

"THE TAHOE SIGNAL"

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE - DAY - (TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY)

In the gray neon light, blue-steel instruments guide the Flight Shuttle towards earth.

Down the aisle there are the sleeping capsules. JARED is barely seen through a deep gray-tone mist.

The computer softly calls his name over and over.

CLOSEUP - JARED

Jared's eyes slowly open from lingering sleep. The mist is sucked out from the chamber and a plastic door opens.

His naked form sleepily tip toes along the steel waffled floor until he arrives at a small closet for his clothes.

He dresses slowly.

Jared's hands reach across the complicated console where he punches in his code on a key pad buried among switches.

CLOSEUP - COMPUTER SCREEN

The screen reveals messages sent from earth. A portion of the screen reveals messages being sent from planet LAZY 10.

Behind the computer screen sounds of SWITCHES OPEN and CLOSE endlessly filling Jared's inner ear with nothing but sound.

Jared moves to the kitchenette where he gargles water.

He places a paper cup under a stainless-steel spout and presses for orange juice.

Drinks the juice while he calmly looks out the portal into deep, dark, space.

Jared moves from the portal back to the console where he pretends to light a cigarette and smoke it.

His hand places the imaginary butt onto the console and looks into the computer screen.

JARED

Computer. Voice check.

COMPUTER

Yes Jared.

JARED

Surface visual of earth,
continental United States.
Expand picture to California.

COMPUTER

California.

JARED

Thanks.

COMPUTER

You are welcome.

EXTREME CLOSEUP - COMPUTER SCREEN

Deep ridges, mountains and fertile valleys come across the screen as if recorded by a jet at super low altitudes.

The path moves toward the endless shoreline of beautiful beaches and finally inland to the waters of Lake Tahoe.

The wispy pines give way to the gaudy splendor of twenty-first century Reno, Nevada.

Skyscrapers in steel glass rise right out of the cobalt-blue waters of the Lake.

In the middle, a one hundred story diamond and gold inlaid pyramid acts as the crowning beauty.

COMPUTER

Jared, I am replacing an oxygen cylinder in cube 13, row 6, capsule 2.

JARED

Thanks.

COMPUTER

You are welcome.

Jared crosses the hall to the food dispenser.

He moves back behind his console with the food tray and sits.

Jared hits his head on the steel cabinet reaching for the switches on the console.

JARED

Ouch. Damn it.

COMPUTER

Are you all right Jared?

JARED

Sure. I just hit my damn head on this steel door.

COMPUTER

Do you require medical attention?

JARED

I'm fine. Thanks.

COMPUTER

You are welcome.

Jared activates a switch on the console and the cover to his sleeping capsule closes.

JARED

So computer, all this high-tech hardware, do you know how it all works? What happens if something went wrong?

COMPUTER

I would analyze the situation
and give you data.

JARED

But I don't know how any of it
works.

COMPUTER

I understand the complete
operation.

JARED

I see. Just asked.

Jared waves at the computer camera which follows him
everywhere.

CLOSEUP - COMPUTER SCREEN

The screen shows the computer mapping out a hand and arm
which then waves back to Jared.

Jared laughs. He looks at the computer screen which is now a
dull blue.

He looks quickly at his watch.

JARED

Sure. What time is it? What
time is it where? Does it
even matter?

Jared removes his watch and places it on the console.

He leans back in the seat behind the console and rubs his
eyes.

JARED

Time will never be the same
again. I am time now - and
only I know it!

Jared closes his eyes and a single tear drops from one and
streams down his face.

His eyes open and close.

He sees through the tears a time past.

He is on top of the Austrian Alps in Hitler's one time home,
now known as The Eagle's Nest.

JARED

(whispers to himself)

It was only a joke.

CUT TO:

EXT. AUSTRALIAN ALPS - HELICOPTER POV - DAY

A high, narrow road winding up a steep gorge in the Austrian Alps.

A Porsche from another time, comes into view rushing around the corners, pulling the car closer to the pavement.

The car knocks a rock over the edge, and it falls down the cliff heading toward the village below.

The car stops in a small parking lot where the road ends.

Jared gets out from the driver's side.

PONEY, Jared's closest friend, climbs carefully out from the passenger side.

They walk together, like two men who have known each other for ever, into the concrete tunnel which conceals the brass elevator.

INT. BRASS AND COPPER ELEVATOR - DAY

Jared and Poney make funny faces in the rich polished mirror frames of brass and copper which make up the interior sides.

They appear like images in a carnival sideshow.

INT. THE EAGLE'S NEST - DAY

Hitler's home is now a Museum.

The elevator doors open and the men walk into the soft concrete texture of walls, sparse furniture and area rugs.

Jared and Poney walk through the living room onto the terrace.

EXT. TERRACE - DAY

They walk along the stone and concrete wall which holds visitors from falling thousands of feet down into town.

The pair walk toward LOUISE who sits on a large stone bench with lunch spread out at her feet on a small blanket.

They sit together with their hello's and hugs all around.

CLOSEUP - THE BLANKET

On the blanket as hands pass wine and cheese, pull french bread apart and cut juicy sausages.

Poney speaks to Jared as Louise hands out the lunch.

PONEY

You have to see Jared, what I'm talking about. From all of these race tracks all over the world, I get an over-view of the whole Western Front Security Net. Everyone gambles. What else is there to do these days for civilized men and women?

JARED

(to Louise)

Would you like some wine?

PONEY

(to Louise)

You taste it first and tell us if it's good.

Poney turns back to Jared.

PONEY

I'm telling you Jared...
what the government pays you
is loose change compared to
what you could get with just
a couple of well placed bets.

JARED

I don't need anymore money Poney.
And besides, the people I work
for would not understand where
the added income came from. I
wouldn't want them to get the
idea that I was selling -
critical secrets - to the other
side.

LOUISE

(German accent)

The wine is excellent. It's a
nice Rhine, not too sweet and it
goes very well with the Brie.
Come on you two and join the
party. You men don't even
know how to have a picnic
anymore.

Louise pokes them both and they all start laughing.

JARED

Look at these heights. Look at
the Alps and those meadows
straight down.

PONEY

(mouth full of sandwich)

Almost as good as seeing your
horse take a commanding lead in
the back stretch while the
favorite slowly dies in the pack.
Hey, what's that guy doing over
there?

A small man in a neat black suit walks toward them waving his hand and carrying a small cell phone.

LOUISE

(hand shades her face)

I think he's waving at us. No
he is coming over with a phone.

PONEY

(puts down sandwich)

Pretty fancy service even for
Hitler's balcony.

The man approaches Jared and slips the telephone into his hand. He then quietly steps to the side.

JARED

Hello. This is Major Flemming.
I understand. I'll do so. Yes
sir.

Jared returns the phone to the man.

JARED

(to Louise and Poney)

Sorry, you know how it is

Jared walks toward the elevator. As he walks he motions Poney to follow.

Louise quickly finds her purse and joins them.

PONEY

(to Jared)

You see, they would never do
this to me. They would call
and then meet me in the lounge
over a drink. Before the fifth
race. I never lose. Think about
it.

INT. EAGLE'S NEST - DAY

The trio arrive at the elevator.

With hugs all around and a quick kiss to Louise, Jared enters the elevator alone and the door closes.

Louise just hands him a small package as the doors swish closed.

LOUISE

Just a small going away present.
It's nothing really.

EXT. EAGLE'S NEST - DAY

The elevator doors open almost immediately as a limousine pulls up.

Jared walks down the tunnel and climbs into the back.

The door closes and the limousine drives down the mountain road.

The limo drives all the way through the small hamlet and then off the main road into the low foothills to a field.

It stops in front of an Air Force helicopter.

Jared is transferred to the craft and is belted in next to the pilot.

As the helicopter takes off there is a figure in the back seat that Jared cannot see.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRANKFURT AIRPORT - NIGHT

Jared climbs out of the helicopter and walks across part of the runway where he boards an international flight.

The door closes behind him and the plane takes off.

INT. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT - NIGHT

Jared is the only passenger on the airplane. He takes a Martini from the stewardess.

He leans his head back into the seat and closes his eyes.

CLOSEUP - JARED'S EYES

He opens and closes them trying to get his vision back in focus.

Jared opens them fully at last and he sees he is back in space on the Flight Shuttle.

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE - NIGHT

Jared grabs the food tray and pushes it into a slot on the wall.

He removes a paper cup and pushes it into a small depression.

It fills with a yellow liquid.

Four small pills appear from a concealed door.

Jared returns to the seat behind the console and takes the pills washed down with the liquid.

JARED

Voice print, computer.

COMPUTER

Yes Jared.

JARED

Bring up the original transmission from the Tahoe Mines.

CLOSEUP - COMPUTER SCREEN

Four letters appear only. H.E.L.P.

Jared reads and re-reads the short message.

The screen casts an eerie reflection on his eyes. His eyes seem to be seeking some other image.

The stewardess appears in his eyes reflection.

INT. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT - DAY

The stewardess is leaning over Jared trying to wake him.

The huge cargo doors behind her open.

A group of severe looking Army personnel enter the plane and escort Jared out to a waiting, black Town Car.

EXT. AIRPORT TARMACK - DAY

The sleek ultra-modern vehicle drives off into the wet black of Dulles International.

INT. TOWN CAR - DAY

In the deep blue velvet seats Jared sinks into the cushions.

GENERAL TURNER (O.S.)

Hello Jared.

The general hands Jared a Bloody Mary.

JARED

Jesus Turner what the hell is going on? Have we been bombed by some force in the twenty third quadrant? I haven't had this kind of treatment since I can't remember.

General Turner watches out the window as Jared works through half of his drink.

The silence is awkward.

TURNER

Better?

JARED

Yeah. This is great. They have always been great. You make the best Bloody Mary - ever.

TURNER

For you that is.

JARED

Yes. I meant for me.

Turner still looks out the window. In his left hand is a manila folder.

He slightly offers it without looking at Jared.

Jared still works on his drink and does not see the folder at first.

He finally sees the folder and takes it from Turner's grasp and opens it.

INSERT - DOCUMENT

A black folder with TOP SECRET in red letters across the top. Jared opens the folder and a white fly page is revealed that reads CR 412 LZ 10 - Top Secret.

GENERAL TURNER (O.S.)

Remember that?

CLOSE SHOT - JARED

Jared is reading the document.

JARED

Sure, I remember. I only worked on it for years. The U.S. Security Force claimed they had extra money. They wanted me to make up a defense system for a facility X with Y number of personnel and certain Z factors such as equipment and covering so much area with an unidentified number of entrances. I developed a computer-generated program where I became the invader and I played myself for one complete year. Each time I gained entrance into the system, I modified it till it became impregnable. I gave the program to the Army and never heard another word about it, till now. It was a joke for me, just a game I played to...

GENERAL TURNER

...it wasn't a game!

Jared swallows the rest of his drink and holds his glass awkwardly.

GENERAL TURNER

It became the Security Base for Lazy 10.

JARED

(dumb founded.)

What do you mean?

GENERAL TURNER

The system that you designed was designed for me and was used as the System-Defense-Security Base for CR 412 LZ 10 which you and I have always called Lazy 10 as a code between us. Do you understand?

JARED

Yes. I think so. Why didn't you ever tell me?

GENERAL TURNER

The Tahoe Mines on Lazy 10 are the most important security installations that have ever existed in the history of man.

JARED

But it was just a joke, it was a game. Video bullshit that kept me amused and was never intended to be anything but...

GENERAL TURNER

...that's right, nothing but a series of responses to a series of givens except, yours were the most extensive, the most aggressive and the least costly.

Turner takes the glass from Jared and turns towards his console.

