

Dumb animals and a well kept secret

Screenplay

by

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Fourth draft

FADE IN:

EXT. DEEP BLUE SKY -

The outstretched finger in Michelangelo's "CREATION" appears over an infinitely deep blue sky. We hear a regretful sigh.

VO (voice is distorted and cryptic sounding with subtitles)

NARRATOR

I suppose we had no choice, oh well.

The screen wobbles and the index finger straightens out like a gun and points. A stream of meteors shoot out hurtling through space.

EXT. DESERT VILLAGE - DUSK

The meteors pulverize a jagged peak. Fire and brimstone rain down. Tanks, Humvees explode. Soldiers scramble, villagers scream.

FRANTIC VOICES

Incoming... Jesus! We've been hit...
...Take cover! Glory be to Allah... ...Get down
- get down - Yahweh!!!...

PLATOON LEADER

Soldier STOP! Get back here.

The soldier stops short and looks up. He cringes. The platoon leader looks up. A tiny meteor races toward him. He yells out.

PLATOON LEADER

NEVER MIND!

P.O.V METEOR

The meteor drives him deep into the earth and creates a gigantic funnel shaped sinkhole that devours the desert land. PANIC EVERYWHERE.

EXT. REMOTE TROPICAL ISLAND - DAWN

Palm trees gently sway over an expansive tropical meadow. SUDDENLY the land rumbles and bulges up from punching thumps. A TWIRLING MASS spins out of the ground like a volcano forming a gigantic milky cone.

INT. MILKY CONE - DAWN

SFX CG EFFECT - Red-hot meteors shoot into a milky mass filled with all manner of things. Atoms and cells are splitting, spores and viruses are growing - flagella wiggling, fish and birds and animals of all sizes swirl past like they're in a giant creature filled smoothie. Noah's ark in a blender. Everything is mixing! The scene consumes the screen.

SOUNDS of crashing waves and a cyclone's vortex mix. A driving bass seems like it's speaking as it builds to a crescendo, then SUDDENLY -- SILENCE

BLACK SCREEN

DR SETO
(voice over black)
Hmmm - now that's odd.

SUPER - "EARLIER" transitions to -

INT. ATOMIC RESEARCH LAB - NIGHT

DR SETO, a small Asian Einstein looking man, sits at the console in an instrument filled linear accelerator lab control room. His pixyish eyes bug out as he responds to the test.

DR SETO
That's not possible! That just can't be.

He rushes over to a whiteboard and stares at his formulas and drawings, and then looks back to the monitors - puzzled.

DR SETO
Impossible! Someone else has to see this.

Seto turns and walks to the door.

INT. LAB SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

An unconcerned guard watches surveillance monitors as Seto walks out into the enormous linear accelerator tunnel.

INT. LINEAR ACCELERATOR TUNNEL

HIGH-PITCHED BUZZ AND HUM fills the CAVERNOUS TUNNEL housing the HADRON COLLIDER. INTERNATIONAL FLAGS and UNIVERSITY EMBLEMS hang on the wall next to posters of Los Alamos, CERN, and other atom smashing labs. Seto looks around.

DR SETO

Hello - Hello!

He's alone.

A glint of light shoots down the cavernous tunnel and hits him. He turns. It's gone. Seto takes off his thick glasses messages between his eyes and saunters back into the control room.

INT. ATOMIC LAB CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Seto stares blankly into space transfixed by a thought. A light bulb look pops onto his face.

DR SETO

That might work! OK, I'll try it.

He rushes over and types in a command.

DR SETO

Come on, come on, come on!!!!

All the monitors gush with data then STOP IN UNISON. Seto smiles, jumps up, claps his hands, and twirls like a kid.

DR SETO

YES! I gotcha. I've gotcha.

He rubs his hands together, clenches his fist in the air.

DR SETO

YES! YES!

Dr Seto stands proud like a 5'4" SUPERMAN in a Lab coat.

DREAM LIKE IMAGES - SUPERIMPOSED over him are science magazine news headlines "SETO CAPTURES TIME!!!" "SETO LISTENS IN ON THE UNIVERSE CHATTING"

DR SETO

Hmmm, those gamma rays would have to be traveling at an incredible speed to cover that distance. That would mean light can travel faster than... MY GOD! They must be tachyons!

Suddenly Seto gets a DEJECTED LOOK. His shoulders droop.

DR SETO

But, they'll never believe me - I wouldn't.

He looks at the clock.

DR SETO

Oh my god, the awards banquet, my speech!
I better leave.

Seto jumps up and starts for the door - then stops.

DR SETO

One more test - Just one more test.

He walks to the console types in commands and hits ENTER.

INT. AWARDS BANQUET RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Velvet jacketed waiters serve hors d'oeuvres off silver trays. It's a "no expense spared" international affair. International banners are discreetly on display. Two men stand by a well stocked bar. DR ELROY'S has a roly-poly unkempt look. His white bow tie may unravel at any moment. He slurps his Dewar's on ice like it's hot soup.

DR ELROY
(British accent)

I wonder where Seto is?

DR OSTERWALD, a well-aged dapper looking professor, swirls his Chardonnay and glances across the room to CINDY CURTIS, an early thirties woman wearing a gown cut to accent her slender fetchingly beautiful form. She turns and smiles coyly over her soft bare shoulder. Dr O quickly turns back to an oblivious Dr Elroy.

DR OSTERWALD

I'm not sure where Seto is. He was at the Collider lab practicing his speech when we all left. It sounded quite good.

Dr Elroy slides his finger around under his stiff collar.

DR ELROY

Yes. I'm sure it sounded good. So are you working on anything interesting at the lab?

DR O

Well I suppose. They have me looking into commercial implications since we found that God Particle. Seto and Dr Monroe are on competing Higgs Boson projects and it looks promising. Technically the projects don't exist so I cannot say much.

DR ELROY

Oh go on, tell me. You can kill me after. I'm old and not much of a believer in God anyway.

Dr Osterwald swirls his wine and glances over at Cindy talking to a large man chomping on an unlit cigar. She senses Dr Os' glance and smiles. Dr O smiles and turns back to Elroy.

DR OSTERWALD

Well Charles, since I can have the pleasure of killing you here's what they let me know...

EXT. DESERT SCENE - DAY

The destruction of the Middle East desert continues. The crater is getting wider and deeper.

VO (Voice is distorted with Subtitles)

NARRATOR

Sometimes nature may seem cruel, but sometimes it is necessary. This arrogant species has been a problem more than once.

Small meteors continue to rain down. The giant funnel hole is devouring everything in its expanding area.

INT. NETWORK NEWS SET - MIDDAY

A sequence of pictures of Dr. Seto holding awards and greeting luminaries is on the Newsroom graphics with the caption "FAMOUS SCIENTIST KILLED MYSTERIOUSLY."

NEWS ANCHOR

The tragic and baffling death of Dr. Seto reported a few days ago has been ruled as a catastrophic lab accident. However, so far no remains have been... Wait!

NEWS ANCHOR stops and looks into the camera. Over his shoulder the graphic changes to "CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION ROCKED."

NEWS ANCHOR

We have breaking news. Let's go to our field reporter KRYSTAL GATES for the latest.

EXT. SATELLITE DISH FARM - MIDDAY

KRYSTAL GATES, a well-known network news reporter, stands with her clipboard in front of a barbed wire fence.

KRYSTAL GATES

Thanks Stan. I'm here outside the Central Intelligence communication center. The word is there is a gigantic creator forming in

the Middle East. Let me recap what we know. The latest reports say the growing hole is still unapproachable by land or air. Our network has lost three news crews. Two of our helicopters were pulled down into the expanding funnel hole. This tragedy has affected hundreds of thousands perhaps millions of innocent people. The countries that once occupied the area centered at Latitude:331100N, Longitude: 0354500E are no longer.

GRAPHICS MAP shows the affected area with CG ANIMATION of rapid blasts punching out a deeper and wider FIBONACCI SPIRAL.

KRYSTAL GATES (CONT'D)

Those lands are now part of a large symmetrical funnel that is growing wider and deeper. There is also a region-wide electromagnetic disturbance. But, no nation or terrorist group has claimed responsibility - yet, back to you Stan.

INT. PENTAGON OFFICE - DAY

The well-decorated GENERAL PRAFERUS leans across his military neat oak desk to a nervous Marine standing at attention.

GENERAL P

Read my lips soldier... I don't want to hear that it came out of a thousand points of light. God Damn it!

MARINE

No Sir!

Off camera intercom voice

SECRETARY

General

GENERAL

Yes, what is it?

SECRETARY

Excuse me Sir. You have a Mr. Hunt on the line.

GENERAL

Hunt?

SECRETARY

Yes - yes Sir, Tex Hunt,

GENERAL

Oh TEX, OK. Tell him I'll be right with him.

SECRETARY

Yes Sir.

The General looks at the Marine and shakes his fist.

GENERAL P

Soldier, you go back and tell those over paid civilian scientists I want countries, I want names, not some hair brained astrophysics science fiction crap that the deep blue sky opened up and blasted us from a thousand points of light. Get me the frickin answers or you will be reading my lips looking out of your asshole - do I make myself a clear soldier.

MARINE

Sir! ---- Yes Sir!

GENERAL P

Good. Now get the hell out-a-here and get me goddamn answers.

The soldier salutes, clicks his heels, turns, and walks out. The General punches the flashing phone line.

GENERAL P

Hey TEX - What can I do for you?

EXT. LAGOON DOCK - DUSK

A large FERROCEMENT pleasure yacht bobs like a wave just hit it.

INT. PLUSH OFFICE - DUSK

TIGHT on TEX's face, he chomps on a cigar as he talks. Behind him is the TV news headline "MIDDLE EAST DISASTER."

TEX

Well General, first what the hell do you know about this Middle East blast? It's rockin my boat. Did one of those Korean or Asians do it? Never trusted them, yellow knock off bastards. I'll bet they Koreans and renegade Russian physicists had a hand in...

General interrupts

GENERAL P

Tex, Tex. We have no direct communications or intelligence reports. We have no idea who did it. The Koreans are asking us questions! So are the Russians

TEX

What do you mean?

GENERAL

I mean it looks like it may have come from malfunctioning defense satellites, or maybe natural causes. The best I can get is that a thousand points of light hit us.

TEX

Malfunction, points of light - jezuz - K-risr Whose?

GENERAL

That's the problem Tex we have no idea. No one is claiming it.

TEX

Nobody's claimin it - It's a Goddamn attack. What are you gonna do?

GENERAL

Tex, TEX - we just don't know - till we do - we sit tight.

Futile silence.

TEX

Well, OK General. Hey, listen. I have these gentlemen on my boat here. They got a proposition for us. It could be huge. Here, talk to them.

GENERAL

Tex, Tex! I have a major crisis going on. Look, we'll have to talk some other time.

A very attractive woman comes into the tight frame and gives Tex a peck on the neck.

TRUDY

Come on hun we're waiting.

GENERAL (cont'd)

...Just wish me luck with my boss when I tell her about the points of light.

Trudy waves to the phone.

TEX

Yeah, she's ain't gonna like that points of light bull - Good luck. Oh Trudy says Hi.

GENERAL P

Thanks

General P hangs up and sits nervously at his desk.

INT. LAB CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Dr Seto is glancing around at all the consoles.

DR SETO

They can't be - communicating at that level! Can they?

Seto rushes to a white board and frantically draws tiny waves that grow tighter and taller and taller until they are off the board in a vertical line.

DR SETO

Infinite amplitude!

He draws tiny wave-fronts that get longer and longer until it's a horizontal flat line off the board.

DR SETO

Infinite frequency and wavelength!

He steps away and crosses his arms and holds his chin.

DR SETO

MY GOD If the waves met. It'll all be...

Seto grabs his head like he's holding his brains in.

DR SETO

Connected! Infinite density. Infinite connection. It's all NO NO NO NO! That defies...

Seto starts to write a formula but can't. Seto holds his head tighter. His brain is overloading.

DR SETO

Impossible, OR Incredible! If they were that small and went that fast then a light year would be... NO NO NO, I'll need more proof.

He walks to the console. He stops as if he forgot how to walk.

The LAB ROOM WOBLES into a dreamy jello like state. ATOMIC CLOUD CHAMBER particles bombard him like he's a spectator in a gamma ray shooting gallery.

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - DAY

The massive milky cone covers the island. Life forms big and small swirl past like a petting zoo on a fast carousel. Bolts of lightning and colorful bursts light up the milky blob, as it grows and glows. A bass noise reverberates in the cone like a loud speaker communicating.

VO

NARRATOR

Throughout the universe all things work together for the common good. The SUPREME PROTECTOR & CREATION ALLIANCE (SPCA) rarely needed to meet but there was important work to be done now. Some things were never meant to be revealed.

The milky cone grows bigger and brighter filling the screen.

EXT. ABOVE DESERT BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

AERIAL VIEW - a flock of black hawks and white doves fly in formation next to MILITARY DRONES.

INT. MILITARY DRONE CONTROL CENTER - DUSK

Soldiers track the DRONES on the GUIDANCE SYSTEM. They can't see the birds.

EXT. ABOVE DESERT BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

The doves' looks across and nod to the hawks. Locusts fly in out of nowhere.

INT. MILITARY DRONE CONTROL CENTER - DUSK

SUDDENLY, interference fills the monitors. The soldier jumps up. The console flickers. The room dims and gets a candle lit look.

EXT. - DESERT BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

AERIAL VIEW - Hawk and dove crisscross. The locusts cover the drones. They drop from the sky like expensive stones and are sucked into the gigantic funnel hole.

VO

NARRATOR

Humans will need to be kept busy for a while. The SPCA needed to devise yet another diversion plan to deter the humans from their curious, prying and reckless pursuits.

EXT. - TROPICAL ISLAND - DAWN

The Milky Cone is buzzing with activity. The remnants of the drones fly in and are pulled to the lush ground. They rust instantly, and fungi cover them.

NARRATOR

Plans are in the works like before.

INT. BANQUET EVENT SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

SURVEILLANCE DISPLAYS cover the walls. INFRARED CAMERAS show body heat. Pattern Recognition software checks for faces of interest and mug shots of threat. Monitors change views every few seconds. Security technicians' select zone mics and listen in. Guest conversations mix with Security instructions.

The SECURITY CHIEF clicks on his headset in response to a call.

SECURITY CHIEF

Roger. Are the doors covered?

SURVEILLANCE MONITOR shows guards in tuxedos as they all nod yes like marionettes pulled by one string.

SECURITY CHIEF

What about the protesters?

EXT. AWARDS EVENT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Klieg lights shine into the sky. Limos drop off guests at a red-carpeted entrance area.

PROTESTER CHANT - BANNERS and SIGNS bob up and down. Some protesters circle orderly, others look ready for a face off with authorities. Car exhaust smokes up the damp night air. News cameras and reporters cover the gala.

STREET SECURITY

It's OK out here, a bit cold. Over

SECURITY CHIEF

Roger.

INT. EVENT SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

PROTEST CHANTS in background on monitors.

SANDY PALMER enters the control room. She's the event organizer and looks in charge. Her slick black hair is pulled back tight. Her gown is tastefully formal, but shows off her once athletic body.

SECURITY CHIEF

Good evening Ms Palmer.

MS PALMER

I suppose.

SECURITY CHIEF

Problems?

MS PALMER

Maybe. One of our presenters, Dr Seto, isn't here yet.

SECURITY CHIEF

That could be a problem. Do you need help locating him?

MS PALMER

That would be nice. Thanks. How is everything in here?

SECURITY CHIEF

All smooth as silk so far, a couple of complaints about the cold and stiff tuxedo shirts, but no security issues.

MS PALMER

That's good. OK well I was just checking in. I better go line up an alternate for Seto.

SECURITY CHIEF

We'll get on the hunt for Dr. Seto.

MS PALMER

Thanks.

Sandy Palmer glances at the monitors. A young lady is taking cell phone pictures. Ms Palmer glances at the Security Chief and back at the monitor. The Security Chief clicks the handset.

SECURITY CHIEF

Position 69 or 70 a young lady in your area is taking pictures. Find out who she is and have her stop. Over.

SANDY smiles at the SECURITY CHIEF and leaves.

SECURITY CHIEF paces as he watches monitors and listens to conversation snippets.

ON MONITOR - CINDY, a very professional and attractive escort talks to a large man with an unlit cigar. It's TEX, a wealthy, less than honorable guest, but important. She points over to Dr Elroy and Dr O. They're deep in debate. ZONE MICS picks up their conversation.

DR OSTERWALD

So if the solution ϕ and its time derivative are zero outside the interval $[-L, L]$ when $t = 0$, they will be zero outside the interval $[-L - |t|, L + |t|]$ at any time t .

DR ELROY

But localized disturbances do not spread faster than the speed of light. What about unit propagation velocity, it's a law!

DR OSTERWALD

Maybe not, in theory we think... Say let's pick this up away from here. In case we are being bugged.

DR ELROY

Who cares? We might get fired anyway if they privatize the research lab, but suit yourself let's mingle then.

Dr Elroy sees an attractive woman looking alone and in need of conversation and walks off.

INT. PENTAGON OFFICE - DAY

General Praferus pensively stares at his desk. The Marine walks in.

MARINE

Sir we have a new situation.

The General looks up.

GENERAL PRAFERUS

What?

MARINE

We are getting reports of a giant milky looking mass rising up out of a tropical Pacific island. It appears to be on the opposite side of the globe from the sinkhole in the Middle East. The speculation is that the funnel is boring through the earth and emerging.

GENERAL PRAFERUS

What?

MARINE

Yes sir the location is between Pitcain Island and French Polynesia. Our ships in the region all reported seeing it. The report said it looked like a white gelatinous mushroom cloud rising up perhaps 4 or 5 miles and rising but, now there is no communication with any of our ships in the area.

GENERAL PRAFERUS

What? You can't contact them.

MARINE

No sir!

The General shakes his head.

INT. LAB CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Seto shakes out of the trance. He's excited and sweaty.

DR SETO (CONT'D)

So let's assume the density of matter becomes infinite then... HMMM incredible!

He sees a news headline "EINSTEINIAN ERA ENDS SETONIAN BEGINS"

Seto turns his head like a gyro to loosen up his neck.

DR SETO (CONT'D)

I better take notes. I've got to tell Margaret.

VO

NARRATOR

Humans are not good at keeping revelations secrets. They even wrote a bible book about it. It's been a problem. Now a big problem.

Seto walks to his laptop and types a note. He hits send.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

GUESTS MINGLE and CONVERSATIONS BLEND as Sandy Palmer walks through the crowd. She stops next to COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM, the distinguished host of the awards affair. He's dressed in his Royal uniform. Across his chest is a red sash with a large gold medallion.

COUNT

Have you seen Dr. Seto?

SANDY PALMER

No one has seen him.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM

OH? Have you tried to contact him?

SANDY PALMER

Yes, no word. Security will help us look.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM

Good. What about his speech?

SANDY PALMER

Don't know.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM

We should find someone to accept his award just in case.

SANDY PALMER

Yes. I will.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM

Shall we wait or keep to the schedule?

SANDY PALMER

Let's wait. I'll have the caterers serve more hors devours.

Sandy walks away. The Count calls out.

COUNT

Ms Palmer, why did you turn up the lights?

SANDY

I didn't!

COUNT

HMMM they seem brighter now.

SANDY

Yes they do. Well maybe it's all the brilliant minds.

INT. PENTAGON OFFICES - DAY

The Marine is standing at attention. GENERAL P is on the phone.

GENERAL P

Locust? What do you mean locusts! It's in the middle of a frickin desert.(pause)
I know they can migrate but a thousand miles in a few seconds? They're locusts not meteors!(pause)Well all right, just get confirmation. I know the satellites are out. I don't care how you get info. Use pigeons or doves for all I care just get me data!

He hangs up angry and shakes his head. The Marine fidgets. The General looks worried.

GENERAL P

Get me someone that can explain what's happening here and why.

MARINE

Yes Sir!

GENERAL P

Locusts!!! Milky cones.
Is this Armageddon?

EXT. DESERT BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

The desert disaster scene slowly changes and fills with violent waters. A small Ark craft bobs and sways in the punishing seas. Lightning and thunder light up the screen and rumble.

SUPER "AN EPOCH AGO"

NARRATOR

The SPCA, like most super powers, had a difficult time deciding how to judiciously use its might. Unlike the so-called brightest species, who often got drunk with power, the SPCA's mission was to simply show humans the futility of their arrogant misperceptions and delusion about their superiority and keep them busy in their fittingly subordinate place. The mission for the SPCA is to deter them, not destroy them.

EXT. DESERT MOUNTAIN TOP - DAWN

The sky clears and NOAHs Ark is grounded on the high peak. Noah opens the Ark hatch, looks out and sets a dove with an olive branch free. The dove flies up circles, looks down and poops on the Ark. All the other animals, unbeknownst to Noah, acknowledge the meaning of the gesture. The olive branch drops an olive into the poop. It looks like a green fried egg.

