

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"The Enemy"

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Episode 3S05
Story 4407
8/23/95 (WHITE)

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SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"The Enemy"

CAST

NATHAN WEST
SHANE VANSSEN
COOPER HAWKES
VANESSA DAMPHOUSSE
PAUL WANG
MCQUEEN

SERGEANT
CRAZY MARINE

8/23/95

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"The Enemy"

SETS

EXTERIORS

PLANET TARTARUS/
ROCK SURFACE
HILLTOP
BATTLE TRENCH
MINE FIELD

ISSCV
RESCUE VEHICLE/
COCKPIT

INTERIORS

ISSCV/
SUPPLY ROOM
SLEEPING AREA
AIRLOCK

BUNKER

TEASER

1 EXT. THE PLANET TARTARUS - SPACE

1

It has been feared in myths, prophesied by religions and visited in each of our nightmares; a horrifying underworld which lies beyond the realm of Death.

Hell no longer belongs to the imagination.

It's location is an angry volcanic iron red planet blanketed in a swirling sulfuric fog...waiting...in the black abyss of Space.

FLAMES... ENTER FRAME...THUNDEROUS...as the I.S.S.C.V's retro rockets slow the vehicle's descent.

2 INT. I.S.S.C.V - SUPPLY ROOM

2

CAMERA MOVES along the floor of the supply room, tense. An eerie yellow spill light falls upon supply crates ready for delivery. They are marked "M-590 ROUNDS," "MRE'S," "PLASMA," "MEDICAL SUPPLIES."

As the CAMERA CONTINUES to CREEP...

SHANE (O.S.)

Wild card to Queen Six,
requesting coordinates for ass
and trash.

CAMERA CONTINUES...The 58th is gathered by a porthole looking out. Shane is on the radio at the LIDAR SCREEN, back to CAMERA. McQueen's voice replies over crackling static on the radio.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Queen Six to Wild Card. Drop
zone is four klicks from bullseye
on vector zero niner zero.

SHANE

Repeat. Over.

CAMERA CRANES UP to Nathan, Cooper, Damphousse and Wang. The hellish light reflects on their apprehensive faces. It's hot. They sweat.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

(static)

Bullseye is vector zero niner
zero.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

SHANE (O.S.)

Roger that.

WANG

They say this planet didn't have
what it takes to become a star.

DAMPHOUSSE

Looks angry about it.

WANG

Visibility is thirty meters, on
a good day. Sulfur dioxide
atmosphere. Ground temps average
292 degrees Celcius...at night.

Nathan lowers his voice, even though he's amongst friends.

NATHAN

From what I'm told...we should be
evacuating troops 'stead of
droppin' 'em supplies.

DAMPHOUSSE

Whatta you hear?

NATHAN

This battle's been going on since
the start of the war...even
though a lot of people think
there's no strategic value.

WANG

A guy told me there's a high rate
of M.I.A's...

COOPER

I heard friendly fire.

The group pauses, that is a pretty intense rumour.

NATHAN

Thousands of casualties, but
neither side gains any ground.
Its got some weird hold on the
brass.

They look out the window.

WANG

They call it "TARTARUS"... a
place beyond Hell.

Shane approaches.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

SHANE
Alright, lose the scuttlebutt.
Gear up and get ready to unload.

The group quickly hustle to their atmospheric helmets and start preparing. Cooper pauses as he looks at his helmet.

COOPER'S POV -- HELMET

CAMERA PUSHES IN, EERIE, to the helmet reading "HAWKES."

COOPER

He subtly checks to see if anyone reads his anxiety. Then, reluctantly, he grabs the helmet.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. TARTARUS

3

The I.S.S.C.V trails a bright afterburner as it cuts through the hellish yellow clouds.

4 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - DAY - CLOSE - PALLET

4

A crate of supplies is wheeled close to the side panel of the I.S.S.C.V. It is marked "MRE'S, PACKAGED IN GUANTANAMO, CUBA."

WANG

pushes the crate into place. Suddenly, from the crate, races two large cockroaches, scuttling across the box.

Wang yelps and jumps back as the roaches vanish. He catches his breath.

WANG
They travel ten light years in a vacuum and they're still alive.

NATHAN
Roaches'll outlive us all. Gotta give 'em credit.

WANG
I'll give 'em the bottom of my steel re-enforced boot.

Damphousse moves across the room, CAMERA FOLLOWS...as she addresses Shane.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

DAMPHOUSSE

We're about to touch down. Go to black?

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON SHANE, subtly phobic, as she turns INTO THE CAMERA MOVE. Then, tense...

SHANE

Red. Go to red.

The lights in the vehicle turn to red. Shane turns back to the communications panel. OVER THE INTERCOM.

PILOT (V.O.)

5-8, this is the flight deck,
prepare for touch down in 50
feet... 40 feet...

WIDER

The ship buckles and trembles as it is about to land. The Marines steady themselves for landing.

CAMERA PUSHES IN TO DAMPHOUSSE on the floor. The cooler of PLASMA falls from the vibration. As it hits the deck, packets of scarlet fluid fall into Vanessa's lap. CAMERA THEN SWEEPS CLOSER as she freezes, subtly overreacting to the blood.

PILOT (V.O.)

10 feet... 5,4,3,2...

5 EXT. TARTARUS - DAY

5

The I.S.S.C.V. touches down on the iron sulfide surface. Yellow haze swirls from the engines, ENGULFING the vehicle.

6 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - DAY

6

The craft ROCKS on impact. No time is wasted as the Marines are on their feet, moving the palletes. The pace and intensity triples.

SHANE

Okay, let's do it...

Before they proceed, however, a chaotic, horrified POUNDING begins at several places from the exterior of the ship.

Shane moves to a porthole.

A LIEUTENANT appears, scared to death, furiously pounding on the windows, screaming to be let inside.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

COOPER

moves to a window. He's met by a prophetic MARINE, without an atmospheric helmet. The private POUNDS the I.S.S.C.V., gasping for air and safety. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON COOPER as he backs up and moves to the door.

COOPER

LET 'EM IN!

He pops the hatch. OUTSIDE, MACHINE GUN FIRE ERUPTS FURIOUSLY. The 58th hit the deck as bullets rattle inside the I.S.S.C.V. Cooper opens the door.

Two men outside the door fall inside, dead. Three Marines climb over the dead, trying to get inside. They're shot in the back and fall to the ground along with the other two dead. Chaos. Kinetic terror. As bullets tear across the I.S.S.C.V.

SHANE

SHUT THE HATCH! TELL THE PILOT
TO PULL OUT!

Nathan takes off toward the flight deck. Wang mans the gun on the side of the ship.

WANG

I can't see anything!

SHANE

Shut the hatch!

Cooper CLOSES the door as BULLETS CONTINUE to fly. The door closes with a BANG.

Nathan hustles back from the flight deck. O.S. weapons FIRE CONTINUES.

NATHAN

Flight crew's dead. The two left
engines are dust.

A beat of silent dread...then...Cooper looking out a porthole window.

COOPER

There!

Everyone hustles to the porthole.

DAMPHOUSSE

How many Chigs is it?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

COOPER
I only see one!

NATHAN & SHANE

at a porthole window, AS CAMERA PUSHES IN on the shock of what they see.

SHANE
And it ain't a Chig.

NATHAN
He's one of ours.

7 EXT. TARTARUS - THROUGH PORTHOLE - DAY

7

A lone black silhouette stands on a small elevation, eerie and haunting in the reddish clouds. It is a Marine and his M-590. The muzzle emits FLASHES of light toward the I.S.S.C.V. As the devil like image CONTINUES to fire...trying to kill his own...

CUT TO BLACK

END TEASER

ACT ONE

8 EXT. TARTARUS - DAY

8

As if clutched in the grasp of the sulfuric fog, the I.S.S.C.V. sits motionless. CAMERA MOVES RIGHT REVEALING the combat boots of the rogue Marine. O.S., his RIFLE fires. Spent cartridges drop like rain INTO FRAME.

9 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - DAY

9

The Marines are taking cover behind the supplies, loading their weapons. The room is chaotic and confused. Intense and rapid, Wang mans the armament on the side of the ship.

WANG

I CAN'T GET A BEAD ON HIM!

Damphousse looks out a porthole from the radio position.

DAMPHOUSSE

Visibility is, like, zero!

BAM! BAM! BAM! The side of the ship takes hits. They all cower. Wang FIRES to provide cover.

