

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"And If They Lay Us To Rest..."

Written By

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Episode	3S21
Story	4566
3/22/96	(White)
3/29/96	(Blue)
4/2/96	(Pink)

3/22/96 (White)

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"And If They Lay Us To Rest..."

SETS

INTERIORS

SARATOGA	/	ORIENTATION ROOM BUNK ROOM WHITE ROOM FLIGHT DECK COMMAND CENTER
ISSTV		

PLANET DUKE	/	TUNNEL UNDERGROUND CHAMBER
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EXTERIORS

PLANET ANVIL	/	INSERTION LOCATION WALL OF ROCK ROCKS
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TEASER

As it was before the beginning...nothing.

- 1 The FRAME is black
except for a brilliant white light in the center, the size of
the period at the end of this sentence.

WE HEAR Vansen's VOICE, her tone is not preachy or informative,
but mysterious and tense.

SHANE (v.o.)

One day...before there were days,
everything... before there was
anything...you...me...the Sun and
all the stars we can...and cannot
see...were together in a size
smaller than this point of light.

(pause)

And then...it became...

A monumental ERUPTION of heat and particles shatters the
nothingness, BLASTING INTO CAMERA with unfathomable POWER and
SPEED.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

By an inexplicable somehow.

The brilliant gasses and dust begin to slow and turn in on
themselves, fluid and wondrous.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Ten million years later, gravity
tried to pull it back.

IMAGES appear, SUPERIMPOSING and OVERLAPPING as they MOVE
ACROSS THE FRAME...an elliptical galaxy stretches for thousands
of light years...a gargantuan red star arcs flares the size of
the solar system...a graceful spiral galaxy spins around a
brilliant fuzzy center.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Creating Galaxies; billions.
Stars; trillions.

Beneath the images appears a primordial Earth, not quite as
blue. There is only one continent, Pangea. Lightning flashes
are frequent and violent.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And a solitary Earth, made of one
continent.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

GLOWING RED LAVA

EXPLODES violently from a volcano, blackish yellow gas billowing from the mountain.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
For the next four hundred million years, volcanic eruptions spewed toxic gas into an atmosphere devoid of oxygen.

THE OCEAN

An amber sun sets on the horizon of a greenish-yellow sea, steam angrily rises from the waves.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Deadly radiation heated acidic oceans.

AN ASTEROID

A half-mile wide flaming rock, traveling fifty times the speed of sound, plummets toward a landscape absent of any plant life. The asteroid impacts with the equivalent of a trillion megatons of TNT.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Comets and asteroids rained with the force greater than all the nuclear arsenals of the twentieth century.
(beat)
And yet...life became...

From beneath the devastating FLAME and THUNDER of the impact, a three dimensional rendering of a microscopic chain of amino acids creating proteins and nucleic acids. As magnificent and mysterious as the previous images of celestial bodies.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
By an inexplicable somehow.

A SINGLE CELLED ORGANISM

spins, divides.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The first cell...

RAIN FOREST

CAMERA MOVES through dark regions of thick foliage.

(CONTINUED)

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1 CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Every tree in the Amazon...

A HUMAN SKULL

is lit to invoke a deathly chill. CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN...

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Everything...everyone...that is
alive, or has ever lived...

CAMERA continues toward the unsettling dark eye socket...

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
is descended from the same
ancestral form of life.

Soon, THE FRAME returns to BLACKNESS.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
You...me...friends and enemies...

Suddenly, in the darkness...an eye flashes. It is ebony and unearthly. CAMERA BEGINS TO PULL BACK...partially, teasingly REVEALING the face of an extra terrestrial CREATURE, obscured by thick mossy foliage and a thin shaft of light. CAMERA PANS OFF OF THE CREATURE toward an earthen wall...

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And all the life we can...and are
yet...to see.

On the wall appears a shadow, hunched and grotesque and yet mysterious and wonderful. As it awaits our arrival...

FADE OUT:

ACT ONE

2 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

Snare drums RATTLE tensely on the SOUNDTRACK as the Saratoga Battle group runs silent on the infinite black sea.

3 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - NIGHT - CLOSE - COMPUTER MONITOR

The FRAME is FILLED with an image taken by a reconnaissance satellite. Amidst the landscape is clear evidence of enemy troops amassing. Structures under construction. Spacecraft on an airfield.

MCQUEEN (O.S.)
The enemy... has played right
into our hands.

With a BEEP, the image changes to another digital intelligence photograph.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
These images were captured by a
reconnaissance satellite over the
planet Hera in the Helios system.

Another BEEP and the image is now very grainy and somewhat eerie, however close enough to discern individual chig soldiers.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
According to the Fleet Imagery
Interpretation Unit, this is
evidence of large scale troop
movement onto the planet Hera.

CLOSE - MCQUEEN

CAMERA SLOWLY ARCS beneath McQueen's eyeline. He is underlit and the surrounding area is dark. His eyes are intense. His delivery pointed.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
And that's just what we wanted.

CLOSE - THE 58TH

is gathered in a circle around a table. CAMERA ARCS tensely around their faces, more focused and intent than ever before.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
False information to the enemy,
planted during "Operation
Naye'i," indicated that a massive
Earth Forces offensive would
originate on Hera.

McQueen eyes them to stress the following point.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
In fact... "Operation
Roundhammer" will "hit the beach"
at celestial body 2064K. This is
a moon of the Chig's home planet.
For the duration of this mission,
2064K has been codenamed "Anvil."

CUT TO:

4 INT. BUNK ROOM/LOCKER AREA - NIGHT - CLOSE - NATHAN'S EYE
stares ahead, focused and intense.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Your mission...is to proceed via
ISSTV to "Anvil" and touch down
on grid coordinate 305667.

A camouflage stick glides beneath the eye.

A T- SHIRT

marked "First to go. Last to know" is slipped over Hawkes.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
On planet you will execute
intelligence gathering to
supplement information gathered
by "eyes in the sky." Composition
of soil. Terrain obstacles.
Indication of enemy activity.

Hawkes' wears his game face, yet that doesn't stop him from
stashing a "G.I. Geequed" comic book into his gear bag.

BODY ARMOR

is placed over Wang's shoulders. He adjusts the equipment.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You will also insert Initial
Terminal Guidance equipment which
will aid landing craft upon the
activation of "Operation
Roundhammer."

AN ATMOSPHERIC HELMET

"Vansen" across the front, is placed upon a bench.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
For this offensive, we are the
"away" team. The atmosphere is
unfriendly, requiring O2 support
units. Although you will find
Methane based plant life and
there is risk of encountering
enemy patrols, "Anvil" is
believed to be uninhabited.

An O2 hose is snapped into the helmet.

5 INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

The Marines are suited up in their space helmets, faces
camouflaged. The greens and black are a stark contrast to the
bright white lights of the room. CAMERA IS LOW ANGLE as the
58th marches, intense and ready, toward the ISSTV Loading Bay.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The window of operations from
drop point to extraction is one
hundred and twelve minutes.
"Anvil's" orbit and ISSTV fuel
restrictions do not allow for a
secondary recovery. You go in.
You go do it. You go out.

6 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

The ISSTV hangar bay doors open as the craft, half the size of
an ISSCV, rises onto the decks of the carrier.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
If successful, "Operation
Roundhammer" could commence in
the next twenty-four hours.
(pause)
The determining fate of the Earth
begins with this mission.

