

DARK SKIES

"STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. MAJESTIC - OPERATIONS HUB - DAY

On LOENGARD and JULIET entering on the double from the corridor. Cross-talk, technicians tracking and monitoring various operations from individual work stations.

ALBANO (O.S.)
Agent Stuart.

They follow the sound of the voice to a communications station where ALBANO and a technician are on headphones. Albano keys the microphone, speaks into it:

ALBANO
Repeat, this is Blue Fox. You're breaking up. Say again, over.

Albano listens for a beat, shakes his head, tears the headphones off and hands them to Juliet.

ALBANO
Your pals at Aura-Z are on the line, but the signal's breaking up, and even if I could hear it, the damn fool's blabbering in Russian.

Juliet quickly dons the headphones and sits at the console. She speaks in RUSSIAN, with SUBTITLES:

JULIET
Ballerina, can you hear me, over?

All she hears in reply is heavy STATIC.

LOENGARD
I thought we were in regular contact with them.

ALBANO
We are. But not in the last couple of days. Then this garbage...

JULIET
(RUSSIAN)
Come in, Ballerina, over

More STATIC, and a VOICE in RUSSIAN:

RADIO OPERATOR (V.O.)
Lines down... System failure... Under attack...

Juliet reacts as Loengard and Albano look on, clueless.

JULIET
(RUSSIAN)
Under attack?! From who?

2 INT. AURA-Z - COMMUNICATIONS CENTER - DAY

The RADIO OPERATOR sits huddled in a corner of a busted up, darkened control room. He stares fearfully at the door, which is closed, locked from the inside and barricaded with whatever equipment and furniture he could stack against it. -- trying to withstand a ferocious, battering assault from the outside, the force of which shakes the whole room. A SUPER reads:

Aura-Z Command Center
Chernobyl, USSR
August 19, 1966

For dramatic purposes, we hear the radio operator now in accented ENGLISH:

RADIO OPERATOR
They are at the door! They're
killing everyone.

3 INTERCUT: MAJESTIC/AURA-Z

JULIET
Repeat, who is attacking you?
(more STATIC)
You're breaking up again. Come in,
Ballerina

Loengard and Albano react to Juliet's distressed tone.

LOENGARD
What's happening?

JULIET
He says they're being attacked!

RADIO OPERATOR
You must send help! We are at their mercy. . .
No one left to save us

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

The lock finally gives way - - a groaning of metal, then a CRASH! The stack of obstacles is pushed aside. The radio operator's eyes widen, he backs up against the wall

JULIET
(shouting)
What' s happening?!

As the shadow of an unseen attacker falls across the radio operator:

RADIO OPERATOR
God help me... Noooo!

The hand of the attacker rips the microphone away. TIGHT ON the radio operator's terrified face as the cord from the microphone is wrapped around his neck. His assailant displays incredible strength, lifting the radio operator off the ground with one hand, choking him with the cord --

JULIET
(frantic)
Ballerina! Come in -

The radio operator's feet kick desperately at the air; the final, futile struggle.

The feet stop, the body goes limp. The powerful hand of the still-unseen attacker tosses the radio operator like a rag doll into the radio console. A shower of SPARKS - - the body twitches and shakes in a final, gruesome St. Vitus Dance of death --

Juliet stares at the console, horrified by what she's heard.

JULIET
Ballerina, this is Blue Fox. Respond, over...

Nothing but the STATIC. On Juliet's distress --

FADE OUT

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 OMITTED

5 CLOSE ON A PROJECTION SCREEN

As a slide changes, replacing the face on the screen with another.

ALBANO (V.O.)
Lieutenant Aarron Lebow, Navy SEAL, Special Forces,
currently on assignment in the Pacific with the U-S-S
Nimitz.

BACH (V.O.)
Used him in the Philippines. Too reckless. Pass.

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6 INT. MAJESTIC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

6

Albano runs the slide show for BACH. Next on screen is a young African-American in Army greens.

BACH
I recognize him. That's Captain
Powell.

ALBANO
He's Major Powell, now. Current posting, Vietnam,
battalion instructor.

Bach nods, waits for the next one. Albano hesitates.

BACH
Something wrong?

ALBANO
Are you sure this mission is a good
idea?

BACH
Whatever data they had down there
needs to be secured.

ALBANO
So let the Russians do it. It's
their mess.

BACH
Andotov at KGB is the only one who even
knows Aura-Z exists, and he won't risk
having to answer for it.

(beat)
Get Major Powell in here. Pull
Juliet and Loengard. And Halligan.

ALBANO
Halligan on a combat mission?

BACH
For science and medical. Pick a couple of
your field guys to round it out.

ALBANO

Frank, this is a dead drop into hostile territory. The Russians find out about it, things could get hip-deep in a hurry. Hell, for all we know, the whole thing could be a set-up. You sure you don't want me to go along?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

BACH

(shakes his head)

You're right. This could be a cut-and-run. I'm only willing to send people I can afford to lose.

7 OMITTED

7A CLOSE ON AN ARMY FIELD PACK

Loaded with gear. Next to a pile of other supplies. Guns, ammo, walkie-talkies. As we PAN this impressive stockpile:

7A CONTINUED:

OLD LOENGARD (V.0.)

Invading Aura-Z without the Russians even knowing - it was an errand for a madman or a fool. I didn't know which one I was any more, and I didn't really care.

8 OMITTED

8A INT. MAJESTIC - CORRIDOR ROOM - DAY

Where Loengard grabs one of the field packs and hustles to keep pace with Major POWELL. Cloaker PYNE, HALLIGAN, and Juliet follow suit behind the new team leader.

OLD LOENGARD (V.0.)

All I knew was that Kim and my baby were gone. I took the missions gladly. The more dangerous, the better. I was turning into the perfect Majestic agent, after all...

POWELL

Our route takes us to Lisbon for re-fueling, then on to Helsinki. From there, we're into the chopper and over Soviet airspace. Our drop is outside Chernobyl, about a half mile from the target.

(beat)

Our job is to contain the situation, get the data and get out. This is not a rescue operation. Questions?

There aren't any.

POWELL

Good. Get your supplies together. We depart in exactly 15 minutes.

Powell continues on. Pyne and Halligan follow. Juliet remains, staring down at the floor, obviously preoccupied.

LOENGARD

You all right?

JULIET

Fine.

(off his look)

Just thinking about someone I know.

LOENGARD

At Aura-Z?

JULIET

(nods)

Colonel Mironov.