COOPER

WHY WE JUST SITTING HERE?

NATHAN

HE'S ONE OF OURS!

SHANE

Maybe he thinks we're an enemy ship. Damphousse said you can't see.

COOPER

He gunned down those Marines. They came from his position.

NATHAN

The guy's probably section eight.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

McQueen crackles through heavy static. Damphousse listens on the radio, sweat drips from her nose.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Queen Six to Ace...we've established geosynchronous orbit over your position. Unable to descend due to high wind velocities.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

The 58th react, unhappy to hear this development.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)
Radio contact difficult.
Continue emitting homing beacon
every five minutes.

DAMPHOUSSE
Ace to Queen Six. In contact
with friendly fire. Repeat
friendly fire. Please advise.

The RADIO BLASTS severe static.

DAMPHOUSSE (CONT.)
I doubt he received transmission.

BAM! BAM! BAM! Fire continues from outside.

WANG
(re: Gun)
I'm receiving that guy's
transmission loud and clear.

Cooper stands, impatient and angry. He looks to Shane and Nathan.

COOPER
If that grunt's so far gone to
fire on us, I say we put him out
of his misery.

Shane looks to Nathan, voice lowered.

SHANE
We can't kill another Marine.

NATHAN
We have him outnumbered. We can
proceed in a wedge formation,
then collapse in around him.

SHANE
Right. Contain him and bring him
back.

She looks to Cooper.

SHANE (CONT.)
Roger that?

Cooper shrugs and nods. He cocks the bolt on his rifle.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

SHANE (CONT.)

Okay, gear up.

They hustle urgently to their helmets.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON COOPER, looking at the helmet with claustrophobic anxiety. O.S., the SNAPPING AND CLICKING of the 58th putting on their helmets.

SHANE (O.S.)

Hawkes, let's move!

The command forces Cooper to SNAP ON the helmet.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. TARTARUS - DAY - CLOSE - ROCK SURFACE

10

Sulfuric gas SEEPS ominously from the volcanic rock surface. O.S., in the distance, a volcano erupts. A heavy metal door SLAMS on the ground. A BOOT ENTERS FRAME. WIDEN TO INCLUDE Nathan, Shane, Cooper, Damphousse and Wang, armed with M-590 RIFLES, emerging from the I.S.S.C.V.

As their BOOTS HIT the ground, a strong WIND WHIPS them. Shane, who is in the lead, pauses. In the distance, haunting, macabre SCREAMS of the wounded or crazed, HOWL. The screams seem to come from everywhere at once. The wind possesses its own taunting whine.

Shane listens for a beat, then gestures to the others.

SHANE

This way!

LOW ANGLE -- THE FIVE PILOTS

PUSH THROUGH the thick atmosphere. The mist HISSES at their face plates, eyes darting, senses alert.

CAMERA TRACKS as they move cautiously into a sulfur suffocating canyon. The moans continue within the HOWLING of the WIND. Rocks loom TALL, engulfing them in EERIE SHADOWS. Atmospheric haze ROLLS and UNDULATES through deep rock crevices, menacingly psychedelic.

CLOSE ON SHANE in the lead. O.S. she sees something and reacts in HORROR.

SHANE'S POV -- THE FACE OF A DEAD MARINE

frozen, as if dead from sheer fright.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

SHANE

Grimaces. Cooper comes alongside her. His non reaction is a reaction. Shane moves ahead. Cooper follows.

WIDEN TO REVEAL the five pilots are moving in a diamond formation through a battlefield -- battle debris and dead Marines litter the rock surface. The bloodied corpses are prone in distorted positions -- ghostly re-enactments of a battle fought and lost.

DAMPHOUSSE

Chigs had a good day.

They push soberly forward. Suddenly, in the distance, a haunting cadence begins. It is a macabre mockery of a boot camp cadence, echoing off the canyon walls, SOUNDING as if amplified through a radio. It is clearly the bane of insanity.

CRAZY MARINE (V.O.)

BORN IN THE WOODS...

The 58th ready their M-590's. Training their weapons blindly into the haze.

CRAZY MARINE (V.O.) (CONT.)

TRAINED BY A BEAR...

Cooper swivels, breathing hard. The cadence now seems to be directly behind him and yet everywhere.

CRAZY MARINE (V.O.) (CONT.)

DOUBLE SET OF DOG TEETH...

SHANE

looks about, confused. The chant seems to resonate from a rock crevice to the right.

CRAZY MARINE (V.O.) (CONT.)

- TRIPLE COAT OF HAIR...

She swivels. Now it is to the left.

CRAZY MARINE (V.O.) (CONT.)

TWO BRASS BALLS...

WIDE

The five pilots move for cover, disoriented, unsure where to train their weapons. The chant BOUNCES off the canyon walls, seeming to come from everywhere at once, but nowhere at one time.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

CRAZY MARINE (V.O.) (CONT.)
AND A CAST IRON ROD...

NATHAN

CAMERA MOVES IN ON HIM, eyes roving. Suddenly, he SEES...

NATHAN'S POV -- THE CRAZY MARINE

In silhouette, backlit by EXPLODING FLARES on the distant perimeter. He stands on a small hill, back to Nathan, holding his M-590 rifle. A field pack is strapped to his back -- the pack holds a LOS SATELLITE military radio. The Marine is chanting into the radio mike.

RETURN

Nathan gestures up the hill and signals to move out.

Nathan takes point. He leads out. Damphousse and Shane flank Nathan, Damphousse on the right, Shane on the left. Cooper and Wang fall into position, securing the rear. They move forward in the diamond-shape formation.

THE MARINE

stands on the hill, oblivious, chanting.

MARINE
"M"... MEAN AS HELL... "A"...
ALL THE TIME...

WIDE

The 58th cautiously approaches from behind. Nathan signals for the others to spread out.

MARINE (V.O.)
"R"... ROUGH AND TOUGH... "I"...
IN THE MUD...

Shane, Cooper, Damphousse and Wang slowly ENCIRCLE the Marine from behind. He continues to chant, seemingly unaware.

MARINE
"N"... NEVER QUIT... "E"...
EVERY DAY...

NATHAN

holds up four fingers to the others, preparing a countdown to move out.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

MARINE (V.O.)
MARINE CORPS!

SHANE, COOPER, DAMPHOUSSE, WANG
nod, ready their weapons.

MARINE (V.O.) (CONT.)
HOO-YAH!!

Suddenly, the Marine SWIVELS and OPENS FIRE! The kick back causes his entire body to tremble.

THE 58TH

DIVES for cover. Bullets HIT, ricocheting around them off the rock surface.

THE MARINE

spraying bullets. Suddenly, his M-590 jams. He opens the feed cover, flips the gun over, and hits it on the ground. The shells jar loose. He releases debris caught in the ammo belt. Then, as he quickly flips the rifle right side up, slamming the ammo belt back into place...

NATHAN

pops up. His weapon pointed on the Marine.

NATHAN
U.S. MARINES! DROP YOUR WEAPON!!
I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU!

CLOSE ON THE MARINE

eyes wild, somewhere way beyond reason. However, after looking upon Nathan, his eyes become sad, as if knowing he's crazed. Then, with dread...begging.

MARINE
But...I want you to.

WIDE

Nathan is rattled by the response. The Marine cocks his weapon. Cooper raises his weapon.

COOPER
He said drop it!

The Marine sweats profusely, his breaths hard and deep.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

MARINE
How afraid...?

THE 58th

hold their position, puzzled and unnerved. Shane inches cautiously forward, tense.

SHANE
Pull it together Marine. We're here to help you.

MARINE - LOW ANGLE

Gun raised, adamant and growing in intensity.

MARINE
How afraid...are you?

THE 58TH

weapons raised. Shane moves closer, still many yards away.

SHANE
There's nothing to be afraid of.

MARINE - LOW ANGLE

AS CAMERA PUSHES EERILY INTO HIM...tortured...nearly in tears.

MARINE
Myself...I'm afraid of myself...
We all are...

Without warning, he raises his weapon and FIRES as he moves away from them backward. BAM! BAM! BAM!

THE 58TH

hit the deck, bullets tearing into the rock and soil around them.

THE MARINE

continues to backpedal, FIRING and SCREAMING...

THE 58TH

pop up on their elbows, ready to return fire...

THE MARINE

moving backwards...stumbles over an object on the ground. A loud CLICK is HEARD.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

CLOSE - MARINE'S BOOT

has stepped on a frisbee sized mine. As the foot is removed...

