The Ridge
The Tale of Cumbre Vieja

by

R.J. SMITH

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Rj@rjsmithproductions.com
(212) 365-4234
“It’s not a question of if Cumbre Vieja collapses, it’s simply a question of when.”

Dr. Simon Day, Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre, Department of Geological Sciences, University College, London, UK.

EXT. ISLAND OF TENERIFE – MORNING

Super: Candelaria, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

Descending from the clouds and towards the seaside coast of Candelaria.

EXT. BASILICA OF OUR LADY CANDELARIA – MORNING

The Guanches Kings statues loom along the seashore surrounded by thousands of expectant, CHEERING people, some of whom wave religious signs above their heads.

A motorcade of Sport Utility Vehicles and the Pope-mobile cuts a path through the EXCITED spectators and stops in front of the Basilica.

CNN reporter ANDERSON COOPER steps in front of a CAMERA MAN who is counting down from three as church bells GONG in the distance.

CAMERA MAN
(pointing to Anderson)
Three, two and... you’re live!

CAMERA POV

Anderson Cooper stares into the camera as the Pope, (CALLIXTUS IV, 59), steps from the Pope-mobile and is immediately surrounded by Cardinals and Security Team members.

ANDERSON COOPER
(Into the camera)
The popular Spanish Pope, Callixtus IV, has just arrived here at the Basilica of Our Lady Candelaria, the Patron Saint of the Canary Islands, for what has been dubbed the seaside salvation of souls...
Pope Callixtus IV cuts his hand through the air with the sign of the cross as he passes beneath the Guanches Kings statues and then towards the Basilica.

Beside the Pope a handsome looking man, (Cardinal JONATHAN, 45), appears to be explaining something.

SUDDENLY, thousands of birds take flight from the surrounding trees, filling the sky with their CRIES.

Cardinal Jonathan and the Pope POINT to them as they fly over the statues and out to sea.

ANDERSON COOPER (CONT’D)
(pointing in the distance)
A flock of birds seem to have been jolted from their perches and are flying over the Guanches Kings statues who are the guardians of the Virgin of Candelaria. With their backs to the sea and their faces to the basilica, these eternal monuments watch over the faithful here today just as they have for eternity.

CLOSE OF STATUES

The statues begin to TREMBLE.

One of them CRACKS in half and FALLS to the pavement with a THUMP.

People SCREAM and then RUN.

The Basilica is SHAKING violently, church bells GONG oddly.

A loud SCREECH escapes the bell-tower as it cracks down the middle, sending its bells CRASHING to the ground.

Cardinal Jonathan and the other Cardinals surround the Pope as Security Team personnel usher them towards the motorcade.

A sinkhole opens and swallows the Pope-mobile.

EXT. ROQUE DE LOS MUCHACHOS OBSERVATORY - MORNING

SUPER: Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain.

The William Herschel Telescope and adjoining buildings sit on the volcanic caldera.
Beside the buildings sits a twin-engine airplane on a short blacktop runway.

SUDDENLY, the ground QUAKES and the dome of the William Herschel Telescope collapses in on itself.

INT. A RESEARCH ROOM

A group of 7 MEN and one woman, (DR. TISH HARRIET, 40-something), wearing U.S.G.S. Polo shirts struggle to balance themselves in a SHAKING room lit by rows of florescent lights.

An alarm is BEEPING as a red light FLASHES on the wall.

A MAN, (PROFESSOR CHRIS GROSSMAN, late forties), glances at a wall full of SHAKING wall monitors.

Everyone stands in their place CALMLY, these are volcanologists and they live for this.

On one of the monitors, seismographic lines dance erratically.

On another, 5.9 Is BLINKING.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(urgently)
Notify GDACS and locate Professor May, immediately!

Dr. Tish Harriet picks up a phone and punches her finger onto the dial pad.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(speaking into phone)
This is Dr. Tish Harriet from the Palisades Hydrophone Station at the Cumbre Vieja Volcano. We are at this moment experiencing a quake!

Shelves full of scientific equipment TREMBLES then FALLS to the ground and SHATTERS.

The florescent lights EXPLODE one by one until the room is thrust into darkness.

EXT. GEOLOGICAL BASE CAMP - MORNING

SUPER: Grimsvotn Volcano, Iceland
An American geologist, (WILL SQUIRE, late forties), is staring into a hole in the ground where a tube-like monitoring device lies half buried.

A beat up Jeep Wrangler approaches while Iceland’s Grimsvotn volcano erupts far in the distance.

ANGLE ON JEEP

The Jeep bounces along the rough terrain, it’s engine roaring with life.

A English rugged crackerjack of a man, (DR. SAMUEL MAY, late forties), pulls the Jeep to a sudden stop beside Will Squire.

He climbs out of the Jeep and chuckles.

CLOSE SHOT

Dr. Samuel May points excitedly back at the volcano, then SLAPS Will on the back.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(English accent)
She’s all action and no talk, I tell you! Day six of moaning and groaning!

WILL SQUIRE
(chuckling)
That’s kind of what you get when you mess with girls.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(confused)
Huh? What’s that?

WILL SQUIRE
(waving in dismissal)
Never mind, professor, women are women, even when they’re volcanoes!

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(he gets it)
Oh, Yes! You have learned a thing or two.

Dr. Samuel May is interrupted by the sound of an approaching helicopter. He peers into the sky.
DR. SAMUEL MAY’S POV

DR. SAMUEL MAY (V.O.)
(perturbed)
What the hell is this, the media again?
(to Will)
Haven’t you told them to stay out of our testing area?

A white helicopter with United Nations painted along its side swoops down and lands in a swirl of dust.

A man, (LARRY MAGLEY, 30-something), wearing a “United Nations GDACS” jacket leaps from the aircraft, crouches down and hurries over to Sam.

LARRY MAGLEY
(loudly to Sam)
Professor May, I’m Larry Magley with the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System over at...

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(interrupting)
...United Nations, yeah, yeah. How are things back at GDACS, huh?

LARRY MAGLEY
Madam Under-Secretary General, Karin Soma and the Council requests your presence, sir!

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Karin sent you to pull my chain, huh? What is it? What’s biting her rump?

LARRY MAGLEY
It’s Cumbre Vieja, Professor.

WILL SQUIRE
(glancing at Sam)
The Old Summit? Damn.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(nodding)
Son of a gun!

LARRY MAGLEY
U.S.G.S. Volcano Hazards Program confirmed the data on the ground.
The three of them hurry beneath the spinning blades and JUMP into the chopper which quickly LEAPS into the sky.

INT. U.N. HELICOPTER

Larry Magley is sitting with the chopper pilot as Will and Sam sit silently in the back.

WILL SQUIRE
(to Sam)
Tish is in La Palma, isn’t she?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(concerned)
I’m afraid so.

WILL SQUIRE
Are you all right?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
I’ll be fine. Sometimes I wonder why we do this, working in two separate parts of the world, each not knowing what’s going on with the other.

WILL SQUIRE
Gotta be rough.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
What of you? Are you getting it on with a lassie of your own?

WILL SQUIRE
No, of course not! I don’t get it on! Well, not seriously.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
What then, you’re not a twink are you?

WILL SQUIRE
(shocked)
Gay? Of course not! What would make you think that?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
I simply inquired if you were getting it on with a lass and you went dramatically GLEE on me. What should I think, then?
WILL SQUIRE
(dramatically)
I’m not acting dramatic!

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(jokingly)
Oh, right, Simon Cowell.

WILL SQUIRE
I’m not a twink.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Right, it’s okay if you were, just
don’t start breaking out in show
 tunes, eh?

WILL SQUIRE
I’m not gay, and I don’t sing.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(looking out the window)
It doesn’t really matter, does it,
in the grand scope of the universe?

EXT. AN AIRPORT - DAY

SUPER: Keflavík International Airport, Iceland.

Larry Magley is waiting at the top air stair by the entrance
of a jet aircraft bearing the seal of the United Nations.

At the bottom stair Sam is speaking to Will.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
You have to lay it all out again to
the Prime Minister. Show the chap
the data and our model. He must
close the Underground.

WILL SQUIRE
I’ll get it done, Sam.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
I’ll have the United Nations and
GDACS deal with the American
President and the French.

WILL SQUIRE
Good luck with that! What about
Allen Edward? Is he going to be
there?
DR. SAMUEL MAY
(grunting)
Snob. I’m sure his Royal highness of Her Majesty’s Navy can’t wait to see me.

WILL SQUIRE
Who’s the snob? Allen Edward, the United States or the French?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Must I choose, really?

WILL SQUIRE
Hey, I’m American and don’t want to be labeled an enemy combatant for saying anything against my country.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
What happened to “yes we can” and the “candidate of change”?

WILL SQUIRE
(shrugging)
They still have Gitmo.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Guantanamo Bay doesn’t suit you.

Sam hurries up the air-stairs and turns back to Will who is waving.

WILL SQUIRE
Safe flight, Sam.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Oh Will? By the way, when does GLEE come on the telly?

WILL SQUIRE
(off guard)
Tuesday nights, eight o’clock.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(winking)
See what I mean?