(CONTINUED)

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6 CONTINUED:

The engines IGNITE, the vehicle begins to lift off the pad.

MCQUEEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The survival or extinction of
Life...is in your hands.

The ISSTV ROARS off into the covert regions of Space.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The stars feel silent...waiting. The ISSTV WHIPS ACROSS FRAME.

8 INT. INTER SOLAR SYSTEM TRANSPORT VEHICLE - NIGHT

The 58th squadron is suited up, helmets off, sitting on the bunks, which, beside the cockpit, is all that comprises this vehicle.

They are tense, yet confident and ready. Downright cocky. CAMERA MOVES along each Marine, until appearing large in the f.g. is the cover of a "G.I. Geequed" comic book. CAMERA ADJUSTS to Cooper, intense as he reads.

NATHAN AND SHANE

turn and look at him, incredulous.

SHANE
Hawkes, McQueen said the fate of
the world is in our hands and
your reading a comic book?

COOPER
Damned Chigs got Sergeant Geequed
strung up over this tar pit kinda
thing.

NATHAN
Coop, why bother reading that
stuff? You're livin' it, man.

COOPER
Exactly. I learn alot from
Geequed. Everyone could learn
somethin' from the Sarg.

He nods adamantly and sincerely as he returns to the exciting conclusion of his graphic novel. The other Marines look to one another and just shake their heads.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

Over the internal radio...

PILOT (V.O.)
(over radio)
Navigator to Five-Eight. "Anvil"
is Fifty thousand Mega Statute
Kilometers out. We are closing.

The Marines grab their atmospheric helmets and prepare for entry. Cooper is torn as he is on the last page of the comic. He flashes a quick glance to Shane. Who, with a reprimanding tone...

SHANE
HAWKES!

He begrudgingly stashes "G.I. Geequed" in his bag. As he grabs his helmet...

CUT TO:

9 EXT. "ANVIL" - CELESTIAL BODY 2064K - NIGHT

The satellite is a small blackish green. Ominous and mysterious. Presently, at a few hundred miles above, it is crescent shaped as its Sun wraps light around the sphere. In the distant b.g. looms the large home planet of the enemy.

The ISSTV covertly approaches from the dark side of the moon. Below, lightning FLASHES strobe against thick clouds. The ISSCV slips into the cover of the atmosphere.

10 EXT. "ANVIL" - NIGHT

Silence. CAMERA CREEPS AMONGST the black moss and sparse vegetation. Any light managing to break through the atmosphere falls in shafts, which move as if alive.

CAMERA CONTINUES, as if SEARCHING...until pausing on a moss laden wall, draped with macabre shadows.

O.S., the ENGINES of the ISSTV APPROACH. The SOUND causes one of the shadows to move. And WE REALIZE this is the same form as the extra-terrestrial seen in the TEASER.

As the shadow turns and moves, CAMERA ADJUSTS, MOVING so that it meets the actual eyes and surrounding whitish flesh of the creature, obscured by the slashing light and hidden behind foliage. The creature seems to be listening with its eyes, afraid. It remains still like a deer in the woods.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

The light of the landing jets FLASH on the eyes. The creature sinks down behind cover.

REVERSE - (CGI)

The extra-terrestrial remains a dark silhouette in the f.g. as the ISSTV lands in the distance.

CREATURE

Its eyes are wide and horrified. It slightly trembles with fear. O.S., the ISSTV doors OPEN. WE REMAIN with the alien as it looks about while O.S., five pairs of FOOTSTEPS march onto the planet.

Once again, the engines IGNITE. The light from the retreating spaceship rises over the creature, providing US with a clearer, yet still frustrating, look. The Extra-Terrestrial watches the ship disappear, then turns its eyes once again to the surface.

ALIEN'S POV - THE 58TH

the five Earthlings appear like threatening Space Creatures in their body armor and large enclosed helmets; quickly unpacking bizarre technological equipment.

Vansen gestures to each then commanding points to each member's area of responsibility. The Marines work with precision.

"PALM" LEAF

a black and otherworldly palm-like leaf is slowly moved by a finger on the alien hand. The eyes of the creature peer out for a better look, still afraid.

THE 58TH

work silently and swiftly as a team. West collects soil samples while Vansen observes and records the surrounding terrain in an electronic notebook.

WANG AND COOPER

"construct" small ground to air guidance systems. Completed with one such system, they move it away towards the safety of natural cover.

CAMERA PUSHES QUICKLY IN on them, then PASSES the MARINES to REVEAL their close proximity to the hiding extra-terrestrial. It remains motionless, horrified.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

DAMPHOUSSE

works on another small guidance system. O.S., A subtle CRACK. Like the alien, Damphousse freezes, listens.

After a tense few beats, she HEARS another RUSTLE in the foliage. Damphousse turns. She HISSES twice into her radio.

SHANE AND NATHAN

look to her.

WANG AND HAWKES

turn toward Damphousse.

DAMPHOUSSE

without unnecessary motion, she gestures to her ear. Listens.

SHANE AND NATHAN

listen for any SOUND.

WANG AND HAWKES

likewise.

DAMPHOUSSE

Another O.S., RUSTLE. She slowly eases her M-590 off her shoulder and looks about. Damphousse freezes as she spots something O.S. She indicates to the others the direction in which to look.

DAMPHOUSSE'S POV - THREE CHIGS

only partially in view because of the light and ground cover, move along on patrol.

SHANE AND NATHAN

She draws her K-Bar, while he readies his weapon. They move out.

WANG AND HAWKES

ready their weapons, K-Bar and rifles and silently move away from the Creature in the brush.

CAMERA MOVES CLOSER to the creature, now breathing HEAVY and RAPID as the strange intruders move off.

11 EXT. ANOTHER AREA OF "ANVIL" - NIGHT

Moss and shadows hide the approaching forms. After several tense beats, the three Chig foot soldiers ENTER FRAME. They scan the quiet area. One gestures to the others to move forward. They proceed ahead.

LOW ANGLE

The enemy soldiers march forward in a three point formation. Suddenly Hawkes leaps off a rocky ledge and dives onto the left rear soldier.

The two standing Chigs turn, raise their weapons. The right Chig is swiftly attacked by Damphousse and West, while the lead soldier is grabbed by Vansen and Wang.

HAWKES AND CHIG

backlit, the Human form straddles the Alien as Hawkes plunges his K-Bar into the enemy repeatedly. The Chig convulses and struggles.

WEST, DAMPHOUSSE AND ENEMY SOLDIER

Nathan cuts a hose from enemy's life support system. It continues to fight until Damphousse drives her K-Bar into the vulnerable shoulder/neck area of the enemy.

VANSEN, WANG AND LEAD CHIG

Wang pins the struggling soldier from behind while Vansen draws her K-Bar quickly across her body. As she moves to SLASH it across the throat...

CLOSE- CREATURE'S EYES

behind leaves, rear backward with horror, reacting to the violence. Seemingly by reflex, it quickly moves off.

THE 58TH

catch their breath as they stand over the dead enemy soldiers.

NATHAN

Cut its air hose and it kept on fighting.

DAMPHOUSSE

We're on Chiggie's playground.
Wonder why they're wearin' cover anyway.

Hawkes moves to the soldier he killed and straddles it.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

COOPER

That's right. Maybe Chiggie
won't spooge when you take off
his cover in his yard.

Hawkes reaches down and grabs the helmet, twisting to pull it
off.