NARRATOR

This is not the first time the SPCA needed to intercede. Noah and his descendants should remember, but sadly they did not.

INT. AWARDS BANQUET RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

GUESTS MINGLE and CONVERSATIONS mix nicely.

SANDY walks by the serving area and overhears Dr Elroy in a conversation with a professionally attractive working woman, TRUDY MOORE, a petite woman with a gymnastic build and a smooth chestnut complexion. She's wearing a risqué outfit not appropriate for the affair. She knows.

DR ELROY

Why yes my dear there could be time travel,
well time dilation. Here's a poem about
relativity.
"There was a young lady named Bright
Who could travel far faster than light;
She set off one day, In a relative way,
And returned on the previous night."
You see?

TRUDY smiles a professionally honed look of interest and cluelessly nods.

DR ELROY

Here's another.
"To her friends, said the Bright one, in
chatter;
I have learned something new about matter.
My speed was so great
Much increased was my weight,
Yet, I failed to become any fatter!"
So you see the matter would be incredibly
heavy and dense.

TRUDY nods pretending to be interested.

DR ELROY

But there is a big problem, the speed of
light. Here's another poem.

"There was a young man name of Sneed
 Who once reached an infinite speed.
 He went into a spin
 at committing the sin
 Of breaking Einsteinian creed."

And remember gamma rays can pierce through
 the earth too and if they might exceed the
 speed of light...

TRUDY

But what does that have to do with weapons?

DR ELROY

Well my dear, when we harness those fast
 Gamma rays...

He leans in to whisper and sneaks a peek at her cleavage.

DR ELROY

...the weapons potentials are enormous. By
 focusing them we...

TRUDY

Honey, look I wish I could stay but I gotta
 go. Here's my card in case you want to pay
 for another peak.

She walks away and brushes by SANDY PALMER and eyes back to Dr Elroy
 with a what-a-tool look.

SUDDENLY a serving area DOOR SLAMS open. A waiter carrying a full tray
 of champagne flutes comes out barely missing SANDY PALMER. She watches
 him nervously balance the tray and walk into the crowded affair. The
 waiter slows as he passes by a Security Guard questioning a young lady.
 The tuxedo-clad guard is deleting pictures on her cell phone. HALLY is
 a young lady and soon to be found out as a party crasher.

HALLY

But I'M A WRITER.

SECURITY GUARD

From where?

YOUNG LADY

Science High! It's a National High School
 Science journal. I'm the editor and I'm
 here on assignment. I was invited.

SECURITY GUARD

May I see your credentials?

Hally nervously reaches into her small pink satin purse and carefully slides an invitation out of an envelope addressed to MR. TONY HODGKINS. She hands it and her High School ID to the Guard. He looks them over. The Guard smiles and gives her a once over. She looks older in a formal dress and without her braces. He nods inappropriately at her dressed up transformation and hands her cell phone and ID back.

GUARD

Thank you Miss. I apologize, but we do have to be cautious. No pictures please.

The server walks away past CINDY CURTIS. Cindy gently lifts a glass of Champagne off the shaky silver tray. She looks confident, relaxed, and stunning. Cindy, a well-paid escort, turns to her client "TEX" Hunt, a husky working class looking man in his late 60's with distinctive jeweled rings on each pinkie. He's chomping on an unlit Cuban cigar.

CINDY CURTIS

(French accent)

Ohhh mon ami, Just talk to one of them. I know you r ear on business, but what about - fun. You like to have fun. Oui!

Cindy puts her hand under his chin, tickles it and makes a provocative kissing gesture. He smiles, and blushes.

INT. EVENT SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

Infrared camera monitors show Tex's face glowing bright. PATTERN RECOGNITION displays his photo and an impressive bio. He has TOP SECURITY CLEARANCE and VIP*** next to his name.

TECHNICIAN #1

Hey, do these monitors look brighter?

TECHNICIAN #2

They are. The colors got boosted

He points to a VECTORSCOPE. Colors are beyond normal limits.

TECHNICIAN #1

Why?

TECHNICIAN # 2

No idea. I didn't do a thing.

NT. NUCLEAR CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Seto paces. He glances at the whiteboard. His drawing looks like a child's squiggly lines. An electromagnetic wave chart is by it.

DR SETO

That means there could be sub-frequencies.
Colors, waves that we've never seen! The
spectrum not only expands out. It expands
in!!!

The electromagnetic spectrum wall chart fills the screen.
ANIMATION: Each end stretches out longer. Vertical lines cross like a
loom weaving. The crosshatching fills to a colorful piece of fabric.

DR SETO (CONT'D)

A fabric of time and space, everything,
everywhere - Hmmm
All the time Instant - infinite acceleration
and connection.

Dr Seto walks to his laptop. He ruminates.

DR SETO

Incredible! Everything is everywhere all at
once. That's instant communication,
incredible! But if it stopped!

Seto puts on a wireless mic ready to dictate his notes.

DR SETO

Could time and space wrap back on itself
like the end of time telling the beginning
of time what to do next?

He looks off into space.

DR SETO (CONT'D)

That would be like a bullet asking the gun
where it should go or like a jump rope
looking for something to hold the other end.
Oh my God. That is possible. That changes
everything!

ANIMATION of BIG BANGS EVERYWHERE, like negative fireworks.

DR SETO

The big bang was not a single event, it's an
ongoing event. There must be big guns
everywhere. I got to jot this down.

Dr Seto adjusts a mic, clears his throat and paces scholarly.

DR SETO

My recent findings show that energy transfer
potential and the speed at which matter can
traverse space appear to be infinite. Time
appears only arbitrarily synchronous and a

cessation of time appears possible. The spacetime continuum can be decoupled. It appears the universe is bipolar in nature.

He clicks pauses to think of his next sentence.

DR SETO

Time with no space, space no - Wow. So a single big bang would be logically impossible. If there was only one big bang what was there before it? Was there no time? Was there no space? But if...

ANIMATION - BIG BANG REVERSES to black screen

DR SETO (CONT'D)

If there was a single big bang event where did it start? Was there no space before it? How did we miss this? WOW. The one electron theory is...

VO

NARRATOR

There were some things that were top secret for a reason. If that one single electron that is everywhere were diverted, well it would be bad! The human experiment is getting out of control. Now to decide what to do.

EXT. BANQUET ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A VW bus with "ANTI-EVERYTHING!" bumper stickers all over it pull up next to the protestors. Three girls get out. Two are dressed like fashion models and look very aloof. The third girl, BETH, has on a very tight tee shirt with BAN CENSORSHIP on it. BETH is talking with BUCK, a tall athletic looking guy. He has on a Sherpa hat with earflaps, sunglasses, and a long lab coat.

BETH

So why do you think it will happen there?

BUCK

Well because that part of our densely religious world has more sorrow per grain of sand than any place on earth or anywhere else. I'm afraid babe it foretells what our future will be like. It's like a perfect place for disaster. Mark my words!

BETH

I guess. But, about the bible?

BUCK

Let's talk later.

BUCK gets out of the van. The protests see him and greet him like their leader. He calls out.

BUCK

ARE WE READY!

PROTESTORS

Hell YEAH!!!

EXT DESERT MOUNTAIN TOP DRYING - HIGH NOON

NOAH releases the biblical petting zoo and looks bewildered.

VO

NARRATOR

After Noah got the flock off the mountain things should have improved with humans and their behavior, but sadly they didn't. Even with the warning humans soon got out of hand again. The high water episode didn't drown their desire to misbehave. Once again they needed to be contained.

The scene changes to a parched desert mountaintop. MOSES climbs up a steep cliff and comes to a landing. He stands nobly on the jagged cliff. Noah's dilapidated ark can be seen marooned off on a nearby cliff.

SOUND of RAUCOUS PARTYING echoes up
Decadence and idolatry are whooping things up in the valley below.

A CANNABIS INDICA TUMBLEWEED rolls up to MOSES and lights up a conversation.

NARRATOR

(CONT'D)

This talking bush chat was also an herb induced euphoric conversation giving Moses visions of biblical grandeur.

Lightning strikes dramatically off in the distance.

NARRATOR

(CONT'D)

However, since the first bush spoke to Noah before the flood humans had managed to

perturb the SPCA enough for the second bush
to be burning mad.

Lightning bursts the bush into flames. MOSES jumps back.
BIBLE IMAGES show Moses listening religiously to burning bush.

(CONT'D)

This time the SPCA took no chances and
etched ten simple operating rules in stone.

LIGHTNING ETCHES the Ten Commandments into the cliff.
BIBLE IMAGES of MOSES descent from the cliff to mixed reviews of the
partiers below and scenes of divisive fighting.

(CONT'D)

Unfortunately Moses and his burning bush
fearing followers misunderstand the SPCA's
message. They disagreed and eventually
breached all of the rules. Unlike Noah,
Moses was not bewildered, just disgusted.

Noah raises the tables high up in anger. FREEZE-FRAME on MOSES with the
tablets over his head.

NARRATOR

(CONT'D)

Human righteousness and lack of control has
had moral, territorial and political
implications ever since. But that's another
bible story.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS and refined STRING MUSIC fill the air. Guests
mingle around shinny silver warming trays. As DR.O walks to the men's
room he looks back at Cindy and jiggles his pants pocket. He bumps into
TRUDY.

DR O

OH I am so sorry.

TRUDY looks at DR O with a pleasant surprised smile.

TRUDY

It's all right honey. I don't mind bumping into YOU! So what do you do?

DR O

Well I am a nuclear physicist studying Tachyons. Have you ever heard of them?

TRUDY

Why, no! Why don't you tell me all about them!

Dr Elroy with a fresh Dewar's on the rocks sees Dr Osterwald in conversation with Trudy. She looks fascinated. Elroy slurps his drink and shrugs. A shaft of brilliant colored light hits his glass. It seems to shoot off everywhere. He turns his head around quickly to take it in. Then he sways and tries to grab his balance.

Dr Elroy

Glad I took a town car.

Elroy sees the light source, it's Tex's sparkling diamond pinky rings. Tex looks over at Elroy then turns back to Cindy. Cindy sees Trudy waving her over as Dr O walks into the men's room.

CINDY

Tex. Look Trudy wants me.

TEX

OK, you two gals go get me some weapons secrets and VIPs for my boat launch. Ya hear.

CINDY

Yes. mon ami, I'll be back.

As she walks up to Trudy, eyes turn, conversations change, CINDY is stunning.

TRUDY

Honey - I'm havin a blast. You're right I'd much rather be getting these nerdy scientists aroused then hanging off that disgusting Politicians arm like some cheap costume jewelry. He's a pig. You know your Tex has some very dirty friends. Do you know what this guy wants me to do...

Cindy holds up her finger to silence Trudy.

CINDY

Let's go to the ladies room.

INT. LADIES POWDER ROOM - NIGHT

DR MARGARET MONROE sits in a toilet stall. She's a famous physicist and the self-proclaimed "tough bitch of science". She's Dr Seto's closest intellectual equal but his most aggressive funding competitor. Her cell phone vibrates. She read DR SETO's email.

DR MONROE
(under breath)

"Got new incredible data - your head will spin - but mine spun first!!! dseto"

Dr Monroe stares at the message.

DR MONROE
That pixie! - HMMM - How did I get a message here? I thought the cell service was blocked? And this is his lab email. Is he still there?

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

TEX WALKS OVER to the VODKA FOUNTAIN. It's set inside a carved ice sculpture of earth surrounded by RUSSIAN FLAGS. Vodka pours from spots around the globe. TEX looks over at Dr Elroy. Elroy is following the light beams from TEX's ring around the room like a playful cat. Elroy senses TEX's stare. He stops, sways a bit and smiles at Tex. Tex shoots down the vodka and walks over to him.

TEX
Hi, I'm Tex Hunt. I'm an oilman and I'm in cement, among other things. Who might you be?

Elroy sways and gives a wimpy handshake.

DR. ELROY
Charles Elroy the 3rd

Tex squeezes his limp hand. Elroy pulls it away and tucks it in his armpit.

TEX (CONT'D)
Like I said I'm in oil and cement. But I want to get into this new science stuff since the labs are going public. My instincts tell me there's new green money to be made there. So Charlie, what do ya think? Can these new privatized labs generate a positive cash flow so investing in em makes good business sense?

Dr Elroy takes his hand from under his arm and wiggles his fingers. He looks at Tex like he is a boorish bully.

DR ELROY

Well Sir, first, I think science is not for sale. Frankly, I believe a labs' principle purpose is pure research and those who work there and operate the facilities are far more interested in core knowledge then exploration for merely near term profits. Sir, knowledge, and discovery are for everyone's children. Money made of profit is only for heirs, mausoleums, or endowments. Heirs habitually flitter their good fortune away, mausoleums are vain and rarely visited, and endowments in turn provide for pure research and discovery. Have I made my point?

Tex's mouth opens. He twists his jaw side to side as he holds his cigar in place.

TEX

Say - CHARLES. What do you do?
Ahh - I mean what do you do for a living?
Where do you work?

DR ELROY

I am not at liberty to say specifically what I do, but I work as an Astrophysicist.

TEX

Figures

DR ELROY

What?

TEX

Oh no no Doc- I mean figures, you deal with figures and formulas, a big numbers guy.

DR ELROY

Yes, well actually I work in theoretical quantum mechanics.

TEX

Quantum Mechanic, huh - you must be one of them real brainiacs then - right?

Tex sticks his cigar in his mouth and chomps down.

DR ELROY

Well Sir, I do not know about a brainiac. However, I suppose I do explore the edges of

the known universe and its workings. Specifically, in an unclassified way, I am focused on gamma ray photons and their nuclear interactions and decay. I am fascinated with their dual nature.

TEX twirls cigars. He looks curious.

TEX

Dual nature - huh?

DR ELROY

Yes you do know that photons act like waves and particles. Right.

Tex shrugs

DR ELROY

Some highly unlikely theories say gamma rays more precisely tachyons may actually travel faster than light, which of course as you know is impossible. If it were, we could stop time. Some reason we could stop time. In fact one of my colleagues was just saying...

Tex takes his cigar from his mouth and interrupts.

TEX

Say Doc, look I don't mean to be rude but we ain't communicatin. My girlfriend told me to talk to some eggheads. Frankly Doc I'm a money man and I'm bored. No offense, but technically I am here on business.

Dr ELROY

Well sir, I take no offense. However, before you take your leave will you please tell me about that ring? Gems and refractive spectral analysis is my hobby.

TEX

It's a gift from a guy I did a few favors for. Hmmm it looks brighter than usual.

Tex looks up and gives a wink.

DR ELROY

They are extraordinary stones. Extraordinary.

Elroy looks up. He holds out his limp hand like it could be kissed or shook. Tex gives it a manly squeeze. Elroy winces but smiles. Tex sees his nemesis, JOSEPH ABRAHAM in the crowd.

TEX

Say Doc, look I got a little unsettled business with a guy. It's - been ahhh interesting meeting you. I'll send Cindy over. Don't touch her, she's mine.

TEX winks and walks off with score settling purpose.

Elroy watches the beams of colored light hit the crystal chandeliers. He looks around. The bedazzled women's precious stones glow deeper and richer.

DR ELROY

I've never seen colors like these.

Elroy sees his wife and grunts. Tex stops near her and looks around like he lost his friend. Mrs. Elroy sees her husband. Dr Elroy takes a long slow slurp and weaves his way over to her.

EXT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

The Protester scene is getting ugly. Security guards are forming tighter lines. There is tension in the air.

EXT. TV NEWS CONTROL AREA - NIGHT

NEWS PERSON

We are here live outside the annual GLOBAL RELATION ALLIANCE and BENEFIT conference. In attendance at GRAB are the research scientists and scholars that make new things happen, the politicians that pass the budgets to allow it to happen, the administrators and bureaucrats that keep it efficiently running, and the purse string holders business leaders that ultimately manipulate and benefit from all of it. We will be here live to cover the event and have interviews with some key players later in the broadcast. Back to you in the studio.

EXT. BANQUET HALL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

PROTEST CHANT in background, walkie-talkie chatter in foreground. lights crisscross into the sky. Entrance is lit for action. Protest signs bob up and down: Klieg
NO ANIMAL TESTING, BAN PESTICIDES, STOP GLOBAL WARMING, SAVE OUR FOSSIL FUEL, OUR HEALTH MATTERS - BAN CENSORSHIP..

BINOCULAR VIEW - Protesters march past. One sneezes and wipes his nose. Another coughs through a scarf.

BETH jumps up and down. Bouncing her well-formed and prominently displayed breasts. The cold air adds to the effect. She pulls off her T-shirt and swings it in the cold air!

INT. SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

PROTEST CHANTS get louder and the crowd goes wild.

SECURITY CHIEF

Are the protestors under control?

STREET SECURITY

Well Sir...

SURVEILLANCE MONITOR - street security and police are at barricades. Protestors jump up and down, laughing and clapping.

Beth's face-recognition profile shows she's a member of PETA and several other protest groups. She is on the "PERSON TO WATCH LIST".

SECURITY CHIEF

What's the commotion?

STREET SECURITY

One of the protesters took her top off and jumped the barricades. Sir

SECURITY CHIEF

Great! Is she on the news yet?

STREET SECURITY

No sir not yet.

SECURITY CHIEF

Ok. Cover her up. We don't need that press.

STREET SECURITY

Yes Sir

INT. EVENT SECURITY - NIGHT

TV BROADCAST MONITOR: - "LIVE" under scene. HANDHELD CAMERA of Protestors in scuffle with Police. BOOS and taunting chants in the background. Tensions rise. Police push protestors back.

REPORTER

Seems these protesters are protesting almost everything. Even Mom and apple pie, if Mom made it with canned apples and preservatives.

SUDDENLY - GLASS SHATTERS - the Security Patrol car window is kicked out.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Sandy walks up to the Count.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM
Any news on Dr. Seto?

SANDY PALMER
No Sir, Security's on it.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM
Good. Do we have someone to accept on his behalf?

SANDY PALMER
No no Sir, but I thought of Dr Osterwald, or Dr Monroe or perhaps Uriander Cherenkov.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM
Cherenkov? The Russian Poet

SANDY PALMER
Yes Sir. He's a close friend of the Seto's. I know him as well.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM
He's an excellent choice.

SANDY PALMER
Thank you. All right. I'll ask him. Unless you would like to meet him and ask him yourself?

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM
Yes. I would like to meet him. Excellent.

She peers out at the crowd.

SANDY PALMER
There he is over there.

COUNT SAKNUSSEUMM
Splendid.

They walk off.

INT. WOMEN'S POWDER ROOM - NIGHT

The ladies room is lavishly baroque. Paintings hang in gilded frames. Black marble counters have polished gold fixtures. The water has an unusually silky glow.

TRUDY and CINDY look into the mirror.

TRUDY

Cindy honey Mata Hare would have had a feast in this place. I got a couple of scientists to tell me some pretty deep secrets. I swear. One guy looked like he was going to drool in my cleavage. He asked me if they were real. I lied. He woulda given me the secret formula to an atomic bomb if I let him touch them.

Cindy uses a small brush to paint on lipstick.

TRUDY

But, one of them was so sooo cute. He actually fascinated me. You gotta meet him. He's very handsome.

CINDY

Oui, they are not all droolers.

TRUDY

Yeah well I'll bet that Tex and that nasty Politician I'm with really expects me to tell him what they said. I don't care if he gives me a Lamborghini. I...

TOILET FLUSHES and the stall door opens.

Trudy looks at Cindy and puts her hand to her mouth not knowing they had company. Around the corner comes a large person in a black double-breasted pinstripe suit with a tuxedo shirt and bow tie. DR MONROE looks like a big man. Trudy looks at Cindy. Her eyes open wide and angle toward the big women. They don't say a word. Dr Monroe washes her hands in a manly way. She mumbles under her breath.

DR MONROE

My head will spin...

Dr Monroe pays no attention to Cindy or Trudy.

TRUDY

We should go. Tex'll we wonderin after us.

They leave as DR MONROE stares into the mirror combing her crew cut hair. The butch wax front and sides look like a brunette tiara. She looks tough.

HALLY HODGKINS enters. She stops, surprised to see a burly man. Hally looks her over and cautiously walks up.

HALLY

May I help you?

MARGARET

What?

HALLY

May I help you?

Hally looks around the room gesturing to DR MONROE that she's out of place in a ladies room.

MARGARET

Oh no, No. Dear. Thank you. It's fine. I am gender appropriate.

Hally hears the deep but female voice. She looks closer and recognizes the "tough bitch of science." Hally smiles.

HALLY

Are you Dr Monroe?

Dr Monroe straightens her bow tie.

DR MONROE

Why yes, yes I am.

Dr Monroe smiles at the recognition. Hally looks nervous. Dr Monroe senses the celebrity effect and says in a disarming way.

DR MONROE

And you are?

HALLY

Oh, Me, I am just a journalist.