8A CONTINUED: 2

LOENGARD

Mironov. He's the head man. They talked about him in the briefing. The Russian Bach...

That gets a laugh from Juliet.

JULIET

Same job description. But different style. He cares about his people. They work for him out of love and respect.

LOENGARD

Definitely not the Majestic way.

(beat)

You're worried about him.

JULIET

He turned my whole life around.

Loengard waits to hear the details.

JULIET

When I was 16 my father finally drank himself to death and I went a little crazy. My mother couldn't control me any more, so she sent me to 'Komsomol.'

LOENGARD

What's that?

JULIET

Youth camp, with military training. I was so angry at my father, I took it all out on the other students. Pretty soon they put me with the boys. They laughed at me and I whipped them all, too.

LOENGARD

I can believe that.

JULIET

Dmitri - - Colonel Mironov -- was on a recruiting trip, and he saw me take down an instructor who yelled at me for being too rough. They were going to send me to a detention center, but he stepped in and said he'd take responsibility for me.

8A CONTINUED: 3

LOENGARD

You joined Aura-Z when you were sixteen?

JULIET

I didn't really know what it was at first. Dmitri just arranged to have me picked up and brought in for training sessions. It wasn't all fighting. I learned ballet, philosophy, meditation -- even how to dress.

(beat)

He taught me everything I know. If anything happened to him --

Juliet fights back a wave of emotion.

LOENGARD

He could've gotten out.

JULIET

I don't care what Major Powell says. I'm going in to find him.

9 INT. AURA-Z -- MAIN ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

Sparks fly as a BLOWTORCH finishes cutting its way through the latch on a heavy steel door to the outside.

POWELL (O.S.)

All right. Let's get it open.

The door groans as it's muscled open from the outside -- a couple of FLASHLIGHT BEAMS play across the darkened space, cluttered with debris. Loengard steps inside, his gun drawn. Sweeps the room. Nothing. The rest of the team steps in cautiously, laden with gear, weapons drawn. Nothing but a few bare bulbs illuminate the clusters of broken equipment, shattered glass, etc.

LOENGARD

Man. Looks like a tornado hit this place.

PYNE

(looking around; nervous)

Except tornadoes don't stick around after they've done their business.

LOENGARD

Looks all quiet to me.

9 CONTINUED:

PYNE

Yeah, now...

POWELL

Emergency power's on.

JULIET

Back-up generator. It kicks in automatically when the main unit goes off. It also triggers the auto-lockdown. That's why all the doors are sealed.

Loengard ventures forward, shines his beam around. Picks up an antique-looking phone off the floor.

LOENGARD

Some of this stuff looks like it's from the forties.

Powell grabs Loengard's arm.

POWELL

Don't touch anything. It could be rigged.

Loengard gingerly puts the phone down.

JULIET

A lot of it is from the forties. We never had the kind of money Majestic has.

Juliet takes a long look around at the place she used to know.

JULIET

My God. Who could have done this?

POWELL

That's what we're here to find out. Pyne, I want this
Entrance re-sealed. Everyone else, let's sweep the area.

9 CONTINUED: 2

As Pyne fires up his blowtorch and the others lock and load --

10

THRU OMITTED

11

12 INT. AURA-Z - COMMUNICATIONS CENTER - - NIGHT

Juliet approaches the entrance, gun and flashlight at the ready. It's partially blocked by an overturned equipment rack. Juliet gets in the doorway, uses the leverage from the door frame to shove the obstacle clear -- as it moves aside, a sudden flash of movement startles her --

A HUMAN HEAD

Swings down from above! Its lifeless eyes staring straight ahead. Juliet reacts instinctively, fires several rounds --

Loengard enters to find her staring at the corpse of the radio operator, hanging by his feet from a ceiling beam.

12 CONTINUED: 3

LOENGARD

Did you know him?

JULIET

No. But I'll bet he's who called
on the radio.

(beat)

Jesus. He's just a kid.

POWELL (O.S.)

What the hell's going on in here?

Loengard and Juliet spin around to see Powell approaching from the corridor. Loengard and Juliet step aside, allowing Powell to see the grisly sight.

POWELL

Damn.

Powell steps into the room, pulls a chair over and steps up onto it. Pulls out a knife and reaches up to cut the wire holding the body. It drops to floor.

POWELL
Cheap stunt. Same kind of crap
Charlie uses in 'Nam to try and
spook you.

(steps down)
Ignore it.

Powell re-sheaths his knife.

POWELL
Eight other bodies so far. Looks
like they were all Aura-Z personnel.

JULIET
Were they --

POWELL
No. Just killed the old-fashioned
way. Come on. We have work to do.

13
THRU OMITTED
14

15 INT. AURA-Z -- CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Loengard and Juliet work their way down the hall. Checking doorways, staying close to the walls.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Loengard turns back, as if sensing something -- his flashlight beam flares directly into CAMERA, then sweeps past.

Loengard and Juliet turn back, continuing along, when suddenly they hear a SCURRYING noise coming from a doorway behind them. They whirl around, weapons trained. Loengard hand signals to her to take the wide angle from the other side of the hall.

She moves into position as Loengard advances in a crouch toward the doorway. Moving up slowly -- slowly... suddenly, a flash of movement, as a FIGURE springs out of the doorway and starts to run away!

Loengard and Juliet react, guns trained --

LOENGARD
Stop!

Loengard and Juliet give chase. The figure stumbles on some debris in the corridor and goes down in a heap. Loengard is on it in a flash, followed closely by Juliet. He straddles the fallen form, gun pointed and ready.

LOENGARD
(to Juliet)
Tell him to put his hands out.

Loengard's trigger finger tightens. Juliet moves up, addresses the figure in RUSSIAN:

JULIET

Please put out your hands so we can see them.

The figure shifts slightly, but we still can't see who or what it is. Then, a pair of hands emerge, shaking with apparent fear.

JULIET

Good. Now spread your feet apart.

Slowly, the figure complies. Juliet looks to Loengard, gestures that she wants to move in closer.

15 CONTINUED: 2

LOENGARD

Be careful.

Juliet slowly moves forward, crouches down to the figure as Loengard keeps his weapon trained. Juliet takes hold of the figure's shoulder and lifts up -- the face of a young woman is revealed in the beam of Loengard's flashlight -- she is LIUDMILLA~ and she is shaking with fright. She answers haltingly, also in RUSSIAN:

LIUDMILLA

Are you going to kill me?

Juliet slowly lowers her gun and touches a hand to Liudmilla's face.

JULIET

There's been enough of that.

