We can take some more if we have to!

Rescuer #1 can hardly believe his eyes. There are no less than 15 people in this small three bedroom apartment and there are 15 areas for sleeping all set up. Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows are everywhere, but everyone has a place and a group is sitting around the kitchen table enjoying a large dish of bow-tie pasta that one of the other tenants made and brought down. The entire city maybe in lockdown, the temp is under 10, they can't get out of the apartment house without sliding down a 45 foot drift, but in here, these people are surviving and surviving in good spirits.

EXT. 225 S. FIFTH ST - BROOKLYN -- DAY

It is has stopped snowing. In the last 24 hours however, an additional 38.5" has now piled on top of the existing 60" for a total of 98.5 inches. But with the sunlight, warmer temperatures and the realization that one's family is safe had made it a surreal scene on S. Fifth. There are kids out on the snowdrifts with plastic "flying saucers" making the

most of an unusual event to say the least. The middle of S. Fifth has about three-four feet of snow. The winds have blown the snow against the parked cars and the houses. Some of the drifts are so spectacular that they cover up half of the second story windows on the homes. That is true with Bill and Barbara Doric's home. Bill is just about to tunnel through the massive snowdrift from his front door to the street with Barbara dragging the tunneled snow back out the tunnel and dumping on the side of the porch.

SUPER: SAT, FEB 21 12:10PM - Local Temp 28F SNOW DEPTH: 98.5" Wind 8. gusting to 11 from 275 degrees

BILL DORIC

(looking like Paul Bunyon,
Bill is finishing his tunnel
to the street with Barbara
close behind)

Barb, Barb...look, I see
daylight. I'm almost there, hurry
up you can pack the cell. Let's
bust through. Get the boys, they
have to see this!

Bill breaks through and he could not be more proud of his accomplishment. It seems to him an event similar to the event when the Chunnel was met under the English Channel with diggers from each end.

BARBARA

Well Bill, you did it. It's not
exactly the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel
is it?

BILL

Well, no, not exactly. It is a lot
warmer for sure. I hope we get
power soon, but it looks like we
are OK. I do want to get up on the
roof and make certain the chimney
is not blocked.

The twin boys (age 4) run up, all excited and looking like mini Paul Bunyons

BOY 1

Daddy are we going to get any more
snow?

BILL

No, Babe...the Harringtons told me
that the wind is blowing all that
away into the ocean and that we
will have no more snow!

BOY 2

Daddy, you and mommy did it! Can we go over to the Harringtons and slide down the hill with them

BOY 1

Yeah, can we?

BARBARA

Of course, but only if we can slide down it too! But put those mittens back on.

The Doric family joins the Harringtons next door and it is doubtful that any natural disaster could evoke such fun and glee.

INT. CARNEGIE HALL NIGHT

SUPER: SUN, MAR 1 10:20PM - Local Temp 39F SNOW MELT Wind 8. gusting to 11 from 275 degrees

Carnegie Hall was closed Saturday, February 22nd, but with the warmer temps has come a massive governmental effort to clear the main highways. The side streets are still a mess with abandoned cars and no plowing taking place because of an inability to position enough front-end loaders and dump trucks to cart the snow away. But subways are running and the Express buses from Staten Island have made it over the Verazzano Bridge. Trains from Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester are running, erratically. but running. The Hudson and East Rivers are still frozen solid. The avenues in Manhattan are now mostly clear and the streets are mainly still clogged. Water run-off is beginning to be a problem especially for subway stations. Still, New York is humming once again. The exchanges lost only three days and most stores are open. Carnegie Hall is presenting the second concert by Venexiana and she is on stage singing The Sun Whose Rays Are All Ablaze from Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado:

VENEXIANA

The sun, whose rays
Are all ablaze
With ever-living glory,
Does not deny
His majesty
He scorns to tell a story!
He don't exclaim,
"I blush for shame,
So kindly be indulgent."
But, fierce and bold,

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)

In fiery gold,
 He glories all effulgent!
 I mean to rule the earth,
 As he the sky
 We really know our worth,
 The sun and I!
 I mean to rule the earth,
 As he the sky
 We really know our worth,
 The sun and I!
 Observe his flame,
 That placid dame,
 The moon's Celestial Highness;
 There's not a trace
 Upon her face
 Of diffidence or shyness:
 She borrows light
 That, through the night,
 Mankind may all acclaim her!
 And, truth to tell,
 She lights up well,
 So I, for one, don't blame her!
 Ah, pray make no mistake,
 We are not shy;
 We're very wide awake,
 The moon and I!
 Ah, pray make no mistake,
 We are not shy;
 We're very wide awake,
 The moon and I!