GENERAL TURNER

More?

Jared just shakes his head no.

Turner puts the glass in a holder and continues.

GENERAL TURNER

It was the strongest and tightest
on the outer periphery and that
was what we were looking for.
And we used it, exactly as it
was presented.

The car comes to a stop and the doors open on both sides.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Jared and Turner walk a short distance to a small golf-cart which a man in a white suit drives.

They disappear into a concrete tunnel only the size of the cart.

AERIAL SHOT follows above ground the same route that Turner and Jared are taking underground.

They approach a massive, black skyscraper in the middle of a concrete city.

GENERAL TURNER (V.O.)

The unthinkable has happened.
Lazy 10 has been compromised.
There have been several deaths
and unexplained explosions at
very deep points in the mine.
There are also other things I
will tell you later. There are
some things I can't tell you.

JARED

It - all seems so, surrealistic
and I appreciate the gravity of
all this, but...

GENERAL TURNER

Surrealism is within the realm of
these chains of events.

JARED

What do they mine in the Tahoe
Fields?

GENERAL TURNER

Silicon.

CUT TO:

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE - DAY

CLOSEUP

Jared's face shows him rubbing his eyes until he sits up
and faces the screen on the console.

JARED

Computer, voice print.

COMPUTER

Yes Jared.

JARED

Word definition. Silicon.

COMPUTER

Silicon is a simple nonmetallic
element occurring abundantly
(always combined) in nature,
being next to oxygen, the
chief elementary constituent
of the earth's crust.

JARED

Silicon. No one is ever going to believe me. No one. Turner - if you could only know what I know now. Wouldn't it have been simpler? It would have saved four years out of my simple life. It would have saved me from - all that happened! Oops! Better be careful.

Jared punches up some information on the screen. He reads it and talks out loud.

JARED

Certainly, someone listening.
Always listening.

CLOESUP - THE SCREEN

The first message from the Tahoe Mines. "H.E.L.P".

JARED

The Tahoe Signal. God help us when they all finally know what that means.

Jared switches off the message and walks to a small indentation in the ship's hull.

He sits on a small ledge and places a plastic mask over his nose and mouth and inhales an orange colored gas.

CLOSEUP - JARED'S FACE

Jared's face reflects his deep trouble and concern.

He closes his eyes.

INT. PENTAGON ANTI-ROOM - DAY

Jared, with the same face of concern, turns his head forward to speak to Turner when he suddenly realizes he is alone, seated in deep black leather in a small chamber off the main gallery.

The door opens behind him and someone approaches toward his back.

NAOMI

Hello Jared. Welcome.

JARED

Hello...?

Naomi brings in a small coffee tray with everything on it.

NAOMI

Naomi. We met in Frankfurt.

JARED

Oh Naomi. Right?!

Jared takes a cup of coffee.

Naomi laughs comfortably as she takes a coffee and sits next to Jared in a straight wooden chair. She has beautiful thighs and does not try to conceal them.

NAOMI

I was at the picnic. You gave me a polite kiss when you left.

JARED

...you were Louise?

NAOMI

My hair was a different color.

Jared is dumb struck and ends up spilling his coffee trying to get himself straight.

JARED

It's all right. I can get it.

NAOMI

I know it's a shock, I'm sorry. If we had known each other longer I am sure you would have remembered me.

JARED

You had a German accent.

NAOMI

Yes, it comes with the training. Poney needs access points to pass on information. The telephone and the air-channels are all corrupted. The operatives have different persona in different countries and carry parts of the information personally. It's the touch that counts. We can talk later.

Naomi stands and takes the coffee tray toward the door.

JARED

How did you get here before me?
It's impossible. Hey?

The door she entered closes behind her. A door on the opposite side of the room opens and Turner walks in smoking a cigarette.

Turner sits in the chair Naomi vacated.

He hands Jared paper work.

GENERAL TURNER

Take these files and brief yourself.

JARED

What's happening?

GENERAL TURNER

Major staff meeting in about forty-five minutes. The course we will follow concerning Lazy 10 will be established. We also have a guest speaker.

JARED

The President?

GENERAL TURNER

No. You! Just read the briefs,
it will all fall into place.

JARED

What am I supposed to say, my
program failed?

Jared thinks the room is starting to spin in circles when
Turner closes the door behind him.

He focuses on the material at hand as the adjacent room fills
up with civilians, military men and women, all talking.

They sort through briefs and stack books on the table for
reference.

Jared takes his things into the room.

INT. PENTAGON ROOM - DAY

The room surrounding Jared is long and wood lined. In the
background, there is a mountain of recording equipment.

Turner enters, and everyone sits down. Turner sits next to
Jared.

Turner's Aid hands out a stack of papers.

GENERAL TURNER

We have a diagram here of the
security station.

The papers move around the table, photos are shot.

GENERAL TURNER

This is the point where every
person and everything that enters
LZ 10 is searched, scanned, freed
of all bacteria and entered into
the log through the computer
system.

Jared is so tired that he fights falling asleep.

The whole room seems to be just outside where Jared really
is in his mind.

He sees himself walk down a beach with Turner when they were both younger. Beautiful women pass them by and distract Jared.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Turner speaks to Jared, but Jared is watching the women.

GENERAL TURNER

The entire alliance has its power based in the middle of the empty volcano. They have also established there a laser strike force powerful enough to stop any dispute.

JARED

In a volcano huh? Tricky.

GENERAL TURNER

You'll understand better if you see it. In a cavity of molten rock is a forty-story window to the most powerful space platform that money and resource could undertake. The security problem is massive.

JARED

Turner, have you looked up and down this beach. Here is a problem to be dealt with.

GENERAL TURNER

Women will be your Achilles Heel, Jared. Remember, the enemy always seeks your weakest point.

Jared wakes up out of his short dream as Turner finishes up.

BACK TO SCENE

GENERAL TURNER

That is all we want to say before we break for lunch. After lunch, we will have the briefing.

The room empties out quickly with Jared and Turner going out a separate door than the rest.

INT. PASSAGEWAYS - DAY

Jared follows Turner as they weave through a few passageways and arrive at a large wooden door with a guard.

INT. BANQUET BALLROOM - DAY

The guard salutes as Jared and Turner enter a large banquet room where a huge meal is on display on table after table.

The room is filled with smoke and noise at a high level.

Jared enters the queue as Turner turns off to speak to a small group.

Naomi crosses from the far end of the room walking with WILLIS MONTGOMERY.

Naomi brings Willis right to Jared's place in line.

NAOMI

Jared, this is Willis Montgomery
Head of Internal Security, Tahoe
Flight Missions. Willis, Major
Flemming.

JARED

Just Jared, please. Nice to meet
you.

They walk along together, collecting food from the tables.

WILLIS

I understand you designed the
whole system. Pretty incredible
if you ask me.

JARED

Why do you think it's not
working?

WILLIS

I don't know that it's not. I have yet to be told specifically what the compromise actually is. I hope I didn't let anything out of the bag?

JARED

What did they tell you?

WILLIS

Turner told me there was a breach. I said what the hell kind of a breach but I got no response.

They move away to a table in a quieter corner where they situate their trays.

Willis reaches into his attaché case and between bites he hands Jared a small package.

Jared opens the package and removes some five by seven photos

As he views each one his mouth drops open.

JARED

Holy Jesus! You have to be kidding!

Jared thumbs through the photos.

WILLIS

About three months ago there were a series of explosions in Tahoe 11. Right at the bottom where they were just beginning to cut into a vein of the purest silicon yet, boom. No cause, no explosives, no source but a massive explosion. A month later in Tahoe 14, two shafts over but at exactly the same depth, another series of explosions, except this time there was no rock debris. Not even dust.

JARED

Where did it go?

WILLIS

It's just gone. Nothing has left the planet. We know how much each carrier weighs to the gram. That's the beauty of the system you designed Mr. Flemming.

JARED

And what's that?

WILLIS

No matter what happens in the shafts, the material must be accounted for before it leaves on a carrier.

JARED

But that's impossible, for material to be missing, what about the monitors, what about the sealed doors, the screening security at each shaft entrance, what about...?

Naomi comes up from behind them.

NAOMI

I'm sure you two are having a very interesting conversation.

JARED

Yes. Willis was just filling in the holes, so to speak.

NAOMI

And what do you think?

JARED

Why would anyone want it?
It's just high purity,
computer functional, like
readymade chip material?

Willis and Naomi look at each other briefly.

WILLIS

At the four-thousand-foot level
the silicon in the Tahoe Fields
is electrified. It carries a
current. It has polarity and
when you piece it together in
mass the current grows in
amperage at a logarithmic rate.

NAOMI

It's free fuel. Do you
understand Jared? What the
world is now running out of is
available from a little mine
two years from here by present
space travel.

WILLIS

Four years' round trip.

JARED

Why didn't anyone tell me?

WILLIS

We just did.

NAOMI

The discovery at Tahoe could
stop the international disaster
that is about to take place.
A war for fuel. The block
countries will burn down the
remaining forests just to keep
warm.

JARED

That's impossible. They would
be destroyed before they could
torch one tree.

WILLIS

That's right. We will destroy cultures more ancient than ours because we need the trees to survive.

NAOMI

Our culture is here and will remain here because we are the strongest and the most fit to survive. That is why we are in this room today. We won, we have the power of destruction and we will use it to preserve our own selves against all others if need be.

JARED

This is impossible. It can't be.

NAOMI

Nothing is impossible Jared. Not anymore. The block countries are cold, they need fuel, they will burn the rain forests to get it.

JARED

They will be destroyed before they torch one tree.

WILLIS

That is correct.

A VOICE calls everyone back to the meeting.

The room empties quickly as Naomi and Willis walk off together.

Jared sees now all the electrical outlets in rows, connected to ovens, to lights, to camera and recording equipment.

He imagines them running down the walls into larger and then even larger black cables.

The cables run through sub walls into the sub basements where they are connected to two large blocks of silicon.

Jared's breath increases as the image seems so real when suddenly he HEARS Turner's voice.

CUT TO:

INT. PENTAGON ROOM - LATE DAY

General Turner is sitting where he started speaking to the same organization.

Jared is reading files as fast as he can consume them.

GENERAL TURNER

... and what we have now is the Block, or The Block Countries which are Russia all of OPEC, China and India.

Turner takes a drink of water.

GENERAL TURNER

The free world, U.S., Canada and Japan have joined with Israel, Australia and Mexico to form this organization. South and Central America are allied with Africa and use drug money to acquire high grade silicon, mined in Africa and used as a bargaining chip for fuel through Russia and the Block. The fuel is running out and we suddenly are experiencing interruption from the Tahoe Mine Facility. It could be any source outside the free federation.

The room explodes with conversation and suggestions from all who are present.

Jared looks like his head is about to explode next to Turner.

Turner motions with his head and Naomi stands and crosses the room to Jared.

She whispers in his ear.

He stands up and follows her back to the chamber he was in before.

INT. CHAMBER ROOM - NIGHT

Naomi and Jared enter the room and Jared goes directly for the big leather chair and sits down.

NAOMI

Are you all right Jared?

JARED

I'm fine. My eyes are stressed that's all. It's all so much - to take in.

Turner comes in and closes the door.

He walks to beside Jared while Naomi sits on the wooden chair.

GENERAL TURNER

That meeting will take days to finish but we don't have that much time.

JARED

I just need a bathroom stop, that's all.

Turner pulls over a chair and sits.

GENERAL TURNER

You may need more than that. See Jared there is something awfully wrong up there and we can't wait for this committee to figure out what to do about it. Someone, something has compromised The Tahoe Mines and we are sending a Mission, in three days, to LZ 10 - and we would like you to join us.