Dr Monroe looks Hally over. HALLY has a slim figure and a soft pinkish white complex. There is a hint of makeup covering up pimples and she's wearing what looks like a puffy pink prom dress.

DR MONROE

A journalist, wonderful. Are you here to report on the event?

HALLY

Yes. I'm very excited.

DR MONROE

What is your journal's name?

HALLY

Umm. Science High, I'm the editor.

DR MONROE

Why, my nephew reads it.

HALLY

Really! Great, does he like it?

DR MONROE

Well he reads it and we've talked about an article or two.

HALLY

Great.

Hally shuffles like an enthusiastic teen.

DR MONROE

What is your name?

HALLY

Oh yes - I'm, I'm Hally - Hally Hodgkins.

DR MONROE

Glad to meet you. Hmmm Hally Hodgkins. I've seen your name? You wrote an article on Quantum string theory?

HALLY

Yup! That was mine.

She rocks with a very cute innocent youthful pride.

DR MONROE

My nephew asked me about that one.

HALLY

That's probably because I quoted one of your lectures in that piece.

DR MONROE

Yes, yes. I thought it was a very nicely written article. You write well.

Hally blushes and smiles, she beams inside. It shows.

HALLY

Why - thank you so much, that is so nice coming for a great scientist like you.

There is another nervous silence. They sense a strong attraction.

DR MONROE

Well - it was very nice to meet you Ms Hally Hodgkins.

HALLY

Very nice to meet you too! It is an honor.

Hally curtsy's like she met science nobility. Hally holds her curtsy and looks up. Dr Monroe playing along.

DR MONROE

You may rise.

They both laugh and fall into an awkward moment.

Three elderly ladies enter and see the manly Dr Monroe with a dainty young lady. They walk past in a huff and one says.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I am calling for security.

Dr Monroe enjoys the shocked attention. Hally barely notices and doesn't care.

HALLY

Would you be willing to do an interview?

DR MONROE

You're a reporter at heart aren't you? Sure.
That would be fun.

Dr Monroe looks around the powder room.

DR MONROE

But not here! We should continue this
discussion outside.

The elderly woman marches a tuxedoed Security Guard back to the Powder room. He's the one that questioned Hally. Hally sees them approaching.

HALLY

Uh Oh.

Hally grabs Dr Monroe's hand.

HALLY

Let's go this way. QUICK.

Dr Monroe runs like a linebacker. Hally is like a ballerina. They stop by the serving area and catch their breath. Servers rush in and out.

DR MONROE

What was that about?

HALLY

Oh he caught me taking pictures. And, actually I used my Dads invitation to get in so I don't want to test my luck.

DR MONROE

OH yes this is a very hush hush no pictures event. Some of the people that meet here are not supposed to meet -- in public. This is a particularly incestuous and intimate affair. Ideas can slip into pockets of money here and it's all done under the table in a very discreet and very private way. I love it. It's like a funding orgy and love fest, with international incest. And you CANNOT quote me on that.

HALLY

OK. Dr Monroe you will be my deep throat, my secret science liaison.

DR MONROE

Well. I am not much for secret sharing but I suppose you should call me Margaret or maybe a code name like MAX if we're going to be going under the table.

Hally laughs playfully.

HALLY

OK Max it is! It will all be very discrete hush hush.

Dr Monroe pulls her business card out of her back pocket wallet and adds her cell # and personal email. Hally opens her satin purse, tears a page from her small notebook and writes her info.

DR MONROE

Well it was fun meeting you. I should get back to my colleagues. I am available any day after 3:00pm or you can come by the lab. I'll need a day's notice to get you a security pass.

HALLY

Oh I can get in, my Dad is Tony Hodgkins.

DR MONROE

The Public Relations Director! Well then we really do need to be discrete. An off-site might be best then.

HALLY

Is Tuesday at around 4:00PM OK?

DR MONROE

I'm sure I can make that work.

HALLY

Terrific! I'll call or text you Tuesday to confirm.

DR MONROE

Done.

Dr Monroe goes to shake Hally's hand as Hally opens her arms to give a hug. They laugh at the crossed signal. Dr Monroe smiles and gives Hally a strong hug. Hally burrows her head in Dr Monroe's deliberately flattened but large chest and smiles with teenage infatuation. They separate. Dr Monroe gives Hally a wink of fetching attraction. Hally winks back with a taboo-accepting smile. They both smile wider.

EXT. REMOTE TROPICAL ISLAND - DAWN

The milky mass is massive whirling with light spots flickering then glowing into an intense strobe. The flickering shows there's a form of communication happening.

NARRATOR

Planning what to do to curb humans prying into the basic workings of nature will be a challenge. Humans have gotten very sophisticated and are not easily led or deceived.

SCREEN IS BRIGHT WHITE

EXT. EXPANSIVE DESERT - DAY

Sun beats down on a caravan of nomads. It's MOSES and his followers. They're lost.

NARRATOR

The SPCA once entrusted Moses, a traveling bible salesman, with 10 simple rules that would keep humans in their subordinate place and playing nicely. Sadly, Moses could not handle the responsibility or the power.

Moses turns to his followers. He looks like a powerful leader with his staff up high.

MOSES

This way!

He looks forward. He is clueless. The TUMBLEWEED rolls along next to MOSES and has him veer right.

NARRATOR

To his credit, Moses did try to lead humans in the right direction. And the SPCA wanted to help him.

CAMELS are loaded down with things. They chew and look like they are humoring MOSES.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The SPCA secretly assigned Camelus dromedarius to chaperon Moses. The camels were well equipped to make the long desert journey. However the more they watched the more they knew MOSES was an ineffectual representative.

MOSES followers look tired and want to rest. MOSES slams his staff down and yells at them to MOVE IT. There is bickering dissention.

NARRATOR

NOAH had anger management problems.

EXT. SEASIDE - DAY

MOSES is at the edge of the sea. Pharos men are in pursuit. Tumbleweed bushes stop at the water's edge.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The final straw was NOAHs arrogant insistence on taking credit for the exodus of HIS people.

An outstretched finger parts the sea. Moses and his followers run through the valley of water and escape.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The SPCA and MOSES parted ways at the parting of the seas.

The waters crash down on the Soldiers. The sea is bobbing with bodies and the Tumbleweed rolls away.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

That was the last time a bush said anything sensible to humans. Humans divide and conquer and then divide again and destroy what they build and what the SPCA gave them. And have difficulty communicating, the Tower of Babel is proof!

Scenes of the Tower of Babel being built, with fighting and destruction.

Scenes of cell dividing, embryos forming and acorns sprouting

It is just the opposite of the mitosis and meiosis process to divide and flourish. Humans even fought over the gods and the rules the SPCA had given them. Unruliness is one thing but tampering with basic nature is another. The atomic bomb came close to ending it all. Humans are now closer.

EXT. DESERT BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

The giant destructive funnel is red hot and looks like an inverse volcano with a tiny bright spot in the center. It's the over side of the earth.

EXT. TROPICAL ISLAND DAY

The swirling mushroom mass is buzzing with lights and actions that show communications happening like big competing fireworks displays.

INT. EVENT RECEPTION - NIGHT

STRING MUSIC is in the background. GUESTS mingle around serving tables. Elite classes are evident. Tex stands by the Icy Globe fountain looking for Abramson.

TEX

Where is that little bastard?

The fountain glows. He gets a highball shot of Vodka. The glass sparkles and the Vodka has a blue glow like a black light is on. He notices.

TEX

Bet that Doc could explain this.

Tex shoots back the vodka and looks out.

Dr Elroy walks up to his wife like a prisoner in shackles. MRS CHARLES ELROY III is a heavily jeweled buxom woman, a throwback to a Victorian age. She converses with a less endowed, younger woman, an impeccably groomed man with light purple tinted sunglasses that don't look out of place on him.

Charles enters.

DR ELROY

Why hello dear. So glad you could make it.

MRS ELROY

Yes.

Dr Elroy ignores the others.

DR ELROY

Victoria, would you look at my neck? I think I am getting a rash?

MRS ELROY

Charles!

She smiles uncomfortably embarrassed by his impropriety. Dr Elroy looks at the others.

DR ELROY

Oh I'm sorry. I have a problem with starch.

Mrs. Elroy rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

MRS ELROY

Charles this is Mr. Hal Burton. He's a financier. This is Gordon Hunt, and this is Alice Curie. Sheeee's the great granddaughter of Madame Curie.

Charles is not impressed. He nods.

MRS. ELROY

Alice is a botanist and was just telling us about a new strain she discovered. Please go on dear.

ALICE

Well since it was a long and elusive search I thought I'd name it Curieus obscurest.

She gets polite smiles.

HAL BURTON

Why, I do a little green thumbing. Did you know that Thomas Jefferson was an amateur botanist? He studied rice!

Alice nods yes, the others no. An athletic looking man enters.

ALEK

Hello

ALICE

This is my companion Alek Cherenkov. Please continue Mr. Burton

HAL BURTON (CONT'D)

Well Thomas Jefferson once said, "The most useful service we can render a culture is to add a new plant to its agriculture"

They all nod cordially, but Dr Elroy.

DR ELROY

A nice thought from a man who kept slaves and slept with them.

MRS ELROY

Charles!

He shrugs and downs his Dewars.

INT. NUCLEAR LAB CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Seto is at the whiteboard. He changes a formula, steps back, stares and shakes his head.

NARRATOR

If humans accepted, as everything did, that all things are here and there and everywhere and have been and will be forever, it would be easy for them to accept a no big bang theory. The last one wasn't even that big!

TRAVEL INTO Dr Seto's eye to another ANIMATION of a 3D tetrahedron dot field. Bright bits of energy pass down an infinite chain in all directions. Energy radiates out.

(CONT'D)

In fact, everything everywhere knew the omniverse was so complex the only way it could be managed was to divvy up all the responsibility among all things everywhere and have clearly defined demarks and elegantly simple hand off points. Each electron knew where to be and what to do.

FRAME PULLS OUT into a single white ball over a black field. It explodes into negative star field (black dots over white)

(CONT'D)

However, the SUPREME PROTECTORS CREATION ALLIANCE (SPCA) had not yet established a hand off point for humans. Now they need to.

A black hole sucks a scene into a white screen. PULL OUT to a white dot on a green field. Dot rolls away and smashes a small triangle of balls like a pool break. Balls spin toward black hole pockets.

(CONT'D)

There was no beginning of time, just pockets of influence, but if Dr Setos science games were allowed to continue there could be a scratch in time and a tear in space. Dr Seto could influence dimensions that humans knew nothing about. There was never a reason to tell them, until now.

One ball entering a pocket turns into a barbed virus that races down a blood stream. It pushes into a milky mucus field and stops.

(CONT'D)

This next distraction needed to be a long lasting one.

The screen goes BLACK

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Trudy points discreetly to a tall businessman looking man.

TRUDY

Now he's the lab administrator. I can tell ya honey he has lots of secrets in his lab. But don't tell that Politician you got me fixed up with. He's a pig. How much are you charging him anyway?

TEX

Not enough. I saw him a minute ago but he disappeared. I've got a few words for him. None of them are pretty.

CINDY

Is that him?

TEX

Yup.

TEX walks away and turns back

TEX

I'll see you ladies later. Not too much later though. I need your honey to catch them bees.

Trudy watches Tex leave and turns to Cindy.

TRUDY

Cindy. There is that handsome Professor,
come on honey.

Dr Osterwald is alone by the appetizers, they walk up.

TRUDY

Say Doc, why don't you tell my friend Cindy
here what you told me about those tacky-on
things moving so fast they seem like they
get there before they started.

Cindy nudges Trudy with a "remember your manners" look.

TRUDY

Oh excuse me, I forgot my manners. Cindy,
this is Dr Osterwald, isn't he cute honey.
Dr Osterwald - This is my good friend Cindy.

He takes Cindy's hand and gently kisses it. He nods gentlemanly.

DR OSTERWALD

Cindy. It is my pleasure to meet you.

Cindy smiles. Cindy tilts her head with instant affection.

CINDY

Thank you

TRUDY

OK now Doc, explain that quantum leap thing
to Cindy. You gotta hear this girl.

Osterwald smiles.

DR OSTERWALD

My pleasure Trudy

Cindy interrupts

CINDY

Actually, Troodee I know a lit tel about dis
quantum states.

TRUDY

You do!

CINDY

Yes, I studied Mathmatiks at Unihervesity of
Bern and erved a P haych D in Electrical
Enginehearing from Pair-dew, I studied a
little Feesix there too.

TRUDY

You did?

DR OSTERWALD

You don't mean PURDUE in Indiana?

CINDY

Oui YES YES my P Haych D is from PURR-DEW in West Lafayette Indiana to be exact. I am an Electric Engineer and a Boilermaker.

Dr Osterwald scans her body in an uncontrollable primal reflex. Cindy smiles at his sincere exploring glance.

CINDY

You r surprised?

Dr. Osterwald smiles and nods as Trudy interrupts.

TRUDY

Girl - You got a PhD. Honey then why are you a call gir...

Cindy gives Trudy a stern look. Trudy eats the word. Cindy turns away from Trudy. She looks directly into Dr Os' eyes.

CINDY

I know a little about quantum leaps but I am sure you can teach me more. Yes. If you tell me about your specialty, I will tell you about mine - Yes

He swallows hard. Veins in his temple bulge.

INT. SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

MUFFLED CONVERSATIONS mix with Security instructions.

The INFRARED MONITOR image shows Dr Osterwald's bright face and heated crouch. He nods and says something to Cindy. She replies. He discreetly wiggles his pant legs.

FLASHING LIGHTS of a Police van enter outside of the event hall. Police reinforcements jump out. News cameras and reporters shoot through the SHATTERED WINDOW.

EXT. EVENT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

TV NEWS VIEW - PROTESTOR SCREAMS inside the squad car. An angry crowd yells at police with FISTS IN THE AIR.

Security Chief clicks in over LIVE NEWS

SECURITY CHIEF

Gentleman. If your engagement is not directly related to our client's protection let the Police handle it. I have given them the OK to use tear gas. So please be careful.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Cindy looks smitten. Trudy looks left out.

DR OSTERWALD (CONT'D)

Well my specialty is theoretical work on anti-matter and Tachyons. Are you familiar with them?

CINDY

A lit tel they r sub atomique particles - yes?

DR OSTERWALD

Yes. Yes they are.

Trudy looks at Cindy and shakes her head.

TRUDY

You got a PhD from Purdue, ya neva told me that Girl. What else don't I know about you?

Cindy ignores Trudy. She is fascinated with Dr Osterwald.

CINDY

What frequency are Tachyons?

DR OSTERWALD

Well that is a good question. First we don't know if they even exist. Only a few daring souls think they do. One of our speakers Dr Seto is the leading expert. He thinks they are everywhere.

CINDY

Dr Joe Seto. Yes I know him...

Cindy looks away catching herself.

CINDY (CONT'D)

but of course only from the newspapers and television.

DR OSTERWALD

If you'd like I can introduce you to him later after his speech.

CINDY

Tell me why Tachyons are special?

Trudy tilts her head. She notices that Cindy ignores the request.

DR O

Well in theory when Tachyons lose energy they actually gain speed. That means when tachyons gain energy, they slow down and at zero-energy a tachyon is transcendent, it is infinitely fast!

Cindy looks totally enthralled. Trudy looks out, she watches.

DR O (CONT'D)

If we successfully find tachyons some basic physics principles will need serious review.

CINDY

Like the speed of light or gravity's pull?
Or...

DR OSTERWALD

Yes. Maybe even the core notion of time and space. At a tachyon scale everything is different. But, we just don't know. Finding out is how I make my living!

Cindy smiles a goo-goo schoolgirl smile. Trudy looks jilted.

CINDY

How do you detect them? Are they only in space like gamma rays?

Dr Osterwald takes a step back and looks her over in a prominent display of primal attraction.

DR OSTERWALD

You ARE analytical and lovely.

Cindy smiles approvingly.

CINDY

Tell me more.

DR OSTERWALD

In theory we may be able to catch them on earth in aerogel. But even then we have a challenge.

CINDY

Why

DR O

Since they would move faster than the speed of light in the vacuum, they would produce Cherenkov radiation. Are you familiar with Cherenkov radiation?

CINDY

A lit tell, but go on.

DR O

Well this would lower their energy, causing them to accelerate more! That would probably lead to a runaway reaction releasing an arbitrarily large amount of energy.

CINDY

Arbitrary?

Trudy crosses her arms and huffs in a pouting way.

DR O

Yes. Here's the conundrum. If we spontaneously create tachyon-antitachyon pairs, would that create a runaway reaction, making the vacuum unstable.

CINDY

Explain unstable vacuum. You mean...

DR O

Well, to delve in deeper requires quantum field theory, which can get mind numbingly complicated and I would need a whiteboard.

Trudy holds her hand up like a student. Cindy and Osterwald turn.

TRUDY

This is all interesting but I think this is a one on one class now.

Dr Osterwald looks awkward.

Dr OSTERWALD

Oh Trudy I am sorry, how rude of me.

TRUDY (CONT'D)

No No It's OK I had fun.
Well it was nice meeting you Professor.
Thanks for the lesson.
No really. I enjoyed OUR talk.

She winks at Cindy and starts to walk away. She turns back.

TRUDY (CONT'D)

Cindy I will be at Mister Schulz's table
with Tex and that Politician pig.

Cindy and Dr Osterwald pay little attention.

TRUDY (CONT'D)

Honey Tex will be there too.

Trudy walks into the crowd to a mixture of longing glances and repugnant stares. Tex and her cash upfront client JACK ABRAHAM are in a conversation too heated to interrupt. She walks past.

JACK ABRAHAM is a smarmy smooth talking senior Senator with deep ties to the defense department. He's dressed to blend in.

JACK ABRAHAM

I understand Tex. It's not a problem. I'll make sure we get our share of the defense budget. I've got the votes, don't worry.

Tex chomps and listens. He takes his cigar and points it.

TEX

All right, Abraham I got a lot riding on you. And I don't like to lose - anything. You wouldn't wanna find yourself pumping oil or worse being the drill bit.

He smiles, shoves his cigar in his mouth and chops down. He SLAPS Jack Abraham back hard. Heads turn. Tex squeezes Jack's shoulder.

TEX

We are clear - right

JACK ABRAHAM

You've got my word on it.

TEX

Good

Tex lets go takes a step away and turns back

TEX

Oh by the way Trudy thinks you're a pig, But hey you're payin for her.

Jack straightens his tux with no reaction.

Tex sees General Preiferus. General P waves Tex over. He introduces GORDON LIVRY, the Atomic Lab Administrator.

EXT. BANQUET ENTRANCE - NIGHT

NEWS CAMERA VIEW - CAMERAS FLASHBULBS POP - Banners and protest signs wave and the crowd chants. Private Security looks tense. Police in riot gear are ready for action.

Voice over LIVE event

NEW ANCHOR

As you know our fair City is hosting a very prestigious awards Affair. Our own Khrystal Gale is there. Nice assignment Khrystal.

RED CARPET CAMERA VIEW - A stream of Town cars and Limos drive under a glittering overhang to a red-carpeted drop off zone. Flashes and spotlights pop and follow the new arrivals. KRYSTAL GALE is in elegant evening wear. She positioned in front of the red carpet area.

KHRYSTAL GALE

Thanks Stan. Yes. I'm very excited to be here. It is certainly a most prestigious and exclusive affair. All the guests here are VIP's. They're very important in power, in wealth, in knowledge.

POP - POP - POP Paparazzi fire flashes.

A group of dignitaries exits their long gray limo. One regal woman shows no expression as she walks down the red carpet, the others smiles and waves.

KRYSTAL GALE

This event is an international display of intellectual unity. Although as you might imagine there are undercurrents of national jealousy, it does offer a unique exposure for new ideas and talent.

Behind Khrystal the Regal woman looks shocked.

A naked BUCK jumps the barricades and streaks by. On his muscular chest are the words BAN THIS with an ARROW POINTING DOWN. He has a cap on with a BAN CENSORSHIP logo. Khrystal misses it.

KRYSTAL GALE (CONT'D)

It is an impressive yet covertly contentious affair. I have the honor of attending Back to you.

KHRYSTAL turns to see the tail end of the protest as News crews chase him and jostle for position. Police with blankets surround him; he breaks loose and screams to the crowd for support. CENSORSHIP. The crowd responds and yells NO CENSORSHIP! BAN CENSORSHIP! CENSORSHIP! BAN..

INT. PENTAGON WAR ROOM - DAY

GENERAL PREIFERUS is on the phone with his boss. Aids around are setting up charts and short-wave radios.

GENERAL P

Yes, a thousand points of light!

He waves silent placement instructions to his staff.

GENERAL P

Yes Ma'am we have checked with them and the CIA and all of our operatives. We just don't know.

The voice at the other end is muffled and indiscernible.

GENERAL P (CONT'D)

Yes, a cover up is my suggestion. We don't need a general panic.

