

Horizons

By

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EXT. MASONIC TEMPLE ON NOB HILL NIGHT

We see the exterior of the building. The clouds in the night sky overhead look artificial and painterly.

INT. LAB ROOM IN MASONIC TEMPLE NIGHT

ANGLE ON: The glass-walled lab room. Light in the room has a bluish cast, as if underwater. BETTY and JUSTIN ADAMS are seated in what look like space shuttle chairs at opposite ends of a table. They look asleep, and are wired to heart and brain wave monitoring equipment built into their chairs.

ANGLE ON: Lab interior. In the middle of the table is a pulsating hologram of mainland China, with the Yellow Sea rippling at its eastern border. The hologram looks real, like an intricate diorama.

LOC. BETTY'S "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

Betty and Justin walk around the holographic image edge, talking.

BETTY

I know this is hard for you. You think we are harming innocents. But, China has become dangerous and must be stopped. If they're allowed to use satellite weapons, many other innocents will die.

JUSTIN

Mother, I know that. I also know that the power we have is wrong, it's evil. I used to think it was the greatest gift, but Joe has changed my life and now I see the truth. Who are we to decide who lives and who dies?

BETTY

You mustn't upset yourself so much.
(strokes Justin's hair)
Do you think it's so different for me? I had such terrible guilt about the test tsunamis we willed on Indonesia and India. But, do you remember how they behaved after? The Indonesian rebels didn't pause their civil war even to bury their own dead! Surely that is blind

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BETTY (cont'd)
evil. Asia is sick. It needs to be
cleansed and then reborn.

Justin gives her a tired and pained look.

BETTY
Oh, I know you think I'm an awful
racist. But, it's not about race
and such superficial things. We
must play our part in fate's plan.
The world is corrupted out of
balance and must be washed clean.

JUSTIN
Mother, you're doing this for the
money. Let's be honest. The noble
ideals you spout are a bunch of
crap to glorify what we do, which
is kill people in large numbers.
We're assassins for hire, plain
and simple.

BETTY
I don't see it that way at all! We
are instruments of the divine will.
Why else would we have been given
this power, and why would it be
divided between us? It is a message
from God, that we should work
together to right the evils in this
world.

Justin turns and looks into Betty's face.

JUSTIN
I don't see how anyone could
believe in a God who sounds so
biased and petty.
(anxious again)
For all you know, the people who
pay us to wreak these disasters may
well have created us through - I
don't know - chemicals and
radiation or something.

BETTY
(laughs lightly)
Radiation! That's rich. You've
always thought on such a small
scale. Open your eyes to the wonder
of what we do. Justin, this is the
last time we will use the Field

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BETTY (cont'd)
like this. This will be our
masterpiece and our finale. I
swear.

INT. MONITORING STATION NIGHT

On the floor above Betty and Justin is a room filled with computer screens and bustling military personnel wearing headsets.

INT. VIP ROOM NIGHT

Here are the scientists and politicians who are coordinating the project. SENATOR JOAN RICHARDS, sits at the head of the table. GENERAL GEORGE MACCREARY is at her right side. He is here to liaison between the project personnel and the politicians. Also present at the table are DOCTOR BARNES and JEFF COHEN, his assistant. At a computer and communications hub against the wall is PVT STINDEN.

SENATOR RICHARDS
Help me understand the Horizon
Phenomenon. What is it that those
two strange people actually do?
Part the waters like Moses?

GENERAL MACCREARY
Honestly, we're not entirely clear
on how or why they are able to
affect the forces of nature. But,
I'll be damned if the results
aren't completely astonishing. The
recent tsunamis were exactly as we
requested and right on schedule.

SENATOR RICHARDS
I've read the reports. They're
pretty grisly and surreal. I'm more
than a little apprehensive about
what we're doing here tonight. What
if this gets out of hand and they
blow up the building?

GENERAL MACCREARY
There is no chance of anything
going wrong, Joan. At the first
sign of danger to anything but the
target, we can pull the plug on
this. We have full control.

(CONTINUED)

Doctor Barnes has been listening to them, and he jumps in enthusiastically, trying to be helpful.

