

Lost Hills

by
Adam Aresty

Agent:
Sean Barclay (TGA)

Heroes and Villains Entertainment
323.850.2990

Welcome to the jungle.

LOST HILLS

FADE IN:

A BRIGHT BLUE FLOWER. Seven petals round a yellow center. It bobs a little, to and fro, on a tree branch.

Two COMMON FINCHES land on the branch next to the flower. They are PSYCHEDELIC COLORED, with black eyes. The birds begin to preen each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE -- DAY

Dense foliage fills our field of view. A nearby shrub RUSTLES. There's a GRUNT from behind as--

WENDY KEEN (19, for now) untangles herself from the fern. A brunette, she has the body of a woman but she still carries herself like a girl. She wears a backpack and cargo shorts. Looks like she's been hiking for a while now. She wipes sweat from her brow.

Something catches her eye and she cocks her head.

WENDY

There you are.

Wendy stands in the shadow of a GIGANTIC TREE, roots flared wide like wings. TWO FIGURES stand at the base, surveying.

MARTIN KEEN (40s), Wendy's father, turns, regards her from behind his spectacles. Martin is a brilliant man, his mind constantly pouring over information while you're telling him your life's story. So, he can seem a little... distracted.

MARTIN

Wendy, my dear.

WENDY

It took me two hours to track after you guys. Just leave me behind and have all the fun. Way to go.

Standing beside the tree is PRISCILLA KEEN (40s), Wendy's mother. She's got her silver hair tied back, wears the jungle's grime with elegance. A PENDANT glints from around her neck. It's a CARTOON PENGUIN, all smiles.

Unlike Wendy, the fire in Priscilla's eyes comes from a matriarchal place. She's a lioness. Priscilla parses out a length of rope as she kisses her daughter on the forehead.

PRISCILLA

We didn't want to wake you, honey.

WENDY

You know I'd rather be out here.

PRISCILLA

Honey, it's dangerous.

MARTIN

We're going up. You should head back. We'll see you for lunch.

WENDY

That's not very exciting, is it?

MARTIN

We're not fooling around here, Wendy.

WENDY

(rolls eyes)

You got any water? I'm dying.

Priscilla tosses her a fresh bottle. Wendy gulps. Priscilla claps her hands, final.

PRISCILLA

Well. Shall we?

MARTIN

(glares up)

I don't know, Cil. It's pretty high up.

PRISCILLA

We could use another pair of eyes, Marty. Besides, you've already had enough of me for the morning.

Wendy smiles at Martin, who finally nods.

WENDY

Yes!

Martin quickly removes a white TABLET COMPUTER from his pack, holds it aloft, as if he's trying to find cell phone service. It BLEATS at him, and he speaks to it:

MARTIN

We're making our ascent. Felix, I'll radio from the top.

Priscilla removes a GRAPPLING GUN from her belt. It looks cobbled together from spare parts. She aims the thing-- FISSSHHH!--an ANCHOR SPIKE rushes into the top of the tree. Priscilla tugs it to make sure it's stuck.

EXT. CANOPY -- MOMENTS LATER

The three ascend along the trunk of the tree with the help of MOTORIZED CARABINERS that use a simple "push-and-pull" system on TWO ROPES. More of an elevator ride than a climb.

Wendy bounces a little in her harness.

WENDY
(re: the carabiners)
This is nice.

MARTIN
It's Felix's design. Could use some more power, though.

WENDY
(mocking)
More power!

PRISCILLA
Sure beats the old fashioned way.

Priscilla steps onto a branch, helps Martin and Wendy up. Martin squints behind his specs.

MARTIN
Well, I just don't see it.

WENDY
What're we looking for?

MARTIN
A flower. When it blooms, it's a bright blue--

Wendy's gaze flits to something BEHIND Martin.

WENDY
--blue?

MARTIN
Bright blue.

WENDY
Dad. Wrong tree.

Martin and Priscilla follow her gaze 30 feet away to...

ANOTHER TREE

Growing amongst the foliage is our BRIGHT, BLUE FLOWER. The two finches who landed near it earlier take flight from the branch into the distance.

PRISCILLA

Smiles at Martin.

MARTIN

Would you look at that?

PRISCILLA

She's your daughter.

Priscilla winks at Wendy and unholsters her grappling gun...

MOMENTS LATER

Martin clips his motorized carabiner to parallel TRACKS OF ROPE that SPAN THE DISTANCE between the two trees.

MARTIN

(to Wendy)

We'll be quick. You stay put.

He activates his carabiner and it begins to carry him out across toward the flower. Priscilla's next.

WENDY

Ugh, I can't stand it when he talks to me like that.

PRISCILLA

Maybe this time you better listen.

Priscilla leans off the branch and moves...

ACROSS THE JUNGLE

Away from Wendy. She looks down to the forest floor below -- steep drop. 80 feet or so.

HALFWAY ACROSS, the carabiner's motor makes a WINDING DOWN noise. A wisp of smoke wafts from between the rope as it crawls to a halt. Cil makes a face, tries to move hand-over-hand, but the carabiner has her LOCKED in place.

PRISCILLA

(beat)

Marty, I'm... something's funky
with this.

MARTIN

Has made it across the rope and is trying to find his footing on a branch, fixated on the flower that's just out of reach. Priscilla's cries fall on deaf ears. She turns to...

WENDY

Who silently nods, clips herself onto the same rope, zips out across toward her mother and tries to ignore the heights.

Once she reaches Priscilla, she grabs for her and doesn't notice that the "pull" rope FRAYS ever so slightly.

PRISCILLA

Coupling's fried. Switch it for
another, okay? It'll be fine.

Wendy steadily clips herself in between the push-and-pull ropes--TWANG!--makes the rope Cil's on fray a little more. She goes wide-eyed, speechless.

Wendy works swiftly, a bead of sweat runs down her nose as every movement makes the rope Priscilla's on fray even more... Priscilla glares up, grips for a handhold.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

Baby, it's not going to hold!

WENDY

It'll hold!

Wendy reaches to clip the final latch closed, sees that the rope is down to ONE STRAND--

MARTIN

Climbs to a higher branch, reaches for the flower, brushes it with his fingertips...

Behind him, Priscilla and Wendy silently FALL out of frame.

Martin plucks the flower by the stem, turns to triumphantly meet Priscilla on the line -- but she's GONE.

WENDY

Flies through the air, the WIND the only sound as she drops like a stone. It's a VERTIGO effect, everything warps and rushes up to meet her. Instant death--

The rope she's attached to--THWACK!--is pulled taut five feet before impact. Blood rapidly rushes to her head.

Priscilla lies, unmoving, on the ground below her.

MARTIN

Scurries out across the remaining rope.

The second carabiner Wendy dangles from works as a DECELERATOR, servos WHIR. Martin looks down, mortified by what he sees.

SMASH TO:

MEN in medical SCRUBS hover over us. Fluorescents FLARE our vision and an unsteady BEEPING crescendoes.

EXT. MEDICAL SUITE -- LATER

Wendy ambles down a hallway of exposed sheetrock, with a thousand-yard stare. She comes to a corner where she can spy a CLOSED DOOR. Martin hurriedly exits with ANOTHER MAN. They both wear medical scrubs.

As the second man strips the latex gloves from his hands, the mask from his face, we meet FELIX TREMAIN (30s). Martin's assistant and right-hand man by way of Liverpool. Felix is wire-thin with piercing eyes and a mustache. He speaks with a watered-down, English accent. Wendy listens from afar.

MARTIN

That's internal bleeding! She's right; we can't do anything more for her here.

(off Felix's silence)

I'm going to call in an airlift to the mainland--

Martin moves past Felix who grabs his arm.

FELIX

Wait. Just wait.

(beat)

We found it, Martin.

MARTIN
Felix, my wife is in there.

FELIX
They'll shut us down for this.
What have you both been working for
all this time?
(beat)
I can keep her alive.

Wendy makes a noise, alerts the two men.

WENDY
Dad? Is Mom alright?

MARTIN
(all smiles)
Wendy. Come here.

Martin embraces her, eyes Felix over her shoulder. Felix crosses his arms.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MEDICAL SUITE -- LATER

Priscilla sits feebly upright in a hospital bed. Her hair is matted with sweat, she looks frail and gaunt. Priscilla wakes as Wendy and Martin enter.

PRISCILLA
Everyone's here. I'm glad.

WENDY
(through tears)
Mom, I'm so sorry. I let you fall.

Priscilla meekly takes Wendy's face in her hands.

PRISCILLA
No, no. You did everything right.
My sweet Wendy. Don't ever doubt
yourself. Not for a second.

Priscilla turns to Martin expectantly.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)
Did you... find it?

Martin removes the BLUE FLOWER from his pocket, wilted. Priscilla smiles, and sighs a deep, resigned sigh.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)
 Don't lose focus now, Marty.
 That's all that matters.

WENDY
 You're all that matters, Mom.

PRISCILLA
 That's sweet.
 (to Martin)
 She's sweet.

Wendy nods. Priscilla's eyes grow heavy.

WENDY
 Mom, I--

Priscilla's heart monitor's BEEPS become erratic, and her eyes grow heavy. Wendy backs away from the hospital bed as Felix rushes in with a CRASH CART. Priscilla has FLATLINED.

Wendy hugs herself in the corner as Felix and Martin work furiously, the monotone BEEEEEEEEEP all we hear. Finally, Felix shuts the monitor off as Martin clasps Priscilla's hands over her heart.

Felix and Martin watch Wendy take off through the hallway with tears streaming down her face. Felix puts his hand on Martin's shoulder as we...

SMASH TO:

EXT. JUNGLE -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy's footsteps pound the ground, her hair a mess. She comes to the tree Priscilla fell from and stops running, exhausted, every bit of her strength gone.

She notices her mother's PENGUIN PENDANT coiled in the mud. She picks it up as rain INSTANTLY begins falling around her, like someone turned on a shower head. Her tears mix with the falling rain.

She kneels, SOBBING... and we PULL BACK to reveal the metal girders of a CONSTRUCTION CRANE, then ANOTHER in the far distance. Wendy isn't standing in a clearing in the jungle anymore...

As our eyes adjust, we see the ground DROPS OFF, trees give way to a man-made CEMENT SUBSTRUCTURE below. Wendy is dwarfed by whatever this work-in-progress is as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTIN'S STUDY -- LATER

Martin enters and removes his lab coat. Something catches his eye. There, on his desk, sits Priscilla's PENDANT.

He looks around for a moment, hangs his head, as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. COLORADO RIVER -- DAY

Roaring RAPIDS thrash the river. From around a craggy rock speeds an INFLATABLE RAFT filled with SIX PASSENGERS and--

Wendy (late 20s, now), who sits in the center of the raft rowing double oars to steer. She shouts COMMANDS:

WENDY

Alright, people! This is it! The last class four before we go home. You ready?

PASSENGERS

Yeah!/Bring it!/Let's do this!!

TWO FRAT DUDES on the left side of the raft high-five each other, begin to paddle furiously.

WENDY

We've got to build up speed in order to push through this hydraulic, or we're gonna dump truck. So, paddle! Now!

Everyone paddles furiously with their oars. Wendy grits her teeth as they bob down and enter the rapids...

WENDY (CONT'D)

More! More speed!

The Frat Dudes snicker at Wendy and pump their arms faster.

The raft rattles as it becomes LODGED in the churning whitewater.

The left side begins to slowly lift over their heads.

WENDY (CONT'D)

To the high side! Stay low!

The Frat Dudes freak and STAND STRAIGHT UP. Wendy goes wide-eyed as they're LAUNCHED from the raft and into the rapids!

She scrambles, grabs one of them by his life jacket as he spins beside. He crawls into the raft...

But his buddy swirls further down stream! He SCREAMS for help, careens right toward a jagged SHARD OF ROCK.

Wendy grabs a THROW BAG from under her seat as the rest of the passengers dig their way out of the rapids. She plays out a meter of rope from the bag, clips it inside the raft.

She cranes her neck, spies Frat Dude in the water and waves the orange bag at him. He raises his arms in response.

Wendy tosses the bag. It flies through the air, parses out the rope within, and lands a few meters downstream from the Frat Dude. He grabs the bag, inches from the rock--

Wendy YANKS the rope from the raft, pulls with all her might and reels him in HAND OVER HAND. As the Frat Dude helps his buddy out of the water, the shard of rock NICKS the raft.

FRAT DUDE

Dude. Dude.

Wendy notices small TEAR in the raft. She continues to paddle downstream where the rapids lead to calmer waters.

EXT. RIVER BANK -- LATER

The passengers mill about, their life vests hang open.

We get a good look at Wendy as she stands by the water. Older, wiser, a grown woman now. She's still wound tight, only confident, more FOCUSED. She emphatically ties a knot as the Frat Dude she saved approaches.

FRAT DUDE

Hey. I just wanted to say thanks.
Again.

(beat, grave)

Seriously. I was gonna be
skewered, and you saved my life.

Wendy tucks her hair behind her ear, bashful.

WENDY

Don't sweat it. Comes with the
territory.

A car horn BLEATS at her as a 4x4 crests the ridge. Painted on the side: Westward River Expeditions. Est. 2007. Wendy smiles, goes to approach, remembers something. She reaches into her pocket and slips on a modest ENGAGEMENT RING.

ALAN HARMON (30s) steps out of the truck and watches Wendy climb up the bank toward him. Alan wears glasses, skinny as a rail. Wendy's fiance.

ALAN

Ahoy! How was the run?

WENDY

Couple of bumps, but we made it.

ALAN

Couple of bumps?

(re: the passengers)

Couldn't have ditched a few of 'em over Beaver Falls?

WENDY

I was feeling generous.

ALAN

That's my girl.

Alan puts his arm around Wendy, kisses on her lips.

INT. ALAN'S TRUCK -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy rides shotgun. The raft bobs down over the windshield.

ALAN

I figure, if we land a few more runs before fall, we'll be golden. Hmm? Take some time off...

WENDY

Alan, it's the height of the season.

ALAN

Babe, I know.

WENDY

So, what do you want time off for?

ALAN

I thought we'd have ourselves an old fashioned Grand Canyon weddin'.

WENDY

I don't know...

ALAN

That's what you said when I suggested Montana.

WENDY

I said "no" to Montana right away.

ALAN

Okay, so what's wrong with the Canyon? You love it there.

WENDY

I'll think about it.

ALAN

Parents say that when they mean "no." We ever going to have a serious conversation about this?

WENDY

(beat)

I'll think about it.

He taps the brakes as they pull into a dusty PARKING LOT.

ALAN

Whose truck is that?

EXT. WESTWARD RIVER EXPEDITIONS -- MOMENTS LATER

Parked in front of the main office of Westward River Expeditions is a WHITE TRUCK.

Wendy marches up to it, but there's nobody inside.

FELIX (O.S.)

Wendy Keen. A proper grown up.

Wendy spins to see Felix sitting in a wicker rocking chair on the front porch of the cabin. He stands, moves to where she can see him better. He's aged well; grey at the ears.

WENDY

Felix?

Alan comes jogging up beside Wendy.

ALAN
 (always the salesman)
 Hi, there. Looking for the
 adventure of a lifetime?

FELIX
 I've had my share, thank you--

WENDY
 Felix, this is Alan. My fiance.

ALAN
 Oh, you know Wendy?

Felix descends from the porch.

FELIX
 Since she was a little sprite.
 You're a tough cookie to find.
 (beat)
 Alan, you keep up with her?

ALAN
 Wendy runs the rapids. I've got
 dry land duty, right Hon?

WENDY
 Felix, what's this about?

FELIX
 Is there somewhere we can talk?

Wendy shoots Alan a grave look.

INT. WESTWARD RIVER EXPEDITIONS -- MOMENTS LATER

Felix eyes the rustic decorations. A large map of the
 Colorado River on the far wall, pamphlets scattered about,
 antique oars crossed over the fireplace.

ALAN
 I can wrangle up a cup of coffee,
 if you like.

FELIX
 I'd love some.

Alan nods, exits to another room. Wendy pulls up a chair.

FELIX (CONT'D)
 (beat)
 Wendy, when was the last time you
 spoke with your father?

WENDY

The day I left.

Felix raises his eyebrows and looks away.

FELIX

He always thought you'd come back.