Muffled question on phone

GENERAL P (CONT'D)

No, I think your office should do it. This shouldn't have an overt military tone. If we posture too well someone may just launch an attack. I suggest you have our allied leaders do the same.

LOUD VOICE at the other end

GOVERNMENT BOSS

OK GENERAL but you MUST find out how this happened QUICKLY.

GENERAL P (CONT'D)

Yes Ma'am we have everyone on it.

He hangs up the phone and rubs his temples.

NEWS REPORTS

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

The Count and Sandy walk toward ALEK CHERENKOV. They stay earshot away He's deep in conversation with ALICE CURIE.

ALEK CHERENKOV a handsome, middle-aged Russian with an athletic physique and a red square chin is an outspoken humanist and a distant relative of the physicist, Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov.

ALEK

Alice my dear I think it does mean terrorist equals hero and hero equals terrorist. It must.

ALICE CURIE

ALEK, no! Some things are just right and others wrong. An anthrax bomber is wrong. Period.

ALEK

Alice. Please. That is precisely my point. It's an unwavering stance like yours that causes the problem.

ALICE

So you don't believe there is wrong or right.

ALEK

Alice, it all depends on the human's view. The bomber is a hero to his side. The

soldiers that get killed are heroes too, to their side. This illogical tit for tat leaves ample room for destruction in the name of good on both sides. Add God in the mix my dear and well...

Sandy and the Count move closer. Alek immediately recognizes them and respectfully straightens up as if coming to attention.

ALEK

Sir.

He bows at the waist then stands respectfully.

COUNT

We apologize for interrupting your active conversation.

ALEK

No No think nothing of it. We may never finish our debate.

Alice looks at them with a strong willed smile. ALEK shakes the Count's hand. ALEK looks at Alice and the Count.

ALEK

My companion, Alice Curie

The Count holds Alice's hands gently with a touch of affection.

COUNT

We have met. In fact we are considering naming a prize after her great grandmother. She was such an inspirational woman.

ALICE

Yes. I wish I could have met her.

The Count smiles and turns to ALEK

COUNT

I understand you know Ms Palmer.

ALEK

Yes, yes we have had the pleasure of meeting before. It was long ago. We were children when our teams competed in Olympic gymnastics.

Ms Palmer blushes. The Count and Alice are impressed.

SANDY

ALEK, we were hardly children. I was 13 and you were 19.

ALEK

Perhaps but we were young and not mature
enough to know better than children.

He looks at Sandy. There is an awkward pause.

ALICE

Will you please excuse me?

The other say in near unison

Yes, of course

Alice gives Alek an undefined look.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Alek. We shall continue our debate at
dinner.

ALEK

(henpecked)

Yes, dear, of course we will. I'll see you
at the table.

Alice looks at Sandy, smiles and curtly walks away. The Count looks
over to ALEK. He's smiling at Sandy. Sandy looks away.

MS PALMER

Well Count, I believe my work is done. May I
leave you two to chat.

COUNT

That will be fine. I can continue from here.
Thank you.

MS PALMER

Well then. I should check on things. I
trust I'll see you both later. Enjoy your
conversation.

They nod yes. Sandy walks away.

COUNT

Alek I oh so enjoy your politico poems. But
I especially enjoy how you can blend love
and non-romance.

ALEK

Thank you so very much. They are...

Their conversation fades as Sandy walks into the crowd. She looks up.
The chandeliers sparkle brighter than usual.

SANDY

Hmm. They do look brighter.

SCREEN GO BLACK

The Black frame pulls out into a lighter frame, then another and another until it's a dot at the end of a white tunnel. FAST ZOOM through dot. Exit out of Dr Seto's eye to show Dr Seto's face with a look like he gets the picture and the implications. His mouth drops open.

INT. NUCLEAR LAB CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

DR SETO
(dictating)

It also appears disruption of this tight interconnection may cause a time - space alteration introducing a resulting new state that appears to have conflicting properties somewhere between fusion and fission. I will call it..."

Dr Seto mutes the mic.

DR SETO
Hello
(beat)
Hello

He shakes it off with a laugh.

DR SETO
(nervous laugh)
No one is here! This is a top-secret high security lab!

He un-mutes his mic

DR SETO
Ummm... This suspended state that I will call "FREZION" appears to be dependent upon both the ramping nature of the disruption introduced and the energy force field as well as Th...

Seto clicks mute looks around like something is wrong. He continues to speak but falters and stutters.

DR SETO

The - a energy force - and - a - a - a lower level particle umm ... appear to provide their own unique dual ... a... a force. I intend to a - a gather more ... con ...clusive ... data and illustrate ways this new force can be harnessed.

Seto takes a deep sigh. He gets a look of doubt and regret.

DR SETO

(apprehensive)

I'm not sure about how this turns out. It looks like time could...

HE STOPS.

EVERYTHING STOPS.

SUDDENLY we see a blazingly FAST REWIND through all Seto's lab scenes.

SUBTITLE "TACHYON TIME" appears lower third. FAST FORWARD to now minus some time - back and forth again and again to get a time warp effect. Some key moments freeze for effect then resume.

Voice over time warp

DR SETO

(nervous bewilderment)

I don't like where this is going

NARRATOR

Regret is omniversal. However The SPCA could not allow things to go back to the way they were. Since time and space could be decoupled, reversing time was easy. The problem was putting everything back where it once was. Since the omniverse is always expanding with more stuff all the time it finds it hard to move back into a smaller place. The omniverse has a space problem. So there was no time machine that could sync up time and space and rewind to before Dr Seto's unfortunate discovery. Time spent was gone

(beat)

forever.

Time warp STOPS.

Dr Seto's face has a look of resigned regret. He looks across at the whiteboard then the monitors. He sees a new equation unfolding in the air. It ends with and unanswered =

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

However time yet ticked and space yet traveled was wide open.

(beat)

Unless Dr Seto accidentally slammed it shut.

DR SETO

OH my God the answer is minus 1.

Instantly the formula answer fills with -1 and all monitors show -1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1- they repeat around in an endless recursion loop. It looks like a zipper circling the room.

DR SETO

(gasping)

That reaction would unzip space and time. It it, it, it, it would tear! OH MY GOD...

Seto starts to walk, he turns, turns again. He circles.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Dr Seto had discovered a dark secret. Disconnecting time and space was possible.

(beat)

But space without time is motionless and time without space is pointless.

Seto walks to the console and takes a deep breath.

DR SETO

(whispering awe)

MY GOD!

They do communicate.

They keep zipping up.

They just don't want us to know.

Oh my God. Frezion could end everything.

Gravity only gravity

What have I done! What have I...

He shudders with a tingling creepy feeling and looks around

DR SETO (CONT'D)

OH my God! They can hear me. Oh my God everything is everywhere. Oh my God!!!!

Dr Seto is so scared he wets his pants.

SUDDENLY WARNING ALERTS go off - RED Lights flash and sirens echo through the accelerator tube.

INT. LAB SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

SURVEILLANCE MONITORS show RED WARNING LIGHTS AND ALARM.

LAB GUARD

Holy crap

He whips his feet off the console, grabs the phone. He calls down to the lab.

INT. LAB CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

PHONE RINGS and rings

Seto's head snaps back. His pupils sparkle. He's rigidly motionless. The warning sirens drown the phone out.

There is a BLINDING FLASH.

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - DAY

The land and sky look like 3D jigsaw pieces. Force field lines separate things into small areas all revolving around a center core. It looks like a complex organism in a high-powered microscope.

NARRATOR

To humans the thought they were inferior was preposterous. The SPCAs' had ample evidence to support their claim that humans were inferior. It was all around.

SPLIT SCREEN COMPARISONS:

Panama Canal vs Grand Canyon

Cornfield vs Plankton patch

Nano motor technology vs E coli flagella motors

Satellite Radar domes vs Insects complex eyes

More...

A check box marks nature as the winner in each match up.

NARRATOR

Yet when the curious humans delve deeper they find there is no beginning and as they explore out farther they realize there is no end. From nano to micro to macro all in nature dwarfs humans ability to understand.

STOCK NATURE FOOTAGE of MONARCH BUTTERFLIES MIGRATION with map overlay of journey from Canada to Mexico.

NARRATOR

Caterpillars' can blossom into monarch butterflies, fly 3,000-mile and arrive at the same place on time year after year. No GPS needed.

BUTTERFLIES land on BAMBOO GROVE.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Bamboo flowers simultaneously everywhere with no alarm clock or wake up call requested.

Butterflies fly over a BURNT OUT FOREST hillside

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Pinecones pop into action only after blazing hot forest fire opens up new beginnings.

TIME-LAPSE - Burnt hillside coming back to full life

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

How is it that some many things of such beautiful intricacy and awesome simplicity could be anything less than superior?

FAST MONTAGE of BEAUTIFUL NATURE scenes

What can humans point to to substantiate their claim of superiority?

Historical footage: military parades with lines of missiles and high stepping soldiers, prison yards and torture scenes, Slaves and harems, business people on bustling streets, packing subways and sitting in traffic.

The scene is sucked into what looks like a giant black hole.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Humans learn from nature not the other way around! Every galaxy, star, and black hole know that. The curious humans may be curious but they are not superior.

INT. EVENT RECEPTION - NIGHT

Dr Monroe crosses the room to one of her colleagues. GORDON LIVRY is chatting with Tex and a formally dressed military leader.

TEX

Well. That's what Dr. Elroy told me anyway.

GORDON

(laughing dismissively)

Well Dr Elroy doesn't know how we use his research. It's better that way. So in fact we cannot stop time. Well not yet. Of course with enough funds we may be...

As Dr Monroe approaches General P leaves without saying a word. Gordon stops abruptly.

GORDON LIVRY is a nervous looking, finger-biting man in his late fifties. He's a seasoned bureaucrat.

GORDON

(nervously)

Dr Monroe. Great, you're here. Have you been here long?

DR MONROE

(direct)

No.

Dr Monroe stands next to Tex. She looks him over wondering if she could beat him if they arm-wrestle. She says nothing. Tex senses the close match up.

GORDON

Good Good.

(beat)

Do you know Tex Hunt? He's a
(nervous beat)
well interested in science.

DR MONROE

(deep affected masculine tone)

No but I've seen his picture in the news with Senator Abraham and that NY Governor.

TEX

(chuckling)

Yeah. Well the media loves scandals and ya know not all of them press folks get the story accurate.

Dr Monroe shrugs whatever.

GORDON

Tex this is Dr. Margaret Monroe one of our brightest star researchers. She is a colleague of Dr Setos.

Tex looks at Dr Monroe surprised the big person is a woman.

TEX

Oh Dr. Seto. Hey, I hear he's doing some exciting work.

DR MONROE
(confident)

Indeed. We compete and he is a strong competitor.

TEX

So what do you do at the lab?

Dr Monroe looks at Gordon. Gordon clears his throat.

GORDON

Well Dr Monroe is working on some things that we don't like to talk about here.

Gordon looks around the crowded room.

TEX

Oh right, right. I understand.

GORDON (CONT'D)

At the lab we'll tell you more.

Tex looks at Dr Monroe.

TEX

Well Gordon here was telling me about gamma rays and ripe fruit.

Dr Monroe gives an un-approving smile. Gordon gulps Champagne.

DR MONROE

OH? Yes, gamma rays have many fruitful uses so to speak.

There is a dead end moment.

DR MONROE

OH! Gordon. Is Joe at the lab?

GORDON
(surprised)

I don't know. I hope not he's got a speech to give tonight.

DR MONROE

Well I got an email from him a few minutes ago with his lab address.

GORDON

(surprised)

You got it here? But, there's no cell service here!

DR MONROE

Yes. I found that odd too!

STUNNED SILENCE.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

Dr Monroe, Gordon and Tex are on the monitor. A zone microphone picks up their conversation.

GORDON

(on monitor)

I'll go check.

Gordon walks out of frame.

The Security Guard pushes a computer control key and rewinds their conversation and calls out to the Security Chief.

SURVEILLANCE GUARD

Sir. I think I have some information about Dr Seto.

HONKING gets loud and angry

INT. MINIVAN - DAY

Hodgkins in Sunday suit looks perturbed. His wife is made up for church and she looks tired. Kids in the back slap each other around. Hally is in a Pink prom dress. She sits arms crossed staring out the window. Hodgkins slams on the horn.

HODGKINS

Goddammit will you move it!

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Yet some humans accept their subservient role and pledge their loyalty to a higher being. A God.

He honks again and looks at his wife.

HODGKINS

We're going to be late for church.
MOVE IT.

The car in front moves. He speeds up. Kids lunge back and bicker without missing a beat.

HODGKINS WIFE

(screaming impatiently)

Stop it Stop it back there.

LITTLE BROTHER

Well he started it

BIG BROTHER

I didn't. You did!

LITTLE BROTHER

Na ah you did

BIG BROTHER

NO

Minivan drives past ENTRANCE SIGN: ASCENSION CHURCH the parking lot is full.

HODGKINS

(exasperated)

God Dammit! We're late and there's no parking spot. This is great!

Kids swat each other

HODGKINS WIFE

(frazzled)

STOP IT NOW! We're at church.

HALLY

(teen like)

What MOM! Like God wasn't watching us the whole way here! What about that all knowing stuff?

She's ignored.

HALLY (CONT'D)

I'm going to become a Buddhist!

LITTLE BROTHER
(whining)

Stop it

NARRATOR

The SPCA meets all the requirements of a God with a few exceptions. The SPCA was rarely punitive.

Little brother slugs his bigger brother in the face. The big brother starts to cry. His nose is bleeding. Mother turns.

HODGKINS WIFE

For the love of God!

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

They saw no point for smiting or striking anything down when humans did such a good job in the name of God!

A lone parking place beckons

HODGKINS

There's one!

He steps on the gas. Another car swings in. He honks, slams the car into park and jumps out.

NARRATOR

And there was only one SPCA with no debating which one was right or wrong. The concept of right and wrong is foreign to the SPCA.

They argue and push. A fight starts. Cars honk. Women scream. Kids laugh.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The SPCA knew regardless of which God wins humans were not prepared to accept their inferior role. Proving it to them would be a challenge. The process to decide how to handle humans has begun. Ideas were popping.

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - DAWN

The island looks like a fireworks show in a light fog. Bright idea sparks are popping up everywhere. Each spark pops into an "IDEA BUBBLE". (Several Idea Bubbles pop up at once - implications appear inside each bubble.)

SPARK - IDEA BUBBLE pops up (DEplete the Ozone)

QUICK SCENES: Humans covered in gobs of sunscreen, with boils and skin cancer. Hoofed animals are sunburned too.

BAD IDEA - BUBBLE BURSTS

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It would be too easy to exterminate humans.
But the SPCA's act was not meant to be
punitive.

SPARK - IDEA BUBBLE pops up (TAINT THE RAIN WATER)

QUICK SCENES: Humans droop, plants droop

BAD IDEA - BUBBLE BURSTS

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Humans were not at fault; they did not
understand the implication of their acts.
They know not what they do.

SPARK - IDEA BUBBLE pops (INCREASE GRAVITY)

QUICK SHOTS: People have a hard time walking, Machines won't lift, balloons don't float, Planes don't fly, boats sail low.

Lowriders won't go up and down. Trees and plants look tired.

BUBBLE FLICKERS but fades

IDEA SPARK - BUBBLE pops (REVERSE MAGNETIC POLES)

QUICK SHOTS: Computer networks and lights go out. Kids pound on their dark iPhones in frustration.

GOOD IDEA - BUBBLE FLASHES Idea rolls to a finalist lineup rack

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Like a toddler breaking a priceless heirloom
there was no point in reprimanding humans.

IDEA SPARK - BUBBLE pops (PETS IGNORE HUMANS)

QUICK SHOTS: Humans are despondent - cats jump off lap, dogs don't retrieve, birds don't chirp. Cats are happy. Dogs are sad.

BUBBLE BURSTS

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The cosmic toddlers could not truly
understand their effect on everything, even
when they try.

IDEA SPARK - BUBBLE pops (START RELIGIOUS WAR)

QUICK SHOTS: Burning bushes talks to Militant Religious leaders.

Terrorists in several locations have suitcases. They open them. Small mushroom clouds appear on each continent.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Humans over their futile feuding history created more destructive power than they will ever need. Some predicted a time when a destruction machine would wipe out humans.

Mushrooms pop up all over the globe. Ends with one giant blast.
BUBBLE FLICKERS and rolls into cue.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Everything had contingency plans for after the inevitable BIG ONE. But humans could now unleash a power with infinite collateral damage.

More bubbles pop up. Some glimmer bright others go POP.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The SPCA delegates needed to prove to humans they were inferior and keep them busy maintaining their rightful place without killing them. It was a challenge.

The best suggestion came from, of all places, the protista's clan, a quiet unassuming cross over kingdom with tight ties to other neighboring kingdoms. They theorize a simple compound could be let out into the atmosphere which would begin a chemical reaction with all cement causing it to lose its adhesive property. This would mean all of those seemingly unnecessary structures that humans built of cement or other forms of mortar would begin to lose their structural integrity. The result being nearly all of the large structures humans built over their history as erect workers would begin to decompose and eventually fall apart. The implication would be so severe humans would be forced to immediately deal with the situation while they determined the cause and attempted to find a solution, certainly occupying their time for quite a while. Everyone thought the plan was brilliant and gave even more validity to the fact that humans were not the brightest species. It was clear this would satisfy the need to impress and occupy the humans. But, more importantly, nuclear scientists would be pulled off of their projects to grapple with and try to solve this problem. It would lock up the humans for years. The simple key to solve this complex problem would be kept secret and tightly held by a few unknown and

trusted members of a special species in the protista kingdom. Also, another plus, changing the molecular structure of cement was more a mineral exercise than an organic one and it would have the least impact on the living organisms. All of whom gladly sacrifice their make up for the common good but less is more and the plan called for less. A vote was taken and the idea was passed nearly unanimously. Nothing ever passed unanimously, deviation was a trade mark of this body and no one gave the dissenters much attention; they just did their standard deviation.

"You have done well" the chair-roach complementing the group. Now I would like us all to break into our sub groups and discuss the implementation of this excellent proposal. And, for those who were assigned to the swampland issue we will give your topic time for a report and a vote when we reconvene. Thank you."

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - EARLY MORNING

The island buzzes with sounds and movement. Things move in harmony.

SUDDENLY ALL GOES FLAT. Everything is in SUSPENDED ANIMATION. Something is about to happen.

EXT. MIDDLE EAST - NIGHT

The swirling funnel looks like a giant screw hole with a winding channel of comets flying in from all sides. Suddenly it STOPS.

EXT. SPACE ABOVE EARTH - DAWN

The earth looks like a PAINTED BALLOON with one side being PULLED OUT by the BEAM of LIGHT shooting out from the cone. The other side looks like it has a DARK DIMPLE.

The BEAM SNAPS in like a rubber band. The Mushroom cloud FLATTENS. Things fling onto the meadow, the arid plain, the air and the sea. A wave ripples out like a stone dropped in water. It travels deep into the earth.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DUSK

WAR REPORTER in FLAK JACKET stands on a mountain range talking into the camera. In the distance ooze rises.

WAR REPORTER

I'm in the embattled mountains of Afghanistan at an elevation of over 10,000 feet. The cataclysm in the Middle East has brought our skirmishes to a halt even though the disaster area is over 2000 kilometers to the southwest.

He points off in the distance

WAR REPORTER (CONT'D)

The non-stop blasts appear to have just stopped. But a plume of smoke that's at least 20 maybe 25 thousands feet high is reflecting a red glow. The inferno must be tremendous.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

MASS is underway.

ORGAN MUSIC and HYMNS RESOUND.

Shafts of crisp colored light stream through stained glass into pockets of colors that paint the solemn congregation.

Hodkins' family enters. HODGKINS has a black eye.

NARRATOR

The notion of a God was not a problem for the SPCA. It was fine to let the Priests, Ministers, Rabbis, Clerics and the Bushes do the talking.

They sit in a back pew. The kids fidget. Mom whispers STOP IT! Hally is totally embarrassed.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

In nature there are no mortal enemies, just dinner and playmates.

Each eats, each plays and accepts the other's way.

One-question God fearing humans never resolved was: in a religious war, which God wins?

(beat)

That debate is still underway.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

Grammy's asleep with the cat in her lap. Bobby is curled up next to her with the other cat. FLU EPIDEMIC NEWS is on.

DOOR BURSTS OPEN

Brothers enter bickering. Hally rushes upstairs. DAD and MOM go at it in the kitchen. Ants are picking up the pieces.

DAD

But, I was there first!

MOM

Yes Dear, can we please move on?

Dad fumes. He walks to the stairs and passes Hally coming down.

HALLY

BYE. I won't be home tonight!

FRONT DOOR SLAMS

Hodgkins calls out from upstairs.

HODGKINS

Honey. Have you seen my invitation to the awards? It was by my tux.