The audience once again is appreciative and although flowers were hard to come by, roses and carnations are placed at her feet. But she is not finished with this audience.

VENEXIANA

Everyone in New York, indeed up and
 down the entire Eastern Seaboard,
 has gone through an experience that
 ye will be telling your
 grandchildren and their
 grandchildren about. We came
 through this unbelievable blizzard
 in one piece. A little over a week
 ago I kicked 15 young men off the
 Brooklyn Bridge. You know now that
 was not a safe place to play at the
 time. At the time they were not
 too appreciative of my rather
 aggressive suggestion that they get
 off that bridge. The mother of
 three of those young men is in the

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (cont'd)
 front row and I want ye to know
 that they went out of their way to
 thank me and I would like ye to
 meet those young men and Ms.
 Washington. Would ye stand up so
 the audience can see ye all?
 (they all get up and the
 audience welcomes them with
 applause)

What happens next is a surprise to the audience. THE 15 BOYS AND MS. WASHINGTON make their way to the stage and Venexiana with the full orchestra begin to sing in rap. It is a song the boys made up by themselves and they are singing it to Venexiana and although the orchestra is not accustomed to accompanying rap music, it is obvious that there has been some rehearsal and it blows the audience away. Venexiana responds in rap thanking Ms. Washington for the honor and kidding with the boys about the danger of firearms.

THE 15 BOYS AND MS. WASHINGTON

We on de Brooklyn Bridge
 Wit the hockey sticks we're playin
 But the weather it be the fridge
 And I know you know shat's what I'm
 sain
 The bridge is stats to bouncin'
 The hockey shots is goin' wide
 The snow so bad - where the puck?
 Where the puck?
 Where the puck?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Uh, she say beat it.
 Yah, she say to beat it?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Take another shot
 Where the puck?
 Take another shot.
 Uh, she say to beat it.
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na
 Uh, we not be movin' for the chick
 She thinks she's a cop or some
 dick!

(MORE)

THE 15 BOYS AND MS. WASHINGTON (cont'd)

Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na
 Uh, ded the 9 millimeet it shoots
 me in the feet!
 Uh, I falls down but my last shot
 wins but now I'm in a heap
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 Who dat Vonexehoooooooooooo Na?
 She saved our lives, dat
 Vonexehoooooooooooo, dat who.

VEXEXIANA

Ye boys are on de bridge
 Ye think its mighty funky
 Little did ye know that that this
 bridge be so clunky
 Who dat boys with the puck? Do
 they think endless luck?
 Who dat boys with the puck? Do
 they think endless luck?
 It might be just the fridge
 That after 125 years, this bridge
 is not so spunky. Yeah, dis bridge
 is pretty funky. And dat Bridge so
 funky is goin' to splat]
 Dat bridge dat roadway's not flat
 And life it will not giver
 Because that bridge...it be so
 fridge...will soon be in the river.
 Who dat boys with the puck? Do
 they think endless luck?
 Who dat boys with the puck? Do
 they think endless luck? Who dat
 boys with the puck? Do they think
 endless luck? Yeah, dis bridge is
 pretty funky.Yeah, dis bridge is
 pretty funky.

int. THE WHITE HOUSE - STATE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: SAT MAY 28 9:20PM - Local Temp 39F SNOW MELT Wind
 8. gusting to 11 from 275 degrees

The President and Vice-President have invited 75 people to
 the State Dining Room for dinner and entertainment later in
 the East Room. The guests of honor include the Director of
 FEMA, the heads of the National Guards of New York, New
 Jersey, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Florida and
 Georgia. From the National Weather Service approximately 15
 senior members, the news anchors from CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS.

the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Mayors of New York, Trenton, Tampa, Charleston, SC, Myrtle Beach, NC, Richmond, VA, Washington, DC and Philadelphia, Captain Johanssen and spouses. And sitting with the President, Zack, Dr. George Letterman, Dr Ronald Barnes, Mayor Altec, Jay Matthews and Venexiana. Dinner has concluded and the Vice President rises.