WENDY

Oblivious.

FELIX

After Priscilla passed your father became rather... unpredictable. Maybe you didn't realize this when you were younger, but the lilypad doesn't pay for itself. Quest Logistics stepped in as financiers when all the grants dried up. Unlimited capital in exchange for the patents on everything to come out of that jungle. More recently, they've started putting in requests.

(long beat)

Wendy, three days ago Quest lost track of Martin.

WENDY

They what?

FELIX

He's disappeared inside Lost Hills.

WENDY

So, Jesus, get some researchers in there and find him--

FELIX

He's shut us out, unfortunately. Well, first he fired most everyone. That, or they quit. The day I tendered my resignation, I was the last one to go.

WENDY

You left him there alone?

FELIX

Let's not go pointing fingers at who left where.

(off her stare)

I'm afraid he's gone and... well, frankly, that his life's in danger.

Alan comes back with the coffee.

FELIX (CONT'D)

I know Martin left the door open for you. He always said that.

WENDY

If he wants to rot alone in there, that's his business. Not mine.

FELIX

I implore you now, before you lose another member of your family: see the gravity in this. Without Martin, Lost Hills Research Center will be no more. It was your parents' dream.

WENDY

Don't you put that on me, Felix.

Felix sees she's finished. He leaves Wendy a card.

FELIX

My contact. Quest Logistics is permitting me twenty-four hours. Then they take drastic measures.
(beat, stands)
A pleasure meeting you, Alan.

Felix exits. Wendy stares down at the floor.

EXT. WESTWARD RIVER EXPEDITIONS -- LATER

Wendy and Alan remove the raft from the top of his 4x4 as the sun sets behind them. Wendy watches Alan work silently.

He runs a brush soaked in Bubble solution over a section of the raft, presses down on the side--HISSSS--a bubble gurgles from the urethane inflatable. He looks to Wendy.

ALAN

(beat)

I think you should go. I really do. You say things in your sleep. Sometimes it wakes me up, and--

WENDY

Alan, I don't need you to play Devil's Advocate. Not now.

Alan reaches for a bottle of Stay-Bond Adhesive.

ALAN

It's just, you talk about your dad
like he's already dead.

WENDY

He might as well be.

ALAN

(beat)

You say that now. But, one day...

Wendy doesn't answer, instead walks back toward the office
with her head down.

Alan flattens the section of leaky raft and spreads the gook
over the hole. Then he places a 4x6 plastic patch on top.
As he waits for it to dry and watches the sun set, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE -- DAY (WENDY'S DREAM)

*Wendy stands in the highest boughs of a tree overlooking the
jungle from the prologue. MARTIN is out on the line. His
decelerator is stuck, like Priscilla's.*

*Wendy furiously tries to make her way out to help him.
She's privy to the SHREDDED ROPE, every movement makes it
fray STRAND BY STRAND, until:*

*Martin is frozen in a SLOW-MOTION scream as the rope--TWANG--
snaps, and the drop down is WARPED, Wendy's vision BLURRY as
he plummets, everything rushing up to meet him.*

Instant death--

SMASH TO:

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Wendy wakes screaming from her NIGHTMARE, drenched in sweat.
Alan sits up, half asleep.

ALAN

What.

WENDY

(catches her breath)

Shhh. Go back to bed.

EXT. QUEST HEADQUARTERS -- NIGHT

Formerly the TRANSAMERICA BUILDING, the iconic pyramid skyscraper has been adorned with the logo of QUEST LOGISTICS: several inter-twined neon pixels that make up a DOUBLE-HELIX. We ZOOM TOWARD a window near the tip top...

INT. QUEST LOGISTICS OFFICES -- SAME

Felix paces back and forth across a LUSH CARPET.

NOVICK (O.S.)
I'm growing impatient, Felix.

Felix stops pacing, looks up. HAROLD NOVICK (40s) sits on the edge of his desk, shirt sleeves rolled up, tie loosened. He is striking with a rogue air about him. Quest's CEO.

NOVICK (CONT'D)
(re: the carpet)
You're gonna wear a hole in it.
(beat)
If she doesn't call, we let the professionals do their thing.

FELIX
You've no idea just how far gone Martin is. Lost Hills has become a labyrinth, with death behind every turn. If you want to find Martin, then this girl is our best chance.

Felix's phone rings. Novick motions for Felix to answer.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Felix here.

INT. BEDROOM -- SAME

Wendy sits on the edge of the bed.

WENDY
I don't know if I'm ready to see him, Felix.

We INTERCUT BETWEEN Wendy and Felix:

FELIX
Wendy? There's still time to help.

WENDY
Okay.

FELIX
Okay, as in "yes?"

Alan rolls over in bed, adjusts his pillow.

WENDY
Only if Alan comes with me.

FELIX
Wendy, I'm not sure if that's--

WENDY
Listen. We do this on my terms.
If my father is alive, then we have
a lot of catching up to do. And if
he's not... I'm not coming alone.
See you in San Francisco.

Wendy hangs up. Felix waits a beat, then looks to Novick:

FELIX
Wendy Keen is confirmed.

Novick crosses his arms, leans back, satisfied as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRIVATE JET -- DAY

Alan settles into a plush leather chair with the Quest logo
on the headrest. Diet Coke and a bag of Funyuns in hand.

ALAN
Do you want something? They got
Funyuns...

WENDY
My stomach's in my throat.

Alan takes her hand.

ALAN
Everything's going to be fine, Hon.
(changes the subject)
Lost Hills is a nerd's wildest
dream! You know that special they
did on the Discovery Channel?

WENDY
Yeah. I refused to be in it.

ALAN

I wore that VHS out, I watched it so many times! Your father's found the cure for, what, a dozen infectious diseases? I mean, Bill Clinton couldn't even get inside.

WENDY

It was Hilary. And Dad said their environmental policies didn't... "jive."

ALAN

Anyway. I can't believe I'm actually going!
 (snaps fingers)
 What's that word...*Ecrop*?
Ecropopo... how'd you say it?

Wendy sits up straight, peers through the window at...

EXT. LOST HILLS RESEARCH CENTER -- ESTABLISHING

The jet STREAKS over SAN FRANCISCO. The Golden Gate bridge, Alcatraz island. Everything familiar... except for the SHAPE looming off the coast. As the fog dissipates:

WENDY (V.O.)

Ecopolis.

LOST HILLS materializes out of the mist.

White galvanized steel girdles spiral out from the center, supporting a base that's 8 MILES ACROSS and covered with an OPAQUE DOME dotted with wind-harnessing FANS.

A LILYPAD floating in the water; the 8th wonder of the world.

SMASH TO:

HANDHELD FOOTAGE

Heavy boots slosh through mud, SPLASH the lense. We're in JUNGLE TERRAIN as a black helicopter ZOOMS overhead. Wind whips everything around.

JIM "STEADY" STERN (30s) hustles toward a fallen tree ahead of him. This guy is gruff; Bear Grylls with a Rambo edge. He ducks for cover behind the log, turns back to see--

ARIANNA CRUZ (30s) who falls in next to him. Cruz is a lanky, olive-skinned Venus. Hair pulled back, laser eyes. She wears a tank top and cargo pants.

Steady raises a pair of binoculars overlooking a valley. He scans the terrain... A small PROPELLER PLANE has crashed in the valley below. Smoke plumes.

Cruz slings a TOOL KIT over her shoulder.

STEADY

There's our smoking hole!

CRUZ

Hot zone. SAR can't get close.
We're up!

Cruz leaps over the log and sprints through the foliage.

STEADY

(off her lead)

Ladies first...

MOMENTS LATER

The smoking WRECKAGE of the airplane has torn a scar through the jungle. SOMEONE is slumped in the pilot's seat.

Steady huffs into frame and YANKS on the cockpit door. Stuck shut. He signals for Cruz.

She undoes her tool kit, moves in with a pair of heavy-duty bolt cutters. CLACK-CLACK. Cruz steps away as Steady wrenches the door from the hinges--

Cruz leaps into the cockpit with the body. His arms and legs stiff-straight, lifeless. Cruz hikes her thumb.

CRUZ

Not sure he made it!

Steady cocks his head, YANKS the body from the seat--

It lands awkwardly in the mud. He rolls it over to reveal a PRACTICE DUMMY, face in a fixed "Help Me" gaze. Steady pats the decoy on the head.

Steady looks right at the CAMERA and makes a "cut it" sign, hand across his neck. This image FREEZES--

INT. BRIEFING ROOM -- SAME

The footage is PAUSED on a flatscreen. Steady and Cruz smile to each other, and he ejects a DVD.

Wendy and Alan sit around a make-shift briefing room. Felix stands at the head of the class, who we'll meet momentarily. Photos of Martin as well as SCHEMATICS of Lost Hills hang on a cork board behind them. Wendy crosses her arms.

Steady straightens his back, holds his hands out in front of him -- palms up. Perfectly still.

STEADY

Call me Steady, due to my hands.
Rescue, extraction. That's our
game, Cruz and me.

(eyes Cruz)

That band of hikers, got themselves
turned around up in Nepal last
winter? We were there, in zero
visibility. Piece of cake, huh?

CRUZ

Nothing like Thailand after the
tsunami in oh-four.

STEADY

(licks his teeth)

She's in it for that kick of
adrenaline.

CRUZ

Let's not forget your pageant-
winning good looks. *Mi amor.*

STEADY

And don't mind Jack here--

Steady points to JACK DREYFUSS (30s), perched atop cases of AV equipment. Schlubby, lean, bearded.

STEADY (CONT'D)

--He's puttin' it all on film for a
special we've got cookin'. Found
him freelancing for Nat Geo.
Thought we'd put some hair on his
chest, eh, Dreyfuss?

DREYFUSS

We'll cut around the dummy. It's
gonna pop in HD, man.

Dreyfuss draws snickers from--

WES and YARI BANNER (25, 27), brothers who compliment each other. Wes is all sinew and bone, has a nervous twitch. Yari oozes calm-cool-collected. They crunch numbers for breakfast. Yari smacks his brother in the stomach.

FELIX

Wes and Yari Banner. Stanford computer science, by way of Boston. They'll be our systems analysts.

WES

'Sup.

YARI

(re: Steady, et al)
We're independent contractors.

FELIX

This is a search and rescue mission. Our objective--
(a photo of Martin)
--my colleague, Martin Keen. Martin's daughter, Wendy, is running point. You'll take your cues from her. She'll provide access to the facility -- here, at the south pier.
(beat)
Questions, concerns?

YARI

(hikes his thumb)
Who's this guy?

Wendy clears her throat.

WENDY

This is Alan. My fiance.

STEADY

I trust you two got wilderness experience? Orienteering?

ALAN

We own a whitewater rafting company outside Flagstaff.

Blank stares from Steady and Cruz.

WENDY

Lost Hills is not an afternoon stroll in the woods. My father didn't intend it to be "hiked"--

Felix puts a hand on her shoulder. Wendy quiets.

FELIX

Martin Keen is a great mind.
The greatest. Let's find him safe
and sound.

The group breaks, begins hauling their gear out of the terminal as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO BAY -- DAY

A BOSTON WHALER chops through the waves. Steady drives. Everyone else holds on for dear life.

Fog drapes the shadow of Lost Hills in a gloom. The structure towers over the small craft, which Steady pilots toward a FLOATING DOCK with finesse...

EXT. SOUTH PIER -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy and Felix march down the end of the dock toward THE OUTER AIRLOCK, a white door covered in mildew and soot. Dreyfuss reaches for it absentmindedly--ZZZZT! He recoils as sparks POP.

WES

It's electric.

YARI

Boogie woogie, woogie.

Felix ushers Wendy front and center.

FELIX

Hope your Dad left a key under the mat...

Yari jimmies a security panel open, looks like an apartment call-box. He motions for Wendy to step front and center as he mashes a button -- a TONE SOUNDS. Wendy leans in:

WENDY

Wendy. Keen.

The call box BLEATS. The airlock--HISSSS--slides open, as Dreyfuss nurses his hand from the electric shock.

INT. AIRLOCK -- MOMENTS LATER

Everyone crowds inside the stuffy airlock as the outer door closes behind them. Alan sticks close to Wendy.

The sound of a KLAXON as the chamber PRESSURIZES. The inner door CLUNKS, swings open...

INT. ATRIUM -- SAME

Everyone empties the airlock one-by-one into the MAIN ATRIUM.

Previously a sparkling white space that was lit naturally by a glassed-in roof, the atrium is strewn about with garbage and detritus. A tattered sign reads:

WE COME TO LOST HIL S RESEA CH C NTER

Alan kicks a Coke can across the space as Dreyfuss snaps away on his Canon XLR.

YARI

Global warming, eat your heart out.

WENDY

(to Felix)

What happened?

FELIX

Martin got it in his head that the custodial staff were selling his secrets. Goodbye clean toilets.

(beat)

Let's get these supplies inside.

Alan leans in close to Wendy, marvels at the mess.

ALAN

Where do you even begin?

WENDY

(cups her hands)

Dad? Dad!

Alan touches her on the shoulder and she stops.

FELIX

Shall we have a look at Zenith?

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Dreyfuss follows Wendy, Felix, Wes and Yari into a large ovular room. Something akin to NASA Mission Control.

A gigantic VIEW-SCREEN monitors all of the systems inside Lost Hills. The computer terminals are sleek, everything has a touch-screen interface.

A circular CENTRAL PROCESSOR looms at the front of the room. Wendy crosses her arms as Wes and Yari plug into a terminal. Dreyfuss runs his hands along the console -- Wendy grabs it.

WENDY

You, with the touching. The red button of my childhood. Never, ever, touch the red button.

FELIX

Built to sustain life here. Martin said it was God once.

(beat)

What do you see, boys?

WES

God's got eighty-eight bit encryption. Idle hands, right?

YARI

(typing)

General systems are untouched. Last Zenith access was... three days ago. Logged by Dr. Keen.

WES

Got something.

Wes motions toward the viewscreen.

ON SCREEN

Fuzzy web-cam footage of a WRECKED LABORATORY. Martin shuffles into frame. Hair thinned, hasn't shaved in weeks. Since we last saw him, Dr. Keen has developed a NERVOUS TICK. He blinks his eyes and purses his lips constantly.

MARTIN

This is Marty Keen. It's... July the fourteenth, and I'm now officially the last employee of Lost Hills Research Center.

WENDY

Averts her eyes.

WENDY
He looks so old.

ON SCREEN

ERRR--the image jumps. Martin stands further from the camera.

MARTIN
And I told him if he couldn't prove
to me that he wasn't the one
pilfering the lab's supply closet--
(ERRR--last distortion)
I'm going to solve this riddle at
last. It's peaceful here. Quiet.
I can think, finally.

Martin reaches forward and the screen goes BLANK.

FELIX

Crosses his arms.

FELIX
Well, the important question is
where did he go?

WES
(typing)
That shouldn't be too hard.

YARI
Get outta here, dude.

Yari moves to the terminal next to Wes, begins furiously
typing in speed with his brother.

WES
Slow down, you're going to--
(off Yari's GRUNT)
--there's a security protocol--

KER-KLUNK. All the screens FLASH: Unauthorized Zenith
Access. Please Consult Dr. Keen.

YARI
(beat)
Whoops.

FELIX
What do you mean, "whoops?"

YARI
Minor setback.

WES
You troll! That's not a minor setback! We're going to have to reset the whole processor core.

FELIX
How long?

WES
On this beast?

Wendy HUFFS, promptly storms out of the control room. Felix shoots the brothers a look.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTIN'S STUDY -- DAY

Alan stands looking at a BUST OF ALBERT EINSTEIN. Hanging around his neck is a GOLD MEDALLION. Alan's eyes light up.

ALAN
Omygod. This is his Nobel Prize.

Wendy rifles through drawers in Martin's desk amidst the clutter of his study. The place is warm, a Man-Cave where microscopes sub in for electric guitars.

WENDY
(re: the bust)
He thought old 'Bert got shafted since he was never recognized for Relativity. He dedicated it to him.

Alan peruses more memorabilia -- photos of Martin shaking hands with STEVE JOBS, with HILARY CLINTON.

ALAN
You know, your dad's nothing to be embarrassed about.

WENDY
I was never embarrassed, Alan. Dad's a wonderful scientist. He's just really shitty at caring about anything else.