THE MARINE

A DOUBLE HELIX of laser beams SHOOT UP, swirling about the Marine's body. The ELECTROMAGNETIC LIGHTS SLICE across his body as if he were a sheet of paper.

DAMPHOUSSE

is stunned as blood SPLATTERS on her visor and suit.

WIDE

The incident is over so quickly the Marines didn't have time to turn away.

NATHAN

What the (squelch) over?!

WANG

Chigs have wired this area with buzz beams.

SHANE

Move out in the direction we came. Check your six. Do it!

O.S., OVERHEAD, a CRACKLING POP, like an electronic bomb burst...Then...STROBING LIGHTS SHOOT DOWN upon the Marines, ambushing them.

NATHAN

is frozen in his tracks as the bright white light flares.

COOPER

heads off toward the I.S.S.C.V., portions of his suit reflect his skeleton, like an X-Ray, as he runs.

DAMPHOUSSE

screams with pain from the burns.

WANG

moves to help Damphousse, the bones of his skull can be distinguished in the attack of lights.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

SHANE

turns away, closes her eyes.

SHANE
MOVE OUT! MOVE OUT!

She struggles against the barrage of CRACKLING light and CLEARS FRAME.

WIDE

As THE LIGHTS continue to STROBE THROUGH THE AIR, bombarding them, the SOUND of hard pellets hitting the ground. Damphousse, Wang, Nathan and Cooper follow Shane -- the five run in crouched positions in a full out retreat back to the ship.

CUT TO:

11 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

11

CLOSE ON THE SUPPLY SLIDING OPEN. WIDEN TO REVEAL Nathan, Shane, Cooper, Damphousse and Wang barreling into the ship. Wang is the last one in. He SLAMS and BOLTS the SLIDING DOOR. They all rip their helmets off.

COOPER
What the hell happened out there?

DAMPHOUSSE
Some kind of volcanic lightning?

WANG
I swear I heard a mechanical noise, like they were coming out of a gun!

NATHAN
They were hot. I felt them through my suit.

COOPER
Jesus, my head. It's like a headache only back here.

SHANE
I feel that too.

Nathan releases the strap and pulls up his suit sleeve. REVEALS a first degree burn on his arm.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

NATHAN (CONT.)

I'm burned.

Shane looks at her own arm. Is freaked to see a burn. She turns to Wang, who stands near the radio.

SHANE

Get McQueen on the radio. Tell him to get in here now!

Wang, perspiring, nods and crosses to the radio. He sits and furiously engages some switches.

WANG

Joker to Queen Six. Respond.
Request evacuation...

Intense STATIC BLASTS from the radio.

CAMERA BEGINS TO PUSH IN ON WANG, portentous. As he reaches for some switches, attempting to clear the static...

CLOSE - WANG'S HAND

a large black cockroach scuttles across his hand and disappears behind the radio.

WANG

his eyes are intense as he jerks back, overreacting. It is as if he's face to face with an alien soldier. An odd determination sweeps over his face. He pulls his K-BAR knife on his suit. He stabs behind the radio.

WIDER

Unaware of Wang's actions, the group breathes hard, unable to calm after the incidents. CAMERA MOVES to Damphousse, staring at her gloved hand. As if summoning courage...

CLOSE - DAMPHOUSSE'S HAND

she removes the glove, REVEALING a burn. Damphousse touches the raw flesh -- which begins to slightly bleed.

DAMPHOUSSE

CAMERA PUSHES INTO AN EXTREME CLOSE-UP as she freezes in terror.

DAMPHOUSSE

Blood. I'm bleeding.

She looks up.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

WIDER

Shane, Nathan and Cooper are positioned about the I.S.S.C.V.
Cooper, amped, snaps at her.

COOPER

What, you've never seen your own
blood before?

DAMPHOUSSE

looks back at her hands as if puzzled by the level of her fear.

DAMPHOUSSE'S HAND

blood oozes onto the sleeve of the flight suit.

WIDER

With increasing, but restrained, irrational panic, Damphousse
tries to undo her zipper; attempting to remove the suit. The
zipper is stuck.

WANG

a subtle focused glare as he searches for the cockroach with
increasing intensity. He jabs at the back of the radio with
his knife.

RADIO

small sparks fly as the radio is damaged.

WANG

is oblivious to his destruction as he searches to kill the
insect.

WIDER

Damphousse struggles with the suit, increasingly scared.

DAMPHOUSSE

GET THIS THING OFF ME! GET IT
OFF!

The others, Shane, Cooper and Nathan look to her, shocked and
annoyed at her behavior.

NATHAN

What's your problem?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

DAMPHOUSSE
Blood. There's blood on the
suit.

She pulls at the suit as if it were strangling her.

COOPER
'Phousse, all this goin' on and
you're afraid of a little blood?

DAMPHOUSSE
GET IT OFF!!

She removes her knife and tears the flight suit. Nathan, Shane
and Cooper race to stop her.

CLOSE - RADIO

The cockroach darts from a crevice and ducks into another.

WANG

frantically pulls at some wires attempting to get at the
cockroach.

WIDER

Shane, Nathan and Cooper restrain Damphousse, but the damage is
done. The suit is torn. She calms a bit in their comforting
grasps.

SHANE
Vanessa...Vanessa...settle down.
It's okay. It's okay.

Her breaths are heavy, scared, as she settles. Shane and
Nathan exchange a look of puzzled concern.

DAMPHOUSSE
What the hell is wrong with me?

NATHAN
Easy. Wang's calling McQueen.
They'll be here soon. It'll all
be over.

O.S., a furious WHAM! And a BANG! They all look to...

WANG

is on his feet bashing at the back of the radio console,
digging at the wires. Sparks emit. The STATIC dies as the
radio is destroyed. He moves in, intense.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

WIDER

The group race across the I.S.S.C.V. to the radio and pull Wang away.

COOPER

WANG! WHATTA YOU DOIN'?

Wang's fist is clenched and trembling so sweat drips from his insanely victorious face.

WANG

I killed it. It's dead.

He proudly opens his hand to REVEAL the dead cockroach. The others, including Damphousse, are stunned at his actions and shocked by its consequences. They look to the radio.

COOPER

That bug ain't all that's dead.

Everyone realizes something abnormal is occurring to them. Even Wang, as he settles, can't believe what he's done. Damphousse looks at the damage to the radio.

COOPER (CONT.)

And I'm not just talking about
the radio.

No one disagrees.

12 EXT. TARTARUS

12

As the I.S.S.C.V. remains held in the planet's grasp...

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 EXT. TARTARUS - I.S.S.C.V. - DAY

13

Atmospheric winds POUND the craft. In the distance, THE BOOM of ARTILLERY FIRE.

14 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - DAY

14

Cooper watches as Damphousse works over the broken radio. Wang is nervous, hoping his behavior hasn't damaged the radio beyond repair. And yet, his paranoid eyes turn toward Nathan and Shane who are removed from the others -- their hushed voices can be HEARD but not clearly made out.

NATHAN & SHANE

heads together, speak in hushed tones.

NATHAN

Maybe there's some kind of toxic leak on board ship.

SHANE

No. That Marine was outside. Whatever's effecting us comes from out there.

NATHAN

The lights...

Shane's intense look reflects that she agrees.

WIDE

Damphousse finishes examining the radio and looks up.

DAMPHOUSSE

The control board's totally cracked.

Cooper moves to the window, checking outside. He eyes Wang.

COOPER

Control board's not all that's cracked.

CAMERA CREEPS towards Wang. His pupils are dilated. He is perspiring, his paranoid eyes shoot from Cooper to Nathan and Shane.

WANG

JUST WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

COOPER
Means you're losin' it, man.

Wang shoots Damphousse a look.

WANG
Yeah, well, I'm not the only one!

COOPER
What, I'm supposed to feel better
cause there's two psychos?

Damphousse stands angrily.

DAMPHOUSSE
Just shut your mouth!

SHANE
Knock it off!

The room falls silent. Nathan steps forward.

NATHAN (CONT.)
C'mon, this ain't us.
Something's effecting us. Stay
calm, assess the situation, then
hotel alpha outta here.

Shane moves to Damphousse.

SHANE
How bad is it?

Damphousse takes a beat, then sits down.

DAMPHOUSSE
The control board's like the
central nervous system. Without
it, the beacon can't go out.

WANG
They'll never be able to find us.

Everyone is silent, hit by the reality of what this means.