DOCTOR BARNES

This is going to be a fascinating experience you'll not soon forget. While Mrs. Adams and her son are in their unique trance state, their minds are linked and they produce identical and highly unusual brainwave patterns. We've learned that the mother, Betty, is able to synthesize a "possibility field" in her mind. She creates a copy of a real place and then Justin manipulates it, somewhat like a voodoo doll.

(chuckles, then looks a bit abashed)

SENATOR RICHARDS

What a truly bizarre world we live in. I wouldn't believe this if I were not sitting right here. But, if it gets the Chinese off the chessboard, I'm all for it.

General MacCreary turns to Pvt. Stinden

GENERAL MACCREARY

Stinden, what's the word from our man in the sky?

PVT. STINDEN

Let me check on that, sir.
(speaking into his headset)
Osprey this is Stone Cutter, do you copy?

EXT. CHINA COAST DAY

ANGLE ON: the exterior of a large, efficient-looking U.S. Air Force helicopter, hovering over the ocean.

SOLDIER (OC)

Stone Cutter, this is Osprey.
I copy. Out.

PVT. STINDEN (OC)

Osprey, what is the status of the event? Out.

INT. HELICOPTER DAY

The soldier is seated in the rear of helicopter, speaking into his headset.

SOLDIER

Event is beginning to have visible effects. Waters are getting choppy. We have level 4 and rising. Out.

INT. VIP ROOM IN MASONIC TEMPLE NIGHT

PVT. STINDEN

I copy that. Level 4. Osprey, will check in with you again at 21:15. Out.

Pvt. Stinden turns to speak to General MacCreary

PVT. STINDEN

Sea activity is at level 4, sir.

GENERAL MACCREARY

Thank you, Stinden.

(speaking to group)

The Yellow Sea has begun to react. Level 4 is a reading we would get after an strong earthquake, right before a tsunami.

SENATOR RICHARDS

So I guess it's show time.

Senator Richards looks at a monitor above Pvt. Stinden that shows Betty and Justin in the glass room.

SENATOR RICHARDS

I'm glad they're on our side.

Senator Richards shivers.

GENERAL MACCREARY

Are you alright, Joan?

SENATOR RICHARDS

I'm fine, I think.

(with a small nervous smile)

It feels like someone just walked over my grave.

LOC. "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

Betty walks through the hologram. Images of Chinese life at midday seem to drift up from the hologram as she passes.

BETTY

You know, I've always wanted to visit the Forbidden City. I've heard it's an architectural marvel.

(with mock sadness)

Now, there won't be anything of Beijing left - just clean, empty land. No pollution, no overcrowded tenements. Nice and tidy.

Betty turns to Justin. Her eyes have gone a bit crazy.

BETTY

Shall we begin?

JUSTIN

I hate you, mother. Let's get this over with.

Justin closes his eyes and takes a breath. The possibility field shimmers slightly.

ANGLE ON: Justin's face.

JUSTIN (VO)

The ocean is the mother of all life. Be the ocean, Mother.

ANGLE ON: Betty melts into the hologram sea.

BETTY (OC)

Aaaaah! This is amazing - beyond words! I can feel everything - the sea life, hot lava cracking rocks, the icy depths! It's so beautiful I could cry.

Justin spreads his arms and tilts his head back. He closes his eyes and inhales, and as he exhales, his body becomes a mist that rises and reforms in the shape of an albatross. He flies under a sunny sky, the shore in the distant background.

JUSTIN (OC)

Come, mother. Let's explore the land.

(CONTINUED)

BETTY (OC)
(her voice husky and
distracted)
What? Yes, I want to taste the
land. I want to swallow it up.

INT. LAB ROOM NIGHT

The hologram sea begins to roil. The heart and brain monitors show exceedingly rapid heart beats for Betty and Justin, who still seem to sleep deeply.

INT. VIP ROOM NIGHT

SECOND VIP WOMAN
(looking startled)
What is that? I feel something,
like a ... a prickling on my skin.

Second VIP woman looks at the monitor of Betty and Justin.

SECOND VIP WOMAN
What's happening?

SENATOR RICHARDS
(to General MacCreary)
I feel it too, an electricity up my
arms, but with a faint smell, like
after a lightning storm.

DOCTOR BARNES
(excited)
It's started! There is a palpable
increase in negative ions, oxygen
and humidity within a 200 meter
radius of the Horizon phenomenon.