Wendy finds a tin box at the bottom of the drawer. She shakes it -- something RATTLES inside. A KEY. Wendy stands with it, moves to a LOCKBOX across.

Wendy opens it and removes a KEY CARD, crosses again toward an OIL PAINTING of TWO GORILLAS. Alan watches, mesmerized.

She removes the painting from the wall, reveals a safe that eats the key card. Wendy opens the safe and removes TWO MORE LASER-CUT KEYS.

ALAN

Jesus, how many keys is that?

WENDY

He's very meticulous. Here, help.

She shows Alan to TWO SLOTS on the bookshelf behind them. They insert their keys.

KLUNK! The bookshelf SWINGS OPEN, reveals a hidden ROOM. Wendy leads Alan inside...

MARTIN'S WARDROBE

His private stash of stuff. There are LAB COATS hanging, stacks of FRAMED PATENTS, a MIRROR that reads: TIME Man of The Year across the glass.

Wendy reaches for Priscilla's PENGUIN PENDANT. It hangs over Martin's TABLET COMPUTER, cradled in a docking station.

Wendy drapes the necklace around her neck as the tablet--BLEEP--restarts. Screen reads: Good Afternoon, Dr. Keen.

Wendy grabs the thing, begins scrolling through it.

WENDY

Bingo.

INT. LOST HILLS -- ATRIUM -- MOMENTS LATER

Felix points as Steady and Cruz heft more cases through the airlock. Wendy and Alan come jogging in.

WENDY

He's in the habitat.

FELIX

How do you know that?

Wendy shows the tablet to Felix.

WENDY
 (scrolls through)
 I found his lab notes.

FELIX
 You really are your father's
 daughter.
 (to the group)
 Move everything into the labs,
 we'll bed down there for now.

STEADY
 (hefts a case)
 Everything?

Wendy takes Alan's arm.

WENDY
 You gotta see this.

INT. PRIMARY LABORATORY -- MOMENTS LATER

Felix mashes a button next to an access door marked PRIMARY LAB: FACILITY PERSONNEL ONLY. The door opens and Wendy, Alan, Felix, Dreyfuss, Steady, and Cruz file into the CONE-SHAPED research facility with all their supplies.

A mess of wires and cables snake from the four-story high concave ceiling and down to different WORK STATIONS.

At the center of it all is an OVEN-SIZED CHAMBER, bolted to the lab floor. Wendy stands beside it with Alan.

WENDY
 The Nano-Accelerator. Chalk
 everything up to this. Dad's
 telegraph. His light bulb.

Wendy moves to a WORKSTATION where a glass canister stands upright. She lifts it to the light, examines a SEED POD floating in a CLEAR SOLUTION inside.

Wendy dons a pair of gloves and places the canister inside the vault-like kiln. Wendy seals the oven and mashes a RED BUTTON on the side, the chamber begins to do its "thing."

Sounds like a JET ENGINE revving up. YELLOW LIGHT seeps out from the edges of the door as the sound CRESCENDOES...

Wendy pops the kiln open and removes the canister with a pair of tongs. The previously clear solution is CLOUDY, metallic. The seed pods are awash with it.

ALAN

Kind of a... microwave oven
on steroids?

Wendy carefully sets the canister down on a conveyor belt. It's WHISKED AWAY through a sealed passage. Felix smiles. Everyone else is mesmerized.

FELIX

(to Wendy)

Go on. Open her up.

Everyone moves to a larger set of doors marked: SECONDARY LAB: PLEASE REMEMBER TO DECONTAMINATE.

The double doors SWING OPEN, and our tour enters...

THE SECONDARY LAB

FIVE TIMES the size as the first; A FOREST in the making. Entire trees are CROSS-SECTIONED, affixed with PROBES. The effect is an overwhelming melding of nature and machine. The CHAMBER rises 10 STORIES, something akin to a missile silo.

They file down a CATWALK that hangs twenty feet over the soil floor of the lab.

STEADY

These trees are over three hundred
years old. How...

Felix sighs, quickly moves to an OBSERVATION PANEL. It's a readout of all the specimens in the lab.

FELIX

We're able to grow viable specimens
in as little as six months.

(re: the panel)

Hello my darlings. Good to see
that everyone's still growing.

ALAN

(points)

What's down there?

The catwalk continues across the laboratory to an even larger set of HANGAR DOORS marked: TERTIARY LAB: NO ADMITTANCE.

WENDY

Mom's lab.

Wendy says no more, her eyes wander to another catwalk perpendicular. TENTED OFF with sheets of plastic.

INT. VEGETATION TENT -- MOMENTS LATER

A bright hothouse with a MOUND OF DIRT at the center. Planted in the soil are three of the BLUE FLOWERS we've seen. Each in various stages of DECAY.

Three OCTANGULAR CELLS made of opaque glass blast light onto them. Wendy kneels before the flowers.

FELIX

Martin's passion project. *Cielo Azul*. They're shy buggers.

CRUZ

Means, "blue skies."
(of Felix's nod)
What's so special?

FELIX

We know they reverse the growth of malignant neoplasms.
(off blank stares)
They cure cancer. Martin thought there were other possibilities; a genetically engineered flower of youth.

Dreyfuss kneels, snaps some shots.

WENDY

Photosynthates still giving him trouble?

FELIX

I wouldn't know. He locked me out of the project. I know he couldn't cultivate enough for a viable compound, however. You'd need a field-full.

DREYFUSS

You lost me back at "cure for cancer."

ALAN

Yeah, how can you be sure?

WENDY

Luke and Leia. They eat the flower.
(a light bulb)
Felix! They'll know where Dad is!

Wendy dashes back out of the tent.

INT. SECONDARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy shouts orders as everyone files out after her.

WENDY

Gear up. We'll need extra water.
And energy bars--

FELIX

--Wendy--

WENDY

--Alan, those shoes won't cut it--

FELIX

Wendy. That won't be necessary.

Wendy puts her hands on her hips as Felix moves to a control panel beside a portion of the catwalk that ENDS abruptly. Something goes there.

Felix accesses a screen, reads: ENGAGE VIEWPOD: Y/N? Felix selects Y. The wall opposite REVOLVES...

THE VIEWPOD

Emerges from a docking bay. It's an enclosed glass capsule, 15 feet across. Once sleek, now run down like everything else here. Rust seeps from the rivets.

The machinery that powers it reminds us of the DECELERATOR Wendy jimmied in the prologue only larger and more complex.

The viewpod rotates toward them on a SKI-LIFT mechanism. A metal bulkhead door opens like a mouth.

WENDY

Hesitates, chews her lip.

FELIX

Going up?

WENDY

I'm not getting in that thing.

FELIX

That's a few hours hike. The viewpod is perfectly safe.

INT. VIEWPOD -- MOMENTS LATER

Standing room only. Leather straps hang along the rim for support. More of a subway car than anything else.

Felix pilots at a simple set of controls, mashes a button that closes the door.

FELIX
Kneecaps and elbows.

He winks at Alan who regards Wendy clutching her arms to her chest. The whole thing JOLTS as they begin to move up.

The glass bubble speeds through the highest reaches of the lab and through a BRIGHT CREVICE in the ceiling into...

THE HABITAT

Where everything is OVEREXPOSED for a moment. Alan shades his eyes to see as they continue to ascend.

EXT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

The viewpod acts like a giant PRIZEBOX CLAW that can lower down anywhere inside the habitat. It speeds along the SURFACE of "sky" beneath the dome made of the same OCTAGONAL CELLS from the lab, all tuned to DAYLIGHT.

Below us: 16 square miles of LANDSCAPE grown in a lab.

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy grips her leather strap, averts her eyes. Problem is, everywhere she looks, she SEES DOWN. She flares her nostrils. Sweat beads on her forehead.

ALAN
(re: the view)
This is. This is. Wendy.
This is... amazing.
(notices Wendy trembling)
Hon? You're shaking.

Alan grabs her hand, loosens her death grip on the strap.

ALAN (CONT'D)
That's it. Tell me what the hell
I'm looking at, cuz I have no idea.

THROUGH THE VIEWSHIELD

The viewpod careens over A DESERT LANDSCAPE.

WENDY (O.S.)
 (breathless)
 It's half desert, half jungle.
 Highlands and... lowlands. Split
 down the middle--

Wendy GASPS as the whole vista DROPS OUT from underneath us to reveal the JUNGLE below.

A WATERFALL springs from AN OASIS on the edge of the cliff and spills down into an ARTIFICIAL RIVER that meanders through the trees.

ALAN

Rubs Wendy's back as Steady and Cruz press their faces to the glass, wide-eyed at it all. Dreyfuss shoots frames.

FELIX
 Almost there...

EXT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

The bubble GRINDS to a stop above the jungle, sways in place. After a moment, it begins to DESCEND toward the forest floor.

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy braces herself, squeezes her eyes closed as the pod touches down with a RUMBLE...

Wendy finally EXHALES, opens one eye, then the other. Steady, Cruz and Felix have already exited the viewpod. Alan pries Wendy's hand from his own.

ALAN
 (beat)
 Okay, I need that hand.

EXT. BANYAN TREE -- MOMENTS LATER

Everyone stretches their legs. Felix points through the jungle to a BANYAN TREE the width of a city block. Alan gesticulates, in the middle of an anecdote.

ALAN

(scoffs)

It's a really boring story.

(oh, alright)

Environmental Science graduate program at New Mexico. New Student mixer, couple of margaritas. Love at first sight, etcetera.

CRUZ

Absolutely. Fascinating.

ALAN

How 'bout you two? Married?

STEADY

Hey, I got her the rock.

CRUZ

And I didn't say "no." Exactly.

Steady grabs Cruz on the ass. Cruz slaps his wrist.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

Ay, Dios!

STEADY

Talk ethnic to me, baby.

(laughs it off)

What are we looking for here?

WENDY

Two of them. You're going to want to announce your presence vocally before treading their territory.

STEADY

(screams to the tree)

I'm announcing my presence!

(back to Wendy)

Like that--?

Suddenly, Steady is GONE in a BLUR OF FUR. Cruz looks into the boughs of the Banyan tree and SCREAMS!

Two MASSIVE SILVERBACK GORILLAS hold Steady hostage. Their eyes GLINT in the semi-shade, the creatures seconds from tearing his head from his neck. Steady MOANS--

WENDY

(top of her lungs)

Staaaahhp!

Wendy makes QUICK MOTIONS with her hands, yells again:

WENDY (CONT'D)

Put him down!

The gorillas narrow their eyes and release Steady. He lands on his feet, immediately rolls out from under the branches and draws his knife--

The gorillas SWING down from the boughs. Built like brick shit houses, the female smaller than the male. Black fur dappled with silver spots and stripes. The same ones from Martin's OIL PAINTING.

One of them ROARS a mighty roar as Wendy sprints between.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(through gritted teeth)

Steady, drop the knife.

She makes more furious HAND SIGNALS, and we realize... Wendy's talking in SIGN LANGUAGE to the gorillas. She slowly approaches... and the two gorillas EMBRACE her.

STEADY

(sheathes his knife)

Regular Jane of the jungle.

WENDY

Guys, meet Luke and Leia.

(beat)

Dad wanted to go with Adam and Eve,
but I've always had a soft spot for
Star Wars.

One of the gorillas tustles Wendy's hair, she laughs.

LATER

The light has changed beneath the banyan where Wendy and Alan sit with the gorillas. Felix, Steady, Dreyfuss and Cruz hang back, wait for Wendy to do her thing.

Wendy speaks to Luke and Leia in sign language, SUBTITLED for our convenience:

WENDY

I missed you two. So much.

LEIA

Luke had given up on you. I never did, and I never will. Girl power.

LUKE

Oh, please.

Alan frowns at Wendy.

ALAN
You know sign language.

WENDY
Only a little.
(whoops, aloud)
Only a little.
(to the gorillas)
This is Alan. We are mates.

LUKE
(snorts)
That is funny. I am laughing.

WENDY
You can say hello. Like this.

Alan copies Wendy's sign. The gorillas return it.

ALAN
Ha!

WENDY
Leia got really sick when I was little, and Dad thought he'd need to put her down. When we got back to the lab the scans showed her tumor had shrunk from, like, a basketball to a pea. That's when dad found his power flower.

Dreyfuss' camera WHIRS from across the clearing, distracting.

LEIA
I wish he would stop that.

WENDY
(to Dreyfuss)
Cut it out.

Dreyfuss stops, quietly backs away. Wendy turns to Luke.

WENDY (CONT'D)
Felix and I are looking for Martin.

LUKE
Are they still in a fight?

LEIA
(off Wendy's frown)
Oh, yes.

(MORE)

LEIA (CONT'D)
*They had a great fight, and then
 Martin walked into the trees.*

WENDY
Do you know where Dad is?

Something unspoken passes between them. Leia nods to Luke.

LUKE
He is where they go two by two.

WENDY
 (beat, frowns)
Why?

LUKE
*We do not know why. We were not
 supposed to say where.*

LEIA
Unless it is Wendy.

LUKE
We trust Wendy.

WENDY
It doesn't make sense.

Luke suddenly stands, puffs his chest. He looks across to where the others stand.

LEIA
It is not safe here.

GREEN FOLIAGE

Rustles behind Felix. Everyone turns, holds their breath and backs away from the sound. After a moment, the rustling stops and--

A multi-colored goat BLEATS at them, meanders out of the shrubs and munches on some leaves.

CRUZ
Awww.

Cruz reaches out, pats the thing on the head. Felix leans in closer, catches something SILVERY further in the foliage.

FELIX
 (grave)
Everyone back into the viewpod.

INT. VIEWPOD -- MOMENTS LATER

Everyone hurries into the viewpod. Wendy and Alan pick up the rear as Luke and Leia climb up into the tree.

WENDY

What is it? The gorillas were freaked.

FELIX

(sotto)

And they should be--

Felix GASPS, his gaze flits to the far end of the viewpod. A pair of YELLOW EYES blink at him. Then they VANISH below the pod's rim.

As Alan scrambles into the viewpod, something SNAGS his leg from below the ladder.

ALAN

Aaaaaaahh!

Alan GRIPS the doorway and uses his free leg to KICK back. Whatever's got him lets out a BIZARRE SCREECH and releases. The calf of his jeans is shredded.

Felix scrambles for the controls, but the whole viewpod ROCKS sideways on the cable, and everyone is thrown to the floor. The controls FLASH RED.

EXT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

We can't see what's attacking, but one of the decelerators SPARKS, knocked off its track as the pod is jostled. The viewpod ASCENDS on its own--

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy reacts to the UPWARD motion and stands, breathless with another panic attack. She glares...

THROUGH THE VIEWSHIELD

The goats scatter. THREE SILVER SHAPES grow smaller as they slink after the herd, deeper into the foliage below.

FELIX

Jiggers the joystick to no avail.

FELIX

We're on autopilot back to the lab.
(SLAMS his fist)
Bloody hell!

WENDY

Whad'ya mean, "autopilot!?"

The whole pod SHUDDERS as they rise higher.

Wendy backs away from the plexi-glass, squeezes her eyes--

KRAM! The viewpod JERKS to a stop and throws everyone to the ground again. The door SNAPS OPEN, and Wendy is tossed--

EXT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy is THROWN FROM pod and tumbles down the open plank!

She clings to the second-to-last step, white-knuckled. The decelerator makes a WINDING-DOWN noise as the viewpod comes to rest at an awkward angle, PARTIALLY DESCENDED.

Wendy kicks her legs furiously and tries to scramble back inside, as the pod LURCHES forward toward the laboratory.

Wendy's grip slips with every lopsided bob... down to the... edge of the door--

ALAN

Grabs the collar of her shirt and pulls her back...

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Where she lands on top of him. They smile, relieved. Dreyfuss slowly stands behind everyone and points--

THROUGH THE VIEWSHIELD

Where the CLIFF-FACE rapidly approaches. With the pod hanging low like it is--

FELIX

Goes wide-eyed.

FELIX

Brace yourselves!

EXT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

The pod COLLIDES with the cliff-face and swings off course like a yo-yo. It careens through the air and--WHOMP--sends up a cloud of sand.

The pod carves a ditch as it's dragged across the desert like a torpedo, exposes cement girders below.