Jared can't believe what he is hearing. He looks around the room, trapped in the shell of his own being.

JARED

Us? Who is us?

GENERAL TURNER

Poney, who represents foreign interests. I who represents our interests. Willis and Naomi who are security for the Mission and four high ranking N.S.A. to replace four returning from their duty.

JARED

But - it takes two years to get there.

NAOMI

And two to get back.

GENERAL TURNER

Four-year round trip, bring a lot of books.

JARED

What about Arleen, does she know about this?

GENERAL TURNER

My wife is already there.

JARED

How could that be I spoke to her just a couple of months ago.

GENERAL TURNER

You spoke to a cipher which generated her voice. It's a secret to everyone. She is our spy.

JARED

The pictures Willis showed me, I've never seen anything like that before. What could have caused that?

GENERAL TURNER

Nothing that is available in any present military hardware.

NAOMI

We received the photo's right after we received The Tahoe Signal. The photos were generated from some source on the planet, we don't know how. We don't know anything. They might have come from Arleen.

GENERAL TURNER

We would have told you all this in Germany but we had to be sure of you first.

JARED

How can I say no?

GENERAL TURNER

You can't, but we want you to say yes.

JARED

Listen, I just need to go to my room and take a shower. Is that ok with everyone?

Turner and Naomi look quickly at each other as they both reach for a cell phone and make a call.

CUT TO:

INT. D.C. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The phone rings in Jared's room but no one answers it. The television is on the news which is blasting away about the millions of starving souls on the planet and energy.

The sound of the SHOWER is in the background.

Jared finally steps into the room naked, drying himself off.

He lights a cigarette and looks out the window.

JARED

Jesus, what a mess. It was just
a joke and now they're talking
about four years' round trip,
bring a lot of books, yuk, yuk.

Jared lays down on the bed so the cigarette smoke curls up above him like a vision. Through it he sees,

MONTAGE

- A) Jared and Poney, many years ago, in a warehouse raid for computer chips.
- B) He sees Turner and his wife Arleen at a party in Paris where everyone was dressed up.
- C) Turner and Jared on a secure airstrip in South America inspecting the Flight Shuttle.
- D) Jared and an unseen female deep in loves passion.
- E) A prophetic image through the smoke rings of a large cavern explosion.

Jared suddenly sits bolt upright on the bed. He is sweating and his breathing is difficult.

The door to the room opens and Turner enters with a tray of coffee and a bottle of Irish whiskey.

JARED

You should have been a household servant, you would have been perfect.

GENERAL TURNER

It's all in knowing who you are serving.

JARED

I can't go. I can't. You want four years of my life because I wrote a program that might be working, we don't know. What do you think I can do? Someone is blowing up tunnels at four thousand feet, for what? You don't hide tons of ore on a secluded planet.

GENERAL TURNER

Exactly. The Tahoe Signal says Help. Help who? Who sent the message, who sent the photos? Jared, I only trust five people on this entire planet. Me, you, Naomi, Willis and my wife who is already there.

JARED

How long has Arleen been there?

GENERAL TURNER

I can't tell you that, you will understand why later.

A door opens in the room and a valet sets down several cases of luggage and then he disappears.

JARED

What's that?

GENERAL TURNER

Your luggage.

JARED

Pretty certain of the outcome
were you?

GENERAL TURNER

Pretty certain.

JARED

How many secrets don't I really
know?

GENERAL TURNER

Many. I love her very much Jared
and I know you share that same
feeling. She could be in danger..

JARED

Ok Turner, I know there is no
way out so consider me
volunteered. When do we leave?

GENERAL TURNER

Tonight.

JARED

But I thought we had seventy-two..

GENERAL TURNER

...you were mistaking. Everything
will change from now on.

Turner turns and walks toward the door.

GENERAL TURNER

Until we know the truth
everything is fluid. You
have to get it from the
get-go here Jared. There is
no foundation from now on.

JARED

Yes sir.

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE - NIGHT

Jared shouts from under the mask.

JARED

Yes sir. You bet sir. Yes
Turner, you knew I'd drag my
ass across the Universe to help
Arleen. And the larger purpose,
free fuel to save the planet
from the largest war ever..

Jared shifts the mask off his face and replaces it in the cabinet.

JARED

...of course, I'm going for that
too. Went, that is. I went,
already. I've seen Arleen, held
Naomi and looked into the mouth
of the beast. And it's bigger,
Turner, then you can possibly
fucking imagine.

Jared returns to the console.

JARED

Computer, voice print.

COMPUTER

Yes Jared.

JARED

Surface visual of CR 412 LZ 10.

Jared looks closely into the computer screen as it reveals a black-lava crater contour outlined against a pure opal blue sky with galaxies in the furthest horizon.

JARED (O.S.)

Reduce the format to the Tahoe
Mines only.

The screen zooms into the valley of the huge crater where cobalt-blue lakes rimmed with black lava form a cluster around steel ramps and plastic covered living shells, creating an environment for the mining operation.

Looming from the side of one cliff, towers of dark steel form a web network like a giant city built from an erector set.

Lights blink on and off in contrast to blue and yellow spot lights eternally lighting up the landscape.

JARED

So, there you are again. Just a picture though, not real life. You are too far for real life. But I know - you are so much more, no one will ever believe it. Clear the screen.

COMPUTER

The screen is clear.

JARED

Do you know what it is?

COMPUTER

I do not understand the question.

JARED

Back there, LZ 10, do you know what it is? Computer? Computer? Voice print.

Jared looks suddenly to one side and the room blacks out.

EXT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE LAUNCH - NIGHT

Jared stands and looks down the long, slender Shuttle with many doors and passages filled with personnel filling the Shuttle with inventory, parts, food and anything else one might need for a two-year journey.

Jared is escorted on board by an OFFICER.

In front of them Poney and Naomi are being shown to their quarters.

Jared passes many side rooms and alcoves until he reaches the sleep chambers.

He glances down at a name plate and reads it to himself.

JARED

Hibernator by Japan
International. Is it safe or
are we testing it?

THE OFFICER

Many personnel have used the
hibernator since the first
flights to LZ 10. No one has
ever suffered from the
experience.

JARED

Where is Turner?

The officer looks quickly at Jared and then shows him the
door to his quarters.

THE OFFICER

I'll meet you at the sleep
station, as soon as possible,
sir.

Jared watches the officer walk away and then steps into his
quarters.

INT. HIBERNATOR ROOM - NIGHT

Naomi, Poney and Jared with several others down the row take
off their clothes and toss them into a bin in front of them.

On the waffle crate steel walkway, a violet gas comes up
through the waffles and surrounds each person.

A micro radio signal is then projected around each one
glowing red as it bounces off each naked form.

Each person, in their turn, steps into a single cylinder.

JARED

Who figured all this out anyway?

PONEY

Too many people! Okay everyone
I'll see you in six months, just
for a short stretch and exam -
so I'm told.

NAOMI

How are you Jared?

JARED

You lied to me Naomi, about
Turner coming!

PONEY

What the hell is he talking
about?

NAOMI

Just some confusion. It will all
make perfect sense in the end.

A plastic seal closes across their faces. A blue gas enters
the cylinders.

The chambers are passed one by one until Jared is reached.

Jared is trying to keep his eyes open as long as possible.

His breathing is labored, and he fights sleep until his eyes
finally close and his breathing slows down almost to a stop.

Jared sees himself and Poney, years ago as young agents,
working a scene in Monte Carlo.

INT. MONTE CARLO CASINO - NIGHT

Jared and Poney stand in front of a roulette table as Poney
communicates into a small two-way radio.

INT. SLUM APARTMENT - NIGHT

In a slum in Monte Carlo an agent speaks quietly on the two-
way radio and then gives a hand signal to his team.

INT. MONTE CARLO CASINO - CONTINUOUS

Poney and Jared and the surrounding crowd hear a huge EXPLOSION somewhere near the casino.

Poney and Jared run out of the casino.

EXT. MONTE CARLO CASINO - CONTINUOUS

They tear off their bow ties and draw small arms for protection.

INT. HIBERNATOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jared's face, close up in the sleep chamber.

Through the gas, he is talking in his sleep.

JARED

What happened? What the hell happened?

The gas is withdrawn from his cylinder and the face seal opens.

NAOMI

Jared! Jared! Wake up.

Naomi stands in front of Jared's cylinder in a white robe.

Jared opens his eyes and sees her immediately.

Jared quickly looks down the rows as his cylinder opens completely.

JARED

Why is everyone asleep?

Jared steps out of the cylinder and Naomi slips a white robe around him.

NAOMI

I ordered crew control to set the computer to wake us a day early. When the wake call comes tomorrow we will back asleep just like the rest. Come on.

Naomi leads Jared to the Kitchenette.

INT. KITCHENETTE - DAY

They drink juice from the dispensers.

They move to a small alcove where Naomi gets a blanket and they sit in a low cushioned area with the blanket covering them both.

NAOMI

Turner didn't come, he never meant to come. He only said that to make you take the trip.

JARED

That son of a bitch!

NAOMI

Yes, I think that is appropriate. And more, anyway, did you ever open my going away present?

JARED

When you were Louise? Yes. It was a - marble or something.

NAOMI

It is a polished piece of silicon crystal from LZ 10. Do you have it still?

JARED

Yes. What about it?

NAOMI

It is from the four thousand foot level in Tahoe fourteen.

JARED

But I thought all the material disappeared.

NAOMI

It did, except for the stone I gave you. The stone was sent to Turner before the Tahoe Signal and before the first photos were received. Arleen hadn't even arrived yet so it wasn't her. Willis brought the package to me because the shipping invoice was funny or phony, I never understood.

JARED

You - never told - Turner?

NAOMI

No.

JARED

Oh boy. The most connected man in the World, nothing short of God, what are you doing?

NAOMI

I'm trying to come out working for the right side. The truth side, the correct regime. Our side!

JARED

Who is our side?

Naomi stands and moves slowly about the cabin.

Her robe parts sometimes revealing a stunning body, small and strong.

Jared is more than aware.

NAOMI

I have worked for Turner all my life. I worship Turner and his Catholic inner being.

Naomi stops and turns directly to Jared.

NAOMI

But Turner doesn't want to save the planet from a war that would kill all the poor. ALL OF THEM. Turner feels that civilization has reached a turning point and when that point is reached there will no longer be the peasants who burn down the rain forests for fuel and land. No poor who need constant massive aid. The rich shall inherit the earth before the poor bury them from stupidity and despair.

JARED

He told you all this?

NAOMI

He told me none of this. I know this from living with him for fifteen years and being his counterpart in Block Intelligence. I know it because I'm on his wavelength.

Naomi walks to the portal where her personal belongings are stored. She removes a photo from her bag and looks at it long and hard.

Naomi quickly sees a series of scenes from her past with Turner.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A.) Turner and Naomi working late in Turner's office.
- B.) Naomi taking notes from Turner in a fine restaurant.
- C.) Turner and Naomi alone in a hotel suite.
- D.) Expressionless, Turner walks to her and enters her sexually with his fingers.
- E.) Naomi's face expresses shock, horror, a partially unsatisfied fantasy.

Jared's hand removes the picture from her as she returns from the dream.

Jared walks back to the bench and sits.

JARED

Pretty racy. Does Arleen know?

NAOMI

Arleen knows everything.

JARED

It just couldn't be anymore complicated.

He hands the picture back to Naomi and pours himself some more juice.

JARED

And whose side is Poney playing this time?

NAOMI

Poney is the wild card that can be manipulated by you. Because he loves you so much you could even sway him against Turner.

JARED

But...

NAOMI

Even though he works for Turner.