SHANE

Forget it, we have to complete
the mission .

COOPER (CONT'D)

Hang on, Cap'n. I'm finally
gonna get a look at how ugly
Chiggie really is.

As Hawkes removes the helmet, however, the soldier's body
disintegrates into the familiar green slime.

COOPER

(disappointed)

Ah, man! That reeks!

WANG

Rude chig.

Nathan moves in for a better look.

NATHAN

Its not that they dissolve when
exposed to our atmosphere, I
think they have, like, a "poison
pill" set up. They spooge if
anyone tries to take off their
helmet but them.

DAMPHOUSSE

The soldiers must wear their gear
all the time.

COOPER

Guess I have some respect. I
can't deal with wearing these
helmets for ten minutes.

WANG

I wonder if that "poisoned pill"
is a voluntary thing. Ir is it
imposed on them by their higher
ups?

Shane checks her watch.

(CONTINUED)

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11 CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE

Hate to break up the Chiggie
sociology class...but you can
study plenty of dead ones when we
come back for "Roundhammer." Get
'em out of sight and let's move.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

Wang and Shane grab a dead body and move it out of sight as does Damphousse and Nathan.

Wang pauses and sniffs , making a foul reaction.

WANG

I smell ammonia. Coop, when you got jumped by the Chig did you...uh...

COOPER

No, I didn't. It's that lake over there. It's ammonia...

Cooper grabs the shell of the Chig he killed and drags it to the side. As he rolls the body beneath some cover...

THE CREATURE

in the cover, moves...freezes.

COOPER

locks eyes with the extra-terrestrial from a distance of a few feet. Cooper reacts "what the hell is that?" He jerks up, reaches for his M-590.

THE CREATURE

darts off, moving quickly.

COOPER

a momentary hesitation as he decides to take off after it, then opts to call back to the squad.

COOPER

Over here! I saw something.

WIDER

The 58th tenses.

NATHAN

Enemy?

COOPER

I don't know...it kind of had eyes...like us.

Shane non-verbally makes the call to pursue as she grabs her weapon and heads quickly toward Cooper, who races off in the direction the Creature ran. The others follow.

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12 EXT. A WALL OF ROCK - "ANVIL" - NIGHT

CAMERA MOVES quickly as the shadow of the creature fluctuates along a rocky wall. It is fast, but not graceful. Horrified CLICKS and MOANS emit from the creature as it runs.

THE 58TH

negotiate the rocky obstacles as they use the natural rock for cover.

(CONTINUED)

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12 CONTINUED:

CREATURE'S LEGS

flash and mildly strobe as they move behind the moss and rock.
WE NEVER GET A GOOD LOOK, just MOVEMENT and the SOUND of its
scared deep breaths.

THE 58TH

continue to pursue. Vansen pulls up and looks to the others.

SHANE

We could be runnin' right into an
ambush. Damphousse, West...arc
around. We'll do the same this
way and meet in fifty yards. GO!

The Marines move off in different directions.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The creature ENTERS FRAME IN A CLOSE-UP, just the frightened
eyes...searching. Desperate.

DAMPHOUSSE AND WEST

CAMERA LEADS them as they move in on the alien.

THE CREATURE

drops to the ground, frantically pushing aside ground cover.

VANSEN, WANG AND HAWKES

CAMERA IS MOVING as they near the area.

DAMPHOUSSE AND WEST

in the f.g., CLOSE TO CAMERA, movement IS SEEN in the ground
cover and then stillness, as in the background West and
Damphousse approach.

The Marines pause, search the area. O.S., a RUSTLE in the
bushes. They turn their weapons to the SOUND.

NATHAN

Bulldog.

WANG (O.S.)

Chesty.

The Marines ease their weapons as Vansen, Hawkes and Wang
appear from the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

COOPER
Lost it.

13 INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

The Creature's hands pull itself along the wet darkness of an underground tunnel. Its breaths are desperate and deep.

14 EXT. "ANVIL" - NIGHT

The 58th search the area, guns ready.

DAMPHOUSSE
(to Cooper)
Was it a chig?

COOPER
How do I know? Chigs won't let
me see what they look like.

WANG
Doubt it. It ran from them.

WEST
Ran from us.

SHANE
If its anything that could alert
the enemy we're here...we have to
protect "Roundhammer" by
finding... and killing it.

The Marines look to one another in agreement.

15 INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - NIGHT

BLACKNESS...until CAMERA CRANES DOWN REVEALING an entrance. A small hole. WE HEAR THE CREATURE'S eerie CLICKS and breathing before it appears, still in shadows and darkness.

The Creature moves out of the entrance and looks around the room. CAMERA ADJUSTS, ARCING around to REVEAL what indeed the Alien is seeing.

The room is relatively small, but arcs as if it continues down a hall for an unknown distance. Inserted into the dirt walls, like ancient Christian catacombs, are irregular bulging shapes. Glass. Metal, perhaps.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

THE CREATURE

fifty percent in shadow, suddenly appears quite sad and distraught. It moves deeper into the room toward one of the manufactured shapes.

CLOSE - OBJECT IN THE WALL

fluid drips from the object, which has been cracked.

THE CREATURE

leans for a closer look. Its features already naturally casting a sad expression, reflects the being's emotions. It looks upward as if activity above ground, the small struggle or perhaps the ISSTV landing may have created the crack.

It reaches out to the object in the wall.

OBJECT IN THE WALL

The Alien's hands pull at the material, cracking it further until breaking open a hole large enough to insert a hand.

Its hands dip inside the object, disappearing into darkness. After a couple of beats it removes a small fleshy body. An embryo, now dead and blackened.

THE CREATURE

holds the tiny body in its hands. The Creature doesn't cry or tremble with emotion, but as it looks around the room at the remaining birth chambers...one knows what it is feeling.

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

16 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

An M-590 barrel ENTERS FRAME. CAMERA FOLLOWS the weapon as it patrols the area. As the rifle stops, CAMERA CRANES UP to Nathan, eyes searching the perimeter.

NATHAN

Hawkes, are you sure about this?
Intelligence reported this
satellite was uninhabited.

WANG

is guarding the opposite perimeter.

WANG

Yeah, maybe this was something
you read in "G.I. Geequed."

COOPER AND SHANE

The lieutenant is irritated by the questions. The Captain looks to him, awaiting an answer.

COOPER

I told you, I looked right in its
eyes. Why are you doubting me?
The Chigs are proof there's other
life out here than us. There's
got to be more of it, right?

Wang moves back toward Vansen and Hawkes, keeping his eyes and rifle toward the darkness. He sighs, tense...

WANG

'N fact...I'm surprised we don't
come across it more often.

SHANE

I'll go under the assumption
Hawkes saw something. The
question is...is it advanced
enough or friendly enough with
the Chigs to tip off our
presence?

She checks her watch.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Seventy five minutes to
extraction. If we search for
this thing, we jeopardize
completing the mission.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

DAMPHOUSSE

is searching the ground with a flashlight in the surrounding area. She pauses, kneels.

DAMPHOUSSE

Over here.

WIDER

Shane and Cooper move toward Damphousse. Wang and Nathan keep guard on the area while frequently looking over toward the others.

Damphousse shines her light on the ground. Cooper and Shane look closely.

INSERT - TRACKS

lie in the dirt. Highlighted by the angled light.

DAMPHOUSSE (O.S.)

Tracks. Not Chigs.