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy and Alan grab each other as the cylinder careens toward a massive BOULDER--WHAM--everything goes BLACK inside.

EXT. HIGHLANDS -- SAME

The pod has UPENDED, shorn right through a FALSE BOULDER, revealing an aluminum husk. The decelerators SPARK AND POP, the thing has SEVERED from the cable overhead. It's totaled.

Steady throws himself out onto the sand, chuckles. Then he pokes his head back in:

STEADY

Cruz? You in one piece?

A hand extends out of the viewpod. Steady pulls Cruz free as she coughs UNINTELLIGIBLE SPANISH.

STEADY (CONT'D)

I'll assume that means "yes."

MOMENTS LATER

Steady helps Dreyfuss, the last of them, out of the viewpod.

They've settled on a desert landscape with catci and more artificial rocks that dot the horizon. Felix massages his neck as Wendy stands.

WENDY

What the hell just did that?

FELIX

Panthera Sphyræna. Jungle cat, with a twist. They hunt the goats, fixate on the viewpod like a toy.

(off Wendy's stare)

Oh, come off it. Any ecosystem relies on predation. Martin's cardinal rule. "

(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'D)

Nature is known to be red in tooth
and claw."

(re: the viewpod)

Just... let me think for a moment.

Wendy removes the tablet computer, scrolls through.

WENDY

We can still make it.

FELIX

(hikes his thumb)

Can't call a tow truck, exactly.

ALAN

If you can get me back to the labs,
I could take a look. Just point me
in the direction of a toolbox.

FELIX

That'll take hours.

WENDY

Which is why we're going. On foot.

Steady and Cruz perk up. Felix shakes his head "no."

FELIX

Have you gone barmy? The sun is
about to set. We do not want to be
in here when that happens. You
really have no idea--

WENDY

Don't you tell me what I know and
what I don't, Felix.

Felix shuts up. Steady cuts the tension.

STEADY

We got the gear. Couldn't hurt if
we stay in radio contact.

WENDY

(to Felix)

There. That's settled.

Behind her, Steady kicks open a hole in the glass viewpod.
Their supply cases come TUMBLING out.

Steady unlatches one and begins rifling through. He hands
Felix, Dreyfuss and Cruz Kevlar SAFARI VESTS with EARPIECES
that plug in through the shoulder.

FELIX
(touches ear)
Wes, Yari?

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Wes and Yari have Zenith's central processor open like they're performing heart surgery.

DRIVE CASINGS are arranged in a spiral pattern toward the center, EXPOSED and WHIRRING. In the middle is a RED DRIVE, double-thick and larger than the rest.

Wes scrambles for his own earpiece, CRACKLING on the console.

WES
Yeah, boss?

FELIX (O.S.)
We're on foot now. You keep me in the loop on your progress.

Wes rolls his eyes at Yari.

EXT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Alan zips Wendy up across from Felix.

ALAN
Too tight?

WENDY
Nope.

A SPARK OF LIGHT alerts Alan. Steady hands Felix A STUN WAND, has one himself. They tuck them into their belts.

ALAN
Can, uh, she get one of those?

EXT. HIGHLANDS -- MOMENTS LATER

A BOULDER splits down the middle--HISSSS--decompresses and reveals the inside of an airlock like a coffin. Wendy scrolls through the tablet as Alan steps inside.

WENDY
I'll see you soon, alright?

Alan kisses her, jittery. Wendy aims the tablet like a remote, and the boulder begins to close. As shadow covers Alan's face, she quickly removes HER RING.

EXT. HIGHLANDS -- SUNSET

Our explorers walk out toward the horizon. Overhead, the OCTAGONAL CELLS refract, causing the space to grow dark as if banks of lights were being SWITCHED OFF.

The ARTIFICIAL SUNSET inside Lost Hills dazzles, as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

CLICK! BLINDING LIGHT...

Cruz SNAPS on her FLASHLIGHT, bulky, strapped to a BATTERY PACK on her vest. Dreyfuss shields his eyes.

DREYFUSS

Watch where you aim that thing!

CRUZ

Forty-million candles.

FELIX

Keep it on and keep it close.

A cluster of octagonal cells glow white above. An ARTIFICIAL MOON. Everything else is pitch black.

Dreyfuss removes his HD rig from his pack. It's got a heavy-duty lens on it. He FLICKS a switch on the housing--

DREYFUSS' POV

Green pixels SHIMMER, adjust to NIGHT VISION.

Dreyfuss scans the surrounding terrain. Flat, arid. CRUMBLING MOUNDS of dirt every two dozen feet or so.

DREYFUSS (O.S.)

What's with the... mole hills?

FELIX

We're going to want to steer very clear of those.

(to Cruz)

You hear that, Cruz? Lead us around the soil deposits.

Cruz straightens, picks up the pace.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Wes reaches in and manually resets one of the drives, slides it into the casing, moves on to the next. Tedious.

WES

What? That's ridiculous. They both wear glasses.

YARI

I'm saying. Steve Jobs would totally have the upper hand in a bar brawl. Pending Bill Gates doesn't have a backup pair.

INT. SECONDARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

POUNGING from across the lab. The AIRLOCK DOOR practically spills Alan out. He dusts himself off and marches down the catwalk.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Wes and Yari pore over the innards of the computer.

Yari notices Alan standing at the rear of the control room. He awkwardly clears his throat.

YARI

Oh. Hey, man.

ALAN

Sorry to interrupt.

(beat)

I was wondering if I could take a look at the viewpod controls?

Yari hikes his thumb at the exposed bowels of Zenith.

YARI

Ah. We're not quite done yet.

Alan nods, turns on his heels. After he's gone:

WES

He's totally on your team.

(beat, mulls)

Hey, you think Cruz gets freaky?

YARI
Only one way to find out.

WES
(touches ear, coy)
Cruz, come in. Come in, Cruz.

EXT. HIGHLANDS -- SAME

Cruz scans the terrain ahead. Her earpiece CRACKLES.

YARI (O.S.)
My brother and I need something
settled for us.
(beat)
Do you, or do you not, enjoy mating
with multiple partners? Go.

CRUZ
(rolls her eyes)
You two will never get lucky enough
to find out. And stay off this
line unless it's critical.

DREYFUSS' POV

Cruz, distracted for a moment, lowers her flashlight.

Something SKITTERS beyond the night vision's resolution.
When Cruz rights the spotlight whatever was there is BLOWN
OUT by the lenseflare.

Dreyfuss shakily scans the surrounding darkness...

FELIX

Fiddles with his earpiece as Wendy catches up with him.

FELIX
Spot on with Luke and Leia. Should
have thought of that myself.

WENDY
They mentioned something. About an
argument between you and Dad.

FELIX
(scoffs)
Every day was an argument. You
know how stubborn Martin can be?
He has become a distraction.

(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'D)
I've an inkling only the sight of
your face will break his spell.

Wendy wearily smiles at Felix.

CRUZ

Presses forward. Her radio CRACKLES again.

WES (O.S.)
Cruz? One more thing.

CRUZ
Yari?

WES (O.S.)
It's Wes. Hey.

CRUZ
God dammit, I said stay off the
channel.

WES (O.S.)
This is important.
(beat)
Desert island. Me or my bro?

Cruz stops walking, rests the light against her shoulder for a moment and it shines upward. She goes to reply when--

Something WHIPS out of the semi-darkness and SUCKS the light out of her hand. It skitters across the sand and points directly at our backpackers, BLINDING THEM.

Cruz covers her eyes and marches into the light, bends to retrieve it... but it's covered in opaque STRANDS.

CRUZ
Gross--

CRUNCH--Cruz steps knee-deep into one of the "soil deposits." Just as she does, her torch GOES OUT.

CRUZ (CONT'D)
Mierda! My leg's stuck!

DREYFUSS' POV

Steady's eyes glow green, frantic for Cruz's YELPS.

STEADY
Baby? I can't see you!

DREYFUSS (O.S.)
 She's ten paces to your left!

Steady runs to Cruz, whose foot is STUCK in the sand.
 Steady grapples for Cruz's hands, feels down her leg.

STEADY
 It's all sticky.

CRUZ
 No shit. Help me find the light--

Suddenly, she's WRENCHED further into the hole, hip deep.
 She SCREAMS, her free leg at an awkward angle.

CRUZ (CONT'D)
 Jimmy! Something's got me!

STEADY
I've got you!

Wendy runs to their side to help. Together, she and Steady
 pull on Cruz's vest.

CRUUUNCH! Cruz is jerked further into the hole. Wendy and
 Steady brace themselves...

WENDY
 Okay, we're gonna pull on three.
 One, two, th--

Like a TRAPDOOR, the sand beneath Cruz SNAPS open, and half a
 dozen SEGMENTED LEGS snatch her silently underground.

Her vest slips off in Wendy's hands. Steady FREAKS OUT.

STEADY
 Cruz? Baby!? Oh, Jesus!

Dreyfuss' POV follows Cruz's flashlight as it SKITTERS across
 the sand toward the hole she was pulled through.

DREYFUSS (O.S.)
 Wendy! The light!

Wendy DIVES onto the flashlight as the ground behind her
 snaps up, and she comes face to face with an ARACHNOPOD--
 a spider the size of a Golden Retriever, but not nearly
 as affectionate.

She screams and KICKS the thing in the eyes, sends it
 SKITTERING back into its hole.

Wendy finally gets her fingers around the torch. Horrific SCREECHES echo from inside THE NEST as Wendy finally CLICKS the power cord into the battery pack--

The Arachnospod LURCHES from its hole again, looms over her. CLICK! Dreyfuss' POV is BLOWN OUT...

WENDY

Shines the light directly at the gigantic spider.

It RECOILS, its exoskeleton SMOKES AND POPS, allergic to the UV. Wendy covers her mouth from the acrid smoke.

It lies still, a bubbling, oozing mess in the sand. Wendy smiles to herself--

Her smile quickly fades as the sand begins to CHURN all around! The ground COLLAPSES, and Wendy falls into...

THE NEST

A system of TUNNELS beneath the surface lined with a lattice work of webbing.

Wendy shines the light down one end and spots an Arachnospod scurry around a corner, dragging Cruz's LIFELESS BODY. Wendy storms after it and--SQUISH--steps on an EGG CASING.

Teeny Arachnospods scurry beneath her feet and away from the light down the tunnel.

A DUSTING of sand from behind her. Wendy SNAPS the light around. Nothing. She HYPERVENTILATES as FOUR MORE SPIDERS descend from above! They freak Wendy, and she BLINDS THEM with the light--

One SLASHES the flashlight out of her hands--YANK!--the light GOES DEAD again as the power cord is severed. Wendy dives down onto the floor of the nest and plays possum.

The blind Arachnospods scurry around her and begin slowly searching the nest for their prey, one... segmented leg... at a... time.

Wendy INHALES as they aimlessly fondle her face and brush against her arms. Her stillness camouflages her, but she can't hold her breath any longer and EXHALES--

The spiders stop in their tracks and CHITTER to one another. They slowly skitter back over her body...

Wendy grips a rock and tosses it back down the tunnel where it SPLATTERS another egg sack. The four spiders let out WARNING SCREECHES and scurry that way--

DREYFUSS' POV

He ZOOMS IN on a mound of dirt as it CRUMBLES. Wendy's arm shoots out, and she pulls herself free like a zombie.

DREYFUSS (O.S.)
Wendy! Over here!

She scurries toward them and waves her arms:

WENDY
Go, go, go!

Behind her, the ground BELCHES Arachnopods. Dozens scurry out of the nest after Wendy. One of them LEAPS through the air and lands on Felix's back! He SCREAMS!

DREYFUSS (O.S.)
To your right! To your right!

Wendy draws her STUN WAND and SHOCKS the thing off Felix. One of them SCREECHES at the camera and leaps forward--

DREYFUSS

Instinctively throws his camera and sends the creature reeling. Two more rip the rig to pieces. The Arachnopods show no signs of stopping.

Wendy, Dreyfuss, Felix and Steady huddle together as the death-spiders close in...

WENDY
(desperate)
More light.

She removes the tablet computer. A prompt reads:

Manual Control? Y/N

The spiders CHITTER, jockey for the best seat at the table--

The cells overhead ADJUST from the rear of the habitat, streaming ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT across the place like someone opening shutters on a window.

Everyone shields their eyes for a moment as the SQUEALS of the Arachnopods fill their ears. The creatures SIZZLE and POP on the sand. Everyone gasps for air.

Steady begins digging with his bare hands in the spot where Cruz vanished. Ferocious, until Wendy stops him.

WENDY (CONT'D)

You did everything you could,
James.

Steady marches toward one of the Arachnopods with his stun wand. He jabs the thing with it--TZZZZ--as it crumbles.

STEADY

Fuckin' ugly! What the hell else
you got in this zoo, Felix?

FELIX

Quest Logistics will adjust your
earnings according--

STEADY

You think this is about money!?
Cruz is dead!

FELIX

And she signed on the line, just
like you did.

STEADY

(livid)
Come 'ere!

Steady makes for Felix, about to mash his face in, but Wendy breaks them up.

WENDY

Hey! Cut it out! I didn't know
about these things, okay? I would
never have suggested we go this way
if I did.

(beat, to Felix)
My father created these?

FELIX

For Quest's contracting arm. You
drop a whole nest into a combat
zone and save a bundle on bullets.

STEADY

Clearly, spiders don't understand
the rules of engagement!

Wendy shades her eyes, looks toward a cluster of PALM TREES on the horizon and stands tall. She appeals to Steady:

WENDY

James, I know this is difficult,
but if we stay on guard and keep
close, you can still do what you
came here for. We can find my Dad.

(beat)

Not everything here wants to kill
us, huh Felix?

Felix shakes his head "no" as Steady collects himself.

INT. PRIMARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan rifles through a bookshelf of INSTRUCTION MANUALS. He dusts off one that reads: VIEWPOD REPAIR. He plucks it from the shelf and something CLATTERS to the floor. It's a VHS. Written along the side: Discovery Special.

INT. BREAK ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan carries a VCR, connects it to a small TV in the corner by the coffee machine. He pops the tape in and begins to flip through the repair manual.

ON SCREEN

Static gives way to the LOGO of The Discovery Channel. Music FADES IN as images fly past of--

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Water. Sand. Sky. Sun.

(beat)

Correctly assembled, these elements
create a delicate balance to
support all life on Earth.

FADE IN on an AERIAL VIEW of Lost Hills, still being assembled. Music FLARES...

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

Eight miles wide, Lost Hills
Research Center is a floating
laboratory dubbed "the lilypad,"
by Doctor Martin Keen, its creator.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Currently under construction off
 the shores of San Francisco, Lost
 Hills is his very own biological
 bakery, bringing the Amazon and
 the Sahara together in one wild
 habitat.

Footage CUTS TO Martin tinkering in his laboratory. Felix
 works beside him. They both look young and fresh-faced.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Coming off his recent Nobel Prize-
 winning proprietary technology,
 Doctor Keen and his British Fellow,
 Felix Tremain, hope to pave the way
 for new species of plants and
 animals that could unlock cures for
 diseases... and a whole lot more.

FLASH! Martin's Nano-Accelerator chamber fires. Martin and
 Felix smile, shake hands as we DISSOLVE TO interview footage
 of Martin in his STUDY.

MARTIN
 Despite the size of the project,
 I'd like to point out that I've got
 one heck of a lab partner.

Footage CUTS TO Martin and Priscilla. They stand near a
 PROTOTYPE of the viewpod, bare and exposed.

PRISCILLA
 I thought he was certifiable. But,
 like everything he creates, I just
 had to see for myself.

Priscilla smiles at Martin, as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

A HEADSTONE

The inscription reads:

*PRISCILLA GLENN KEEN
 OUR GUIDING LIGHT
 1958 - 2003*

EXT. OASIS -- DAY

Wendy stands in the shadow of a STUNNING OASIS, the best view in the house. She drapes the penguin necklace atop the HEADSTONE, flanked by Felix and Steady.

FELIX
Let's take five.

WENDY
(raises her head)
No.

A GURGLING pool springs a WATERFALL down the cliff face. Wendy reaches her arm elbow-deep into the water, feels around for something--KLUNK--and the pool begins to DRAIN.

An ACCESS LADDER is exposed beneath that follows the cliff face 25 stories down through the mist. Dreyfuss whistles.