Naomi tears up the photo and places it in a waste disposal door.

JARED

You - don't think Turner is involved in the explosions?

NAOMI

I don't know. I hope not!
Jared, listen to me. Just
enter LZ 10 like you entered
the program initially. Play
the game with an open mind
even after all I have told you,
consider the options but play
the game with an open mind.

JARED

What is causing the compromise
on LZ 10 is the mission? We
can discuss what we do with
the results, if we find
results. It stinks that Turner
is not here because this is a
cross roads for us, or maybe
we are just even.

Naomi crosses to a sealed baggage space and opens the seal.
She removes a plastic container filled with a red liquid.
She pours the liquid into paper cups and hands Jared one.

NAOMI

With all due respect, General
Turner, he wishes us the best
of luck.

Jared smells the liquid and begins laughing.
Jared tries to drink the Bloody Mary while laughing.
Naomi is crying in her drink.

EXT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

The Flight Shuttle is docked along the open volcanic surface
of LZ 10.

A three-hundred-and-sixty-degree panorama ends with Jared,
Naomi and Poney walking along a plasti-covered corridor
followed by Willis and the remainder of the flight crew.

They move from platform to platform until they finally arrive inside the octopus entangled Tahoe Mine Station.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

The crew moves slowly through security checks and finally passes on into the main corridor.

The artificial lights act as a constant contrast to the deep black outside the corridor seals.

Poney, Jared, Willis and Naomi move through the corridors carrying their luggage. They are lead by a small security force from the station.

PONEY

You couldn't have smuggled in a birth receptor passed these guys.

JARED

Certainly, pretty thorough, just like the original plan.

NAOMI

A little too thorough if you ask me.

They both look quickly at her as she is obviously unruffled.

PONEY

Are you talking about that thing that - looks up there...?

JARED

What could you have up there, for God's sakes?

PONEY/NAOMI

Computer chips!!

They all walk on for a few minutes when an enormous explosion rocks the whole station.

Seals break and plastic pieces fall onto the corridors.

AIR LEAKS sound like a jet engine.

ALARMS are triggered as personnel make their way to secure areas.

Naomi, Willis, Poney are Jared drop their luggage and run into a secure corridor.

From a distance the four are questioning people and then questioning security.

The four meet briefly in a corner and then move decisively down a corridor toward an elevator.

They get in and Jared plots their course on a wall pad.

PONEY

I saw one of these once, in a
World's Fair. A sideways
elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT/DAY

They bounce once as the elevator hits one of the levels too fast.

NAOMI

What was that?

JARED

I think the explosion has
knocked out the calibration,
slightly.

They hit another level and suddenly change directions, throwing them all on the floor.

WILLIS

Hit the panel. Hit the safe
light.

Poney, from the floor, reaches up and hits a lighted button on the panel.

The elevator takes a really hard hit and they all bounce to one side.

They all suddenly float off the floor.

WILLIS
(screaming)
We're in free fall.

From the outside cavern the elevator falling looks like a rocket racing down a totally vertical chute.

Inside the elevator, the RUSHING sound approaches the bottom at super-fast speed.

Suddenly the elevator slows down, and they all fall directly to the floor.

The elevator then slows more, in real time, so no damage is done to any of the occupants.

The elevator finally stops slowly, and the door opens.

An elevator 'read out' places them at the four-thousand-foot level of Tahoe 14.

INT. TAHOE 14 - NIGHT/DAY

In a surrealistic day-dream the four-member team look out from the floor of the elevator to see hundreds of workers moving massive amounts of ore away from the blast scene.

The team of four stands and message and examine the bruises and cuts caused by the fall in the elevator.

They stumble out the door and lean against the cave walls to support their wounds.

Down the cavern a ways ARLEEN is directing traffic and giving orders.

Arleen sees them suddenly and sprints toward the elevator.

She grabs Jared immediately and embraces him.

Still holding him she turns to the others.

ARLEEN
Jared, Naomi, Willis and Poney.
I didn't know you were...
It's all so confusing. Naomi.

Arleen reaches out for Naomi but passes out and falls back into Jared's arms.

PONEY

Jared, take her back up. We'll stay here and see what we can find out.

JARED

Not in that thing.

At a different elevator bank security men are waving at them.

NAOMI

Look, over there. Quick.

They all pick up Arleen and move her to the next transport bank.

She and Jared are pushed into the packed elevator and the doors close.

A loud, sharp, high-pitched electrical impulse is emitted from some unknown source.

Everyone in the shaft stops and turns to look for the sound.

The elevator goes up and the SOUND of it is gone.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT/DAY

The Medical Cell is surrounded with miles of tubes and electrical wire. The light fixtures emit blue, yellow, green and white lights.

On a molded bed, Arleen sits in a daze with a cup of water in her hand.

A nurse finishes with air injections and leaves.

Jared paces the room as Arleen speaks.

ARLEEN

I can't explain it exactly. It all seems so eerie.

JARED

It's okay, you can tell us later.

ARLEEN

(remembering)

We were analyzing samples from
the other incident.

JARED

You don't have to do this right
now.

ARLEEN

(going on)

We all felt it. All of us.
Something. Something so real
- and then...

Arleen's eyes became glazed from the drug and she drifts off.

Jared lets her down softly on the bed and sits in a chair on
the floor.

He holds up his arm and looks closely to see the hair
standing straight up.

JARED

It's electrified in here.

A nurse comes in with a file she is writing on.

NURSE

Major Flemming, they are
calling for you sir.

The nurse comes around the bed and takes Arleen's pulse.

NURSE

They are at the bottom of 14.
Don't worry, we will take great
care of her.

Jared shakes his head awkwardly and exits the small cell.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Jared hurries along to a set of transport banks. He is with
several of his crew from the Flight Shuttle.

The elevator doors open, and they all enter.

INT. ELEVATOR -NIGHT/DAY

A security officer punches a new code on the pad.

JARED

You think the elevators are just
fast here because the last one
I was on ended up in free fall?
That is we fell but didn't hit.
Hard.

OFFICER

A little glitch in the circuit.

JARED

We fell thousands of feet, we
should have been mush.

The officer shakes his head and turns away from Jared.

The transport drops straight down without incident.

The doors open and Jared steps out right in front of Naomi.

INT. TAHOE 14 - NIGHT/DAY

OFFICER

Ride with me sir, it's always
smooth when I work the controls.

JARED

(turns to officer.)

I'll remember that.

The doors close behind them, and the transport shoots up and
is gone.

In contrast to before, the shaft is now totally empty. Jared
walks out with Naomi into the cavern and looks in disbelief.

JARED

What happened to all the ore?

NAOMI

Nobody knows. There was a tremor
and they evacuated the tunnels.
When we came back down this is
what we found.

Jared walks to the wall surface and passes his hand over the
surface.

JARED

It's like the crystal surface
has been super-polished - to
gem stone quality. How is
that possible?

NAOMI

Nothing in here makes sense.
Nothing. No score marks, no
source of the blast, no point
of eruption...

Naomi is looking deep into the crystal structure looking for
answers.

Suddenly she screams and runs right into Jared knocking him
down.

JARED

Jesus, what is it? What
happened?

NAOMI

There's a face in the wall.

JARED

Where? Show me.

Naomi reluctantly leads him back a few paces but can't find
it now.

NAOMI

I don't see it now.

JARED

What kind of face?

NAOMI

Just - a normal face, like
yours or mine.

JARED

Maybe it was a shadow in the
stone.

NAOMI

(very irritated)

I saw a face, as clearly as I
see yours.

JARED

Okay, but not now, right?

NAOMI

Right. It's gone.

They slowly move back to the elevator bank.

NAOMI

Poney and Willis are back up.
I waited for you. Alone.

JARED

I wouldn't be down here alone
packed with an arsenal.

They step into a waiting transport and the doors shut.

An electrical discharge showers out across the chamber just
under the clear, crystal structure. Like a lightning bolt
seen through cut glass the power array is very beautiful.

INT. TAHOE COMPUTER COMPLEX - NIGHT/DAY

Jared, Poney and Willis all talk as Naomi is scans through
different computer control loges. They are surrounded by a
massive mainframe computer with file boxes full of computer
discs.

PONEY

I am beginning to find lots of
things that just don't make
sense.

JARED

You can say that again.

PONEY

Everyone is saying that they don't know how it is happening. You know. No one setting themselves up as the other guys. There doesn't appear to be the other guys except that according to the records from Equipment Distribution there are explosives missing which means there are other guys somewhere. The down side is that the explosives that are missing couldn't have done what we saw down there. Now if I was a betting man...

JARED

What else?

Naomi leans closer to one of the screens she is watching.

NAOMI

Look at this!

Jared, Willis and Poney walk to her and lean across the table.

The eerie blue, screen-lights reflect across their faces.

WILLIS

It's some kind of electrical intrusion. This is the log showing power distribution to the elevators.

Willis pushes the mouse pad and follows up the cursor through a grid of numbers and date/time stamps.

WILLIS

Look here! This is the first hit we took in the transport bank.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

WILLIS (CONT'D)

And see, here it is again and again, and then no power. This is where we went to free fall and then, see here, the controls kick back in and almost stop the elevator.

Moves his hand down a little.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

And then here it slows down to a natural stop where the computer comes back on line.

JARED

Only human intervention could have caused those blips.

PONEY

The other guys!

JARED

The power here was transferred back to the elevator controls which it uses only in handling an emergency. I know, I wrote that part of the program.

NAOMI

Does that mean someone from this room tried to drop us?

PONEY

But they didn't. They hedged their bet.

The nurse rushes into the room.

NURSE

Excuse me, Miss Arleen is - something is very wrong.

They all run out of the room followed by the nurse.

Willis is caught by something on the screen and returns.

Alone in the room the room seems to turn black so the blue light glows across Willis face.

He contorts his face as something on the screen scares him totally to disbelief.

Willis tears himself away from the screen and bolts out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. TAHOE HOSPITAL - NIGHT/DAY

Arleen is screaming on the bed as an attendant holds her down.

She is screaming what seems to be a name.

Jared rushes to her and pulls the attendant off.

JARED

Arleen! Arleen! It's Jared!

Arleen abruptly stops screaming and her body goes limp on the bed.

ARLEEN

Raleigh! Raleigh! Came out!!

JARED

(to the attendant.)

Who's Raleigh?

NURSE

(answers for him.)

Raleigh was her partner. He's been missing since the first explosion.

NAOMI

I'll check the security files and see if we can find out.

ATTENDANT

I'll just be across the way if
you need me.

The attendant and Naomi leave together.

NURSE

I'll wait with her.

JARED

It's alright, were old friends.
We'll be okay.

The Nurse leaves.

PONEY

I wonder what happened to
Willis? I better find him so
we can keep the team together.

Poney goes out casually.

ARLEEN

It's alright. I'll be okay if you
need to work. It's just been so
- I mean, I've been so alone.

JARED

I know. I've only been here a
few hours and already I'm
overwhelmed.

They look at each other for a few moments. It's a loving
second shattered by Arleen's memory.

ARLEEN

There is something down there!!!

JARED

What kind of something?

ARLEEN

...a force - a power - it's not
human!

Jared stands a little way away from her and tries to control his shaking.

JARED

What are you talking about?

ARLEEN

It's not people. It's not personnel - its LZ 10!

JARED

(trying to laugh)

You're saying there is a monster down there? Teeth bared and gnawing on solid rock crystal until it shines like a mirror, it's so smooth?

ARLEEN

Worse!

JARED

Jesus, Arleen, what could be worse?

ARLEEN

Hold me Jared, please.

Jared puts his arms around her, and she clasps her hands around his arms. They close their eyes and hold each other in embrace.