GENERAL MACCREARY
(turns to Pvt. Stinden)
Stinden, what's going on at
location?

PVT. STINDEN
(into headset)
Osprey, this is Stone Cutter. What
is event status? Out.

INT. HELICOPTER

SOLDIER
 (shouting over high wind)
 Stone Cutter, event is at level 8
 and rising. Objective seems to be
 imminent. Out.

INT. VIP ROOM

PVT. STINDEN
 (to General MacCreary)
 Level 8, Sir. Objective imminent.

GENERAL MACCREARY
 It's started, right on time once
 again. Things should move rapidly
 from here.

SENATOR RICHARDS
 Here's to punctuality.

Senator Richards scans the faces in the room, then turns to
 give General MacCreary an intense look.

LOC. "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

Justin as albatross is reaching the shore.

JUSTIN
 (quoting the Bible)
 And it shall be cast out and
 drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

EXT. QINGDAO SEASHORE, CHINA DAY

The beach is deserted. Beach-side residents have noticed the
 dramatic shift in the weather, and those with nowhere else
 to go are all watching the ocean from the windows of their
 homes. Others have thrown their family into automobiles and
 are driving inland.

BETTY (OC)
 I am hungry.

The ocean swells mightily, and begins to move toward the
 land. The devastation begins. A beautiful old temple on a
 hill a half mile out in the water is engulfed. People
 watching from a cliff above the beach all cry out in fear.
 Then, palm trees along the beach are washed over. The swell

(CONTINUED)

of the ocean wave rises to greater height. The first buildings along the shore begin to be washed under. There is wide-eyed drowning, screaming.

BETTY (OC)

Come to me, be part of me! Don't be afraid - I am your true mother.

LOC. "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

Justin as albatross flies over the hologram sea that is engulfing the land. Horrible screams can be heard as images of devastation rise up and sink back into the hologram. The albatross turns a fiery red.

JUSTIN (OC)

I ... I can't do this. Oh God, please help me. Mother, please stop. Mother Stop! I can feel them dying! It's horrible!

BETTY

(fevered)

No. This is what must be. It is a cluttered desert here, all these ugly shapes! It must all be made cool and smoothe.

EXT. QINGDAO DAY

The ocean is engulfing the buildings of downtown Qingdao. The sea wave is 100 feet high. A family in the street looks up at the wave, frozen in disbelief. The father is crying and clutching his family's hands. The little girl urinates her pants and the wave engulfs them.

LOC. "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

JUSTIN (OC)

Mother stop! I won't do this. I won't do this anymore!

BETTY (OC)

Bones made of coral, eyes made of pearls. Suffer a sea-change into something rich & strange.

JUSTIN (OC)

(sounding broken)

Oh, my sweet Joe. Forgive me. I ... I can stop this.

INT. VIP ROOM

All are gathered to look up at the monitor of Betty and Justin above Pvt. Stinden. Data from the equipment monitoring Betty and Justin is shown on a panel.

SENATOR RICHARDS

Something is wrong. I know it.
Something's changed. Can't you feel
it?

(turning to General MacCreary)

George, I know you don't want to
hear this, but this is my call.
Stop them now. Now.

General MacCreary hesitates a few seconds, but the look in Senator Richard's eyes is firm. MacCreary picks up the receiver of a telephone by Pvt. Stinden.

GENERAL MACREARY

This is MacCreary. I want full stop
right now and immediate power cut
of the field amplification lab.

LOC. "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

The fiery red albatross circles the hologram sea, then maneuvers into a dive path.

BETTY (OC)

(recovering from her mania)
Justin, I can feel what are you
thinking. You weakling! Stop this
disgusting sniveling and get a hold
of yourself!

JUSTIN (OC)

We are through and we deserve to
die. There is no forgiveness for
this sin. I just want peace.

The hologram ocean has Betty's face. She looks up at the diving bird.

BETTY (OC)

I forbid you from taking me with
you, you fool. Wake up! Justin,
wake up!

INT. LAB ROOM NIGHT

Justin's forehead wrinkles, and his heart monitor is bleeping crazily, but he does not wake.

LOC. "POSSIBILITY FIELD" WORLD

JUSTIN (OC)

I love you, Mother. Forgive me,
Joe!

The flaming albatross crashes into the water. Betty screams.