

MOON PEOPLE!

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN '96 DAY

A typical chaotic family kitchen at breakfast, coffee brews, a baby cries, and the television blares.

A man reads a newspaper, the language is not familiar.

A lime green tentacle reaches over the top of the paper and folds it down to reveal a middle aged alien in a suit and tie. CHEEADAR PIKE looks vaguely human except that he has lime green tentacles instead of hair.

Cheeadar wipes crumbs off his tie with a tentacle.

CHEEADAR

Honey, what do you think about a few weeks of beach time for High Solstice?

HALVARTI puts a beer and a plate of cockroaches in front of Cheeadar. She's an attractive six-breasted Gravalaxian woman dressed like June Cleaver.

HALVARTI

Just make sure there's a brewery this time, dear.

Cheeadar grabs a cockroach with one of his tentacles and pops into his mouth.

CHEEADAR

Halvarti, one time I book on a maltless planet, and I never hear the end of it!

HALVARTI

It was twice, Cheeadar, but who's counting?

GORGONZOL, 17, walks in the kitchen, yawns and scratches his crotch with one of his tentacles.

He has a tentacle soul patch and wears baggy shorts and a t-shirt, just like all the other Gravalaxian surfer dudes.

He picks up a bottle of beer off the counter. Halvarti snatches the beer away from her son.

HALVARTI

You can't have that!

Havarti sets the beer down in front of the BABY, who COOS at the sight of it, then takes a drink.

HALVARTI

Get your own.

Gorgonzol gets a beer from the fridge.

CHEEADAR

What do you think, Gorgie? Two weeks on the malt fringed beaches of the Planet Zima?

Gorgonzol gets a sour look on his face.

GORGONZOL

No can do, pops. Besides I have a job now.

Cheeadar looks at his wife in confusion.

HALVARTI

Your father and I talked it over, and I've decided that you're old enough to stay home by yourself.

Gorgonzol smiles slyly as one of his tentacles curls into a fist and pumps itself in victory.

He jumps out of his chair and grabs a couple spiny crustaceans out of a fishbowl full of crawly things.

CHEEADAR

And while were gone I'd really like you to fill out some of those college applications.

Gorgonzol's tentacles droop as he finishes his beer.

GORGONZOL

I told you, It's not my thing.

CHEEADAR

You can do better than fast food, son.

GORGONZOL

Whoa, I'm gonna be late for work.

Gorgonzol reaches down to tickle Baby Brie.

GORGONZOL

Hey, you little tadpole.

Baby Brie spits up on him. But he takes it in stride.

Gorgonzol whips open the fridge, grabs another beer, kisses his mom on the cheek, and dashes out the door.

CHEEADAR
(wistfully)
If I had his energy.

Cheeadar reaches a tentacle behind Havarti and gooses her.

EXT. EARTH SKY - NIGHT (2014)

The full MOON in the sky.

A space shuttle BLASTS past, ROARING fire and smoke.

The fuselage is tattooed with sponsors's logos, like a stock car. On the tail, dwarfing the NASA symbol: QUINN ENTERPRISES.

INT. SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - SAME

Rows of multinational personnel jostle in their seats. All wear jumpsuits emblazoned with BROTHERHOOD STATION MOONBASE.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

TOM QUINN, early 30's -- a dashing billionaire in the Richard Branson mold -- watches the shuttle's flight from a wide window.

He turns and surveys the room. Rows of technicians monitor displays and systems. Two huge screens show telemetry and external video of the ship.

On a nearby video screen, the pilot and co-pilot rattle in their chairs. Tom leans over and thumbs a mike.

TOM
How you doin', honey?

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - SAME

The pilot, Tom's wife JENNIFER QUINN, 30's, glances at a monitor showing Tom's face.

JENNIFER
Flyin' the ship -- with you in a
minute, sweetheart...

She turns and grins at her co-pilot, XIANG ZAN.

INT. INSTRUMENT PANEL - SAME

Inside an instrument panel, a circuit pattern begins MOVING.

They look like ants -- they're really tiny robots called ANTs (Ambulatory Nano-Technology).

The ANTS gather into an organized group, and move toward a board labeled BOOSTER CONTROL.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

Tom grins at the monitor. Standing behind him is EVAN JOHNSON, 30's, mission director. Clean-cut, all-American -- Harvard recruiters were present at Evan's birth.

EVAN
(affectionately)
Relax...enjoy the show. And quit
bugging my astronauts.

Tom retreats to a nearby chair and sits. Stiffly.

JAKE (O.S.)
Dad...

Quinn's sons, JAKE, 9, and MICHAEL, 12, jostle for control of a mission monitor. Michael hogs it.

TOM
(without looking)
Michael, take a seat.

Michael glances at his father, scowls, and sits in a huff.

Behind them in the gallery stand INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES from many countries, in native uniform.

Front and center, the Chinese contingent. The imposing and heavily-medaled GENERAL BAO, 50s, glowers down on the room.

On the wall above, the mission's logo, and "BROTHERHOOD STATION: Many Nations...One Dream."

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - SAME

Jennifer and Xiang bask in the moment. Everything seems to be going great...

INSIDE INSTRUMENT PANEL

The ANTs converge on a group of wires -- mechanical jaws bite down -- a BRIGHT SPARK!

IN THE COCKPIT

The ship jolts, and ALARMS go off. A schematic shuttle display shows one of the two solid rocket boosters blinking red.

JENNIFER

Control, we've got a master alarm
on SRB two, running one-ten...one
hundred fifteen percent...

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

Alarms WAIL and red lights flash. Tom jumps out of his
seat.

The boys look around nervously.

EVAN

Roger, Phoenix, we confirm. Reduce
fuel flow to SRB two...

Tom pesters Evan's shoulder, but Evan shrugs him off.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

Engines not responding!

INT. SHUTTLE INSTRUMENT PANEL - SAME

The components swarm with agitated ANTs. They strike in
numerous places, with a SERIES OF SPARKS...

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

The screen showing the cockpit video goes dark.

CONTROLLER

Lost audio & video!

In the gallery, the delegates stare like statues. Tom gapes
uncomprehending. Only Evan appears unfazed.

On the viewscreen, the shuttle veers -- the view jolts to
keep it centered.

EVAN

(to room)

Alright, keep it together!

(into headset)

Dave, what the fuck is going on?

TOM

What is it? What's happening?

EVAN

She can handle it, Tom.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - SAME

Jennifer fights high gee forces to get to the panel to her
left. Just as her hand reaches it...

ANTS BOIL OUT of the seams in the panel.

Jennifer's stunned. The ANTs gather in a mass below her hand.

She reaches for a button -- and the ANTs move to block her!

Jennifer moves her hand back and forth -- the ANTs follow her movements exactly.

Angrily, Jennifer punches a button. The ANTs leap onto her glove and run up her arm. She can't shake them off -- they tear open a gash in her suit and stream inside!

Jennifer JERKS BACK in her seat, horrified.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

The screen shows the shuttle clearly veering off course.

ALARMS and SHOUTING fill the room.

TOM

(to Evan)

Abort! Get 'em outta there!

EVAN

That's Jennifer's call!

Tom hesitates for a moment...then LUNGES for the Abort button!

Evan grabs his shirt and holds him back.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - SAME

The cockpit JOLTS and a panel EXPLODES! Jennifer shields her face. ANTs run up her neck.

Panicking now, she turns to her co-pilot.

JENNIFER

Xiang! Abort! Abort now!

Xiang faces away from her. He doesn't move. She grabs his shoulder and yanks!

Xiang's bloody face grins horribly from within his smashed helmet -- ANTs crawl over his lips.

Jennifer's eyes go wild. The ABORT button is on his side!

She fumbles at her seatbelt.

The ANTs swarm over her face. She bats at them, but her face shield is in the way.

Blood spurts and covers the inside of her helmet. Her hand flails on her chest -- searching for...

(FLASHBACK) - EXT. SPACE CENTER - DAY

Jennifer enters a room. The shuttle on its pad is visible through a huge window. Tom and the children are waiting.

She drops to one knee, and the children embrace her.

They present her with a gift. She tears it open.

A LOCKET, in the shape of a full moon. Jennifer cracks it open -- photo of the boys on one side, Tom on the other.

Jennifer puts the locket on, down into her suit. She laughs with delight and hugs the boys.

END FLASHBACK

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - NIGHT

Jennifer paws at her chest...her gloved hand closes around the locket...comfort in her final moments...

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The shuttle arcs and heads toward the lights of Florida.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

Tom, restrained by two security guys, looks on.

CONTROLLER

It's heading for Miami!

EVAN

God-dammit!

He slumps. Gone too far. He reaches for the ABORT button, blinking red under its plastic shield...

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The shuttle EXPLODES in a huge fireball.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

Bright light washes over the controllers.

Evan drops his hand. The plastic shield is unopened. He did not press the ABORT button.

Tom wrenches free from the security guys and throws himself against the window...

EXT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

As Tom claws the glass, the window reflects the image of the explosion. Debris falls like rain over him.

Tom screams -- another EXPLOSION thunders from the sky above...as if it were coming from deep inside him.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - SAME

Evan turns and looks directly at General Bao. The General stares back at him. A look crosses his face -- disgust? triumph? Tight-lipped, Bao turns and leaves.

Evan turns away, his face empty, his eyes cold.

INT. DEBRIS HANGAR - SOME TIME LATER

Tom and Evan stand in a huge hangar, amid a grid pattern of wreckage. Tom wipes the dust from a metal surface, revealing the letters: "QUINN ENT".

EVAN

They're going with pilot error.

Tom glares up at Evan.

TOM

Pilot error? You were the one who didn't abort when--

EVAN

I had to give her every chance.
You would've done the same!

Tom shakes his head disgustedly, and walks off. Evan follows.

EVAN

Anyhow...it's all over now.

Brotherhood Station's dead. Euros bolted, then everyone else...

A technician brings in a box of debris. He carefully upends it on a nearby table, then takes the box and exits.

EVAN

...except the Chinese. They're going ahead -- alone. President tried to keep 'em on board...they

(MORE)

EVAN (CONT'D)
told him to fuck off. In a nice
way.

TOM
What the hell do I care?

EVAN
Tom...you saw what it took to get
this bird off the ground. The whole
government's going broke, and we--

Tom suddenly gets the gist.

TOM
You want me to build your moonbase --
and pay for it.

Evan smiles guiltily.

TOM
I've already given more than one
man could possibly--

EVAN
--exactly. Do it for Jennifer. If
there's no moonbase, her death was
for nothing.

Evan's phone RINGS. He checks the screen.

EVAN
(to Tom)
One second...

He trots off to take the call. Tom wanders back to the
debris the technician just brought. His mind far away, he
idly picks through the charred metal.

Something catches his eye: a bit of blackened gold. He
carefully pulls it from the wreckage.

JENNIFER'S LOCKET.

Unhinged by this discovery, Tom stares.

(FLASHBACK) - EXT. GANTRY WALKWAY - DAY

The Quinn family stands in the wind. The cockpit door waits
at the end of the walkway.

Jennifer holds her locket up to the full moon.

JENNIFER

We can start over up there. A new world. A blank slate. And we won't screw it up, like we did this place...

She tucks the locket back into her suit.

JENNIFER

We could really use you up there.

Tom gives her a look. They've been through this before...

TOM

This is your thing...

JENNIFER

You wouldn't've put up all that money if you didn't believe in it too.

Tom thinks about it, but doesn't buy it.

TOM

Look, honey -- human nature's not gonna change. One little moonbase... it's a nice gesture, but--

JENNIFER

You could have the freedom up there to make it anything you want. A man like you?

(eyes him)

A man like you could change the world.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DEBRIS HANGAR - DAY

A SCUFF brings Quinn back to the present -- Evan's returned.

Tom looks down at the locket. His fingers caress it. His face agonizes...then clears.

He sneaks the locket into his pocket, then turns to Evan.

TOM

I'll do it...on one condition...

EVAN

Name it.

TOM

You keep the fuck out of my way.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY (2027)

SUPER: "13 YEARS LATER -- MARCH, 2027"

BROTHERHOOD STATION. DARK AND DILAPIDATED. AN EMPTY HALF-built shell -- abandoned.

Beyond looms a sparkling, shining testament to what one man can do, with a little vision and a lot of money: LUNA BASE.

Luna Base's huge domes gleam in the sunshine. Machinery and mining operations dot the surrounding plain.

A mile or so beyond, another dome is visible -- its huge Chinese characters can be seen even from this distance.

EXT. SPACE - DAY

A space shuttle ZOOMS by, headed for Luna Base. On its tail: the PRESIDENTIAL SEAL.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

It looks like Hawaii with some Yosemite mixed in for flavor.

Gentle waves lap a sandy beach. A bright sun shines in an azure sky. Calm tradewinds fan the palm trees.

Nearby, preparations are being made for a luau. Roast pig with all the trimmings.

Tom Quinn, now in his late 40's, still fit if just a bit gray, lounges on a chaise.

In the chaise next to him: WEI LIN TAO, mid 30's, a lovely Chinese woman in a red string bikini. She flips over on her back and reaches for the tanning lotion.

The SUNLIGHT FLICKERS on their bodies. They both look up.

The sky flashes BRIGHT WHITE, then BLINKS OUT altogether to reveal a starry black night, and a drab moonscape of dull rolling gray hills.

WEI LIN

Thought they fixed that.

TOM

Yeah, me too...

A bit of grass pops up -- two technicians climb out of this "GOPHER HOLE" and move to a nearby rock -- it's fake, and they open it up to access a panel within.

Tom's sunglasses begin to RING like a telephone. He picks up the glasses, presses a button, and the sunglasses break down into ANTS and reorganize into a phone.

TOM
 (into phone)
 Yeah?
 (beat)
 Oh for cryin' out loud! Alright.

Tom thumbs a button. A CLICK, then a slight HUM, followed by an ECHO effect. Tom's voice now goes out over the base-wide public address system.

TOM
 This is Tom Quinn. The president is three hours ahead of schedule. We have thirty minutes.

Distant SHOUTING and GROANING can be heard all around.

TOM
 (grins)
 That's the spirit! Let me just say that you've all done an extraordinary job, and I couldn't be more proud of all of you. Quinn out.
 (to Wei Lin)
 Enough time?

Wei Lin shrugs on a windbreaker adorned with a logo depicting the Chinese base.

WEI LIN
 Not a problem.

They lean in for a kiss. Tom lingers and watches her go, then gathers up his things and walks toward the dome's exit.

The LUAU WORKERS have abandoned the pig in order to hang a banner overhead reading: LUNA BASE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

Tom passes a group of TEENAGERS.

TOM
 Hey, Spence -- seen my boys?

A little hitch in SPENCE's reply indicates he knows where they are -- and Tom wouldn't like it.

SPENCE
 Uh...no, sure haven't...sorry.

The boys move off quick.

TOM
(to himself)
Where the hell are they?

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

Peaceful and still. The tranquility is broken by TWO SOUPED-UP MOON ROVERS that burst into frame and race by.

They BUMP TOGETHER, and the rover on the left goes up on two wheels...the driver expertly brings it back down hard on a bouncing suspension.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROVER - SAME

Michael Quinn, now 25, laughs out loud.

MICHAEL
Whoo! Almost lost it there!

INT. JAKE'S ROVER - SAME

Jake Quinn, now 22, is composed and confident at the controls.

The boys communicate via their suit radios.

JAKE
You never had it!

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Maybe we oughta be getting
back...the President--

JAKE
--won't be here for hours. Time
enough for me to dust your elderly
ass!

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Junior...you need to learn some...
respect!

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - SAME

On the last word, Michael swerves in front of Jake and ZOOMS off, spewing moondust all over his rover. Jake's "dusted".

He turns on the wipers, and speeds off after Michael.

INT. LUNA CONTROL - DAY

Sleek, dimly lit, the nerve center of Luna Base looks rather like a cocktail lounge. Holographic displays dance, attended by cool, relaxed TECHNICIANS.

TOM STANDS WITH HIS RIGHT HAND WOMAN, PALMER GRAHAM, MID-30's, his head of security and unofficial exec. Unwrapping a piece of candy, she looks more like a college student.

Suddenly, Evan, now late 40's, appears on the display.

EVAN

Tom, buddy! How the hell are you?

TOM

(forcing it)

Evan, nice to see you.

If Evan notices the strain it takes for Tom to be civil to him, he doesn't acknowledge it.

EVAN

Final approach...we'll be on the ground in ten.

TOM

Vector's transmitting now. Just ride the beam. We'll meet you there.

(choking it out)

Welcome to Luna.

Evan signs off. Palmer fixes Tom with a look. Tom twists his wedding ring on his finger: a nervous tic.

PALMER

My, that was heartwarming.

Tom twists his wedding ring again -- a million miles away.

PALMER

Every time you see him, you get that look...forget him, focus on the President. If our little surprise doesn't do the trick--

TOM

Either way...they're not leaving until we get what we want.

PALMER

Love it when you're forceful.

Tom gives her a lopsided grin. An AIDE sidles up.

AIDE

Spotter control reports dust clouds
over by Brotherhood Station.

(holds up two fingers)

Two.

Tom makes a noise of exasperation, whips out his phone,
and dials a 4-digit number.

Palmer watches him. You can see the adoration in her eyes.

It's more than friendship -- she's in love with him.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The rovers sit side by side at the top of a hill that leads
down toward the decrepit husks of Brotherhood Station.

The boys eye each other from their cockpits. They tighten
their gloves, adjust their helmets, and REV their engines.

JAKE

Five...four...

MICHAEL

Three-two-one!

Michael speeds off, and Jake, cursing, follows.

They speed down the hill toward an opening small enough
for only one rover. Driving hard, Jake quickly catches up.

It's a game of chicken...tracks in the moondust indicate
they've done this a million times. They glance at each
other, trying to gauge the other's nerve.

Closer...closer...neck and neck, neither has an edge...

Michael SLAMS on his brakes! Jake shoots through the
opening!

INT. MICHAEL'S ROVER - SAME

Michael swerves sharply to avoid a bad crash, then stomps
on the accelerator and powers into the hole after Jake.

JAKE (V.O.)

You gotta want it.

INT. BROTHERHOOD STATION - SAME

The rovers zoom through a huge half-finished dome and slalom
around piles of debris.

MICHAEL

Jake, I got something to tell you.

JAKE

How much you respect my skills?

MICHAEL

Listen. When the shuttle leaves tonight...I'll be on it.

Jake brakes hard and fishtails around. Michael pulls up. Nose to nose, they stare at each other through the dust.

JAKE

Say what?

MICHAEL

I'm leaving the moon. I'm gonna work for Evan.