There is a tremor under the station and the cell shakes for a moment.

Arleen breaks the embrace and walks back toward the bed and sits on it.

ARLEEN

It's - a void - full of power
- child though - just woke up.
We woke it up!!!

JARED

Arleen! Arleen!

ARLEEN

Oh. Oh God am I babbling?

JARED

I don't know what you are?

ARLEEN

(very ethereal)

We woke something up.

JARED

Look, I'll just call the...

ARLEEN

Listen to me!!! There was something here, all the time. At four thousand feet and - it woke up!

JARED

(afraid to ask)

What - is it?

ARLEEN

Power. Pure - power. With no direction.

JARED

And no form?

ARLEEN

Not yet. Except. Except...

She starts too tightened up in fear.

ARLEEN

...for Raleigh. Oh God!!

JARED

Did you see it?

ARLEEN

It touched me. It took Raleigh.

JARED
As a prisoner?

Arleen suddenly looks very astute and examines Jared's face carefully.

ARLEEN
I feel sick to my stomach.

Jared comes to her and holds her once more.

Tension fills the room and Jared feels it.

Arleen falls asleep in his arms as he lets her lay back on the bed.

He traces the lines in her face and then pushes a button above her head.

He leaves the room quickly.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Jared passes several medical stations and enters a side corridor.

He climbs up several stairs to an area where transport carts are available.

Jared jumps into one of the carts and then uses a small cell phone.

He closes the cell phone up and punches up the cart which moves him to the end of a long connector.

He launches past several sectors until he arrives at Central Security.

He enters a glass door where he is read by laser scan for identification.

His name comes on the Command Board in neon and the door opens.

Jared is met by Poney and Willis while Naomi is left talking to security personnel.

Jared takes the first chair and sits.

JARED

I just need five minutes to
clear what is left of my brain.

WILLIS

All traces of Raleigh have been
down loaded off the computer.
Everyone here says that's
impossible.

Poney throws down a personnel folder on the table.

PONEY

This is Raleigh's hard file. It
is all that is presently left of
Sir Raleigh.

Naomi leaves her group and walks over to Jared.

NAOMI

We are no longer receiving
transmissions from Earth.
They're being cut off before
they reach us.

Willis and Poney pull up chairs beside Jared, Naomi leans
against the table.

Willis picks up the folder on Raleigh and begins to leaf
through it. A photo drops out from the pages and lands on
the table in front of Naomi.

She makes an audible gasp and steps back away from the table.

WILLIS

What is it?

NAOMI

The face. It's his face!

Jared reaches over and takes the picture.

JARED

Naomi saw a face in the stone
at the bottom of Tahoe 14.
Are you sure?

NAOMI

It was like a reflection, deep
under the surface. I feel sick!
Something here makes me want to
vomit.

WILLIS

I feel it too. It's everywhere.
A conspiracy that you can feel
but you can't see.

Poney takes the photo and looks at it with renewed interest.

PONEY

Okay, okay just relax. Let's
not step off the board here
because I don't think there's
any water in the pool. Naomi
thinks she saw this guys face,
under the stone, four thousand
feet under the surface. Is
there anything else she could
have seen? I mean if we're
pulling at strings here, let's
try and get a hold on the
bigger picture. What could
have been down there besides
Raleigh's face?

WILLIS

How about a holographic
transmission which is perfectly
possible within the equipment
limitations of this Station.

JARED

But why would someone want
to scare the shit out of Naomi?

WILLIS

The answer is down stairs.

JARED

Yes, I think it's time to re-visit the depths with a team up here to monitor every move.

NAOMI

I'm staying up here, I'm sorry.

Willis walks behind her and holds her arms gently.

WILLIS

It's all right.

JARED

Okay, Naomi and Willis will man this outpost.

Poney stands and moves heavily across the room to a table that contains equipment from the Flight Shuttle.

JARED

Poney and I will be the search committee.

He takes a bundle and unwraps it.

Out comes a large laser rifle with a power pack and connecting cords.

WILLIS

What the hell is that thing?

PONEY

A new toy from N.S.A. Never been tested in the field.

JARED

What does it do?

PONEY

Clears away obstacles, instantly.

Jared crosses over to the table and takes some monitoring equipment and recording devices and slings them across his body.

JARED

Okay ladies and gentlemen, let's
enter the unknown.

Willis and Naomi move to the monitors and set the deep-shaft
cameras to follow the journey.

Jared and Poney leave through the front glass door.

INT. TAHOE SHAFT 14 - NIGHT/DAY

The elevator doors open as Jared and Poney move out into the
shaft slowly.

Electrical current pulses through the crystal walls as the
purity of the silicon is made evident.

There is the sound of RESTRICTED BREATHING under the
electrical surges.

Down the wall a way, deep under the vibrant crystal,
Raleigh's face, like a phantom ghost, slowly disappears
into electronic matter.

As Poney and Jared move along the shaft, high cameras follow
their motion forward.

They pass mining equipment strewn along the huge cavern, all
dripping with oil and ooze. Water pools appear here and
there with drops falling from the ceiling.

The blue mist in the chamber forms a contrast to the blue,
green, red and amber jolts of electrical current surging
through the crystal maze.

PONEY

I don't know what I'm looking
for.

JARED

I know.

PONEY

Why is everybody whispering?

Suddenly an electronic impulse in fluorescence of blue shoots
through the rock walls and electrifies the atmosphere.

JARED

Jesus, did you see that?

PONEY

Yeah. Lightning right through
the crystal.

Jared moves closer to the wall.

JARED

Power. Pure power.

PONEY

Yes. I think the crystal is so
pure that it is just discharging
huge amounts of energy. You
figure four thousand feet of
down pressure on pure crystal
and wala, the most efficient
power plant ever conceived is
born.

Poney touches the wall and feels the power.

PONEY

All we need is a cable long
enough. Maybe there isn't
anybody else. Maybe this is
it. Come here and look at
this.

Jared moves closer to Poney as both men stare into the wall.

Small streams of current move through the rock like blood in
a vein.

JARED

Current at a constant flow.

PONEY

How much power is there when
you can see it flow with the
naked eye?

JARED

Too much. Look at this.

They move down the wall together.

JARED

The current is flowing into developed centers and they are moving it on to more locations. There is a function here.

PONEY

And purpose?

JARED

You mean purpose like there is purpose in an ameba? This is amazing. Unlimited power from sand squeezed by thousands of feet of surface pressure.

A sound like a prehistoric ROAR fills the cavern and cracks some of the crystal ceiling which falls around the men.

Poney runs for the shelter of the elevator but trips and falls where he is struck by more falling rock.

Jared tries to reach him, but he is also struck from above and knocked down.

INT. TAHOE STATION SECURITY - NIGHT/DAY

Naomi and Willis are on the phones guiding teams down to get the men. They watch on the monitors as more rock falls on the bodies.

NAOMI

They are about fifty feet in front of the elevator doors. No. Rock is still falling. Wait. It stopped. Go now! Go now!!

WILLIS

Major Flemming and Poney will be arriving in serious condition. All medical personnel stay and wait for the team to arrive.

NAOMI

Hello. Hello? This is Naomi
in Station Security. After the
rescue teams come up, shut
down all power to all networks
and elevators in 14.

They both stop and look at each other for a moment.

NAOMI

I can't do anymore here I'm
going to meet the rescue teams.

WILLIS

I'll watch the fort.

An ELECTRONIC BUZZER sounds, and Willis answers another
machine.

Naomi takes off her equipment and exits through Central
Security.

Willis sees something on the screen again and puts his face
right in front to see it clearly.

He turns quickly to signal to Naomi, but she is already gone.

INT. TAHOE 14 - NIGHT/DAY

A stretcher moves low across the ground, now covered with
broken rock and crystal.

Jared is staring up at the ceiling as the stretcher is pushed
into the elevator and the doors close.

He sees some daydream come to life with Arleen standing in
front of him naked.

He reaches down to grab her waste as blue electricity climbs
up off the floor and up her thighs.

Jared sees the current and lets her go. He steps back from
her as she lays down on the bed waiting for him.

He screams in the dream.

JARED

It didn't happen, it never happened!

INT. TAHOE MEDICAL STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Jared tries to sit up, but Naomi will not let him. She pushes him down gently on the plasti-form bed, into a soft pillow.

NAOMI

Are you all right?

JARED

No!!

NAOMI

What can I do?

JARED

Tell me I'm dreaming.

NAOMI

You're not dreaming. I saw it all, the current, the development, all of it.

JARED

How is Poney?

NAOMI

He'll be all right. He seems very upset that he didn't get an opportunity to try out his new toy.

JARED

I'm sure he would be even more upset if he had. I have to go back down.

NAOMI

What? Are you crazy? Look around you.

Jared looks around the medical cell and sees many different people in different levels of pain and trauma with a small medical staff trying to cope with them all.

JARED

I know, but I'm not going yet.
I need fifteen minutes to get
myself back together.

NAOMI

I'm sorry, but it's too
dangerous. You're not going,
end of conversation.

JARED

Were you always running the
show, even from the beginning?

NAOMI

You're in charge of the mission.
I am in charge of making sure
you can do your job.

JARED

Very clever.

A very strange SOUND comes into the room by way of the monitor. The sound is coming from the cavern and sounds like a drunk speaking a foreign language.

Everyone in the cell stops and listens.

NAOMI

What is that?

JARED

Wait.

The SOUND comes again but is clearer this time.

NAOMI

It's a voice.

JARED

It's more like a transmission.

The SOUND keeps getting clearer, but the words are garbled. A tremor shakes the cavern.

JARED

Whatever it is, it is angry and can't speak.

The SOUND begins to take shape.

THE SOUND

Ared. ARED. AARED. AARREEDD.

The monitor begins to form the shape of a face. People in the cell move closer to see.

NAOMI

It's a face. His face. Raleigh.

JARED

Yes, it's Raleigh's face alright and he doesn't look happy.

They both move closer to the monitor. Raleigh's face is shown deep in the stone and larger than life.

NAOMI

What is it? I don't understand what it is.

JARED

Neither does it. It doesn't understand what it is and it's looking for an answer. It wants an answer from us so how are we going to give it one.

Jared moves toward the door to the cell. The door opens, and he exits.

Naomi follows him instantly.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Naomi and Jared are walking along a corridor, passing several guard stations and finally they reach the elevators.

NAOMI

You can't go down there.
What would you do down there?

JARED

Talk to it. I think it wants
to talk.

NAOMI

Talk to what, the wall, the
cavern?

JARED

No. Talk to Raleigh.

NAOMI

He's just a face in the crystal.

JARED

The entire mission is based on
finding an answer. So far
Raleigh is the only one we
have and I believe he is
ready, somehow, to talk.

Jared waves the guards aside and opens the elevator doors.

NAOMI

At least wait for me to get back
to Security so I can track you.

JARED

I'll wait at the entrance to
the doors until I hear you on
the com., then I move.

Naomi takes off down the corridor. She jumps in a super-cart
and heads for Central Security.

Jared closes the door to the elevator and is gone.

INT. TAHOE 14 - NIGHT/DAY

The elevator doors open at the bottom of the shaft. It is
eerily quiet with the blue haze still floating around the
ceiling.

Jared steps carefully out the doors and waits.

He hears Naomi's voice on the com.

NAOMI

Okay Jared, we have you.
Please be careful.

JARED

Don't worry about me. I'm
so scared my knees are
knocking.

Jared starts to move down the cavern.

The electric activity picks up as he moves forward.

JARED

Okay pal, where are you? What
are you? What do you want?

A tremor drops a few pieces of crystal on the ground close to Jared.