SHANE
Can you fix it?

DAMPHOUSSE
If I could get another micro-
resistor, I could jerry rig it
enough to restore communication.

Cooper turns from the window, sweating, agitated.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

COOPER

We're in the middle of nowhere.
We can't just order up a resistor
from "supply!"

DAMPHOUSSE

Lose the lip, Hawkes. I'm just
sayin' what is.

Nathan takes a beat.

NATHAN

That Marine at the perimeter. He
had a radio on his field pack.

WANG

Yeah, a LOS SATELLITE.

DAMPHOUSSE

The LOS SATELLITE is regulation.
It would have standardized parts.
That'll work.

COOPER

Forget it. That thing got fried
with the Marine.

DAMPHOUSSE

If it's a T-1540 LOS SATELLITE,
there should be a cluster of
micro-resistors in the
compartment at the bottom of the
dish. We only need one.

Nathan looks at Shane, really referring to the possibility of
being exposed to the lights again.

NATHAN

We have to go back out.

SHANE

If we don't go out...we'll never
get out. Let's do it.

Damphousse extracts a micro-resistor from the broken control
board and hands it to Nathan.

DAMPHOUSSE

The cluster looks like this.
Check for the green wires where
they cross with the red.

Everybody looks at each other.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

NATHAN

Why are you tellin' me?

Damphousse speaks calmly, perfectly oblivious to her fear.

DAMPHOUSSE

I'm not going out there.

COOPER

What, you got a date or something?

DAMPHOUSSE

There's blood out there. Everywhere.

COOPER

What?!

NATHAN.

If one goes, we all go.

Damphousse doubles back on her reasoning, as if she realizes it sounds strange.

DAMPHOUSSE

My suit's ripped. There's no way I can repair it in time. I need to fix it before we're evacuated.

Everyone looks to one another. This makes sense however...nothing has made sense recently and they're disturbed. Wang steps forward.

WANG

I can handle it.

Shane takes a beat. She has no choice.

SHANE

Okay, let's move.

Everyone moves to the airlock where their discarded equipment and atmospheric helmets wait on a shelf.

SHANE

picks up a glove and slips it on. As she does, she feels something inside, then quickly pulls the glove off.

A COCKROACH

scuttles out and falls to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

SHANE

shoots a look at Wang to check his position, then stomps the insect before he can see it.

WIDE

Nathan picks up his helmet and straps it on. Wang picks up his and straps it on. Cooper takes a beat, leaves his on the shelf, crosses to the airlock and starts to unlock it.

NATHAN

glances down, notices Cooper's helmet left behind. He steps forward, blocking Cooper from opening the lock.

NATHAN

Whoa, Hawkes, where are you going?

COOPER

Out to get us a radio part.

NATHAN

Without your helmet?!

Cooper takes a beat. With the same strange oblivious illogical reasoning as Damphousse and Wang have displayed...

COOPER

It's harder to breathe with it on.

Nathan and Shane look at each other. "UH OH."

SHANE

The atmosphere's eighty percent Sulfur Dioxide.

NATHAN

You'd be dead in thirty seconds.

WANG

It'd be like stickin' your head in a volcano.

Cooper just looks at them, angry, resentful.

NATHAN

I know you've stuck your head up a lot of places...Now stick it up this!

Nathan picks up Cooper's helmet.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

NATHAN (CONT.)

Put it on. We're going out.

Cooper glares at him for an angry beat, then straps it on. It is clear that he hates wearing it.

COOPER

Let's get the hell outta here.

Cooper exits through the airlock. The others take a beat, then file out behind him.

DAMPHOUSSE

She moves to her flight suit and examines the tear...but it is the small blood on the sleeve that obsesses her. As she tries to rub it out...

CUT TO:

15 EXT. TARTARUS SURFACE - DUSK

15

An overwhelming heat. The mist has gotten thicker. CLOSE ON COOPER, dripping wet inside his helmet, clearly struggling with his feelings of enclosure. His eyes dart nervously from side to side.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Nathan, Wang and Shane, crouched low, FOLLOWING Cooper through the rocky canyon labyrinth. Suddenly, an EXPLOSION in the distance. Wang speaks in a low whisper.

WANG

Sounds like an army B-50 mortar.
Friendly fire.

NATHAN

Could be an artillery battery out
there that lost it like that
Marine.

SHANE

Keep your cool. Let's not get
any more worked up.

Everyone exchanges nervous glances. Shane gestures for them to continue. As they do, the eerie ATMOSPHERIC WIND kicks up a notch, driving the mist into a myriad of bizarre shadows, shadows that seem to dance in the faint atmospheric glow.

CLOSE ON SHANE

Fixated on the shadows. CAMERA MOVES IN ON HER as sweat pours from her brow...a little...fearful...

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

SHANE
Nightfall. It's getting darker.

She CLICKS ON a halogen light. Nathan becomes aware of Shane's actions. He looks back.

NATHAN
(hushed tone)
Kill that light! You're making
us a target!

Shane ignores him. Cooper turns around and CLICKS the light OFF. Shane waits until he turns away, then CLICKS it back ON.

Suddenly, something WHIRRS over their heads sounding like thrown axes burying themselves in the barks of trees. A HUGE EXPLOSION engulfs the rock 80 yards in front of them. The squadron platoon DIVES for cover. The land surface SHAKES.

ANGLE ON COOPER

Crawling, dragging himself over the rock surface, pulling up alongside Shane. He takes his fist, CRACKS her halogen light. The glass SHATTERS.

COOPER
(in vicious whisper)
Next time you turn it on, it'll
be your head I smash.

Off Shane, glaring at him.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. TARTARUS HILLTOP - NIGHT

16

THE BOOM OF ARTILLERY FIRE moves closer as the squadron platoon climbs a small cliff face. In the distance the CRIES and MOANS of the dying, far away, incomprehensible.

NATHAN

who is in the lead, pauses at the top of the cliff.

NATHAN
Sounds like they're taking it bad
out there.

NATHAN'S POV- THE PERIMETER

DRONE FLARES shoot up -- reds, greens, yellows, squeaking as they float down on their parachute hinges.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

The perimeter is illuminated at spotty intervals -- sometimes arctic bright, sometimes unexplainably dark until new drone flares shoot up.

RETURN

Shane MOVES INTO FRAME. She takes a beat, then checks her compass. Looks up.

SHANE

Over there!

WIDE

The corpse of the dead Marine lays near the mine where they saw it before. The radio pack is still strapped to his back. The radio now sputters WHITE STATIC, adding to the eerie feeling that there is nothing out here that is left alive. Nothing that is left in communication with the living.

Wang approaches, followed by Cooper and Shane. Wang leans down.

WANG

Help me roll him over.

Cooper steps forward. The two heave the dead man over. Although we do not see what they see, we read the horror of how the man died in their eyes.

COOPER

Must'a lost half his insides.

Shane glances nervously into the shadows.

SHANE

(edgy)

Hurry it up! It's getting darker.

Wang grabs the radio pack and moves away from the Marine. Nathan leans over Wang and watches as Wang removes the radio. The satellite dish opens up like an umbrella, reaching out for reception into the atmosphere. Wang searches the dial box.

WANG

There should be a box at the bottom of the dish.

Wang turns the radio over. He gropes underneath, but can't find it. He turns it over and checks the other side.

WANG (CONT.)

It's gotta be here.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Cooper is impatient, sweating. He reaches toward his claustrophobic helmet.

COOPER

Come on, Wang...hurry up...its getting tough to breathe out here.

Wang is sweating. His hands shake.

WANG

Just give me a minute...

COOPER

We don't got a minute bug man!

Shane turns on Cooper, her panic is transferred into yelling at Cooper. It becomes quite obsessive in tone.

SHANE.

Shut up! He can't see. He needs a light. We can't see. No one can function in this darkness. But you broke the light. And now it's dark!

COOPER

Alright, you made your point.

Nathan looks to Shane, very concerned. He recognizes the behavior of Wang, Damphousse and Cooper mounting in her. He steps forward.

NATHAN

Shane...listen to yourself!

They fall silent. Look at Nathan.

NATHAN (CONT.)

Don't you go on me. We can't get all weirded out here...

In the distance, a faint SCREAMING begins. It is an extremely haunting wail, ghostly, almost inhuman.

NATHAN (CONT.)

We've got to hold it together a little longer, at least until we get the micro-resistor back to the ship ...

Nathan trails off as he becomes aware of the screaming. He steps forward. The cry continues...