DREYFUSS
We're going down?

WENDY
Against my better judgement.

EXT. CLIFF-FACE -- MOMENTS LATER

Steady leads everyone down the ladder, all connected by a SAFETY LINE. Dreyfuss tries to cheer Steady up:

DREYFUSS
Hey, Steady? What do you call epileptic lettuce?
(beat)
Seizure salad.

STEADY
My sister's got epilepsy.

DREYFUSS
Shit, seriously?

Steady cracks a devilish smile.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Wes and Yari silently slog over Zenith's hard drives. The OUTER RING slides into place, and Yari smiles.

Wes moves onto the next set of drives marked CLIMATE SYSTEMS.

EXT. CLIFF-FACE -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy steps down another rung, pauses to catch her breath.

From beneath the rock-face scurry palm-sized MITES. A GIANT SALAMANDER-THING follows after, brushes against Wendy's hand. She slips for a moment, knocks the creature off the rocks.

She follows it down through the mist, her vision goes BLURRY. Wendy clasps her hand back onto the rung and gulps for air.

Felix looks to Wendy above, trembling.

FELIX

How goes it up there?

WENDY

(through teeth)

I can't do it. I can't.

Suddenly, the rain starts again. On-off-on-off. Like a hose with a kink in it. Puts Steady back in a bad mood.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

The brothers' radios crackle.

FELIX (O.S.)

Wes, Yari? Could you hold off on the repairs for a few?

YARI

Aye-firmative.

(points)

Yo, quit that.

WES

Almost... there. Okay?

Wes finishes with a drive that reads: TRIBUTARY SYSTEMS B-Q. The brothers take a load off.

EXT. CLIFF-FACE -- MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is mere feet from the layer of mist below. Wendy gulps air. The rain isn't helping.

FELIX

One at a time, yeah?

Steady looks back down to Dreyfuss, rolls his eyes.

EXT. OASIS -- SAME

The whirlpool that feeds the waterfall begins to BUBBLE and CHURN as the water rises...

EXT. CLIFF-FACE -- SAME

The sound of a KLAXON echoes from far above.

FELIX
Wendy! Move!

EXT. OASIS -- SAME

The water bubbles over and CASCADES right toward...

WENDY

Looks DOWN where the view WARPS, everything blurry with VERTIGO. She's PUMMELED by the force of the waterfall, loses her grip and FALLS DOWN--

Connected by the safety line, Wendy's weight rips Felix, Steady and Dreyfuss from the ladder like Christmas lights.

Wendy's view CARTWHEELS as she passes through the mist. BLURRY GREEN for a moment, then she PLUNGES...

UNDERWATER

She's forced under by the strength of the waterfall, tries to swim up, is pushed down again--

A HAND reaches below, grabs her by the pack and YANKS...

EXT. RIVER BANK -- SAME

Steady hauls Wendy out of the ARTIFICIAL RIVER and drags her onto the banks. She coughs water.

STEADY
Know what they say about facing
your fears, right?

WENDY
(gasps)
Head on?
(eyes surroundings)
We're close.

FROM ACROSS THE RIVERBED

Felix and Dreyfuss wring themselves out a few feet away. Everyone silently regroups, presses onward through the foliage beyond the river.

Something raises its SILVERY HEAD into frame and WATCHES them slip into the jungle. It emits a soft sound, a PURRING... then stalks off.

INT. SECONDARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan flips through the manual, scratches his head. He moves to the control pad at the edge of the catwalk, reads aloud:

ALAN
Reset coupling controls... done.
Enter five-digit repair code...

The sound of a KLAXON as the wall beyond the catwalk SPLITS, reveals SPARE VIEWPODS hanging in the darkness beyond.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Bingo. Now come to Papa...

He mashes another set of buttons -- but the control panel BLEATS a negative tone at him. Alan tries again. ERRRR! He frowns, goes back to poring over the manual...

DISSOLVE TO:

A MULTI-COLORED FINCH

Flits through the air. We STAY CLOSE on it, can't see much around us. The thing lands on a NEEDLE THIN, green branch. It HOPS to another, evenly spaced... then another--

Then it's ENSNARED by a CAGE OF GREEN NEEDLES. The finch is EATEN by a GIANT VENUS FLY TRAP FROM HELL. Feathers fly...

EXT. BRIAR PATCH -- DAY

Wendy, Felix, Dreyfuss and Steady come to the edge of a pit that's 10 feet down, 500 yards across. Like a cookie cut from the jungle floor. Dense FOG flows between TRELLISES arranged in A TOPIARY MAZE.

FELIX
Still know the path through?

WENDY

You bet.

(to Dreyfuss and Steady)

Masks. You two. That fog'll
suffocate you. And don't touch.
Anything.

Wendy pulls on a GAS MASK with an air exchange that HISSES.
She hops down the wall.

INT. TOPIARY MAZE -- MOMENTS LATER

Limited visibility in the mist.

Steady brushes the wall of the maze as he passes by.
A VINE curls around the strap on his pack. It TUGS--

Steady draws his MACHETE and HACKS the plant. Wendy calls
out from the front:

WENDY

Yeah, the walls are alive. So.

Everyone cautiously moves to the center, single file.

A TELEPHOTO LENSE

Focus pulls on a SEA of glistening PINK GLOBULES. CLICK.

DREYFUSS

Takes a snapshot of a STALKY PLANT, potted in the corner. It
towers over him, droops like a street lamp covered in pink
GLUEY NODES.

DREYFUSS

(sotto)

Just *magnificent*.

He looks from Wendy, to the plant, then back to Wendy.
Dreyfuss flares his nostrils, reaches out and TAPS a section
of the pink nodes. Snotty. Dreyfuss wipes it on his pants.

DREYFUSS (CONT'D)

(back to Wendy)

I touched it. And nothing--

The stalk of the plant UNFOLDS and quickly CLOSES AROUND his
body. Dreyfuss is ENVELOPED.

DREYFUSS (CONT'D)
 (bloody murder)
 Get me... get me out!

Everyone runs and grabs his hand, his vest, tries to pull him free. They WOBBLE the white ceramic pot the plant sits in.

Dreyfuss' cries CRESCENDO as the potted plant TOPPLES OVER right into the wall of the topiary maze.

The vines MOVE like ONE ORGANISM and SMOTHER his squeals. Dreyfuss is CONSUMED by the LIVING WALL, ramblers snake through his mouth and fill his mask.

As he's pulled into the brush, Steady reaches to help. Wendy pulls him back.

WENDY
 It'll get you, too!
 (stands)
 You gonna listen now?

Steady angrily HACKS some more of the wall with his machete.

EXT. MAZE CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER

A sense of urgency now as Wendy PEELS BACK a strip of sod and accesses a control panel at the CENTER of the maze. They stand at a clearing with a grassy knoll.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Wes reaches and injects the final Zenith drive. All the drives begin to WHIR and HUM. Yari playfully raps his knuckles on the RED DRIVE at the center of them all.

YARI
 You're next.

They begin to pack up their gear.

WES
 (touches his ear)
 Zenith systems are on the mend,
 boss. Where you at?

EXT. MAZE CENTER -- SAME

FANS within the topiary maze walls begin to HUM. The poison mist around them clears. Wendy yanks her mask off.

FELIX

We are about to enter the Arc.
Look for our smoke.

A TONE SOUNDS from the control panel in the grass.
Wendy leans in:

WENDY

Wendy. Keen.

The grass--HISSES!--decompresses, hydraulically RISES like a gaping mouth. Steady POPS a canister of RED SMOKE.

INT. SECONDARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

BLEEEERP! Alan mashes the viewpod controls to no avail. Frustrated, he finally HURLS the repair manual at it--

To his surprise, the thing LIGHTS UP, decelerators WHIR. The ski-lift mechanism pushes the viewpod into place at the edge of the catwalk before Alan. Bright, shiny, new.

ALAN

Huh.

Footsteps from the other end of the lab. Wes and Yari enter, geared up and ready to go. Yari masters the controls, and the viewpod door lowers.

ALAN (CONT'D)

How'd you...?

YARI

Instruction manual.

INT. ARC HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Fluorescents FLICKER as Wendy and Felix pad softly down a narrow hallway. Written in white letters:

Asset Reclamation Container

They come to a BULKHEAD DOOR, and Wendy pushes it open...

THE ARC

Is a fortified bunker with TANDEM VIALS of DNA from every plant and animal inside Lost Hills. Alphabetized, on ice.

Liquid nitrogen cools the space. Wendy hugs herself as she walks past STORAGE CYLINDERS. Felix removes a shinier version of the GRAPPLING GUN from a case on the wall.

There's a WHITE GLOW behind a book case as Wendy peeks her head around the corner...

A small cot has been set up on the floor, wrappers littered about an electric lantern. Dozens of octagonal cells are propped up, rotting *Cielo Azul* specimens underneath them.

Martin lies askew on the bed, mouth open. Wendy quietly gasps, runs to him and kneels.

WENDY

Dad... oh, Dad.
 (takes his hand)
 He's still warm.

Martin SNORTS, frightens Wendy as he opens his eyes and WAKES UP. Hair all flock-of-seaguls. He blinks, nervously.

MARTIN

(groggy)
 What is it? Who's there?
 (scrambles for glasses)
 ...Wendy? Is that really you?

WENDY

Dad, the habitat's a wreck.

MARTIN

Wendy, it's... Why, you look even more like your mother.
 (beat)
 How did you find me?

Felix emerges from the shadows.

FELIX

I had to practically drag her here.
 And I don't think she liked it.
 (beat)
 Won't you come out, now that we have ourselves a proper family reunion?

MARTIN

Felix, you and I have already had this conversation. You are no longer in my employ. Please leave.

WENDY
 (revelatory)
 He wasn't lost.

Wendy stands. Felix aims his grappling pistol at her chest.
 It WHIRS, baleful.

FELIX
 I've already gone quietly, Martin.
 This time, I've come with
 considerably more... *enthusiasm*.
 (to Wendy)
 Ask your father how many times I've
 propped him up from the wings of
 this sideshow. Every step he took
 backward, I helped him jump two
 more ahead. When the grants dried
 up, who brought you Quest, Martin?
 Hmm? When your wife lay dying, who
 kept her alive so you could say
 your good byes?
 (beat, seething)
 Everything you touch, you break
 like a child's toy. Look around.
 You turned an Eden to hell.

MARTIN
 Felix! Did I not treat you like
 family?

FELIX
 I don't think you know the meaning
 of the word.

Felix SNATCHES Martin's tablet computer from Wendy's belt.

INT. VIEWPOD -- MOMENTS LATER

Wes, Yari and Alan cruise along the underside of the dome.
 A plume of RED SMOKE rises from the lowlands.

YARI
 Smoke.

WES
 Dude, am I blind?

Alan grips the leather strap, anticipation all over his face.

EXT. MAZE CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan leaps out of the viewpod toward Wendy and Martin, led from the Arc by Felix, gun at their backs. He's still got Martin's tablet tucked under his arm. Wendy tries to eye Alan, but he's fixated on Martin.

ALAN

(offers his hand)

Thank God you're alive, sir. I want you to know that I'm committed to your daughter. Alan Harmon.

WENDY

(awkward)

Alan, wait.

Felix JABS Wendy in the back with the gun. Alan sees it.

FELIX

By all means, carry on. This will be the only chance you get.

WENDY

We're not going anywhere!

MARTIN

Wendy, I'm sure Felix is willing to talk about this. It's not safe.

WENDY

Damn right, it isn't.

FELIX

(snickers)

Just as stubborn as the old man.

WES AND YARI

Chuckle as they watch Martin.

YARI

Old guy. Your team.

Something PURRS from within the red smoke. Wes and Yari stop to look for a moment.

FELIX

Recoils raises the grappling gun to Wendy's CHEST:

FELIX

Say hello to your mother for me.
She was always my favorite--

Someone SCREAMS, and Felix looks to see...

Wendy SOCKS Felix across the jaw and knocks the tablet computer from his hands. Wendy YANKS Alan away from Felix.

WES AND YARI

SHOUT and run from the red curtain of smoke as TWO JUNGLE CATS bound from within and TACKLE the brothers.

We see the cats in full view now. FISH and FELINE; the love monster of a panther and a barracuda. Covered in a thick armor of SILVER SCALES, their translucent incisors glisten. The cats SHIMMER with their hackles raised, their tails twitch to-and-fro.

Wes SCREAMS in pure terror as the cat snatches his neck, bites down--CRRRAACK. Wes lies quiet, his head on wrong.

Yari reaches for the stun wand at his side and jams it into the cat's soft belly. The thing screams (the MGM lion in the key of the violins from *Psycho*) and rolls off...

The two cats see Wendy, Alan, Felix and Martin by the Arc and pounce toward them. Felix drags Martin away. Steady flanks, fixated on the felines, and narrows his eyes.

STEADY

Screw my earnings. I stroll out of here with one of those slung over my shoulders, we call it even.

FELIX

Be my guest. They make horrid pets, anyway.

Felix coolly raises his stun wand and SHOCKS Martin. He collapses into Steady's arms, is hauled inside the viewpod.

WENDY

Dad! No!
(livid)
Felix! You son of a bitch!

FELIX

(mock salutes)
If you're not at the table with us,
then you're on the menu!

The mouth of the viewpod CLOSES, and the thing speedily ASCENDS toward the top of the dome.

Yari leaps up and runs to his fallen brother as the cat he stunned cautiously circles, licking its chops.

YARI

Oh, God! He's dead!

(to cat, with wand)

Stay back! I mean it!

Something BLEATS in the grass -- the tablet. The other cat's distracted for a moment.

Wendy cautiously steps toward the tablet, but the cat guarding reveals retractable CLAWS, opaque, nasty. It swipes, and Wendy's vest is SHREDDED.

The two cats keep watch over their prey, waiting...

A THIRD CAT leaps through the red curtain of smoke. Our ALPHA FEMALE. She stands taller and seethes malevolence as she GNASHES at the other two. She SCREECHES at Yari, and the other cats POUNCE toward him.

He shocks one of them away, and the other collides with his shoulder--CRAACK! Wendy drags Alan away, back into the maze.

The alpha female lifts her gaze after them, and the other two nervously pursue. The Alpha eyes Yari, licks her chops.

THE TOPIARY MAZE

Wendy and Alan bolt to the left, where they HIDE. Wendy peeks her head around the corner to see:

The two SUBORDINATE CATS enter the maze after them. They pounce toward the same corner Wendy led Alan hide behind...

WENDY

Clamps her hand over Alan's mouth...

THE CATS

Leap around--

To find NOTHING. A potted Venus fly trap wobbles conspicuously to the left. They MEWL and sniff for a moment.

WENDY AND ALAN

Hide behind the OPPOSITE END of the junction. The cats turn the corner across from them, out of sight.

Alan looks SCARED OUT OF HIS SKULL. He hyperventilates and almost backs into the maze wall -- the vines WRIGGLE for him.

THE CATS

Return to the center of the junction, frustrated.

The wall ahead of them CONVULSES, as if to say: "Look here!"

Wendy pulls Alan away from the wall and into plain sight.

One of the cats licks its jowls and lunges to leap through the air at Alan!

Wendy YANKS him out of harms way, and the cat goes TUMBLING right into the TOPIARY WALL.

The thing MEWLS as the vines wriggle their way beneath its scales and drag it into the underbrush!

The remaining cat licks its teeth, raises its hackles--

It's TACKLED in a BLUR OF FUR!

LUKE AND LEIA

With their chests puffed up, stand between the feline and its prey. Leia guards Wendy and Alan like a goalie while Luke ROARS a mighty roar.

Luke's massive fist connects with the cat's jaw, knocks scales into the grass. The thing is dazed as Luke begins with blows to the head and stomach.

BLUE BLOOD sprays from its skull. Luke quickly dispatches the thing and twists its head all the way round.

WENDY AND ALAN

Dash back through the topiary maze away from the sounds of CARNAGE. They come to the grassy center--

Where Yari keeps the alpha female at bay with his stun wand. Her gaze flits to Wendy and Alan as the Gorillas emerge from the maze behind them. She cocks her head, impressed, and BARRELS past Yari, eyes set on the primates.

Luke and Leia crack their knuckles to meet the alpha's CLAWS.