RACE BURROWS-VP

You have probably noticed a smattering of weather forecasters in the room. Some with odd accents and phraseology.

(directing a glance at Venexiana)

Many jokes have been made about weather forecasting but this is serious stuff. We saw what accurate forecasting can do and how it saves lives. Would you like to know how they did it?

((It appears that the room would like to know))

OK, I'll tell you. It was autumn, and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief. What? Yes, I know..."Native Americans" but this is a JOKE! The INDIANS on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a new INDIAN Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets, and when he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared. But also being a practical leader, like our President, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked Dr. George Letterman, who happened to pick up the phone that day, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," Letterman

(MORE)

VESEXIANA (cont'd)

responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Is it going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," Dr. Letterman (directing the room's attention to Letterman) again replied, "it's going to be a VERY cold winter." The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure, Dr. Letterman, that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," George replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever." "How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. Dr Letterman replied, "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy!" ((He turns the floor over to the President))

THE PRESIDENT

(champagne glass in hand)

Thanks, Race. let me know if the INDIANS are out buying Speedos - I want to make certain that the White House air conditioning is up to snuff this summer! I want to welcome you all to the White House. In this room we normally honor visiting heads of state and other dignitaries whose names are all very well known to you. So it is an unusual evening when the dear people breaking bread with us this warm May evening and "warm" is something that we have grown to appreciate over the last two months, are not visiting heads of state but rather people who have safeguarded our "state" in an important way during the East Coast Blizzard. These people went out of their way and staked their reputations to alert the government as to the risk of this storm. They

(MORE)

THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)
presented their findings in a timely manner, so timely; in fact that the loss of life in this monstrous snow event is a third of what it was in the relatively minor snow event of 1976. FEMA has calculated that because of your warnings, your advice that we have saved as many as 10,000 lives. Our TOTAL loss of life was under 70. In particular I want to thank Dr. George Letterman of the National Weather Service who kicked us in the pants and got our attention early. This is what he is supposed to do and he did it with vigor. My rear-end is still smarting. I want to thank the anchors and the news organizations of the four broadcast networks and the cable network news organizations for getting the word out and keeping the public advised. They went without sleep for days on end. I want to thank the Coast Guard and the Navy for performing many rescues at sea including the dramatic rescue of the Stockholm Genesis whose Captain is seated one table over. This captain recognized the risk to his ship and found a way to eliminate it. It worked. Thank you Captain Johanssen. And thank you to the captains of the two destroyers that stabilized his vessel in those stormy seas who are seated next to you. I want to thank FEMA for doing their job. Would you say it is night and day vs. Katrina.

(the room erupts in applause and that applause is directed at the President and Venexiana)

I want to thank Zack Farnsworthy of Penn State whose open mind to a foreign meteorologist with a laptop computer paved the way for the alert that Dr. Letterman instigated in College Park. Thanks to the National Weather Service for

(MORE)

THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)
 understanding this data coming in from Zack and Penn State and not approaching that data as a "not invented here" response. You saw something out of the box and you responded to it. That is what GOOD government does and you did it. If it was not for this foreign meteorologist...this small, slight Scot with her powerful laptop computer and an equally powerful voice, that data would not have seen the light of day in Washington. Over 50% of the population of the country was impacted by this storm. The fact that so little was lost in terms of life is due to you. There are a lot of stories about the Scots being a little tightfisted with the coin, and speaking of lost, Venexiana, the State Department reported to me an incident in Scotland just this morning. An American was hopelessly lost in the Highlands and had wandered about for nearly a week. Finally, on the seventh day he met a kilted inhabitant. "Thank heaven I've met someone," he cried. "I've been lost for the last week." "Is there a reward out for you?" asked the Scotsman. "No," said the American. "Then I'm afraid you're still lost," was the reply. You don't fit that mold Venexiana and I now want to present you with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest non-military award. Ms. Venexiana Macgregor. To you Venexiana. Thank you!

The glasses are raised, the sound of crystal clinking and it is now obvious to everyone just who the guest of honor is.

THE PRESIDENT
 The Vice President and I would like to invite everyone to the East Room for some light entertainment. If you will all follow me.
 (approaching Venexiana)
 Venexiana, may I escort you?

VENEXIANA

Ye ar verra kin! Of course, Mr. President. I don't know whit to say. This seems like a lot of fuss for a bunch of weather nerds and I don't...