EXT. UNITED NATIONS BUILDING, NEW YORK – DAY

SUPER: United Nations, New York
The flags of the United Nations wave in the wind as passersby move along the sidewalk.

FADE TO

INT. UNITED NATIONS - HALLWAY

Military personnel briskly lead a group of people along a long corridor bustling with activity.

Sam is holding a cellphone to his ear while staring into a Motorola Zoom Tablet as he follows the group.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(into phone)
Tish, how long before you’ve finished in the field?

CUT TO

EXT. CUBRE VIEJA VOLCANO - IN THE WOODS - DAY

Dr. Tish Harriet, wearing a small backpack, and Professor Grossman, are walking through the woods leading a RESEARCH TEAM of six men who are carrying shovels.

ANGLE ON TISH

Tish falls behind as she speaks into a satellite phone.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(into celphone)
Sam, we’re making our way to the transmitting pole. We have to get a manual reading because the quake knocked out the station’s AFM monitors.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(loudly to Tish)
Tish!

Tish peers towards Professor Grossman.

DR. TISH HARRIET POV

Professor Grossman is POINTING towards a huge sink-hole spewing steam directly in front of him and the team.
DR. TISH HARRIET
(into phone)
Sam? Sam! It’s begun!

CUT TO

INT. UNITED NATIONS - HALLWAY - FURTHER ALONG - DAY

Sam walks to a door with the seal of the United Nations on it.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(into phone)
Well, get your rumps off that rock!

He flips the phone closed, STARES at it, then PUSHES it into his pocket and walks through the doorway.

FADE TO

INT. UNITED NATIONS - CONFERENCE ROOM C

Dozens of international representatives and military personnel fill the room.

A horseshoe shaped dais is occupied by representatives of the United States, Britain, Morocco, Portugal, France, Ireland, the Bahamas, Cuba and Venezuela.

An English man in a suit, (DR. JACK ROBBINS, 60), is animatedly speaking to an African-American woman, (KARIN SOMA, 62).

Dr. Jack Robbins POINTS a laser at a huge video screen which displays a satellite image of the Canary Islands.

DR. JACK ROBBINS
(British accent)
That is why University College London has committed such time, energy, and, let me not remind this body of the money to run such research!

KARIN SOMA
(interrupting)
Yes, yes, of course. But what of the real catastrophic issue of the day? Be our hero, Dr. Robbins, will the volcano collapse or won’t it?
The door to the room pushes inward and all heads turn to see Dr. Samuel May holding a Motorola Tablet over his head.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(loudly, to Karin)
It’s not a question of if Cumbre Vieja collapses, it’s simply a question of when!

The crowd collectively GASPS as Dr. Samuel May walks down the isle to Dr. Jack Robbins.

DR. JACK ROBBINS
(whispering to Sam)
Oh, Samuel, thank God you have arrived!

KARIN SOMA
(waving him forward)
Dr. Samuel May. Yes, please, come forward and let us hear directly from the horse’s mouth, as it were.

Sam fills the empty space at the conference table, puts down his tablet, GRABS the laser from Dr. Jack and lights up La Palma, the smallest of the Canary Islands on the screen.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Madam Under-Secretary General, we await the birth of a disaster like modern man has never dared imagine!

KARIN SOMA
(arms wide)
Let it be known for the record, then?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(nodding)
We predict the collapse of Cumbre Vieja, an active volcanic ridge on Isla de La Palma, in the Canary Islands.

Loud protests erupt from the attendees.

EXT. PORT OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA PALMA - DAY
SUPER: Santa Cruz, Canary Islands.
The port is smoldering and lies in ruins.
A tall ship is sinking in the port as people JUMP from her bow and into the water.

A tugboat pulls along side the tall ship and SAILORS throw life-preservers to the people in the water.

SAILOR #1
(Spanish)
Nadar! nadar! Agarrar el salvavidas!

SUPER: Swim! Swim! Grab the life preservers!

A fog horn BLOWS and SAILOR #1 peers towards the sound.

SAILOR #1 POV

A huge cruise ship with VALENCIA painted along its side is sailing out of port.

INT. VALENCIA - CAPTAINS BRIDGE

A bald Hawaiian Man, (CAPTAIN GRAYSON MAKAL, late-fifties), is staring through binoculars.

CAPTAINS POV

Masking Shot - Through Binoculars

The tugboat SAILORS are pulling people out of the water and onto their deck.

ANGLE ON CAPTAIN MAKAL

Captain Maka SHAKES his head, lowers the binoculars and glances over to a Swedish man, (CHIEF MATE FERN NOORD, 30-something), who is PUSHING buttons on a control panel.

CAPTAIN MAKAL
Set a course, Fern. Get us to Tenerife!

CHIEF MATE NOORD
(Swedish accent)
Aye, aye, Captain, setting the course.
EXT. CAPTAINS BRIDGE - DAY

Through the window of the bridge, we see the Captain placing the binoculars back to his eyes.

We zoom out revealing the deck, bow and then the entire ship.

In the background buildings along the shoreline are ablaze, large plumes of smoke are swirling into the sky.

The fog horn BLOWS twice.

EXT. TENERIFE NORTH AIRPORT - DAY

The airport roof has collapsed, the windows are broken, the runway has multiple sink-holes in it.

An Italian Navy Agusta Bell SH-3D helicopter sits at the end of the runway surrounded with Security Team members.

PAN SHOT

A line of Sport Utility Vehicles crosses the tarmac and stops at the Italian Navy helicopter.

A group of Security Team members exit the vehicles and escort Pope Callixtus IV and his entourage aboard the helicopter.

INT. ITALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER - DAY

Pope Callixtus IV glances around the crowded chopper.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(spanish accent)
How many have we lost to this tragedy?

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(italian accent)
The numbers are said to be great, Most Holy Father.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
I feel as though I must do something, say something...

CARDINAL JONATHAN
And so you shall.
POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(spanish)
Unacceptable.

All eyes are on Pope Callixtus IV who is peering out the window, grasping a rosery and muttering an inaudible prayer.

POPE’S POV

The land below fades to the Santa Cruz coast when suddenly something CRASHES into the Pope’s window, staining it with blood.

ANGLE ON POPE

The Pope YELPS at the sight of the blood and FLINCHES at the sounds of something bombarding the exterior of the aircraft.

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(staring at the window)
Holy shit!

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(shocked, sternly)
Cardinal Jonathan!

EXT. ITALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER - DAY

The Italian Navy helicopter is engulfed by thousands of birds which are SLAMMING into the helicopter.

The jet-intake SUCKS a bird into its WHINING engine, smoke billows from it and the helicopter’s flight becomes erratic.

INT. ITALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER - COCKPIT - DAY

A FLASHING and BEEPING alarm gains the attention of the HELICOPTER PILOT and CO-PILOT who are busy pressing buttons.

HELICOPTER PILOT
(spanish accent)
Papal Flight 92, we have a Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard. Mayday, Mayday!

TOWER (V.O.)
(heavy spanish accent)
Roger, Papal 92, we have tracers on you.
HELICOPTER PILOT
I need a landing zone.

TOWER
Papal 92, there’s an Italian cruise ship at your ten o’clock with a helo deck.

HELICOPTER PILOT
Roger that, we’re going in.

The Pilot looks out his window.

EXT. ITALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER - DAY

The helicopter is trailing smoke from its engine as it descends towards the Valencia.

INT. ITALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER

The cabin SHAKES with turbulence as Pope Callixtus IV GRIPS his rosery beads.

The Cardinals are all deep in prayer.

The cockpit door opens and the co-pilot peers into the passenger area.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
What is happening?

HELICOPTER CO-PILOT
Your Holiness, we have experienced avian strikes and are about to land on an Italian flagged cruise ship.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
A cruise ship?

HELICOPTER CO-PILOT
Yes, holy father, it’s the safest place right now.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
Goodness gracious!

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(joking)
You always wanted to take an Italian cruise, Holy Father!
INT. VALENCIA BRIDGE - DAY

A SHIP RADIO OPERATOR removes headphones from his head, hurries across the bridge and calls out to Chief Mate Noord.

RADIO OPERATOR
Sir, we have a helo coming in hard for an emergency landing on deck one and you're not going to believe who is on board.

CHIEF MATE NOORD
(curious)
Well, try me.

RADIO OPERATOR
Shepard One.

CHIEF MATE NOORD
Shepard who?

RADIO OPERATOR
The Pope.

CHIEF MATE NOORD
Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

RADIO OPERATOR
No, just the pope.

CHIEF MATE NOORD
Cute, good timing.

EXT. VALENCIA - MAIN DECK - DAY

A YOUNG BOY wearing a NY Yankee baseball cap, (MICHAEL DELOSA, 12), is sitting in the whirlpool slurping coke through a straw while staring up at something.

MICHAEL
Wow!

Beside him, a woman, (JULIE DELOSA, 33), wearing a gold crucifix chain, tosses back a drink then WAVES to the waiter.

JULIE
(to waiter)
Yoo hoo! Hello! Margarita, double!

Next to Julie, a man, (TONY DELOSA, 35), holding a beer in his hand, is checking out a group of women by the pool.

Neither Julie nor Tony are paying any attention to Michael.
MICHAEL
(pointing into sky)
Chopper!