Leia leaps onto her back and begins ripping out chunks of scales and flesh. Luke TEARS OUT the cat's eye--REEEEE!

She bucks the gorillas, lets out a WARNING CRY and escapes into the red smoke.

Yari grabs his stun wand, snuffles, and sprints off after. Leia HUFFS, signs to Wendy:

LEIA
*We have to get into the jungle.
 Where it is safe.*

Wendy eyes Martin's tablet computer, askew in the grass.

EXT. BRIAR PATCH -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan huffs as Wendy raises the tablet to the sky, tries to get a signal. He grabs her by the shoulder--

ALAN
 Maybe I can help.

WENDY
 The Noah protocol. It's a... contingency, a "reset" button, in case the habitat is compromised. Dad's the only one who can activate it. Of course.
 (off Alan's blank stare)
 Come on. Felix won't see us coming if he thinks we're dead.

The gorillas hoist Alan over the edge of the wall. Alan helps Wendy up, frowns when he sees her hand:

ALAN
 Hey. Where's your ring?

Wendy fingers her pocket -- it's TORN OPEN from the cat attack. Empty.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Martin sits in an office chair, hands bound with duct tape. Steady SLAPS him awake, and he slowly comes to.

STEADY

You got the world fooled, thinking
you're curing diseases in here.
People are dead because of you.

Martin groggily watches Felix access a program file:

Activate NOAH Protocol? Y/N

The computer BLEATS at Felix. He nods to Martin.

FELIX

Say it.

Martin sits rigid. Felix leans in close, spits:

FELIX (CONT'D)

Wendy is dead, Martin. And once
again, it's on your hands.

Steady forces Martin's face toward a call box with the end of
his stun baton. After a moment, he relents:

MARTIN

(grits)

Martin. Keen.

BLEEP! The RED DRIVE at the center of Zenith's core CLICKS,
begins to quietly hum...

MARTIN (CONT'D)

They just heard that, you know.
Quest Logistics won't let you get
away with this.

FELIX

Don't talk down to me, Martin.
I'm not your kid.

An ALARM BELL SOUNDS in the control room, RED LIGHTS FLASH.

ON SCREEN:

Warning: NOAH Protocol Activated
1% Complete

FELIX

Smiles at the screen as Steady quietly MUZZLES Martin with
his hand from behind.

EXT. JUNGLE -- SAME

Wendy scrambles onto a large boulder, stands above the forest floor still searching for a signal.

ALAN
That's no good, huh?

WENDY
If I can just link to Zenith...

She holds the tablet higher, searching--BLEEEP! The screen reads: Connected. Alan shouts up to her on the boulder:

ALAN
I'm proud of you for getting over this whole fear of heights thing.

Suddenly, her screen flashes: Incoming Call: Quest Logistics. Wendy cocks her head.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

A TONE from the viewscreen: Incoming Call: Quest Logistics.

FELIX
(to Martin)
What on earth could they want?

Felix mashes the console, and Novick appears. Looks like he just woke up.

NOVICK
Hello? Felix! We heard the alarm on our end. Noah's a go. Martin?

FELIX
Sorry to say, found his bones picked over by something foul. Had to have our boys hack their way in after all.

EXT. JUNGLE -- SAME

She and Alan are watching the call live on the tablet. Wendy shakes her head.

WENDY
Liar!

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Novick glares at his watch.

NOVICK

Well, Felix, you were right.
Martin couldn't hack it. It's up
to you, now. If this publicity
stunt of ours is going to work,
you've got to get the ball rolling
on your end. Keep us in the loop.

The viewscreen goes blank. Steady releases Martin who scowls
at Felix.

FELIX

You heard the man. You're a
failure, Martin. And that's how
the world will remember you once
Lost Hills sits at the bottom of
the Pacific.

STEADY

My gear's still in the labs.

FELIX

Go on.

Steady exits. Felix turns to Martin, fingers his stun wand.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Now. You're going to bring me up
to speed on *Cielo Azul*.

Martin gulps.

INT. PRIMARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Steady enters, moves to one of his supply cases with haste.

He removes several things we cannot identify. Lastly, he
pries free a black PISTOL. He grins at the gun like it's an
old friend.

EXT. SOUTH PIER -- NIGHT

Fog rolls in over San Francisco, glowing beyond Lost Hills.

Steady marches down the pier toward the speed boat they all
arrived in. He bends and AFFIXES something to the underside
of the dock, then jogs away back toward the airlock.

From underneath the dock, a RED LIGHT turns GREEN--

A gigantic EXPLOSION wrenches through the floating dock, is punctuated by the tearing open of the Boston Whaler in a MASSIVE FIREBALL!

INT. JUNGLE -- SAME

A flock of finches alight from the upper reaches of a tree.

Wendy turns toward the dome as it SHIMMERS. A warped fireball mushrooms outside from the pier.

Wendy nervously CYCLES through DIAGNOSTICS of Lost Hills.

A CAMERA FEED shows the burning wreckage from the dock. Steady is silhouetted by the flames. Wendy frowns.

WENDY

What the hell? That was the only way off the lilypad.

EXT. SOUTH PIER -- SAME

Steady practically warms his hands by the fire. From across the bay, the sound of SIRENS rise. Steady smiles, turns on his heels and heads through the airlock.

INT. JUNGLE -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy scrolls through the tablet some more. She pauses, looks to Alan who GULPS.

WENDY

Check this out.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Felix pounds his fist.

FELIX

Bloody tell me!

Felix holds the SPARKING stun wand inches from Martin's face.

MARTIN

You shock me with that again and I'll be out for another forty minutes. Probably wet myself, too.

Suddenly, the screen is filled with Wendy's face from the tablet computer. Her voice BOOMS over the loudspeaker:

WENDY

(beat)
Dad!?

FELIX

Oh, Christ.

Martin cranes his head.

MARTIN

I'm alright, Hon. How are you?

WENDY

Been better!
(beat)
Let him go, Felix. I know every
rock and tree in here. You can't
stop me.

FELIX

(chuckles)
You sure raised one hell of a
firecracker, Martin.

EXT. JUNGLE -- SAME

Wendy squints her eyes. She runs another program alongside the video feed.

WENDY

Dad. I'm coming to get you, okay?
(beat)
Don't go anywhere.

Wendy signs off and selects an ICON on screen--KER-BLEAT!

INT. ATRIUM -- SAME

Steady enters from the airlock.

The sound of a KLAXON alerts him as doors all across the atrium begin to SLIDE CLOSED. He BOOKS IT toward...

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

The metal bulkhead doors seal off the control room.

EXT. JUNGLE -- MOMENTS LATER

Everyone treks through the jungle. It's still raining. Hard. Alan leans against a tree.

ALAN
I just... need a breather.

WENDY
Alright. But we gotta make
it short.

Wendy signs to Luke and Leia. They all plop down onto an overturned log as she continues to scroll through the tablet's menus--KER-BLEEP. The rain stops falling.

ALAN
Oh. That's better.

There's A RUSTLING from the bushes--YARI stumbles into their makeshift camp. His arm hangs limp by his side. He looks frightened, breathless.

YARI
Oh, Jesus. You're alive.

ALAN
You're alive.

YARI
You guys got any water? I chased
after that... thing.

Alan hands Yari his canteen. Yari gulps, exasperated. Finally has a moment to mull.

YARI (CONT'D)
My brother... Screw Felix! My arm
looks bad, right? It looks bad.

WENDY
(gazes)
Well, it's dislocated.

Wendy shreds a cloth with her teeth and ties a tourniquet.

WENDY (CONT'D)
Why would Felix want to destroy
Lost Hills?

YARI
He said they were starting over.

ALAN
Starting over where?

YARI
No idea, man. We were told we'd be brought on as consultants.

Wendy emphatically knots the cloth at Yari's shoulder.

WENDY
Now you know what a follow-through kind of guy Felix is. Is there a way to stop Noah?

YARI
Short of ripping the hard drives out of Zenith... it'd be hard.
(beat)
I can help. If you get me back in there, that is.

Wendy glares down at her feet as FLUORESCENT WORMS begin to wriggle their way up through the dirt. A moment later, the ground becomes SATURATED with water. Wendy stands, urgent.

EXT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Steady jabs at the hinges of the door with a crow-bar. No dice. He noisily tosses the thing aside, draws his pistol and--BLAM, BLAM, BLAM--fires off rounds to the same effect. The bullets do nothing but RICOCHET.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Felix listens to the gunfire, paces in front of the door. He glares at the systems report on the viewscreen.

NOAH Protocol -- 24% Complete

Martin clears his throat.

MARTIN
It's the money, isn't it? Quest is just interested in the bottom line, Felix. They don't care about the work we do here.

FELIX
What we do here is worth millions. You were too lost in your pipe dream to notice, Martin.

MARTIN

Priscilla always knew you were a snake in the grass.

FELIX

She didn't know the half of it.

Martin casually looks away, where SOMETHING catches his eye.

EXT. RIVER BANK -- MOMENTS LATER

Luke and Leia lead Wendy, Alan and Yari to the edge of the artificial river that divides the jungle habitat.

It has become a ROARING DELUGE now, overflowing its banks and brown with sediment.

ALAN

Noah. As in "flood the place?"

YARI

I can't swim with this arm.

WENDY

You have to try. The only way back into the labs is on the other side.

Wendy begins removing some of her bulkier gear. Alan removes his glasses, his shoes. Wendy signs to the gorillas:

WENDY (CONT'D)

*You two get to high ground, okay?
I am going to stop Felix. I will
not let him do you any harm.*

Luke and Leia embrace Wendy, she holds them tight. After a moment, they gallop off into the forest. Wendy tucks Martin's tablet into her pack, while Alan and Yari gulp...

MOMENTS LATER

Yari clings to both of them as they make their way chest-deep into the rapids. Wendy cranes her neck, observes the water.

WENDY

We're going to let the current take us down a bit, then see if we can't cut across in the shallows. Ready?

UNDERWATER

The BASIN of the river is made of CEMENT SEGMENTS, covered in moss and brown gloop. A school of MINNOWS flit across--

They're GULPED by a GAPING MOUTH, lightning quick.

THE RAPIDS

Churn and bubble around Wendy. She lifts her knees, floats on her back, shows Alan and Yari how to do the same.

UNDERWATER

Something slick and black bumps against Yari's leg. Yari accidentally kicks it in the head, sends it thrashing away. A CATFISH the size of a couch. Its whiskers flit.

THE RAPIDS

Yari sits up in the water, wide-eyed.

YARI

I just kicked something!

Yari is SUCKED UNDER the water for a moment. Alan reaches beneath to grab him--

Yari breaks the surface, SCREAMING, straight out of *Jaws*.

He's HURLED AROUND, and we can see the fish has got him down its gullet to the waist. It drags him...

UNDERWATER

Where Yari GURGLES, then he's SLURPED DOWN like an oyster!

THE RAPIDS

Alan and Wendy reach beneath to no avail.

ALAN

(swallows water)

What the hell was that!?

WENDY

Okay, everything here does want to kill us! Swim!

The catfish crests the rapids again, WRIGGLES toward them. Wendy and Alan pound the water, furiously kick...

FURTHER DOWNRIVER

Where the rapids slow. There's a rock that PROTRUDES from the surface, painted with red and white HAZARD STRIPES.

The fish flounders to the surface behind them as Wendy begins to BASH the top of the rock with her elbow and reveals a RED LEVER. Warning tape reads: PUSH TO CLOSE

Wendy grabs the lever--

WENDY

It's gonna go quick, take a breath!

--Alan gulps as Wendy SHOVES the lever forward.

UNDERWATER

The catfish darts in for the kill... A round DRAIN behind it CORKSCREWS OPEN and sucks the fish down a manhole-sized Dispos-All.

WENDY AND ALAN

Watch as the river empties around them, FLUSHED like the world's largest toilet. Water SWIRLS in whirlpools, and they're each pulled toward separate eddies--

--Wendy grips Alan's elbow, slips down to his wrist, snags his hand, their fingers grapple--

They're TORN APART by the force of the rapids, each down separate drains. Wendy CRACKS her head on the way, and we...

SMASH TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. RIVER BANK -- MOMENTS LATER

Chunks of soil, trees and chaos slide muddily down the EXPOSED RIVER. With the facade of nature stripped away, the cement basin looks like a disaster zone.

The alpha cat slinks out of the jungle, her eye WHITE AND CRUSTED from the gorilla brawl. She peers at one of the GAPING DRAINS that flushed the river, licks her jowls...

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

The entire control room SHUDDERS ever so softly. Dust falls from the ceiling. Felix regards the computer:

NOAH Protocol -- 47% Complete

He stands, eyes wide.

FELIX

I'm not going to die here because
some little girl thought it'd be
cute to play fly in the ointment.

Felix goes to the locked door and POUNDS.

INT. ATRIUM -- SAME

Steady rifles through his supply cases.

He rigs a smaller version of the bomb he used on the south pier. Something gives him pause, and he stops to listen...

Sounds like... HELICOPTERS.

Felix's pounding from the other side brings his focus back around. He begins stripping wires on EXPLOSIVE CHARGES.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Martin has fixated on a wrench left over from Wes and Yari's Geek Squad session. He quietly reaches for it with his foot as he picks at the duct tape around his wrists.

INT. PRETREATMENT CHAMBER -- MOMENTS LATER

A ROARING DIN inside a massive HOLDING TANK beneath the river. Alan SPLASHES to the surface, gasps for air as he pulls himself out of the churning water.

The chamber is divided into sections that all flow toward a GIANT MESS OF CLEAR TUBES at the far end.

Alan sees Wendy, flopped on her stomach a few feet away. He runs to her and gently turns her over. He goes to administer CPR, but Wendy COUGHS water on her own. Alan helps her turn her head.

ALAN
That's a girl.
(beat)
Where are we?

WENDY
(looks around)
De-Sal.

MOMENTS LATER

Wendy pries a metal grate open where the tubes converge.
MITES scatter away from RUSHING WATER bubbling beneath.

WENDY
Gotta skirt the reverse osmosis
chamber, or we'll have our guts
sucked out.

She turns to lower herself into the tube, takes a HUGE GULP
of air, then she's whisked away by the current inside.

Alan dips his feet into the tube, PANTS, then sucks in a
final MOUTHFUL--

INT. MEMBRANE TUBES -- SAME

Alan ROCKETS through the clear tube in a SPIRAL PATTERN.
The world's most expensive water slide.

The membrane NARROWS toward the middle and Alan--SLUNK--
is squeezed between clear plastic. He panics for a moment as
the pressure builds... FWUMP! He's swept further through.

THE SURFACE

They both shoot up out of the water. She leads him toward
the edge, where they lift themselves from the gigantic
freshwater tank.

Wendy catches her breath while Alan marvels at the REVERSE
OSMOSIS CHAMBER, submerged beneath sea level on the underside
of Lost Hills.

The walls are massive clear panels with views of the ocean
360 degrees around. Schools of fish swim by. Alan turns,
hikes his thumb at the underwater view.

ALAN
You guys could put Sea World in the
dark ages with this.

The whole chamber RUMBLES for a moment, dust falls around them. Wendy removes the tablet from her pack, scrolls.

WENDY

In a few minutes this place is going to be Sea World.

Wendy moves toward a door marked MAINTENANCE ACCESS: BEWARE OF COUNTERMEASURES.

She pries open the door. Something CLICKS above, and the space is ENGULFED IN FLAMES.

ALAN

Ah. Countermeasures.

The chamber RUMBLES again, a crack SPIDERS ACROSS the glass. Water fissures. Wendy and Alan lock eyes...

She quickly scrolls through the tablet's menu.

WENDY

They're supposed to keep the creepy-crawlies out of the lab.
(beat, scrolls)
Try it now.

Alan winces, sticks his foot into the doorway--

CLICK! WHOOOOSH! A continuous stream of flames. Wendy moves to the control panel beside the door, punches numbers--

There's a SPLASH from behind them as something FALLS from the membrane tubes into the water. A slender SHAPE speeds through the tank like a shark--

The alpha cat leaps from the water, her tail FLARED WIDE like a fan. She dries herself by PUFFING UP her scales. Then she sees Alan and Wendy.