RETURN

she guides her flashlight around the area.

DAMPHOUSSE (CONT'D)

Its a two legged animal. And those plant leaves have been stepped on. Tracks lead in that direction.

Shane considers. She turns to the others.

SHANE

Wang, Damphousse and West; stay here and complete the assignment. You'll have to move double time to make up for me and Hawkes.

(beat)

We'll try and track it down.

Shane and Hawkes gather their M-590s. Wang watches them, unsure. He seems to work up the nerve to pose...

WANG

Captain...if you locate this...whatever. Do you have to kill it?

Shane assesses the group consensus as she readies her weapon.

(CONTINUED)

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16 CONTINUED: (2)

WANG (CONT'D)
I mean...if you were able to
determine that it posed no threat
to us or security...why kill it?

Vansen considers as she loads an ammo clip into her rifle. She eyes Wang and the others, then moves off without a commitment. Hawkes follows.

Wang watches her leave, unsatisfied with her response. He turns to Damphousse and West, who appear to be weighing the question of killing the discovered life form. Wang senses this and reiterates in order to sway their thinking.

WANG
I mean...if it posed no
threat...right?

Nathan and Damphousse look to one another, undecided. Nathan tries to avoid a commitment...

NATHAN
Come on, we only got about an
hour.

The three Marines move toward the equipment and continue setting it up, as well as recording information about the terrain.

CAMERA MOVES FROM THEM, CRANING DOWN along the surface of the ground, maintaining the Marines in the b.g. CAMERA CONTINUES until, DISCOVERING a TRIP WIRE. It is set a few inches off the ground.

CAMERA MOVES ALONG the wire until PANNING OFF to REVEAL the consequences of setting it off; a dozen long carved to a sharp point sticks are attached to the end of a branch, arched backward and cocked. It is primitive in appearance, yet none the less deadly. And threatening.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. "ANVIL" - NIGHT

CAMERA CREEPS along the surface of the moon. O.S., FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, proceeding cautiously. The footsteps ENTER FRAME REVEALING Marine boots.

CAMERA TILTS UP to Shane and Cooper, in a LOW ANGLE. She turns on a flashlight and aims it at the ground, the light FLASHING ACROSS CAMERA. She gestures toward the surface.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

SURFACE

REVEALED by the flashlight, the tracks continue across the ground.

SHANE AND COOPER

follow the tracks into the darkness.

18 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

West, Damphousse and Wang continue on their mission, working at a faster pace than before.

Nathan readies a small guidance system. He unravels a hard wire attached to the device while moving backward, blindly toward the area he wishes to place the system.

TRIP WIRE

a piece softly glints in the Marines' working lights. Nathan moves towards it, unaware. He stops a foot from the wire and places the guidance system on the ground.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. "ANVIL" - NIGHT

Shane and Cooper continue to track the creature. They arrive at an area and pause, puzzled. Hawkes kneels to the ground.

SURFACE

The tracks suddenly vanish. Mossy ground cover surrounds the area.

THE MARINES

look to one another, considering.

COOPER

The tracks just stop and the ground cover up ahead hasn't been stepped on.

Shane checks the area, looking up to any trees.

SHANE

I don't know, did it look like it could fly? Or at least jump into those trees?

(CONTINUED)

3S21 "And If They Lay Us To Rest..." 3/22/96 (WHITE) 21.

19 CONTINUED:

Cooper tries to recall the image of the creature. He shrugs.

Suddenly, CAMERA CRANES DOWN into the BLACKNESS of the GROUND.
The FRAME TURNS BLACK.

DISSOLVE TO:

20 INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

In the faint spill light, the creature is positioned inside the entrance of the chamber, sitting; digging in the dirt. The RUSTLE of the Marine's FOOTSTEPS are HEARD.

It HEARS the Earth creatures speaking. WE HEAR THIS from the Alien's auditory point of view. The human tones are much more bottom end, vibrations. The words are incomprehensible, like the sensation of hearing an unknown foreign language.

The creature places the dead embryo into the hole in the floor and slowly covers the body dirt. It looks up toward the others, gestating in the walls.

O.S., Shane is talking in mid-sentence...

CUT TO:

21 EXT. "ANVIL" - NIGHT

SHANE (CONT'D)
...then circle around and meet.
We've only got fifty minutes
until extraction.

Hawkes nods, acknowledge the plan. He heads off in one direction and she in the other. CAMERA MOVES IN AND TILTS DOWN TO THE SURFACE, under which sits the creature they seek.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

Damphousse checks a gauge on an instrument pointed at the system Nathan just secured. As he returns to her.

DAMPHOUSSE
The OPD meter indicates that EGAT
system has to be set up another
twenty feet away.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

Nathan looks back to the system, checks Damphousse's instrument and sighs. As he starts back toward the system...and the trip wire...

CUT TO:

23 EXT. ANOTHER AREA OF ANVIL - NIGHT

Cooper appears from behind a rock. He scans the area and continues his search.

24 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

Shane moves ahead, intermittently aiming her flashlight at the surface. Finding nothing, she turns it off.

25 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT - LOW ANGLE

Nathan moves toward the guidance system. In the f.g., awaits the trip wire.

26 EXT. ANOTHER AREA OF ANVIL - NIGHT

Cooper moves along, tense. O.S., a SOUND. He turns...

27 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

Shane freezes, holds her weapon tighter.

28 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

Nathan grabs the guidance system and is about to move forward...

29 EXT. ANOTHER AREA OF ANVIL - NIGHT

Cooper hustles forward.

30 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

Shane HEARS a RUSTLE and quickly moves toward it.

CLOSE - A TRIP WIRE

Shane's feet activate the wire.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

WIDER

with lightning quick speed, a net material rises from the ground, entangling Vansen several feet above the ground. She YELLS/GRUNTS as she is entrapped.

31 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

As he is about to engage the trip wire, Nathan HEARS Shane's REACTION over the RADIO in his helmet. Nathan stops, then takes a step away from the wire toward Nathan and Damphousse.

They HEARD it also. They grab their rifles.

32 EXT. ANOTHER AREA OF "ANVIL" - NIGHT

Cooper freezes, frantically searches. Into his radio...

COOPER
VANSEN! WHAT'S YOUR TWENTY?

33 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

Vansen struggles to free herself from the trap. Her arms are pinned. O.S., she HEARS A SOUND. She turns, looks.

VANSEN'S POV - ROCKS

in the darkness, movement. A shadow on the rocks indicates an approaching creature.

VANSEN

working hard, she manages to free a hand. It grabs her K-Bar.

34 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

West, Wang and Damphousse hurriedly read a meter.

DAMPHOUSSE
Thirty yards...that direction.

She points in the direction of the awaiting trip wire. They start towards it.

35 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

Shane moves the knife blade along the strings of the net material.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

INSERT - STRING OF MATERIAL

it is cut, breaks.

VANSEN

checks the position of the approaching creature.

SHANE'S POV - CREATURE

The dark figure moves behind some foliage, which now moves indicating its approaching position.

VANSEN

her intensity picks up. She works on another string.

INSERT - NET MATERIAL

as another string SNAPS...

36 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

The three Marines move toward the wire, positioned in a manner that no one is more likely to get it than another.

Just as they are about to activate the wire...

WANG

Wait...we should get that system
out of sight.

Nathan grabs it.

NATHAN

I'll stash it here.

He unknowingly moves the system toward the wire...