(the President interrupting)

THE PRESIDENT

Well, ye nerds saved a lot of lives. The country owes you a great deal in my opinion. And I don't want you to SAY a thing. May I ask of you a very big favor?

VENEXIANA

Of course, anything.

THE PRESIDENT

I wasn't at Carnegie Hall to hear you sing Santa Lucia Luntana. I hear your audience went wild. You may not know it but I like to think of myself as a pretty good singer.

VENEXIANA

(wondering just whit is up - she sees a band in the foyer of the East Room and no less than 10 violins)

Mr. President, Santa Lucia Luntana, is indeed my favorite Italian song. Do ye know it? have ye practiced it a little?

THE PRESIDENT

Oh yes, I have the lyrics down pretty well. It is a beautiful duet and I think we could do a good job of it for my guests, don't you think?

VENEXIANA

I suppose...well...tell me Mr. President, have ye rehearsed?

THE PRESIDENT

Oh I have...mainly in the shower and I have to say I sound pretty good in there and the Secret Service seem to agree.

VENEXIANA

Well, I don't know without a rehearsal...ye know Italian?

THE PRESIDENT

(shrugging off the question)
Oh come now, Venexiana, I know YOU know the song.

VENEXIANA

Well, yes, I do. But...

THE PRESIDENT

And I know the song. Then let us begin, shall we?

VENEXIANA

((the violins begin - it is obvious THEY know what's going on)
Yes, let's begin...I believe I have the first part.

(she begins very nervously)
Partono 'e bastimente P' 'e terre assaje luntane, cantano a buordo e so napulitane! Cantano pe' tramente 'O golgo già scompare, e 'a luna, 'a miez' 'o mare, 'Nu poco 'e Napule Lle fa vede'... Santa Lucia, Luntana 'a te Quanta malincunia!

THE PRESIDENT

(interrupting)
Wait, wait, wait...my voice, I'm afraid I can't...
(calling out to the foyer)
My understudy, where is my understudy?

VENEXIANA

Understudy?
(now she is really confused)

THE PRESIDENT

(pointing)
Yes, yes, my understudy...oh there he is. Understudy, understudy please take over...my throat is scrachy tonight. Venexiana, I hope you don't mind but I assure you he will try his best to give you as good a performance as me.

In a tuxedo, Venexiana's dream musician, ANDREAS BOCELLI, with an assistant, comes to the microphone..BOCELLI grasps Venexiana in a strong embrace.

VENEXIANA

Oh my god..it's ye!

ANDREAS BOCELLI

Yes, Venexiana it is ye...me. It's always been me for as long as I can recall but would you do me the high honor of singing my favorite song and apparently yours as well, Santa Lucia Luntana?

VENEXIANA

A dream.

ANDREAS BOCELLI

A dream...yes, a dream and you saved the dreams of thousands and now it is time for your dream.
(he motions to the violins and begins)

Partono 'e bastimente
p' 'e terre assaje luntane,
cantano a buordo e so' napulitane!

Cantano pe' tramente
'o golfo già scompare,
e 'a luna, 'a miez' 'o mare,
'nu poco 'e Napule
lle fa vede'...

Santa Lucia,
luntano 'a te
quanta malincunia!

Se gira 'o munno sano,
se va a cerca' furtuna,
ma quanno sponta 'a luna
luntano a Napule
nun se po' sta!

E sonano... Ma 'e mmane
tremmano 'ncopp' 'e corde...
quanta ricorde, ahimé, quanta
ricorde!

E 'o core nun 'o sane
nemmeno cu 'e canzone,
sentenno voce e suone,
se mette a chiagnere

(MORE)

ANDREAS BOCELLI (cont'd)
ca vo' turna'!

Santa Lucia,
luntano 'a te
quanta malincunia!

VENEXIANA
(singing)
Se gira 'o munno sano,
se va a cerca' fortuna,
ma quanno sponta 'a luna
luntano a' Napule
nun se po' sta!

Santa Lucia tu tiene
solo 'nu poco 'e mare,
ma cchiù luntana staie, cchiù bella
pare!

È 'o canto d' 'e Ssirene
ca tesse ancora 'e rezze,
core, nun vo' ricchezze:
si è nato a Napule
ce vo' muri'!

Santa Lucia,
luntano 'a te
quanta malincunia!