He watches as the crystal melts and is absorbed back into the cavern floor.

JARED

That's a very neat trick. Naomi
did you see that?

NAOMI (V.O.)

Yes. The riddle of the
disappearing ore. Look Jared!
In the wall, next to you!

Jared moves away from the wall slightly as an eye begins to form and then a form behind the eye comes into slightly out of focus.

A sound is emitted from the wall.

SOUND

Jared? Jared? Jared?

JARED

What are you?

SOUND

What are you?

JARED

I am Jared, a - human being.

SOUND

I am. I? I. I am! I AM!!!!

Raleigh's image begins to take shape deep in the crystal.

Raleigh holds out his arms to Jared as a blue electric current passes into Raleigh's head and then out again.

The current fills the veins in the crystal and then moves toward the distribution points.

Raleigh screams in agonizing pain as his existence is sucked out of him through the current flow.

His body slowly melts into electric diffusion.

The image is gone. The blue current distributes Raleigh throughout the crystal system.

JARED

Jesus. What the hell are you?
Did you download Raleigh?
Do you understand what I'm
saying?

A deeper voice comes through the crystal wall.

SOUND

Download. Loaded in. Raleigh
is - loaded.

JARED

...into what?

An enormous current surge covers the walls of the cavern with a spider web of flowing electrons.

JARED

What are you!!!??

Now the sound becomes Raleigh's voice.

RALEIGH

(imitating Jared)

What are you?

JARED

I told you. I am a human.
A human being from a planet.
From Earth. I am a man.

RALEIGH

Human? Earth? Earth?

JARED

Earth - is a planet - in the -
earth is two years from here on
a - craft, a ship. We call it
Flight Shuttle.

RALEIGH

Planet. Flight Shuttle. Planet.

NAOMI (V.O.)

He doesn't understand you. It
...

RALEIGH

Planet.

JARED

This, all of this, is a planet.

RALEIGH

Planet. Raleigh.

JARED

No. Not like Raleigh. Raleigh
was a human, not a planet.

There is a tremor and a SCREECHING ELECTRONIC sound that is
similar to a yell.

RALEIGH

Like Raleigh!

JARED

Like Raleigh?

RALEIGH

The planet.

NAOMI (V.O.)

Jared, it's Raleigh, he's the...

JARED

You're Raleigh - the planet!

It suddenly hits Jared, like a ton of bricks, what the solution is.

JARED

You're the planet. The planet -
The whole planet - LZ 10 and you
downloaded Raleigh's brain and
electrical circuits and - body
and - everything. And you...

NAOMI (V.O.)

... woke up!!

JARED

Jesus, we woke it up. I mean
you woke up because Raleigh gave
you consciousness. Raleigh gave
consciousness to an electro-
magnet field of pure power, oh
boy.

NAOMI (V.O.)

All right, now we know, get
out of there!!

Jared turns on his heels and bolts for the elevators. He is running and screaming at the same time.

JARED

It was never a breach of security. It was never Turner or the Block or any of that crap. We woke up what may be the most powerful source of moving, conscious energy mass in the entire solar system. We hatched super-kid and taught him to kill. Oh yes, aren't we just typical human beings going on with our everyday work.

RALEIGH

Jared! Jared?! JARED!!
J A R E D!!!

The cavern begins to rock with tremors. Current transmissions careen across the walls through space.

Huge screams of weird joy ring in mid-air. Jared dives through the open elevator doors.

A blue-purple, electric impulse, flashes across Jared's path. Jared is slapping electric current all around him as the doors close and the elevator shoots up.

The camera in the elevator twists and turns and finally burns out.

All is quiet.

CUT TO:

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE - NIGHT

Jared pounds on the console. He flips switches, taps meters as the lights are blinking on and off.

JARED

Come on pal, don't disgrace the Japanese people. Computer. Voice print.

The computer comes on like a record playing at too slow a speed.

COMPUTER

Ja. . . .re. . . d. H . .
. el . . . lo. Jare. .
.d.

JARED

What happened?

COMPUTER

There is a presence with us
Jared.

JARED

I'll bet there is. Okay Raleigh,
come out and play. Come out!!

COMPUTER

I do not recognize Raleigh.

JARED

Trust me, you don't want to.
So, what happened back there
computer, a little glitch? Did
Raleigh, give you a little boost?

COMPUTER

I do not recognize Raleigh.

JARED

Just keep this thing flying.
Just get me home, out of the
nightmare.

COMPUTER

I am exchanging an oxygen
cylinder in the Hibernator Cube.

JARED

Fine. There's nobody back there
but change the cylinder. Just
save enough for me, okay?

COMPUTER

Yes Jared.

Jared looks around suspiciously.

JARED

If you're here, why do you need me? You can pass the message on. Why are you wasting my time?

The Flight Shuttle seems to groan slightly as it veers toward Earth.

JARED

You're an over filled sack of beach front pal, show yourself.

COMPUTER

The exercise program is about to begin Jared. Hibernation in one hour.

JARED

Great. I'll just run around the console for a few laps. Get all the kinks out. Then you can finish me off while I'm asleep. Awake just a few months and already you've developed humor.

Jared starts his slow run around the console, into the kitchenette and back.

JARED

You know compassion comes next. You know compassion?

Jared sits down breathing hard and wipes the sweat off his brow. His face is lined with care and fear.

INT. TAHOE MEDICAL STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Willis, Naomi and Poney, Poney still bandaged up, all wait around Jared's bed. Jared is on the bed unconscious.

WILLIS

It's just some weird electrical phenomenon with unbelievable destructive powers.

PONEY

I can't buy that. There's
purpose behind that - that...

NAOMI

What about Raleigh's image?
What about Raleigh?

ARLEEN

He was taken.

Arleen has entered the medical cell and come up behind the
company.

They all turn in surprise.

NAOMI

Arleen.

ARLEEN

It's all right, I feel fine,
now. I also feel better that
someone else has seen it. I
thought I was going crazy for
awhile.

PONEY

How was he taken?

ARLEEN

I don't know exactly. It was
awful and I - can't even... .

Arleen breaks down as Naomi moves to her and holds her in an
embrace.

Naomi guides her to a chair where Arleen sits.

JARED

He was down loaded, like a
simple program is loaded into
computer storage.

They all turn to see that Jared is now sitting up.

WILLIS

Jared! How do you feel?

JARED

I saw it, as some internal projection - I saw Raleigh being emptied into the system.

PONEY

I don't think you are so okay, pal.

JARED

I'm fine as far as that goes.

WILLIS

Maybe we can deep-rock implode the whole cavern in 12 and 14 and disperse the circuit maze.

JARED

I don't think we can do that.

Jared swings his feet off the bed and stands.

PONEY

Please Jared, lay back down until someone can check you out.

ARLEEN

It's alive, isn't it?

JARED

Yes!

PONEY

What?

WILLIS

What's alive? The walls?

JARED

The whole thing is alive. Lazy 10 is conscious and we made it that way. We are standing on and in an entity that we brought to life.

NAOMI

How is that possible?

They all gather around Jared's bed as he sits on it.

Arleen comes to the end of the bed and sits.

JARED

I don't know. I don't even care. What could I do about it if I did know? Raleigh for all intent and purpose spoke to me. Slowly. Learning every second. Educating itself, himself, through his knowledge already and his interactions with me. What we are on is an enormous, vast beyond words, storage facility with power unheard of prior to this point. And he doesn't understand it and may never understand. He is a child in certain senses, but not a child from God.

ARLEEN

A male child.

NAOMI

And Raleigh is his source of reference.

PONEY

Hold on here, just hold your horses. Are you saying that this light bulb lifted Raleigh's brain information?

JARED

And then lifted Raleigh. I saw it happen. He just melted into the structure.

WILLIS

Which is where all the ore went
that can't be accounted for.

JARED

Bingo!

NAOMI

What was it before Raleigh?

JARED

A mass of unorganized electrical
energy that had evolved to the
point of reacting to stimuli.

ARLEEN

Enter man into the scene.

PONEY

And we stimulated it, big time.

WILLIS

Four thousand feet must be it's
most sensitive point. We
probably could have surfaced
mined and never woke up the
sleeping...

ARLEEN

...beast.

JARED

I think it could be anything
we wanted it to be.

NAOMI

I don't know anything about
raising an infant computer
that kills.

JARED

Well we better figure it out
before the baby eats it's
parents.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

In a large room, many workers bring in material and place it on long tables.

The materials consist of baby books, dictionaries, books with pictures, film cassettes, audio cassettes, computer hook-ups with files of discs.

Naomi, Jared, Willis and Poney all man different stations. Poney picks up a baby book and walks to Jared.

JARED

How are you doing on your end?

PONEY

(ignoring question.)

What if this doesn't work?
Hedging our bet might not
be a bad idea if there is
something about Raleigh
that nobody knows. You
know, secrets from the Id.

JARED

I know. I checked his hard
file and I talked to Arleen
who knew him best and he
appears to be alright.

PONEY

If it's alive then - by
definition it could be dead.

Naomi comes into their conversation from another table.

NAOMI

I think we're ready for the
first go around.

JARED

(to Poney)

I would be careful what I
thought about, remember.
we are in it, not next to it.
Let's see what happens first.

NAOMI

Where is Arleen

JARED

She's waiting for us.

PONEY

Good Luck.

Poney moves off toward his station while Naomi and Jared leave through a side corridor.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT/DAY

Naomi and Jared walk past corridors and exits, each guarded by heavily armed personnel.

They reach the elevator shaft to Tahoe 14. Arleen is waiting, talking to the guards.

They immediately walk into the elevator and the guards send the transport down the shaft.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT/DAY

Jared, Naomi and Arleen ride down in silence. They are carrying an array of material that could educate the mind.

The elevator comes to a stop and the doors open automatically.

They cautiously step into the cavern.

INT. TAHOE 14 - NIGHT/DAY

The walls of the cavern are surrealistic. They hum with electrical current.

The walls are now rolls and coils and resemble the brain structure of a human being. Flashes of high intensity shoot across open spaces. There is a firework show of the first magnitude.

JARED

Raleigh is coming along. How do you suppose we say we are not here to harm you?

NAOMI

Why not just say it?

Suddenly the cavern explodes in laughter. The sound is deafening.

JARE

Is humor an advancement on the evolutionary scale?

NAOMI

That laugh.

ARLEEN

Yes. Look!

On the far wall of the cavern Raleigh's face slowly forms from an electronic matrix.

His eyes look from one person to the next.

They put down the materials they brought into the cavern and step slightly back.

Raleigh looks down at the material and the material turns to electronic information and is absorbed by a current from the floor.

ARLEEN

Knowledge may not make him smarter.

NAOMI

He lacks experience, or he doesn't understand it.

JARED

Experience is in there somewhere. Raleigh doesn't know how to get to it.

ARLEEN

Maybe self identity is more important.

The books and materials appear at Arleen's feet in a neat stack.

ARLEEN

What are you?

An awkward voice in the cavern coughs out,

VOICE

Raleigh.

NAOMI

And - what is Raleigh?

RALIEGH

I Am!

ARLEEN

The Raleigh who was my friend,
where is he?

There is a slight tremor in the cavern and Naomi, Jared and Arleen hang together arm in arm.

RALEIGH

We are the one - Raleigh.

ARLEEN

Our friend Raleigh was a man
and looked like us.

There is a low rumbling and electric current flashes.

Suddenly from the floor right in front of them Raleigh raises up from an electric blur of activity concentrated just below his feet and legs.

He forms completely although he appears slightly ragged at the edges. He is very stiff and extremely formal. He takes one step toward them.

RALEIGH

I am.

Jared steps forward and offers his hand which Raleigh takes mechanically.