16 OMITTED

17 INT. AURA-Z -- CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Liudmilla walks in front of Loengard and Juliet. As she reaches a door to a utility room, she gestures for Loengard and Juliet to join her. Loengard hesitates, gun still poised at his side.

LOENGARD

I still don't trust her. This could be a trap.

Liudmilla turns back, and replies in perfect English:

LIUDMILLA

I am trusting you with my life. My risk is much greater.

LOENGARD
You speak English?

17 CONTINUED:

LIUDMILLA
Everyone at Aura-Z does..
(beat)
Or used to.

She leans close to the door, knocks lightly in a staggered pattern. After a beat, there is a series of answering knocks.

LIUDMILLA.
That is Pavel.

18 INT. AURA-Z - SURVIVORS' DEN - NIGHT

The utility room has been transformed into a functional hideout, with two cots, some canned food, a couple of candles, some equipment. A door to a small adjoining room visible on one wall.

Liudmilla sits on one cot, still shaking from her encounter. Next to her is PAVEL, a disheveled man of about 35. Juliet and Loengard stand in the center of the room.

JULIET
I'm a field operative. I've been working
with the Americans. This is John Loengard.

Loengard holds out his hand. Pavel hangs back.

LOENGARD
We're here to help you.

PAVEL
You're a little late for that.

Loengard looks to Juliet. Pavel sighs, puts a hand out to Liudmilla to steady her shaking.

PAVEL
I am sorry. It's just --

Pavel buries his face in his hands, overcome with emotion.

LOENGARD
It's okay.

PAVEL
I am Pavel Antonovich. I am a biologist,
from the Gorky Institute in Moscow.

18 CONTINUED:

JULIET

Pavel, can you tell us what happened here?

PAVEL

We were conducting some experiments. On prisoners --

LOENGARD

What kind of experiments?

PAVEL

We were told only the details pertaining to our individual tasks. Two days ago I was in the lab with Liudmilla and the alarms started to sound. One of the other scientists came in and told us the prisoners had gotten loose. We barely got out of the lab, and the power went out. There was the sound of people screaming in the hallway and things breaking...

Pavel struggles to keep his composure.

18 CONTINUED: 2

PAVEL

When the emergency power came on, we could see there were bodies everywhere. For the last two days, we have heard terrible things. We have been too afraid to even breathe. Just sitting here, waiting for them to find us --

Liudmilla begins to weep uncontrollably. Juliet bends in to Pavel, intent.

JULIET

Pavel. Are there any other survivors?

PAVEL

As far as I know, we are the only ones.

Juliet reacts, ashen.

JULIET

And Colonel Mironov?

Pavel shakes his head sadly.

PAVEL
Liudmilla saw them taking him away.

JULIET
Then he was still alive...

PAVEL
That was two days ago. I can only
imagine what those animals have done to him.

18A INT. AURA-Z -- FILE ROOM - - DAY

Like the rest of the place, strewn with debris. Overturned filing cabinets, etc. Loengard, weapon out, sweeps the room while Juliet sifts through some files.

LOENGARD
I think we should have waited with Pavel
and Liudmilla until the team showed up.

JULIET
We called it in. And every minute
we wait could be Dmitri's last.

Juliet sights a file cabinet, opens it up.

JULIET
There should be dossiers on the prisoners
here. Maybe even some records from
the experiments.

Juliet continues to look, finds something.

JULIET
Here.

Loengard isn't listening. He's found a file of his own --the writing is in Russian, but the pictures tell the story -- a dossier with Majestic's seal; a number of black-and-white surveillance photos:

The photos are of KIMBERLY SAYERS, recent vintage. She is with STEELE, her Hive handler. Worst of all, Sayers' baby -- Loengard's infant son -- is with them. They look for all the world like a young, happy family on a European vacation.

Loengard sinks to the floor, staring at the pictures of the departed woman he loves and the child he has never held -- devastated.

18B MONTAGE (STOCK)

A series of pulls from previous episodes -- Loengard and Sayers, together, in love; progressing on to Sayers' pregnancy and the birth of of their child.

18C INT. AURA-Z -- FILE ROOM -- DAY

Loengard is startled by a hand on his shoulder. Juliet has moved over to him, and seen the pictures.

LOENGARD

My son. They have pictures of my son. And Kim...

Juliet reaches down, gently tries to take the file from his hand. He's not letting go. Loengard stares straight ahead, overcome with a barrage of conflicting emotions.

LOENGARD

Why wasn't I shown these?

JULIET

John, I know this hurts. But wallowing in it isn't helping anything.

LOENGARD

I had a right to see the damn pictures.

Juliet kneels down, looks him right in the eye.

JULIET

Listen to me. The person in those pictures is not Kimberly. Kimberly is dead. You have to let her go. You have to move on, starting right now. This is not the time or the place to be sentimental.

Juliet again reaches for the file. This time, he lets her take it. She helps him to his feet.. They start to move out, are startled by a VOICE from the doorway, speaking in RUSSIAN:

KULESHOV (O.S.)

Hey! Over here.

Loengard and Juliet instinctively dive for cover behind some more cabinets, aiming their guns at doorway. Juliet and Loengard trade looks -- he gestures to her. She answers in RUSSIAN:

JULIET

Who are you?

18C CONTINUED:

A silhouette becomes partially visible in the doorway... -KULESHOV, one of the convicts. (The following conversation, again, to play in accented ENGLISH, though in reality it would be happening in RUSSIAN).

KULESHOV

Never mind that. We have your boss.

JULIET
Colonel Mironov? What have you
done with him?

KULESHOV
He is a pig. We should slaughter
him for what he has done to us.

JULIET
What do you want?

KULESHOV
To leave here. No trouble from you. We make it
out all right, you can have him. Otherwise...

JULIET
How do I know he's even alive?

Kuleshov retreats out of sight for a beat. He returns with another figure, whom he
shoves forward into the light... MIRONOV. Battered, bloody, but alive.

JULIET
Dmitri! It's me. Juliet.

MIRONOV
Juliet. Don't listen to them.
They are liars!

He is silenced by a brutal blow to the gut and hauled back into the shadows.

KULESHOV
Be at the access in one hour. Bring all your f
riends so we can see them. You don't show,
I'll kill your boss on the spot.

On Juliet's reaction:

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

FADE IN:

19 INT. AURA-Z - SURVIVORS' DEN - DAY

Pyne moves gear inside as Loengard, Powell and Juliet huddle off to one side. Across
the room, Halligan tends to Liudmilla and Pavel. Liudmilla is wrapped in a blanket,
shivering.