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

NATHAN (CONT.)

You hear that?

Shane and Cooper look at Nathan blankly. Finally, the last to be effected...is effected.

SHANE

Hear what?

NATHAN

...crying...a girl...she's in pain...crying.

SHANE

There must be a couple hundred Marines out there. They're all crying.

Nathan moves forward. Listens.

NATHAN

She's close...she's real close to me.

As they look around for who the hell he's talking about... Nathan moves out further, this time disappearing into the thick mist. The others take a beat and turn back.

SHANE

West? West?

Shane steps forward. She can't see Nathan.

SHANE (CONT.)

Where'd he go?

CLOSE ON NATHAN

breathing hard, the haunting scream resonating in his head. Mist swirls about, engulfing him on all sides. In the distance, we can HEAR Shane calling.

SHANE (V.O.)

West? West?

Nathan pushes through the mist. He looks about, dizzy, sweat beads his face. His eyes are locked on the horizon, searching.

COOPER (V.O.)

West, where the hell are ya?

WANG (V.O.)

West?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

SHANE (V.O.)

West?

The screaming intensifies, growing LOUDER and LOUDER until it is so close, it seems to be coming from the shadows themselves. Nathan pulls a FLASHLIGHT and switches it on.

THE BEAM

ILLUMINATES a sandbag wall. The BEAM CREEPS along the sandbag crevices, then travels DOWNWARD into the dugout hole of a battle trench -- heavy mist swirls up on all sides, masking the depth and inner structure of the trench.

Nathan moves forward. He beams the light directly into the trench.

THE BEAM OF LIGHT HITS the visor of the helmet of an OLD MARINE SERGEANT, REVEALING a left eye that is all white. His skin is covered with grafts and scars. The scars are not properly healed. The Marine looks up, expectant, as if he has been waiting for Nathan.

NATHAN

I'm Nathan West. I'm with the
58th squadron. We're on a
resupply mission.

THE SERGEANT

two thirds of his face is in total darkness. The remainder studies Nathan, with the expression of an ancient demon considering if a soul's worth taking.

NATHAN

is unnerved by the image. O.S., the female CRY continues...

NATHAN

Do you hear that...voice?

SERGEANT

referring to inside his head...

SERGEANT

I hear a lot of voices.

NATHAN

presses him.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

NATHAN

Can you tell me...This
battle...The lights...Do you know
what's going on here?

THE SERGEANT

half smiles...which fades.

SERGEANT

You shouldn't have to ask.
You've been here before. Any
time you awake in the darkness in
a cold sweat...moments
before...you were here.

NATHAN

studies the man, unnerved by his air.

NATHAN

Who are you?

THE SERGEANT

Moves into the available light from Nathan's flashlight.

SERGEANT

I'm not me anymore.

He pauses.

SERGEANT (CONT.)

The light took me away.
Here...The light is an enemy...an
ally with darkness...so there's
no escape. No place to run.
There are ten thousand
battlefields on this place. I've
lost the battle. I've lost the
war.

He leans back into the darkness.

SERGEANT (CONT.)

And you'll lose too.

Nathan shines the beam along the trench, but the old Marine is
gone.

Shane, Cooper and Wang approach in a run. They pause at the
top of the trench. Shane looks at Nathan.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

SHANE

We almost lost you in this ground cover!

But Nathan is not listening, he jumps down into the trench.

SHANE (CONT.)

Nathan, what are you doing?

Nathan looks up from the trench.

NATHAN

There was a sergeant in here. He was talking about those flashes of light.

Wang jumps into the trench, following Nathan. Shane gets increasingly agitated. Cooper isn't eager to go in either.

WANG

What's wrong with you guys?

Nathan looks up at Shane and Cooper.

NATHAN

Get in here!

COOPER

Awful...cramped...in there.

SHANE

Awful...dark...in there.

NATHAN

We're gonna lose this guy! He can help me find the girl.

SHANE

There is no girl. It's in your head.

Suddenly, a BURST of automatic weapons fire erupts the air. Cooper and Shane DIVE into the trench.

17 INT. TRENCH

17

Cooper and Shane tumble down. The steady DRIP DRIP DRIP of water echoes from the bowels of the trench. Shane gets up and looks about, fearful.

SHANE

I can't see!

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

Wang snaps on a flashlight. He beams the light around the trench. Shane grabs it from him, clutching the light. An O.S. RUMBLE of an EXPLOSION is FELT and HEARD. The sandbag walls crumble on top of Cooper. CAMERA CRANES DOWN ON COOPER as he gasps for air.

COOPER

Get it off! Get it off!

Nathan and Wang remove the bags from atop Cooper. Suddenly, a MORTAR BOMB hits the trench. The trench SHAKES. Cooper starts to pace.

COOPER (CONT.)

Another hit like that and these walls are comin' down!

Nathan starts forward, beaming his light down the tunnel. As he moves along the trench, the BEAM plays eerily off the sandbag walls, the DRIP DRIP DRIP of the water echoing, leading him on. Suddenly, his light illuminates something up ahead.

NATHAN (CONT.)

There's an opening!

Wang, Shane and Cooper approach.

NATHAN (CONT.)

It looks like a bunker!

Nathan moves forward, beams the light inside, then crawls in. His light disappears. The others eye each other nervously.

SHANE

What's he doing?

COOPER

Don't know, but I ain't goin' in there!

SHANE

I'm not goin' in either.

Suddenly, Nathan's voice resonates out from the bunker.

NATHAN (V.O.)

Come in here...NOW!!

Wang looks to Shane and Cooper.

WANG

If we go together, you'll be alright.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

Wang approaches the opening. He plays his light into the bunker, pokes his head inside.

WANG (CONT.)
See any cockroaches?

CUT TO:

18 INT. BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

18

CLOSE ON Wang, Cooper, then Shane, crawling into the bunker. WIDEN TO REVEAL Nathan crouched at the center of the room, his flashlight trained on the ground. They all approach. They look down in horror. Shane pales.

SHANE
Oh my god!

CAMERA BOOMS DOWN REVEALING a platoon of dead soldiers laying in grotesque poses of death. One has smashed another's face plate. Although we do not see it, the suggestion is that the Marine's face has exploded inside his helmet. Another has died at point blank range, the fatal wound inflicted by the man across from him, who is now dead from a fatal shot that looks to be inflicted by the hand of yet another one of the soldiers.

COOPER
What killed 'em? The Chigs?

Nathan takes a beat, the truth coming clear.

NATHAN
Each other.

There is a stunned silence. Out on the faces of the shaken platoon -- looking at this primal horror, looking at each other.

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

19 EXT. TRENCH/BUNKER - TARTARUS - NIGHT

19

Hellish red light and haze swirl across the trench leading to the bunker. CAMERA GLIDES DOWN into the trench and towards the bunker. BLACKNESS COVERS FRAME:

20 INT. BUNKER - NIGHT

20

CAMERA proceeds through the dark until finding the 58th, sans Damphousse, nervously investigating the dead Marines in the bunker. COOPER moves into a CLOSE UP, a tad WIDE ANGLE and a touch distorted.

COOPER

You sure it wasn't the Chigs?

WANG

kneels over the macabre bodies, spill light from outside slashes across his helmet.

WANG

No. This is an M-590 impact wound. Point blank range. And this poor son of a bitch exploded from his air pressure being cut.

He holds up the hose, slashed by a razor sharp knife.

WANG (CONT.)

This guy must have done it. K-Bar's still in his hand.

Wang moves down to check out the stiff clenched hand. His eyes turn, scared, toward the others.

WANG (CONT.)

He's got the same burns that...

Wang catches himself before he can utter "Shane." She glares at him.

WANG (CONT.)

Damphousse has.

SHANE

Say it, Wang. That we all have too.

WANG

I don't mean nothin' by it. I'm just sayin'...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

NATHAN

He's saying we have to assume
we've all been exposed to it.
The sooner we accept it, the
sooner we can deal with the real
issue of not giving in to the
effects.

Pause, outside, the WIND HOWLS.

NATHAN (CONT.)

And not end up like them.

SHANE

Alright...we got the burns from
those lights.

NATHAN

And that's when Damphousse
started wiggin' out.

COOPER

And Wang.

WANG

(defensive)

You weren't exactly displaying
the nerves of a brain surgeon.

NATHAN

Shut up! We're all a little
scared.

Wang considers.

WANG

We all had headaches...in this
area.

SHANE

Mine's easin' up a bit...