INT. SECURE TELECONFERENCING ROOM - NIGHT

TELEPRESENCE SCREEN has world leaders around the room. A Network news broadcast is low in the background

NEWS ANCHOR

Apparently oil and gas lines have been compromised and the supply of oil will be seriously affected.

Secretary of State

(over broadcast)

Our Intelligence says this is not a man made event. I don't need to tell you the implications if our people knew this was an attack of unknown origin.

Stone cold response

Secretary of State (CONT'D)

So it is my suggestion we all say the same thing until we can find out what happened.

In background

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

I've just been told the President's Press Secretary is about to speak. We're going to live.

Secretary of State (CONT'D)
Do we have agreement?

Nods come in from around the room.

Secretary of State (CONT'D)
OK. We'll prepare a speech for all to read

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

The Press Secretary stands at a podium. He looks solemn.

PRESS SECRETARY
We have the assurance from the highest levels of government that we'll find these cowardly devils no matter where they try to hide. We'll hunt them down to the ends of the earth. We will do unto them as they have done to us.

(beat)
I'll have a formal statement later.

Reporters' hands shoot up with questions.

PRESS SECRETARY (CONT'D)
I will be taking no questions.

He walks away from the podium.

INT. PENTAGON WAR ROOM - DAY

The general walks over to his military aids.

GENERAL P
Gentleman, can you please give me a moment?
I need to take this call in private.

The room clears out.

General Preiferus sits at the WAR ROOM table and takes Tex's call.

GENERAL
(impatient)
TEX, What is it now?

INT. CASINO PLEASURE BOAT - DUSK

Disco is in shambles. Monitors cracked broken liquor bottles and finger food is everywhere. Tex is drenched. He has a towel on his head and an open bathrobe. Dr Elroy's whip is broken. His top hat is crushed down. Gordon's boa looks like pink rope and his stockings are ripped. Trudy and Cindy's makeup is smeared. They're laughing at how Gordon and Elroy look. Hal Burton looks unscathed and serious.

TEX

What is it! We just got damn near killed by a tidal wave or somethin. That's what. General what the hell is happening here.

GENERAL

Tex this is a major disaster. There's a mushroom cloud over the Middle East and we can't make contact with anyone near there.

Tex has a cell phone to his ear. There's whipped cream on his fingers and the phone. He walks to a porthole and looks out.

MUSHROOM CLOUD TIP can be seen on the horizon.

TEX

Geezzzus. Look at that thing. Is this nuclear?

Dr Elroy Off camera

DR ELROY

(antsy)

Ask him about Seto - Seto

TEX

Oh yeah, are you sure Seto's info didn't slip out.

GENERAL

Tex I have no idea. This is a global catastrophe. It doesn't matter who did what. We have to deal with it.

TEX

Hey what about my pipelines?

GENERAL

Pipelines?

TEX

Yeah, the Afghan pipelines.

Silent pause

GENERAL

Are you watching the news?

TEX

Hell no. Cept for this Skylink phone nothin is workin. Why?

Silent pause

GENERAL

LOOK TEX this is a huge disaster. I'll let you know what I hear. OK

TEX

General, you better find out who or what did this before I do.

No reply

General? General?

(beat)

Did he hang up on me!

INT. ATOMIC RESEARCH LAB SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

PHONE in the lab RINGS and RINGS. The Guard picks up an RED PHONE it automatically dials. A cell phone rings.

Off camera voice

Hodgkins

Hello

ANTHONY Hodgkins as the Lab's Communications Director receives emergency calls and spins it where it goes from there.

LAB GUARD

Sir this is Lab Security we have a Red Alert here.

Hodgkins

What!

LAB GUARD

Sir we have a red alert. It looks like Dr Seto is in trouble.

Hodgkins

Trouble! SETO is there!

LAB GUARD

Yes Sir. I cannot make contact with the control room and it looks like a live test is counting down.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

The hotel suite has a CONGRATULATIONS banner across the room. ANTHONY Hodgkins jumps up from the couch.

Hodgkins

Live test, No, that can't be.

GUARD

I know Sir

Hodgkins

All right. All right. Do you know the procedures? I'll get some engineers over there right away.

GUARD

Yes Sir. I'll have the other guards secure the facility and alert the rest of the onsite staff.

Hodgkins

OK Perfect. Do not and I repeat do not let anyone leave.

GUARD

Yes Sir

HODGKINS

I'll call Mr. Hunt.

(to self)

His cell won't work and the service is jammed.

GUARD

Sir?

HODGKINS

Nothing, nothing. Call me if anything changes

GUARD

Certainly, Sir

Hodgkin's hangs up. He looks at a contact sheet and dials.

Off camera voice

SECURITY OFFICER

Security.

HODGKINS

(anxious)

I need to speak to Gordon Hunt.

SECURITY OFFICER

Sir who is this?

HODGKINS

Oh. I am Tony Hodgkins, the Communication Director at the Linear Accelerator lab.

SECURITY OFFICER

Sir we cannot disturb the guests.

HODGKINS

This is an emergency

SECURITY OFFICER

Sir, I can let you speak with our Security Chief. He can help.

HODGKINS

All right all right

INT. BANQUET SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

Monitors show protests and police confrontations. Sandy Palmer walks in and looks at the scene. She shows no concern.

MS PALMER

Any word on Dr Seto

SECURITY CHIEF

We are fairly sure he's at the lab.

MS PALMER

How do you know?

SECURITY CHIEF

We overheard a guest say they got an email from him. Odd since we've jammed cell frequencies. Well it looks like he'll be a no show.

MS PALMER

We'll need ALEK to accept it for him.

SECURITY CHIEF

Alek who

MS PALMER

Alek Cherenkov

SECURITY CHIEF

The Russian Poet! He's an NSA security risk you know. He's got quite a checkered past.

MS PALMER

That has no bearing here.

SECURITY CHIEF

True

(beat)

OK. He'll need credentials for the press area.

MS PALMER

Yes. I suppose he will.

SECURITY CHIEF

OK we'll get them ready for him.

MS PALMER

Thanks, I'll let him know.

(beat)

How is everything on your end?

SECURITY CHIEF

Well, we had a bare-breasted protester. That aroused some attention. We handled it but lost the squad car window in the process. Now there's a naked guy running around.

MS PALMER

A naked GUY?

SECURITY CHIEF

Well almost he's wearing a hat.

MS PALMER

Is he well built?

SECURITY CHIEF

(with a chuckle)

Yes - quite well built!

MS PALMER

Does he look anything like me?

She holds her face still then turns to a profile.

SECURITY CHIEF

Actually he does.

MS PALMER

He's my brother, black RAM of the family.

Security Chief smiles

MS PALMER (CONT'D)

Actually he's my half brother. We're agnates
- same ram, different ewes. He's a true
rebel, loves to protest. If he hears a
bullhorn or sees a march he's there. Doesn't
matter what it's for.

MONITORS - INFRARED IMAGES show angry militant protesters with clenched
fists, nervous police faces and the naked protestor. Warmer parts show
even through the fleece blankets. FACE RECOGNITION monitor reads NO
MATCH.

SECURITY CHIEF

Hmmm - He's not in the database.

MS PALMER

No surprise to me. He's a pretty cunning
hacker.

SECURITY CHIEF

He'll be arrested and fingerprinted for this
one. That'll get him in there.

MS PALMER

Don't be so sure. Hey - Can you cull him out
of the flock?

Sandy smiles like he'd have a favor chit. He nods and chuckles.

SECURITY CHIEF

We've got to arrest him but it can be in a
less festive precinct.

Security Officer rushes into the control rooms and interrupts

SECURITY OFFICER

Sir there is a gentleman on the line. He
needs to speak with you.

Security Chief looks at Sandy and shrugs

MS PALMER

I've got to get back to my boss anyway.
Good luck.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

ALEK is dramatically acting out a poetic reading for the Count.

ALEK
(overly dramatic)

Oh, what a catastrophe, what a maiming of love when it was made personal, merely personal feeling. This is what is the matter with us: we are bleeding at the roots because we are cut off from the earth and sun and stars. Love has become a grinning mockery because, poor blossom, we plucked it from its stem on the Tree of Life and expected it to keep on blooming in our civilized vase on the table.

COUNT
Lady Chatterley's lover?

ALEK
Yes, very good. Now DH Lawrence, was a true romantic. My work suits the fancy of schoolgirls fluttering hearts, I am but cupid's pimp. But, his words are Cupid's arrows. They pierce the very bosom of Mother Nature.

The Count smiles half heartedly at the odd imagery.

COUNT
Well Alek. I'd like to talk more, but first let me be direct. I have a favor to request of you.

ALEK
Certainly Sir, tell me please how I can be of assistance.

COUNT
Dr Seto, one of our honorees, has not arrived yet.

ALEK
Joe is not here?

COUNT
No and we are not sure of his whereabouts. Ms Palmer and I are concerned he will arrive too late to accept his award.

ALEK
(smiling)
That often happens.

COUNT

Yes we know. So if he does not make it here in time would be willing to accept the Feyman on his behalf?

ALEK

But of course, it would be an honor to accept for him the Feyman award.

COUNT (CONT'D)

So we have a proxy for Dr. Seto?

ALEK

Indeed. Yes. It would be an honor.

ALEK clicks his heels together in a firm snap and bowed his head. Sandy Palmer walks over.

COUNT

Excellent, Sandy can tell you more.

MS PALMER

So do we have a Seto proxy?

COUNT

Yes, Alek has graciously accepted.

MS PALMER

Excellent thank you so much ALEK.

He smiles.

LOUD CRASH - Broken glass and wine is all over. The waiter holds an empty tray in his hand and apologizes profusely to the Security Guard and others in a foreign tongue. Hally looks back at the mess and quickly scurries away.

MS PALMER

Please excuse me

Sandy rushes over. Others look on.

DR ELROY

(slurring)

Shall we clap?

MRS. ELROY

Charles!

FRENCH GENERAL Bonnet and Alice Curie step further away and pick up their conversation IN FRENCH. We hear a poorly dubbed voiceover. SOUND OF GLASS clean up is under their conversation.

GENERAL

(in French)

You were saying.

ALICE

(In French)

Generally, my concern is the sanctity of human life and this escalation of what seem like disposable lives. Terrorists are blowing themselves up and for what. Your wars!

GENERAL BONNET

Alice, my dear I am only a General I merely enforce the will of our Government and the People.

In the background out of hearing range the Guard talks to Sandy. He points toward Hally M. Sandy shakes her head NO.

ALICE

Well there must be some way to show this senseless violence is futile.

GENERAL BONNET

One would hope. But, I have studied the unfortunate history of war and we've been fighting since we could pick up sticks. However on a promising note Thomas Edison did say "There will one day spring from the brain of Science a machine or force so fearful in its potentialities, so absolutely terrifying, that even man, the fighter who will dare torture and death in order to inflict torture and death, will be appalled, and so will abandon war forever.

The guard gets a message and relays it to Sandy. She's concerned and asks a question. He asks and shakes his head NO.

ALICE

Why - Alek just quoted that! He said he hopes for the day. But my reply was "When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love"

GENERAL BONNET

Who said that?

ALICE

Martin Luther King

GENERAL BONNET

Well that is hopeful thought but that day has yet to come and until it does Ms Curie I am afraid our status quo will be bloody, revengeful and hateful.

ALICE

Sad

GENERAL BONNET

Yes, Sad.

He sips his champagne. Ms Palmer rejoins Alek and the Count.

MS PALMER

No casualties, just a few laundry bills. By the way, Security verified Joe is still at the lab. There may be trouble.

ALEK

Trouble? I hope he's OK.

COUNT

Well he won't make it here in time. Well ALEK it looks like you should prepare a speech then.

ALEK thinks for a second. He takes a fold sheet from his pocket.

ALEK

Alice just gave this to me.

He hands it to the Count. Sandy turns to ALEK. He smiles fondly.

COUNT

Well it is timely, given the current state of our world affairs.

ALEK

Would it be OK to read it here?

COUNT

What do you mean?

ALEK

Use it as Joe's acceptance speech. It's short.

ALEK gives the Count and Sandy a look

COUNT

I suppose?

ALEK

Well my speech is done then. Now I just
have to act!

Sandy smiles.

SANDY PALMER

So, then shall we let the awards ceremonies
begin?

COUNT

Yes, YES.

SANDY PALMER

I'll give the word.

She nods to the Security guard he relays it to the Control room

SANDY PALMER (CONT'D)

ALEK, come with me. We need to get you
credentials for the press area.

INT. BANQUET SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

MONITOR - Sandy Palmer and Alek walk out of frame. Gordon Hunt and Tex
are on another screen.

SECURITY CHIEF

(into phone)

Yes. I see him. I'll have someone meet you
at the rear entrance. Just identify
yourself and ask me Mr. Benedict.

Off camera phone voice

Hodgkins

Thanks I'll be over soon the Hotel is only a
few blocks away.

SECURITY CHIEF

Yes well be careful there is a lot of
commotion outside.

Hodgkins

I will. Thanks again

INT. LAB SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

SURVEILLANCE MONITOR

Dr Seto walks into the tunnel dazed. Warning lights are going off. The
security guard sees Dr Seto waving his hands around mumbling like he's
lost it.

INT. LINEAR ACCELERATOR TUNNEL - NIGHT

A whirring hum gets deeper and deeper and whips around faster and faster as it mixes with the warning sounds.

Seto eyes dart around the room. He looks at everything and can hear his thoughts on some universal party line.

DR SETO

(rapid fire word)

Subjectivity does not remove objectivity.
There is no uncertainty theory. Everything
knows where it is. We're the ones that are
lost. We're not the brightest. OH MY GOD
We're...

ROOM SPINS like a carousel

Seto twirls around looking everywhere. Staggered.

Seto finally knew he was part of an
omniversal chat room. But that chat room
was closed to humans. Humans were not meant
to tweet or have a face in that space. This
was the moment for the SPCA to act.

SETO STOP SPINNING

The SPCA needed to lull him into a
cognitively numb state. Dr Seto was given
Finnegan's wake.

TEXT passage from JAMES JOYCE'S FINEGAN WAKE appears on the lower third
of the screen. A bouncing ball hits each word. Seto follows the
bounding ball and recites like a school boy

DR SETO

The abnihilization of the etym by . . . the
first lord of Hurtreford expolodotonates
through Parsuralia with an
ivanmorinthorrorumble fragoromboassity
amidwhiches general uttermost confussion are
perceivable moletons scaping with mulicules
. . . Similar scenatas are projectilised
from Hullulullu, Bawlawayo, empyreal Raum
and mordern Atems.

Seto's look of uncertain panic turns to a peak moment of ecstasy.

(CONT'D)

Like many humans Dr Seto was now
intellectually deadened. He felt nothing.
It was pleasant.

Dr Seto scans the room like a dumb animal ready for slaughter.

(CONT'D)

Unlike humans the SPCA always has a just purpose for taking a life.

A brilliant glint of light whips around the tunnel into Dr Seto's eyes. Seto is instantly imploded. The light zips down the tunnel and disappears into the accelerator wall.

Dr Seto was now peacefully part of everything everywhere, able to understand it all, all at once. As it should be.

Next to the giant Muon collector is Dr Seto's lab coat, his pee stained pants, wet shoes and his cell phone. It's vibrating.

INT. LAB SECURITY - NIGHT

MONITORS - Flash of light clears. Seto is gone.

SECURITY GUARD

He's gone!

The Guard GRABS the RED PHONE.

EXT. STREET NEAR BANQUET ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Hodgkin's rushes down the cold damp street to the Event Center. Militant Protectors block the Entrance. News crews cover the action. He runs to the other side of the street where the passive protestors march orderly.

An EARTH FIRST protester lobs a bottle with a rag in it at the Police. Cops rush him. He yells EARTH FIRST! Militant crowd chants follow EARTH FIRST - NO CENSORSHIP - EARTH FIRST - NO CENSORSHIP

POLICE in RIOT gear with batons push the crowd back. A tear gas canister flies into the rowdy crowd. EARTH FIRST protesters toss it away. The canister lands near Hodgkins. Innocent passive protestors scream and scramble. In the commotion Hodgkin's gets elbowed and knocked to the ground. His other eye swells. The gas gets to him and he tears up and coughs. He scrambles down an alley to the back of the Banquet hall coughing.

His cell phone rings.

Hodgkins

(coughs)

Hello

LAB GUARD

Sir it's Security. Dr Seto is gone.

Hodgkins

(coughs)

Gone!

LAB GUARD

Yes Sir there was a flash in the tunnel and he disappeared.

Hodgkins

Disappeared! Where did he go?

INT. LAB SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

The guard plays back the implosion sequence. On another monitor two engineers in Hazmat suits rush into the implosion scene.

LAB GUARD

Sir I don't know. All I can see is a pile of clothes. The engineers are there now.

Hodgkins

Put them on?

ENGINEER

Sir.

Hodgkins

What can you guys tell me?

INT. LINEAR ACCELERATOR TUNNEL - NIGHT

LAB ENGINEERS

Nothing much sir, there is no sign of Dr Seto's body, just his clothes. His shoes are wet. It appears he wet his pants.

Dr Seto's cell phone vibrates on the catwalk.

EXT. EVENT CENTERS SERVICE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Hodgkin's is at the rear entrance. An armed guard is by the door.

Hodgkins

(to lab staff)

I have to go. Look, check for radioactivity and photograph everything before you touch anything. NO ONE leaves OK.

Hodgkins hangs up. The guard looks at him. He readies his gun. Hodgkins has two black eyes. His pants and jacket are dirty.

Hodgkins

I'm Anthony Hodgkin's. I was told to ask for Mr. Benedict.

GUARD

Oh - Yes Sir. Do you have an ID?

Hodgkin shows his Lab ID. Guard radios in and opens the door. A Tuxedo dressed guard is waiting. He leads him away.

INT. BACKSTAGE PASSAGEWAY

They walk down a dimly lit and dank passageway. Cockroaches and rats scurry to hide. The sound of a gay crowd can be heard faintly.

Sandy Palmer and Alek walk along the passageway toward security.

ALEK

Sandy, I am so glad to see you.
I didn't realize how I missed you till I saw you.

Silence.

ALEK

Sandy, I didn't mean to hurt you. I loved you too much I realized.

Silence. She picks up the pace.

ALEK

Sandy, please, that was some years ago.
Please rewind time and let me relive the moment. I was stupid.

SANDY

(incensed)

Well ALEK the moment was we were in bed. I said I loved you and you got up and told me you didn't want me to be in love with you!

She stops and looks at him

SANDY

(bitter)

Then you got dressed and left! That was not stupid. Stupid would be lying to me about

your feelings. Not telling me how I should feel with mine.

She looks away

SANDY

(detached)

Denial is not stupid Alek. It's defensive and dangerous.

ALEK

(whimpering)

But I couldn't let my emotions blend with another's then.

SANDY

So then you just had your 19-year-old way with my 13-year-old heart.

(beat)

Alek you're right we were children we're grown up now. I have other toys. I hope you do too.

She picks up her pace and charges ahead.

ALEK

Sandy Sandy! Have you ever made a mistake of the heart?

She looks back at him.

SANDY

Yes

(beat)

You!

Sandy walks faster and turns a corner. ALEK cries out.

ALEK

I know my emotions now. I loved you then and I love you now please don't make a mistake...

ALEK makes the turn and sees two people walking up ahead.

ALEK (CONT'D)

...of the...

Guard and Hodgkins turn back and smile at the love spat. Sandy slows to let him catch up and then get further ahead.

SANDY

(Low voice)

ALEK, What about Alice do you walk out on her now.

ALEK

(Laughs)

Oh Alice. She is not my romantic partner,
we just fight well so it seems like it.
She's a lesbian. She is more interested in
you than me. If you can argue bio politics I
can set you up.

Sandy smiles. She's more open to listening. Hodgkin's and the Guard
dart off the passageway. ALEK stops Sandy. He GRABS HER AND KISSES HER.
They look at each other for a long moment.

ALEK

(An inch away)

There is a perfect line to say here but I'm
afraid my poetic career has dulled my
romantic instincts.

Sandy doesn't break loose. She just looks past him and distant.

SANDY

Well ALEK now this is stupid.

ALEK

Why!

INT. LAB ACCELERATOR TUNNEL - NIGHT

The tunnel has an eerie silence except for the vibrating cell phone.
The Muon Collector and the other accelerator components are
unexplainably still. The engineers' hazmat suit and mask make it
awkward to record the scenes. He dictates into a cell phone.

ENGINEER

(filtered)

Dr Seto effects appear to have fallen
consistent with a rapid evacuation of a
body. There is no evidence of his remains
although his trousers appear to have a urine
stain and his shoes are damp.

(beat)

His glasses have a purple glow. His cell
phone is vibrating.

He finishes recording and stares at the glasses and cell phone.

CLICKING SOUND of Geiger counter

At the far end of the tunnel an engineer looks at a pegged meter. He
crouches down and looks at a barely visible hole in the wall. He moves
the geiger counter around the sound drops then raises. He radios down.