INSERT - TRIP WIRE

The system SNAPS the wire.

WIDER

With power and speed, the bow holding the spikes recoils, sending the deadly points toward the Marines. Damphousse and Wang dive back.

Preoccupied with the system, Nathan is unable to respond. Beneath him, the guidance system is shattered into a thousand pieces as the trap hits.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

Nathan, stunned, looks down.

THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM

is all that stood between Nathan and impalement. The spikes from the trap rest a foot away from West.

WEST

turns to Damphousse and Wang, catching their breath. With a very dry mouth and delivery...

WEST

Hoo-Yah.

WANG

(a reminder)

Vansen.

The three Marines grab their weapons and race off, eyes on the ground from here on out.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT - CLOSE - STRING ON TRAP MATERIAL
is cut.

VANSEN

is nearly free as she furiously cuts around the net.

VANSEN'S POV - NEARBY FOLIAGE

moves, the being will soon be upon her.

VANSEN

cuts at the trap.

CREATURE'S HANDS

reach out of the darkness towards the net.

VANSEN

a string SNAPS. The net finally gives way. She FALLS OUT OF FRAME...

WIDER

Vansen CRASHES to the ground. The creature recoils into the surrounding darkness.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

VANSEN

quickly tries to unfurl the trap and orientate herself,
brandishing her K-Bar.

VANSEN'S POV - A FIGURE - OBLIQUE ANGLE

quickly approaches. From her position and angle, the identity
is unclear.

VANSEN

discards the net, assumes a defensive stance.

WIDER

The figure runs into the area. It is Cooper, who must hesitate
before Shane's stance.

COOPER
(the password)
CHESTY! CHESTY!

Shane eases. In the b.g., West, Damphousse and Wang approach.

COOPER (CONT'D)
I saw it go that way.

Cooper leads the pursuit. Wang and Damphousse take off with
Cooper as Nathan checks on Shane and helps her gather her gear
and rifle. They follow the others.

38 EXT. ROCKS - ANVIL - NIGHT

The form of the creature FLASHES PAST FRAME. In the b.g., the
Marines appear in hot pursuit. Seeing it, they move in that
direction. As they also PASS FRAME...

39 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

The shadow of the alien moves along the surface of the moon.

40 EXT. A NEARBY AREA OF ANVIL - NIGHT - LOW ANGLE

The Marines, outnumbering and threatening with their raised
weapons, close in on the creature.

3S21 "And If They Lay Us To Rest..." 3/22/96 (WHITE) 27.

41 EXT. CHAMBER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The "door" to the tunnel entrance is already raised. It quickly slams to the surface. After a few silent beats...

The Marines appear in the b.g...

NATHAN

I saw movement in that direction.

The 58th proceed toward the hole.

SHANE

Hawkes, this is where the tracks disappeared.

Hawkes looks around, then kneels. All eyes turn toward the ground. Hawkes slightly raises the trap door.

Letting it close, he stands. No words need be spoken. Vansen West, Hawkes and Damphousse rock the slide on their M-590s.

Wang hesitates, looks to the others. West reads this.

NATHAN

This thing's settin' traps that are meant to kill us. I take that as a Chig friendly.

Wang...reluctantly nods in agreement.

SHANE

Extraction in thirty five mikes.

Cooper moves toward the door.

COOPER

Leave it to me...I'll do this so quick there'll be time left for coffee.

CUT TO:

42 INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - NIGHT

The hatchery is dark. From above...down the entrance tunnel...a shaft of light appear. Shadows of the approaching Marines fall upon the walls of the tunnel and the floor.

CAMERA PANS AROUND to the CREATURE...breathing hard, scared. Seemingly trapped by the approaching hostile aline life forms.

As the light falls upon its horrified eyes...

FADE OUT:

END ACT FOUR

ACT THREE

43 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

The Earth Forces war fleet advances.

44 INT. COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT - CLOSE - MAP

Celestial Body 2064K. "Anvil." Several war fleets advance upon the area. A wristwatch ENTERS FRAME. With a low tone...

ROSS (V.O.)
Extraction in thirty mikes.

WIDER

Commodore Ross and McQueen stand before the war map in the command center. Behind them, activity is heightened, but the room remains quiet and tense.

ROSS (CONT'D)
If all goes well on "Anvil," the
old man has given his blessing to
bump up the "go" time.

McQueen nods, studies the map. Ross blurts out a quick sigh.

ROSS
Been a long time since I had
butterflies.

CONTROL PANEL

A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER receives an encoded signal. His intense focus reflects its importance. The officer turns.

OFFICER
Sir, receiving transmissions from
Initial Terminal Guidance systems
on "Anvil." All is nominal.

MCQUEEN AND ROSS

look to one another with the wisdom of veteran warriors, who know the moment is at hand.

ROSS
Spread the word amongst the
fleet..."the balloon goes up."

CUT TO:

45 INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - NIGHT

A shaft of dim light falls obliquely on a dirt wall of the chamber. After a beat, a monstrous shadow appears. It moves cautiously, raising its gun barrel. An accompanying shadow follows. Eventually, both CLEAR FRAME.

CAMERA PANS AROUND TO REVEAL Hawkes and Vansen as they enter the chamber. Their expressions are puzzled as they take in the room, however they do not drop their tough and alert posture.

Shane signals for Cooper to proceed along the opposite wall. Hawkes does so and nods, he's ready. They move along at the same pace, backs to the wall.

Shane looks to Cooper and nods. He returns, readies his weapon. Vansen turns on her flashlight.

VANSEN & HAWKES POV - UNDERGROUND CHAMBER

the light illuminates the eerie room. Moistures shines on the underground earth. The light glints on the irregular pods embedded into the walls.

VANSEN AND HAWKES

tense, eye each other. Shane guides her flashlight over the room.

COOPER

See it?

Shane shakes her head.

SHANE

Just the room. And it keeps going. Can't tell how far.

She checks her watch.

SHANE (CONT'D)

We don't have the time and we don't know how many could be waiting.

Cooper looks around the chamber.

COOPER

The things in the wall. Think this could be an underground munitions depot?

Vansen investigates the room.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

COOPER
This'll sound weird...but
somethin' about this room, or
whatever, feels...familiar.

At the entrance, West, Damphousse and Wang enter, guns raised.

SHANE
I studied in Rome for a semester.
I took a tour of catacombs where
the early Christians secretly
buried their dead. It was just
like this.

Cooper moves his flashlight toward one of the pods.

DAMPHOUSSE
Could this be a cemetery?

CAMERA PUSHES IN AS HAWKES shines the light into one of the
pods. As the light hits it, just right, a small embryo can be
seen floating in an amniotic fluid. It is faint and eerie.
Ghostly.

COOPER
Just the opposite.

Shane aims her light at a pod nearby. Inside is another embryo
alive in amniotic fluid.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

The immense fleet prepares for battle.

CLOSER - SARATOGA

The large cannons slowly swing toward the port side.

47 INT. FLIGHT DECK - SARATOGA

CAMERA FOLLOWS MCQUEEN MARCHING ALONG THE FLIGHT DECK as he
supervises the ancient military tradition of hurry up and wait.
This is the hurry up, as pilots and flight crew tend to their
cockpits.

CORRIDOR

Ground troops line the corridor. CAMERA MOVES PAST THEM as
they clean their weapons, check their gear.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

MCQUEEN

marches along the flight deck INTO A CLOSE-UP. He looks around and with a subtle nod to himself, indicates he likes what he sees.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

The 58th are gathered around the base of an immense tree. Ground mist billow at their feet.