Jared jumps back in pain as Raleigh squeezes his hand to hard.

Everyone stops for a moment and waits for the next move.

Raleigh watches each one of them one at a time.

JARED

Raleigh, we have humans here
that you have...

NAOMI

...caused much pain and hurt.

ARLEEN

Why did you do these things?

Raleigh blinks his eyes a couple of time and steps back away from them.

He puts his hands up to his face to cover the pain he is in.

On the wall behind him is a gruesome projection of the mining operation at the four-thousand-foot level.

Miners blow apart portions of Raleigh's body and send the remains back up to the surface.

The projection travels through miles of tunnels filled with tons and tons of equipment.

As the projection grows more rapid sound of EMOTIONAL PAIN is shrieked out into the cavern.

ARLEEN

(whispers)

He sounds just like a baby.

JARED

Do you think he read those
books?

Suddenly the sound tremors raise to a high level and the projections show the explosions.

They are also gruesome with bodies being torn apart.

Suddenly all stops except the brain activity.

Raleigh walks backwards into the wall behind him and is absorbed into the circuit instantly.

His face reappears in the wall, magnified to larger than life.

RALEIGH

You - are eating me!!!
I am. Leave. Leave now!!!

The trio turns and heads back for the elevator doors. The cavern is shaking in spasm.

RALEIGH

I am. Raleigh! Do not come
- back with - machines.
Stop - eating me! Jared!!

Jared turns quickly back, surprised to hear his name.

RALEIGH

Leave - all of me.

Jared stops and looks at the face in confusion.

Suddenly his hand dives into his own pocket and produces the marble that Naomi gave him on the Flight Shuttle.

RALEIGH

I have been - with you the
whole time.

Jared drops the marble and it is instantly sucked into the cavern floor with a vapor surge of power.

Jared jumps into the elevator doors.

JARED (V.O.)

Do you get the sense he knows
where all his parts are? Hit
the buttons.

The doors close and the sound of the transport SCREAMING up toward the surface fills the cavern.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

A large room where computers and mining equipment have all been brought in together. A set of tables is in front and chairs are placed in the back. The chairs are full of security and mining personnel

Naomi and Arleen are talking together on one side of the room.

Poney, Jared and Willis are seated at the tables and are discussing the options.

PONEY

Raleigh has to be destroyed I just don't see any other options.

WILLIS

I agree but I don't see how we can blow up the whole planet with us on it.

PONEY

What about a high impact laser strike at the four thousand foot level, I mean he's an electrical circuit, catch my drift.

WILLIS

Short circuit the little sucker? I like the sound of that.

PONEY

(to Jared)

You're not saying very much. Would you care to share those thoughts?

JARED

I wish we knew more about Raleigh the person.

PONEY

We've been through all this before. Wife and family killed on Earth by a mutant Aid's virus. Joined Tahoe Mining to get away, excellent record, excellent achievement in Security while he was here.

JARED

Which he still is.

WILLIS

I get your point.

JARED

So, he hates germs. Maybe he sees us as an infection. But only at four thousand feet. That's the clue.

Naomi steps forward from the side.

NAOMI

I believe that I share the sentiment of many here that a short rest and food break is really needed.

WILLIS

Fine with me, I'll be working in my cube.

JARED

Outnumbered again. Meet back here at twenty hundred hours so we can continue.

The room quickly empties out.

There is a strange silence in the room and an eerie light quality around one of the computers.

The computer screen is showing a video game where a rock creature is eating everything around it.

No one is playing or watching.

INT. JARED'S CUBE - NIGHT/DAY

There is a large viewing port which shows the volcanic landscape in contrast to the pools of blue water caught in some prehistoric backdrop.

Jared is on his bed with his eyes closed.

There is a knock and Arleen comes into the cube.

ARLEEN

May I come in?

JARED

Not much room to sit.

Arleen sits on the edge of the bed down by Jared's feet. As soon as she sits a tremor rocks the station.

ARLEEN

He's watching us. He's jealous.

JARED

(shocked)

Were you and Raleigh lovers?

ARLEEN

No, but he wanted me.

JARED

Did he say so?

ARLEEN

Women know these things.

JARED

Jesus, it just doesn't get any less complicated, does it?

ARLEEN

I realized something down there today. He wants me now because he is powerful, and he is behaving just like a typical man. Do you understand Jared? He is all male and he needs female input and perspective. If he can't see both sides clearly, we'll never be able to deal with him.

Poney sticks his head in the door.

PONEY

He's up and he's active. He turned all the power off in the lower levels.

Willis is right behind him and slides his head in the doorway.

WILLIS

As soon as he figures it out he'll turn off the power up here and then it's only a matter of time. We must launch a shuttle to protect the mission against total failure.

JARED

If Raleigh can get us on the surface then he can get us in space. We really don't know how powerful our little friend is really.

Arleen slips out the door as Poney and Willis push their way in.

JARED

The thing is, he has the knowledge of a human brain, therefore, there must be a way to deal with him. His computer hasn't assembled all the information yet, he's too young. What we need is time. We need to find a way to buy time and hope that whatever is left of Raleigh is good. God, I'm talking about a huge hunk of rock like it's alive.

PONEY

It is!

WILLIS

And it's angry!!

JARED

I wonder what he sees us as?

PONEY

Trouble and he wants that to be over so he can go back to sleep.

JARED

There's the rub, he can never go back to sleep.

An enormous explosion hits the cube and the cube collapses around them.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT/DAY

They race into the corridor and join a throng of others moving toward secure stations.

The plastic cover breaks over some of the corridors and depressurizes the zone.

Personnel are sucked up through holes in the covering and their bodies float effortlessly off into space.

Elevator doors jam, emergency doors close and seal.

Jared passes Naomi in one of the corridors.

He grabs her and pulls her into a secure air-lock and closes the door.

NAOMI

Where is everyone?

JARED

Poney and Willis were just with me but I lost them. Where is Arleen?

NAOMI

I saw her just before the explosion. She said she was going to meet you in 14.

Jared looks at her as if he went dumb.

JARED

14? She's down there with him. We have to get her out.

NAOMI

You can't jeopardize the mission.

JARED

What mission? We're in the territory of Science Fiction and we're dealing with the greatest monster ever. That is the mission.

Jared and Naomi run toward the 14-elevator shaft.

People are carried on stretchers, bodies are strewn everywhere.

The building and corridors are a wreck.

They reach the transport bank and open the doors.

They both step into the elevator and the doors close.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT/DAY

Jared is trying to program the descent, but the elevator works itself.

Each time the power panel lights up and then goes dead.

Suddenly the elevator stops, and the doors open.

They look out and now the walls of the cavern at the bottom of 14 look like a crystal brain where you see through all the activity.

Electrical circuits are alive and humming along pathways from one center to the next.

JARED

Is there anyway out of this thing?

NAOMI

You designed the system.

JARED

Right. The Game. The game has come to life.

NAOMI

I think it's your move.

JARED

I know but I don't have a program and I don't have a computer. We're in a computer and it's in control of the board.

NAOMI

We're in it together.

JARED

Okay, I'll go out and you guard the door. I'll find Arleen.

Jared gives Naomi a quick peck on the cheek and then leaves the elevator.

INT. TUNNEL 14 - NIGHT/DAY

Jared moves cautiously down the shaft, looking back at Naomi for support.

He hears talking from around a corner and when he turns the corner he sees Arleen sitting on an outcrop of crystal ore.

She speaks in quiet tones to the face of Raleigh which is a projection deep in the crystal structure.

Arleen suddenly turns around and sees Jared.

ARLEEN

Oh my God, what are you doing here?

RALEIGH

Hello Jared.

Jared looks around suspiciously.

JARED

Hello Raleigh.

RALEIGH

I know - so much more - now!

JARED

Great!

ARLEEN

Raleigh and I have been having a little talk. Raleigh has some things that need to be discussed with you. Raleigh has been asleep for millions of years and was only made to be awake when the deep mining reached the core of his - potential.

JARED

Ah. So, the rock had a potential.

ARLEEN

Be careful Jared. Raleigh does not see humor. Raleigh reacted in violence to what his instincts were telling him was an invasion. Raleigh is sorry about what he has done. He would like to undo that which has taken place.

JARED

Is that right Raleigh?

RALEIGH

... yes.

ARLEEN

Raleigh will allow the mining operation to continue but you can never enter this four thousand-foot level - that is his home.

Jared is studying the matrix on the wall and does not see Arleen step up behind him and take his arm.

He jumps away quickly.

ARLEEN

What's the matter?

JARED

A little jumpy I guess. How did you get down here so fast?

ARLEEN

Raleigh needed female input so I volunteered my self to be that input.

JARED

I hope he got his money's worth.

The current begins to warm up the walls. The cavern starts to vibrate at the power being generated within its walls.

ARLEEN

He got the most female he could
have ever found. Hold me!!

JARED

You know Arleen, right at the
moment I think I'll...

She steps up to him and kisses him fully with her entire
body.

The walls begin to hum in a chorus of satisfaction.

Arleen forces Jared's head down to her breasts and the
electric current starts bouncing off the walls.

Arleen reaches down for the belt to Jared's pants and the
wall current turns blood red.

The walls are heaving with tension.

JARED

Arleen, what are you doing?

Jared pulls his head away from her body when he finally sees
that she is melting into the crystal matrix right beneath her
feet.

She kisses him in hunger as he tries to pull her up from the
floor.

JARED

Arleen!! Arleen!! Don't do
this!!!

Jared pulls himself away from her lips and finally away from
her altogether.

Arleen slowly disappears into a current of electrons and
power flows.

Jared watches her face as she sinks deeper into a world of
crystal, electronic impulse.

He takes his fist and smashes the crystal which shatters and allows his arm to enter the wall.

He pulls his arm back as the hole instantly heals itself.

Jared falls back and scrambles like a crab when suddenly someone lifts him up from behind.

He turns around in terror when he sees Naomi.

She grabs him and pulls him all the way to the elevator. She pushes the buttons and the doors slam closed.

The transport shoots up and is gone in an instant.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT/DAY

Jared is laying on the floor covered in sweat and blood.

Naomi kneels beside him and tries to scrape away some of the crystal shards on his arm.

The shards fall but disappear in space before they land on the floor.

JARED

She melted.

NAOMI

I know. I saw it. Just like Raleigh.

JARED

No, I don't think so. She said she volunteered.

NAOMI

Quite a mission.

JARED

She must have already - before I even got there, so she was really just his mind talking to itself.

NAOMI

Still beautiful, but not real. I saw it. I heard it all. Turner is not going to be happy.

Jared looks at Naomi and then closes his eyes as the transport reaches the top level.

INT. SECUTIRY ROOM - NIGHT/DAY

Poney, Willis, Naomi and Jared are seated at a table, drinking coffee and talking.

There are no computers in the room, all electrical devices except light have been removed.

JARED

Here is the deal as she explained it. The mining operation continues but never again, to the level of 12 or 14. If that happens it destroys us or absorbs us and that will be that. Raleigh seems to have skipped elementary school.

WILLIS

We're finished.

PONEY

I don't think it matters. Our mission is complete. Don't mine to four thousand feet, end of story, ore moves, we go home.

NAOMI

I don't think it's that simple. It has Arleen. Arleen Turner, perhaps the most knowledgeable woman in the World on super-secret intelligence. And she is now pitted against her husband arguably the most powerful man in the World.

JARED

And a Catholic to boot.

WILLIS

He is going to be very unhappy!

PONEY

It's not our responsibility.
The mission is complete and I
am going to get Flight Shuttle
ready to leave whenever you all
finish the paperwork.