JAKE

Why in the hell--

MICHAEL

Evan's gonna give me some real responsibilities. He respects me, he listens to my ideas...he doesn't treat me like a goddamn child.

JAKE

So when are you gonna...
(realizes)
You didn't tell Dad!

MICHAEL

It's my life, and my decision.
Dad's got nothing to do with it.

JAKE

Yeah, okay...keep tellin' yourself that, Slick.

Angrily, Michael PEELS OUT and speeds out of the dome. Jake mashes the gas pedal and takes off after him.

They head into another dome. This one has a forest of support columns. It takes all their concentration.

Lights go on and off as they pass -- motion-sensored solar panels. The station still has a little life left in it.

Jake pulls ahead as they approach a fork in the road.

On the right, a narrow path weaves through some debris, then out into the open air. On the left, a ramp leads into the open sky above.

JAKE

So...guess now you're man enough
to finally take the jump!

Jake looks over -- Michael doesn't seem very enthused. The jump's coming up fast.

JAKE

What...the new Michael's still
just as chicken as the old one?

Michael flips Jake off. Jake laughs, and swerves into the tight path to the right.

JAKE

Sometimes you gotta take a leap in
the dark...

Michael steels himself, and steers for the jump...then, at the very last moment, he chickens out!

EXT. BROTHERHOOD STATION - SAME

Jake emerges, and corners left at the edge of a hill.

Michael SMASHES out the side of the dome and caroms into Jake!

The two rovers flip end over end and down the hill. They bounce high in the low gravity.

They finally come to a stop, lost in a huge cloud of dust.

Silence...then...

MICHAEL & JAKE

Whoo-HOO!

The boys are jubilant...and completely unhurt.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROVER - SAME

On Michael's dash, a red button blinks "MESSAGE". He hits the button. A hologram appears: his father's face.

TOM (V.O.)

Michael, dammit -- the president's
early. I need you here, not fooling
around and dragging Jake along--

Michael angrily cuts it off. What a buzzkill.

JAKE (V.O.)

(laughs)

I sure am gonna miss having you
soak up all the blame around here.

MICHAEL

Yeah, yeah. Let's get goin'.

They both hit the gas. Nothing happens.

EXT. BROTHERHOOD STATION - SAME

ANGLE WIDENS. The dust clears to reveal the rovers are upside down. Two helpless turtles on their backs, their wheels spin in the air. They crack up LAUGHING.

MICHAEL

Houston, we have a problem.

EXT. HANGAR - DAY

The Presidential Shuttle touches down on the tarmac outside the hangar. It taxis inside the hangar by piercing a

TRANSPARENT FORCEFIELD DOOR.

EXT./INT. MOONBASE - DAY

The boys in their rovers head into a small tunnel entrance a hundred yards from the nearest dome.

They screech to a halt in a hangar full of vehicles. The boys exit their vehicles and run off.

INT. HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

The parked shuttle steams.

Tom, Palmer and JERRY HUNT, late 30's, plus a handful of DEPARTMENT HEADS meet up with Wei Lin and a contingent from the Chinese base. They move through and greet each other.

TOM

Hong!

ADMINISTRATOR HONG, mid-30's, head of the Chinese base. His English is flawless. He shakes Tom's hand.

HONG

Thanks for the invitation. We're dying to see what you've been hiding all this time.

TOM
 You remember Palmer Graham, my
 head of security...and Jerry Hunt,
 my chief of operations.

Palmer and Jerry shake Hong's hand in turn.

Figures appear on the ramp below the shuttle. Tom gestures to a nearby FOUR-PIECE BAND. They strike up a rendition of "Hail to the Chief."

Palmer joins her security personnel -- LUNA'S RANGERS on the shoulder insignia of their smart, matching uniforms. Palmer takes her place in formation, and all stand at attention.

Evan, two AIDES, and BECK, early 40's, exit the shuttle and walk toward Tom. Tom waits for the president to appear.

Waits...waits...

The ramp pulls back up and closes. Tom irritably waves the band into silence. To Evan, he gestures: What the hell?

EVAN
 President Keller couldn't make it.

He draws Tom aside and lowers his voice.

EVAN
 Given the tensions with the Chinese,
 it was deemed an unnecessary risk --
 and what the hell are they doing here? What part of
 'classified' don't you understand?

TOM
 Things are different up here.
 They're our friends and neighbors.
 They're here at my invitation.

EVAN
 Yes, well, down there they're not
 our neighbors or our friends. Get
 'em the hell outta here.

TOM
 Not a chance. They--

Evan whistles for the attention of his party. He beckons them back to the ship and turns and stalks off.

TOM
 Wait!

Evan stops.

TOM

Alright.

INT. HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Tom has taken Wei Lin and the Chinese aside to explain things.

Evan watches, satisfied. Then he sees Tom touch Wei Lin intimately in the small of her back.

Irritated, Evan turns to see if Beck noticed this as well.

Beck rolls his eyes: he did.

THE CHINESE MOVE OFF, ALONG WITH THE RANGERS, AND THE FOUR-piece band. Jerry and Palmer sidle up to Tom.

JERRY

So, what now?

TOM

Evan. We bowl him over...he'll take care of the president for us.

PALMER

Well, you're off to a helluva start.

Tom gives her the evil eye. She pops a piece of candy.

Tom turns to see Michael and Jake have arrived. Evan's shaking Michael's hand. Tom joins them.

EVAN

(to Michael)

Sure looking forward to having a Quinn on staff! Welcome aboard!

Jake shoots his father a look. Tom slowly turns to regard Michael. But Michael holds Evan's gaze.

MICHAEL

Thanks very much, Mr. Johnson.

Only now do father and son share a look. Michael stares defiantly. Tom's eyes show mingled surprise and anger. Under the force of his gaze, Michael withers and looks away.

Tom takes a moment to compose himself, then puts on his showman face. He beckons to a nearby tram.

TOM

Shall we?

As Evan's aides climb on, their coats fall open and Tom sees their holstered guns. Angrily, he crosses to them and yanks both guns. He holds them up, and turns to Evan.

TOM

You're lucky the Chinese didn't see those. What part of 'International Lunar Peace Treaty' don't you understand?

(to Evan)

We don't believe in violence. This is a gunless moon.

Tom tosses both guns aside, and they slide into a corner. He climbs onto the tram. Behind him, Beck makes a jerkoff motion.

BECK

(to aides)

You mean gutless.

The aides crack up. Michael, overhearing, stares straight ahead, embarrassed.

INT. FARM DOME - DAY

The tour group stands by an outbuilding in a vast space much like Iowa. All around grow various crops in hexagonal tracts.

MILES CASTLE, Agro Department chief, describes his domain.

MILES

...soil-less, almost waterless hydroponics...this technology will end hunger forever.

While he talks, Evan leans close to Tom.

EVAN

He didn't tell you, did he.

It's not a question. Tom stares at Evan stoically.

EVAN

I told him to, but...that's Michael, he's gotta go his own way. He's sure got some great ideas.

Tom has no response to this. The party becomes aware of a growing CLICKING sound, and they look around for the source.

MILES

The harvest is done entirely by
ANTS...not a scrap wasted.

An army of roach-sized ANTs pass before the party, stripping
the field neatly as they go.

AIDE #1

Jesus, I've never seen ANTS so
big.

TOM

They're fractal.

Tom leans over, seizes one, and places it on a picnic table.

TOM

ANT: Demo standard sizes.

The ANT breaks down into identical ANTs, in smaller and
smaller sizes.

TOM

They can morph into almost anything --

phones, screwdrivers, sunglasses...

(shows sunglasses)

...beats the hell out of a Swiss
army knife! ANT: Harvest!

The ANT recomposes, and he tosses it back in with its
brothers. As they pass, Miles yanks Evan out of their way.

MILES

Careful! You don't wanna be
harvested!

Tom's sunglasses RING. He turns them into a phone and pops
it on his ear.

TOM

Yeah.

(reacts with interest)

Be right there.

(to party)

Everyone back on the tram...got a
slight...situation...

INT. ICE MINING - DAY

A HUGE PIECE OF ICE cracks off an ice face and SMASHES to
the ground. Ice bounces everywhere in the low gravity.
Techs run for cover.

A CRANE swings out of control -- on the end of it a LASER periodically shoots at the ice face. Nobody can get close enough to turn it off.

On the wall, a sign: "CAUTION - LOW GRAVITY ZONE". Tom and party pull up at the mouth of the entrance tunnel under the sign. Tom steps out of the tram into ankle deep ICEWATER.

TOM
 (to techs)
 Dammit, seal those doors! You want
 to flood both bases?

Behind the tour guests, a huge door slowly closes.

In the distance, Chinese workers run into a tunnel, and a door with Chinese characters on it closes behind them.

TOM
 (to party)
 Stay in the tram...be right back.

The party exchanges nervous glances, and they stare out at the tableau spread out before them.

AIDE #2
 (amazed)
 Ice on the moon!

JAKE
 Couldn't live here without it.

Michael notices Evan looking at the Chinese door.

MICHAEL
 This vein goes on for miles. The
 Chinese mine it too.

EVAN
 Lovely.
 (nauseously)
 Ugh...low gravity...

MICHAEL
 The whole base is wired for gravity
 control -- here it's kept low, so
 we can haul big loads of ice.

Another chunk of ice bursts on the ground with a huge BOOM.

In the low gravity, Tom makes a huge leap to join a group hiding behind a shield.

Crouched there is RICHARD LAVOY, early 40's, science chief of Luna. Tall, dapper and meticulous, his eyes are as sharp as the crease in his trousers.

Along with him is LANG, 40s, chief of ice mining operations.

TOM
(to Lavoy)
What are you doing here?

LAVOY They needed a brain.

TOM
So they called you?

Lavoy fake laughs. Tom smirks at Lavoy's trouser cuffs -- rolled up because of the water.

Lang points at an assembly at the base of the laser crane.

LANG
It's the hydraulics. And we can't shut it down, it's got its own power.

The crane veers into a roof support at great speed, crumpling the metal. Rocks and dust sift down.

TOM
We'd better do something quick, or we're gonna have a new skylight.

LAVOY
Best I can come up with: ram it with a Driller.

Lavoy turns to indicate a DRILLER: a vehicle parked against the wall with a giant drill bit on its snout.

LAVOY
Not sexy, but...

Lavoy turns, but Tom is gone. He's running toward the crane.

Before anybody can stop him, Tom LEAPS toward the moving crane. The crane SWINGS to knock Tom out of the park -- but he grabs on and holds tight.

LAVOY
Guy's freakin' nuts!

Tom climbs to the top, as the thing lurches more and more forcefully, like it's trying to throw him off -- he loses his grip and FLIES OUT, holding on by his fingernails!

The people below gasp. Palmer grasps Jake's shoulder with white-knuckled hands.

Tom regains his grip and clambers up the remaining few feet.

He yanks cables from the head of the laser -- with a SQUEAL, the thing shuts down and comes to a stop.

The men below come out of hiding, CHEERING. Techs haul the crane down and Tom leaps off, touching down lightly. The men surround him and pound him on the back.

Evan watches uncomfortably as Tom soaks up the hero worship.

Tom rejoins the group.

TOM
(to party)
Shall we?

EVAN
Let's cut it short. We have
important matters to discuss...or
did you want to show me the plumbing
next?

Tom gives Evan a long look.

TOM
Okay...enough foreplay.

INT. REACTOR - MOMENTS LATER

The group stands in a circular room ringed with monitoring displays. In the center, a deep well, lit from below. A massive HUM pervades the area.

The party peers down into the well through dark glass baffles.

A brilliant sun shines below.

TOM
Gentlemen...I give you the future.

The group gazes down the well at the pulsing light from below.

Evan's face lights up with delight -- or is that greed?

EVAN
You did it...you finally did it!

Tom, pleased with the reaction, presses on.

TOM
Helium three fusion. Huge power
output...no radiation...no nuclear
waste. Safe as sunshine.

Tom holds up a small cube.

TOM
Helium three's common as dirt up
here...more precious than gold on
Earth. The helium three in this
one small container...is worth
twelve million dollars.

Tom gestures: an open locker stacked with these tiny cubes.

Evan beams, then grabs Tom's hand and pumps it.

EVAN
I knew you could pull this off!

Tom smiles -- now he's got Evan right where he wants him.

Disdaining the tram, Tom walks into a nearby tunnel leading
upward. The party follows rapt at his heels.

TOM
Evan, listen: the world beneath us
is like a powder keg, ready to
explode. All our striving, all our
fighting...is over energy. Power.
(gestures behind)
Helium three will end all that.

We'll roll it out carefully, but fairly. No profiteering,
none of that stuff -- we'll actually be selling it at a
loss, so it's affordable. To everyone. To the world.

Evan gives the tiniest glance at Beck, who sneers.

TOM
But Luna's stagnating. We need new
blood, international partners...this
veil of secrecy over us must be
lifted. The world can't wait any
longer...

Tom stops walking and faces Evan.

TOM
We want you to open the base.

EVAN
Tom, we've been over this...I don't
have the power--

TOM
 Dammit, you're Secretary of Space!

The president listens to you! You can make this happen.
 (intently)
 We're so close. The dream is so
 close, just say the word.

Evan thinks it over.

EVAN
 It's not that simple. I can't--

Tom's had enough. Through gritted teeth:

TOM
 You know, we don't really need
 your approval...

Palmer and Jerry sigh -- Tom's blowing it. Evan fixes Tom
 with a dangerous stare.

TOM
 I've sold off most of my company,
 piece by piece to fund this base.

Ten billion dollars...and we're just sitting here!
 (calms himself)
 If you don't give me what I want...

I'll do it without you!

Evan, poised to strike, reins in his anger with a massive
 effort of will. He gives an insincere smile.

EVAN
 Okay, Tom...maybe you're right.
 The time has come to open the base,
 it's true--

Tom's elated! Finally! The party rounds a turn that opens
 up on the Park Dome...

EVAN
 But Tom...there's something you
 must--

TOM
 Don't tell me -- tell them.

Evan looks up -- Park Dome's crowded with people, eyes
 turning in their direction. Nearby, a stage and podium
 awaits...

Evan's astonished -- and pissed -- that Tom's put him in this position.

EVAN

Alright, Tom...if that's the way you want it...

INT. PARK DOME - MOMENTS LATER

Tom stands on the podium, speaking into a microphone.

TOM

For ten years, we've labored...to bring life to a lifeless world.

At the top of the dome, cameras record the action below, transmitting up to Luna Control.

INT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

Tom's controllers and techs watch the address on holo.

TOM (V.O.)

It was a long, difficult process..and not without its casualties. To those who can't be with us today...

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

Tom falters...he twists his wedding ring reverently...

Beck gets Evan's attention, and taps his watch. Evan nods, and Beck slips out.

TOM

...in their memory, we're more committed than ever to the future they envisioned...and God willing, we'll see it become reality.

The crowd CHEERS.

INT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

One of the controllers is distracted by a readout. It shows four blips converging toward Luna Base.

TOM (V.O.)

Today, we enter a new era...

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

TOM
 ...where we offer to the citizens
 of Mother Earth...the fruits of
 our labor...the keys to true
 equality and the promise of a new
 world...for all mankind.

More CHEERS.

INT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

An American face peers out of a holoscreen.

PILOT
 Roger, Luna, we're on approach.
 Please transmit landing vector.

The controller looks up at his supervisor, CHIEF BREWER.

Brewer mulls it over. Then shrugs.

BREWER
 (to controller)
 Let 'em land, we'll sort it out
 later.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

TOM
 Without further ado, let me
 introduce ...Space Secretary...Evan
 Johnson!

CHEERS. The crowd chants: JOHN-SON! JOHN-SON! Evan steps
 up to the microphone.

Evan pauses to give Tom a look that's almost apologetic.
 Tom interprets it as shyness, urges Evan to speak.

EVAN
 (into mike)
 Thanks, Tom.

INT. HANGAR - SAME

THREE NEW SHUTTLES are parked on the tarmac next to the
 Presidential Shuttle. A fourth taxis into the hangar.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

EVAN

First of all, my most heartfelt
congratulations...

(laughs)

I have seen some truly amazing
things here today.

(beat)

Because of the resounding success
of your efforts...in establishing
this base on behalf of NASA and
its parent companies...and in
unlocking the moon's potential to
spread peace and harmony throughout
the world...we expect our time on
Luna to be a long and successful
one.

The crowd erupts in CHEERS!

Michael looks around at the people. He's the only one not
happy. He turns and slips out. Tom notices, very curious.

INT. HANGAR - SAME

MEN climb off the shuttles. The man in the lead steps
forward and is greeted with a handshake by Beck.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

EVAN

We're committed to the continued
safety and prosperity of this base--

A burst of CHEERING drowns him out. He holds up a hand and
only slowly does the unruly crowd shut up.

EVAN

--therefore, at this time...

(beat)

Luna must be evacuated.

Silence. Shock. Is this a joke? Evan's not smiling.

Tom's mouth falls open.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Tom stands before Evan, who sits behind Tom's own desk.

TOM

Care to tell me just what in the
fuck is going on here?

Tom's wound up like a dynamo, but Evan is calm and composed.

EVAN

Mounting intelligence suggests the Chinese plan to move on this base.

TOM

That's ridiculous!

EVAN

Nonetheless. The president's made his decision, and I concur: it's just not worth the risk.

Tom reels as he tries to take all this in.

EVAN

Tom, you brought this on yourself.

Holding the money hostage and dictating terms--

TOM

What is this...payback?

EVAN

This is an emergency! Your whole non-violence thing, your lax behavior with the Chinese, your refusal to allow troops--

TOM

Goddammit, this is a blank slate -- a new world! We've got one chance to do it right!

Evan spreads his hands with a "there you go again" look.

EVAN

You think being vulnerable...weak... is doing it right? Your policies have put you in a dangerous position, and we're pulling you out.

Tom sinks into a chair...trying to think of a way out, but coming up with nothing.

EVAN

We've landed a team to shore up security and defenses -- when we feel confident with our "lunar détente", then you can return.

TOM

We've got...plans in motion,
important things going on here,
vital experiments--

EVAN

The world's waited millions of
years for you to solve all their
problems, they can wait a couple
more months.

(beat)

You've got seventy-two hours. We
need those shuttles -- they're all
we've got.

(leans forward)

Most important: keep it quiet. If
the Chinese get wind of this...

The result is something even Evan dare not articulate.

TOM

They're gonna notice when we all
pick up and leave...

EVAN

We'll cover your retreat. It's all
been worked out.

TOM

What do I tell my people?

EVAN

Anything but the truth.

Tom levels a searching, suspicious look at Evan.

TOM

You know...Luna is a place without
nations. We share and cooperate
with the Chinese...I know them
well. And I know they would never
harm us.