POWELL
It's out of the question. They could
be bluffing.

LOENGARD
I don't think they were bluffing.

JULIET

They're desperate. They'll kill Colonel Mironov if we don't show up.

POWELL

I have orders, Agent Stuart, and they don't include making deals with convicts.

JULIET

Maybe you should examine your orders a little more closely, Major.

POWELL

Are you questioning my authority?

JULIET

I'm telling you that Colonel Mironov is the key to getting what you're after.

Powell waits for her to explain.

JULIET

(beat; hesitates)

He's the only one who has access to the red box.

LOENGARD

The 'red box?'

19 CONTINUED:

JULIET

It's a doomsday protocol. Like your President's 'football.' It contains every code, every data system, every bit of sensitive information about Aura-Z. Mironov has it, and they have him.

POWELL

Why weren't we told about this in the briefing?

JULIET

Because they didn't know about it.

Loengard and Powell stare at Juliet.

JULIET

I'm on loan to Majestic. My loyalty is to Aura-Z.

As this revelation sinks in, Halligan crosses to Powell.

HALLIGAN

We have a serious medical situation.

(indicates survivors)

They're both traumatized. The woman is very weak. She could go into shock.

Pavel approaches, a blanket pulled around his shoulders.

PAVEL

Liudmilla is very sick. You have to get her to a hospital.

POWELL

That's not possible right now.

PAVEL

She could die...

POWELL

We all could die. I can't spare the manpower right now.

(bottom line)

Doctor Halligan will do his best to take care of you and the lady.

Powell gestures to Halligan, who leads Pavel away, muttering in RUSSIAN. Powell turns back to Loengard and Juliet.

POWELL

What's to say those prisoners don't already have this red box.

JULIET

If they did, don't think they'd be offering it instead of an enemy soldier to a bunch of Americans.

POWELL

My orders are to secure this facility. I don't think Rolling out a red carpet to the front door for a bunch of convicts qualifies as 'securing.'

JULIET

I don't think we have any choice.

LOENGARD

Maybe we do.

(beat)

If we can pull that rug out from under them.

20 INT. MAJESTIC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A young man in a turtleneck sweater and corduroy jacket sits at the table, looking scared and angry. He is DR. CARL SAGAN, age 32. On the table in front of him are his leather briefcase and a blindfold. An armed MP guards the door. The NP stands aside as Bach enters, crosses in front of Sagan.

BACH

Doctor Sagan...

SAGAN

Who the hell are you?

BACH

Let's just say I'm an admirer of your work.

SAGAN

Tell me, do you grab everyone you admire off the street, blindfold him and take him to some underground facility with no explanation?

BACH

I'm sorry for that inconvenience.

SAGAN

Inconvenience? It's kidnapping.

BACH

For our security and your own protection, we had to bring you in this way. Strictly procedure. You're in no danger.

SAGAN

Then what is it you want? And please, be quick about it. I'm due to give a lecture tonight.

BACH

'Intelligent Life in the Universe... Can We Really Be Alone?'
Georgetown University, Stadler Auditorium, seven-thirty-pm.
Sponsored by the Planetary Society. Admission, free.
I'm sure it expands very nicely on your doctoral thesis at Cornell.

Sagan stares at Bach.

BACH

You have some fascinating theories. I'm particularly intrigued by the idea that we've already contacted other beings without even realizing it by way of our TV and radio signals.

SAGAN

So, you've done your homework. You still aren't telling me what you want.

BACH

The question, Doctor, is what do you want? It can all happen for you.

SAGAN

Right now, I want to go to my lecture. And to never have a repeat of this deplorable incident.

BACH

Fine. But when you go to give that lecture tonight about whether or not there's life beyond our galaxy --

(checks his watch)

And you will make it on time, by the way -- wouldn't you rather be operating with facts and evidence than just speculation?

21

THRU

21B

OMITTED

22INT. AURA-Z - CORRIDOR AT ACCESS TO 'B' WING - NIGHT

Powell, Loengard and Pyne position themselves at intervals along the semi-dark hallway, facing the door to the 'B' wing. Out front is Juliet, who nervously checks her watch.

POWELL

(into walkie)

Loengard. You listening?

Loengard picks up his walkie.

LOENGARD

I'm here.

POWELL

Pyne?

Across the corridor from Loengard, Pyne chimes ~fl:

PYNE

Ready and waiting.

POWELL

We're go on my command, gentlemen.

Everyone waits and watches, the tension builds. Near the access, Juliet sees the door crack open.

JULIET

(into walkie)

Here they come.

From behind the door:

KULES HO V

(in RUSSIAN)

Coming out!

JtJLIET

(in RUSSIAN)

We're here.

Mironov appears in the doorway, Kuleshov right behind him, holding a gun to his captive's head, using him as a human shield. A second man, Convict #2, follows them out. He, too, is heavily armed.

(From here, we again make the transition to ENGLISH-for-RUSSIAN)

KULESHOV
Where are your people?

Juliet keys her walkie:

JULIET
All right. Show yourselves.

22 CONTINUED:

One by one, the Team members wave their arms out into the sight- line of the hallway.

KULESHOV
We're going to start walking. I
see anything I don't like, he's a
dead man.

Slowly, Kuleshov, Mironov and Convict #2 start to make their way down the hallway, shadowed by Juliet.

22 CONTINUED: 2

KULESHOV
(to Mironov)
Keep moving.

They're almost even with Loengard. On his walkie:

POWELL (V.O.)
Now.

Loengard reaches down, takes hold of something on the floor. Barely visible in the dim light, a wire. Loengard pulls the wire taut -- it's laid across the floor, directly in the path of the convicts --

Kuleshov and Mironov move forward -- their feet catch on the wire, and they go down in a tangle of arms and legs, and all hell breaks loose -- Juliet charges the pile, pulling Mironov free as Kuleshov and Convict #2 come up firing --

Powell, Loengard and Pyne scramble and fire back --

Juliet pulling Mironov to safety, sees Kuleshov drawing a bead on them, rolls out of the way and FIRES. Kuleshov goes down --

Pyne and Convict #2 exchange volleys when a THIRD CONVICT appears from the access doorway -- he blasts Pyne, who drops to the floor --

Mironov lies flat on the floor, pinned in the cross-fire --Juliet lays down a hail of cover fire and runs to him, pulls him to the safety of a doorway --

Powell blasts away at Convicts #2 and 3, who retreat in opposite directions - -

POWELL
All right, fall back!