ENGINEER 1

Hey there's a tiny hole in the wall. It's hot on the meter. Come on down and take a look.

ENGINEER 2

OK I'm heading down

He leaves the vibrating phone untouched.

INT. EVENT SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

Hopkins enters the control room. He looks impressed by the rooms' sophistication. The Chief looks Hodgkin's over.

Hodgkins

I got caught in the mêlée

SECURITY CHIEF

I know I saw it. Rough crowd.

He smiles.

HODKIN

Can I speak with Gordon Hunt?

CHIEF

You look a bit underdressed for the affair. The black eye doesn't help. Let's not upset the crowd. Go to the service area and we'll get him.

Hodgkins

That's fine, I just need to talk to him immediately.

Hodgkin and the Guard head for the service area. The Security Chief goes back to conducting the affair.

SECURITY CHIEF

OK We're ready. Give the signal to open the doors.

INT. BANQUET RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

A LOW DIGNIFIED TRUMPET CALL announces the start of the awards dinner. The banquet hall doors open slowly.

MINGLING CONVERSATIONS start to wrap up.

Cindy writes her private number and a heart on her card. She gently slips it into Dr O's pants pocket then gives his hip a meaningful pat. It raises his spirit. He smiles.

CINDY

OH Look

He turns. Across the room Trudy waves her hands to get Cindy's attention. Through the open doors behind her is a high ceiling hall with giant fine crystal chandeliers. They sparkle like jewels. Wall scones and gilded moldings glitter richly. Ancient tapestries, armor and priceless bric-a-brac cover the walls and ledges. The cluttered opulence is timelessly tasteful.

Cindy whispers near Dr O ear.

CINDY

I must attend to business.

Dr O nods in a sophisticated understanding way.

DR O

Yes

CINDY

Please give me a call I would love to continue - Pair Haps we can take a quantum leap or deux. Au revoir pour fauchez mon amour.

He holds her hands and kisses her cheek. Cindy blushes.

DR O

I will certainly call. It was lovely meeting you Cindy. Au revoir pour fauchez,

Cindy pulls close and kisses him on the lips and darts off. Through the slit in her haute couture chiffon gown her slender legs and stiletto heels catch his attention and the attention of several others. He sighs.

INT. BANQUET DINNER - NIGHT

Guests take their places in the opulent banquet room. Tex and Gordon try to talk from separate tables. Tex turns to Cindy.

TEX

Say Darlin would you mind swapping places with Mr Livery. You'd rather sit with them brianac anyway - OK.

CINDY

But of course, anything for you, mom ami

TRUDY

(telling not asking)

Tex I'm goin with her

TEX

No cash out of my wallet. Suit yourself
honey.

Trudy moves past her date Jack Abrahams. Cindy and Trudy sit down across the table from Dr O. The Elroy's are nearby. Dr Elroy looks at Trudy. His wife catches him eying her. He moves his finger around under his collar and looks at his wife.

DR ELROY

Is there a rash?

She shakes her head with disapproval as Dr Monroe walks to the table. Mrs. Elroy leans in to Dr Elroy.

MRS ELROY

(incensed whisper)

He was in the ladies room soliciting a young woman. I called security!

DR ELROY

Dear, that's Dr. Margaret Monroe.

MRS ELROY

(repulsed)

Dr Monroe! No. Really. Heavens.

GORDON

Margaret Hello. You know my wife.

Dr MONROE

Yes

Dr Monroe thrusts out her hand. Mrs. Elroy offers hers, regally. Margaret gives a manly shake. Mrs. Elroy pulls away with a look.

DR MONROE

(phony)

Charmed.

Alice and the General enter and sit across the room at the French table. Alek's place is empty. Sandy, and Mr. Hodgkin's place card seats are empty too. Hally peaks around for the Guard then slips into an unmarked place at one of the non-VIP guest tables.

GLASS CLINKS

The MC hits his crystal wine glass. A blue and silver wave shoots out like a magic light trick. No one mentions it except Dr Elroy.

DR ELROY

A sound wave making colors!

GLASS CLINKS again. The audience hushes to attention.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Welcome to all of you, especially our distinguished award winners.

Several dinner guests put on wireless headsets.

INT. TRANSLATION ROOM - NIGHT

Interpreters sit in a small windowless room with monitors. They have announcer headsets on and translate the proceedings. Translation is voiced in multiple languages.

MC

Ladies and Gentleman, Honored guests we have a most stimulating ceremony for you tonight. We have some lovely music planned, some very exciting speakers and of course those acceptance speeches.

(beat)

We promise they will be short.

Some laugh. After a translation delay a cordial chuckle arrives.

INT. BACKSTAGE PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Alek and Sandy are kissing like teenagers. He is trying to get at her. Sandy pushes away and draws the line.

SANDY

Alek not here!

ALEK

Sannndyyyyyyyy

SANDY

Look Alek, let's get your pass. We can proceed with this later

(beat)

like adults.

She smiles.

Hodgkins and the Guard turn the corner and smile as they pass.

INT. EVENT MEDIA PRODUCTION AREA - NIGHT

Event AV production director sits at a simple video switcher. Robotic cameras in the banquet hall move to preset positions.

MONITORS HAVE INTENSE COLORS. HEARTS BEATS CAN BE SEEN FAINTLY.

VIDEO DIRECTOR

Hey, what's up with the cameras guys?

The engineer tries to fix it with the camera control unit.

VIDEO ENGINEER

No idea. I can't adjust to them.

MC's voice is up full in the Control room.

MC

I now have the privilege of introducing our distinguished host Count Ari Sarcussnen III

Count stands to applause and respectfully bows.

APPLAUSE DISTORTS the images. It ripples slightly.

The Count looks out for Ms Palmer or Alek. He makes his way to the podium and repositions the microphone nervously. He looks out and scans the audience.

COUNT

Thank you. I too welcome all of you to our one hundredth sixteenth year of this grand event, as we continue a long tradition of...

INT. EVENT SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

SANDY AND ALEK ENTER, the Chief smiles. Sandy introduces Alek. He has lipstick on his neck. Sandy doesn't notice. The Chief does. Sandy looks at the monitors. The Count is at the podium.

SANDY

Christ! He's speaking. Let's go.

She grabs the backstage pass and runs off.

SECURITY CHIEF

(Under breath)

Now that's going to be interesting.

TECHNICIAN

Sir, the cameras are acting odd.

INT. AWARD BANQUET DINNER - NIGHT

Waiters serve guests off fully laden trays. Tex and Gordon discretely work with each other.

GORDON

Well Tex I can assure you we treat
investments as though returns are expected.
We're a business now.

He scratches his eyebrow unconsciously. It's his nervous tick.

GORDON (CONT'D)

At the lab you'll see the Intellectual
Property assets. It is an excellent early
stage opportunity. So Tuesday is good.

TEX

Well that is why I'm here. Let's make some
money, Tuesday is fine.

The Security Guard steps up to the table and leans into Gordon.

SECURITY GUARD

(at a whisper)

Excuse me Mr. Livry Sir. There is a Mr.
Hodgkins waiting to see you.

Gordon holds back his surprise. He looks at Tex and the others.

GORDON

Will you please excuse me?

They walk calmly out of the hall then rush to the serving area. Gordon
enters. Hodgkins is eating puffy pastries.

GORDON

I thought you weren't coming.

Hodgkins swallows fast and turns. Gordon sees the black eyes.

GORDON (CONT'D)

What the hell happened to you?

Hodgkins

The protestors were... Oh never mind. Sir.
There's a problem at the Lab.

GORDON

Problem.

Gordon scratches his left eyebrow nervously

HODGKIN

Yes sir, Dr Seto seems to be gone. We think
he was blown up.

GORDON

Blown up?

HODGKIN

Yes sir, or blown in we cannot find any trace of him.

GORDON

What do you mean?

HODGKIN

Sir. It appears he imploded.

Gordon scratches eyebrow more.

GORDON

How much damage was there?

HODGKIN

None. That I know of.

GORDON

Is it dirty?

Gordon scratches faster.

HODGKIN

I expect so but we don't know how bad till we check the radiation level. I have the engineers on it. Sir. You're bleeding Sir!

GORDON

What?

HODGKIN

You're bleeding.

GORDON

Damn it! - Thanks. Look I better get back in.

He takes a handkerchief out and blots up the blood.

HODGKIN

Yes Sir. You know the drill, not a word. I'll handle the press spin.

GORDON

Yes, of course.

Gordon walks out of the serving area and nearly runs into KRYSTAL GATES. She is at the event with her date as an honored guest.

KHYRSTAL

(glib)

Well Gordon is getting a little snack.

He smiles nervously and shakes his head and blots his brow.

KHYRSTAL

Got any hot news for me - Gordon?

GORDON

No. No news.

KHYRSTAL

Come on Gordon. Something is up.

GORDON

Khrystal if there was you know Mr. Hodgkins does our talking now.

KRYSTAL

So where's Hodgkins

She smiles. He smiles

GORDON

I have to get back in.

KRYSTAL

I'll walk with you.

She pries. He clams up. Gordon returns to the table.

GORDON

Work never stops at the lab. What did I miss?

TEX

Not much, just some nerdy kid gettin a scholarship.

Ms Palmer takes her seat. Her lipstick smeared. Alek's seat is empty. The Count eyes Sandy for Alek. She shrugs.

COUNT

Our final award is the Richard Feyman award for lifelong excellence in pioneering science.

Alek enters and sits by Alice. The Count sees him.

ALICE

Alek are you bleeding?

He touches his neck. Lipstick comes off onto his finger. He grabs a napkin and wipes it off. Alice reacts.

COUNT

(relieved)

This year I have the honor of bestowing the Feynman achievement award to a scientist who has truly dedicated his life to core science and global peace, DR JOSEPH SETO.

Applauses

COUNT (CONT'D)

Unfortunately Joe is not here with us tonight so accepting on his behalf is Alek Cherenov.

Hushed speculation on his absence spreads around the room as Alek takes the stage.

ALEK

Thank you sir. Since I am only accepting on behalf of Joe Seto I cannot speak as sincerely as he would. No one can explain string theory and turn it into pearls of wisdom better than Joe.

Cordial laughs then a translation delay laugh.

However, since Joe wants all to learn from nature not destroy it, I thought a quote by a man he and I admire, would be in order. This is a passage from William Faulkner 1950 Nobel Prize acceptance speech.

ALEK clears his throat.

ALEK (cont'd)

Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of the spirit. There is only one question: When will I be blown up?

INT. LINEAR ACCELERATOR - NIGHT

SOUND OF CELL PHONE VIBRATES IN THE DISTANCE.

Two engineers stare at a spot on the wall. The meter is pegged.

ENGINEER #1

Watch this.

He moves the meter away. The reading drops off. He moves back, it pegs.

ENGINEER #2

I've never seen anything like that.

ENGINEER #1

Yeah I wouldn't have noticed the hole
without the Geiger counter.

ENGINEER #2

We need to get a laser in here and measure
this. Let's go.

The engineers walk down the long tunnel
SOUND OF DR SETO'S CELL PHONE GETS LOUDER.

INT. BANQUET DINNER ROOM - NIGHT

Sandy looks at Alek with rekindled desire. Dr O and Cindy look at each
other with possibilities. Gorgon looks worried. Tex eats.

ALEK (cont'd)

He must learn them again. He must teach
himself that the basest of all things is to
be afraid:

Tex cuts his filet, jabs it and shoves it in his mouth.

INT. EVENT SECURITY - NIGHT

MONITOR SHOW X RAY PENETRATION

SURVEILLANCE TECHNICIAN

Sir, this is strange. It looks like the
place is lit with black lights and Xrays.
It's increasing. Sir.

No Response

The Security Chief listens intently. He sees ALEK heart beat through
his tuxedo. He sees hearts all around the room beat in unison.

INT. EVENT MEDIA PRODUCTION AREA - NIGHT

The Video Director looks over the monitors and shakes his head.

VIDEO DIRECTOR

Guys I can see his frinkin heart beating.

VIDEO ENGINEER

Yeah, and there's nothing I can do.

Engineer fiddles with camera controls

Over Room speakers

ALEK (cont'd)

I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure: that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking. I refuse to accept this. I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail.

INT. BANQUET HALL

Tex looks at Cindy's plate.

TEX

Are you going to eat that?

Cindy gives him a look.

INT. LINEAR ACCELERATOR - NIGHT

CELL PHONE VIBRATES and JUMPS AROUND on the CATWALK
Engineers reach the implosion area. Both look down. One engineer picks it up. He flips the phone open.

LOUD SYMPHONY OF STATIC blares out and whips around the tunnel. Seto's cell-phone instantly speed dials all its stored numbers.

INT. BANQUET DINNER HALL - NIGHT

Alex's words and the odd visual effects mesmerize the audience.

ALEK (cont'd)

He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

SUDDENLY LIGHTS STROBE. The hall looks like a plush disco. It stops. There is STUNNED SILENCE. Everyone looks around at the lights. The place sparkles brighter. ALEK smiles nervously. Dr Elroy grabs the table and looks up.

DR ELROY

(soberingly)

Why these are sub frequencies, sub frequencies! - That's remarkable.

INT. EVENT SECURITY - NIGHT

INFRARED cameras show body auras. Wiring and electronics circuits can be seen with a Kirlian effect. Skeletal structures appear. Sound waves from conversations wobble the images. It's a visual hodgepodge and audio mishmash.

SECURITY CHIEF

What the hell is happening?

FACILITY CHIEF ENGINEER

Well it looks like the cameras are seeing beyond the visible spectrum. I think the photons are multiplying and resonating. It's a functioning K space in an MRI. This is just not fuckin possible.

INT. EVENT MEDIA PRODUCTION AREA - NIGHT

DIRECTOR

OK Guys come on what's up. I see skeletons. What's the deal?

VIDEO ENGINEER

No clue. This is real.

The Director looks scared shit.

INT. EVENT BANQUET DINNER - NIGHT

SUDDENLY CELL PHONES ring. Security Guards look shocked.

Voice over Guards headsets

SECURITY CHIEF

What the hell's happening now?

SECURITY GUARD

Cell phones. Sir

SECURITY CHIEF

But we've jammed cell service.

SECURITY GUARD

Don't know what to tell you Sir.

QUICK CUTS of CELL PHONES with Joe Seto caller ID.

SURPRISED GUESTS ANSWER

Hei- He

Bonjour- Bonjour?

Hello - Hello

Hola - Hola

DR MONROE

It's Joe Seto!

Cindy reaches into her purse silences the pixyish flute section from the Rite of Spring. Trudy glances at Cindy's silent purse.

TRUDY

Honey - who are you?

MELODIC SYMPHONY OF STATIC blares out of the cell phones.

DR O

(to Dr Monroe)

This doesn't sound good.

DR MONROE

I got a text from him earlier.

He said my head would spin at his finding. I don't know.

DR O

He's in trouble. He's in trouble!

STATIC REVERBERATES. Dr Elroy's cell doesn't ring. He wonders why.

INT. ACCELERATOR TUNNEL - NIGHT

ENGINEERS ARE STUNNED

Sound whips around the TUNNEL. High and low octaves add to the white noise range; it grows and grows beyond hearing range. One engineer holds his ears, the other slams the phone shut.

CRYPTIC SILENCE.

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - DAWN

Ideas are a poppin!

SPARK - IDEA BUBBLE pops up (INTOXICATE THEM)

QUICK SHOTS: Water turns to wine. Marijuana fields burn and waft into towns. Human's party. Some get sick. Most smile and wander in a daze.

EXT. DESERT MOUNTAIN BIBLICAL TIMES BEFORE THE DISASTER - DAY

NARRATOR

The SPCA, like most super powers, had a difficult time deciding how to judiciously use its might. Unlike humans, who often got drunk with power, the SPCA's mission was to simply show humans the futility of their misperception, arrogant superiority and keep

them busy in their rightfully subordinate place. Deter them not destroy them. This is not the first time we need to intercede.

INT. BANQUET DINNER

There is a HUSH OVER THE ROOM.

The lights and monitor are back to normal. PHONES ARE SILENT with NO SERVICE. The audience is pensive. They look around. No damage, just shock. They slowly begin to settle.

ALEK looks out at the audience confused. He opens his mouth to speak but stops to think of what to say. No thought comes to him.

ALEK

(nervous joking)

Well. That was strange. It appears Joe did try to get here after all.

No response. No one listens. Alek wants to leave the podium.

ALEK

Well on behalf of Dr Joe Seto I thank you.

Alex grabs the speech. He feels something odd. Water droplets smear the words. He looks up. No drips. The speech is damp.

ALEK

(to self)

Strange.

Alek walks off the stage to a few applause. Most shake their heads wondering what just happened. The MC takes the Podium. Alek takes his seat by Alice.

ALICE

What happened?

ALEK

I don't know

Sandy looks at Alek concerned. He gestures - no idea.

HALLY WATCHES, LISTENS AND WRITES at a hand cramping speed overjoyed at scoop potential.

Elroy looks like a kid with a shiny new toy.

DR ELROY

(whispering with joy)

Sub frequencies - Those were definitely SUB
FREQUENCIES! Remarkable!!!

Gordon gets up from his seat.

GORDON

Excuse me

He walks off briskly. Khrystal inconspicuously trails him.

EXT. EVENT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Gordon is outside with cell coverage. He dials. Hodgkin's phone rings.
GORDON LIVRY ID pops up. He pauses tentatively.

Hodgkins

Hello?

GORDON

(Loud over protestors)

Hodgkins, Hodgkins where are you now.

Khrystal lurks in earshot.

Hodgkins

I'm back at the hotel.

GORDON

I have to get to the lab. Immediately.
Seto's phone sent out an eerie sound to all
of us.

HODGKINS

I know, I know. My cell rang too.

GORDON

Are you sure Seto imploded?

Khrystal eyes look shocked.

HODGKINS

Well Sir that's what I was told.

GORDON

OK get over here. I'll take a town car to
the Lab and check this out.

HODGKINS

OK. Oh Sir. I don't have my invitation.
Let's meet outside OK.

GORDON

Sure. I'll bring the others out.

Gordon walks back in. Khrystal makes a call.

INT> NEWS CENTER OFFICES - NIGHT

KRYSTAL

Hey, I got a scoop. Listen to this. I just heard Dr Seto imploded.

BUREAU CHIEF

Seto the nuclear scientist?

KRYSTAL

Yes Seto the scientist

BUREAU CHIEF

He imploded?

KRYSTAL

Yes imploded! Look, I can't be the source. Just give the usual disclaimer; reliable sources say blah blah blah. I'll dig for more. Got to go.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

UNEASY CONVERSATIONS are everywhere.

Gordon walks into the Banquet hall. Festivities are wrapping up. Alek and the other honorees are getting their photos taken. Cindy looks at DR O and discretely gestures - call me.

Hally looks at her watch at 11:55. She sees Dr Monroe with Dr Elroy and smiles. Dr M smiles back. She waves and starts to leave.

DR ELROY

(sounds sober)

Margaret they were sub-frequencies. I'm telling you. I know colors and I've never seen those hues.

Gordon walks up.

GORDON

So are we all heading over to the suite? Hodgkins is here after all.

DR O

(concerned)

Gordon. I think Seto is in trouble.

Gordon scratches his eyebrow.

GORDON

Well I'll go out and check. But, you should enjoy the festivities.

DR O

Gordon, you're bleeding.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

TV NEWS program playing IN BACKGROUND

Hodgkins puts on makeup to cover up his black eyes.

NEWS ANCHOR

This just in, a responsible party has just informed us that Dr Seto the well-known Physicist has had a terrible accident at the linear accelerator lab. Apparently he has been imploded. We have no more details but will bring them to you as soon as we get them.

Hodgkin's head shoots up. He smears the makeup.

HODGKINS

(annoyed)

God damn it - GORDON!
Well he'll be gone Wednesday.

Hodgkin touches up his makeup, puts on his coat and leaves.

DOOR SHUTS - News of more violent protestors comes on the TV.

INT. EVENT SECURITY - NIGHT

PROTESTER chants in the background.

SURVEILLANCE MONITORS are back to normal.

Alice and the Count are chatting. The Lab team is walking out.

Margaret and Elroy debate sub frequencies and lag behind.

FACILITY CHIEF ENGINEER

(to Security Chief)

Hey look, I have no idea what happened. It's back to normal now.

The TV headline "SCIENTIST IMPLODED" crawls under other news.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

The hall is emptying. Alek comes out from backstage.

SANDY

How'd it go?

ALEK

Fine. I'm just a pretty face proxy.

Sandy grabs his chin. And give him a peck.

SANDY

Yes you are.

HALLY WATCHES and takes notes. Security sees her. She heads out.

EXT. EVENT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

PROTEST CHANTS are in full swing as OPINION LEADERS get in limos and depart. Cameras are everywhere. Hodgkins waits outside. He looks at the protestors and touches his makeup-covered black eye. A Church bell chimes midnight. He looks at his cell phone time. 11:57pm.