NATHAN

Those embryos...are they Chigs?

They eye each other. Damphousse commits first, shaking her head.

DAMPHOUSSE

If they are, that thing Cooper saw would have reported it and we'd be facing a couple enemy platoons by now.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

COOPER

Even if its not the enemy,
doesn't mean it won't cooperate
with them.

NATHAN

You know why I don't think its
the enemy?

He hesitates, knowing this will sound crazy.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It doesn't feel like it. I've
killed a few with my hands, close
enough to hear that weird sound
they make when they die.

(beat)

When you kill face to face,
there's a connection with the
life you take. Even if its the
enemy. And I don't feel it here.

COOPER

You want us to endanger the
success of "Roundhammer" on your
gut feeling?

(CONTINUED)

3S21 "And If They Lay Us To Rest..." 3/22/96 (WHITE) 32A.

48 CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE

That's all we have time to go on.

Damphousse stands, looks around.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (3)

WANG

If its not the enemy, if this is
some...innocent life, whose home
is about to become a devastated
battlefield...do we try and warn
it?

(beat)

Do we tell it about
"Roundhammer?"

A palpable tension is exchanged amongst them.

COOPER

No. No way. It could screw it
all up.

DAMPHOUSSE

Why don't we take it back with
us?

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (4)

SHANE

No time. And I doubt it could survive in our atmosphere.

WANG

Maybe its a colony. Before the Eckerly Principle and people thought you couldn't travel faster than light, some scientists proposed Earth would colonize other planets by sending out ships with frozen eggs and sperm, which would be conceived after hundreds of years of space travel. Silicates would have been the organic life's caretakers. Probably like that alien Cooper saw. That's why there's only one.

(beat)

There's a chance those chambers could be all that's left of that life. If we don't warn it, then by this time tomorrow...it'll be gone from the Universe.

Another pause. Shane checks her watch as all eyes turn to her.

COOPER

Well...Captain?

She considers, sighs. The decision is tough.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (5)

SHANE

When I was a kid, we went to the
San Diego zoo to see the last
living Panda. You had to wait in
line an hour just to have a look.
It just sat there eating bamboo,
with no idea.

Shane looks up. Cooper senses where this is going and becomes
impatient.

SHANE(CONT'D)

Isn't it enough to remove life
from our own planet?

The others seem to agree. Cooper marches up to her.

COOPER

If we don't defeat the enemy
right here, on this ground...we
won't have a home.

He looks around to make sure the others are listening. He
grows increasingly fired up as he talks.

COOPER (CONT'D)

You think the Chigs are gonna
care if this thing gets in their
way? Do you really think the old
man will? Nothing is gonna stop
this battle.

(beat)

In a few hours, millions,
millions of human lives are gonna
land on this hell hole and one of
'em is gonna be mine. Another'll
be yours.

(beat)

If you tell this thing, or fly
outta here without
being...assured of its
silence...and the Chigs are
waiting here, poppin' us out of
the sky. Those millions of lives
will be lost. Because of us.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (6)

COOPER (Cont'd)

(pause)

And then the Chigs'll turn to our
home and wipe out everyone there.

The others, look to one another. His words and passion have an
effect. Hawkes picks up his M-590.

SHANE

Cooper, you said that chamber
down there felt familiar. That's
how you were born.

COOPER

And because of that I'm not like
you. I know life is cheap. I
cost less to make than that ITG
System.

DAMPHOUSSE

Marines aren't put here to
slaughter the innocent.

COOPER

I'm not convinced its innocent.
But I am convinced that its dead
no matter what. And if leaving
here with that thing alive, means
we might come back dead...then I
know what has to be done.

(pause)

And if none of you have the dark
heart to do it...I do.

Cooper picks up his weapon and eyes them. No one can match his
glare, yet he's now meeting no resistance. He checks his
watch.

COOPER

Don't leave without me.

He heads off. The remaining Marines look to one another,
troubled. All they can do is gather their gear and secure the
area, preparing for extraction.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. ANVIL - NIGHT

Rifle raised, backlit, Hawkes marches double time through the
moss.

50 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF ANVIL - NIGHT

The Lieutenant's shadow flutters against the rocky landscape.

51 EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBER (ABOVE GROUND) - NIGHT

Hawkes rocks the slide on his M-590 and enters through the moss.

52 INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - NIGHT

Hawkes enters the chamber, weapon ready. He looks around the eerie room and spots something O.S.

HAWKES' POV - AROUND THE ARCHED CORRIDOR

A shadow plays upon the wall, oblique and stretched.

HAWKES

Lifts his weapon and starts toward the other room.

As he rounds the blind wall, he is met face to face with a Chig soldier. Cooper jumps back, FIRING as he dives. The enemy is torn to shreds, however a second appears and begins FIRING.

Cooper rolls and comes up FIRING! BAM! BAM! BAM!

SECOND CHIG SOLDIER

tries to take cover behind the blind wall, FIRING as he moves, however Cooper's GUNFIRE throws the enemy back and to the ground. The Chig lies motionless.

HAWKES

adrenalin soaring, rattled, he gets up with a mean expression. He moves to the first soldier and FIRES and insurance ROUND. On the BLAST...

THE CREATURE

cowers in the darkness. His face is lit by the strobe of the second insurance round. It releases a horrified CLICK.

HAWKES

turns at the sound, weapon trained on the enemy. He's about to fire, until another SOUND catches his attention. Fluid trickles from the shattered birth chambers about the room, destroyed in the exchange of weapons fire.

Hawkes looks about the room.

(CONTINUED)

3S21 "And If They Lay Us To Rest..." 3/22/96 (WHITE) 38.

52 CONTINUED:

HAWKES' POV - UNDERGROUND CHAMBER

The pods are cracked and destroyed, fluid pours down the earthen walls.

HAWKES

To talk it was easy. Now, that he lays witness to the destruction of innocent lives...his expression turns. His eyes move to the creature.

THE CREATURE

trembles in the corner awaiting Hawkes' bullet.

HAWKES

As he stands in the room surrounded by Death. His weapon still raised...

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

53 EXT. SARATOGA BATTLE GROUP - NIGHT

The Earth Forces Armada is formed in a massive seemingly unending line, like the ships off Normandy on that June morning.

54 INT. FLIGHT DECK - SARATOGA - NIGHT

The chaos is removed by a very tense calm. Geared up and ready pilots await the "go" order, pacing by their cockpits.

55 INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Ground forces, set for battle, are crammed into the white room. No one speaks. No one looks in the other's eye.

56 INT. COMMAND CENTER SARATOGA - NIGHT

The controllers work in silence as Ross paces near the cauldron. The only voice HERAD is McQueen, reading a report.

MCQUEEN

Current conditions on
"Anvil"...at H-Sight, winds south-
westerly at five knots.
Visibility fair at 500 meters...

The Communications officer turns to Ross.

OFFICER

(to McQueen)
Excuse me, Colonel.
(to Ross)
Commodore... the Supreme
Commander on channel four.

Ross sighs, steadies himself then picks up the phone. CAMERA
PUSHES IN ON HIM...