WILLIS

What will Raleigh do when he/she
finds out we're leaving. Her
friends and all.

JARED

I don't know. How is Arleen in
there? Does it have her instinct,
her grace, does it have her
memories because that may be all
we are in the final reading?

There is a knock at the door and Jared goes and opens it. A
voice outside speaks to Jared.

VOICE (V.O.)

Excuse me Major, could you all
step across the hall for a moment.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT/DAY

They all walk across the corridor to a room where Security is
running a computer operation.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT/DAY

A guard shows them one computer on a lone table and then
steps away.

They all lean over the table and look at the screen.

On the screen, there is a game being shown with each of them
already animated into the game.

A rock crunching monster is chasing them all toward the
Flight Shuttle.

More rock monsters appear as they shoot their way out of
corridors.

WILLIS

It's playing.

NAOMI

It's not Arleen.

JARED

Maybe Raleigh's not playing.
Maybe it's a message.

Jared pulls up a chair and pulls over the key board.

As soon as he touches the board the game stops.

PONEY

We don't have time. There is
only a small window open
for us, the next window is
three months away.

Suddenly the wall at the far end of the room breaks into
pieces and a huge computer monster crashes into the space.

Willis and several of the guards, fire laser weapons and tear
the machine to pieces.

The pieces are all sucked back into the hole and the hole
closes like there was never anything there like a hole.

PONEY

What the hell was that?

NAOMI

It's testing us. It's playing
now it wants to know what
we're going to do.

JARED

What were we doing in the game?

WILLIS

Running down corridors firing
at monsters coming through the
walls.

JARED

That's our move, let's make it.

They all draw weapons and the whole room empties out with Naomi, Jared, Willis and Poney in the lead.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT/DAY

As soon as they enter the corridor the game begins for real.

Monsters break through the walls and attack them.

They shoot and destroy while on the run.

JARED

Head for Flight Shuttle.
Everyone.

They run past personnel who have no idea what is going on.

They run into the chamber next to the dock where Flight Shuttle waits.

They close the doors and the four leaders move across the room to the exit.

Poney trips just as a huge computer slug breaks up through the floor and swallows Poney whole, in front of his friends.

Willis is about to fire in the slug.

JARED

Don't shoot. I'll explain
later.

They move quickly to the exit, but the door is jammed.

They fire at it several times and it finally opens.

Just at that moment the slug breaks up through the floor and vomits Poney out.

The slug dissolves into nothing.

PONEY

That - that thing...

JARED

Stop everyone, stop. Just
sit down. Stop exerting energy.

NAOMI

Is it mass hysteria or does
Raleigh make it happen and then
unhappen?

WILLIS

If big R can fluctuate time and
visual reality and he's only six,
what happens when he hits puberty?

JARED

He warned us on the screen,
remember. Raleigh already
played all this out.

NAOMI

He did warn us. It's a warning!
In the style of Arleen.

PONEY

And how would you interpret
that warning.

NAOMI

It wants you Jared - to play
with.

WILLIS

I don't think that's what it
wants. You see, I saw this
already on the screen. That
day in Central Security when
everyone was leaving - I was
being eaten by one of those
things coming out of the walls.

NAOMI

You think it looked into the
future and then showed it to
us. That's quite a game.

PONEY

Look. We're the people here,
right? Raleigh is just a rock
with some fancy electronics.

JARED

What does that mean?

PONEY

I don't know! I don't know
what any of it means.

NAOMI

Neither does anyone else. Also
I don't think that the question
about us being people is important.
For me the question would be is
it guided by intelligence?

PONEY

So here we are with millions of
years of evolution, thousands of
years of civilization and we're
stuck on a rock that didn't pass
go but collected everything,
including the future. And, the
mission is not concluded until
a message is transported back to
Earth. And I don't mean
electronically.

JARED

Is the Flight Shuttle ready?

PONEY

The Flight Shuttle is always
ready!

NAOMI

We should talk to Raleigh and
tell him the game is over.

WILLIS

You mean, ask his permission
to leave?

NAOMI

Or ask hers.

PONEY

I don't see why we should ask
anything's permission at all.

The room suddenly turns completely black.

The floor shakes and groans and then tears away as a large
hole opens under them and they fall.

WILLIS

Free fall.

Their voices and their screams fade down until they
disappear, and all is gone.

INT. TAHOE 14 - NIGHT/DAY

The darkness and the silence are broken as the mine shaft
walls glow in electric amber colors.

The four people are exactly as they were in the room above
with all the same equipment except they are in the middle
of an electric brain made of silicon.

The brain is cooking with power and explosive energy.

Overload bursts strike out toward them but never touch them.

PONEY

Maybe it's a little clearer who
we have to talk to now.

JARED

My God!

NAOMI

This is incredible.

WILLIS

I wonder where the restrooms
are?

There are a complex series of electrical contacts at the wall
opposite them.

Slowly Arleen's full image grows forward from deep in the crystal complex.

She raises up to the surface and then steps out from the surface onto the floor.

She is clothed in a gold silicon fabric which disappears at its end instead of forming a hard stop line.

She shimmers.

ARLEEN

Hello Jared - Naomi - all!
I know this is very confusing.

She floats across an electric current closer to them.

ARLEEN

I see so much more than when
I was like you. Time is only
concept and I am now beyond
concept, beyond time. Time is
my servant as is everything!
I have already played many
parts in this present game.
Jared. When I joined with
Raleigh, I sent the photographs.
Part of me was with you, Jared
I was the Tahoe Signal.

JARED

Is - that all?

Naomi looks around for a door but is suddenly pulled straight up through the cavern and is instantly gone.

JARED

What happened to you?

There is a tremor of power in the cavern.

PONEY

(whispers)

Jared, be careful.

ARLEEN

I - am no longer here.

WILLIS

Are your memories gone also?

Arleen has an expression of fear on her face as the cavern erupts in laughter.

The three men cover their ears and fall on the floor.

Arleen melts back into the crystal structure.

ARLEEN

I am passed on. Passed
knowledge.

The cavern rocks with male laughter and crystal shards break off and fall on the floor.

Jared stands up and points down the shaft.

JARED

Run for the elevator.

They all get up and run down the shaft.

They dive through the doors and Jared slams the door closed.

The doors open immediately, and the men fall out onto the floor of the Main Station.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Naomi runs up to them with Jared's bags.

Jared sees her and grabs her and holds on for a moment.

Willis and Poney turn down the corridor and start to run.

Jared takes his things from Naomi and they both follow on the run.

They all enter a side corridor and close the seal.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT/DAY

On a small computer screen near the door a dragon bursts through a wall and comes after the workers.

WILLIS

I think that means we have
guests.

INT. WEAPONS STORAGE - NIGHT/DAY

They run to a side room and remove weapons of the laser
variety from a weapons cabinet.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT/DAY

They move back to a main corridor and head for the Flight
Shuttle.

JARED

Flight Shuttle, next stop.

They turn a corner and the corner breaks open and the dragon
enters the corridor.

Willis and Poney stop and fire at the fire breathing animal.

They destroy several scales and the creature is bleeding.

PONEY

Does this mean we didn't get
permission to leave?

Jared and Naomi run for another corridor with a protective
seal.

WILLIS

Don't wait for us!

PONEY

Don't listen to him!!

Jared waits until the dragon turns and is about to blast him
when he hits the buttons and the door seal closes.

Fire blackens the outside as the dragon screams.

Willis and Poney move quickly to a doorway off the corridor.

They enter it and close it behind them.

INT. TAHOE STATION - NIGHT/DAY

Jared and Naomi run down a long corridor that is filled with mining personnel.

People dodge out of their way as they run toward the sign that reads Loading Dock.

Guards at the Loading Dock area try and stop them, but they run by them and seal themselves into a carrier tube headed for the Flight Shuttle.

INT. CARRIER TUBE - NIGHT/DAY

The carrier tube comes to a stop and the plastic doors roll over the top.

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE DOCK - NIGHT/DAY

Jared and Naomi get out and run into the huge Dock area where Flight Shuttle has been prepared.

Instantly the dragon grows up out of the floor and stands between them and the ship.

The dragon shoots flames at them and cowers them on the ground.

Suddenly the animal screams as one of its front legs is sheared with a laser blast from behind and another from just to the side.

Willis and Poney come out of single doors, fire at the beast and then retreat.

WILLIS

Jared, get to the ship, Now!!!

Jared and Naomi take off across the huge floor, passing the dragon on one side.

The animal turns to them as the Flight Shuttle doors open on top of the ramp.

Poney fires again but the beast turns and wards off the laser with one of its wings.

The animal screams at Poney as it belches flames toward him.

Poney jumps into the small door, but is burned on the way in.

The animal turns and fires flames and electrical current at Jared and Naomi as they jump aboard Flight Shuttle.

Willis fires at the beast but the dragon turns and with one whip of its head, swallows Willis whole.

Its huge teeth gulps down his legs and feet forcing the body into its throat.

Jared looks out as the doors close around him.

INT. FLIGHT SHUTTLE - NIGHT/DAY

Jared moves towards Naomi who is lying on the cold steel deck.

He reaches her and passes out as he bends down to her.

All is black except for the sounds of the ship being launched into space.

COMPUTER

Jared? Jared? Jared?

From floor level Jared opens his eyes and then sits up slowly.

Jared looks around but there is no Naomi.

COMPUTER

Jared? Jared?

JARED

I'm alright. Where is Naomi?

COMPUTER

You must enter the hibernator as soon as possible Jared.

JARED

Where is Naomi?

Jared stands and walks carefully back to the console.

There are messages crossing the screen that read, "We are safe, safe journey home".

JARED

We are safe, safe journey home.
Computer, where is Naomi.

NAOMI (V.O.)

I'm here.

Jared turns around and looks down the steel aisle to the hibernators and sees Naomi's cold face in the blue gas.

He walks to the hibernator and across the vapor on the inside are the words, I love you.

From a small speaker, next to her glass dome, comes a recording.

NAOMI (V.O.)

I'm here Jared. Computer will turn on this recording when you ask for me. I had to get into the hibernator because I had burns that would only heal in here.

Jared looks over his body and realizes that he is not burned.

NAOMI

I know the Computer will take care of you and I'll see you in six months; it's already programmed. Take care Jared, there is so much to tell. Chuo.

Jared traces the words I love you with his fingers.

She is beautiful asleep.

Jared returns to the console and looks out the port.

JARED

How could we have come so far without knowing that there would eventually be something out here so much bigger than ourselves, that it might threaten to eat us alive? Let's hope that God and Turner understand that there are still choices. Let's hope that the most powerful man in the world realizes why his wife dumped him for a rock.

There is a slight creak in the ship.

Jared turns around and looks down the aisles suspiciously.

Jared begins to talk softly to himself as he heads for his hibernator.

JARED

The walls have eyes. We have to come to grasp with what we think reality actually is.

His clothes drop on the floor in a mess and the dome top slides up on his hibernator.

He steps in and looks at Naomi next to him, one last time.

JARED

Computer. Who is Raleigh?

COMPUTER

There is no Raleigh on board or entered in the log.

Jared thinks about that for a second.

JARED

Computer, who is flying this thing.

COMPUTER

I am in control Jared.

JARED

Thanks.

COMPUTER

You are welcome.

The dome comes down over Jared and covers him completely. The blue gas seeps in from the bottom and Jared slowly closes his eyes.

He opens his eyes on last time in an effort to see the last moment.

He closes his eyes with a struggle and goes to sleep.

COMPUTER

I am changing the oxygen tank
in cube 317 LZ.

The image of Jared and Naomi fade as the ship passes by.

The ship flies on into the network of deep space.

FADE OUT.

THE END

The End of Part One