Se gira 'o munno sano,
se va a cerca' fortuna,
ma quanno sponta 'a luna,
luntano a' Napule
nun se po' sta'!

VENEXIANA AND ANDREAS BOCELLI (DUET]
(holding each other and both
singing)

Partono 'e bastimente
p' 'e terre assaje luntane,
cantano a buordo e so' napulitane!

Cantano pe' tramente
'o golfo già scompate,
e 'a luna, 'a miez' 'o mare,
'nu poco 'e Napule
lle fa vede'...

Santa Lucia,
luntano 'a te
quanta malincunia!

(MORE)

VENEXIANA AND ANDREAS BOCELLI (DUET] (cont'd)

Se gira 'o munno sano,
 se va a cerca' furtuna,
 ma quanno sponta 'a luna
 luntano a Napule
 nun se po' sta!

E sonano... Ma 'e mmane
 tremmano 'ncopp' 'e corde...
 quanta ricorde, ahimé, quanta
 ricorde!

E 'o core nun 'o sane
 nemmeno cu 'e canzone,
 sentenno voce e suone,
 se mette a chiagnere
 ca vo' turna'!

Santa Lucia,
 luntano 'a te
 quanta malincunia!

Se gira 'o munno sano,
 se va a cerca' fortuna,
 ma quanno sponta 'a luna
 luntano a' Napule
 nun se po' sta!

Santa Lucia tu tiene
 solo 'nu poco 'e mare,
 ma cchiù luntana staie, cchiù bella
 pare!

È 'o canto d' 'e Ssirene
 ca tesse ancora 'e rezze,
 core, nun vo' ricchezze:
 si è nato a Napule
 ce vo' muri'!

Santa Lucia,
 luntano 'a te
 quanta malincunia!

Se gira 'o munno sano,
 se va a cerca' fortuna,
 ma quanno sponta 'a luna,
 luntano a' Napule
 nun se po' sta'!

MONTAGE

Fade to WHITE. HOLD. Re-introduce the color wheel with colors. In the distance we see the KENWORTH truck moving south through a verdant green valley with flowing streams and not a hint of snow...but rather wildflowers in abundance. The Dehavillian "BEAVER" amphibian is shown traversing these same valleys all in their spring splendor. Bears and caribou with their cubs and calves. Alaska is a different world today in this warm, late spring afternoon with a bright sun shining. Close with kids and their dog playing frisbee in Central Park with Venexiana [or duet] singing Vivo per Lei.

VENEXIANA (V.O.)

Vivo per lei da quando sai
la prima volta l'ho incontrata,
non mi ricordo come ma
mi è entrata dentro e c'è restata.
Vivo per lei perché mi fa
vibrare forte l'anima,
vivo per lei e non è un peso.

Vivo per lei anch'io lo sai
e tu non esserne geloso,
lei è di tutti quelli che
hanno un bisogno sempre acceso,
come uno stereo in camera,
di chi è da solo e adesso sa,
che è unche per lui, per questo
io vivo per lei.
È una musa che ci invita
a sfiorarla con le dita,
atraverso un pianoforte
la morte è lontana,
io vivo per lei.
Vivo per lei che spesso sa
essere dolce e sensuale,
a volte picchia in testa una
è un pugno che non fa mai male.
Vivo per lei lo so mi fa
girare di città in città,
soffrire un po' ma almeno io vivo.

È un dolore quando parte.
Vivo per lei dentro gli hotels.
Con piacere estremo cresce.
Vivo per lei nel vortice.
Attraverso la mia voce
si espande e amore produce.

Vivo per lei nient'altro ho
e quanti altri incontrerò

(MORE)

VENEXIANA (V.O.) (cont'd)
che come me hanno scritto in viso:
io vivo per lei.

Io vivo per lei
sopra un palco o contro ad un
muro...
Vivo per lei al limite.
... anche in un domani duro.
Vivo per lei al margine.
Ogni giorno
una conquista,
la protagonista
sarà sempre lei.
Vivo per lei perché oramai
io non ho altra via d'uscita,
perché la musica lo sai
davvero non l'ho mai tradita.
Vivo per lei perché mi da
pause e note in libertà
Ci fosse un'altra vita la vivo,
la vivo per lei.
Vivo per lei la musica.
Io vivo per lei.
Vivo per lei è unica.
Io vivo per lei.
Io vivo per lei.
Io vivo
per lei.

THE END