JULIE
(not paying attention)
What’s that, honey?

TONY
(winking at girls)
Leave your mother alone, Mike, she’s on vacation.

Julie notices her husband winking and backhands him in the head.

JULIE
What the hell are you doing, huh?
Don’t pull that Brooklyn street corner crap on me!

TONY
What? This is Spain and we’re on the biggest cruise ship in the world!

JULIE
(balling her fists)
What’s that got to do with it?

TONY
It’s a little wink, that’s all I’m saying.

JULIE
Are you effing kidding me right now? Anthony, a little wink? That makes it okay?

The waiter walks up with Julie’s Margarita.

TONY
It’s just a wink.
(pointing at drink)
Get your Margarita, will ya?

MICHAEL
(pointing into sky)
Dad! Mom! Look!

CLOSE SHOT

Tony and Julie look up into the sky, their faces fill with amazement.
TONY
This wasn’t in the brochure.

Julie GRABS Michael’s hand and PULLS him from the whirlpool while peering into the sky.

JULIE’S POV

The Italian Navy helicopter trailing a heavy plume of smoke is heading directly for the ship.

Pandemonium breaks out.

Passengers are exiting the pool and hurrying along the deck while looking into the sky.

Tony grabs Julie’s hand and begins to PULL her towards the back of the ship, but she resists.

JULIE
No, we go towards the front, away from the landing area.

TONY
What do you know about landing areas?

JULIE
I saw it on TV.

TONY
(sarcastically)
What, the Sopranos?

ANGLE ON ITALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER

The Italian Navy helicopter hovers erratically above the packed deck, its rotor blades are loudly cutting through the smoke filed air, the engine is SPARKING and WHINING.

INT. CAPTAINS BRIDGE

Captain Maka and a dozen officers are peering out the windows facing the helipad.

The Italian Navy helicopter HOVERS over the helipad and then COLLAPSES heavily on the landing target in a ball of ROARING flames.
EXT. VALENCIA - HELICOPTER PAD - DAY

The Italian Navy HELICOPTER sits engulfed in flames on the helipad, its rotor blades WHINING to a stop.

A group of men in white coveralls RUN onto the helipad with a hose and extinguish the fire with foam.

First Mate Noord approaches the chopper with a group of men, one of whom opens the helicopter door.

The security team members step from the chopper followed by Pope Callixtus IV and Cardinal Jonathan.

INT. VALENCIA - OBSERVATION DECK

Tony, Michael and Julie are staring through the windows of the observation deck surrounded by passengers.

In the distance the Pope and his entourage are following First Mate Noord away from the helicopter and disappear from view.

    TONY
    (ruffling Mikes hair)
    Ya see that, Mike? Even the Pope has problems!

    JULIE
    You’re going straight to hell! You know that, right, Anthony?

    TONY
    For what?

    JULIE
    Talking about the saints like that.

    TONY
    Whose talking about the saints? That’s the Pope, and he’s a man, not a saint.

    MICHAEL
    (glancing at Tony)
    Dad, you ain’t going to hell, are you?

    TONY
    Nah, don’t listen to your mother.

    JULIE
    The Pope is a saint.
MICHAEL
(to Tony)
You promise you’re not going to hell?

TONY
(looking at Julie)
See what you did here?

INT. UNITED NATIONS - CONFERENCE ROOM C - LATER

Dr. Samuel May is addressing the international representatives and military officers while tapping on the screen of the Motorola Zoom tablet.

As he does so, images of Cumbre Vieja change on the big screen behind him.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Hydrothermal explosions are what we believe are occurring within the stratovolcano.

KARIN SOMA
(to Sam)
And this will cause a collapse?

A computer generated video begins to play on the screen, displaying the volcano before an explosion.

ANGLE ON DR. SAMUEL MAY

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to Karin Soma)
Like none we have ever witnessed.

Sam taps on the tablet and a video generation changes to Cumbre Vieja exploding and sliding towards the ocean.

PAN SHOT

A GASP reverberates through the hundreds of attendees in the room, and then, dead silence as EVERYONE stares in shock at the screen.
Angie on Dr. Samuel May

Dr. Samuel May (Cont’d)

Hydrothermal explosions occur where shallow interconnected reservoirs of water, reaching temperatures as high as 250° Celsius, underlie thermal fields.

Karin Soma

(interrupting)

Doctor May, please, in plain English.

Dr. Samuel May

In layman’s terms, the western flank of the volcano will explode from superheated water inside the land mass.

Karin Soma

What of the warning systems? How long do we have from the first warning?

Dr. Samuel May

My wife, Dr. Tish Harriet and her Geological Hazards team received their first warning moments ago. A Lahar Detection System, acoustic-flow monitor, or A.F.M., has sent a thirty minute reading and I just learned the displacement of land mass has occurred.

Karin Soma

(shocked)

At this point I defer to the United Nations Security Council’s Staff Committee?

Karin glances over to a U.S. Navy Admiral (Lewis “Lew” Brancor, late-fifties), and British Royal Navy Admiral (Sir. Allen Edward, late-fifties) sitting beside her.

Sir Allen Edward

What are we considering here, then? Some sort of disaster heading towards the Queen’s subjects?

Dr. Samuel May

Admiral, indeed, our country is facing severe flooding.

(More)
The Underground should be closed immediately.

Dr. Samuel May walks to the dais and points at the other representatives as he mentions their country.

However, the larger picture is the severe tsunami threat to western Morocco, Portugal, France and Ireland. The Bahamas and Cuba will both cease to exist as we know them.

CUBAN MILITARY OFFICER
(spanish accent)
What shall this body have us do, sail off to Miami? Absolutely not.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
(to Dr. Samuel May)
Surely you cannot be serious? All this from an earthquake in the Canaries? Rubbish, this is a load of tosh, professor.

VENEZUELA REPRESENTATIVE
(clearing his throat)
We must consider this more carefully, I think.

Admiral Brancor clears his throat, nods to the Venezuelan Representative and taps a pencil on the table.

ADmiral Brancor
(pointing to Sam)
Professor, you have some kind of bottom line...
(pointing to dais)
...for us, don’t you?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
A bottom line?

ADmiral Brancor
(to Sam)
Some kind of time-line, a call of action, a plan we should undertake?
DR. SAMUEL MAY
(disturbed)
Didn’t Capitol Hill, on June 14, 2011, meet with East Coast, Caribbean and Gulf Coast officials to discuss tsunami warning capabilities and the need for better preparedness?

A DELEGATE walks up to the dais and hands out folders to the members.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
(reading from folder)
The likelihood of an east coast tsunami would likely...
(to Sam)
This is bonkers, what’s this have to do with us across the pond?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to the panel)
NOAA's National Weather Service organized the federal-state conference. You should have those plans.

Dr. Samuel May taps on the tablet and a film generated scenario displays the western flank of Cumbre Vieja sinking into the ocean and the resulting tsunami wave model.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
Tsunami? Is that what we’re really talking about?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to the dais)
Get your fleets and people out of the Atlantic, gentlemen. There’s a monster heading our way.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(pointing to screen)
That’s unacceptable, professor, there has been an earthquake, no tsunami.

PORTUGAL REPRESENTATIVE
(to Karin Soma)
We shall do what is needed to protect our people, but we must leave now to prepare.
KARIN SOMA
(to Portugal Rep)
Certainly.
(to the dais members)
And to those of you who need to
leave, please do so at your
leisure, we’ll have no protocol
today.

The Portugal Representative shakes Dr. Samuel May’s hand then
walks from the room with underlings from the pews.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
(slamming his hand on
table)
Preposterous predictions!
There has been a quake off the
African coast, nothing more to
indicate what you propose here
today!

FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE
(to Sir Allen Edward)
Thankfully you do not speak for the
French, sir.

The French Representative hurriedly walks from the room with
a group of his underlings from the pews.

IRELAND REPRESENTATIVE
(standing up)
I will notify the Prime Minister of
Ireland. He will, as best he can,
start evacuations.

The Irish Representative beckons a few of his underlings from
the pews and walks out of the room.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
(loudly to Dr. Samuel May)
You’re causing a panic sir! This is
an atrocity of misjudgment!

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(shaking his head)
When this volcano explodes Allen,
and it will explode, England will
have three hours until floods
inundate southern Britain, drowning
London’s Underground.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
Don’t you dare call me Allen! It’s
Sir Allen Edward!
(MORE)
SIR ALLEN EDWARD (CONT' D)
How dare you propose this rubbish. These are the ramblings of a university professor!

KARIN SOMA
(to Sir Allen Edward)
With all due respect, Professor May is here at GDACS invitation precisely due to his expertise in Vulcanology and Geological Hazards at the University of London.

SIR ALLEN EDWARD
(to Dr. Samuel May)
A disgrace to the throne!

BAHAMIAN REPRESENTATIVE
(to Dr. Samuel May)
Is there anything I can tell my people? Any way for us to survive?

Dr. Samuel May walks approaches the stone faced Bahamian and places his hand on the representatives shoulder.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
I’m afraid I haven’t an answer for you. The scale of catastrophe is so great.

KARIN SOMA
(to the Bahamian)
We will immediately be sending evacuation planes to Nassau.