EVAN

You willing to risk three hundred
innocent lives on that?

Tom leans on the mantel, suddenly very tired.

Below him in the corner is a scale model of a projected
Luna Base -- much larger and more extensive than at present.

To the right of that, Jennifer's locket, in a small glass
dome, below her picture. Tom stares guiltily at the smiling
face of his wife.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM - DAY

Michael packs a suitcase. An angry KNOCK on the door. Michael knows who it must be, ignores it.

A RATTLE at the door. Locked. A SQUEAL of electricity, and the lock CLICKS open.

Michael turns to face the door. Hands on hips. No, he folds his arms. No, hands on hips.

Tom steps in. Michael watches him like a little fish watches a shark. Tom looks around the room, unable to face his son.

MICHAEL

Look, if you're gonna yell at me,
let's get it over with.

TOM

(sudden shriek)
Why Evan?

Michael takes a step back.

TOM

The guy killed your own mother!

MICHAEL

That was an accident. Everybody
knows it but you.

Michael turns and tries to hide in his packing.

TOM

He had every chance to save her,
and didn't! I begged him to abort,
and he wouldn't! He let her die,
let them all die!

Michael shakes his head, refusing to listen.

TOM

Don't you even care about that?

MICHAEL

Hey, I was there too! I know what
happened, I'm not an idiot. It was
an accident. Let it go!

Tom doesn't want to let it go. As he watches the boy pack, his face is a mask of betrayal and loss.

TOM

Michael, you gotta listen to me.
You don't know him like I do.
Nothing he says or does is what it
seems--

MICHAEL

I know what I'm doing.

TOM

You don't know a goddamn thing!

Michael slams the suitcase with a furious bang, and turns an acid gaze on his father.

MICHAEL

I'm outta here.

Michael heads for the door with his bags. When his father doesn't speak or come after him, he stops and looks back.

Tom stands there downcast. He laughs humorlessly.

TOM

I'm outta here too. Everyone...

Michael takes a few steps back toward him.

MICHAEL

(sympathetically)
Jeez, Dad...it's only temporary...

Tom stops -- his eyes work...he's realized something.

TOM

You left just before Evan lowered
the boom.
(looks up)
You knew.

Michael retreats toward the door.

TOM

Yeah, go, get out of here! I don't
even want to look at you!

Tom looks so broken-hearted that Michael instinctively moves toward him. But Tom suddenly shoves him roughly toward the door, and Michael falls to the floor.

TOM

Fucking get out of here!

Seeing his son on the ground, Tom instantly regrets what he's done...but he can't show weakness now.

Michael slowly picks himself up. His face is dark with hate.

He gathers his bags and moves to the door...and stops there.

MICHAEL

Your money, your influence, your power -- you pushed Mom too far, too fast. She wasn't ready...but you never noticed.

(beat)

You've been blaming Evan all these years...truth is...

(eyes Tom)

You killed her.

Michael leaves. Tom stares after him, shocked...and guilty.

INT. PARK DOME - TOM'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Tom stands on his balcony, looking out over the vast illusory spaces of Park Dome. The dome overhead, set transparent, shows the night sky.

Below, in the light of tiki torches, workers take apart the luau. Nearby, the empty stage and hanging bunting where he'd intended to announce Luna's glorious new era.

Off to the left, the Presidential Shuttle rises into view, and shoots off into the sky. Tom watches the shuttle...and his son...leave forever.

INT. HOME DOME - LATER

Tom walks out of a dimly lit tunnel into a large dome. A sign on the wall nearby reads "HOME DOME".

It's a suburb on the moon. Above, the stars, and earthlike atmospheric effects around the horizon. The crescent "moon" hanging in the sky is a surreal touch.

Tom walks the empty streets. He reaches a fountain in the center of the plaza: a shuttle, pointed skyward. Plinth reads:

"IN MEMORY OF SHUTTLE PHOENIX".

Tom gazes up at the statue, a moment of reflection.

He turns. Across the plaza, people can be seen through the dining hall windows, milling about.

Palmer stands there, by the open door, watching him. He crosses to her. She gives him an encouraging smile.

Tom gathers himself and enters.

He's immediately surrounded by people and a HUBBUB of questions.

TOM
Alright, alright...one at a time...

INT. HANGAR - DAY

Crates are stacked up outside the door to a storage bay. In the middle of the floor, a pile of equipment lies strewn.

The four shuttles are visible in the background.

Beck exits the room carrying a piece of equipment. Followed by an agitated RAND, the hangar chief. Beck tosses the equipment aside turns to go back for more.

RAND
Who do you think you are, just
taking over my -- Hey, I'm talkin'
to you!

Rand shoves Beck.

With a sweep of his leg, Beck sends Rand to the ground. In a flash he's on him, pressing his forearm against his throat.

Beck's clearly no box jockey -- he's a professional.

Suddenly, an elbow hits Beck in the middle of his back. As he drops Rand, he's seized around the neck and immobilized ...by Palmer.

PALMER
Pick on someone your own size.

She shoves him, and he turns to see who bested him. A girl, who comes up to his chest. Behind her stands Tom. Rand, panting for air, joins the two.

TOM
What the hell's going on here?

BECK
We needed the room. So we took it.

This guy was hassling me, so--

Tom gets in Beck's face.

TOM
We're all on the same side, okay?

Just stay out of the way for now.

Beck thinks about it -- but now it's three against one. He grins dismissively, and WHISTLES. His men exit the room, and Beck locks the door.

BECK

Keep outta there. It's ours.

Beck feints at Rand to make him flinch. He and his men exit.

RAND

Gotta do something about these guys...

Tom nods. He pats Rand on the shoulder -- Rand nods: he's okay. Tom moves off toward the hangar exit, Palmer in tow.

Tom slips his phone on his ear.

TOM

ANT: dial Evan.

Tom waits for a connection.

TOM

(into phone)

I need to talk to Evan.

(beat)

No...

(beat)

No, thanks anyway.

He hangs up, and stops walking. Palmer looks at him curiously.

TOM

Evan's not there anymore.

PALMER

Where is he?

TOM

He resigned...he took a job at Megadyne.

PALMER

Megadyne? The guys who run the military? What's up with that?

Tom turns and looks back toward the hangar.

TOM

We need a brain.

INT./EXT. STORAGE LOCKER - NIGHT

At Beck's commandeered storage locker, Lavoy tries to hack the electronic lock. All he gets is an angry BUZZ.

TOM (O.S.)

Watch out.

Lavoy and Palmer barely get out of the way as Tom comes down with a heavy oxygen cylinder and smashes the lock to bits.

TOM

Sometimes you gotta go low-tech.

They enter. Crates stacked up. Tom moves to the closest crate, opens the latch and flings open the lid.

LAVOY

(ducking)

Uh, hello! Explosives? Booby traps?

Ever cross your mind?

TOM

...not really, no.

(beat)

Well, well, well.

Guns, guns, guns. And visible throughout: "MEGADYNE", and the stylized 'M' of their logo.

PALMER

Who were they planning on shooting with these?

TOM

Let's go haul 'em out of bed and find out...

Lavoy holds Tom back.

LAVOY

Whoa, whoa...trying to get me killed?

I got a better idea.

Tom looks at him questioningly.

LAVOY

Sometimes...you gotta go high-tech.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - LATER

In a cramped utility space, Tom, Lavoy and Palmer huddle around a holo display. Lavoy manipulates a tiny joystick.

On the display: Beck. Lounging on his bed, watching a movie, a holo projected in the air above him.

PALMER

What if his computer's got security?

LAVOY

"Lavoy ANTs" are never seen. They're like ninjas.

INT. BECK'S ROOM - SAME

A tiny STAIN moves across the ceiling behind Beck.

The holo projects from a featureless box -- Beck's computer -- on the night table. Next to it, a watch, some tissues, 85 cents in change: three quarters and a dime.

The stain extrudes from the ceiling in a long thin strand -- made of ANTs, crawling end over end.

Alerted by motion, Beck glances at his night table...

Nothing amiss. An EXPLOSION sounds from his movie -- Beck jerks his head back so he won't miss anything.

On the night table, 95 cents becomes 85 cents again as one of the dimes decomposes into a moving stain of ANTs flowing toward the featureless box.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - SAME

Palmer throws Lavoy an impressed look.

LAVOY

I'm a real quick change artist.

Palmer groans and rolls her eyes.

INT. BECK'S ROOM - SAME

The ANTS find a seam in the computer housing and flow in.

INSIDE BECK'S COMPUTER

Inside the box, the ants zip through glowing circuits.

As they pass by a certain junction, dangerous looking BLACK ANTS slowly unfold and creep after them.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - SAME

Lavoy sees a schematic display onscreen.

LAVOY
A child could hack this!

Some keytaps, and information flows. The display stops -- highlighted words pulse within the text.

LAVOY
Here we go! E-mails from Evan.

TOM
Bingo.

INT. BECK'S COMPUTER - SAME

The black ANTs head into a large "gallery". Lavoy's ANTs are visible down below, clustered on a group of clear globules.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - SAME

Tom reads bits of the text aloud.

TOM
"Luna contact says Quinn solved helium three...multi-trillion-dollar potential...cannot let this income opportunity be squandered by Quinn's wrongheaded economics... "

PALMER
It's about the money. Figures.

LAVOY
Explains the timing of the thing.

TOM
And he's got someone on the inside...
(reads)
"Maintain cover of Chinese threat, though Chinese defenses nonexistent... use Luna as base from which to undermine and remove Chinese..."

The three share an ominous, incredulous look.

INT. BECK'S COMPUTER - SAME

The black ANTs descend like lightning! They ATTACK!

Tiny flashes of light and furious seething action -- the ants are warring!

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - SAME

A warning flashes on Lavoy's display. Palmer looks.

PALMER
Apparently your ninjas...suck.

INT. BECK'S ROOM - SAME

Beck's movie is jiggling, going haywire.

He reaches out and hits the box like an old TV.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - SAME

TOM
Abort, dammit!

LAVOY
Okay...wait...if we do it wrong,
he might--

Tom reaches out and slaps a red button on Lavoy's panel.

INT. BECK'S COMPUTER - SAME

The ANTs explode, and destroy Beck's black ANTS too.

INT. BECK'S ROOM - SAME

Beck hits the box hard -- the picture clears up. Content, he returns to his movie watching.

INT. UTILITY TUNNEL - SAME

Lavoy turns a droll look on Tom.

LAVOY
I wish you'd quit doing that.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The three sit sprawled on chairs in three parts of the room.

They all look tired, like they've been talking a long time.

Tom hits the desk with his fist, frustrated and angry.

TOM

But what do we have? Nothing! Just a lot of circumstantial evidence!

PALMER

Enough to get someone to start an investigation--

Tom stands and begins pacing around the room.

TOM

Who knows who's involved in this thing? If Evan manufactured a Chinese threat and got the president to go along with it...he's got ties to the intelligence community...

LAVOY

Not to mention Megadyne. If Evan's been working with them all along...

TOM

We need something too big to deny.

We need hard evidence.

LAVOY

Hard evidence? We're screwed.

They're at an impasse. Nobody's got any ideas. Tom stops in front of the large scale model of his dream Luna.

Angrily, Tom SWEEPS the entire model off the table and against the wall! CRASH! The pieces clatter down the wall, knocking over the table with Jennifer's memorabilia.

Lavoy and Palmer watch, neither daring to speak.

Tom sinks to his knees. Feeling like an idiot. In the wreckage he spies a bit of gold: Jennifer's LOCKET. Its domed glass case has been broken.

He reaches in and carefully pulls it from the wreckage. He opens it up. The pictures inside discolored and stained.

The locket falls apart! Tom catches the pieces. He peers into his palm -- and notices some strange metal bits. Even to the naked eye, they're recognizable...ANTS.

INT. LAVOY'S LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Lavoy places the locket in some machinery and moves in a microscopic probe. Experienced fingers fly over the controls, and the monitor lights up.

LAVOY

Holy shit.

The view shows the inside of the locket: a blackened, scarred wasteland...littered with ANTs! The three stare, open-mouthed.

LAVOY

How did these...they didn't have ANTs on shuttles back then...

TOM

No. They didn't.

Lavoy zooms in on one of them. His probe pans around it.

LAVOY

These are pretty sophisticated, for ten years ago--

(beat)

Only Megadyne could do that.

TOM

(quietly, hoarse)

Is there data?

Lavoy punches some buttons. A nearby subscreen goes blank, and stays blank. They watch it...

After a few moments, one bit of information appears. Then another. Then a whole flood of it.

LAVOY

We've got telemetry! Wait...there's a signal here...

Lavoy looks up at Tom.

LAVOY

Looks like video.

TOM

(grimly)

Play it.

INT. LAVOY'S LAB - MOMENTS LATER

They're all gathered around staring at the scene unfolding before them. The awful sounds of Jennifer's panicked fight to save the shuttle, to save herself from the ANTs' attack...

We see them from BEHIND the monitor. Tom's face is blank.

Palmer grips his arm. Lavoy gazes stoically, now and then turning to make an adjustment.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Xiang! Abort! Abort now!

Tom and Palmer jerk back from the action on screen. Palmer's eyes are moist. She glances at Tom -- his eyes: bone dry.

Staticky sounds of an EXPLOSION, then NOTHING.

LAVOY

One more thing in here...a single
test frame...taken the moment the
ANTs were activated...

Pausing almost dramatically, Lavoy punches up some buttons.

Palmer's hand flies to her open mouth. Lavoy slowly shakes his head. Tom's face works. When he speaks, it sounds like the voice from a tomb:

TOM

That does it.

He gets up and strides out of the room before anybody can react. They jump up and follow him out.

CAMERA DOLLIES AROUND to see the screen. The image is angled, processed, grainy, but...the face is familiar: Evan.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tom sits alone in his office. Squarely behind his desk with his hands upon it. Ready, he touches some buttons.

TOM

Citizens of Luna...This is Tom
Quinn...I have an important message.

INT. CASTLE DWELLING - SAME

Miles Castle and his wife BEV lie in bed under a patchwork duvet. A holoscreen at the foot of the bed casts light across the covers. They look up with bleary eyes.

TOM (V.O.)

The true pretext for our evacuation,
according to Evan Johnson, was a
supposed threat from the Chinese.

The Castle children, ANGIE and TYLER, appear in the doorway.

TOM
I have discovered that this
threat... does not exist.

Bev and Miles exchange surprised glances.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BECK'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

A pile of squirming ANTs forms into a small tube with a
trigger...a GUN. Lavoy picks it up and hands it to Jake.

Jake and Palmer looks it over. They stand with five Rangers --
everybody but Lavoy's dressed in bulky, black, flexible
suits which look something like Kevlar.

TOM (V.O.)
The real threat...comes from those
we thought were on our side.

As Lavoy fabricates another ANTgun, Jake pulls on a helmet.

He's now covered head to toe. Palmer looks on gravely.

INT. BARRACKS - SAME

Silence. Beck's asleep. Around him are arranged the bunks
and cots of his sleeping comrades.

TOM (V.O.)
We're being manipulated by Evan
Johnson. And Megadyne Industries.

The door's open a crack. Palmer peeks through, Jake and
the others visible behind -- all helmeted now.

TOM
They want our helium three...and
the power and money...that it
represents.

Palmer rolls a BLACK DISK like a hockey puck into the room.

One of Beck's men stirs, and sees the disk roll to a stop
by his bed. Eyes wide, he ducks for cover...

TOM
We will not let them have it.

KABOOM! A blinding WHITE LIGHT fills the room.

TOM
Our vision -- of a world united in
peace and abundance...

Rangers spread out through the room, firing in all directions.

From the ANTguns shoot black globs -- more ANTs -- which spread out as they fly.

TOM
...is too important to give up
without a fight.

The black globs -- something like netting -- hit arms, legs, heads...binding and immobilizing Beck's men. Non-lethal.

TOM
We will use all means at our
disposal...

Off to one side, one of Beck's burlier men bursts from cover and seizes one of the skinnier Rangers.

Palmer comes out of nowhere and gun-butts the man in the back of the head.

TOM
...to defend this vision from those
determined to destroy us.

In another area, one of Beck's men whacks a Ranger's legs out from under him.

The man pounces, but the Ranger recovers, and kicks him hard in the face, smashing his nose in a burst of blood.

Beck peeks out from the bed he's hiding behind. He cradles his computer protectively.

TOM
We'll now turn ourselves to the
mission for which this base was
designed...the promise of the
future.

Jake sees him, and smiles -- he brings his gun to bear...

But Jake's being watched: the one who hid from the flashbang has a gun cocked and pointed at Jake. The lethal kind.

PALMER
Jake!

Jake whirls. The guy SHOTS. Jake goes down.

Another Ranger FIRES from the hip: the shooter's arm welds to his body, his gun skittering away harmlessly.

Beck sees his guys are losing, and holds the box to his mouth.

BECK

ANT: Destruct destruct destruct.

INSIDE BECK'S COMPUTER

The black ants go crazy! Electricity shoots in all directions.

BACK TO SCENE

Beck looks up: a Ranger demands the box. Smirking triumphantly, Beck hands it over.

TOM (V.O.)

We will open our base to international participation, and offer our technology...

It's all over but the moaning. The lights go on and Beck's men are bound and led off.

Palmer kneels over Jake, whips off her helmet, and his helmet too. She checks his body roughly, in a motherly way, for holes. She finds the wound...on the forearm. Just grazed.

Jake grins tiredly. Palmer leans over and gives him a kiss on the forehead. Then gives his shoulder a little punch.

TOM

...to all the members of our world family. Everyone.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - SAME

Tom's face is determined, steely, with a hint of the maniacal.

TOM

We're going to finish what we started. And nobody will stand in our way.

(beat)

Goodnight...and God bless us all.

He leans forward and snaps it off. Sits back in his seat, wondering about what he just did, what the future may hold.

INT. CASTLE DWELLING - SAME

Ecstatic to be staying, Angie dances her reluctant little brother around the room.

Miles and Bev look at each other with dread and uncertainty.

INT. EVAN'S HOUSE - EARTH - DAY

Tom's face peers out from on a screen in Evan's kitchen.

Evan's at the sideboard cutting limes.

TOM (V.O.)

Listen to me carefully: I know
what you're up to. And...I know
what you did to shuttle Phoenix.
To my wife.

Evan stops, the knife poised in the air. Surprised, but
much too slick to give too much away.

EVAN

Okay...I'll bite...what'd I do?

TOM

Little late for the choir boy
routine, don't you think?

Evan looks at Tom like he's flipped.

TOM

We're opening the base. And you're
going to walk away.