HODGKINS

(under breathe)

They're off.

Hally comes prancing out the grand entrance elated. She sees her Dad. She tries to get away.

HODGKINS

HALLY!

She thinks for a second then turns. She knows she was caught.

HALLY

(innocent)

Hello daddy.

HODGKINS

Hally! What are you doing here?

In the background the Lab group walks toward them. Neither notices.

HALLY

Well Dad I thought why waste a good invitation. I'm a journalist you know and you said you didn't want to have to face these people since you were going to have to...

Gordon and the other walk up. Hally stops. Gordon turns.

HODGKINS

(awkward surprise)

Gordon. There you are.

Gordon caught enough to wonder. Hally stands self-consciously with her hands behind her back.

Hodgkins
Oh. This is my daughter Hally.

They smile and say hello. She acts shy.

HALLY
Hello. Well Daddy I better go.

Hodgkins
OK Pumpkin. We'll talk later.

They kiss. She darts off.

ELROY AND MARGARET walks out still debating.

DR MONROE
OK that is a possibility I suppose.

DR ELROY
THANK YOU.

They join the group. Hodgkins leans over to Gordon.

HODGKINS
Why did you talk about Seto!

GORDON
I didn't!!!

HODGKINS
Well it's on the news. Now I'm going to get my head handed to me all the way from Washington.

GORDON
I swear I said nothing.

Krystal and her date walk past. She smiles at Gordon and Hodgkins. Hodgkins looks at Gordon. He shrugs.

In the background FLASH BULBS pop off. Tex waves to the crowd as he gets into his overstretched limo with Cindy, Trudy and a few more VIPs and their escorts. Dr O looks on. He sighs.

Hally's CELL PHONE rings. It's a Twitter tweet on her Facebook.

HALLY'S
DR SETO IMPOLODED!!!!

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

The hall has cleared out. Alek, Sandy the Count and Alice chat. Bus boys take the formal stemware and silverware away.

SANDY

That is so sad about Dr Seto?

ALICE

What a tragic loss.

ALEK

I don't want to call June Seto yet.

COUNT

It was certainly not a way to end this event. Well, there is nothing we can do. Should we go off to the hotel receptions do you think?

ALEK

Yes. Joe would want us too.

SANDY

First I have to bail my brother out of jail. Well my half brother.

The Count looks at her incredulously. She smiles and shrugs.

SANDY

He was arrested for indecency exposure and public nuisance.

Alek and Alice smile, amused. The Count is emotionlessly.

ALEK

Want some company?

Alek and Sandy show their new attraction. Sandy gestures fondly - Sure. Alice gives Alek a "what-about-me" look.

ALEK

Can Alice come along?

Alice looks surprised.

SANDY

Sure why not

She grins

ALICE

Well OK. This could be fun!

Count

I'll just see you at receptions.

SANDY

We won't be long. I hope

Back to Jail cell

DRUNK CELLMATE

Yeah how come we are in wonder of nature yet nature just seems to know what to do? I don't think we are all that smart!

BUCK

Exactly!

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

STRETCH LIMO pulls up to Police station Sandy and Alek get out and enter the Station.

Sandy's brother is carted out from the back. He looks like a Roman Senator in a fleece toga.

BUCKLEY PALMER looks at Alek with a double take and way back recognition. Alek smiles and holds Sandy's hand.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Buckley slides in across from Alice. She eyes him with a primal sexual preference changing approval.

ALICE

Hello

BUCKLEY

Hey!

Sandy and Alek slide in and stretch out.

BUCKLEY

Thanks sis. But where are the rest of my protesters?

SANDY

I've got friends in high places.

BUCKLEY

Yeah, thanks but those low lifes are my people. You know me Sis.

The limo drives off down the road into the festive night.
Off camera Voice

ALICE

So you're an activist.

ALEK

Well let's say I've got an anarchist conscience. People know what's right and what's wrong.

ALICE

I AGREE!

ALEK

Hey Sandy, Alek - Get a room!

INT. LAB SECURITY CENTER - LATE NIGHT

A clear bag on the console has Dr Seto's effects. His pees stained pants show the bulls' eye. His glasses lenses are black. His cell phone is translucent. Gordon and Dr O. watch the replay of the implosion. They study each frame.

GORDON

Look - he's saying OH MY GOD we're not the brightest. Then he's gone.

DR O

See the flash of light? Well it happened in less than a 30th of a second. Within that who knows. It could have been a femtosecond. When you travel faster than the speed of light like a tachyon, a trillionth of a second is a long time.

GORDON

What about the Collider?

DR O

Well, it's out of commission as far as I can tell. But the engineers will know more.

GORDON

It cost billions - Jesus, what in God's name are we going to do.

DR O replays the scene and stares at the pile of clothes.

DR O

Nothing more tonight we might as well go back to the hotel events.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

Sandy and Alek are slightly sweaty. Sandy draws a figure eight on his middle aged muscular but hairy chest.

SANDY

That was a great acceptance speech. Too bad you were upstage by a light show tragedy. What about the water stain?

ALEK

I don't know if it is a mystery to me. They were salty like tears.

Sandy combs his thick chest hair with all her fingers.

SANDY

When you competed did you wax or shave this.

ALEK

Guess

He kissed her hand as it slid by his mouth.

SANDY

Wax

ALEK

Correct but don't tell.

SANDY

I liked the bare chest.

ALEK

I'm sorry.

SANDY

I'll live. So what's with Alice?

INT. SMALL HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE IN on a finger walking over a chest to "BAN THIS"

Alice kisses Buck's hairless chest.

BUCK

Well, I had plenty of time at sea with Green Peace to study.

Buck stares up at the ceiling and recites.

"After contemplation, I conclude that this award, which I receive on behalf of that movement, is a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial

political and moral question of our time- -
 The need for man to overcome oppression and
 violence without resorting to violence and
 oppression. ..."

ALICE

I still can't believe you memorize Nobel
 Peace Prize speeches.

Alice laughs and kisses Bucks bare chest again. She looks at words BAN
 THIS, and follows the arrow down. Buck stares up.

BUCK (CONT'D)

"Civilization and violence are antithetical
 concepts. Negroes of the United States,
 following the people of India, have
 demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile
 passivity, but a powerful moral force, which
 makes for social transformation.

Alice nears the bottom of the arrow. She stops.

ALICE

Ya know for a guy you're OK.

Alice continues down. Buck writhes but doesn't stop reciting in a high
 pitch.

BUCK (CONT'D)

Sooner or later all the people of the world
 will have to discover a way to live together
 in peace, and thereby transform this pending
 cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of
 brotherhood,
 If this is to be achieved,...

(he groans and looks down)

man must evolve for all human conflict a
 method, which rejects revenge, aggression
 and retaliation. The foundation of such a
 method is love.

Alice mumbles Umm hmm

SUDDENLY there is a HARD DOOR KNOCK - Alice pulls her head up. She
 looks at Buck.

VOICE AT DOOR

This is SECURITY, open up.

INT. CINDY'S HOME - NIGHT

Her condo is chic with a good city view. Cindy is alone in bed reading
 an article on Tachyons. TV is low in the background.

NEWS ANCHOR

DR SETO is remembered by his wife of 40 years. Though he had no children his brilliantly inquisitive pixie style will be missed by all the young at heart and anyone that loved nature and the exploration of our cosmos.

Cindy cell phone rings she doesn't recognize the caller ID

CINDY

Ah - low?

DR O

Cindy, This is Lucas

CINDY

Lucas?

DR O

Dr Osterwald

CINDY

"Oh! - Lucas, I am so glad to hear from you mon ami"

DR O

Yes, I was thinking of you and was hoping we could meet. I mean for Coffee or...

CINDY

Certainly! But there is no charge for anything you want mon ami. Remember I promised to show you my specialty if you told me yours. A promise is a promise.

SILENCE

CINDY

Lucas - Lucas?

DR O

Yes, Yes, yes that would be fine.

CINDY

Now mon ami we need to decide when and where.

DR O

I was hoping perhaps Tuesday?

Cindy laughs

CINDY

I suppose I can move things for you. Where would you like to meet?

DR O

Well, there's cafés near the Lab, if that is not too out of the way.

CINDY

Juliet's?

DR O

Yes - You obviously know it.

CINDY

Yes, I am one of the owners.

DR O

Owner? I've never seen you there.

CINDY

Well I am a silent and invisible part-timer. My clients and the café's client should not, shall I say, meet.

DR O

Oh - yes, I see, perhaps another place then. I only picked it because I can have my bike at the lab. I take a shuttle to work.

CINDY

No no I have to be there Tuesday. How about I meet you there and I can take you home.

ANOTHER SILENCE.

CINDY

Lucas?

DR O

Yes Yes well how about say a bit after 4:15. I'll bike there.

Girlish giggle.

CINDY

It is a date then Au Revoir mon ami

DR O

Au Revoir

EXT. ATOMIC RESEARCH LAB CAMPUS - DAY

The ATOMIC RESEARCH CAMPUS is sprawling. High walls, barbed wires and warning signs show it's a Top Secret shoot to kill protected facility. A STRETCH LIMO ROLLS past a building that's cordoned off. Heavily armed guards are at the entrance.

INT. DR MONROE'S OFFICE

The office is cluttered with stacks of paper and books. She sits by the window at her computer. She gets a text.

HALLY (TEXT)

howz tday @ 4:15

Dr. Monroe smiles

DR MONROE (TEXT)

Works. Where?

HALLY (TEXT)

Juliet's?

DR MONROE (TEXT)

DONE!

She looks out as a stretch limo drives past. Tex is inside with two attractive women. Dr Monroe is intrigued. Her text buzzes.

HALLY (TEXT)

CU THN X ☺

INT. CHEMICAL LAB - DAY

Gordon leads Tex on a tour.

GORDON

Now Tex this is where we analyze molecular pattern interference and gamma irradiation. In this enclosure we produce rays 3 million times more powerful than a chest X-ray.

TEX

Yeah. Where are the atom -smashers?

GORDON

The colliders are in another part of the campus. It's closed due to the Seto disaster. HAZMAT rules.

TEX

I came here to see how to make money on your weapons lab. What's in this place for me?

He looks around the chemistry lab looking for a place.

GORDON

Well technically this is a weapons lab too.
We do molecular weapons experiments. They
can be lethal. But they have practical uses
too.

Gordon points to a pyramid display of red and green apples.

GORDON (CONT'D)

These apples are nine months old and still
look great. We may be able to keep them
fresh for years.

Gordon grabs one and hands one to Tex. Then takes a big bite. He smiles
at Tex, chews, makes a sour face and spits the apple pulp out all over
Tex.

GORDON (CONT'D)

(Spitting out apple pieces)

Jesus I'm sorry

TEX

What the hell are you doing?

GORDON

I am so so sorry Sir

Tex brushes apple bits off.

TEX

Why the hell did you spit it out?

GORDON

It tasted terrible!

Gordon's cell phone rings. He looks at the phone. It's Hodgkin's.

GORDON

Tex, would you please excuse me?

TEX

No!

Tex walks off at an angry clip. Gordon ignores Hodgkins' call.

GORDON

Wait Sir please wait! - Sir.

Gordon chases after Tex.

GORDON

(calling out)

Sir, SIR I have more to show you.

TEX

(yelling back)

Hey, it's Mardi Gras and I got some sinnen to do before lent starts. Call me when you get some weapons to sell, not rotten fruit. I'm outa here.

EXT. LAB PARKING LOT - DAY

Dr Monroe puts on her helmet, swings her linebacker sized legs over her Harley and jumps down on the starter crank. It rumbles to life. She throttles the throaty hog up and rides off.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Trudy and a new girl fawn over Tex. Dr Monroe pulls up next to Tex's limo. Tex sees her.

TEX

Hey look it's that bull dike Doc.

Dr Monroe smiles at Tex and Trudy. She revs up and peels out in a wheelie nearly hitting Dr O on his bike.

TEX

I wouldn't want to wrassle her. She is a tough bitch.

EXT. CAFÉ - DAY

The rumble of a Harley rounds the bend. Hally sits outside of Juliet's café. She pays no attention. The biker pulls up. Glasses on the tables rattle. The throaty rumble stops. Dr Monroe takes off her helmet and walks up. Hally grins.

HALLY

Cool! you ride a Harley

DR MONROE (MAX)

Only way to fly

Hally grins. Dr Monroe sits down with a chair-stressing landing.

INT. LAB HALLWAY - DAY

Gordon walks down the hallway. His cell rings. CHARLES ELROY III pops up. Gordon answers.

DR ELROY

Gordon I was just sacked!

GORDON

Sacked.

DR ELROY

Yes, Hodgkins was told to let us go. He said he feels terrible about it.

GORDON

Hodgkins. Hmmm

INT. DR ELROY'S OFFICE - DAY

Elroy's office is neat and compulsively organized. It's a stark contrast to his slovenly appearance.

DR ELROY

Oh Margaret and I think those sub frequencies were definitely connected to Seto's implosion. I have more info too. Your head will spin.

He looks at a formula with a big exclamation point at the end. It's Dr Seto's formula.

DR ELROY (CONT'D)

I'd tell you more but apparently I, and others are being escorted out by Security. Imagine!

Voice over phone

GORDON

(apprehensive)

I just got a call from Hodgkins.

DOOR KNOCKS - Lab security are at Dr Elroy's door. He pulls a keyring flash drive from the computer and slips it and the formula in his pants pocket.

DR ELROY

Well then. Good luck Old man. It appears my escort service has arrived. Let's stay in touch.

(to Guards)

COME IN

GORDON

Yes let's

Dr Elroy looks at the Guard with resigned contempt.

DR ELROY

Shall we.

He grabs a storage box and walks out like a sentenced man.

EXT. ON THE ROAD - DAY

MAX

Hold on tight.

Hally gives a tight squeeze.

HALLY

(loud in helmet)

I love motorcycles and that rumble I get in my thighs.

MAX smiles at the wind and downshifts to take a mountain turn. They pass a red Jaguar convertible, Cindy's inside.

INT. Hodgkins OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

The simple office looks like he just moved in. Nothing is on the walls and boxes and nick knacks are strewn around. Gordon sits across from him.

GORDON

I don't care about the money. I'm pissed at the insensitivity.

HODGKIN

What can I do? I feel terrible.

GORDON

Well you're not to blame and I'll bet you're not far behind. When they privatize this place your Government grade won't mean squat.

HODGKINS

Probably not

GORDON cell rings DR ELROY ID pops up

GORDON

Elroy's hold on. Hello

Elroy rattles off some head spinning info. Hodgkins unpacks.

GORDON (CONT'D)

What! Tachyons!

Hodgkins looks up and stops unpacking.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Margaret and you can do what! Hey look I'm with Hodgkins he just canned me. Can we talk later? I mean soon later.

(beat for reply)

OK Juliet's yeah. I'll be over.

Gordon hangs up and stands.

Hodgkins

(under breathe)

I wish I were going.

Look if there is anything I can do to help you or the others let me know - please. This sucks

EXT. JULIET'S CAFÉ - AFTERNOON

Cindy gets out of her Jaguar convertible. Lucas rides up. She smiles. He smiles, locks his bike to a pole and gets in her car. They drive off.

Elroy sees them. He looks at his watches and slurps his tea.

ELROY

Hmmm the ole man got lucky!

His cell rings. It's Gordon.

INT. CABIN - DUSK

The rustic knotty pine cabin is cozy and warm. MAX combs her hair up into a butch wax tiara. Hally is getting dressed.

HALLY

OK MAX so let me get this. Seto finds out how to harness a tachyon. Improbable, but then again, he imploded. His last words are "we're not the brightest -oh my god" What does it mean?

MAX comes over to Hally, sits next to Hally and rubs her thigh.

MAX (DR MONROE)

Well my cute little comet tail. It means that we just don't know and that's the point. Maybe Mr. Heisenberg was wrong. Maybe there is absolute certainty when it comes to things greater than us. I don't know. No one does!

HALLY

Well that makes sense to me. I've always thought we were a pretty stupid species. At least the ones I know!

Max gives her an agreeing hug.

MAX

If you help me figure it out you can have the byline. But you can't quote me. We better go.

EXT. CAFÉ - DUSK

GORDON

You think you can harness it!

DR ELROY

Well Margaret thinks she's about to crack it. But the salient point is this is huge. It's like discovering dynamite wrapped in gold.

GORDON

But we're not at the lab now.

DR ELROY

We'll go elsewhere then or start a company. It's worth a fortune.

GORDON

Start what?

EXT. ON THE ROAD - NIGHT

ROAD RUMBLE of the HARLEY

MAX has a look of concerned revelation.

MAX

We're not the brightest. Oh my God!

SHE PULLS over, sweating. She has a panicked look. She sends a text to Dr Elroy and Dr O. She rides off scared.

MAX leans into a sharp downhill turn SUDDENLY the road straightens out. Max flies off into a ravine.

THROATY HARLEY sputters to SILENCE.

INT. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT PODIUMS

P.O.V LEADERS behind OFFICIAL PODIUMS address their people.

CUT BETWEEN them as they look out past the TELEPROMPTER to a room full of reporters. All leaders read the same speech.

RUSSIAN LEADER

(in Russian)

My fellow citizens, we are reviewing the evidence surrounding this tragedy. We have the assurance of our Allies and other United Nations countries that

FRENCH PRESIDENT

(in French)

they are not responsible and we will all work to zero in on the ones who perpetrated this cowardly act of terror

BRITISH LEADER

that killed and manded countless innocent men, women and children. We will avenge their senseless deaths and hunt down whoever did this and bring them to justice.

UNITED STATES LEADER

You have my word of honor. There is a price on their heads and we will find them and we will make them pay.

INT. SATELLITE CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Wall of monitors with multiple nations leaders all mouthing the same words. All images are sepia toned

LEADERS

(in unison)

We will protect you. I have given our military the authority to...

CUT TO

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

TV IMAGES ARE SEPIA TONED. TEXT Crawls below - PLEASE DO NOT ADJUST YOUR TV SETS. WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY.

In the background Hally and Mom argue. Grammy sits in a winged armchair watching the news as a cat plays with her shawl. She gently pets another. Bobby plays on the floor.

GRAMMY

Bobby dear please change the channel. We don't need more news.

Bobby remotes past more sepia toned news until he comes to a sitcom. The picture is in living color. The laugh track is obvious. It mixes with Hally crying and arguing with Mom.

BOBBY

How's that Grammy?

GRAMMY

No Bobby, not that one again.

He channels up past to a cooking show.

GRAMMY

That's good

BOBBY

Aww, Grammy that's boring.

Grammy laughs then coughs

GRAMMY

OK you pick.

Off camera voice

HALLY

(crying)

You know I don't want to get Daddy fired. But she's in a coma and needs me. I love her.

MOM

I forbid you to go.

HALLY

(screaming)

YOU FORBID ME. MOTHER there's a fucking disaster going on. Max knows why and she's in a coma. I don't care if you forbid me. I'm going to see her. I'm leaving!

MOM

Don't you dare!

DOOR SLAMS - Mom goes for the door.

Off camera voice

GRAMMY

(coughing)

Let her go. She's right.

MOM

(Sassy)

Mother, what do you know! Let me handle this!

BOBBY ignores the spat and clicks past leaders promising revenge channel lands on a slapstick cartoon it is full vibrant color.

BOBBY

I like this one Grammy OK?

Grammy sneezes and wipes her nose. She smiles amusingly.

GRAMMY

Fine Bobby. Just fine.

She wheezes and moans. Cat jumps off her lap over to Bobby.

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - DAWN

The spiraling mushroom cloud is enormous, jam-packed seemingly ready to burst. The unintelligible bass communication is sounding more powerful, like it's sending out commands. SUDDENLY the SWIRLING and the communications STOPS.

VO (with Subtitles)

NARRATOR

Assembling the SPCA representative from all universal entities does cause a disruption in the grand omniverse order of things. Yet it will be less of a disruption than what could occur if Dr Seto is allowed to continue. The SPCA was prepared to act. Picking the means is the last decision. After all, the SPCA can do anything. The challenge is to do the thing.

INT. NETWORK MASTER CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Banks of monitors come to life and show Field Reporters of several nationalities describing the scene. Graphics show disaster areas.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DUSK

A bright light flashes. A mushroom cloud climbs up and up.

He turns.

REPORTER

Oh my God it's a glowing mushroom cloud.

CAMERA IMAGE SHAKES as a wave ripples across in an instant. He pushes against it like it's a strong wind.

INT. NETWORK MASTER CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

BANK OF MONITORS - all IMAGES WARP and LOOSE COLOR. Reporters are Sepia toned like they're in old newsreels. STATIC SOUND RISES.

EXT. PARIS - DUSK

MUSHROOM CLOUD rises over and through the ARC DE TRIOMPHE and the LA DEFENSE building.

Off camera voice

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER

(in French and dubbed)

General. I want you to find these terrorist devils. Only the Mother of our Lord will save their cowardly souls.