Juliet, Mironov and Loengard move to join him.

POWELL
Where's Pyne?

Loengard looks, sees the fallen form of the Cloaker. He turns the body over, reacts.

POWELL
Let's get back to base.

22 CONTINUED: 3

Mironov sags onto the arms of Juliet. Powell sees the prone body of Kuleshov. He trains his weapon on the corpse, pushes at it with his foot. Nothing. Then, all of a sudden, the CRACKING noise of a jawbone breaking and a GANGLION TENDRIL snakes out of Kuleshov's mouth! Powell jumps back freaked.

Loengard steps forward and coolly blasts the writhing organism to bits. Powell just stares at it.

LOENGARD
Welcome to the wonderful world of
Majestic, Major Powell.

23
THRU
24
OMITTED

25 INT. AURA-Z - SURVIVORS' DEN - NIGHT

Halligan tends to Mironov's injuries while the rest of the team decompresses. Liudmilla and Pavel hang back, apart. Juliet sits closest to Mironov, lightly touches a bruise on his cheek.

HALL IGAN
I think you may have some internal
bleeding. You should lie down.

MIRONOV
Nonsense. I am like the Siberian
Winter -

JULIET
(finishing for him)
Cold and fierce and eternal. What
a bunch of rot. You're a
sentimental old goat.

(CONTINUED)

MIRONOV

She hasn't changed a bit. Still causing trouble.

Mironov throws an arm around her.

POWELL

I don't mean to interrupt the reunion, but at least two of those prisoners - or whatever they are - are still loose, and I'm down a man. What can you tell us, Colonel?

MIRONOV

Morozova and Talybov. They're the only ones left.

25 CONTINUED:

JULIET

Dmitri, what happened? Pavel told us they were being used in some experiments.

MIRONOV

KGB wanted to know if it was possible to implant the organisms into humans.

JULIET

Why?

MIRONOV

Some military application. They shipped us a cargo of prisoners. Murderers, sociopaths - hopeless cases. We implanted them and kept them under observation for months, but nothing happened. There was no effect.

HALLIGAN

No effect?

MIRONOV

Not that we could detect. We finally called off the experiment and arranged to have them shipped back to prison. But during the transfer, they broke free. It was masterful - like a military operation. The result was a pack of murderers, with the mental and physical capabilities of implants --

Mironov drops his head.

MIRONOV

It's all my fault. I should have seen it coming..

JULIET

That's ridiculous. You couldn't have known.

(CONTINUED)

HALLIGAN

Actually, it is strange there were no physical effects. We've found measurable biological differences between implants and humans.

JULIET

Are you questioning Colonel Mironov?

25 CONTINUED: 2

HALLIGAN

Of course not. I just was looking at these medical records you found -- well, I assume they're medical records. They're in Russian --

Halligan produces the file. Powell walks over.

LOENGARD

These records are from the experiments?

MIRONOV

Yes, I believe so.

POWELL

(to Juliet)

Read them for us. In English.

Juliet glares at Halligan, takes the file.

JULIET

This is the roster. Names and backgrounds of the prisoners --

Suddenly, Mironov leaps up from his chair.

MIRONOV

Juliet! Look out --

Mironov dives past her, tackles Pavel, who had sneaked up behind Juliet with a medical instrument, and was about to stab her! Loengard dives into the fray, and with help from Powell and Juliet, restrains Pavel, who kicks and fights with super-human strength.

POWELL

He's one of them...

FADE OUT.

(CONTINUED)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

26 INT. AURA-Z - SURVIVORS' DEN - NIGHT

Converse holds Pavel, who's now tied to a chair, at gunpoint. Loengard, Juliet, Mironov and Powell stand across from him. Halligan administers a sedative to Liudmilla, who's crying hysterically and gibbering in RUSSIAN.

JULIET

What are we going to do with him?

POWELL

How about sweating some answers out of him?

LOENGARD

Won't do any good. They never talk.

MIRONOV

Leave him with me for a few minutes. There's a first time for everything.

Mironov looms over Pavel menacingly.

PAVEL

Your organization is in ruins. Your people are dead. And-all you can think of is revenge. That is why you will lose. Your minds are so small.

Pavel laughs contemptuously. Mironov balls up his fist, trembling with pent-up rage. Juliet puts a hand on his arm, stops him. Mironov smolders for a beat, relaxes, when:

LIUDMILLA (O.S.)

Liar.

They turn to see Liudmilla advancing unevenly toward Pavel, aiming a gun at him.

POWELL

Where the hell did she get that?

JULIET

Liudmilla, put it down.

26 CONTINUED:

Liudmilla ignores her, points the gun directly at Pavel.

LIUDMILLA

You said we would get out of here together.

PAVEL

You could have joined us. You still can --

LIUDMILLA

I would die first.

Her finger tightens on the trigger.

LOENGARD

Liudmilla, no!

He starts toward her, but it's too late -- BANG! Pavel slumps in the chair, dead. Loengard grabs Liudmilla, disarms her.

POWELL

Get her out of here, now!

Halligan hustles Liudmilla toward the adjoining room.

POWELL

This is getting out of hand. I want that red box and then I want a clean evacuation.

MIRONOV

You told them?

Mironov looks to Juliet, surprised.

JULIET

If we don't get it, KGB will. Or the implants --

MIRONOV

(beat; sighs)

It is in my safe. In my office.

POWELL

So we either send a patrol and risk them getting ambushed, or we all go and risk getting bottled up back there.

MIRONOV

There is another way. Through the vent system.

26 CONTINUED: 2

POWELL

Good. Show me.

MIRONOV

There is a problem. Taking the red box from the safe without the authorization code triggers an automatic self-destruct for the whole complex.

POWELL

Then give us the code.

MIRONOV

It's voice-activated. Only I can give it. And I'm afraid I'm in no shape to be crawling through vents. If someone else does it, we'd all have ten minutes to evacuate before the complex blows.

LOENGARD

We'll just have to move fast.

27 INT. MAJESTIC - BIO LAB - NIGHT

Dark, quiet. The door opens; a DIMMER flicks on, bathing the room in low light. The environment of the alien gray becomes visible as Bach and Sagan enter. Bach gestures toward the environment. Sagan hesitates, shoots Bach a puzzled look.

BACH

Go ahead. Take a closer look.

Sagan approaches the environment, stares inside. His eyes scan the compartment, trying to adjust to the dark.