COMMODORE

Good Morning, sir...Yes,
Commander...recon extraction in
twenty minutes. Preliminary
reports from H-Sight are
satisfactory. Yes, sir.
Saratoga Battle Group Forces are
ready and waiting...Yes,
Commander.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

COMMODORE (Cont'd)
"Operation Roundhammer" has been
raised and is ready to strike the
anvil.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. INSERTION LOCATION - NIGHT

The 58th complete their assignment at the battle sight. A green light on the Initial Terminal Guidance system softly flashes. Wang stands over the machine. Satisfied with its performance, he moves off.

WANG
ITGS is operational and has been
transmitting.

NATHAN
Soil samples are secured.

SHANE
Damphousse, take a last minute
BRP and record it in the...

Vansen freezes in mid sentence as she spots something O.S. The others see this, raise their weapons and spin in the direction of Shane's focus.

IN THE SHADOWS

stand two forms...Hawkes and the extra-terrestrial, the former holding the latter at gunpoint. The creature's hands aren't raised or anything.

THE 58TH

are a mixture of unease and awe. Their silence indicates they want an explanation from Hawkes.

HAWKES AND THE CREATURE

although having a change of heart, Cooper still maintains a cold air, as if he resents being placed in this situation.

COOPER
Greased two Chigs in the room.
Guess they were there for the
same reason I was.

Hawkes nudges the creature with his gun barrel. The two life forms move out of the shadows toward the others. The alien moves hunched over and slowly, scared shitless.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

His skin is whitish, a pale gray.

COOPER(CONT'D)

Well, I may not be a good human
being...but I'm better than a
Chig.

He moves away from the creature toward Shane, as if absolving
himself from any further responsibility.

COOPER(CONT'D)

Go ahead...tell it.

Shane checks her watch. The urgency and bizarre situation make
it hard to collect her thoughts. Cooper turns to the creature.

COOPER

Sit! Sit! Down, Pastey!

Cooper gestures to the ground.

COOPER

THE GROUND! SIT ON THE GROUND.

The creature doesn't respond. Doesn't understand.

WANG

How are you going to explain
warfare to a thing that doesn't
get it when you tell it to sit?

COOPER

It gets what my gun can do.

Shane considers. She takes a step toward the alien, holding
her rifle. It tenses. Shane pauses. She slowly places her
gun on the ground away from her and raises her hands non
aggressively.

The alien eyes the weapon and seems to understand the peaceful
gesture. Its eyes turn toward Shane.

DAMPHOUSSE

If she says "we mean you no
harm", I'm going to shoot her.

Vansen shoots him a half glance over her shoulder. She looks
back at the creature, frustrated.

SHANE

Damn...how do I start?

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2)

NATHAN
In that old movie "Close
Encounters" the talked to the
Aliens like this...

He hand gestures accordingly.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
But I didn't even know what that
meant.

Slowly, cautiously the alien curiously mimics Nathan.

NATHAN
It must have seen the movie.

Shane considers. She looks up to the sky and seems to obtain
a starting point. She points to herself.

SHANE
I...I..

She motions to the others with a sweeping gesture.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Us...all of them...

The creature watches stoically knowing she is trying to
communicate. Shane points to the sky.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Are from...live there. There.

The alien keeps his eyes trained on Shane's hand.

SHANE
Not my hand, Pastey. Look up
there.

DAMPHOUSSE
(matter of fact)
Just like my cat.

NATHAN
What does our background matter?
This isn't an interview.

WANG
We're running out of time.

Shane turns to them, frustrated and pissed off at the others.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (3)

SHANE
WHATTA YOU WANT?! IT'LL DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND THE WORDS!

With the display of an emotion, even not aimed at the creature,
it flinches. Moves back.

Cooper, gun raised, takes a step toward the alien to keep it in
line. The others note the creature's reaction to Shane's
outburst.

DAMPHOUSSE
But it understood your emotion.

Wang takes a step forward. The Alien interprets it as an
aggressive act and reacts. Wang eases.

WANG
I got an idea.

Wang prepares himself, then makes an angry violent expression.
The creature cowers. Wang quickly backs off. His eyes are on
the alien.

WANG
(re:his hostile act)
That.

Wang squats to the ground and touches the soil.

WANG (CONT'D)
Here. You...

Wang makes another angry face and then begins to make a "dead
expression" but bails on it as soon as he starts.

WANG (CONT'D)
Ah, screw it. Sorry, man. I
don't know what I was thinkin'.

NATHAN
I knew what you were goin' for.

DAMPHOUSSE
Ten mikes.

The Marines look to one another, unsure of how to communicate.
They look upon the alien with great sympathy.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (4)

SHANE
It looks just like that last
Panda. It has no idea what's
about to happen.

COOPER

away from the group, looks sadly upon the animal.

RETURN

The group is at a loss.

DAMPHOUSSE
This life could disappear because
our words are useless.

COOPER

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON HIM as his expression reflects a
revelation. He moves toward the gear on the ground.

From his backpack, he produces the "G.I. Geequed" comic book.
He moves toward the alien without much concern for caution of
displaying aggressive behavior. The creature cowers.

WIDER

The others are willing to try anything, but they don't
understand what he's doing yet.

Cooper flips through the comic book, searching. He finds some
artwork and holds it up to the creature. The alien looks.

COOPER
This. Get it?

INSERT - COMIC BOOK

G.I. Geequed battles Chigs, dying by the dozens.

COOPER

flips to another page.

COOPER (CONT'D)
And this....this.

INSERT - COMIC BOOK

Hammerheads engage enemy fighters above a planet. There is
much fire and destruction in the artwork.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (5)

WIDER

The Alien's eyes flash to Cooper, scared. It seemingly comprehends.

WANG

Looks like it understands.

Cooper looks moves in close for emphasis. He gestures to the book with a circling all encompassing motion.

COOPER

All this. All this.

Cooper drives his finger emphatically into the ground.

COOPER(CONT'D)

Here.

The Alien subtly pauses, looks up to Cooper. It's sad expression indicates it understands.

COOPER

You.

Cooper points to the alien, then to a picture in the book.

INSERT - COMIC BOOK

A dead Marine lies atop a dead Chig.

RETURN

The life form looks to Cooper, scared and sad. Cooper points to the alien again.

COOPER

You...go...

Hawkes gestures, "leave." Then once again points to the ground.

COOPER

From here. NOW! GO!

The Alien doesn't move. It curiously looks to all the odd encircling creatures with an altered expression. It is no longer afraid, but very puzzled. It studies the humans closely.

The creature then sadly places his hand upon the dirt and gently moves it about the soil as if caressing its home. It picks up some soil in its hand, holds it, studies it.

(CONTINUED)

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57 CONTINUED: (6)

The alien's eyes turn to Cooper and studies him before holding out the small amount of dirt. Cooper curiously holds out his hand. The creature transfers the soil to Cooper's palm.

THE 58TH

watch fascinated and yet puzzled.

HAWKES AND ALIEN

Once the soil is in Cooper's open palm, the creature gestures to Cooper as if "you." It then gestures to itself, as if "me." And finally it gestures to the ground and rubs his hand amongst the soil.

Cooper looks to the creature as if "what are you trying to tell me?" The two life forms study one another.

Suddenly, O.S., THE ROAR OF APPROACHING ISSTV ENGINES approaches. The Alien looks up, terrified. Light GLARES on its face.

ALIEN'S POV - ENGINES

it looks as if the Sun were landing.

RETURN

The alien looks to Cooper, scared, with a sense of seeking permission. Hawkes nods, gestures "go." The Creature quickly MOVES OUT OF FRAME.