EVAN

Whoa, whoa! Wait a minute! Tom, if
you don't comply with this
evacuation, you'll lose the base
for good -- and every dime you put
into it.

TOM (V.O.)

You think I give a damn about the
money? I'm giving you a chance
here--

EVAN

--more like an ultimatum.

Evan's hand slips under the table. Unseen by Tom, he types
a series of commands on a keyboard.

EXT. LUNAR SKIES - SAME

A communications satellite hangs high over Luna. Firing
blue attitude jets, the satellite rotates into a new
position.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - SAME

Tom leans forward.

TOM

I'm giving you this one chance.
You don't deserve it...but this is
bigger than you and me. This is
about humanity's future.

(beat)

Stop this thing. I don't care how
you do it, but you will do it.

EVAN

Not a chance. If need be, I'll
have Mr. Beck--

TOM

I have Mr. Beck.

Despite himself, Evan's distressed.

EVAN

You took hostages?

TOM

They're enjoying our hospitality.

EVAN

You really screwed yourself, Tom.

Nothing I can do will save you now.

TOM

If I were you, I'd think about
saving myself. You've got two
options: let it go...or go to jail.

INT. EVAN'S HOUSE - EARTH - SAME

Evan waits all of half a second.

EVAN

I just thought of a third option.

(beat)

And here it is.

Evan punches a button. Over Tom's face on the screen, the
words: JAMMING ENGAGED.

EXT. LUNAR SKIES - SAME

The satellite finishes rotating. Blue lights come on, and
a burst of WHITE NOISE is heard.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - SAME

Tom's screen goes kaleidoscopic, then black, with the words:
SIGNAL JAMMED.

Tom stares at the screen. Still excited by the encounter, a certain dread infiltrates his face.

He looks up, as if wondering what else Evan's got up his sleeve. He clearly didn't anticipate this at all.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - DAY

Palmer and Lavoy, along with the other department heads last seen on the tour, are gathered. Jerry stands over Tom's desk, madder than a wet hen.

JERRY
Freakin' blackmail?

TOM
Leverage.

Jerry hurls down his jacket.

JERRY
Well, it backfired, didn't it? Now we're goddamn blacked out! What made you think this would work?

TOM
Jerry...picture a man on a mountain, at night, in a snowstorm, running from a bear. There's a cliff ahead --

beyond that, darkness. How far's the other side? Two feet? Two hundred?

If he stays put...he'll freeze...if he goes back...he'll get eaten.

Jerry throws up his hands in exasperation -- as if to say "What's this got to do with anything!"

TOM
There are times when you have to take a leap in the dark. Hope for the best. Have faith things will work out.

JERRY
Yeah, well, your leap in the dark's going to get us all killed!
(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

How could you just -- you should've asked us! Taken a vote!

TOM

Couldn't do it.

JERRY

Why, because it'd mess up your vengeance?

TOM

Because he's got someone on the inside!

Tom jumps to his feet. His outburst sends a chill through the room. Tom points accusingly at Jerry.

TOM

Why is it you're the only one kicking up a fuss, Jerry? Whose side are you on, anyway?

This cuts Jerry to the bone. He stares with cold hatred.

JERRY

Whose side am I on? Goddamn you.

Goddamn you! I've been here since the beginning! I helped you build this place!

(beat)

I won't help you destroy it. I quit.

Jerry storms out. Tom looks from one face to another, his gaze coming to rest on Lang and the department heads.

TOM

We may have some rough sailing ahead.

LANG

We're with you, Tom.

The others nod and concur. Tom and Lang shake hands, and he and his group exit. Tom sits down heavily, and Palmer and Lavoy approach the desk.

TOM

(to Lavoy)

Penetrate the jamming. Give it every brain cell you've got. We've got to tell them about Evan...show them what we know.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)
 (to Palmer)
 Find Evan's mole.

PALMER
 Tom...do you think it was Michael?

TOM
 (pissed off)
 Michael's no traitor...he's just a
 kid. No...it's someone right here
 on the moon...

Palmer follows Tom's gaze: Jerry's jacket, lying on the floor, Luna logo visible. She looks incredulously at Tom -- but seeing the look on his face, she doesn't dare argue.

A KNOCK on the door.

TOM
 Come in!

Wei Lin enters. Tom brightens up when he sees her. He crosses to her and falls into her arms.

Wei Lin strokes his back. She looks over his shoulder to find Palmer staring at her.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) Tom, in the ice mining area, supervises the removal of one of the ice lasers.

B) Tom outside with some other techs. Welding torches spark brightly as they install the ice laser in a circular armature, like an anti-aircraft gun.

C) Palmer sips coffee in a sidewalk cafe, watching Jerry across the way. Jerry complains animatedly to a group of men and women. Conversation over, he moves off. Palmer follows.

D) A barrel floats in space. Two more follow, tumbling end over end. The laser SHOOTS -- once, twice, three times -- slicing each barrel in half. The pieces slowly spiral away.

E) Tom stands in Luna Control watching the demonstration. A piece of barrel passes by the window. He's very pleased.

F) From another location, an unknown person -- the Mole -- watches the laser fire into the sky. Types into a handheld device: WARNING: LASER DEFENSES ON-LINE. Angie walks by

and stops short, looking at the person. But she's only surprised, and waves a cheery greeting before moving on. The person waves back, then thumbs SEND.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Evan's at the front of the room, before a screen showing a tactical plan of Luna base. PRESIDENT KELLER, early 50's, sits at the other end of the table.

The gathered CABINET MEMBERS shift in their seats. There's an air of dread and confusion in the room.

EVAN

I say we go in with commandos. Nip it in the bud.

This suggestion is greeted with groans.

CABINET MEMBER #1

Are you insane? Why not just kill the Queen of England while you're at it!

CABINET MEMBER #2

And what would the Chinese think if we stormed our own base?

(shakes head)

We have to negotiate.

EVAN

We've only got one shuttle...and Quinn'll shoot it down.

CABINET MEMBER #3

He won't shoot down his own son.

Keller smiles -- now that's one elegant solution.

EVAN

Dammit, you cannot waste our one chance on a gamble--

Keller holds up a silencing hand.

KELLER

I won't have a bloodbath on my hands.

(stands up)

Send the kid....thank you, gentlemen.

(to Evan)

You stay.

The men AD LIB "Thank you, Mr. President", and exit. The door closes. Evan walks the length of the table to Keller's chair. Keller looks very nervous.

EVAN

(mocking)

'I won't have a bloodbath on my hands!' Jesus.

KELLER

Too much? It's gotta look legit, all the way--

Irritated, Evan waves him silent.

EVAN

In a few days, when those guys see what Quinn's capable of...they'll be begging for a bloodbath. It'll be legit alright. Clean as a nun on Sunday.

(beat)

The ocean of cash from that base is going to lift this country back on its feet--

KELLER

(fretting)

Yeah, but if this goes south, then the goddamn blowback--

EVAN

Blowback? If you can't handle this... the vice-president's just a bullet away.

Evan pauses to relish Keller's frightened reaction.

EXT. HOTEL BALCONY - WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT

The moon, visible through a poisonous amber miasma, hangs over the White House -- blackened with soot and pollution.

PULL BACK to reveal Michael standing on a balcony. SIRENS and TRAFFIC NOISE sound from the loud and dirty city below.

Through the open doors, the TELEVISION can be heard.

TV COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

...for your morning commute, the pollution index will be a whopping four twenty-five -- better bring your nose filters, this one's...

Michael leans on the railing and takes in the whole panorama with distaste. Earth sure isn't how he remembered it!

Michael looks down at the railing. Covered in grime -- it's rubbed off on his arms. Peeved, he goes inside.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME

Michael wipes grime off his arms. A loud KNOCK on the door, and Evan walks right in.

EVAN

We got a big problem.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Michael sits on the bed, with his head in his hands.

EVAN

We've got to get him to stand down. This could destroy everything he's achieved up there -- and blacken the Quinn name for all time.

Michael's affected by this. After all, he's a Quinn too.

MICHAEL

What if I don't...if I can't...

EVAN

I think you can guess. People may die...including your father.

Evan waits for this to sink in, then:

EVAN

It's a lot to ask, I know. And I hate to ask this of you...but you're the only chance he's got.

Michael takes this all in, but he's just not convinced.

EVAN

You pull this off...and you'll have, shall we say...a hell of a lot of pull in Luna's new management...

Michael looks up. He thinks about it a moment longer, then gives Evan a resolute nod.

EVAN

I'm proud of you.

EXT. SPACE CENTER - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The Presidential Shuttle sits steaming on the pad. It's horizontal, just like a large plane waiting to take off.

INT. CARGO HOLD - SAME

The space is empty, but for a rickety chair bolted to the floor: in the chair, Michael.

Evan tightens Michael's straps. He looks jolly -- Michael looks a little sick.

EVAN

Sorry for the lack of amenities.

They just didn't want a civilian on the flight deck, you know...

MICHAEL

They think I sold out to the enemy.

Evan laughs and shrugs. The kid catches on quick.

EXT. SPACE CENTER - SAME

On an access road, a police escort flanks a speeding limo -- flags snap in the breeze: Chinese.

INT. CARGO HOLD - MOMENTS LATER

Evan proffers a small device. It's a text device, just like the one we just saw the Mole using.

EVAN

Use this to contact me. There's no other way to penetrate the jamming.

Michael nods weakly.

EVAN

Don't let him manipulate you. You know how he is...but his life depends on your success.

Was that supposed to be helpful? Still, Michael gulps down his fear and tries to look equal to the task.

Evan's phone TRILLS.

EVAN

Yeah?

Listening a moment, Evan throws a grimace of exasperation...

EXT. SPACE CENTER - LATER

The limo and its police escort sit on the tarmac. Evan waits, with a bilious expression.

A flunky opens the limo door, and out comes General Bao.

Even in mufti, he's an imposing figure. He crosses to Evan.

BAO
Having a launch, eh?

EVAN
Looks like.

BAO
Gimme a suit. I'm going up.
(lowering voice)
I've got a base I can't
contact...and you seem to be very,
very busy lately.
Not that I don't trust you...

EVAN
Perish the thought.

BAO
Then you won't mind me keeping an
eye on things.

Evan smiles a poisonous smile.

EVAN
Nothing would please me more.

Bao moves off. Evan's face looks crafty, satisfied --
everything's coming together perfectly.

EXT. SPACE CENTER - LATER

The shuttle speeds down the runway and takes off like a
plane.

INT. SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - SAME

Michael looks over -- there's Bao strapped in a similar
seat, staring ahead stoically. The two jostle together in
the shuttle's turbulence.

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The shuttle climbs -- suddenly, powerful rockets LIGHT and
BLAST the craft off toward the moon at a high rate of speed.

EXT. CHINESE BASE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The Chinese base: only one large dome, but impressive in its way. A road leads off toward Luna, visible over low hills in the distance.

INT. CHINESE BASE HALLWAY - DAY

The interior is Spartan and functional. Hong and Tom walk down a brightly lit hallway. Behind them in the distance: the Chinese ice mining area and the ice face within.

HONG

They brought weapons to the moon?

TOM

Administrator, the important thing is that I've taken control of the situation.

(beat)

I went out on a limb, not only to protect our vision for the future...but to secure your safety.

HONG

(unreadable)

Yes. For that, we thank you.

TOM

If push comes to shove, can I count on you to back me up?

Hong gives a delicate grimace of distaste as he considers the notion. Tom waits him out.

HONG

Tom...here on the moon, we have a long and mutually beneficial friendship, which I will do everything in my power to maintain.

(shrugs)

But I still answer to Beijing...and until I can talk with them...I can't give you the answer you want.

Tom scrutinizes Hong -- he expected an emphatic "yes".

TOM

Then let's pool our resources and cut through that jamming.

HONG

Agreed...the longer we're out of contact, the greater the danger of

(MORE)

HONG (CONT'D)
some...international
misunderstanding...

Tom nods gravely. It's a real concern. Suddenly, Tom's phone RINGS. He takes a look at the display.

TOM
Gotta run.

Tom turns to go, and Hong places a hand on his shoulder.

HONG
Tom...if you respect the
treaty...destroy those guns. We'd
all sleep a lot better.

Tom nods reassuringly. He turns and heads down a hallway, but Hong nudges him in another direction.

HONG
Doing some work down there...this
way please...

Tom lets himself be guided down a different route. CAMERA CONTINUES down the previous hall to a door. CAMERA PENETRATES the door to the room beyond.

"Some work" indeed. Inside the room is a bustling lab with a gaggle of Chinese scientists working on what appear to be ARMOR and GUNS in all shapes and sizes!

INT. LAVOY'S LAB - DAY

Tom enters. Lavoy sits slumped in a chair, dozing. His clothing's uncharacteristically ruffled. On the desk before him, a multicolored display sizzles and ripples.

Tom crosses to him, and gently shakes his shoulder. Lavoy startles awake, feet falling off the desk. He looks up at Tom with bleary eyes.

TOM
Mornin', sunshine!

LAVOY
Sorry...up all goddamn night.
(nods at screen)
I've tried everything, Tom. No
soap.

The jamming cannot be penetrated.

TOM LOOKS AT THE SCREEN. AT THE BOTTOM, THE WORDS "MULTI-SPECTRAL JAMMING", and a frequency display. Waveforms jump and dance in a completely chaotic fashion.

TOM
Okay, then Plan B.

LAVOY
One more thing...I've been eyeballing your ants -- take a look at this.

Lavoy taps a button. The holo screen shows an extremely magnified view of a metal surface -- Lavoy points out some rough Chinese characters.

LAVOY
Couldn't resist signing their work.
(beat)
These ants were designed at Megadyne, released by Evan...and made in China.

Tom considers the implications.

TOM
What's it say?

LAVOY
Yun chi -- "Luck."

The two men stare at each other. Both are clueless.

LAVOY
So what's this Plan B?

INT. SHUTTLE IN HANGAR - LUNA - DAY

Tom and Lavoy sit in the cockpit of one of the shuttles.

Rand presses the ENGINES button.

The systems initialize, the engines build to ignition...

ALARM! Tom and Lavoy about jump out of their skins!

Rand quickly shuts it down. He consults displays, looks back at the men and shrugs.

INT. HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

A panel is open on the flank of the shuttle, and Rand points at a gap in the machinery.

RAND
Mix regulator. Someone's yanked
'em from all four shuttles.

TOM
We have any of those?

Lavoy and Rand shake their heads.

RAND
And without specs, or one to
copy...we can't even ANT one up.

Tom frowns while he considers his next step...

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

It may be the moon, but this room is pure police station.

One desk, one perp, Tom and Palmer playing cops.

Beck sits with his head lowered, in the attitude of a busted criminal.

BECK
Okay, you got me. I'll tell you
where they are...

Tom leans forward...Palmer stands back with a dubious look on her face.

BECK
(looks up)
Up my ass! Here, I'll bend over,
you can get 'em.
(to Palmer)
Better yet, you do it, sweets --
and make it last.

Palmer lunges, and Tom holds her back.

BECK
(to Tom)
Evan said you'd be a pussy. I didn't
believe him. No, no, he said --
it's just his rep.
(shakes head)
Sure had you pegged.

Palmer's phone RINGS. Intent on Beck, she ignores it. Tom shoots her a look, and she answers.

PALMER
Yeah.

She listens, then hangs up and turns to Tom.

PALMER
We got something...

For his eyes only, she mouths the word "Mole". Tom perks up at this, Beck forgotten...

INT. FARM DOME - DAY

At the edge of a field, Rangers creep through the wheat toward a group of outbuildings. Tom and Palmer jog up -- one of her Rangers shushes them.

RANGER #1
(quietly)
Transmissions coming from the second building...the warehouse...

PALMER
Okay, close it up.

The party skulks forward, Tom and Palmer behind.

PALMER
We've been picking up strange comm activity -- text only, aimed at Earth...using the steel in the dome as a transmitter.

Palmer pops a piece of candy and grins.

PALMER
Let's go get 'em.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Rangers burst through a side door into a work area. In the chaos, CHILDREN SCREAM! Tom and Palmer appear in the doorway to find they've apprehended...

Angie and Tyler, the Castle children. They cower at a workstation, a holo screen showing a graphic of the dome.

YELLING can be heard o.s. Three Rangers follow Miles and Bev into the work area.

MILES
Tom! What in God's name?

Bev gathers her children in her arms and glares at Tom.

BEV

They were trying to find a way to
contact Earth for you. Seemed
harmless, so I let them do it.

(to Tom)

What the hell's wrong with you?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Palmer catches up to Tom at an intersection. He rounds on
her angrily.

TOM

Children!

PALMER

I'm doing my best, dammit!

TOM

I know it's Jerry! Just--

PALMER

We need more than just your gut
feeling, if we want to--

TOM

If you can't do this, I'll find
someone who can.

Palmer steps back, hurt and disappointed at Tom's lack of
faith. Suddenly, a tech runs up from the adjoining corridor.

TECH

Tom! Quick! A shuttle!

INT. LUNA CONTROL - DAY

Tom, Palmer, Lavoy and Brewer and several controllers watch
a blip on a large holographic display. The blip is a cloud
of sizzling, indistinct pixels in the static of the jamming.

BREWER

Can't get a fix or an ID...

Tom turns to the gunnery officer at laser control.

TOM

Target them for a warning shot.

The gunnery officer nods, and with the joystick, moves the
targeting reticule over the shuttle icon.

Palmer leans close to Tom.

PALMER

You really gonna shoot them down?

Tom gives her a sharp look...he certainly looks determined.

TOM

(to controller)

I need a signal, dammit!

CONTROLLER

Got it!

A staticky face appears in a corner of the display: Michael!

Tom's sudden surprise gives way to cold suppressed anger.

TOM

Evan's errand boy now?

MICHAEL

Just want to talk. We'll be on the ground in a few minutes.

TOM

Turn around now, or be fired upon.

MICHAEL

Jesus, Dad, be reasonable--

TOM

Evan knows what I want. My position is non-negotiable.

(beat)

Second warning.

MICHAEL

You know what -- we're landing. You want to kill five innocent people, then go ahead and shoot.

Michael cuts the connection. Angrily, Tom moves toward the gunnery panel. Then stops, and looks around at his people.

Their faces calm his rage, or so it seems.

Tom waves off the gunnery officer, who joysticks the reticule off the shuttle icon.

Tom turns -- there's Jake. He's been there this whole time.

Tom can't look him in the eye.

INT. SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - SAME

Michael leans back from the viewscreen.

BAO
Brass balls, I'll give ya that.

Michael doesn't know what to make of this guy. He returns to his view out the window: the gray hills of the moon. Michael heaves a sigh.

Unseen by Michael, Bao jolts in his chair, like he's got a phone on vibrate. He pulls a comm device out of his suit and presses a button.