BAHAMIAN REPRESENTATIVE
But what of the other islands, Madam?

KARIN SOMA
(shaking her head)
I’m sorry, you must get your people to Nassau.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Sam)
And the United States? What are we to expect here?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(walking to the Admiral)
Waves a hundred and fifty feet high will cross the Atlantic and wipe out North and South America's eastern seaboard.
ADMIRAL BRANCOR
Hundreds of thousands will die!

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Tens of millions.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(sarcastically)
That’s one hell of a bottom line.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Rock bottom.

The room erupts with chaotic conversations between the attendees.

CLOSE OF ADMIRAL BRANCOR

Admiral Brancor pulls a cellphone from his pocket and dials a number while glancing around the room.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(into the phone)
Get me the President.

The door to the conference room SLAMS open and a PAIGE hurries in.

PAIGE
(excitedly)
Madam Under-Secretary, the Vatican requests you on the phone, at once!

KARIN SOMA
What is it?

PAIGE
The Pope’s helicopter crash landed on a cruise ship off the island of La Palma!

Admiral Brancor walks up to Sam and hands him the phone.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(grabbing the phone)
What’s this?

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
The President of the United States.
INT. CNN NEWS STUDIO

A television news studio is bursting with activity as news anchor, TJ HOLMES, stares into a camera.

            TJ HOLMES
            Good afternoon from New York. This is continuing news on the earthquake in the Canary Islands.

Behind TJ a large screen bursts to life displaying the image of ANDERSON COOPER standing in front of the Basilica of Our Lady Candelaria.

            TJ HOLMES (CONT’D)
            For that report and startling information regarding the Pope, we first take you live to CNN International Correspondent, Anderson Cooper, on the island of Tenerife.

TJ turns to the large screen.

            TJ HOLMES (CONT’D)
            Anderson, what’s going on over there?

ZOOM IN TO SCREEN

EXT. BASILICA OF OUR LADY CANDELARIA - DAY

Anderson Cooper is standing in front of the sink hole containing the pope-mobile.

            ANDERSON COOPER
            TJ, the situation here on the ground is shaky. It was supposed to be a day of worship and joy, but for thousands of faithful Catholics awaiting the blessing of Pope Callixtus IV, things went south fast as the earth shook beneath our feet.

FLASHBACK

EXT. BASILICA OF OUR LADY CANDELARIA - MORNING

The Pope steps from the Pope-Mobile and glances towards a flock of birds.
ANDERSON COOPER (V.O.)
As Pope Callixtus IV was about to
greet his flock and attend the
annual Festivity of Our Lady of
Candelaria’s Ascension of the
Virgin, the faithful ran for
something more sure.

The earthquake begins and people run.
The Pope-Mobile falls into a sinkhole.
The security team members push the Pope into an SUV and it
speeds away.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. CNN NEWS STUDIO

TJ Holmes is staring at the screen containing the image of
Anderson Cooper.

ANDERSON COOPER
That celebration has been postponed
due to the quake as the Holy
Father was evacuated from the
island.

TJ HOLMES
Anderson, thanks for that report.
We’ll check in with you a little
later. We take you now to our
Foreign Correspondent, Dan Rivers,
who is in Vatican City.

The image on the screen changes to CNN reporter DAN RIVERS in
Saint Peters Square.

TJ HOLMES (CONT’D)
(looking at screen)
Dan, I imagine things are pretty
tense there in Rome.

ZOOM IN TO SCREEN

EXT. ST. PETERS SQUARE – DAY

People circle Dan Rivers who is holding a CNN microphone and
staring into a camera.
DAN RIVERS
Yes, TJ, that's a good assessment here in Vatican City where crowds are gathering in a vigil for their Pope, who at this hour is stranded at sea.

A film clip replaces the live report.

EXT. VALENCIA - MAIN DECK - DAY

A JUMPY scene of the fiery Italian Navy helicopter as it hovers over the passengers on the main deck.

DAN RIVERS (V.O.)
It didn’t take long for a passenger to post this video on U-Tube of the Pope’s helicopter making a crash-landing on the cruise ship Valencia.

The blades loudly cut through the air. Plumes of smoke trail behind the helicopter as it collapses in a ball of flames on the helipad.

DAN RIVERS (V.O.)
Late this afternoon, a Vatican spokesperson confirmed that this helicopter did in fact have the Pope on board, but that he was not injured and is stranded on the ship.

The clip ends and brings us back live in the studio.

INT. CNN NEWS STUDIO

TJ Holmes is staring at the screen containing the image of Dan Rivers in St. Peters Square.

TJ HOLMES
Has there been any word from the governing body at the Vatican?

DAN RIVERS
Yes, TJ.

Dan Rivers POINTS towards Saint Peter's Basilica.
DAN RIVERS (CONT’D)
I spoke with the Secretary
Cardinal's office a few minutes ago
and I was advised that a meeting is
taking place at this hour to
discuss possible rescue plans.

INT. SAINT PETERS BASILICA – AN OFFICE

A short, overweight Cardinal, (CARDINAL MANNING, 70), hangs
up a land-line telephone, stares at it, then moves aside
curtains and peers at the vigil outside.

    MONK (V.O.)
        (Italian accent)
        What is it, Your Eminence?

Cardinal Manning turns and faces a room full of somber
looking cardinals, priests and monks.

    CARDINAL MANNING
        (Italian accent)
        Notify The College of Cardinals.

A monk steps forward from the group.

    MONK
        Cardinal Secretary, what shall be
        the message?

    CARDINAL MANNING
        Tell them to prepare themselves...

    MONK
        Yes, Cardinal Secretary?

Cardinal Manning turns back to the window and stares through
it again at the crowded square below.

    CARDINAL MANNING
        ...and to pray for a miracle.

EXT. CUBRE VIEJA VOLCANO – IN THE WOODS – DAY – MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Tish Harriet and Professor Grossman hurriedly lead the
six men of the research team through the woods.

    PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
        (yelling)
        We have to get out of here!
DR. TISH HARRIET
(confused)
It shouldn’t be happening like this!

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
But, it is.

DR. TISH HARRIET
That steam vent we just saw, it’s just like...

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(interrupting)
The vents of the 1949 eruption where San Juan, Hoyo Negro and Duraznero opened.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(interrupting)
But, lava erupted in 1949!

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
It’s coming, just like the earthquake epicenters near Jedy.

DR. TISH HARRIET
Damn it!

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
Back in ‘49, the quakes caused the fracture which moved the western half of the Cumbre Vieja ridge about one meter sideways and two meters downwards towards the Atlantic Ocean!

Suddenly the ground QUAKEs and the trees TREMBLE.

ANGLE ON TISH

DR. Tish Harriet braces herself against a tree stump.

A loud EXPLOSION of earth ERUPTS and swallows five of the researchers, their SCREAMS fill the air.

A massive volcanic steam vent spews from the hole.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(screaming)
Ruuuuuuuuun!
Dr. Tish Harriet, Professor Grossman and the last remaining researcher are RUNNING as a HUGE boulder shoots from the vent and CRASHES atop the researcher, crushing him.

Behind Dr. Tish Harriet, Professor Grossman STUMBLES and FALLS to the ground.

CLOSE OF PROFESSOR GROSSMAN

Kneeling and frozen with fear, he peers at something.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN POV

A few feet away, the dead Researcher’s mangled arm is sticking from beneath the boulder.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(looking at boulder)
Noooooo000000!

DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)
(distant)
Professor!

He glances around at the downed trees and the steam vent.

DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)
(louder)
Professor!

ANGLE ON DR. TISH HARRIET

Dr. Tish Harriet GRABS Professor Grossman’s arm, PULLS him to his feet and SLAPS him across the face.

DR. TISH HARRIET
Snap out of it!

EXT. ROQUE DE LOS MUCHACHOS OBSERVATORY - DAY

DR. Tish Harriet and Professor Grossman SPRINT from the woods and race along the blacktop runway.

They jump into the twin-engine airplane.

INT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - DAY

The airplane is trembling.
Dr. Tish Harriet shakes off her backpack, TOSSES it into the back then PUSHES the ignition button.

Nothing happens.

    DR. TISH HARRIET
    (to the instrument panel)
    Come on, damn it!

    PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
    (to Tish)
    Oh, my God, its not going to start!

Tish frantically PUSHES the start button again.

EXT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - DAY

The blades of the airplane spin a few times and then stop.

In the background, the volcano RUMBLES and spews STEAM and ASH into the air.

INT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Tish Harriet is FLIPPING switches and PRESSING the start button.

The sound of the engine turns over, catches, then fails.

    PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
    (urgently)
    Come on, Tish, come on!

    DR. TISH HARRIET
    (desperately to plane)
    Start, you son of a bitch!

She PUNCHES the start button again, the engine turns over and ROARS to life.

Tish SLAMS the throttles forward, screaming.

    DR. TISH HARRIET (CONT’D)
    (to the airplane)
    Mooooove! You’re! Assssssssss!

EXT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER

The ash covered-plane speeds down the runway just as the western flank of the volcano EXPLODES.
Lava races down the ridge towards the tarmac.