Suddenly, the head of the GRAY appears from above, its black eyes staring back at Sagan as it hangs by its feet from its perch -- the startled scientist stumbles backward, almost loses his balance.

SAGAN

My God...

(turns to Bach)

What is it?

BACH

The answer to your lecture question.

Sagan regains his bearings, walks back up to the glass, though not as close as before, stares in with a mix of awe and wonder.

27 CONTINUED:

SAGAN

Why show this to me? I'm an astronomer,
not a biologist.

BACH

I already know what it is. My six
year old daughter could tell me that.

(beat)

How many stars are out there, Doctor? How many
galaxies? How many worlds.

SAGAN

Countless. Billions and billions.

BACH

Somewhere out there is the planet this thing
came from. I need you to search those stars, Doctor.
Find that planet.

27A INT. AURA-Z - MIRONOV'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A ceiling tile slides aside, allowing a FLASHLIGHT beam to knife into the darkness of the room. The beam sweeps around -- as with the rest of Aura-Z, it's a wreck. The desk overturned, papers and equipment strewn around.

Now a figure drops down out of the opening, to the floor. It's Loengard. He shines the light around some more, reaches for his walkie, speaking quietly:

LOENGARD

(into walkie)

I'm in.

Loengard continues carefully making his way through the debris. He stops suddenly as his beam finds something -- a body! Loengard reacts, trains his gun on it. He cautiously nudges it with his foot. He rolls it over -- the glassy stare of a dead secretary meets his gaze. Loengard shudders, turns and heads to the wall safe. There is a panel with a speaker adjoining it, but Loengard goes straight to the tumbler and starts entering a combination.

After a few turns, he yanks the handle, the safe swings open. Loengard shines the flashlight inside, revealing a briefcase -- bingo. About ready to grab it, when he senses a presence behind him --

27A CONTINUED:

Loengard whirls just in time to deflect a vicious blow aimed by an attacker. The attacker slams Loengard back into the wall, they struggle. Loengard manages a reversal, reaches out and slams the heavy door to the safe into the attacker's face. The attacker manages to shake it off and come right back at him, undeterred.

A wrestling match commences on the floor, combatants popping in and out of the beam of Loengard's flashlight. The attacker gains the upper hand, starts strangling Loengard -- Loengard grabs the flashlight and blasts it right in the attacker's eyes. The attacker screams, knocks the flashlight away and blindly goes for the kill -- Loengard reaches back in desperation, finds a letter opener on the floor and jams it into the attacker's chest!

The attacker gasps, finally succumbs. Loengard rolls to his feet. He shines the flashlight on the attacker, revealing that it is Liudmilla! Loengard crosses to the safe and grabs the briefcase. He unclips his walkie-talkie:

LOENGARD
(into walkie)
I got the package, but we have a
bigger problem...

28 INT. AURA-Z - SURVIVORS' DEN - NIGHT

Powell re-clips his walkie, turns to Juliet, who's been examining the files containing the prisoner manifest.

28 CONTINUED:

POWELL
Loengard says he just got jumped by
Liudmilla. Now, how in the hell - -

JULIET
Oh, my God. I think I understand. This
prisoner manifest -- Pavel wasn't a scientist.

She holds up a picture -- Pavel in a prison outfit. -

28 CONTINUED: 2

JULIET
He was a convict named Alexei Yashin.

POWELL

So he jumped you because you were about to read his file, and expose him.

JULIET

And Liudmilla was playing right along with him --

Before the implications of this have a chance to sink in, the LIGHTS GO OUT -- not even emergency lighting now -- just PITCH BLACKNESS.

29 INT. AURA-Z - ADJOINING ROOM - NIGHT

A pair of flashlight beams stab in the darkness. Juliet and Powell, guns drawn, sweep the room. Strewn with overturned equipment and supplies.

POWELL

Colonel Mironov? Halligan!

A GROAN issues from the corner. Juliet races over, finds Mironov sitting against a crate, dazed.

JULIET

Dmitri! What happened?

MIRONOV

I -- don't know. I came in to check on Liudmilla, and the next thing I know, someone hit me from behind.

Powell looks behind a stack of crates.

POWELL

Over here.

Juliet and Mironov join Powell, whose flashlight shines on a grisly sight -- Halligan, bleeding from a stab wound. Powell kneels down, close to Halligan, who fights for his last breaths.

POWELL

Halligan. Hang on, man.

Powell tries to manually compress the wound.

29 CONTINUED:

HALLIGAN

They're all -- Hive. Can't trust...

Halligan expires before he can finish the thought. Powell gently releases him.

MIRONOV

My God. Who did this?

JULIET

Liudmilla. She jumped Loengard in your office.

MIRONOV

Then she is one of them, too?

POWELL

Wait a minute. If she was an implant, why did she kill Pavel? Wasn't he on her side?

JULIET

Just to keep us in the dark. They probably planned it that way.

Juliet sees Powell struggling to comprehend.

JULIET

Hive mentality. No individual is important. Everyone's expendable for the cause.

POWELL

Sounds a lot like Communism to me.

That draws a glare from Mironov. Before he can respond, the door opens -- Powell and Juliet whirl around, guns drawn.

LOENGARD (O.S.)

It's me.

Loengard steps into the light.

LOENGARD

What happened?

JULIET

She killed Halligan.

Loengard reacts, visibly shaken. Powell looks around at the carnage in the room.

POWELL

I don't understand this. This is nuts --

LOENGARD

We don't have time to make sense of it.

(checks his watch)

We have eight minutes to make it out of here.

Loengard, Juliet and Mironov start picking up their gear and moving toward the door. Powell chambers his weapon --

POWELL

Hold it!

They turn around. Powell has his weapon pointed at the group.

LOENGARD

What are you doing?

POWELL

How do I know you're not one of them, too?
Or her. Or him... the damn Russian.

MIRONOV

Don't be ridiculous.

Powell's eyes dart between the three other remaining team members. His gun pointed at them, hand shaking.

POWELL

You could all be aliens. Like Halligan said.
Can't trust anybody down here.

(to Loengard)

Give me that briefcase.

Loengard hands it to him.

LOENGARD

Get a grip, Powell. This is exactly what
they want us to do. Turn on each other.

(checks his watch)

Seven minutes...

All eyes on Powell. He's on the verge of cracking. Juliet steps up, locks eyes with Powell.

JULIET

You'd better be prepared to shoot me
right now, because I'm walking
out of here. John... Dmitri?

Loengard and Mironov move to join her. They start to exit. Powell watches, conflicted. Will he shoot them in the back?