THE MARINES

as their ride home lands, their focus is on the alien.

MARINES' POV - THE PLANET

The alien hustles into the shadows and once again disappears.

THE MARINES

continue to watch.

CUT TO:

58 INT. ISSTV - NIGHT

The Marines remove their helmets and strap themselves into the vehicle. All are silent, considering the recent events. Cooper still holds the dirt in a clenched fist, looking at it.

Wang looks to the others.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

WANG
Hope we did the right thing.

DAMPHOUSSE
We did.

A pause as everyone looks to the dirt in Cooper's hand.

COOPER
I can't figure out what this is
all about.

DAMPHOUSSE
A way to tell you it understood?

SHANE
It was a way of saying...we all
come from the same place.

Its quite a leap and everyone looks to her, but the Captain's
expression remains confident.

NATHAN
How do you know?

She looks directly at Nathan, recalling his earlier words.

SHANE
I can feel it.

The ENGINES WHINE for take-off. Everyone reflects upon Shane's
words.

COOPER
Damn, I left my comic book out
there.

SHANE
Don't sweat it, Hawkes...we'll
back.

The ship rocks as it lifts off.

59 EXT. "ANVIL" - SPACE - NIGHT (CGI)

The ISSTV breaks free of the moon's gravity and continues out
into Space. It's destination...

CUT TO:

60 EXT. SARATOGA BATTLE GROUP - NIGHT

The ships of war await.

61 INT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

Ross paces at the command center. McQueen approaches, lowers his tone.

MCQUEEN

The Lincoln Battle Group that was spoofing the enemy at Hera has changed course and it enroute.

Ross nods.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

And "Operation Anvil" is a success. The ISSTV has the 58th is due to arrive at any time.

Ross takes a deep breath, then nods.

CONTROL PANEL

The Communications Officer looks intensely at the control panel, listens to a signal from an outside transmission.

OFFICER

Approaching craft off the starboard bow. 10,000 msks and closing.

ROSS AND MCQUEEN

MCQUEEN

That must be them.

ROSS

Inform the necessary personnel that I want them waiting for that ship and the information processed quickly...

OFFICER (O.S.)

Commodore.

Ross stops in mid sentence and looks up.

CONTROL OFFICER

double checks the screen.

(CONTINUED)

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61 CONTINUED:

OFFICER
It's not transmitting an IFF.
And the LIDAR signal...is
unfamiliar.

McQueen turns toward the panel, curious. he looks to Ross.

ROSS
Tell 'em who we are.

OFFICER
Unidentified spacecraft off my
starboard bow, you are
approaching the U.S. Naval
Carrier Saratoga request you
alter your course and identify
yourself immediately.

No response. The bridge is tense and silent.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Repeat. USS Saratoga to
unidentified spacecraft, alter
your course immediately or we
will be forced to take you under
fire.

The Officer reacts to a signal in his ear.

OFFICER
Its a single enemy craft, sir.

ROSS
Take it out of my...

OFFICER
Its sending a continuous
transmission in rough morse code.

ROSS
What's it want?

The officer gives a listen...then looks up...stunned.

OFFICER
"Peace."

McQueen and Ross eye one another at the development.

62 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

A lone Chig fighter approaches slowly, hovering eerily over the
large Carrier.

3S21 "And If They Lay Us To Rest..." 3/22/96 (WHITE) 50.

63 INT. COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

The Officer listens to the signal.

OFFICER

Its awaiting permission to land.

Ross looks at McQueen.

ROSS

I say its horsedump.

MCQUEEN

What if its not? The war could
be over today without any further
loss of lives.

Ross considers.

ROSS

Inform the craft to maintain its
current position.

(to McQueen)

Where's the "Spooky Unit"
stationed?

MCQUEEN

Alien Interpretation Unit is on
the Nebraska, sir.

ROSS

I don't trust those creeps. But
get 'em over here.

(to officer)

Get the Supreme Commander on the
horn.

64 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

6

The Chig fighter hovers over the Saratoga as an ISSCV lands on
the pad. The door open.

65 INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

6

The door to the ISSCV Loading Bay opens. Three frightening
men, all dressed in black with black berets, enter the white
room. The leader is RABWIN. He approaches McQueen who has
been waiting.

MCQUEEN

Colonel Rabwin?

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

RABWIN
You McQueen? Boss Ross orders
are you are to witness the
interrogation?

MCQUEEN
Or there's no interrogation.

Rabwin eyes McQueen, doesn't like it, however...

RABWIN
Clear Loading Bay Six.
(beat)
We'll need an air tight room.
Pump in these gases in this
mixture.

He hands McQueen a prepared report, then marches off...

66 INT. COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

Ross is listening in on his headset.

ROSS
Yes, Supreme Commander...the
rough code is suggesting the
enemy is prepared to present a
peace proposal.

Somewhat dry mouthed, Ross reacts to the tongue twister.

ROSS (CONT'D)
It's a sole craft, sir. The AIU
is aboard and prepared to
interrogate the enemy pilot.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON ROSS as he tenses.

ROSS (CONT'D)
Yes, sir. Roger that.

Ross looks to the officers at the control panel.

ROSS
Let 'em in.

67 EXT. SARATOGA - NIGHT

The doors to an ISSCV hangar bay open. The enemy ship glides
over the landing pad and begins to sink into the Saratoga.

68 INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Armed guards line the white room. Suddenly, in the porthole window, an alien appearing creature appears, however it is just Rabwin in a high-tech atmospheric suit. He checks the white room and opens the door.

McQueen, also in an atmospheric suit enters behind Rabwin. Behind McQueen is a Chig pilot in the familiar green armored gear. It is odd to see the enemy on the Saratoga.

The guards turn and lead the men off.

69 INT. ATMOSPHERIC CHAMBER - NIGHT

A thick hazy cloud hangs in the room. The lighting is from below and creepy. A lone chair sits in the center of the room.

With a HISS and a CLANG, the door opens. Rabwin and McQueen enter, leading the enemy soldier and followed by the other two members of the AIU.

Rabwin gestures to the chair. The Alien sits. The AIU members produce some palm sized instruments and check readings. Rabwin waits for one member to give his okay. The member does.

McQueen watches this with restrained awe. Rabwin punches something onto a pad of buttons and flashes the display to the alien, unseen by us.

Rabwin and the unit step back. CAMERA PUSHES IN AS THE CHIG wraps his arms around his helmet and lowers his upper body, as if to twist the helmet off.

After a small struggle, a loud CLACK echoes in the chamber. The Chig begins to remove the helmet.

REVERSE

CAMERA IS BEHIND the enemy and begins to ARC AROUND as it places its helmet on the ground, still its exposed face cannot be seen, until CAMERA MOVES AROUND AND PANS to the enemy...

REVEALING the Chig beneath the suit is indeed a creature like the one the 58th informed about "Operation Roundhammer." It is not the very one, which was caretaker of the underground birth chamber, however it is clear the creature was a Chig.

MCQUEEN

reacts to the identity of the alien, unaware of what the 58th has unknowingly done.

(CONTINUED)

3S21 "And If They Lay Us To Rest..." 3/22/96 (WHITE) 53.

69 CONTINUED:

THE ALIEN

As it looks to the four humans before him...knowing their
battle plans...

A GRAPHIC APPEARS: "To Be Continued."

FADE OUT:

THE END