He reaches behind his ear.

WANG (CONT.)

That's where the amygdala area
is.

COOPER

Why do I know I ain't gonna be
followin' this real good?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

WANG

It's a collection of neurons that houses fear memories. Injections to that area decreased Post Traumatic Stress in AI war veterans.

Shane and Nathan consider.

NATHAN

Wang said he thought he heard a gun sound before the lights. The lights...are weapons.

SHANE

An electronic nerve gas that intensifies individual fear.

The group considers the idea, which is frightening in itself.

COOPER

Why not just carpet bomb the area?

WANG

Low visibility.

Shane looks up, intense and angry.

SHANE

Why bother investing any troops to battle if you have a weapon that can cause your enemy to turn on itself?

NATHAN

Can you imagine a large scale weapon like that deployed over New York City or Los Angeles?

WANG

Actually, you may not be able to tell any difference.

Cooper has been considering.

COOPER

The Chigs...must know fear.

NATHAN

Right. I can't see even conceiving taking advantage of a weakness...unless you know the power in using it.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

COOPER

The Chigs...must know us.

NATHAN

If the pain in that area has
decreased...maybe it wears off.
They "bomb" with the lights to
reinforce the effects.

Outside, the electronic burst is heard FAR IN THE DISTANCE.

WANG

There it is!

They run to an outlook slot in the bunker.

58TH'S POV -- BATTLEFIELD (CGI)

In the distance, troops are attacked by the bolts of
manufactured light. Firing down from the sky. After a
beat...the planet returns to darkness.

21 INT. BUNKER - NIGHT

21

The four lieutenants move back, each are afraid.

SHANE

If we go back...we could be hit
by them again.

NATHAN

We've gotta go back. We have to
fix the radio to get the hell
outta here!

Everyone eyes each other, scared. Shane nods, then looks
pointedly to the others.

SHANE

If we are hit...we have to get
each other through. The only way
to fight fear...is to acknowledge
it.

COOPER

But this thing...it's beyond
fear.

CUT TO:

22 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - SUPPLY ROOM - NIGHT

22

CLOSE ON A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD. It is quiet save for the SWISH of thread PUSHING through cloth.

WIDEN TO REVEAL DAMPHOUSSE, crouched in a corner, methodically sewing her damaged spacesuit. There is an open AWFSE REPAIR KIT by her side. She pulls the thread, rhythmic, obsessive. It appears close to being repaired.

Suddenly, from O.C., a DRIP... DRIP... DRIP... Damphousse stops. Looks up. PUSH IN ON DAMPHOUSSE. Her eyes wide, alert. All SOUND drains out save for her quick, frightened BREATHS and the taunting...DRIP...DRIP...DRIP...

DAMPHOUSSE

rises. CAMERA REMAINS CLOSE AS SHE MOVES across the room. She reaches the storage compartment. The DRIP DRIP DRIP grows LOUDER until it seems as if it is right next to her ear. She reaches for the panel of the compartment. Tension as she PULLS IT OPEN.

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV -- INTERIOR SUPPLY COMPARTMENT

A packet of water is leaking.

RETURN

Relieved, Damphousse removes the packet. She opens it and gulps it until it is empty. The effect is calming. She CRUSHES the plastic package in her hand. Silence until.

DRIP... DRIP... DRIP... She turns, frightened.

THE PLASMA COOLER

Has a bullet hole in the side. The DRIP...DRIP... DRIP... is coming from scarlet plasma seeping out. Damphousse is terrified. As she looks down, an expression of HORROR sweeps over her face.

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV -- THE FLOOR

She is standing in a pool of blood.

DAMPHOUSSE

her level of fear doubles.

CUT TO:

23 INT. BUNK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

23

Damphousse races inside. She crawls up into the corner of her bunk as if trying to get as far away from the blood as possible in the confined quarters. DRIP...DRIP...DRIP...

CUT TO:

24 EXT. TARTARUS SURFACE - NIGHT

24

The squadron platoon is MOVING DOWNSLOPE. CLOSE ON EACH OF THEIR FACES, passing through FRAME, expressions grim, senses alert.

MOVING SHOT OF SHANE, eyes darting, mind racing, she is struggling with the effects of the light. The shadows are deepening, heralding the approaching night, intensifying the bad visibility.

SHANE

It's so dark out here.

Wang MOVES INTO FRAME, comforting.

WANG

Hang on, Shane.

CAMERA MOVES DOWN THE LINE TO COOPER. He is sweating, agitated, eyes darting, ready to bolt. He adjusts his helmet, struggles to hold it together. NATHAN COMES INTO FRAME. He squints, tries to see through the mist, then checks his compass.

NATHAN

The I.S.S.C.V. should only be twenty five yards away. Keep going.

The group continues. Suddenly, the definite sound of a CLICK. They FREEZE.

COOPER

You hear that? I heard a click!

NATHAN

Nobody move! One of us stepped on a buzz beam!

NATHAN

looks down. Nothing.

WANG

takes a breath then looks down. Safe.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

COOPER

checks if it's him. No.

SHANE

has seen the other three. Via process of elimination...

SHANE

It's me.

COOPER

Don't move!

SHANE

(scorching sarcasm)

Damn...I was just about to start
doing The Hustle.

There is silence. They try to keep cool heads, but they are
all close to panicking.

COOPER

What do we do?

WANG

Shane, don't you have a field
mirror?

SHANE

Oh...yeah...I could use a touch
up before being shred into
pieces.

Nathan carefully moves to Shane.

NATHAN

We can deflect the beam.

SHANE

Left thigh pocket.

Wang reaches into her pocket, rummages, finds the mirror and
removes it. He crouches, tense, then carefully moves the
mirror to 180 degree angle. He changes his mind, moves it to
another angle. Shane looks down.

SHANE

What are you doing?

Wang is sweating, unsure. He continues to move the mirror
around the beam, trying various angles.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

WANG

Trying to find the right angle.
If it's at a right angle, it
sends it down, not up, right?

COOPER

Up. Not down.

NATHAN

Down is up. Up is down.

Shane looks stressed.

SHANE

Oh God...

WANG

Ain't physics a bitch?

SHANE

Yeah, ain't it though?

She looks about, reacting to the dark.

SHANE (CONT.)

It's getting darker.

Cooper shoots her a look.

COOPER

You got other problems.

NATHAN

Shane, stay with this. Don't go
off. You need to be...here.
When Paul says "now"...you go...

Shane collects herself, nods.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON WANG. He is sweating, nervous. He bends
down until his face is level with the ground mine. His hand
SHAKES as he moves the mirror into position. He moves in
inches from the mine. He is concentrating like a surgeon.

CAMERA PUSHES IN AND TILTS DOWN TO REVEAL A LARGE COCKROACH
inching up from the inside of his helmet.

SHANE

readies, tense.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

WANG

concentrates...takes a breath...Then...he sees the insect. His eyes go wide with fear.

WANG

Jesus! Ahh! Ahh! Get it outta there! Get it out!

WIDE

Wang jerks in terror.

O.S., an electronic POP.

NATHAN

moves in and grabs the mirror from Wang. He positions it, then shoots a look up to Shane.

NATHAN

Okay, move!

SHANE

Takes a step off the mine. Suddenly, the sound of WHIRRING overhead. THE X-RAY LIGHTS STROBE through the mist.

COOPER (V.O.)

The lights!

Shane is HIT as the DOUBLE HELIX OF LASERS SHOOTS UP from the mine, just missing her as she leaps to safety. The electromagnetic beams meet behind her. EXPLODE on impact. Shane is thrown to the ground.

WIDE

Nathan, Wang and Cooper crouch where they stand, trying to hide their bodies from the powerful flurries of metallic light, but they are hit, their suits penetrated, ILLUMINATED for a FLASH, then darkness. There is a beat of silence, then WHIRRING OVERHEAD AGAIN. More X-RAY LIGHTS whistle through the air.

Cooper starts to hyperventilate.

NATHAN

Get back to the ship!

Shane starts to run.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

CLOSE ON BOOTS

POUNDING the rock surface, red dust devils kicking up, trailing off the heels. WIDEN TO REVEAL Shane, panicked, running hard. Sweat pours down her face. Hot, gasping breaths cloud the plate of her helmet. Her eyes are wild, her expression one of abject terror.