Then:

29 CONTINUED: 4

POWELL

Hell with it.

He hustles to catch up with the others.

POWELL

We move in formation. There are
still two hostile parties in here.

A beat, Loengard and Juliet exchange glances then move to follow Powell's order, allowing him to re-assert his leadership.

30 OMITTED

31 INT. AURA- Z - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

And then there were Four, huddled by the door: Powell wields the blowtorch on the door, Mironov clutches the red box; Loengard and Juliet crouch low, backs to the door, guns pointed into the darkness, from which random SHOTS RICOCHET off the walls.

POWELL

How much time?

LOENGARD

(checks watch)

30 seconds!

Powell grits his teeth, finishes unsealing the weld.

POWELL

Help me with the door!

LOENGARD

(to Juliet)

Cover us.

Juliet lays down a hail of cover fire as Loengard turns and helps Powell muscle the heavy door back open. SHOTS bounce off the metal. Powell gestures to Mironov:

POWELL

Go!

Mironov struggles through the opening and out. Loengard waves at Powell to follow, he does so. Loengard runs forward, to Juliet, who's still blasting away.

LOENGARD

Come on!

31 CONTINUED:

She turns and sprints for the opening, disappears through, followed by Loengard. The door closes from the outside. Beat, beat -- KABOOM! The sound REVERBERATES as a figure appears from the corridor, runs at the door -- Convict #3 desperately pulls it back open, about to escape, when -- a FIREBALL roaring down the corridor catches up to him...

DISSOLVE TO:

32 INT. MAJESTIC - MAIN CORRIDOR - DAY

Loengard, Juliet, Powell and Mironov approach the security station -- worn, battered, but alive.

LOENGARD

Never thought I'd be so glad to see
this place again.

Powell addresses the Cloaker on duty:

POWELL

Major Powell reporting with
personnel from Operation Red Hawk.

The Cloaker checks Powell's ID badge, motions to a couple of MP's. The LEAD MP unholsters his sidearm, motions to the group.

LEAD MP

You'll need to come with us.

POWELL

What?

LEAD MP

You're all in quarantine. Orders
from the Captain.

The team trade astonished looks.

POWELL

You know what you can do with your
orders.

Powell turns, starts away. The second MP steps to block him, brings his rifle to bear. Other MP's do the same.

BACH (O.S.)
I suggest you obey them.

Bach walks up from the other side of the security station.

LOENGARD
What is this about, Frank?

32 CONTINUED:

BACH
Sorry, John. I'm not taking any
chances on this turning into
another Aura-Z.

On our team, prisoners in their own back yard -

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33
THRU OMITTED
34

35 INT. MAJESTIC - QUARANTINE ROOM - DAY

A bare-bones environment -- table, chairs, a couple of couches. Powell is stretched out on a couch, trying to sleep. Juliet and Mironov sit in a corner, speaking quietly, (ENGLISH for RUSSIAN). All are tired, disheveled, in the same clothes they were in from the field.

JULIET
Are you sure you're all right? You
look a little flushed.

MIRONOV

I'm fine. The doctors said I just need rest.

(laughs)

Imagine resting in here.

JULIET

I'm sorry Dmitri.

MIRONOV

For what? Saving my life?

JULIET

For this. The questioning. The quarantine. I expected better, even from Bach.

MIRONOV

No matter how much we might pretend to cooperate, this is a cold war. Never forget that.

JULIET

It's been 72 hours. They have no right to keep us. We passed our EBE's...

MIRONOV

They know more about implants than we did. If Majestic had shared their knowledge with us, perhaps this all wouldn't have happened.

JULIET

Where will you go? What will you do when this is over?

MIRONOV

I don't know. Andotov at KGB never trusted me. He certainly won't now.

(beat)

Maybe this is exactly what everybody wanted.

Juliet doesn't follow.

MIRONOV

Have Aura-Z do the dirty work, then disappear into oblivion. The Americans blame the Russians, the Russians blame me. I, too, disappear and no questions are asked.

The door opens and Loengard is escorted in by an NP. The MP turns and exits.

POWELL

Welcome back to the zoo. I think I liked it better down in that hellhole.

JULIET

Did they say when we're getting out of here?

Loengard avoids her eyes.

LOENGARD

No. Just the same questions.

POWELL

What are they going to do? Keep us after class until one of us confesses he's really an alien?

Mironov starts having difficulty breathing.

JULIET

Dmitri, what's the matter?

Mironov loosens his collar, really beginning to perspire now.

MIRONOV

I wish they would at least turn down the damn heat. I'm burning up...

JULIET

You're hot? I was going to ask them to turn off the air conditioning, it's so cold.

She puts a hand to his forehead.

JULIET

You're feverish.

MIRONOV

I -- I need to lie down...

Mironov tries to stand up, but he's hit with a wave of dizziness. He falls to the floor, clutching at his chest, hyperventilating.

JULIET

Dmitri!

Loengard and Powell scramble to their feet, rush over.

POWELL
What's wrong with him?

MIRONOV
My chest...

The door bursts open and a team of NP's enters, followed by Albano and Bach. The NP's hustle over to Mironov, but instead of helping, they aim their weapons at him!

JULIET
What are you doing?!

35 CONTINUED: 3

BACH
Get him out of here.

The MP's converge on the convulsing Mironov, drag him to his feet. Juliet lunges at the MP's, enraged. Albano steps in and restrains her. She whirls on Bach.

JULIET
Are you blind?! He's having a
heart attack!

BACH
I'm afraid that's not the problem.

36 INT. MAJESTIC - OBSERVATION AREA - DAY

36

Juliet, Bach, Loengard, Powell and Sagan watch as a kicking, fighting Mironov is strapped to a table by MP's and medical personnel, supervised by Albano.

JULIET
(livid)
I demand under the Geneva Convention
you end this charade and let Colonel Mironov go.

BACH
There is no Geneva Convention with
the Hive, Agent Stuart.

JULIET
What possible proof could you have?

BACH
Doctor Sagan?

SAGAN

The research suggests these entities are hypersensitive to pH. It follows that changing the oxygen-nitrogen balance would be a litmus test. We pumped pure oxygen into the room you were in. The effect on a normal person is negligible. But on a system that depends on acidity, the result is dramatically raised pH, and hyperventilation.

LOENGARD

Why didn't anything show up in Mironov's medical exam?

36 CONTINUED:

BACH

He was masking them somehow. Those prisoners had a full lab to work with after they killed the Aura-Z staff. They must have developed something.