INT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER

Professor Grossman is in a panic. He POINTS through the windshield-wipers which are removing the ash, towards the advancing lava flow.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
It's going to cut off our path!

Dr. Tish Harriet glances out the window.

DR. TISH HARRIET POV
The FIERY RED lava is making its way onto the blacktop runway.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(confidently)
No, we're gonna make it!

She pulls back on the trembling yoke.

EXT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - DAY

Lava floods the runway just as the tires LEAP from the blacktop.

In the background the lava drowns the telescopes and sets everything on fire.

INT. VALENCIA BRIDGE - DAY

Captain Maka shakes the pope's hand and then Cardinal Jonathan.

The Cardinals surround them.

CAPTAIN MAKA
(to the Pope)
Well, Father, this is a surprise.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(interrupting)
Captain, please address me as Holy Father.
CAPTAIN MAKA
(nodding to Pope)
Oh, yes, of course. My apologies.
I’m afraid I don’t get out much.

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(joking)
I would have said thanks for dropping in.

The group laughs.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Cardinal Jonathan)
Yes, you would have.

Pope Callixtus IV guides the captain to the window.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV (CONT’D)
(somberly)
Captain, Cardinal Jonathan is quite unorthodox, but we have to work with what we have, isn’t that right?

CAPTAIN MAKA
(chuckling)
We all have our ways. I just hope our passengers behave themselves with you on board.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
If they are anything like Cardinal Jonathan, I’m sure we will make the best of it.

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(to Pope)
You might have margarita’s and piña colada’s lined up outside your cabin door.

CAPTAIN MAKA
(smiling to Pope)
Well, that actually might happen...

Through the bridge windows the twin engine airplane can be seen flying over the bow.

The Radio Operator removes a pair of large headphones from his head and urgently calls to the Captain.

RADIO OPERATOR
Captain, you need to hear this!
The captain walks over to the Radio Operator and nods his head.

The Radio Operator flips a switch and the sounds of a VHF radio fill the bridge.

**DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)**

(VHF radio transmission)

INT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - LATER

Professor Grossman peers over Dr. Tish Harriet as she stares out her window.

**DR. TISH HARRIET POV**

The Valencia lies below in the ocean.

INT. VALENCIA BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

The Radio Operator presses a transmit.

**RADIO OPERATOR**

U59838, this is MV Valencia, what is your emergency?

INT. TWIN ENGINE AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER

The Valencia is visible below as Tish continues to stare out the window.

**DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)**

(VHF radio transmission)
This is Dr. Harriet with the Hazard Research Center. We were just forced to flee La Palma due to the catastrophic eruption of the Cubre Vieja volcano.

INT. VALENCIA BRIDGE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Maka is staring through his binoculars as First Mate Noord stands beside him.
CAPTAIN MAKA POV  
Masking Shot - Through Binoculars

The twin engine aircraft is waving its wings in the sky.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)  
(pressing transmit button)  
U59838, how may we assist you?

DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)  
(VHF radio transmission)  
Your vessel is in imminent danger!  
A volcano is about to collapse into the sea causing a tsunami.

ANGLE ON CAPTAIN MAKA

Captain Maka hands the binoculars to First Mate Noord, then hurries to the Radio Operator SNAPPING his fingers to get everyone’s attention.

CAPTAIN MAKA  
All hands! Ready the ship for an emergency!

DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)  
(VHF radio transmission)  
You must navigate to the east coast of Tenerife! Do you copy? The port is your only hope!

CAPTAIN MAKA  
(to Chief Mate Noord)  
What’s our ETA?

CHIEF MATE  
(looking at navigation panel)  
We’re making our way past Roque de Anaga off our starboard Captain, twenty minutes, tops.

CAPTAIN MAKA  
(an order)  
Get us there in ten, full speed ahead! Just in case this is right.

Captain Maka leans over the Radio Operator and PRESSES the transmit button.
CAPTAIN MAKA (CONT’D)
(onto microphone)
Dr. Harriet, this is Captain Maka
on board MV Valencia, please
validate your identity.

Only heavy static answers him.

CAPTAIN MAKA (CONT’D)
(onto mic)
USGS U59838, Dr. Harriet, this is
MV Valencia, please respond.

Only heavy static answers him as he walks over to First Mate
Noord, grabs the binoculars and peers through them.

CAPTAIN MAKA POV

The airplane is no longer visible.

CAPTAIN MAKA (CONT’D)
(barking orders)
Let’s go, people! Initiate the
General Emergency Signal and blast
out our GPS distress coordinates. I
want everyone at their emergency
stations with life-vests on!

INT. VALENCIA - SHOW LOUNGE

PASSENGERS fill the 1000 seat lounge to capacity as a COMIC
paces back and forth on stage.

CLOSE SHOT

COMIC
...and kids, right? I mean, has
there ever been anything remotely
funny about Ronald McDonald?
Honestly, is anyone actually buying
the whole yellow shoe, I’m your red
headed buddy shtick?

The audience laughs.

COMIC (CONT’D)
(shaking his head)
I took my kids to mickey-dees for
the millionth time last week and on
the counter I see that little box
for Ronald McDonald house.
Someone from the audience yells.

A VOICE (O.S.)
Sucker!

The Comic stops pacing, STARES into the audience and MOTIONS into it.

COMIC
Oh, they got you guys too, huh?

The audience claps and the comic shakes his head.

COMIC (CONT’D)
Donations for Ronald McDonald house? Really? Honestly? What are they building, a fucking mega mansion? The donation box has been on that counter since I was five years old.

The Comic is interrupted as the General Emergency Signal sounds consisting of seven short BEEPS followed by one long BEEP.

CRUISE DIRECTOR (V.O.)
(over the loudspeaker)
Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, this is your cruise director.

CUT TO

INT. VALENCIA - BUFFET LINE

A long line of passengers are waiting for burgers to come off the grill.

CRUISE DIRECTOR (V.O.)
(through PA system)
As you have heard, the Captain has initiated the General Emergency Signal. Please return immediately to your cabins, retrieve your life jackets and report to your muster stations.

A FILIPINO COOK stops turning burgers behind the buffet line and tries to close the window separating him from the waiting passengers.
PASSENGER #1
(grabbing the window)
What the heck is going on here?

FILIPINO COOK
(in broken English)
No more food, you must go to your emergency station.

PASSENGER #2
(slamming hand on window)
I want my burger!

EXT. A FISHING BOAT - DAY

An AFRICAN MAN watches over a group of people fishing from the back of the boat.

A loud RUMBLING occurs.

ZOOM OUT

The western ridge of Cumbre Vieja EXPLODES sending ROCKS and TREES into the ocean like bombs.

The volcano ridge COLLAPSES and slides into the Atlantic Ocean with a CRACKING, lava filled splash.

A dome of water RISES a mile high (Day et al. 1999[6] and Ward and Day 2001 - scientific fact) and then COLLAPSES back to the surface.

A TSUNAMI wave 1900 feet high (Day et al. 1999[6] and Ward and Day 2001 - scientific fact) RACES towards the boat and crushes it.

The tsunami rolls into the open ocean.

CUT TO

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE - DAY

A STEWARDESS is walking down a SMOKY isle holding a handkerchief to her nose.

A FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Miss, oh Miss, it smells like sulfur in here!

The Stewardess turns to face an OLDER WOMAN seated next to a coughing FAT MAN.
OLDER WOMAN
I said, it smells like matches in here. Is someone smoking?

FAT MAN
(breathing heavily)
I have asthma, who’s smoking on this plane?

STEWARDESS
(to the passengers)
I’ll go check the bathroom, I’m sure it’s someone sneaking in a puff or two.

BALD MAN
(pointing out window)
The engine is glowing!

STEWARDESS
I’m sure it’s not glowing.

BALD MAN
(pointing out window)
Don’t tell me its not fucking glowing! Look out the window!

The Stewardess LEANS over the Bald Man and peers through his window.

STEWARDESS POV
The wing and engine are glowing, creating a St. Elmo’s Fire effect of a bright blue and violet glow, appearing like fire.

ANGLE ON STEWARDESS
The Stewardess RUSHES down the isle toward the cockpit, ignoring the CALLS of the Jet Passengers.

The plane begins to SHAKE with turbulence.

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE – COCKPIT
The Stewardess rushes through the cockpit door.

STEWARDESS
(very nervous)
We have a fire in the number two engine.
JET PILOT
It’s not a fire. We flew through ash from an erupting volcano.

An alarm is BEEPING on the control panel.

JET CO-PILOT
We just lost number two.

JET PILOT
(to stewardess)
Strap yourself into the jump seat.

EXT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE

CLOSE OF ENGINE

The jet engine STOPS spinning on the right wing.

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE - COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

The JET PILOT and JET CO-PILOT shake in their seats from the turbulence.

The Stewardess is strapped into the jump seat behind the Jet Pilot.

 STEWARDESS
(to co-pilot)
What volcano erupts this high?

JET CO-PILOT
(over the shoulder)
All of them. The last major air traffic disruption was in April 2010.

JET PILOT
Four thousand flights were cancelled from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

JET CO-PILOT
In June 1982 Captain Moody was on board British Airways when they encountered an ash plume from the erupting Mount Galunggung in Java, Indonesia.
Then, in 1989 a Boeing 747 en route to Tokyo, Japan suffered failure of all four engines when it flew through volcanic ash thrown up by Mount Redoubt in Alaska.