WIDE

Shane reaches the I.S.S.C.V. She races around to the side. The others follow a beat behind. They OPEN the airlock door. Shane goes in. Wang goes in. Cooper goes in. Nathan starts in, but turns at the door. He looks out. In the distance, he hears a strange CRY. He starts out, but Cooper stops him.

COOPER

Get in here!

Cooper pulls Nathan inside.

CUT TO:

25 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - AIRLOCK - CONTINUOUS

25

Cooper pushes Nathan in. Nathan is beside himself, protesting. This room is the size of a closet. They are crammed together. It is dark.

NATHAN

I've gotta go back out! I've gotta help her!

Cooper glares at Nathan.

COOPER

Shut up!

Cooper CLOSES the airlock door. The HISSING of gas as the airlock decompresses. The tiny lock chamber is crowded. They are all on top of each other. Shane moves to the inside door and tries the lock but it won't open.

SHANE

It's locked from the inside!

She POUNDS the door.

SHANE (CONT.)

Damphousse! Open the door!

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Cooper rips off his helmet. Gasps for air. He looks about. The tiny room is closing in on him. Sweat gleams on his face, panic lays in his eyes.

COOPER
This ain't gonna happen! OPEN
THE FRIGGIN' DOOR, DAMPHOUSSE!!

Wang rips off his helmet. The cockroach runs out. Wang frantically POUNDS at the floor, trying to kill the bug. Cooper passes Wang. He moves to the door and POUNDS his fist against it.

SHANE
VANESSA! OPEN THE DOOR!

COOPER
Open the damn lock!

26 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Damphousse stands on the threshold in her repaired flight suit, staring out into the supply room, unresponsive, almost catatonic.

DAMPHOUSSE
I'm sorry...I'm really
sorry...but...you have to
understand. I can't go into that
room!

27 INT. AIRLOCK - CONTINUOUS

27

Shane pounds on the door, losing it. Nathan is agitated. He turns away, listening beyond the door. At the howling wind and a faint cry.

NATHAN
Can you hear that?

Wang stomps, trying to kill the bug. Cooper looks about. The room is warm, closing in on him. He pushes Nathan aside and pounds the door with his fist.

COOPER
OPEN THE DAMN DOOR!

28 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

28

Damphousse stands quietly staring at the door. The POUNDING continues increasingly panicked but she doesn't move. She shakes her head, emotionless.

DAMPHOUSSE

I can't!

29 INT. AIRLOCK - CONTINUOUS

29

CAMERA MOVES CLOSE ON COOPER, desperate. He wipes his brow and opens the top of his suit at the neck. He pounds the door again with his fist.

COOPER

I know what we said out there
and...I'm sorry, but unless this
door is opened, I'm gonna start
throwin' out bodies!

WIDEN TO REVEAL the others, looking at Cooper. Afraid. Sweating. Locked in with their fears. Locked in with each other.

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

30 INT. I.S.S.C.V - NIGHT - CLOSE - CONTROL BOX

30

The panel board is pulled open, a myriad of wires and transistors are inside. Two shaky hands reach INTO FRAME.

WANG (O.S.)

This should hot wire the door.

He continues to work.

31 INT. BUNK AREA - I.S.S.C.V. - NIGHT

31

Damphousse HEARS the SPARKING and CLICKING on the other side of the airlock door.

She eases off her bunk, her scared eyes on the airlock door. She picks up a nearby rifle.

32 INT. AIRLOCK - I.S.S.C.V.

32

Wang connects the two wires. The AIRLOCK DOOR HISSES OPEN. The four horrified trapped Marines rush into the I.S.S.C.V. supply room.

33 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - NIGHT

33

Damphousse stands with her rifle aimed at the "intruders."

DAMPHOUSSE

DON'T MAKE ME GO IN THERE!

The others raise their weapons and spread out for cover against supply crates or whatever is available. (The following should be fast, intense and overlapping).

NATHAN

VANESSA! PUT IT DOWN!

SHANE

DAMPHOUSSE!

DAMPHOUSSE

I'M NOT GOING IN THERE!

COOPER

DON'T DO IT, 'PHOUSSE!

WANG

THIS ISN'T US!

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

NATHAN

There's a weapon! We're all effected. It's hard, but keep your head!

Shane holds up the micro-resistor.

SHANE

We've got the part. We need you to fix the radio, so we can get out.

The tension remains, but the volume and intensity eases as Damphousse considers.

DAMPHOUSSE

There's... blood on the floor!

Cooper raises his gun and the intensity.

COOPER

FIX THE RADIO!

DAMPHOUSSE

Listen! Listen! Understand... PLEASE... I love you... all of you...but if you make me go in there, I'll have to kill you!

COOPER

Fix the radio or there'll be blood on the floor where you're standin'.

WANG

STOP THIS! STOP! THIS IS NOT US!

Everyone turns to Wang, as well as their guns, not trusting or knowing who is going to fully lose it next. Wang reads this and tries to calm down, however, his gun is still raised.

WANG

If we do this...the Chigs win. We can beat them. Now, put down our guns. All of us.

Everyone falls silent. Wang turns to Damphousse.

WANG (CONT.)

Vanessa, what if we cleaned it up?

Damphousse takes a beat, considering.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

DAMPHOUSSE

I'll know it had been there. I'm
not going in...but I'll talk
Shane through fixing the radio.

WANG

Okay. Okay. Put down your gun.

DAMPHOUSSE

When McQueen evacuates us.

COOPER

If McQueen evacuates us.

WANG

Shane?

SHANE

I can't fix the radio if...I
can't see it.

WANG

I'll turn the lights on. Put
down your gun.

SHANE

I'm not handing over my weapon as
long as there's one aimed at me!

NATHAN

Me neither.

COOPER

I'm not only not giving it
up...anybody crosses this line is
dead.

He draws an imaginary line on the floor with his boot. When he
finishes, he looks to the others, homicidal.

NATHAN

So much for working together.

Damphousse looks to Shane and Cooper from across the room.

DAMPHOUSSE

Go to the radio.

Shane moves to the radio, rifles check each other's position.

SHANE

Wang, the lights.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Wang moves to a box on the wall, similar to a fuse box. He starts to open it then stops.

WANG

West...could you do it?

NATHAN

You're right there!

WANG

That's a great spot for roaches to hide.

Nathan moves toward the box. Wang moves across the room to the spot just held by Nathan. Nathan opens the box and turns on the low level lights. Shane looks to Damphousse.

DAMPHOUSSE

Remove the control panel.

Shane does.

DAMPHOUSSE (CONT.)

In the upper left hand corner...There's a blue plastic chip...

Shane looks. Nods.

DAMPHOUSSE (CONT.)

That's the frequency converter. Beneath it...is the micro-resistor. Replace it and increase the frequency range to 375 mega-hertz.

Shane follows the orders. A blast of STATIC fills the room, eerie white noise. Shane grabs the microphone/headsets, urgently calling out.

SHANE

This is Queen of Diamonds to Queen Six. Come in Queen Six.

Static.

NATHAN

Turn on the beacon.

Shane engages some switches.

SHANE

Queen of Diamonds to Queen Six. Request immediate evacuation!

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Static. The friends continue to hold guns on one another. The static and radio CRACKLING. The hope of McQueen's response is distracting from their fear...and thus the weird radio noise is somewhat comforting.

Although the guns remain raised, CAMERA PUSHES IN on Shane...listening to the SOUND (which should be reminiscent of the AI'S sound from the second episode).

SHANE (CONT.)

That sound, it reminds me of the AI's internal transmission. When they killed my parents, it was dark. And...no matter how hard I could try...I could never...never lose that fear.

Wang looks at Shane. Senses her deep fear. He stares at the radio, Shane's memories making him remember.

WANG

I was raised in the projects, Chicago, Cabrini Green. We had cockroaches in our apartment.

He shudders.

WANG (CONT.)

Man, I see a cockroach, takes me right back to bein' alone, wakin' up in the middle of the night with roaches crawling across my pillow. I joined the Marines to get out, escape all that.

There is a quiet beat.

DAMPHOUSSE

My older brother, Anthony, contracted AIDS before they found the vaccine five years ago. Before he died, he'd get blood tests. I'd go to the hospital. I'd see the blood flowing out of him. Blood is life, but it means to me...death.

Everyone is silent. Then Cooper turns, eyes glistening.

COOPER

I was born in a tank. I ain't never gettin' back inside nothin' where I can't breathe again.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

He takes a beat.

COOPER (CONT.)