The readout says: GET OUT OF THERE NOW!

Bao's face registers only the slightest surprise. He unbuckles his straps.

INT. LUNA CONTROL - MOMENTS LATER

On the gunner's console, the targeting reticule moves back to the shuttle. The gunner notices.

GUNNER
Hey! It reacquired!

Tom looks: the target touches the shuttle's wingtip...

EXT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

The laser fires!

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The shuttle's wingtip cleanly parts, and twinkles away.

INT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The shuttle shudders. Michael turns from the window: first thing he sees is Bao climbing down through the floor into an escape pod. Bao pulls the windowed hatch closed.

Michael unstraps and swims over to the hatch.

PILOT (V.O.)
(on radio)
Quinn, you asshole! He called your bluff! He's shooting at us!

Michael bangs on the escape pod window. Bao stares back. He laces his fingers around the EJECT lever and pulls!

With a thud and a sparkle of metal bits, the pod jettisons!

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The pod falls away from the belly of the shuttle. Bao watches Michael's face grow smaller and smaller.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - SAME

A display shows the rockets building to fire...almost ready...

PILOT

Get us outta here!

CO-PILOT

Few more seconds...

INT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

A display shows the tiny POD'S BLIP moving through the jamming noise. Nobody's watching -- the room's in a panic!

TOM

Shut down the whole subsystem!

GUNNER

It's on a secure circuit! I can't--

The targeting reticule sits on the cockpit section...

TOM

Black out the whole goddamn--

Too late -- the laser fires again!

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

The laser slices through the cockpit! Part of the nose twists away in a spray of debris -- and the three-man flight crew spins out after it.

INT. SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - SAME

Michael feels another lurch -- ALARMS ring out, and the lighting in the cargo bay goes emergency red.

At the window, Michael sees part of the nose and a blue-suited crewman go by. He gasps in surprise.

He looks around the cargo bay. The only way out is the way Bao went -- but now there's no pod there.

Near the door are some oxygen canisters. Michael launches himself at them. Grasping two in his arms, he grabs a roll of duct tape...

INT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

They can see the shuttle above the station, the stump of the nose sparking furiously...the shuttle tips over and begins falling toward the moon.

Enraged, impotent, Tom slams his fist on the window!

EXT. SHUTTLE - SAME

Fuel jets from severed tubes...and nearby, some sparking wires wave...

INT. SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Michael pulls the lever. The outer door opens -- nothing below him but the moon...he hesitates a moment, then LEAPS!

Duct-taped on either side of his body: the two oxygen canisters.

Above him the shuttle pitches over, bringing the nose up to face him upside down...

Michael's eyes bug out! Sparking wires...jetting fuel...

He SLAMS open the valves on the canisters -- oxygen jets out and propels Michael away from the shuttle!

The sparking wires ignite the fuel -- the shuttle EXPLODES!

Michael speeds away, but the fireball creeps closer...

He just barely outraces it!

But now, he's heading out into deep space!

INT. LUNA CONTROL - MOMENTS LATER

Tom watches shuttle wreckage falling slowly to the moon. As far as he knows, Michael's gone.

Palmer reaches out to touch his shoulder comfortingly. Tom jerks away and turns on her.

TOM
The Mole did this.

Palmer, shocked, falls back a step.

TOM
This is your fault.

EXT. SPACE - SAME

Michael, still very much alive -- fights to stay that way. He begins turning. He looks at the tank on the turn side -- the jet sputters to a stop. Empty!

The other one still jets freely, so he's spinning in space. Quickly he closes the active valve, rips off the duct tape. The empty bottle falls away, and he hugs the remaining bottle.

Still turning...turning...his hand on the valve...

There's the ground! He opens the valve, and SHOOTs down toward the lunar surface below...

Closer...closer...

Michael flips the oxygen canister and uses it as a brake!

But he's still dropping awfully fast...

The oxygen sputters empty!

Michael hits the ground hard -- plows a long furrow -- bounces a few times -- and lands right on his head. He slowly topples over on his back.

MICHAEL

Ow.

Breathing hard -- but he's okay!

He gets heavily to his feet. A shadow grows on the ground around him. He looks up.

The shuttle wreckage is coming down right on top of him!

Michael starts to run -- but one can't exactly run fast in this light gravity...

INT. LUNA CONTROL - SAME

A fireball blooms on the moon's surface. Lighting up the faces of Tom's crew.

Wreckage tumbles across the lunar plain in the distance.

Then, silence.

TOM
(to Jake)
Take your rover...see if there's...
anything...

Jake understands, and moves off to comply. Lavoy sidles up.

LAVOY
Earth had to be watching. Jamming
or no jamming, they saw what
happened.

The implications are written all over Tom's face.

TOM
Now they think we're murderers.

Palmer stands off to one side -- a tear spills down her face.

She looks as wretched as Tom ought to -- but he's stonefaced.

EXT. MOON - DAY

The escape pod sits in the ditch it plowed. General Bao stands next to it, arms folded, waiting.

A rover appears at the top of a hill above him. Chinese. It starts down toward him...

EXT. MOON - NEAR LUNA - MOMENTS LATER

Jake slowly drives by, gazing out at the crash site.

Dust and smoke hang in the sky. Flame and sparks glitter in the wreckage.

His brother is gone. This conflagration is his tombstone.

Jake stops the rover. Nobody could survive that. He shakes his head sadly, and slowly drives away--

VOICE
(in radio)
Not so fast, Junior.

Jake hits the brakes and looks wildly over his shoulder.

Out of the smoke and wreckage, a figure comes walking.

Jake blinks. The figure still comes on, sunshine winking on the faceplate.

Who else could it be?

Jake turns the rover and guns it toward Michael. Just as the rover reaches him, Michael collapses on the ground.

INT. LUNA BASE HOSPITAL - DAY

Michael, battered and bruised, sleeps in a hospital bed.

One other person is there: Tom, who stares down at his boy.

His face shines with relief and love. Tenderly, he strokes Michael's hair.

Michael stirs, and Tom pulls his hand away. He doesn't want to be caught showing affection. He backs away, and exits.

After a few beats, Michael opens his eyes. He looks around.

Nobody there.

He rummages through his clothing and finds Evan's comm device --

BROKEN. Michael's on his own...

INT. QUINN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tom and Wei Lin in bed. She's propped up on an elbow, he sits on the edge of the bed.

TOM

I can't remember the last time I told him I loved him.

(eyes glisten)

But I was afraid that...he'd wake up, and the hate would be in his eyes. The same hate I saw when he left...

(shakes head)

I couldn't risk that.

WEI LIN

You need to relax. Lie down. C'mon.

TOM

I've been letting it go...doing too much delegating...things are gonna change around here.

Wei Lin pulls at him. Tom gives in and relaxes into her. She fondles him gently, and kisses his face. He closes his eyes.

She leans over and kisses him on the lips...

Tom returns the kiss. Pulling apart, she kisses his hands -- her lips stop over his wedding ring--

Game over.

Wei Lin pulls away, and sits on the edge of the bed. Tom glances at his ring, then at her.

WEI LIN

I'm sorry. I try to understand,
but I just...

Tom sits up next to her. He looks at her, but she's got her hand over her face.

Tom slowly plucks the ring off his finger. Wei Lin sneaks a peek. He checks to see she's watching. Then opens a drawer and places the ring inside.

Wei Lin's impressed -- it's a very big deal. Tom pulls something else out of the drawer, and takes her hand.

TOM

I couldn't stand it if I lost you.
I know I should've done this a
long time ago, but...

He brings up his hand -- an open jewelry box, with a ring.

TOM

Not much, but--

Wei Lin's mouth drops open in comical shock. Tom laughs merrily. Wei Lin grabs him and pulls him down, kissing his face over and over. Tom pulls away for a brief second---

TOM

So I take it that's a--

WEI LIN

Yes! Yes, of course yes!

They kiss deeply...

Game on!

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Video of the destruction of the President's shuttle -- the Presidential Seal floats by. Evan appears on a split-screen.

EVAN
Murder...cold-blooded murder.

The cabinet members, angry and solemn, stare at the screen.

EVAN
Well?

The cabinet members all turn to the President. Calmly, the President nods.

KELLER
Take him out.

Evan smiles grimly and switches off.

INT. MEGADYNE HANGAR - SAME

Evan turns in his seat and looks out his office window. In the vast hangar beyond, a large shape lies under a skeleton of scaffolding. A handful of workers toil at various points.

Judging by the large rocket nozzles, it's a shuttle -- and if the army's building it...you know it won't be delivering flowers...

INT. DETENTION AREA - DAY

Down the hall from Beck and his cohorts...a cell door closes.

Seen through the window, Jerry, in a rage.

Tom gives a satisfied nod, and moves off. The Rangers watch him go, then exchange glances.

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rangers toss the place. It's a shambles.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - LATER

Tom sits behind his desk, flipping through a paper notebook.

Palmer bursts through the door.

PALMER
Locked him up -- without a shred
of evidence!

Tom rotates his holoscreen to show a list headed PHONE CALLS.

His look says, "There's my proof". Palmer leans in and looks.

TOM
Calls to Evan. To a private number
only I should have.

Tom tosses the notebook on the table.

TOM
This was hidden in his house.

Palmer flips through it.

TOM
Payments from Evan. Notes on their
meetings. It's all there...on paper,
safe from prying computers.
(sighs)
You dropped the ball, so I had to
step up.

PALMER
None of the evidence pointed to
him.

Until now. And I thought we were above violating civil
liberties... digging into private phone--

TOM
Fuck civil liberties! Do you think
this is a game? We're fighting for
our lives here!

Palmer shrinks back from the desk, cowed and confused by
his anger. Her hands shake.

Tom sees them. He gets up and goes to her. He takes her
shaking hands in his own. She looks up at him.

TOM
I'm sorry about the Michael
thing...it was wrong of me to put
that on you. But we're in a crisis
here. And in a crisis, you have to
do what needs to be done. No matter
what.
(beat)
Can you do that?

Palmer's loves this man, but she's so angry at him. Still,
the touch and the nearness is like an aphrodisiac.

PALMER
Yes.

Tom nods and lets go. Spell broken, Palmer can't believe
she just said that...

TOM
Now we need our regulators. And I
know just how to get 'em.
(off Palmer's look)
Trust me.

INT. HANGAR - DAY

Beck and his men, hands bound, are herded by two Rangers into the hangar. Waiting there: Luna's entire population, by the looks of it. Administrator Hong too, with Wei Lin.

Before them, a line of Rangers stands stoically, holding Beck's rifles. They look rather like a firing squad.

Beck's men are alarmed, but try not to show it. In the middle of the room, Tom walks forward to meet Beck.

BECK
What are you gonna do...shoot us?

TOM
Or...you could tell us where you
hid the regulators.

Beck rolls his eyes, grins and stays mum.

Tom raises his voice so those assembled can hear.

TOM
When humans came to live on the
moon, we made a solemn pact: no
guns.
(points)
These men brought guns...if we
hadn't stopped them, they'd have
brought war.

Tom glances at Hong to see how it's going over. Then Tom beckons the Rangers forward, guns at the ready. Beck and company take a step back...

A bin rises out of the floor, and hovers a foot off the ground. The Rangers toss their guns in, one by one.

TOM
(to Beck)
We don't believe in violence.

Beck's men sigh with relief.

Tom works a remote control. The crowd parts as the bin floats through them, and out the forcefield doors. It rises into the sky, and speeds off to the horizon.

Tom pushes a button: from the horizon comes a huge
EXPLOSION!

The ground rumbles, and the people CHEER!

Tom shoots a look at Hong, who smiles and nods approvingly.

As the cheering dies, a deep belly laugh can be heard.
It's Beck. He saunters forward, tickled with glee.

BECK

You just cut your own throat!

Tom eyes Beck with a hint of a smile. Beck speaks loudly,
taunting the crowd.

BECK

When Evan comes -- and he will --
he'll slaughter you guys!

(to Tom)

You just killed all these people.
A Quinn tradition! Just like your
fuckup of a wife--

Suddenly, Tom grabs him! Beck struggles against his bonds,
as Tom drags him to the forcefield door.

Tom grabs Beck's hair and pushes his face toward the field.

BECK

(mocking)

But you don't believe in viol--

Tom pushes Beck's face into the field -- his cheek pokes
outside, and Beck SCREAMS!

BECK

Okay, okay!

Tom keeps pushing, and Beck keeps screaming! His skin is
puffing up, purpling, blood boiling...

BECK

(agonized)

Access...corridor 22! Service panel!

Tom drops him roughly to the floor. The ravaged skin of
Beck's face is awful to behold.

Tom walks off. People give way, afraid of him. At the end
of the line, Palmer and Lavoy share a shocked and ominous
look.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Palmer comes out of a crawlspace, tugging a hard case. She dumps the contents onto the ground.

They all look down. There's some personal items, a couple of guns, cash...and four little devices in glass cases.

Tom holds one up triumphantly for Palmer to see.

INT. HANGAR - DAY

The shuttle roars to life, with a smooth and powerful WHOOSH.

Rand throws a thumbs-up to Tom, who stands with Palmer in a gallery overhead.

PALMER

Tom...that book you found...it's too pat. We know Jerry...Jerry's one of us...it just doesn't fit.

He can see Palmer's worrying it in her mind.

TOM

Palmer, sometimes people just aren't who you thought they were. Like Evan...like Jerry.

Palmer looks up -- Tom would never imagine she's thinking that very thing about him.

TOM

Dammit, we've won! It's all over but the shouting! Time to celebrate -- and as it happens...I've got just the thing...
(sneaky smile)
A wedding.

Palmer looks at him like he's crazy -- then she realizes.

The wind goes right out of her. He thinks she's just surprised.

TOM

Well? What do you say about that?

Palmer's got a lot she'd like to say, but the only thing she can manage is:

PALMER

(emotionless)
Congratulations.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

Tom stands on a hilltop overlooking a dell below, where the wedding's being set up. Michael strolls up behind him, pale but whole.

Tom notices, and turns with love and relief in his eyes. He surges forward -- Michael drops back -- but Tom enfolds him in a big hug. He lets go, all smiles.

MICHAEL

Nice try...but you didn't get me.

Tom's smile disappears.

TOM

Oh, don't be an ass. It was Evan.

He got to Jerry...Jerry rigged the

laser. You really think I would--

MICHAEL

I think you'd do just about anything to hold on to this base of yours.

TOM

Maybe...but I'm no monster. You're my son. And...

Tom tries to tell him his feelings -- but some things don't change so easily.

TOM

And you don't know the whole story.

You need to watch the video.

Michael cocks his head. Video?

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - LATER

Michael stands with his arms folded, looking sullen and defensive. The single frame of Evan shows on the monitor.

MICHAEL

It doesn't even look like him!

TOM

Goddammit, are you blind?

Tom roughly grabs Michael's arm and points to the video.

TOM

It's right there, plain as the nose on your face! Evan activating the ANTs that killed your mother!

Michael shakes his arm out of Tom's grip.

MICHAEL

One frame of video is an awfully slim pretext for what you've done.

TOM

(incredulous)

Are you--

MICHAEL

Dad, listen: even if you were right, you shot yourself in the foot by taking hostages and taking over the base! If you'd gone through channels, maybe...now, nobody's gonna listen to a word you say!

(beat)

You've got one chance...amnesty if you give up. You and your people.

TOM

(pointing to video)

None of this makes a goddamn bit of difference to you? Wait until you see the rest--

MICHAEL

You don't know what's at stake here!

TOM

Neither do you! Forget about an end to hunger and want...forget about a better life for everyone in the world...forget about your mother's dream! For Evan, it's only about the money!

(beat)

Or maybe you don't care. What are you getting out of this? What'd he promise you?

Michael glares at him with naked hatred.

MICHAEL

Fuck you. If you won't listen to reason, then maybe your people will.

Tom gets in Michael's face.

TOM

Fine...let's go ask 'em!

INT. HOME DOME - DAY

Under the Shuttle Phoenix statue, Michael stands surrounded by agitated citizens in an loud hubbub. He's red-faced and winded -- it's not going well for him.

LANG

Do you think I'm an idiot? I saw that video with my own two eyes!

MICHAEL

I'm just saying...sometimes we see what we want to see.

LAVOY

And sometimes we don't see what we don't want to see!

Michael looks around at all their faces -- there's no sympathy for him there, just a lot of disappointment and irritation.

Michael sees Tom's proud look, and can't take it -- instead he looks at Jake. Jake turns his head, tries to duck down in the crowd and not be seen. That hurts.

Around the periphery, Michael sees -- or thinks he sees -- some doubtful faces. He tries one last time.

MICHAEL

Complete amnesty if you stand down and return to Earth. If you don't...they'll call you traitors.

(beat)

And I won't be able to guarantee your safety. I hope you understand what that means.

This does have a sobering effect on those assembled, but it's not a convincer. Little Angie Castle pipes up.

ANGIE You should be on our side. After what Evan did to your mom.

Michael looks down at her.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN
 Kid's got a point. Megadyne's not
 your family...we're your family.
 We're not the traitors around
 here...

The woman gives him a hateful look. Michael turns away
 from her. Before him is a pretty young girl.

YOUNG GIRL
 This is your home.

Michael begins backing away. He's feeling almost desperate
 at this point...

MICHAEL
 Dammit! Can't any of you see through
 the aura of Tom Quinn!

LANG
 We trust him...why don't you?

Michael's had enough -- like an embarrassed child, he turns
 and runs away.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

Michael sits on a hill with his back to a tree. Above, the
 faux sun sets in a glorious orange sky. Michael sighs.

FOOTSTEPS...Palmer appears. She gives him a smile, which
 he returns weakly.

MICHAEL
 Dad send you?

PALMER
 I like to watch the sunset.

She sits down against the next tree over. Below in the
 wedding area, the seats wait empty in their rows. Palmer
 stares down at them. Michael follows her gaze.

MICHAEL
 What's up with this wedding? What
 the hell's he thinking?

Palmer shrugs and looks away.

PALMER
 Sometimes people...just aren't who
 you thought they were.

Michael looks at her, but she's lost in her own thoughts.

PALMER

Then we gotta ask ourselves...are we on the right team? Are we doing what we're doing for the right reasons?

Michael mulls her words.

MICHAEL

What then? How do we know?

PALMER

(shrugs)
Leap in the dark?

MICHAEL

If one more person tries to tell me that bear story...

Palmer smiles, turns her attention to the sky. Silence passes a few beats. The sun goes down...and Palmer gets up.

PALMER

Almost supertime. You coming?

Michael grimaces and shakes his head. Palmer crouches down next to him. She touches him gently on the shoulder.