EXT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Steady applies MAKE-SHIFT EXPLOSIVES to the hinges of the door. He lifts a REMOTE DETONATOR, flicks the switch to ARM.

STEADY

Felix! Stay back, now!

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Felix nervously cowers away from the door, can't see that Martin's got the duct tape down to the last few strands--

INT. REVERSE OSMOSIS CHAMBER -- SAME

The alpha cat plays a game of *eenie-meenie-miney-moe* with Wendy and Alan. Wendy FRANTICALLY waves her arms.

WENDY

Hey! Hey! Over here!

The cat lunges for her. Wendy dives out of the way as it GRAZES her, knocks the tablet out of her hands. The cat smashes HEAD FIRST into the control panel beside the door.

The flames immediately cut out.

EXT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Steady backs away toward the rear of the hallway, his thumb inches toward the detonator--

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

SNAP! Martin massages his wrists, lunges for the wrench. He ducks behind one of the computer consoles, grips the wrench in both hands and steals toward Felix.

INT. REVERSE OSMOSIS CHAMBER -- SAME

Wendy skids toward the open door, Alan helps her up.

The cat shakes off the collision with the wall and notices the tablet flashing on the floor. It paws the thing, curious. CRUNCH! The tablet makes a death-BLEEERP.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Martin RAISES the wrench high over his head, about to conk Felix across the back of the head with it--

The sound of a KLAXON as the doors to the atrium OPEN.

EXT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Steady sees the door open, removes his thumb from the button, EXHALES. He shouts down the hallway to Felix:

STEADY

Behind you!

Felix dives out of the way as Martin's swing goes wide, and the wrench SPARKS off the door frame.

Steady grabs Martin in a bear hug, disables him. Martin bites his tongue, frustrated.

INT. REVERSE OSMOSIS CHAMBER -- SAME

The cat continues to eat the tablet computer. Wendy grabs Alan's hand, sees their window. She drags him into...

THE MAINTENANCE STAIRWELL

Stairs zigzag 20 STORIES up.

INT. REVERSE OSMOSIS CHAMBER -- SAME

Another TREMOR freaks the cat out. It MEWLS as--

A PIPE breaks overhead, swings down from the ceiling-- CRASSSSSHH!--the plexi-glass window CAVES, and water ROLLS THROUGH! The cat is PUMMELED by the waves.

INT. MAINTENANCE STAIRWELL -- SAME

Water pools around Wendy and Alan's feet. They struggle to close the door behind them as the water rushes around. Wendy finally SHOVES, and the door slams closed.

She begins to heartily climb the stairs. Alan exhales, then follows after her.

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- SAME

Steady forcefully sits Martin back down in his chair.

STEADY

I heard choppers.

(re: the viewscreen)

You get CNN on this thing?

Felix keys in. The viewscreen SWITCHES to a NEWS FEED:

ON SCREEN

LIVE FOOTAGE from outside Lost Hills. The sun is just up. Smoke still rises from the edge of the pier, debris smolders on the water.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)
 ...because of the explosion, which
 you can catch a glimpse of here.
 Harold Novick, CEO of Quest
 Logistics is about to speak--

Footage CUTS TO Novick in front of the press. Ticker reads:

Harold Novick, CEO Quest Logistics (OLGS - \$10.53 +11.5%)

Novick Clears his throat as flashbulbs pop:

NOVICK
 Thank you. Early this morning an
 explosion on the south pier of Lost
 Hills Research Center tripped our
 alarms. The explosion was
 detonated by Dr. Martin Keen, in an
 attempt to sabotage his life's
 work. We have learned from our
 team inside that Dr. Keen has
 perished in the blast.
 (grave beat)
 All we can do now is try to save
 Lost Hills.

The crowd of reporters ERUPTS with questions and shouts...

FELIX

Claps Steady on the back.

FELIX
 Hard part's over, now that we've
 got everyone's attention.
 (to Martin)
 No more pussy-footing around. Tell
 me where you've stashed those
 beautiful flowers and we can get on
 with the unsavory bits. Hmm?

Off Martin's gulp, we...

SMASH TO:

A WARPED, TOOTHED, FREAKISH MAW

SILVER LIQUID glistens around it as we PULL BACK to reveal...

INT. TERTIARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy and Alan stand dwarfed by a glass tank. In it, A FAILED VERSION of Martin's jungle cat. Fur and bone poke in all the wrong directions from underneath patches of scales. A minor bump in the road toward a perfect monster.

All around them are examples of these BOTCHED SPECIMENS. An Arachnopod with too many legs. One of the goats with its spinal cord exposed.

At the center of it all -- a massive version of the NANO-ACCELERATOR CHAMBER. The size of a monster truck, door like a walk-in freezer. Alan WHISTLES as he gazes upon it.

WENDY

I haven't been in here since Mom.
Dad's... redecorated--

The sound of a KLAXON as the three-story tall hangar bay doors OPEN from the SECONDARY LAB.

Felix and Steady lead Martin in at gunpoint. Felix stops when he sees Wendy and Alan. The lab SHUDDERS a bit.

FELIX

Welcome to the party. The more the merrier, I say.

Wendy locks eyes with Martin as Felix moves to a planter box where *Cielo Azul* flower pods are potted. They are all DEAD or WILTING. Felix glares at Martin.

FELIX (CONT'D)

This is what your life's work has amounted to? Liar.

Felix grabs Steady's gun, marches across to Wendy and promptly points it at her temple.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Come clean with it, Martin.

WENDY

Dad, don't.

A tense beat. Felix pulls the hammer back...

MARTIN

Cielo Azul won't flourish in the habitat because it needs light. Pure, natural, sunlight.

(beat)

(MORE)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

You'll find all the viable samples
on the observation deck.

WENDY

Jeez, Dad.

FELIX

That could have been much nastier.

WENDY

You're just a little boy, aren't
you, Felix? With your hand in the
cookie jar.

FELIX

What is it with the women in your
life, Martin? Priscilla had my
number, and she got what was coming
to her. The prototype rig? Had
her name on it.

WENDY

(seething)

What did you say?

FELIX

I didn't kill her, Wendy. I simply
gave her a little... push.

The revelation hangs in the air--

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM!

From the maintenance shaft Wendy and Alan came through.
The door BUCKLES outward. Hinges pop...

Water RUSHES into the lab from the stairwell. With the
roiling waters comes the ALPHA CAT. She stands splayed,
ruffles her scales and dries off. Steady glares at her.

The hangar bay doors SLAM CLOSED and alert the cat. Felix
stands by the controls and--BLAM!--shorts them out.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Ah. Time to go!

(to Martin, with the gun)

I'll need another pair of hands.

Felix uses Martin as a human shield, and moves to A VIEWPOD
PORT by the far wall. The ramp extends, and Felix marches
Martin inside.

The ramp closes just as Steady goes to board. He SLAMS his
fist against the glass.

STEADY

Hey! Open up! Boss?

Felix smirks through the viewshield.

FELIX

Sorry, James. Only room for two.

(re: the cat)

You want it? Kill it.

Steady chokes on his words. Water rushes around his boots as Felix and Martin ascend in the viewpod. He holds his hands out in front of him -- they TREMBLE.

A VIOLENT TREMOR rocks the lab, knocks Steady down.

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Felix and Martin rise through the upper reaches of the lab, and watch an EXPLOSION rip through. Our view is obscured by more fire and debris raining down on Wendy and Alan.

FELIX

Don't weep, Martin. You'll be with them soon.

Martin hangs his head as they continue upward...

INT. TERCIARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Steady rights himself from the explosion. Behind him the alpha cat lifts her head and PURRS... Wendy pleads:

WENDY

Steady. We can take her down together. Don't. Move.

STEADY

I'm through takin' orders from a broad. This bitch is mine.

Steady reaches... draws a SMALLER PISTOL from his ankle. He quickly spins--

CRACK! The bullet RICOCHETS off her hindquarters and shatters the TANK beside her. The body of another FAILED FELINE slumps to the lab floor.

The cat cocks her head, and SNIFFS the abomination lying at her feet. She looks on it with pity, then flits her harsh gaze at Steady. Steady takes aim like a cowboy--

The alpha cat SCREECHES, hackles raised. She leaps, and KNOCKS Steady head-first into the control panel on the side of the gigantic Nano-Accellerator.

The controls SPARK, the door to the chamber SLIDES OPEN, and the innards begin to GLOW like toaster elements CHARGING UP.

Steady slumps beside the bulkhead, knocked out from the blow. His pistol is washed away by the rising waters.

He slowly comes to, PINNED between the cat and the the contraption. Wendy waves her arms behind him--

WENDY

Hey! Hey!

The cat turns to look. Steady draws his knife--SHINK--and plunges it into the cat's shoulder. She twitches, WHIMPERS, then... proceeds to pull the knife out with her jaws.

Steady SCREAMS bloody murder. He knows what comes next.

The cat lunges forward and silences her prey. SKRACK!

A large chunk of debris lands next to the cat. She freaks, instinctively drags Steady's body into the Nano-Accellerator. Wendy goes to rush in after--

ALAN

Stops her. He cautiously steps forward and mashes the RED BUTTON on the console and the door SLIDES CLOSED on the cat.

Wendy looks at him, shocked.

INT. NANO-ACCELERATOR -- SAME

The door to the chamber hits home, alerts the cat. She stops feeding, licks the blood from her jowls...

INT. TERTIARY LAB -- SAME

Wendy and Alan peer through the PORTHOLE WINDOW...

BRIGHT LIGHT shimmers around the cat, she arches her back and lets out a SCREAM-GURGLE. BLUE BLOOD and SCALES burst onto the glass as the chamber FIRES, our view OVEREXPOSED.

Water rushes around the base of the Nano-Accelerator. SPARKS erupt from the top of the apparatus, the steel hull CRACKS--WHEEEEE--bolts pop from the pressure. Wendy grabs Alan, pulls him back from the control panel.

WENDY

It's gonna blow--

And it does. The EXPLOSIVE FORCE sends a shock wave through the lab, shattering the rest of the specimen containers, knocking Wendy and Alan to the floor as we...

SMASH TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE -- DAY

A Coast Guard chopper ZOOMS over CROWDS of people craning their necks on the western side of the bridge.

Lost Hills is in shambles. The entire structure LISTS in the water like the Titanic. Smoke rises from the wind turbines that dot the roof. More choppers BUZZ around the periphery.

WENDY'S EYES

Snap open. Her world is a blur of chaos. The ringing in her ears is all we hear. Wendy stands...

INT. TERCIARY LAB -- SAME

The lab smolders from the explosion. Pieces of wreckage lay scattered in the waist-deep water. Wendy stands, leans on a steel beam, and shivers.

WENDY

Alan! Alan?!

MOANS from underneath the door to the Nano-Accellerator. Wendy runs, shoves it aside, and reveals Alan, splayed there. He coughs, soaked to the bone.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(pulls him close)

God, I thought I lost you.

ALAN

I'm right here.

Something GROANS from above. The ceiling of the lab bows, then CAVES IN, sending NIAGARA FALLS in from the habitat. Chunks of trees, mud and animals rain down.

Wendy pulls Alan close to a work station, where they take cover from the deluge. All around them, the waters RISE.

WENDY

I'm sorry I lost my ring.

ALAN

It's okay. We'll get you another.

WENDY

No. We won't.

A grave beat. The water is up to their chests.

ALAN

Remember when we ran into each other at the Mellencamp show in Santa Fe? You were dating Dan Peck.

WENDY

Well, we never dated. We hung out.

ALAN

(sure...)

Well, I followed you to Santa Fe. I was jealous and I never told you.

(beat)

You and Pecker broke it off... and then I "accidentally" bumped into you again at the department mixer. You were so pretty.

Wendy laments.

WENDY

I should have known the moment Felix walked through our door he had bad intentions. I was wrong to bring you here.

ALAN

This was better than any trip down the Colorado. This was the ride of my life. This is why I love you.

More of the roof caves above them. A flock of finches whirls through into the lab. One of them lands on a computer console. As the water rises, the bird CHIRPS. Wendy watches it take off. They tread water now. She grits her teeth.

WENDY

Felix has ruined everything. But
I'm not going to let him destroy
what's left.

(beat)

You good to swim?

Alan nods, spits water.

MOMENTS LATER

They paddle to the hangar bay doors that Felix shorted shut.

WENDY

The emergency release valves are
underwater. We'll go together.

Wendy takes a HUGE breath, ducks under. Alan follows...

UNDERWATER

Where Wendy swims down to the base of the door and pries TWO
GRATES free. She locks eyes with Alan and points down one of
two ACCESS SHAFTS...

ALAN

Swims inside one. Caution tape points him toward a gear box
where a massive EMERGENCY LEVER is cocked closed.

He tries to pull, but it's stuck. Alan braces his legs
against the exposed gears and strains to pull.

WENDY

Has no trouble with her lever. But when she pulls it...
nothing happens. She jerks it back and forth.

ALAN

Still strains... EXHALES what's left in his lungs...

PLUNK. The lever jerks back and his foot slips.

WENDY

Smiles as her gearbox begins to CLANK. She swims out of the
hatch. Alan is nowhere to be seen.

ALAN

Goes wide-eyed as his foot is CRUSHED by the gears. Blood clouds the water and he GURGLES, about to drown--

Wendy swims down to him, locks her lips with his. Bubbles seep between as she SIPHONS him a little extra air.

She swims down and pries his foot free from the gears. Together, they swim up...

INT. TERCIARY LAB -- SAME

Alan and Wendy break the surface as the hangar bay doors slide open to the sound of a KLAXON.

They're flushed out of the lab with the water and into...

THE SECONDARY LAB

Where they land on the catwalk as the water begins to fill the lower reaches of this lab.

Wendy scrambles for Alan who cringes at his mangled foot. She helps him stand as the lab behind them EMPTIES like an overturned bucket...

INT. ZENITH CONTROL -- MOMENTS LATER

Chunks of ceiling and debris fall onto the consoles as Wendy helps Alan toward the front of the control room.

The viewscreen shuffles through OLD FILES as Zenith ERASES its drives. The viewscreen reads:

NOAH Protocol -- 87% Complete

Wendy eyes the controls.

WENDY
I've got to end it.

ALAN
Just, hurry.

Wendy begins furiously keying in commands. BLEEERP. Screen reads: Unauthorized Zenith Access. Please Consult Dr. Keen.

Wendy SLAMS her fist down next to the wrench Martin used--

The viewscreen above jumps to footage that takes Wendy's breath away:

HOME VIDEO FOOTAGE

Martin holds a BIRTHDAY CAKE as Priscilla lights the candles from OFF SCREEN. She's our cameraman.

PRISCILLA (O.S.)
Shhhh, Marty. Oh God, she's gonna
hate us. Okay, go, go!

Priscilla follows Martin who pushes open a door. We find Wendy (19, again) sitting with adolescent Luke and Leia, teaching them to sign.

PRISCILLA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(sings)
Happy birthday to you! Happy
birthday, dear Wendy--

Wendy spins, smiles.

WENDY
Oh, God. I hate you guys!

Priscilla launches into a LAUGHING FIT and leaves the camera on a table. The three of them circle the cake.

PRISCILLA
We had to, Honey. Blow 'em out!
(before she does)
Ah! Make a wish.

Wendy pauses, eyes closed, then extinguishes the candles in one fell swoop. Priscilla kisses Wendy on the forehead. Wendy notices the camera.

WENDY
Mom! Turn it off!

Priscilla stands, cuts the camera feed--

WENDY

Clenches her jaw as the viewscreen reads: File: Deleted. Zenith gets on with erasing the rest of her memories.

Wendy dashes down the center aisle toward the drive-casings with the wrench.

She proceeds to BASH THE SHIT out of them, grunting, screaming, almost primal. WHAM-WHAM-KA-CHAM! The red one at the center crumples, SPARKS--

Alan lays a hand on her shoulder as the screens POWER DOWN around them. Wendy pants...

WENDY

I can't remember what I wished for.

Alan embraces her as the control room QUAKES.

ALAN

Hon, how the hell are we getting out of here?

INT. ATRIUM -- MOMENTS LATER

A herd of multi-colored goats BLEATS as a wave of water chases them across the atrium. Wendy guides Alan back toward the SECONDARY LABORATORY.

INT. SECONDARY LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan leans on Wendy as they inch their way down the catwalk. The lower reaches of the lab are completely FLOODED.