POWELL

So you're saying they killed everyone except Mironov, and implanted him. Why spare him?

BACH

He's too valuable. You ever read about the Trojan horse, Major? They wheeled up a beautiful gift to the gates of the city, only it was loaded with hostile warriors.

(beat; ironic)

What better gift to offer us than the head of Aura-Z?

JULIET

This is an outrage. You harm that man in any way, and I will see to it that you answer personally.

Juliet turns and storms out of the room.

LOENGARD

So Halligan's research saved Majestic. Lucky timing, huh, Frank?

Loengard wheels and follows Juliet out the door.

37 INT. MAJESTIC - BULLPEN - DAY

Loengard finds Juliet standing by a window, staring out. He approaches, joins her.

LOENGARD

I'm sorry...

JULIET

You believe Bach.

Loengard doesn't answer. Something's eating him up.

37 CONTINUED:

JULIET

Let me ask you something. What if those experiments were done for Majestic? When it went wrong, they had to cover it up. Then they needed a scapegoat. The evil Russian...

LOENGARD

How do you explain when the room was cold, he was sweating?

JULIET

He was injured. Those prisoners beat him within an inch of his life. You saw it.

LOENGARD

I also saw Pavel and Liudmilla pass for scared survivors. They'll go to incredible lengths to deceive us.

JULIET

I know Dmitri. And I know this is another Majestic lie.

LOENGARD

Not this time.

Juliet stares at him, registering for the first time his conflicted, tortured attitude.

JULIET

You were in on this -- you and Bach...

She moves up in his face.

JULIET

You said something to him. In your interview --

Loengard doesn't deny it.

JULIET

How could you? After all the times I protected you...

LOENGARD

I did it to protect you. To protect all of us. Think about it -- why didn't he know Pavel was a prisoner and not a scientist?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 2

LOENGARD (CONT'D)

Why didn't Liudmilla kill him when she killed Halligan? Why didn't the prisoners kill him when he jumped them? You know I'm right. You just don't want to believe it.

Juliet absorbs the evidence, turns away -- Loengard catches her by the shoulder, spins her back around. Juliet comes at him with a chopping forearm, Loengard blocks it and holds her in a fierce stand-off.

LOENGARD

Someone gave me some good advice the other day. Told me to quit hanging on to the past, to face the new reality and move on.
(beat)

He is not Colonel Mironov any more.

As they face each other down, an ALARM sounds. They break and head out the door --

38 INT. MAJESTIC - OBSERVATION AREA/BIO LAB - DAY

Juliet and Loengard race in to find Bach, Albano and a brace of MP's watching tensely as Mironov, in patient's garb, holds a scalpel to the throat of a terrified nurse in the lab.

LOENGARD

What happened?

38 CONTINUED:

ALBANO

They were getting ready to do an eviction, the SOB jumped up off the table and took out two MP's before anyone could even react. Now we can't get a clear shot at him. Somebody's got to get in there and distract him.

A look passes between Loengard and Juliet.

39 INT. BIO LAB - DAY

Juliet faces Mironov, who still holds the nurse hostage. (Again, ENGLISH-for-RUSSIAN).

MIRONOV

Juliet. Thank God. These barbarians were trying to kill me.

JULIET

Let her go, Dmitri.

MIRONOV

I can't do that. They'll shoot me.

JULIET

Not if you let her go.

MIRONOV

Don't you see? They don't want either of us to get out of here. We're not like them. Come with me. We'll be together like the old days. Only better...

JULIET

Let her go.

MIRONOV

Drop your gun and I will let her go.

Juliet considers, after a beat, sets her gun on the floor.

40 INT. MAJESTIC - OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Bach, Albano and Loengard watch in amazement with the MP's.

LOENGARD

What is she doing?

41 INT. MAJESTIC - B10 LAB - DAY

Mironov start~ moving with the nurse -- suddenly he flings her like a rag doll at Juliet and dives for the gun! Juliet ducks and goes to the floor -- they struggle. Juliet manages to regain possession of the gun. She faces down her mentor.

MIRONOV

I taught you well, Juliet.

He starts advancing toward her.

MIRONOV

But I know that you won't shoot me.
You are too human. Too weak.

Mironov moves in closer, Juliet tightens her trigger finger.

JULIET

No. I am like the Siberian winter.
Cold. Fierce.

Mironov lunges toward her -- BANG! Mironov stares at her, drops to the floor, mortally wounded. Juliet looks down at him, a tear forming in her eye.

JULIET

Eternal.

41A INT. MAJESTIC - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Bach and a couple of technicians go over the contents of the red box. Loengard enters.

BACH

This red box -- it's worthless, John. We've translated it, cryptography's cracked the codes. It's a bunch of outdated, low-priority garbage. If I didn't know better, I'd say somebody pulled a switch.

LOENGARD

I pulled it out of the safe and gave it to Powell.

BACH

Then who?

41A CONTINUED:

LOENGARD

Mironov.

(beat)

He knew we were after it.

BACH

All that planning -- all that trouble just to try and pass off some clumsy disinformation? Not likely.

LOENGARD

The Trojan Horse.

BACH

What about it?

LOENGARD

It was just a carrier -- it's what it brought inside the walls that destroyed the city. So if Mironov was the Trojan Horse, what did he bring inside?

Bach follows Loengard's eye to the briefcase.

BACH

Everyone, out of this room. NOW.

As everyone leaves in a hurry, PUSH on the briefcase -- a faint TICKING NOISE, which gets LOUDER as we PUSH CLOSER --as the BLACK of the suitcase leather fills the screen, the sound of a tremendous EXPLOSION --

DISSOLVE TO:

42 INT. MAJESTIC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Albano addresses Bach and Loengard.

ALBANO

It was a form of gelignite plastique molded into the lining of the case. Munitions detonated it in a containment unit this morning.

After a beat, Powell enter in his dress greens.

BACH

What can I do for you, Major Powell?

POWELL

Sir, I respectfully request to be returned to my active unit.

42 CONTINUED:

BACH

You want to go back to Vietnam, Major?

POWELL

I'm a good soldier, Sir. I'm not afraid to die for my country. But down in that hole, with those aliens -- I felt out totally of control. Helpless.

(beat)

I'd rather be in the darkest jungle.

BACH

You're dismissed.

Powell snaps a salute, turns on his heel and exits.

42 CONTINUED:

ALBANO

You let him off easy.

BACH

(beat)

I'm just as scared as he is.

On that surprising admission from the ultimate Majestic man -

FADE OUT.

THE END