Suddenly, the alarm BEEPS again and a computer generation of the 777 shows the number one engine under the left wing.

A red FLASHING light blinks FAIL.

JET PILOT
(interrupting)
Then, in 1989 a Boeing 747 en route to Tokyo, Japan suffered failure of all four engines when it flew through volcanic ash thrown up by Mount Redoubt in Alaska.

Suddenly, the alarm BEEPS again and a computer generation of the 777 shows the number one engine under the left wing.

A red FLASHING light blinks FAIL.

JET CO-PILOT
(pointing at console)
Total engine failure, but nothing that should prevent a landing despite the turbulence.

JET PILOT
Get us on the ground. What’s the nearest tarmac?

JET CO-PILOT
(looking at navigation)
Tenerife North.

JET PILOT
Let’s do it.

JET CO-PILOT
(flipping a switch)
Tenerife North tower, this is Global Air 2291, we have lost engines and request an emergency landing pattern.

No Response.

JET CO-PILOT (CONT’D)
Global 2291 to Tenerife tower, we request immediate landing.

No response.

JET PILOT
(to co-pilot)
How far out are we?

JET CO-PILOT
100 miles.
JET PILOT
Let’s take her down and let them worry about the radio outage later.

JET CO-PILOT
Roger that.

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER

The Jet Passengers are SCREAMING as the turbulence SHAKES them in their seats.

The over-head compartments jostle themselves open, their contents falling onto the passengers.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

A GIGANTIC wave is TUMBLING toward the western coast of Tenerife, Spain.

EXT. PUERTO SANTIAGO BEACH - SPAIN - DAY
HELICOPTER SHOT
SUPER: Tenerife, Spain.

It is summer and the natural rock-pools of the Barcelo Santiago Hotel are packed with SWIMMERS.

ANGLE ON

A drop dead model-like SPANISH WOMAN steps from the ROCK pools, PUSHES back her long hair, then wraps a Sarong around her waist.

She begins climbing the concrete stairs leading from the beach to the hotel.

Someone screams.

A VOICE (O.S.)
Ruuuuuuuuuuun!

The Spanish Woman glances over her shoulder.

SPANISH WOMAN POV

BEACHGOERS are POINTING towards the ocean as groups of BATHERS in the rock-pools wade frantically towards shore.
OS SPANISH WOMAN

The giant tsunami wave in the distance speeds towards the shore.

ANGLE ON SPANISH WOMAN

The Spanish Woman SPRINTS up the concrete stairs.

BARCELO SANTIAGO HOTEL - POOL AREA

The Spanish Woman and dozens of HOTEL GUESTS are RUNNING through the pool area and down the white steps leading to a Street.

EXT. HONURA STREET - DAY

The Spanish Woman and hundreds of TOURISTS are RUNNING past a "Volcano Evacuation" sign.

A SPANISH MAN trips to the pavement in front of Route 66 Bar and is TRAMPLED.

FURTHER ALONG HONURA STREET

The Tourists continue past Ninos II Pizzeria where a WAITER is POINTING from a second story open air window.

WAITER
(yelling)
Una ola, Se dirige directamente a nosotros!

SUPER: A wave! It’s heading straight at us!

WAITER POV

The tsunami wave is CRASHING into the beach side hotels and GUSHING through the buildings.

HELIICOPTER SHOT

The tsunami engulfs Honura Street, washing away cars and people, carrying them on its current through the street.
ANGLE ON SPANISH WOMAN

The Spanish woman is STRUGGLING to stay afloat as she is swept down the street.

CLOSE OF SPANISH WOMAN

FLAPPING her arms wildly, bobbing beneath and then above the water surface.

She is drowning.

SPANISH WOMAN

(struggling)
Que Dios me ayude!

SUPER: God save me!

She slips beneath the surface.

FADE TO

INT. BENEATH THE WATER SURFACE - DAY

The Spanish Woman’s lifeless body sinks into the abyss.

FADE TO

INT. ATLANTIC OCEAN

Hundreds of species of fish, seemingly in a panic, are swimming frantically under the hull of a huge ship.

RISING through the water we break through the surface.

EXT. VALENCIA - DAY

The Valencia is sailing on smooth seas about a mile off the coast of the island of Tenerife.

ZOOMING IN

The middle deck is crowded with hundreds of passengers wearing ORANGE life vests.
First Mate Noord is escorting the Pope and his entourage of Cardinals and Security Team Member’s through a crowd of staring SHIP PASSENGERS.

In the background an Asian Man (CRUISE DIRECTOR, 30-something) is moving along the deck speaking into a megaphone as he notices the Pope.

OS CRUISE DIRECTOR

CRUISE DIRECTOR
(pointing at the Pope)
Please, ladies and gentlemen, welcome Holy Father Callixtus the Fourth on board the Valencia.

People CLAP and WAVE as the Pope and his entourage follow First Mate Noord into a line of Ship Passengers containing Tony, Michael and Julie Delosa.

MICHAEL
(glancing up at Tony)
I guess you’re not going to hell after all, dad!

TONY
(to Michael)
There is no hell, son.

JULIE
(upset)
Just hush, for once!

The Pope TURNS and stares at Tony, then GLANCES down at Michael.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Michael)
What is your name, young fellow?

MICHAEL
(pointing to himself)
I’m Michael.
(pointing to Tony)
That’s my dad.
(grabbing Julie’s hand)
And this is my mom.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(nodding to Julie)
Bless you.
(MORE)
POPE CALLIXTUS IV (CONT'D)
(to Tony in Spanish)
Usted está en mis oraciones.

CRUISE DIRECTOR (V.O.)
(in the background)
The captain asks that we do not use radios or cellphones from this point on as this is a precautionary drill and he wants everyone to be aware of his instructions.

TONY
(Italian)
Ha appena detto qualcosa su di me?

SUPER: Did he just say something about me?

JULIE
(to Tony)
He said you’re an idiot.

TONY
Really? He can do that?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(turning to Tony)
I said you are in my prayers.

TONY
(deer in headlights)
Oh.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(pointing to himself)
I speak eight languages.
(pointing into the sky)
But he speaks more.
(smiling at Julie)
Perhaps it is you I should be praying for.

Julie GIGGLES.

JULIE
I need all the prayers I an get, father.

CRUISE DIRECTOR (O.S.)
(distant)
There is going to be a surge in the waves and we expect the ship to rock back and forth so listen closely for safety instructions.
POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Michael)
You know, young Michael, you are
named after one of the greatest of
angels.

MICHAEL
(smiling at Julie)
I know, my mom talks about him.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Julie - Italian)
Bene.
(to Michael)
Which angel is your favorite?

MICHAEL
I like Gabriel the best.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Michael)
The Archangel of dreams. Why
Gabriel?

MICHAEL
I have, like, lots of dreams.

Pope Callixtus IV smiles, bends over and kisses Michael on
the head.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(in Italian)
Benedici questo bambino e dei suoi
sogni.

SUPER: Bless this child and his dreams.

PAN TO

The Cruise Director is standing next to a FEMALE SAFETY
INSTRUCTOR who is demonstrating how to inflate the life vest
by BLOWING into a tube connected to the vest.

CRUISE DIRECTOR
(into megaphone)
You can inflate the life vest by
blowing into the tube.
(pointing at instructor)
Just like our beautiful Safety
Instructor.

Over the Cruise Director's shoulder a Boeing 777 Airplane
FAST approaches at very low altitude.
ZOOM TO BOEING 777 AIRPLANE

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE – COCKPIT – LATER

The Jet Pilot and Co-Pilot are looking at their instruments.

OS JET PILOT

Through the cockpit window the Valencia lies below in the distance, her decks are filled with people wearing orange life vests.

JET PILOT
(to co-pilot)
Two thousand feet, lower the nose.

JET CO-PILOT
(pushing the yoke forward)
Roger, lowering the nose.

Beyond the Valencia, the island of Tenerife is visible.

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE – CABIN – MOMENTS LATER

The cabin continues to shake with turbulence.

Oxygen masks FALL from their compartments over the heads of the fright filled Jet Passengers.

JET PILOT (V.O.)
(intercom)
This is your captain. I know the ride is rough, but we are not expecting any trouble. We will be on the ground within a few minutes.

The Jet Passengers CHEER.

INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE – COCKPIT – MOMENTS LATER

The pilot has control of the yoke and the Co-pilot is PRESSING buttons and FLIPPING switches.

JET CO-PILOT
One thousand feet and descending, (beat) manual landing. Emergency power, (beat) now we’re at 500 feet.
The Pilot peers through the cockpit window, his face FILLS with panic.

**JET PILOT**
(screaming - pulling on yoke)
Ah, shiiiit!

**JET CO-PILOT**
(glancing up at window)
Oh my God!

**JET PILOT POV**
The runway, potted with sink-holes lies just below them.

**EXT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER**
The Boeing 777 HITS the runway with a CRASH.
The landing gear on the left side SMASHES up into the wing and the right side wheels collapse with a booming CRUNCH.
SPARKS fly.