PALMER

They're your family...they love you...

INSERT

An ANT runs off of Palmer's finger onto Michael's neck, and latches on to a minuscule hair.

BACK TO SCENE

PALMER

...no matter what they do.

She walks quickly away. Michael watches her go, confused by the apology.

A moment later, a shadow falls over him. He looks up to see Spence standing there.

SPENCE

There he is, Mr. Popularity!

MICHAEL

Yeah...rub it in.

The two shake hands.

SPENCE

(softly)

Some of us...are on your side.

Tonight, in the tunnels. Junction eighty-nine. Nine p.m.

Spence splits. Michael stares after him, mouth hanging open.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

In the darkened office, Tom gazes at a holo map of the base.

Michael's position is clearly marked by a blinking icon.

PALMER (O.S.)

How could you make me do that?

She stands at the door. She can't even look at him.

TOM

It was the right thing to do. We've got to keep him out of trouble.

Palmer's not buying it. She leaves. Tom's lost in contemplation of Michael's icon.

INT. HOME DOME - NIGHT

Michael gazes across at the dining hall, full of people eating. He slips into the bushes.

He opens the hatch of a nearby gopher hole, climbs down the ladder and pulls the hatch cover closed behind him.

INT. TUNNELS BELOW LUNA - MOMENTS LATER

Michael drops to the ground, and switches on a flashlight.

The light reveals a huge Driller, covered in a patina of dust. Michael appraises it as he passes by. Suddenly, he bumps into someone, and yells!

SPENCE

Dude...it's me.

INT. CAVE - LATER

Michael sits with Spence, TRASK, and three others, all late teens. He's the oldest person there.

TRASK

Those people are brainwashed! We're prisoners up here! If we speak up, Quinn'll lock us up with Jerry and all the other deviants.

(beat)

We've got to steal a shuttle and get the hell back to Earth.

SPENCE

You know how to fly one?

TRASK

What, they're mostly automatic...

SPENCE

Yeah, and how we gonna get in the hangar, Einstein?

Watching this juvenile exchange, Michael realizes there's no help for him here. These are just kids.

MICHAEL

Look, you guys -- I think I'm just gonna do this my own--

Suddenly, several Rangers, including Jake and Palmer close behind, burst in on the conspirators -- ANTguns at the ready.

In the glare of the lights, Michael stares at Jake. Jake can't meet his gaze. Neither can Palmer.

TRASK

(to Michael)

You asshole! You sold us out!

Palmer looms over the conspirators. They try to look tough, but fail.

PALMER

Time to go to your room.

She turns on Michael. With a look of resignation, she hooks a thumb -- indicating he should go with them. Michael sighs elaborately and tramps off.

INT. DETENTION AREA - LATER

Tom gazes through the glass at Michael, sitting glumly. The other prisoners shun him.

TOM

I'll deal with him after the wedding.

He needs some time to think on his behavior.

He starts off, but stops as Palmer touches his arm.

PALMER

When this is all over...I'm leaving.

Tom's disappointed in her. He sighs, and walks off.

Palmer looks like she's going to vomit. She peeks through the glass at Michael...her face is wretched.

EXT. LUNA - DAY

The sun shines in the black lunar sky on the glittering domes.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

The fake sun in the fake sky rises on the "eastern" horizon.

White-jacketed techs run around putting the finishing touches

ON THE WEDDING. ANTS WALK INTO POSITION, FOCUSING HOLO-projectors. White petals garland white damask.

EXT. MICHAEL'S JAIL CELL - SAME

Rangers usher Trask and Spence and the rest out. JIM stops Michael at the door. Michael grabs him, frantic.

MICHAEL

Jesus, Jim, just let me go! I'm climbing the goddamn walls in here!

Jim gently disentangles him.

JIM

Sorry, Michael.

Jim closes the door behind him and bolts it. Michael grins.

In his hand, Jim's phone, which he just lifted.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom stands in his tux, as his tailor bustles around him.

Jake, standing nearby, tugs on his tight-fitting collar.

Rand enters. Tom sees him, shows off the tux. Rand nods indulgently.

Jake's phone RINGS. He checks: the display reads "JIM".
Puzzled, Jake shuts it off in mid-ring. Can't be bothered.

RAND
(to Tom)
Shuttle's ready to go.

TOM
Cargo?

RAND
(uncomfortable)
In place.

Tom steps off the platform, and grasps Rand's shoulders.

TOM
Ready to take a little trip?

INT. LUNA SHUTTLE - DAY

Beck and his men sit in seats installed in the cargo bay, their hands still bound. Across from them sits Jerry, glaring daggers at Tom.

JERRY
Tried...convicted...exiled...all
without the slightest legal--

TOM
You should've thought about that
before you sold us out.

JERRY
It was a frame, goddamn you! You
obstinate motherf--

Jerry's voice vanishes as Tom shuts the door on him. He turns to Spence and Trask, who flank the door. He fixes each with a disappointed look.

TRASK
Mr. Quinn...don't hold this against
me. I felt I had to take a stand.

Spence rolls his eyes. Suckup. Tom gazes at Trask evenly.

TOM
Whatever you do, don't let them
loose...they'll probably kill you.

Trask is wide-eyed as Tom walks off. Spence snickers.

Rand sits alone in the cockpit. Tom produces a tiny media disc in a long plastic case. He presses it into Rand's palm.

TOM
This is the bullet that will kill
Evan's career. Our future is in
your hands, Rand...drive safe.

He pats Rand in a hearty farewell. Rand looks at the disc in his hand. He seems a bit pale.

EXT. HANGAR - DAY

The shuttle hovers, then blasts away into the darkness.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

Holo projectors have turned the place into a fairyland. The entire station is there in their Sunday best.

Tom and Wei Lin stand before the minister. They smile at each other.

EXT. SPACE - DAY

The shuttle clears the limb of Luna and moves toward the Earth in the distance.

INT. LUNA SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - DAY

Jerry sits glumly. Beck gives him the hairy eyeball. Feeling his gaze, Jerry glares at him.

BECK
You weren't our guy...Quinn
railroaded you, didn't he?

Jerry sighs miserably. Beck BURSTS OUT laughing.

INT. MICHAEL'S JAIL CELL - DAY

Michael, irritated, holds the phone up to his mouth.

MICHAEL
Jake...you know this is just Dad
blaming me again -- I'm not a spy
or...traitor or whatever the hell
he thinks I am! Just come down
here and spring me!

Angrily he shuts the phone off. Fuming, he stares at the door. The bolt is heavy, and mechanical. Looks impenetrable.

He searches his pockets. Nothing useful. Then he comes up with Evan's broken comm device. Worse than useless...then he gets an idea! He puts the phone down.

MICHAEL

(to phone)

ANT: Decompose.

The phone begins to melt, and ants run off it...

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

Tom listens to the minister, his face full of emotion.

INT. LUNA SHUTTLE COCKPIT - DAY

Rand squints through the windshield.

In the distance, a dark shape eclipses the stars.

He checks the scope -- nothing unusual detected...

He peers back out the window. Suddenly from the blackness, a yellow beam flashes in his eyes!

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

MINISTER

I now pronounce you...man and wife.

You may kiss the bride.

Tom turns, pulls up Wei Lin's veil, and plants one on her.

EXT. LUNA SHUTTLE - DAY

The shuttle glows white hot, then abruptly EXPLODES!

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

CHEERS as the assembled throng salute Tom and his new wife...but it doesn't sound quite like the roar of approbation you might expect...

EXT. SPACE - SAME

The Luna shuttle is gone. Only a slight glow remains -- through this glow moves a LARGE BLACK SHIP, streamlined and bristling with weaponry.

INT. EVAN'S SHUTTLE - SAME

Evan, in the pilot seat, sits back with a satisfied air. In the co-pilot's seat, a hulking, muscular brute: Evan's henchman VOLK.

Evan stands and turns to face his men. Twelve burly commandos.

Their only unit insignia -- the stylized "M" of Megadyne Industries. A sullen-looking COLONEL sits up front.

EVAN

At the risk of ruining it for you,
let me tell you how this one ends:

(beat)

Tom Quinn intends to destroy the
Chinese base. We will not be able
to stop him.

And...unfortunately...in the fight
to bring him to justice, we will
be forced to kill him.

(beat)

Target one is Quinn. Once he's
been secured...then the Chinese.

COLONEL

What about Quinn's people?

EVAN

Quinn is a madman. Seems he locked
them in a dome...and brought it
down on their heads.

THE MEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER UNCOMFORTABLY. THEY'RE BATTLE-
hardened tough guys...but they didn't sign on for a
massacre.

COLONEL

That really necessary?

EVAN

(narrows eyes)

Who knows who he told? Better
safe than sorry.

(menacingly)

You got some kinda ethical dilemma
here, Colonel?

The Colonel glances at Volk. Volk smiles back at him. Fear betrays itself in the Colonel's eyes.

COLONEL

No, sir.

Evan nods. He eyes the Colonel a beat longer, then sits back down in the pilot's seat.

EVAN

Alright, gentlemen. Here we go.

INT. PARK DOME - LATER

The people finally got to have their Luau! It's been resurrected as the wedding reception.

Tom and Wei Lin preside at a long table, flanked by Palmer putting on a good show, and Lavoy, who looks like he's half in the bag already.

Jake listens to Michael's MESSAGE. He thoughtfully puts the phone away.

A small group approaches the table. Miles Castle seems to be the leader, flanked by MITCH, 30s. Wei Lin watches apprehensively -- they don't seem congratulatory or festive.

TOM

Hey, guys...what's up?

MILES

First Jerry...now Michael?

(shakes head)

This ain't the Tom Quinn I thought I knew.

The people at the wedding table and the surrounding diners slowly fall silent.

MILES

You've changed. And we don't like it.

Tom stares, defiant, but with hint of dread. Could it all be falling apart, here on the cusp of success?

Unnoticed, Jake quietly gets up and slips away.

INT. MICHAEL'S JAIL CELL - DAY

Ants fuse the final corner of the broken housing -- the comm device is repaired! Michael eagerly types in a message, then hits send. He seems to relax a bit.

Suddenly, the phone -- with a tiny piece missing -- RINGS.

Michael snatches it up.

MICHAEL
 (into phone)
 Jake?

EVAN (V.O.)
 Hiya, buddy.

MICHAEL
 Evan?!

EVAN (V.O.)
 I'm on the moon, kid.

INT. DETENTION AREA - DAY

Deserted. Everyone's at the festivities. And there's only one prisoner anyway.

The elevator door opens. Jake exits and moves down the hall cautiously, checking corners and doorways as he passes.

INT./EXT. MICHAEL'S JAIL CELL - SAME

Michael's brow knits in consternation as he listens.

EVAN (V.O.)
 Michael, we're the only thing standing between Quinn and the big guns.

MICHAEL
 I want to help, but I'm kinda locked up at this point.

EVAN (V.O.)
 Well...then give us a back door.

Michael hesitates...is he really going to do it?

MICHAEL
 Uh...you won't hurt him? You won't hurt anyone?

EVAN (V.O.)
 Michael, this is me you're talking to. We've got advanced non-lethal technology, it's totally safe.
 (beat)
 Look -- there's no time! We've got to get in before Tom detects us...if he comes out shooting...
 (beat)
 Nobody wants that.

Michael stands silent, mulling this decision...there seems to be no alternative.

MICHAEL

Okay. Okay. There's a tunnel...half klick east of Ice Mining. The forcefield there is rigged -- no notification. No one will know.

EVAN (V.O.)

I'm proud of you, Michael.

Michael hangs up the phone. If it was the thing to do -- why doesn't it feel like it?

A RATTLE at the door. Michael looks up. The door pops open, and there's Jake!

Michael smiles -- then suddenly loses the smile, remembering what he's just set in motion.

MICHAEL

Jake...I got something to tell you.

JAKE

Yeah, you're welcome...c'mon!

MICHAEL

Evan's here.

JAKE

What do you...how do you know?

MICHAEL

I let him in our tunnel.

JAKE

You did what?!

MICHAEL

We're the only ones standing between--

JAKE

You son of a bitch!

Jake runs out of the cell -- Michael sprints after him.

MICHAEL

(yelling)

If we don't let Evan stop this now...they'll send guys to kill Dad!

Jake skids to a stop.

JAKE

You asshole -- these are the guys!

Michael hesitates. Could Jake be right?

JAKE

File Quinn forty-four-oh-four.
It's what Dad sent on the shuttle
to Earth.

Educate yourself...before you do any more damage.

Jake runs off.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - MOMENTS LATER

Evan and his men cross the crater floor heading toward the lip. In the jumbled rocks, no tunnel opening is visible.

Volk points to the ground. Twin tracks -- from souped-up rovers. They follow the tracks around some rocks, and there's the tunnel. In they go.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

The wedding guests are all on their feet -- but nobody's making a toast. Tom and Miles stand at the center of an argument while the others look on, unsure.

JAKE (O.S.)

He's here! Evan's here!

A babble of alarm rushes through the crowd, as Jake runs to Tom. Tom holds up his hands for silence.

TOM

Alright, settle down!
(to Jake)
Where is he?

JAKE

(hesitates)
Ice mining.

Tom looks at Jake -- how'd he know? But there's no time, and besides, he trusts Jake. He turns to the people.

TOM

Listen up! Rangers, front and center.

Everyone else to the Home Dome --

lock yourselves in, and don't move until I get there! Go!

The Rangers crowd around behind Tom as he turns to Wei Lin.

TOM
Go with them. Keep them calm.

WEI LIN
Be careful.

They kiss quickly, and she moves off. Tom turns to Palmer.

TOM
Go to my safe and get the ANTs.

PALMER
No! I want to fight!

TOM
They're the key. Without them,
we've got nothing.
(beat)
You're the only one I can trust.

They share a long look -- Palmer accepts the responsibility and jogs away. Tom turns to Miles and Mitch...they're gone.

The frightened people, in their Sunday best, jam the exit.

Tom watches sadly, keenly aware their lives are in his hands.

TOM
(to Rangers)
Okay. Okay. Gather round.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Palmer opens the door to the safe. She reaches in, pulls out the ANTs -- suddenly she looks up.

There's a gun, pointed right at her. The old lethal kind.

PALMER
Ohhhh...you fuckin' bitch.

The person's other hand -- red fingernails -- beckons for the ANTs.

Palmer's shoulders slump, defeated. She slowly reaches out to hand the ants over--

Psych! Palmer lashes out with a roundhouse kick!

But the woman's too fast for her -- jumps over the kick, and slashes downward with the gun.

Palmer goes out like a light. The figure reaches down and picks up the ANTs.

Still seen from behind, the woman crosses to the safe and rifles through it, shoving the contents into her pockets.

THEN, THE WOMAN TURNS AROUND:

The Mole. Wei Lin.

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael climbs down a ladder into a darkened nerve center of computer activity. He examines the panels, then leans toward a panel in the center.

MICHAEL

COMMAND: Show motion, quadrant one.

A holo display appears, flicking through viewpoints...then stops -- showing Evan and his men moving into Ice Mining.

INT. ICE MINING - DAY

To the right, the ice face. To the left, a long vast gallery, braced here and there with columns. Beyond that, a tunnel.

VOLK

(consults device)
No lifesigns.

EVAN

Haul ass.

The men leave cover and run jingling through the columns toward the tunnel.

Something's wrong...something's happening to their limbs.

Running is getting harder...one falls to his knees, then another. They struggle to go on, but it's just too hard.

EVAN

Fucking artificial gravity!

Evan spies a man in the control cage -- a Ranger, who quickly ducks out of sight.

EVAN
(pointing)
Fry that cage.

The Colonel struggles to raise his weapon. But he can't sight the cage. He can, however, sight the supports holding it up.

He fires. The supports crumple and melt -- the cage topples like a falling tree and SMASHES, flinging the Ranger lifeless across the floor.

On a smashed display, one zone shows green -- but the others blink red...

Evan and Volk and eight commandos clamber to their feet...

COMMANDO (O.S.)
Urgh...ungh...

They look behind: the remaining four commandos are slowly being squeezed to death.

Before anyone can do anything, they rupture, with a horrendous CRACK of bone and terrible gurgling screams.

Unnerved despite his tough guy demeanor, Evan only barely notices forms running into the exit tunnel.

EVAN
After them!

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael watches Evan and his men run down the corridor. Distracted by his thoughts, he looks down at his hands.

MICHAEL
COMMAND: Access file Quinn forty-four-oh-four.

The view changes -- Tom's face, staring at the camera.

EXT. FARM DOME - MOMENTS LATER

The Farm Dome door slowly irises shut. A few seconds later, Evan and the commandos show up.

EVAN
This is bullshit. He's controlling the game.

Evan consults a device showing schematic displays. He indicates Volk and the four men nearest him.

EVAN
 We're going to flank him.
 (to Colonel)
 You guys...beat the bushes.

MILES (O.S.)
 Wait!

Miles and Mitch run up, skidding to a stop when they see the plethora of gun barrels pointed at them. Their hands go up.

MILES
 We're unarmed! We want to help --
 negotiate...we don't believe in violence!

EVAN
 Funny...we do.

Guns ROAR.

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

TOM, ON VIDEO, IS SPEAKING:

TOM (V.O.)
 Though some of this evidence is
 circumstantial, the final bit of
 information is unequivocal...and
 we have the original ANT to
 authenticate it beyond a shadow of
 a doubt.

The view shifts to show a mess of guns and gear. The cache Tom found and later destroyed. Megadyne logos visible.

TOM
 These weapons were brought to the
 moon...by Evan Johnson's men...

Michael stares at the hardware...his face crinkles in consternation...

INT. FARM DOME - SAME

The door irises open. The Colonel and his men step from the light of the corridor into the darkened dome. The dead bodies of Miles and Mitch visible just before the door closes...

Crops blow lazily in the breeze in the artificial night.

It's pleasant, bucolic, and seemingly deserted.

The men move forward warily. In the distance: lights outlining the next tunnel leading to the park dome.

The Colonel flips down his infrared goggles...the others follow suit. The Colonel sees various bright heat sources -- nothing that looks like people.

He moves forward, toward the wheat field, as the crow flies toward the tunnel opening.

Their body heat screened behind a large steaming heater, Tom and his Rangers crouch. Tom gestures to a Ranger -- the Ranger hurls something.

The flash-bang lands behind the commandos and EXPLODES! The commandos flee to the cover of the wheat field.

They crouch among the silent stalks. As they catch their breath, a CLICKING sound starts up all around them.

ANTS! They swarm up the commandos' legs -- they can't be shaken off!

The Colonel turns a dial on his gun and fires: electricity!

Bad idea -- the ANTs overload and everyone goes down, convulsing...ELECTROCUTED!