One of the BISECTED TREES overhead GROANS -- Wendy DIVES with Alan as the tree COLLAPSES into the lab wall, sends debris splashing into the muddy waters below.

Alan lies there, glasses askew, as the lab RUMBLES.

Wendy stands and begins fiddling with the controls. A KLAXON sounds as the SPARE VIEWPODS are revealed in the wall.

An INJURED ARACHNOPOD skitters across the fallen tree from the shadows. It sees Alan and CHITTERS at him--

SPLAT! Wendy swings a wrench at the thing and sends it THRASHING into a shaft of sunlight, where it BURSTS.

She helps Alan into the fresh viewpod.

INT. VIEWPOD -- MOMENTS LATER

Wendy and Alan rise above the habitat. Wendy presses her face to the glass...

THROUGH THE VIEWSHIELD

Everything is RUINED.

The dome covering Lost Hills MALFUNCTIONS, sections SHIMMER in daylight while others flicker NIGHT SKY on and off. Patches of RAIN fall, uneven.

The Highlands are ON FIRE, cement INFRASTRUCTURE exposed.

As they pass over the jungle Wendy lowers the viewpod for a closer look...

EXT. JUNGLE -- MOMENTS LATER

A ROARING DELUGE of water comes rolling through the forest dragging trees, rocks, and animals with it. The viewpod careens over the waves.

INT. VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy glares through the glass... searching... THERE!

EXT. BANYAN TREE -- SAME

The massive wave smashes into the BANYAN TREE where LUKE AND LEIA cling to the upper branches. The whole thing SWAYS--

They go wide-eyed when they see the viewpod lower near them. The door slides open and Wendy stands there, beckoning.

The continuous stream of water and debris takes its toll on the trunk--CRRAAAAAACK--and the whole tree is UPROOTED from the base.

Luke grabs Leia's hand and leads her through the branches. They leap and scramble as the gigantic, gnarled tree is shorn away from the forest floor like a mere twig.

Luke, arms pumping wildly, launches himself onto the ramp of the viewpod. He catches Leia as she does the same.

Luke takes Leia's hand. Together, they watch their Banyan tree carried away by the floodwaters.

EXT. BRIAR PATCH -- MOMENTS LATER

Everything in the briar patch TWISTS and WRIGGLES, trying in vain to escape the rising waters.

Wendy sets the viewpod down near the entrance to the Arc.

Luke and Leia gently help Alan out onto the grassy knoll. Wendy peels the muddy patch of grass back and mashes the controls. The Arc entrance HISSES open and the gorillas carry Alan inside.

A shadow passes over Wendy for an instant. She looks up. Felix's viewpod SPEEDS overhead. Wendy narrows her eyes.

INT. FELIX'S VIEWPOD -- MOMENTS LATER

Felix points his gun while Martin reaches through an ESCAPE HATCH and affixes one of Steady's EXPLOSIVE CHARGES to the underside of the dome. Martin climbs back in, hands raised.

MARTIN

Okay. It's done. Let me go.

FELIX

It's not done till I'm the only survivor. Then, maybe, I'll get a little appreciation around here.

Felix narrows his eyes, aims his pistol at Martin--

Just as WENDY'S VIEWPOD CRACKS against the glass behind.

INT. WENDY'S VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy's eyes are ablaze. Her own viewpod rocks with the impact, and she jimmies the joystick to right it.

WENDY

Hi, Dad!

Martin nervously waves back at Wendy, squints at Felix who leans on the joystick.

EXT. VIEWPODS -- SAME

Felix speeds away from Wendy, and she GIVES CHASE.

The dual tracks SPARK AND POP--CRUNCH!--Wendy SLAMS her viewpod into Felix's repeatedly -- an INVERTED CAR CHASE suspended 50-some stories.

KRAM! Wendy slams Felix again, this time one of her decelerators hops the track, WHIRS, sparks fly.

Felix's viewpod comes to a sputtering, screeching halt, SPINS ON AN AXIS and begins to head back the way he came.

Wendy ZOOMS past. With the lame decelerator, she guides herself around in a WIDE CIRCLE.

INT. WENDY'S VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy chants to herself as she speeds a hundred meters behind Felix and Martin.

WENDY
Come on, come on, come--

EXT. VIEWPODS -- SAME

Felix CAREENS underneath the explosive charge.

INT. WENDY'S VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy sweats.

WENDY
--on, come on, come--

A LIGHT ahead of her BLINKS from RED to GREEN. **KABOOM!**

EXT. LOST HILLS -- SAME

From the point of view of a NEWS CHOPPER as glass, steel and fire ERUPT from the top of the dome.

The PILOT leans into the stick, BANKS to get a closer look...

INT. WENDY'S VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy shakes off the explosion only to realize that the FAR WALL of her viewpod IS GONE, blown to pieces from the blast.

The whole thing ROCKS unevenly, and she can see ALL THE WAY DOWN through the habitat. She scrambles to the rear, INHALES SHARPLY and staves off another panic attack.

Felix's viewpod dangles ten feet across from her's, A GAPING HOLE blown in the dome between the two.

INT. FELIX'S VIEWPOD -- SAME

Felix scrambles toward the escape hatch with the cylinder.

Martin pushes his glasses up onto the bridge of his nose, GRABS Felix's leg and pulls him back inside. His gun skates down the outside of the viewpod and out of view.

Felix falls to the floor, knocks over the supply case. Martin scrambles for something, anything, comes back with a GRAPPLING GUN--WHAM!--Martin pistol whips Felix; teeth fly, and he goes down.

INT. WENDY'S VIEWPOD -- SAME

Wendy PANTS, eyes and mouth clenched closed--FISSSHHH!--the spearhead of the grappling cable EMBEDS in the glass behind her. Wendy's eyes snap open.

MARTIN

Braces the grappling line between the OPEN DOOR of his viewpod, connecting to Wendy's. He PULLS--

WENDY

Rocks forward with the force, more precarious now than ever.

WENDY

Whoa! Whoa!

MARTIN

Strains as a bead of sweat trickles down his nose.

MARTIN

Climb out to me!

WENDY

Are you crazy!?

WENDY

Crawls backward into the corner as the decelerators on her pod WHINE. One of them JERKS free of the cables overhead.

MARTIN

Grits his teeth as his grip on the grappling gun SLIPS--

MARTIN
Climb to me! Now!

WENDY

--Braces herself as the viewpod SWAYS. The remaining decelerator practically agrees with Martin as it CRUMPLES under the weight of it all. Wendy shakily grabs a hold of the cable and SWINGS herself out...

ACROSS THE HABITAT

Where she focuses on Martin.

MARTIN
That's my girl. Don't look dow--

She pauses between the viewpods and looks DOWN. Her vision WARPS, her arms tremble. The decelerator on the empty viewpod GROANS--

MARTIN (CONT'D)
--no, no! Wendy! Me! Look at me!

Wendy locks eyes with Martin and deftly swings the remaining five feet--WHOMP--lands stomach first against the skids of the viewpod. Martin helps her up, all smiles, as the door closes. Wendy looks to where Felix lies--

Felix is GONE. The escape hatch in the roof of the viewpod swings conspicuously.

Behind them, the ruined pod GROANS, finally breaks free from the track overhead and PLUMMETS down.

The grappling cable--TWAAANG--snaps taut, and their viewpod jolts, two decelerators cave under this NEW WEIGHT.

Martin's through the hatch first. He heartily pulls Wendy up as the weight rips their viewpod from the tracks around them.

Wendy and Martin grip the jagged edge of the dome as the viewpods PLUMMET down into the raging waters below!

EXT. TOP OF THE DOME -- SAME

Wendy and Martin claw their way onto the dome of the listing lily pad. An orange COAST GUARD CHOPPER zooms overhead... Wendy's gaze flits across to--

FELIX

Face bloodied, sprints across the dome toward an OUTCROPPING that glints in the sun a hundred yards away.

WENDY

Grits her teeth and takes off after him. Martin stands and follows suit...

ACROSS THE DOME

Where FAN TURBINES dotted every twenty feet ROAR, some of them SMOKE AND SPARK. Wendy's legs pump, determined.

As a SHORTCUT, Wendy LEAPS over one of the turbines. Martin goes to do the same--

The fan--GRRREEE--grinds to a halt and SHREDS through the turbine, exploding shrapnel. The glass around the turbine SHATTERS, and the whole section CAVES into the habitat!

Martin dives toward another fan as the glass all around him crumbles. Wendy doesn't notice he's CUT OFF.

MARTIN

Wendy!

Wendy skids to a stop and sees that Martin stands precariously on a PENINSULA of steel.

The whole section COLLAPSES a few feet as fire erupts from the turbine behind Martin. He makes like he's going to jump--

The chasm widens more, the sound of destruction DEAFENING. Martin backs away from the edge, looks to Wendy.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Go. Go! I'll be fine.

Wendy reluctantly leaves her father across the chasm.

FELIX

Leaps onto a section of elevated CATWALK. The whole thing SHUDDERS with the force of destruction.

The catwalk leads to a STRUCTURE, like A PIMPLE on the surface of the dome. A glass observation deck converted into A GREENHOUSE.

Felix SHORTS the door controls with his stun wand and enters...

THE OBSERVATION DECK

The field-full of *Cielo Azul* Felix has been looking for.

He collapses to his knees at the sight, delicately runs his hands over the bright blue flowers. Then he greedily UPROOTS as many as he can, stuffs them into a GLASS CYLINDER--

KRAM! Wendy TACKLES Felix face-first into the flower bed. She straddles him and knocks the cylinder away.

EXT. TOP OF THE DOME -- SAME

Lost Hills is burning.

The support girders that hold the observation deck upright CRUMPLE in the heat. The deck SLAMS into the glass--

INT. OBSERVATION DECK -- SAME

Wendy and Felix are THROWN across the greenhouse as the SPRINKLER SYSTEM above swings down like a lapbar on a fair ride and pins them to the floor...

Only now, the deck slopes down, and they're suspended above the EXPOSED PIPES, mere feet from being SKEWERED. Felix slips, glares down, wide-eyed. He reaches for Wendy.

FELIX

Wendy. Help me up.
 (re: the flowers)
 We'll give a gift to the world.
 Come now. Help me back up!

Felix clamors for Wendy's hand. After a beat, she gives it to him. He clutches the pipe with one hand...

FELIX (CONT'D)
That's a girl. I'm not going to
die here--

Felix goes to grip with his other hand--

FELIX (CONT'D)
--you are.

Instead, Felix swings his STUN WAND around!

Wendy GASPS, blocks his wrist, the wand's teeth SPARK inches from her face. There's an intimate struggle with the wand... Wendy has the high ground, though, and she JABS Felix in the neck with it. He falls into the pit of exposed metal, IMPALED through the shoulder.

She shakily lifts the pipe from her lap as the whole observation deck GROANS...

EXT. TOP OF THE DOME -- SAME

Wendy crawls out of the airlock door, and it closes after. She WAVES FRANTICALLY to the flock of helicopters circling, holds the glass cylinder aloft like a trophy.

Behind her, the section of dome beneath the observation deck CAVES, and the whole thing swings down out of sight, begins to DRAG the catwalk she's on with it.

Wendy dashes away on the backward conveyer belt as pieces of the dome shatter and collapse all around her. She dives to an ISLAND of twisted wreckage--

A steel CABLE AND BASKET lower beside her. Martin's inside.

Wendy looks up to see the COAST GUARD CHOPPER hover in the sky. She clings to Martin as he helps her into...

THE BASKET

They're hoisted up... Wendy and Martin watch as the entire lily pad begins to slip beneath the sea.

With the north end SUBMERGED, the south LIFTS OUT OF THE OCEAN like the edge of a dinner plate, hangs there--

Then the island SPLITS DOWN THE MIDDLE, fire and water ERUPT from inside as the separate halves SINK independently...

The Coast Guard chopper speeds toward the mainland.

INT. OBSERVATION DECK -- MOMENTS LATER

Felix plants his hand against the cracked glass of the greenhouse. He drools blood, SURROUNDED BY OCEAN.

He puffs out his cheeks as--CREEEEEEE--the glass begins to spiderweb around him. Felix INHALES--

The observation deck SHATTERS, and he's INSTANTLY CRUSHED by the impending pressure as we...

SMASH TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN -- LATER

A flock of seagulls feed on the floating corpses of the Arachnopods. The water begins to CHURN and BUBBLE around them, and they take flight as A BLACK VESSEL rises to the surface with the aid of inflated AIR SACKS. On the side:

Asset Reclamation Container

EXT. ALAMEDA AIR BASE -- DAY

Wendy and Martin sit inside an ambulance, the *Cielo Azul* canister between them in the sun. EMTs pore over their cuts and bruises.

ACROSS THE TARMAC

Camera crews are held at bay by SFPD. Suddenly, they're ABUZZ as a BLACK SUV rolls in, flanked by two more.

Out steps Novick. The news people SWARM. He waves his hand, quiets them.

NOVICK

What's happened is unfortunate, but there will be no statements until I see to our survivors.

His security does their best to clear a path.

WENDY

Sees him coming. She stands--

NOVICK
 (offers his hand)
 Martin. We're so very thankful
 that you're alive--

--and SOCKS him across the jaw. As Novick cradles his cheek,
 the NEWS CREWS go crazy.

NOVICK (CONT'D)
 (recoils)
 Where's Felix Tremain?

WENDY
 Yeah, I don't think Felix'll be
 taking credit for this one.
 (massages her knuckles)
 Looks like it's all on you.

NOVICK
 He's...?

WENDY
 ...as a doornail. Along with
 everything else my dad built.

Novick runs his tongue over his teeth.

NOVICK
 That's not entirely accurate.

Wendy cocks her head--

There's a THUMPING overhead.

Wendy waves Novick off as a Coast Guard chopper hoists THE
 ARC and touches down on the tarmac ahead.

INT. THE ARC -- MOMENTS LATER

Acetylene torches slice through the metal bulkhead. The
 entire container fills with bright light...

A team of EMTs rush in, only to be greeted by Luke and Leia,
 cradling Alan in their arms. They tower over the humans.

EMT
 Everyone get back!
 (into radio)
 We've got... something here--

ALAN

It's okay.
 (to the gorillas)
You can put me down. We are safe.

Alan signs to the gorillas and they reluctantly place him on the floor of the Arc. Luke GRUNTS, seemingly satisfied.

As the EMTs cautiously move in with a stretcher, something SHINES on the floor, gets Alan's attention.

EXT. ALAMEDA AIR BASE -- DAY

Alan is hauled out on a stretcher as news choppers hover above the base. Wendy and Martin rush to his side with the canister. Alan shakily removes his oxygen mask.

ALAN

Wendy...

WENDY

Don't speak, Alan. We got you out just in time.

Alan holds Wendy's ENGAGEMENT RING aloft. Wendy reaches for it, but Alan hangs on for a moment:

ALAN

Wendy Keen. Will you? Again?

WENDY

(a beat, with the ring)
 Grand Canyon, right?

ALAN

Really?

WENDY

I said I'd think about it.

Martin smiles.

MARTIN

You take good care of her, okay?
 She's all I've got.

ALAN

(coughs)
 Yes, sir.

Wendy takes the ring, and Alan is rushed to a waiting MED-EVAC chopper.

MOMENTS LATER

The news crews aim their lenses as Luke and Leia are escorted by Wendy into cages with the Quest logo on them.

WENDY
 (off Luke's look)
I will see you soon.

She touches them on the cheek as they're whisked away. Martin gazes across the bay.

MARTIN
 I lost what was most precious to me. How can I make it up to you, Wendy? I thought I could save the world.

WENDY
 Mom's still with us, Dad.
 No matter what happened.

Wendy and Martin stand together on the tarmac, chopper blades WHIP their hair. She smiles as Martin eyes the cylinder.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 And, Dad?

MARTIN
 Hmm?

Wendy raises...

THE GLASS CYLINDER

Into the bright, pure sunlight.

The *Cielo Azul* flower pods inside UNFURL and BLOOM right before our eyes. Bright blue, with an egg-yolk center.

WENDY

Tucks the thing under her arm and takes Martin's hand as the two watch the gorillas loaded into a cargo plane, and we...

FADE OUT.

THE END