EXT. LA DEFENSE BUILDING - DUSK

A concussion WAVE RIPPLES through the La Defense building.

INT. MILITARY OFFICES - DUSK

The building shakes and shutters to stillness.

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER (CONT'D)

GENERAL? GENERAL!

Off camera voice yells

ASSISTANT

Sir Sir - our phones are out!

The Prime Minister looks out the window. The Eiffel tower has a glowing mushroom cap over it. It looks like a red beret.

PRIME MINISTER

Sacre bleu

EXT. LOW ORBIT ABOVE EARTH -

The Middle East is a wrinkled depression with a wiggling hole in the center. The mushroom cloud looks like the earth just farted. The Middle East, Europe and parts of Asia have a mysterious cloud over them. It's growing like a weather front

VO

The omnipotent Narrator's voice is distorted its word are shown as subtitles

NARRATOR

By design, the massive devastation absorbed the attention of humans everywhere. Human hearts and minds and consciousness were filled with the all-consuming and the hauntingly familiar thoughts of anger, pity, bewilderment, and revenge. It was time for nature's response. The dye was cast.

INT. SECURE TELECONFERENCE ROOM

World leaders' sit around a Telepresence wall.

GENERAL P

This is the largest destructive event since meteors hit the earth.

GRAPHIC of gelatinous ooze covering a huge area

GENERAL P

Apparently now a gelatinous material is oozing up from a small hole. It is highly explosive.

US leader interrupts and cuts to the chase

US LEADER

Look. If we admit this is not a man-made event we'll have mass hysteria. We have to find a plausible story and a culprit.

General P gets an idea. The President notices.

PRESIDENT

General P do you have something?

GENERAL P

I may have a solution. I'll work it up and get back to you.

INT. CINDY'S HOME - NIGHT

It is a very chic condo with a good view. Cindy is in bed with Lucas. She looks very content. TV is low in the background.

FIELD REPORTER

Inspectors detected a small hole measuring only 2 or 3 angstrom in diameter.

Over TV NEWS

CINDY

But I must go with TEX to his boat for St Heathen's day. I must make an appearance. I'll be back in a few weeks or soon and for good.

She reaches for the remote. Her supple skin passes by Lucas's lip range. He kisses her shoulder. She kisses him and raises the volume.

CINDY

It's about the Lab.

FIELD REPORTER

This sandy hillside around the Linear Accelerator lab is home to some big venture funds, many of them were at the Banquet when the accident occurred. Locals say colors seem brighter near the lab.

DR O

We can worry about this tomorrow. Let's make the most of tonight.

She shuts off the TV. The city light twinkles brightly.

EXT. CAFÉ - NIGHT

The Café is closing. Dr Elroy, Gordon and Hodgkins finish up.

HODGKINS

So you want me to keep Seto's information hushed up so you can exploit it commercially.

GORDON

That's it.

HODGKINS

I keep my position but get rich with you.

DR ELROY

That's it

HODGKINS

What about Margaret?

DR ELROY

Let her continue, we'll need her analysis to pull it off.

HODGKINS

HMMM I'll need some money up front in case I get canned.

They nod

HODGKINS

OK I'll do it.

EXT. GULF STREAM JET - DUSK

JET SCREAMS over the ocean
Off camera Voice

TEX

Hello?

GORDON

Tex, this is Gordon Livry, please don't hang up - please.

INT. PRIVATE JET - NIGHT

Tex sits in airborne luxury with a tumbler of vodka.

TEX

How'd you get my private number?

GORDON

I got it from Hal Burton, I hope that was alright"

TEX

Hal Burton, how the hell do you know him?

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Japanese décor - Gordon and Hal are in Kimonos' Hal has on his signature purple tinted sunglasses.

GORDON

We're partners

TEX

Partners, what do you do together?

GORDON

Everything!

Tex laughs.

INTERCUTS - between HOME and Jet

TEX

Never woulda guessed it. So what the hell do you two congenial fellas want from me?

GORDON

Well first, I want to apologize for spitting on you. I will pay the dry cleaning bill.

TEX

Whatever, get to the point.

GORDON

Well sir, Hal thought you'd want to invest in a venture we're starting. It's out of Hal's league.

TEX

What kind of league are we talking about here?

Hal takes the phone

HAL

Look Tex we can't talk about this over the phone. Trust me, it's a great opportunity. If I had the money I wouldn't be calling you.

TEX

Look, I'm heading for my boat in the Mediterranean. I'm having my annual St Heathens day cruise. Come on out and we'll talk about it there.

HAL

OK I'll spring for a romp on your boat.
We'll be bringing Dr Elroy.

TEX

Dr Elroy Why!

HAL

We'll tell you then.

TEX

All right, I hope he likes to party.

JET flies away from the sunset into the deep night.

EXT - RUSTIC CABIN - DUSK

Max jumps down on the Harley. It roars to life. Hally gets on.

MAX (DR MONROE)

Well, I have the tachyon harnessing down.
We can slow particle movement to a stop with
enough power. It's the "We're not the
brightest" that gets me. Why would he say
that and then implode.

HALLY

We'll Dr. Seto must have figured something
pretty awesome out.

MAX

Well, I'll give Charles a call. I'd like to
hear how he's doing.

EXT. CAFÉ' - NIGHT

Hally gets in her car, kisses Max waves and drives off.

EXT. PLEASURE LINER - DAY

SEAPLANE pulls up to the big boat. Tex waves down to them.

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

Tex leads the gang into his office. Tex dries off in a thick terry
cloth robe. He has on and a cowboy hat and alligator boots.

TEX

This is the largest ferrous cement ship in
the world till Easter. I'm launching an
even bigger one. They're cheap to build and
I fixin to have a fleet of them.

They enter the inner office.

TEX

Welcome to my world, I want a drink.

GORDON

It's 9:30 in the morning!

TEX

(sarcastically)

I like a man that can tell time

HAL BURTON

No thank Tex nothing for me

DR ELROY

I'll have a Dewars' on the rocks.

TEX

Well gentlemen you got a preposition for me.

DR ELROY

Yes sir we do.

TEX

Hey, let's mix some business with pleasure.
We got a party going on, go pick out a
costume.

This is St. Heathen's day for those who
don't get enough at Mardi Gras. It's an
annual event. Hey you might know some
gentlemen and LADIES in there but you know
don't ask and don't tell. It's like Vegas
behind a green door.

Tex winks. He opens a dressing room door that looks like a central
casting wardrobe room.

TEX

Now go slip into a fantasy.

EXT. DESERT DISASTER - NIGHT

SOUND OF GAS UNDER PRESSURE

SUDDENLY there's an explosion and the gas flares up into blues flames
like a thousand stove top burners ignited. The goo flames up and looks
like it's being flambéed.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP

Flashlight blinks on and off in Morse code from a jagged cliff.

EXT. SATELLITE FARM - DAWN

KRYSTAL GATES

We have only primitive contact with the disaster site. The Red Crescent says the area has burst into flames.

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE - NIGHT

Gordon is in a dress with fishnet stocking, Elroy is ringmaster dominatrix. Hal's in a nicer Armani suit with deeper tinted sunglasses.

TEX

I have enough companies, why would I start one with you?

HAL

This will be worth hundreds of billions. That's why.

TEX

Let me see if I get this, Elroy stole lab secrets and Hodgkins is willing to block the flow of others in the consortium.

GORDON

Precisely.

TEX

Doc you may be a twit but I am impressed.

DR ELROY

Thank you.

ELROY'S cell phone buzzes with a text. It's from Dr Monroe.

DR MONROE (MAX)

I know why not the smartest. Abandon all work NOW!!!

He shut his cell and smiles snidely.

DR ELROY

(under breathe)

Too late

GORDON

Tex. This is like owning the rights to dynamite wrapped in gold.

TEX

Won't this get suspicious?

HAL

That is where your relation with Senator
Abrahams and General Preiferus comes in.
Tell them we have a proposition.

TEX

OK I'm in - I'll call him.

SUDDENLY - WHAM!

The boat shakes from a gigantic jolt then settles.

TEX

What the hell was that?

EXT - DESERT DISASTER - NIGHT

Flames shake the Middle East sands like it was a saucepan making a
roux. The rich goo is a brownish color. The ground begins to suck it
in and swirl like a drain.

EXT. REMOTE ISLAND - HIGH NOON

The cosmic mass draws up into the swirling cone like before. It spirals
up and up. A SPARKLING THREAD shoots into space like a spider filament
and twirls even finer like wool spun into silver yarn. The OUTSTRETCHED
HAND pulls the string back tight and LETS GO.

EXT - DESERT DISASTER - NIGHT

The swirling flush of brown ooze then shots the goo into the air like a
flaming bidet.

EXT. MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND LAGOON - DUSK

A large FLOATING CASINO HOTEL is moored in a private lagoon somewhere
in international waters. Banners whip in the wind with TEXAS HOLDEM -
PAO GAI - BACCARAT - LOOSE SLOTS and MORE in several languages along
with a small skull and cross bones.

Off camera voice

TEX

A thousand points of light on my ass.
Somebody gotta know who did it.

INT. CASINO PRIVATE OFFICE - DUSK

PLUSH PERSIAN CARPETS and giant pillows make the private office look like a HAREM'S HOME. Pictures of TEX with WORLD LEADERS and MILITARY DICTATORS decorate the walls and desk. They show he crosses all lines. The MOUNTED GAME HEADS and GUN COLLECTION shows no ONE CROSSES HIM. He was LOVED AND LOATHED.

TEX stands up. He's naked wearing only a cowboy hat, alligator boots and a holster with cans of whipped cream.

TEX

Well Gentleman this is not the right time to talk to the General.

Tex looks at Dr Elroy, Gordon Hunt and Hal Burton standing around his desk. HAL BURTON is dressed in a suit. Gordon Livry is in a short dress with fishnet stockings, high heels and a pink boa around his neck. It matches his lipstick. Dr. Elroy is dominatrix ringmaster with long gloves, top hat, a whistle and a whip.

TEX (CONT'D)

Seems like blasts are not from another nation after all. Look, you boys go on in and play with Trudy and the others. Enjoy yourself. I'm gonna make a call.

The three men leave the room. Tex walks into a VIP party room next his office. Cindy is on the phone. She looks up.

CINDY

I must go.

She hangs up.

TEX

Hey! I ain't payin ya to be on the phone.

He laughs and slaps her derrière through her peek-a-boo teddy. Cindy sneers.

TEX (CONT'D)

Just joshin. You're fine.

Tex feels her teddy again.

TEX

Silk - I love silk
Best thing they damn worms ever done. Cept
maybe bait for a hook.

DOOR OPENS - SOUND of rocking country music is in the background.
Off camera voice

TRUDY
(LOUD)

Hey Tex there's a mule team in here waitin
for you - get your hairy ass over here.

TEX

(yells out)

Yee Haw - Ride Em cowboy. Hey TRUDY General
P says HI!

TEX runs toward the Disco room with whip cream cans in his hands. Cindy is slow but follows. Tex looks back.

TEX

That-a-girl, you'll enjoy it.

INT. DISCO ROOM - DAY

"ST HEATHENS DAY" banners and party balloons make it a gay place. Invited guests dance around in fantasy indulgent costumes. Flat panel monitors cover the floors and walls. Lights and fast moving images race around the panels. A well-stocked bar circles the entire room. Behind the bar one small TV shows news of the Middle East blast. That earlier jolt didn't ruin the fun.

SUDDENLY there's a CLICKING sound of Liquor bottles, crystal chandelier rattle. The boat heaves violently. All look up. They're all flung in the air. They land hard.

GORDON

What the hell was that?

HAL BURTON

I think a wave hit us.

TEX

We're in a goddamn lagoon!

The boat heaves up even higher. Guests scream.

EXT. SATELLITE DISH FARM - MIDDAY

Field reporter KRYSTAL GATES has a hand to her ear. She relays the info into the camera.

KRYSTAL GATES

The quake, if we can call it that, was a 9.8. The epicenter is where the great depression was located. It appears everything has been leveled. We have only intermittent short wave radio contact. The best they can tell us is the hole shot up like a slingshot.

She hears her description and shrugs her shoulders.

KRYSTAL (CONT'D)

The Red Crescent is blotting up the blood of the wasted humans. The dismembered body count will surely rise as eyes for eyes and teeth for teeth are matched and personal effects are gathered.

NEWS GRAPHICS show animation of waves rippling over the Middle East with a legend showing the distance for the epicenter.

KRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Seismologists expect a powerful tsunami has moved out into the Mediterranean and down the Red sea. Apparently the initial shock wave was felt as far away as Madagascar.

EXT. VATICAN CITY - EARLY EVENING

High above ST PETER'S SQUARE the sky flickers orange red. The Pope stands on the balcony. His robes pick up the reddish hue. He looks out to a worried sea of believers. His arms open wide.

POPE

My Children, God loves you and will protect you. Divine providence is greater than us all. Let us pray for those perished souls in the Middle East and pray for our imperfect mortal souls and repent for our past sins. We are in God's hands; he will hold us and protect us.

The crowd listens in silence. A mild rumble vibrates the square. The crowd SCREAMS in PANIC

EXT. NEW YORK CITY / TIME SQUARE - DAY

Tens of thousands in the streets watch the POPE on the GIANT DISPLAY. Headlines crawl below --- OIL FIELDS BURNS --- LEADERS LOOK FOR ANSWERS --- 1,000,000+ DEAD --- STOCK MARKETS CLOSED ---

INT. CEMENT PLEASURE BOAT - NIGHT

TEX LOOKS out the porthole window. The sky is on fire like a volcano erupted.

TEX
Oh shit

The boat heaves up and SLAMS DOWN.

ALL GOES BLACK

TEXT OVER BLACK
39 DAY LATER (EASTER SUNDAY)

EXT. REMOTE TROPICAL ISLAND - DAWN

A warm breeze blows over an EXPANSIVE MEADOW. Palm trees sway. All is normal. There's a light drizzle. A four-leaf clover pops to life out of a tiny hole.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

CLOSE IN on TV WEATHERMAN

WEATHERMAN
Good morning. Well I'm afraid we may see some soggy Easter bunnies. This is the 39th consecutive day of a total global misting.

BOBBY romps into the room. Grammy is on the couch - still. The cat purrs loudly. Bobby looks at the TV.

BOBBY
(trying to be adult)
RAIN! Not more rain - Goddamn it.

WEATHERMAN
A meteorological event like this has never been recorded. Well not since Noah's ARK -
(laugh)
Back to you.

Chuckles for the news desk

NEWS ANCHOR
Yes if this rain keeps up we may need Noah or maybe even Moses!

BOBBY
Hey Grammy

INT. HOME - DAY

Feminist and Protest posters and plants cover the place. Alice is in bed with Alek. He has a distant look.

ALICE

Why did you get BAN THIS tattooed?

ALEK

(smugly)

Cause they'll always be another protest.

EXT. PLEASURE BOAT - DAY

CRACK - A champagne bottle slams across the bow of a giant ferrous cement pleasure liner. Guests line up two by two ready to enter. Tex is at the door with Dr Elroy

TEX

Too bad about the rain, But Charles, by the time this cruise is over we'll have enough money to build you the best Goddamn lab on earth.

CHARLES

I must admit Tex you're pretty bright for an oil and cement man.

SUDDENLY, Shafts of light puncture through with a majestic awe that only a heathen would dismiss. They look up. A puffy cloud looks like a giant man light shooting from his eyes.

EVERYONE CHEERS WHOOPEE!

TEX

I told you I was lucky. I wonder where Cindy and Trudy are. We gotta shove off.

Tex dials his cell.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Trudy walks into the Cathedral. PROTESTORS MARCH outside against the Pope, pedophile priests, pesticides and power in general.

INT. DELIVERY TRUCK - DAY

It's an UNDERCOVER SURVEILLANCE TRUCK full of monitors, infrared camera and listening devices to monitor the protestor. The bare breasted protest sits with her head back on a couch. There's a fleece blanket over her waist. She looks relaxed.

Off camera voice

RALPH

(garbled)

What did you say your name was?

MONICA
(ditzy)
It's Monica

Ralph pops out from under a fleece blanket.

NORTON
Is that a tattoo of STICK IT?

MONICA
(proud)
Yup. I got it with a friend

DOOR BURST OPENS

RALPH
Hey you're done. It's my turn.

RALPH
Na ah

MONICA
What about a three way?

NORTON
Naw I'm not into that.

MONICA
I can make it fun. Trust me.

Norton looks at Ralph and makes a fist.

NORTON
One word and you're dead meat.

INT. RUSTIC LOG CABIN - DAY

RAWHIDE" RING TONE on Cindy's cell. It's Tex. She smiles and rejects the call. She goes back to an article about DR MONROE by HALLY MONROE. Lucas braids her hair with a knowing smile.

WEATHERMAN
The sun has just come out. I guess it will be a glorious Easter Sunday after all.

INT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

TRUCK is a rockin. Trudy walks down the aisle. Mrs. Elroy recognizes her and avert her eyes in disgust.

PREACHER
And on the third day he rose.

A shaft of light streamed in through the stained glass windows as if God had spoken. ALL REJOICED.

...In the name of the father and the Son and
the Holy Ghost, Amen

ORGAN BELLOWS out Parishioners exit.

EXT. CATHEDRAL - HIGH NOON

Trudy walks out. Mrs Elroy whispers to several parishioners. They give Trudy a repugnant look and walk away from her.

CRACKING CRUMBLE - A gargoyle loosens and starts to falls

TRUDY
(to Mrs Elroy)

WATCH OUT!!!!

The devilish looking cement gargoyle hits Mrs. Elroy squarely on the head but turns to sandy dust without leaving a scratch.

GASPS ARE EVERYWHERE.

VOICE OF A BELIEVER
It's a miracle. A miracle!

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

Bobby looks at Grammy. She is still and smiling.

BOBBY
Grammy? Grammy? GRAMMY!

Mom rushes in. The Grammy is blue.

MOM
MOTHER!!!!!!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

HALLY hold Max's comatose hand. A glint of light hits Max's face. She flinches and opens her eyes slowly. She smiles.

MAX
(groggy)
Joe Seto spoke to me.

HALLY
What did he say?

MAX

He said enjoy nature and stay out of tall buildings? I'll tell Lucas.

INT. LEADER BRIEFING - DAY

GENERAL P

We can finger Tex Hunt as a loose cannon playing with weapons.

LEADER

(mumbles of agreement)

Never liked him, me neither - OK.

INT. PLEASURE LINER DISCO ROOM - DUSK

The Disco is packed with partiers. Water drips down the wall.

TEX

(to Charles)

Say that water seeped in through the hull.

EXT. CEMENT PLEASURE LINER - HIGH NOON

A black crow lands next to the Skull and cross bone flag

BLACK CROW

CAWWWWW - CAWWWWW

Subtitle translation: MEETING ADJOURNED!

The screen fades to near black. It's a BLACK LIGHT.

Off in the dark distance a mid-gray tumbleweed rolls closer. It glows. As it nears we see a SPCA FOUR LEAF CLOVER PIN on it.

SUDDENLY the bush ignites into a psychedelic color. It's crawling with parasites and pulses out with each word.

The Omniverse is more unfathomable than humans will ever know. And the SPCA intends to keep it that way.

THE END

Across the bottom "We hope for your sake" crawls slowly.

FADE OUT

The best suggestion came from, of all places, the protista's clan, a quiet unassuming cross over kingdom with tight ties to other neighboring kingdoms. They theorize a simple compound could be let out into the atmosphere which would begin a chemical

reaction with all cement causing it to lose its adhesive property. This would mean all of those seemingly unnecessary structures that humans built of cement or other forms of mortar would begin to lose their structural integrity. The result being nearly all of the large structures humans built over their history as erect workers would begin to decompose and eventually fall apart. The implication would be so severe humans would be forced to immediately deal with the situation while they determined the cause and attempted to find a solution, certainly occupying their time for quite a while. Everyone thought the plan was brilliant and gave even more validity to the fact that humans were not the brightest species. It was clear this would satisfy the need to impress and occupy the humans. But, more importantly, nuclear scientists would be pulled off of their projects to grapple with and try to solve this problem. It would lock up the humans for years. The simple key to solve this complex problem would be kept secret and tightly held by a few unknown and trusted members of a special species in the protista kingdom. Also, another plus, changing the molecular structure of cement was more a mineral exercise than an organic one and it would have the least impact on the living organisms. All of whom gladly sacrifice their make up for the common good but less is more and the plan called for less. A vote was taken and the idea was passed nearly unanimously. Nothing ever passed unanimously, deviation was a trade mark of this body and no one gave the dissenters much attention; they just did their standard deviation.

“You have done well” the chair-roach complementing the group. Now I would like us all to break into our sub groups and discuss the implementation of this excellent proposal. And, for those who were assigned to the swampland issue we will give your topic time for a report and a vote when we reconvene. Thank you.”