The lights go up in the dome. Tom and Jake and the Rangers surround the four motionless forms.

TOM
No Evan...let's fall back...

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

The view shows text...the e-mails Tom discovered.

TOM (V.O.)
...these e-mails, from Beck's
computer, detail Evan's knowledge
of the lack of Chinese
defenses...and his plans against
them...

Michael grits his teeth, and turns away. He sneaks another look...his face is filled with doubt, even a little fear...

MUFFLED GUNSHOTS! Michael looks around wildly!

MICHAEL
COMMAND: Park dome video.

With the dome-top camera, he zooms in on Evan's commandos emerging from the foliage. They slowly close in on Tom and the Rangers, guns at the ready.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

With Tom and the rest covered -- Evan emerges into the open.

EVAN

I never dreamed it'd be this easy.

Evan cocks his gun, then places it up against Tom's forehead.

TOM

You're too late. The information's already on its way.

EVAN

Oh...was it on that shuttle?

Evan smiles. Tom closes his eyes in disappointment.

EVAN

(tickled)

Had to destroy it. Sorry about that.

TOM

Do you hate me so much? All I wanted was a better world.

EVAN

Me too. I'm just doing it my way.

For my country. My patriotic duty.

TOM

Nothing more than that, eh?

Evan grins...he's loving this moment.

EVAN

Anything worth doing is worth doing for money.

(beat)

Never should've fucked me, Tom.

He slowly squeezes the trigger.

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael's universe is falling apart -- Evan's total betrayal --

the impending death of his father -- and there's nothing Michael can do about it!

Suddenly, GUNFIRE. Michael jumps -- but sees Tom still standing. It wasn't Evan's gun!

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

One of the commandos goes down. The remaining ones look around -- where's it coming from? More GUNFIRE, and they bug out.

FORMS are moving across the grass. They shimmer, almost totally invisible...guns fire from invisible hands. Evan's commandos fire back from the bushes.

As Evan watches the forms -- Tom grabs the gun!

Evan whips around, stares at Tom. Tom grabs Evan and hauls him in -- nose to nose. He brings the gun to Evan's head...

...then HURLS the gun away into the bushes!

Tom pulls back for a punch -- Evan KNEES Tom in the family jewels, breaks free, and runs for the gun.

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael pans the camera around, desperately trying to find out what's happening.

He zooms in on one of the commandos -- the man gets shot in the back, and goes down.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

Another commando flees, terror-stricken -- an invisible leg trips him up, and a gun blasts the commando to pieces.

GUNFIRE continues all around. Jake crouches by the trees, alone and scared. Suddenly, leaves EXPLODE by his head -- he goes down, rolling with a wound in his arm.

Volk towers over him.

VOLK
Oopsie-daisy.

As Volk advances, Jake notices a lit tiki torch, burning a few feet away.

IN THE BUSHES

Evan searches frantically for the gun. Tom comes around the other side of the trees. Evan sees him, crouches alertly.

EVAN

You make me puke. You crusader types, with your big ideas...ever notice that all it takes to stop big ideas...is one little bullet?

Tom, walking forward, steps on the gun. He picks it up and displays it for Evan.

TOM

Good point.

BY THE TREES

Volk raises his gun to finish Jake off, but a nearby SCREAM distracts him for a moment.

He turns to see one of his comrades riddled with bullets.

Unmoved, Volk turns back around -- and the tiki torch BASHES him full in the face!

Sparks fly, and the fuel from the torch spills out over Volk.

Volk twists away, covered with flame, firing wildly into the air! Jake prudently hits the dirt.

IN THE BUSHES

Tom stands 10 feet from Evan, pointing the gun at him.

EVAN

Go ahead. Never worry about me again.

Tom considers it...his finger's on the trigger...

EVAN

Do it for Jennifer.

Tom's eyes narrow. He slowly squeezes the trigger...

Suddenly, Evan's eyes go wide, and he flees!

Tom, confused, turns and finds himself face to face with a shimmering form. The form unmask: Administrator Hong!

Hong looks at Tom's gun. Tom looks at Hong's gun. Wasn't this supposed to be a "gunless" moon?

ACROSS THE GRASS

Running full tilt, Evan SMASHES into an invisible obstacle, and comically sprawls on his back. An unseen foot presses him down and holds him there.

Tom and Hong jog up, as Chinese shouts ring out all over the dome -- it's over! All around them, Chinese decloak. About 50 Chinese faces bloom out of thin air.

Evan is hauled to his feet, and his hands bound. Jake limps up, arm bloodied but otherwise okay. Tom hugs him with relief.

No more Rangers appear. Tom and Jake are the only ones left.

The Chinese suddenly snap to attention, all business. Tom turns to see what's up. Evan laughs resignedly.

EVAN
I should've known.

It's General Bao. Bao gives a look of mild contempt at Evan, then approaches Tom and sizes him up. Tom stares open-mouthed at this ghost out of the past.

BAO
I am General Bao Yun Chi.

Tom suddenly notices the nameplate on Bao's chest: printed there, the SAME CHARACTERS on Jennifer's ANT!

Not "luck" at all -- it's the General's name! Tom senses instantly what's coming...

BAO
I couldn't let Evan take your base.
(beat)
Because I...am taking your base.

INT./EXT. HOME DOME - DAY

The people mill about the square, waiting anxiously. Suddenly, the lights go out! Scattered women SCREAM!

A door slides open -- Jake is thrust inside. The door shuts behind him. The indicator shows LOCKED.

Another door: LOCKED. A third: LOCKED.

People move to Jake's aid...

Outside, Chinese soldiers stand sentry...

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE CLOSET - DAY

Palmer wakes up, moaning. She dabs gingerly at dried blood on her head.

In the dim light, she can see hangers and clothing. She looks up -- there's a panel in the ceiling...

INT. CRAWLSPACE - MOMENTS LATER

The panel pops up and Palmer crawls up and out. She looks around to get her bearings.

Suddenly she hears voices in the next room...Chinese voices!

She peeks through a crack in the ceiling.

In Tom's office below, she sees Chinese soldiers.

Unnoticed on the floor near them -- her phone. It might as well be on the other side of the moon.

She moves off through the crawlspace, away from the office.

INT. PARK DOME - DAY

On a hill, with a glorious view in all directions, a small tea party has convened. Tom and Evan sit on camp stools facing General Bao, who's flanked by Hong.

BAO

I grew up in England...came to
rely on afternoon tea. Enjoy,
gentlemen.

Bao sips, pinky extended. Hong follows fawningly. Tom and Evan do not drink. Evan's mouth is a bloodless line of hate.

EVAN

(to Bao)
You cocksucker. You've been
stringing me along all this time,
just waiting for your chance to
pounce.

BAO

(to Evan;shrugs)
Once you moved against us, you
gave us no choice.

EVAN

Fuck you! You double-crossing--

Bao nods slightly -- his guards SLAM their gunbutts into Evan's kidneys! With a cry, Evan pitches forward to his knees.

TOM

Anyone want to get me up to speed?

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael watches the action below. His hands twist impotently.

Suddenly he realizes...

MICHAEL

Shit!

He punches in a sequence -- the screen shows RECORDING.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

Bao smiles at the panting, speechless Evan.

BAO

(to Evan)

I'll take this one.

(to Tom)

Evan and I took the long view. We eliminated the shuttle to collapse the toothless international coalition you Americans created. We preferred a proven system.

(sips)

Competition -- interdependence -- keeps the peace better than any treaty. It's the t'ai chi -- the yin and the yang. Our two countries, opposed...yet balanced.

(looks at Evan)

Until now.

Evan climbs back up on the camp stool. With a petulant look, he tries a sip of tea.

TOM

(slyly)

Yes, but...won't your taking over also disturb that balance?

Bao grins, amused. Two men of action, understanding each other.

BAO

We're willing to risk it.

Bao leans toward Tom.

BAO

Now, though, we can't have you around making trouble for us. But there's another option: you can join us.

TOM

Are you out of your mind?

BAO

You're a businessman. And a businessman deals with realities. This technology is ours now -- but your involvement can guide us and ensure success. And with you on board, your country wouldn't dare destroy us, and risk all-out war.

Tom says nothing.

BAO

You can keep the peace -- restore the balance -- and keep your dream alive. What do you say?

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael watches, riveted -- could Tom actually go for it?

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

Tom looks from Evan to Bao, thinking furiously. So much hinges on how he plays this...he gives it a good long think.

TOM

Would you let me stay here? Run it the way I want to run it?

BAO

Think of us as a silent partner...your exclusive distributor.

(smiles)

It makes sense, Tom. After all...

Bao gestures to the nearby wedding area.

BAO

...you're already part of the family.

Tom's face darkens. That was a tactical error.

TOM

You murdered Jennifer...I can't just forget that.

(beat)

You know...there's something I've learned from all of this...

(looks at Evan)

When you get in bed with the Devil...you're gonna get fucked.

(beat)

Go to hell.

INT. COMPUTER ACCESS CUBBY - SAME

Michael is gone.

INT. PARK DOME - MOMENTS LATER

Bao and his men escort Tom and Evan to the exit.

EVAN

(to Tom)

Good one, genius. You could've bought us some time.

Behind a screen of trees, Michael slips from an access hatch to the ground. He duckwalks to the hidden control panel the techs used when the sky malfunctioned.

Looking up, he appraises the sky. He carefully opens the panel and begins punching keys.

Tom and Evan's party stops at the door, not 20 feet from Michael. Leaning out, Michael can see his father's face.

Michael risks a wave. Tom sees him! He quickly masks his surprise. Then Evan steps between them, and Michael ducks out of sight.

TOM

(to Bao;stalling)

How the hell do you expect to get away with this?

A soldier shoves Evan, revealing Tom again.

BAO

It won't be one dome -- as Evan planned -- but the tragic loss of Luna Base and all its personnel...

Michael points up to the sky. He mimes shielding his eyes from a bright light. Tom nods once.

EVAN

Now how the hell could you know...
(realizes)
Double agent. Lovely.

Michael points toward the nearby gopher hole hatch cover.

Tom nods once more.

BAO

(to Tom)
Yes. A sad nuclear mishap -- hiding
our theft of your computer core --
as well as your helium three
stockpile.

Then we'll fix your fatal "error"...and the helium three
will flow.

Michael puts up five fingers...four...three...

TOM

Well...call it Quinn Crater, okay?
...two...one!

BLINDING WHITE LIGHT fills the dome. Those not blinded
outright dare not open their eyes.

Tom, however, sports some stylish ANT sunglasses! He breaks
and runs.

Bao, eyes squeezed tightly shut, hears the motion. He grabs
the nearest gun and FIRES blindly.

Evan, though blinded, tries to run -- he smashes into a
tree and goes out like a light.

Tom zigs and zags. Michael's got the hatch open. Bao, still
FIRING, takes out one of his own men...then another...

Tom leaps into the hatch as bullets stitch a line of holes
in the hatch cover. Michael slithers in after him. He pulls
the hatch shut with a CLANG!

The light suddenly dims. Sparks fall from various points
in the dome -- the sky's burned out.

Evan lies dazed nearby. Bao points him out to be retrieved,
as soldiers poke around looking for Tom...

INT. TUNNELS BELOW LUNA - DAY

Blackness. Michael and Tom bumble down the tunnel. They
stop and look behind them.

TOM
 (taking off glasses)
 ANT: Flashlight.

Tom, grinning, gives Michael a big hug...Michael hugs back.

INT. PARK DOME - SAME

Bao inspects bullet holes in the hatch cover. One of the soldiers lifts it, about to climb in. Bao waves him off.

BAO
 (in Chinese)
 Let's get out of here.

Dragging Evan, they exit the Park Dome.

INT. TUNNELS BELOW LUNA - SAME

Michael is stricken with the knowledge he must confess.

MICHAEL
 Dad, I...I believed everything...so
 fuckin' stupid...

Tom shakes his head, and pats him sympathetically...

MICHAEL
 Dad...I let him in!

Tom takes a moment to absorb this. Suddenly, he GRABS Michael --

unlike before, these are the hands of a father trying to steady his son.

TOM
 We both trusted him...we should've
 been trusting each other.
 (beat)
 What's done is done. You did good
 up there. I'm proud of you.

Michael's eyes shine -- it's what he's always wanted to hear.

TOM
 We gotta get the people the hell
 out of Home Dome -- if we use gopher
 hole 188, up through the access
 junctions, and scale the pipes to--

MICHAEL
 I've got a better idea.
 (MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(off Tom's look)

Trust me.

Tom grins and follows Michael down the tunnel.

EXT. HOME DOME - DAY

One of the doors slowly slides open, revealing a group of citizens. Sitting about on benches and curbs -- they are disappointed and confused to see the Chinese and not Tom.

Two soldiers drag Evan forward and hurl him into the dome.

He goes sprawling. [CHINESE in this scene is SUBTITLED.]

EVAN

When my friends find out, it's
missiles over Beijing, you goddamn--

BAO

Nobody'll shed a tear over you,
Evan.

(indicates people)

Ask them.

Bao smiles, and turns, when--

WEI LIN (O.S.)

(in Chinese)

What about me?

Bao pauses. Wei Lin slowly walks forward.

WEI LIN

(in Chinese; quietly)

You said I'd be extracted when the
time comes.

BAO

(in Chinese)

Quinn is still at large. If he
turns up, he must be dealt with.
We'll contact you shortly.

Suddenly, Bao SLAPS Wei Lin hard, knocking her down. He glares down at her as she stares in disbelief.

BAO

(in Chinese)

Sell it. Everybody's watching.

The doors slowly close. A SQUEAL of frying machinery. An inner panel blinks: LOCKED -- MALFUNCTION. Evan crouches down next to Wei Lin.

EVAN

I don't speak Chinese, but --
judging by your calm, composed
manner, he left out one little bit
of information...

Trying to keep her cover, Wei Lin edges away from him --
but despite that she's curious...

Behind them, Jake, Lang and the others slowly advance.

INT. HOME DOME - MOMENTS LATER

Evan squares off against the people. Behind him, Wei Lin's
eyes are wide.

EVAN

Don't you understand? They're
blowing up the goddamn station!
We've got to break the hell out of
here!

JAKE

Dad told us to wait here for him,
so we're staying put. He'll have a
plan.

EVAN

What are you, retards?! Tom Quinn
escaped! He's long gone by now!
You've got to save yourselves!

Wei Lin moves forward and stands behind Jake.

WEI LIN

We wait for Tom.

A RUMBLE comes from below.

EVAN

See! Say your prayers, you dumb
fuckers! Here it comes!

Released by Lang, Evan slips down the wall bonelessly.

The rumble gets louder. The ground begins to shake. The
fountain in the center of the dome shimmies. The water
around the statue ripples and slops.

KA-BOOM!

The Driller BREAKS THROUGH the fountain!

Water fans out across the square, chased by chunks of stone --

the Shuttle Phoenix statue slowly topples over and smashes!
The Driller emerges fully, covered with pulverized concrete.
The people goggle at this spectacle.

The cockpit door opens, and Tom Quinn jumps out. The people
CHEER and crowd around him!

Michael, smiling, is content to hang back.

TOM
Suit up -- we're going for a walk!

INT. CRAWLSPACE - SAME

Palmer, bone-weary and covered with dirt, crawls along.
She reaches an open area which curves down and out of sight.

Off to her right: a ladder. She climbs onto it.

She peeks over her shoulder -- only blackness below. She
sighs, grits her teeth, and starts the long descent.

INT. REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Chinese scientists cluster around a reactor panel. They
attach a large device with a keypad and quickly punch in a
code.

A display winks to life...it's a countdown. But the numbers
are in Chinese.

INT. HOME DOME - DAY

The people run around getting gear from homes, buckling up
suits, checking helmets and oxygen. In the middle of it
all stands Tom, making a call.

PALMER (O.S.)
(recorded voice)
Not here just now -- leave a
message!

Tom sighs and hangs up. He turns to Wei Lin.

TOM
Anybody seen her?

Wei Lin shakes her head. She looks concerned and sad for
absent Palmer: quite an acting job. Tom regards Evan,
standing humbly nearby.

TOM
 (to Evan;ironically)
 Well...for once you told the truth.

And nobody believed you.

EVAN
 You won't leave me here to die.

TOM
 You're not getting off that easy.
 (to a passerby)
 Tony...get him a suit, stick to
 him like glue...keep him outta
 trouble.

TONY pulls an irritated face, and waves Evan to follow him.

Tom looks around at everything -- wistful, like it's a last look. People stream past, some with suits and some without.

TOM
 (to himself)
 Dammit, Palmer, where are you?

INT. TUNNELS BELOW LUNA - SAME

Palmer sits against a rock wall, sobbing. The only light: a bulb over an open utility door.

PALMER
 Dammit! Enough!
 (chokes off tears)
 Am I a total wuss? Christ!

She goes through her pockets -- nothing but a piece of candy.

Thinking a moment, she unwraps it. It's cylindrical. She kneels down and places it on the ground.

It rolls to the left.

PALMER
 Uphill it is.

She troops off to the right. After a moment, she retrieves the piece of candy, pops it in her mouth, and splits.

INT. HOME DOME - MOMENTS LATER

Tom waves his arms over his head.

TOM
Down the hole!

The entire throng heads down the ramp formed by the Driller.

Evan goes past, pissed, escorted by two large men.

Michael stands to one side. People pass and look at him.

They're smiling. Emotional, Michael ducks into the Driller's cab to avoid them all.

Tom gives one last look around, then climbs onto the Driller.

INT. TUNNELS BELOW LUNA - MOMENTS LATER

The exodus, sparkling with flashlights, moves down the tunnel.

The Driller brings up the rear -- Michael and Jake in the cockpit. Tom and Wei Lin hang onto the door.

TOM
(to Michael)
Get 'em to Brotherhood...count heads, then count 'em again.

MICHAEL
Where you going?

TOM
I'm gonna stop it.

Michael slams on the brakes. Wei Lin stares from Michael to Tom, wondering what's going on.

MICHAEL
We gotta get the shuttles and get out of here!

TOM
I have to try.

Michael knows he won't be able to talk him out of it. Tom leans in, hugs the boys, plants a kiss on both their heads.

TOM
I love you, boys. And I'm very, very proud of both of you.
(points to people)
They're your responsibility now.

Tom moves off. The boys watch him go, overcome -- are they going to lose their last parent?

Suddenly Wei Lin jumps down.

WEI LIN
I'm not leaving you!

Tom kisses her softly.

TOM
I can only do this if I know you're
safe. See you soon.

He guides her back onto the Driller. He pats the door, like he's sending off a cab. Michael drives off, as Tom follows his flashlight beam back down the tunnel.