**INT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE - CABIN - MOMENTS LATER**
The passengers are SCREAMING with panic and the cabin is SHAKING violently.

**EXT. BOEING 777 AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER**
The airplane is SKIDDING on it’s belly (SCREECH) along the runway throwing up SPARKS.
The plane SLAMS into a sinkhole and the Boeing 777 FLIPS over RIPPING away its wings and causing a huge fiery EXPLOSION.

**ZOOM INTO THE FIRE**

**CUT TO**

**EXT. VALENCIA - MAIN DECK - LATER**
A match head is on fire.
Zooming out, a CRUISE SHIP EMPLOYEE is lighting a cigarette surrounded by a dozen CRUISE SHIP PERSONNEL.
One of these is a SAFETY OFFICER who points at the Cruise Ship Employee.

SAFETY OFFICER

(seriously)
Put that out.

The Cruise Ship Employee FLICKS the butt over the rail.

ANGLE ON CIGARETTE BUTT

The cigarette butt falls towards the ocean but blows back to the deck below.

EXT. VALENCIA DECK SIX - LATER

The cigarette butt HITS the CRUISE DIRECTOR’S sleeve and it falls to the wooden deck.

The Cruise Director looks around, SHAKES his head and continues into the megaphone.

CRUISE DIRECTOR

(picking up the butt)
That, ladies and gentlemen is why we ask people not to throw smoking materials overboard.

Passengers begin to react to the huge black plume of smoke from the island.

INT. CAPTAINS BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Maka is looking through binoculars surrounded by a dozen of his OFFICERS.

CAPTAIN MAKA

Get on the satellite, find out what that is.

CAPTAIN POV

Masking Shot - THROUGH BINOCULARS

A huge black plume of smoke fills the sky over the island.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

A BLACK sedan enters the North Gate of the White House and makes its way past two U.S. PARK POLICE OFFICERS.

A U.S. Marine, MARINE #1, standing beside the West Wing entrance SALUTES Admiral Brancor as he steps from the black sedan followed by Dr. Samuel May.

MARINE #1
(to Admiral Brancor)
Sir!

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Marine #1)
At ease son.

The West Wing door swings outward, revealing another U.S. Marine, MARINE #2, who salutes and holds the door open.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to Admiral Brancor)
They do that all the time?

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Sam)
You bet your ass on it.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING FOYER

HAND HELD SHOT

As Admiral Brancor and Dr. Samuel May enter the West Wing a very tall man, Chief of Staff (ROBERT LASLOW, 44), approaches and MOTIONS for them to follow him.

ROBERT LASLOW
(to Sam)
I’m Robert Laslow, the White House Chief of Staff.
(to Admiral Brancor)
Admiral, we’re all set up in the situation room and awaiting the President.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(motioning to Dr. May)
This is Dr. May from the Hazard Research Centre.
ROBERT LASLOW
(Shaking Dr. May’s hand)
Sure, sure, Mildred has given us a heads up on everything.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to Robert)
Mildred Wilson?

ROBERT LASLOW
That’s her. You know her?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
My wife, Dr. Tish Harriet and Mildred go way back, college roommates.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Dr. May)
Dr. Harriet is your wife?

ROBERT LASLOW
(to Sam)
Wow, she’s a great lady, and well known around here.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(smiling – to Robert)
She reminds us at the Research Centre just how true that statement is.

The Chief of Staff leads them through the reception area and down a flight of stairs and along a corridor.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Robert)
Satellites in position for a pass-by?

ROBERT LASLOW
Pentagon has the uplink, everything is green-lighted on our end.

They approach and pass through a wooden door with a tan plaque embossed with “White House Situation Room”.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE – SITUATION ROOM

Robert Laslow leads Admiral Brancor and Dr. Samuel Day inside.
A group of OFFICIAL PEOPLE are standing behind leather chairs which circle a large conference table.

On the table, in front of each chair lies a laptop and a binder with “Project Zisudra” printed on their covers.

In the middle of the table lies a TV Remote Control.

On each of the walls are mounted two large screen TV monitors and at the head of the room a huge screen.

Upon all of them are different news stories from around the world.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to the attendees)
Good afternoon everybody. This is Dr. Samuel May. He’ll be working with the President on this.

Admiral Brancor glances at the largest of the screens which has a satellite image of Lisbon, Portugal on it.

He leads Dr. May towards two empty chairs.

ROBERT LASLOW
(glancing at screen)
Waiting on the first major impact.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Sam - pointing at the head of table)
That’s where the President will sit, and to his right Vice-President Mike Logan and National Security Advisor, Steven Richards.

A woman, Secretary of State, (MILDRED WILSON, 60), is LEANING on the table across from the Vice President’s chair.

She NODS with recognition at Sam and walks over to him giving him a hug.

MILDRED WILSON
(sincerely)
Sam, good to see you. Any word of Tish or the team on La Palma?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(worried)
Nothing yet, Mildred.
MILDRED WILSON
She’ll turn up, Sam. Tish always turns up.

Another man, (RONALD CLARK, late sixties), walks into the room and places a briefcase onto the table.

RONALD CLARK
(to Mildred)
Is he on his way?

MILDRED WILSON
(pointing to Dr. May)
This is our -

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(interrupting)

MILDRED WILSON
(whispering to Sam)
Glad I’m not in his shoes.

RONALD CLARK
(to Mildred)
Mildred, I’m not deaf, you know. I can hear you.

MILDRED WILSON
Oh, come on Ronnie, you know I’m just playing with you. And, yes, the President is-

PRESIDENT HARRIS (OS)
Here!

A strapping man, President (RIVER HARRIS, 50), walks through the door.

Behind him are two men, Vice President (MIKE LOGAN, 55), and National Security Advisor (STEVEN RICHARDS, late forties).

PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
(pointing at chairs)
Have a seat, let’s get this thing going.

The President sits in his chair then opens his binder FLIPPING through the pages.

Glancing up, he points to the screens on the walls.
PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
Mike and I were watching the networks in the oval office. Things aren’t looking good.
(to Sam)
Tell me I’m not going to have to evacuate the east coast.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
I couldn’t possibly advise you of such, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(to Dr. Samuel May)
What’s our best shot here, Sam? Give me your gut feeling, if you were sitting in this seat, what would you say?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(taking a deep breath)
I can tell you what I personally believe, but it surely wont make me any friends in this room.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
Sam, I have five thousand friends on facebook. Another twenty two million people ‘like’ my public page, (beat) and I don’t know any of them. Trust me, friends are overrated.

STEVEN RICHARDS
(clearing his throat)
What the President needs, I think, what we all need, is to know which cities we must focus on evacuating in order to save the most lives.

MILDRED WILSON
(to Sam)
Tell them Sam, you’re the only wake up call they have.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to the President)
Focus on every city from Miami to Maine, they’re all facing catastrophic destruction.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
God damn it, Sam! I knew you’d say that.

(MORE)
OS ADMIRAL BRANCOR
Admiral Brancor begins to type on the laptop and the screen blinks to life.

ZOOM INTO SCREEN

INT. VALENCIA BRIDGE - LATER

CLOSE SHOT
A computer screen displays a satellite image of the Canary Islands and what appears to be an anomaly in the water.

ZOOM OUT SLOW
A NAVIGATOR punches a few keys on his computer then peers into the screen.

SHIP NAVIGATOR POV
The image enlarges showing a huge wave heading straight towards the ship.

A VOICE (V.O.)
(excitedly)
Rogue wave, starboard side!

The Navigator glances up from the screen to see a dozen DECK OFFICERS staring through the bridge window.

A gigantic wave is barreling towards them.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY
HELICOPTER SHOT
We are directly behind the wave as it bears down on the starboard side of the Valencia.

CUT TO:
SERIES OF SHOTS

The passengers are SCREAMING, PUSHING and RUNNING in a panic as the wave CRASHES into the starboard side of the ship.

The ship lists to its port side.

Pope Callixtus IV grabs hold of a railing just as he is about to be washed overboard.

Cardinal Jonathan reaches for and grabs the Pope’s robe.

Michael is caught in the surge, but just before he is lost to the sea, Cardinal Jonathan reaches out with one hand and GRABS Michael’s wrist.

Tony, Julie and the pope’s entourage all are carried away with the force of the water.

CUT TO:

HELICOPTER SHOT

The Valencia is listing almost completely to her port side.

Thousands of Ship Passengers are in the water.

The Italian Navy helicopter is barreling through the water towards the bridge window.

INT. VALENCIA BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Maka and his crew are hanging from a railing.

The Italian Navy helicopter CRASHES through the bridge window.

The blades of the helicopter break free from the rotor and WHIP around in water heading directly for the Captain.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALENCIA DECK SIX - MOMENTS LATER

The ship is on her port side.

Pope Callixtus IV is gripping the handrails on the side of the ship’s deck.
Below the Pope, Cardinal Jonathan is hanging from the Pope’s robe.

Michael’s arms are wrapped around Cardinal Jonathan’s waist.

The Pope’s robe begins to rip.

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(screaming to Michael)
Pull yourself up boy, climb!

MICHAEL
(sobbing)
I can’t hold on, I can’t!

Michael Glances down.