If I die and if any of you are
there, don't ever lay me in a
coffin. Cause I'll know it.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON Nathan. He sits by the window, looking out
into the mist. The faint WHISTLING resonates in his head.

SHANE

Nathan...you...what are you most
afraid of?

There is a long pause. Before he can answer, a loud RUMBLE
fills the air. Everyone looks at each other.

COOPER

CHIGS!

The radio suddenly SPUTTERS -- STATIC gives way to the voice of
McQueen. Everyone is shocked to hear...

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Wild Cards, this is Queen Six.
Wild Cards, come in...

Nathan dashes to the radio and CLICKS ON.

NATHAN

Copy Queen Six.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Where the hell have you been? We
lost your beacon two hours ago!

NATHAN

We need evacuation!

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Roger that. We're out here
waiting for you seventy five
meters from your position.

They look out the window.

THE 58TH'S POV -- WINDOW

Another I.S.S.C.V. awaits their arrival.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

RETURN

WANG

That's on the other side of the mine field!

Nathan takes a beat, CLICKS back on the mike.

NATHAN

You're across a mine field.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

It's the only spot to set a vehicle down. Let's move. The weather gives us about a five minute launch window. And...uh...watch your step.

Everybody looks at one another, stunned.

DAMPHOUSSE

We can't handle that. We're not thinking clearly!

SHANE

What if we get hit by the lights?

NATHAN

Hold together. It's only twenty five yards. We felt the effects wear off before so, we get out, we get in that I.S.S.C.V., we'll be alright. Agreed...find a way to stick together...and we'll overcome this. Agreed?

Everyone looks to one another.

NATHAN (CONT.)

Alright. Let's put down the guns and put on our helmets.

Nathan sets down his gun. The others follow suit. As the last gun is put down...

CUT TO:

34 EXT. I.S.S.C.V. - NIGHT

34

The supply room hatch opens with a BANG. The strobing landing lights of the rescue vehicle spill upon them from seventy five meters away. The WIND HOWLS as if angry the Marines are trying to escape.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

Shane is out first, comforted by the light. Cooper follows, his helmet is on, but the space of the area makes him ease from the fear. Wang, knowing nothing with six legs is alive out here, exits the I.S.S.C.V. And Nathan, with THE ENGINES of the I.S.S.C.V. idling in the distance, cannot hear any of the surreal cries.

They are all out but Damphousse. The four Marines turn and look back inside.

COOPER
'Phousse, let's go!

Each Marine encourages her.

35 INT. BUNK ROOM - NIGHT

35

The wind whips inside the vehicle. She summons all her courage, like a person about to leap into the water from a twenty five foot tower...and moves...running for the door.

36 EXT. I.S.S.C.V. - NIGHT

36

Damphousse races out of the vehicle...adrenaline pumping...neglecting the reality of the mine field.

The others tear off after her.

WANG
Vanessa...NO!

37 EXT. TARTARUS - NIGHT

37

Damphousse tears into the mine field. Nathan and Cooper tackle her from behind. They fall...

CLOSE - BUZZ BEAM MINE

Vanessa's head misses landing on a mine by inches.

WIDER

They stand up, pull Vanessa to her feet...Above, in the atmosphere...An electronic BLAST...The lights return...strobing upon them...They cower...but there is no escape. FLASH! ELECTRICAL STATIC! And in a moment, they are gone.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

COOPER

reaches for his helmet to remove the claustrophobic visor. Wang and Shane try to restrain his arms. He struggles with them.

NATHAN

turns to them.

NATHAN

Coop! No! Keep it together!

WIDER

The group are huddled around Cooper, nearly hyperventilating.

NATHAN (CONT.)

Hang on! We have to get through this!

Wang moves away from the group, into the f.g...looking out over the mine field. CAMERA PUSHES IN TO HIM...his breaths deep...scared. He battles for courage. Then...in a strong cadence...that, as a group, they are familiar with, that has held them together before.

WANG

BORN IN THE WOODS...

He takes a step toward the mine field. The others pause, look to him...initially puzzled.

WANG (CONT.)

TRAINED BY A BEAR...

He moves farther. Damphousse follows.

DAMPHOUSSE

A single line. Step in Paul's tracks.

WANG

DOUBLE SET OF DOG TEETH...
TRIPLE COAT OF HAIR...

Damphousse proceeds after Wang. She takes Cooper by the hand, more as a restraint for trying to remove his helmet. Cooper is next. Nathan pulls up the rear. As he CLEARS FRAME...

WANG

As he walks...eyes down...every step...crucial.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

WANG

"M!"

DAMPHOUSSE

picks up on the cadence as a tool of concentration, distraction
and unification.

DAMPHOUSSE

MEAN AS HELL!

WANG

As he takes another step.

WANG

"A!"

DAMPHOUSSE

As she follows.

DAMPHOUSSE

ALL THE TIME!

WANG

As he continues...growing with confidence as the cadence
connects him with who he is.

WANG

"R!"

SHANE, COOPER & NATHAN

follow Damphousse. Cooper answers Wang's call.

COOPER

ROUGH AND TOUGH!

WIDER

As they proceed to safety.

WANG

"I!"

And as the 58th follows, closer with each step.

58TH

IN THE MUD!

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

CLOSE - WANG'S BOOT

Maneuvers away from a mine.

WANG

"N!"

THE 58TH

with great emphasis...

58TH

NEVER QUIT!!

WANG

"E"

58TH

EVERY DAY!

38 EXT. RESCUE VEHICLE - NIGHT

38

The hatch opens. Beyond it...safety.

39 EXT. MINE FIELD - NIGHT

39

One step before being out of the mine field...

WANG

"S" SEMPER FI!

As he breaks for the rescue vehicle.

40 EXT. RESCUE VEHICLE - NIGHT

40

McQueen, in a helmet, is in the hatch to help. Wang runs and dives inside.

41 EXT. MINE FIELD - NIGHT

41

Damphousse runs to the craft.

DAMPHOUSSE

SEMPER FI!

42 EXT. RESCUE VEHICLE - NIGHT

42

McQueen pulls Damphousse into the vehicle.

43 EXT. MINE FIELD - NIGHT

43

Shane and Cooper break for safety.

SHANE & COOPER
SEMPER FI!!

CAMERA HOLDS, THEN PUSHES IN ON Nathan, as one step out of danger...The distant CRY of the girl SWELLS...Nathan FREEZES. Turns.

44 EXT. RESCUE VEHICLE - NIGHT

44

Cooper climbs inside. As McQueen gives Shane a hand, he notes Nathan moving back into the field.

MCQUEEN
WEST!!

Shane stops, turns. She heads back after Nathan.

MCQUEEN
Vansen...Get back here!

45 EXT. MINE FIELD - NIGHT

45

The haunting CRY of a woman is LOUD...close, yet distant. Nathan is drawn to the MOAN. His eyes are intense with fear.

SHANE
Nathan, STOP!! What are you
doing?

Nathan turns to her.

NATHAN
What am I most afraid of?

Shane waits as the wind gusts. The woman CRIES.

NATHAN (CONT.)
That I'll never find her. That
I'll fail.

SHANE
It's not her. It's not, Nathan.
It's the light telling you that.
It's not you.

Nathan looks at her. She reaches out her hand.

SHANE (CONT.)
You...you know you'll find her...

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

The cry seems to be gone. Nathan takes a beat. Then, as he takes Shane's hand...

46 EXT. RESCUE VEHICLE - NIGHT

46

Shane races into FRAME followed by Nathan. They leap into the ship. The airlock SLIDES SHUT.

CUT TO:

47 INT. RESCUE VEHICLE - COCKPIT - NIGHT

47

Nathan and Shane fall inside. They rip their helmets off. WIDEN TO REVEAL the rest of the 58th, laying in the ship. Heaving for breath. Exhausted. Together.

MCQUEEN

is on the radio. He turns to Nathan.

MCQUEEN

This is Queen Six to Home Base.
We're taking off. Request
current enemy's known positions.

As they catch their breaths...

SHANE

The enemy's not here.

McQueen looks to her, puzzled. AS THE CAMERA PUSHES INTO COOPER...

COOPER

The enemy's here. But it's not
the Chigs.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. TARTARUS - NIGHT

48

The I.S.S.C.V. Rescue Vehicle's ENGINES ROAR! The craft begins to lift off the ground creating whirlpools of the thick atmosphere. In a moment it ascends out of Hell...returning the yellow haze...the scorching temperatures and the flashing white lights...to the imagination.

FADE OUT:

THE END