Wei Lin watches behind. As the Driller turns a corner, she jumps off again, and scuttles away. Jake and Michael don't even notice.

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE TUNNEL SYSTEM - SAME

Palmer, in pitch blackness, hears RUNNING FOOTSTEPS. A bouncing light goes past not 20 feet away, and stops.

In the glow of the flashlight: Tom! She almost calls out--

WEI LIN (O.S.)
Tom! Tom!

Behind her own flashlight, Wei Lin runs out of the tunnel.

Palmer stares -- even in the dark, her eyes flash fire.

TOM
Dammit! There's no guarantee I can
even stop the reactor exploding!

Palmer shudders. Did he just say what she thought he said?

WEI LIN
Then I will die with you.

She kisses him. Accepting the inevitable, he runs off. With her flashlight hand, Wei Lin adjusts the GUN in the small of her back.

Wei Lin jogs off...Palmer follows them, staying close but not too close.

EXT. ICE MINING - DAY

The door stands open, its air-retaining forcefield in place.

We hear a RUMBLING and ROARING. Is it the explosion?

No, it's the people! They issue up the ramp in vehicles of every size and description. Michael and Jake bring up the rear, each in his own rover.

Michael gives a lingering look at Luna in his rearview. The look on his face: he's mulling over a big decision...

INT. REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Tom and Wei Lin poke their heads in. Nobody about. The two cross to the Chinese device.

WEI LIN

Now aren't you glad I came along?

She punches a key -- the timer changes to English: 9:57 and counting.

TOM

Can you figure it out?

Wei Lin punches keys and checks schematics.

WEI LIN

It's going to overload containment and blow out a mile wide hole underneath us.

TOM

How do we stop it?

WEI LIN

Let me try something...

She types in a sequence, and pops a key. The display changes:

14:22, and counting down.

TOM

(flummoxed)

You gave us five more minutes?

WEI LIN

That's all I'll need.

He turns. She's pointing a gun at him.

TOM

What in the hell are you doing?

WEI LIN

Finishing the job.

Tom's face is a picture of confusion. Then, suddenly...he gets it. He covers his eyes with his hand, in utter defeat.

TOM
This whole time...

This has to be the most unkind betrayal of them all.

TOM
Damn you...I loved you...

Wei Lin moves closer to a slumped and defeated Tom.

WEI LIN
Too little, too late.

Tom seems to be sobbing. Wei Lin, appalled at this pathetic display, looks away in disgust.

Tom STRIKES! A crisp kick sends the gun out of her hand and across the floor.

Wei Lin jumps back. She looks behind her for the gun. It's closer to her than to Tom -- she sprints for it.

Tom smashes a button -- killing the artificial gravity!

Surprised by the gravity shift, Wei Lin misses the gun and knocks it away in another direction. She flies past it and bounces off a bulkhead.

The gun sits about twenty feet from Palmer's hiding place. She sees it.

Wei Lin leaps past Tom to the gun, but he grabs her ankle.

The two spiral through the air and land hard on the other side of the room.

Unseen, Palmer launches herself across the floor -- sliding, she grabs the gun -- but she can't stop! She slides under a railing, and tumbles down to the lower level.

Wei Lin spins to a stop, looks for the gun -- it's gone!

But there's Tom, barreling toward her! She stands ready -- but like a toreador, she sidesteps, and he sails past. Tom slams against the bulkhead -- he turns, fury in his eyes.

Wei Lin holds up the plastic container with the locket and the ants in it.

WEI LIN

You may not believe this...but I loved you too! Did you know that? I would've joined you...told you everything. But...there was always one piece of you I could never have.

(hold up locket)

How could I compete with a ghost? Well...now I'm going to bury her. And you.

(beat)

Rest in peace, bitch.

Wei Lin tosses the case in a high arc...into the well of the reactor! Tom jumps after it, and slams belly first into the railing...the locket and the ANTs fall into the depths.

It's a long way down.

Suddenly, Wei Lin is on him, trying to push him over!

Palmer climbs up. She takes aim. The reactor core is much too close. She pulls the gun back, and looks around for another shot.

Wei Lin leans down, grabs Tom's feet and flips him over. He holds on by his fingernails!

Wei Lin brings her fist down on his hand, but he pulls it at the last minute, then grabs her wrist.

Wei Lin pulls away, and in the light gravity, the two go flying away from the reactor. Tom staggers, dazed...

Wei Lin attacks! Kicks and fists, blows to the face and body. It's like Bruce Lee vs. Bruce Dern. Stunned and bleeding, Tom sinks to his knees.

Wei Lin grabs a nearby tool, raises it high to brain him...

BANG!

Wei Lin flies backward into the opposite wall.

Palmer skids to a stop in front of Tom. Wei Lin lies crumpled on the floor, moving weakly.

PALMER

Tom!

Tom tries to shake it off. Palmer leans close to him, concerned, caressing his face.

Suddenly she whips the gun around -- BANG! BANG!

Wei Lin, almost upon them, goes flying back again. She hits the floor stone dead.

Palmer returns to her caress. Tom gets his wits back, and sits up. Palmer throws her arms around him.

TOM
(muffled)
You just earned yourself one big
box of candy.

She laughs and kisses him full on the lips. He's a bit surprised, but he returns the kiss...

A BEEP draws their attention. 10:58...and counting...

Palmer helps Tom to his feet. They move past Wei Lin's body.

Tom pauses a moment.

TINK! Tom's new wedding ring falls to the floor.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The exodus has safely reached Brotherhood Station. A few stragglers come down the hill, as Jake pulls up behind.

JAKE
Well, that'll just about do it.

He looks around. Michael's nowhere in sight.

JAKE
Michael?

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE MOON - SAME

Michael's rover bounces along, back toward Luna.

INT. REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Tom watches the display expectantly. He continues to work at the keypad. The panel emits another BUZZ. Tom SLAMS his fist on the panel. He's losing it...

PALMER
Tom...

TOM
Dammit! I can turn the containment
field, focus most of the blast in
one direction, but...I can't stop--

PALMER

Tom! Even if you could save the base...what then?

TOM

What do you mean? Fight back!

PALMER

With what? How?

TOM

(lamely)

We can...construct defenses...Lavoy can implement...electrical...

PALMER

Tom...

Tom spins around to face her. He knows it's over, but refuses to accept it.

TOM

I won't let them win. I will not!

I've sacrificed...too much...for this dream to die...

Tom turns and desperately attacks the panel.

TOM

(softly)

This is all I have left.

PALMER

This place is just metal and glass. This isn't the dream...

(gestures toward Brotherhood Station)

They are. The people. Our people.

Palmer places a hand on his heaving shoulder.

PALMER

If Luna isn't destroyed -- Bao will hunt them down, slaughter them...and still destroy the base. And you know what happens next: war.

(beat)

We have to end it. Here and now.

Tom stops working. His hands fall to his sides.

PALMER

We'll start over...a blank slate.

We'll get it right.

TOM
What do you propose?

PALMER
The Chinese expect an explosion...
let's give 'em a whopper.

She points to the ICE VEIN on the schematic. Tom stares at her...then at the panel -- the ice vein -- the tunnels connecting both bases. He understands.

TOM
Five minutes...get outta here.

Tom bypasses the Chinese device, and attacks the reactor panel with a purpose. Palmer doesn't budge an inch. He looks up. She leans in and kisses him gently.

PALMER
Even if I could make it, I still
wouldn't leave you.

Tom turns a knob -- the CONTAINMENT FIELD reorients -- the display shows the blast zone growing to include the ice vein.

Tom sighs: acknowledgement of the inevitable.

THE TIMER: 4:33 and counting...

PALMER
Besides...you owe me a box of candy.

TOM
(grins)
How 'bout a relaxing afternoon in
the park?

INT. PARK DOME - MOMENTS LATER

Tom and Palmer lounge on a blanket. Nice place to spend your last few moments. With the sky burned out overhead, the light is almost romantic.

TOM
I really blew it, didn't I?

PALMER
What are you talking about?

TOM

I let Evan control the game. I sunk to his goddamn level. I did it all wrong.

PALMER

Tom...you can't fight devils without becoming a little devilish yourself.

(laughs)

That's life! You're gonna get dirty --

just need to take a shower after.

Tom looks around, then sighs. He grins wistfully.

TOM

I'll try and remember that next time.

A RUMBLE can be heard. Already?

Palmer turns to Tom. Tears run down her face. Tom, a little leaky himself, reaches out and wipes them away.

PALMER

I love you, Tom.

Tom hugs her close and kisses her head.

They wait for the end...but the RUMBLE turns into a ROAR -- the roar of a souped-up rover engine!

Michael's rover BURSTS out of the tunnel and into Park Dome, tearing the hell out of the grass as it fishtails to a stop.

He pops the top.

MICHAEL

You folks call a cab?

Tom and Palmer recover from their surprise, run to the rover and climb inside. Michael puts down the top and throws up a mountain of dirt peeling out.

Palmer checks her watch.

PALMER

Uh, boys...this ride's about to get a whole lot rougher...

A sudden shake of LITERALLY EVERYTHING -- the entire dome complex rises up from the blast below, and slumps back down.

Domes crack, outbuildings crumple, power installations explode in showers of sparks.

INT. ICE MINING - SAME

A vast shock wave SLAMS through the place, blasting everything off the floor.

A tongue of fire follows from the reactor area, filling ice mining and SMASHING into the ice face!

INT. CHINESE BASE - DAY

The conspirators sit around a table, enjoying celebratory drinks. It's a party atmosphere.

Suddenly a RUMBLE shakes the ground under their feet, CLINKING the beers on the table.

Beneath the table glass, a holo display shows a panoramic view of Luna -- the entire site rumples and sags -- jets of steam and sparks shoot out.

Bao's operatives laugh heartily, and congratulations rush around the table. Bao shoots a glance at Hong, who stares at the destruction with a pained look.

INT. ACCESS TUNNEL - SAME

The tunnel fractures around the rover and pieces rain down.

Michael zigs and zags around cracks in the walls and floor.

Up ahead, just at the exit into the Farm Dome, a big semicircular piece slowly falls into their path.

MICHAEL

Hang on!

Michael turns the rover up on the two left wheels and zips through the tight space into the open dome beyond. Overhead, cracks spider through the dome...

INT. ICE VEIN - SAME

The fire blasts through the vein, shattering, crushing and vaporizing the ice.

An ocean of ice and slurry surges through the chamber.

INT. CHINESE BASE - SAME

A breeze ruffles a soldier's hair. He leans his chair back and looks down the hallway.

Down at the end, through a lighted cavern, he can see the ice face. Looks peaceful...except for the ominous RUMBLING.

INT. FARM DOME - SAME

The world is collapsing all around them. Huge holes open up in the ground, and vast sections of crops simply disappear.

Tom looks up. The cracked sky strobos wild, kaleidoscopic -- as he watches, a huge sheet peels away and tumbles slowly down -- behind it, girders shimmy and buckle.

TOM

Michael...hate to be Chicken Little here, but...
(looks up again)
The sky is falling!

A huge pile of debris blocks their straight shot to the next tunnel. Michael swerves around it, fighting to keep control.

INT. CHINESE BASE - SAME

Bao and the others watch the video scenes of destruction with happiness and interest. They point out details, and comment AD LIB.

Suddenly Bao sits forward. On the screen he sees a tiny object moving determinedly through the rubble.

He zooms the camera: Michael driving for his life. Holding on for theirs: Tom and Palmer, clearly visible.

Bao jumps to his feet and ROARS out his rage...

IN THE HALLWAY, THE SOLDIER PEERS CURIOUSLY AT THE SOLID-looking ice face, wondering about the increasing RUMBLE.

Suddenly, the massive ice rampart blows outward in huge chunks --

unleashing a giant wall of water!

The soldier falls out of his chair. He runs into the other room to warn the others -- they pay no attention because Bao is throwing a tantrum.

The water rushes in and OBLITERATES everything!

EXT. CHINESE BASE - SAME

Throughout the Chinese base, domes shatter and crumple as the flood rampages. Water shoots out of the cracks and into the sky, turning instantly to snow when it hits vacuum.

The destruction is total, the carnage spectacular.

EXT. LUNA BASE - SAME

Luna Base is faring no better. The entire site, seen from overhead, is caving in -- domes crack, split and slump.

INT. FARM DOME - SAME

A giant piece of debris falls down directly in their path.

Michael guns the rover and drives up some debris around it.

TOM

It's coming down!

The dome is peeling apart -- shards the size of buildings -- any one could smash the rover like a bug!

One edge section of the dome tumbles, revealing a patch of clear sky. The wreckage wedges in -- a perfect ramp. Michael guns the rover toward it...

TOM

Stop!

Michael skids to a fishtailing halt.

TOM

There's got to be another way out!

MICHAEL

Dad...picture a man on a mountain,
in a snowstorm, running from a
bear...

Tom laughs, SNAPS his seatbelt closed, and grabs on to a rollbar. Palmer grins lopsidedly, and straps in.

Michael shoves it into gear, and GUNS the accelerator!

The rover bounces up the ramp -- debris falls, narrowing missing them -- they approach the dark opening above --

They SHOOT into the sky!

EXT. FARM DOME - SAME

The rover sails from the dome just as the entire shell comes tumbling down in a spectacular collapse!

The rover soars through the sky -- it's almost serene for a moment...then it starts coming down...

The moon below is rocky...it looks like they're going to be smashed to bits. But Michael's been in this situation before.

The rover carries just past the rocks and hits an embankment, punching up a huge bloom of dust.

The rover bounces ass over teakettle, hits wheels down -- rolls a short distance, turns 180, and stops with a jerk.

Dazed, but alive, the occupants look up.

Before them, Luna Base collapses into a new crater on the moon. Secondary explosions throw debris high into the air.

As the dust billows, the only building that remains is the distant hangar -- lonely orphan of a once grand family.

Silence reigns in the cockpit as they watch the dust settle.

Michael turns to his father.

MICHAEL

I always wondered...what happened to that guy who took that leap in the dark?

TOM

Oh, him...he fell hundreds of feet to his death.

(beat)

Then the bear ate him.

EXT./INT. BROTHERHOOD STATION - DAY

The lone rover rolls into Brotherhood station.

The rover drives down into an underground garage, and the door slowly slides shut behind it.

INT. WAREHOUSE - LATER

The survivors mill around, most happy to be alive. Some are crying...Beverly Castle for one. Her husband cannot be found.

Evan sits to one side, glowering, guarded by two Rangers.

MICHAEL

Let's go get those shuttles!

The crowd moves to the vehicles. But one man stays behind.

Tom Quinn.

Michael looks back. He sees his father cross to a panel and start working on it. Michael turns and goes back. Jake sees what's up, and follows.

Tom taps some keys. Nothing happens. He hits the panel with a fist, and it lights up. He looks up to see Michael watching.

TOM

I kinda like it here. It's got sort of a rustic charm...

Michael and Jake exchange glances -- is he serious? The other people begin to drift back...

TOM

Real fixer-upper.

A knowing smile creeps across Michael's face.

TOM

I could use a couple good ideas...

Michael shakes his head affectionately. He turns to the panel.

Tom tries something. Michael points out a correction.

Suddenly Lavoy appears.

LAVOY

You're gonna need a brain.

TOM

Know where we can find one?

Lavoy fake laughs. He reaches into the panel's exposed innards and jiggers something.

LAVOY

Try it now.

Tom does. Lights come on all over the warehouse. He looks up, and sees the people have abandoned their vehicles, and have begin to put the place in order...

Evan's guards are inattentive -- Evan grabs their ANTguns!

EVAN
You assholes can stay -- I'm getting
the hell outta here.

Evan crosses to Michael's rover, keeping them all covered.
Those nearest Evan exchange glances, about to charge him.
Tom notices the ANTguns Evan's shoved in his belt.

TOM
(waving them back)
Forget it! Let him go!
(to Evan)
Get the hell off my moon.

EVAN
Your moon, huh? Not for long.

Evan drives up the ramp and out. Palmer and Michael turn
on Tom -- has he gone insane? He smiles enigmatically, and
walks off. Nobody moves.

Tom returns, beckons them to follow.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - MOMENTS LATER

Evan's shuttle lifts into the sky...turns, and cruises
toward Brotherhood Station.

INT. EVAN'S SHUTTLE - MOMENTS LATER

Evan flicks buttons on a panel.

EVAN
(to panel)
Weapons.

Tactical holos appear -- diagrams of weapons loadouts.
It's armed to the teeth. Evan targets Brotherhood Station's
main dome.

INT. BROTHERHOOD STATION CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Tom and the others watch Evan's ship approach.

LAVOY
(consulting display)
That thing's loaded for bear. He
means to wipe us out.

Tom picks up a microphone.

INT. EVAN'S SHUTTLE - DAY

The panel BEEPS. Evan hits a button, and Tom's face appears.

TOM
These people are innocent! There's
no point to this!

EVAN
Go fuck yourself.

TOM
I just thought of another option.
(impassioned)
This is for Jennifer, you bastard!
(yelling)
ANT: Harvest!

Evan blinks. What's Tom on about? Then he looks down...

The ANTguns in his belt transform into harvesting ANTs.

They flood up his body. Evan screams. He SCREAMS again!

INT. BROTHERHOOD STATION CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Tom and the others watch the shuttle pass overhead
harmlessly and head off into the distance...

INT. EVAN'S SHUTTLE - SAME

Evan tries to wipe the ANTs off, but they burrow into his
skin. He twists out of the seat, jerking and convulsing.

The ants flood up his neck and over his face. As Evan chokes
on the floor, his hand writhes...a gnarled claw, opening
and closing in agony...

EXT. EVAN'S SHUTTLE - SAME

Evan's shuttle CRASHES into the moon, blowing apart in a
gigantic fireball and spreading wreckage for miles.

INT. BROTHERHOOD STATION CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Tom and the others watch the fireball bloom on the horizon.

Evan's gone the way of all the other weapons.

TOM
You reap what you sow.

Lavoy and Palmer give Tom a weary, amused look.

TOM

Well, so much for the bad guys...not
that we could even prove they were
the bad guys...

MICHAEL

Oh, I don't know...

Michael holds up a media disc. Rainbowed in the lights.

MICHAEL

Park Dome. Evan and Bao laying it
all out for us. Better than that
old ANT evidence you had.

Tom smiles proudly at his son.

TOM

I think I found my replacement.

MICHAEL

This dump?

TOM

Someday, my boy...all this will be
yours.

Tom gestures to encompass the shambles that's Brotherhood
Station. Michael gives him a droll look, and everyone
laughs.

Purposely, Tom sets his jaw and strides out the door. The
rest follow. They'll follow him anywhere.

THE END