MICHAEL’S POV

The bridge is far below and beyond that the sea.

In the water, thousands of Ship Passengers are SCREAMING.

CARDINAL JONATHAN
(yelling to Michael)
Do it, climb, climb!

Michael CLIMBS up Cardinal Jonathan’s arm, then GRABS the Pope around his waist just as the fabric of the Pope’s robe tears away.

Cardinal Jonathan FALLS ten stories into the sea.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM - LATER

Admiral Brancor is typing on the keys of his laptop and as he does so a satellite image of the east coast appears on the large wall monitor.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(pointing to monitor)
Project Zisudra was designed to focus our resources and that of FEMA on the evacuation of cities along the east coast after Hurricane Earl threatened in 2010.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(interrupting)
Of course Earl missed us. But those plans to evacuate the entire coastline are still viable.
Admiral Brancor PUNCHES a few more keys and a red line appears along the coast from Miami to Maine.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
As you can see, we were prepared to evacuate everyone within five miles of the shoreline.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(interrupting)
Mr. President, with all due respect. Those plans are poppycock for an event such as this.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Sam)
How so, Sam?

Sam leans over his laptop, HITS a few keys, then walks over to the large monitor.

On the monitor another red line runs through the middle of Florida and up the east coast to the middle of Maine.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(to everyone)
Everything twenty five miles east of that line will be under water in seven hours.

A cellphone RINGS.

The Vice President digs into his jacket, pulls out a cellphone and places it to his ear.

VICE PRESIDENT LOGAN
(into phone)
Yes, thank you.

He PRESSES the end button, PICKS UP the remote control from the table and POINTS it at the monitor.

A JUMPY news image of a huge rolling tsunami wave is barreling towards land.

FEMALE REPORTER (V.O.)
(spanish accent)
The scene you are watching is unfolding before our very eyes below our chopper. It is a tsunami like none of us have ever seen and it is baring down on the coast of Lisbon, Portugal.
ZOOM IN SLOW TO TV

The image of the tsunami fades to a SPANISH FEMALE REPORTER who is strapped into a helicopter seat.

She is speaking loudly over the sound of the helicopter engine.

SPANISH FEMALE REPORTER
We have been informed that the wave is one hundred feet high and is racing at speeds in excess of five hundred miles per hour.

ZOOM OUT FROM TV

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE

The British Prime Minister and Will Squire are staring at the image of the Female Reporter on a wall mounted television.

PRIME MINISTER
(to Will)
This is quite scabby, isn’t it?

SPANISH FEMALE REPORTER
(on television)
As you can see we are only moments from the first major impact of this horrific tidal wave.

A knock at the door jolts the Prime Minister’s attention from the television and he GLANCES across the room.

P.M. POV

A BRITISH MAN peeks his head through the door about to speak, when Dr. Tish Harriet, wearing her backpack, RUSHES past him and into the office.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(to Will)
Will!

TWO SHOT

Will RUSHES over to Dr. Tish Harriet and hugs her.
WILL SQUIRE
(surprised)
Oh, thank God you’re okay. Sam and I have been worried sick about you. Where is Grossman?

DR. TISH HARRIET
(concerned)
Back at the Hazard Centre, he wanted to take a look at the ERS satellite readings. How is Sam? He is okay, isn’t he?

WILL SQUIRE
(nodding)
Yes, yes, he’s with President Harris now.
(to the P.M.)
Prime Minister, you know Dr. Tish Harriet.

PRIME MINISTER
(to Tish)
Of course, we met at the Research Center in 2010 when we closed Heathrow, Gatwick and London City due to the Icelandic volcano ash, remember?

DR. TISH HARRIET
Yes, or course. Tony Blair introduced us.

PRIME MINISTER
(nodding)
And now, it is I who must face a similar pickle.

The Prime Minister leads them back to the television.

PRIME MINISTER (CONT’D)
Have a go at it, then.
(pointing at TV)
What have you got to say about this?

On the screen is the live coverage showing the tsunami wave crashing into and over Lisbon’s Torre de Belém.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(turning from TV)
Prime Minister, you must evacuate the city of London at once.
PRIME MINISTER
(not convinced)
That’s what we were discussing, though I’m not sure of the impending predictions. London, as you know, is not on the coast and there is no threat of tsunami here. And, we have the barrier gates.

WILL SQUIRE
(shaking his head)
It wont hold this, Prime Minister, the underground will flood. There will be a massive surge which surely will inundate the barrier gate on the Thames.

The three of them stare into the television where the wave is smashing into Lisbon’s Statue of Christ (Cristo Rei) leaving only its upper half piercing from the water.

CLOSE IN ON TV SCREEN

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - PRESS ROOM

An ipad 2 screen is displaying the drowning of Cristo Rei as we pull back revealing a TECHNICIAN holding the ipad 2.

WHITE HOUSE REPORTERS surround him, talking amongst themselves.

The White House Reporters hurry to their chairs as President Harris walks to the podium.

Filing in behind the president are Vice President Logan, Dr. Samuel May, Chief of Staff Laslow, Secretary of State Wilson, Secretary of Defense Clark and National Security Advisor Steven Richards.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(adjusting himself)
This morning we were alerted to what was believed to be a common earthquake on the island of La Palma in the country of Spain.

The President TURNS and points to Dr. Samuel May standing behind him.
Dr. Samuel May and the UCL Hazard Centre has, for many years, warned that such an earthquake could, at some point, cause the Volcano Cumbre Vieja to collapse and fall into the Atlantic Ocean causing an east coast tsunami.

The President glances around the room.

Governments the globe over, including the United States, scoffed at the notion. No one believed his research, and in fact, many of us turned our noses up at the very thought of such a catastrophe.

The President NODS, glances down at the podium, and then quickly stares back up and into the camera.

Today, it is apparent that we were wrong to dismiss such warnings.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NEW YORK - DAY

Hundreds of PEDESTRIANS are staring up at the Jumbotron which displays President Harris’ TV address.

In Spain, the La Palma eruption caused the tragic crash of a commercial aircraft.

The video on the Jumbotron changes to that of the Tenerife North Airport.

The Boeing 777 Jet’s burned fuselage lies upside down against the tower with two other upturned planes.

The pedestrians in Times Square respond with audible sounds of shock and surprise.

And within the last hour, we have watched as the city of Lisbon has been devastated by waves the size of sky scrapers.
The video on the Jumbotron changes to that of Lisbon, Portugal, which lies in ruins.

Buildings along the coast are demolished. Houses and hotels lay in heaps of destruction.

The video fades to the image of President Harris staring somberly into the camera.

PRESIDENT HARRIS

My fellow Americans. This is the greatest disaster to ever face our nation. I have ordered a temporary martial law under article H.R. 5122, also known as the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act. This allows the office of the President to take charge of National Guard troops without state governor authorization. I have ordered the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Brancor, to put into effect mandatory evacuations along the eastern seaboard of our country.

EXT. MIAMI BEACH - DAY

SUPER : Miami, Florida

HELICOPTER SHOT

It is a beautiful day as we approach the beach from the open sea. In the background the sound of helicopter blades cut through the air.

The ocean below is full of SURFERS and SWIMMERS.

Thousands of people are sunbathing on the white sand.

A group of YOUNG PEOPLE who are playing volleyball STOP and glance up into the sky.

YOUNG PEOPLE POV

A half dozen Coast Guard Helicopters fly over them slowly.

COAST GUARDSMAN (V.O.)

Attention, Attention, this is the United States Coast Guard. All civilians must immediately evacuate at once.
INT. COAST GUARD HELICOPTER

A Coast Guardsman is sitting with his legs dangling out of the jump port holding a radio microphone to his mouth.

COAST GUARDSMAN
By order of the President, all citizens are to immediately evacuate Miami Beach.

COAST GUARDSMAN POV

The beach gives way to Ocean Drive below.

The famous street is very busy with people going about a casual day.

WOMEN ROLLER BLADERS move amongst the cars which are backed up on the street.

People fill the restaurant tables along the sidewalk.

EXT. MACARTHUR CAUSEWAY - MIAMI - DAY

HELIPOWER SHOT

A National Guard blockade at the eastbound bridge is moved aside by SOLDIERS as a military motorcade approaches and speeds along the causeway.

There is very light civilian traffic on the westbound lanes.

EXT. NAVAL STATION NORFOLK - DAY

SUPER: Naval Station, Norfolk Virginia

VARIOUS SHOTS

The base is busy with evacuations.

Harrier fighter jets are LEAPING into the air from the decks of aircraft carriers moored along the Naval Station docks.

A line of submarines are diving and disappearing from view.

Hundreds of SAILORS JUMP into dozens of helicopters of every type which then lift into the air.

A motorcade of jeeps and trucks are moving out of the base exit.
EXT. BOSTON HARBOR - DAY

SUPER: Boston, Massachusetts

HELICOPTER SHOT

The Boston Lighthouse lies below as we approach Boston Harbor crowded with pleasure boats being escorted back to the docks by a half dozen Boston Police Boats.

In the distance lies the skyline of Boston.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN - DAY

Thousands of National Guardsmen are busy setting up a staging area around the George Washington Statue.

A long line of Guardsman carrying M-16 assault rifles are marching along the blacktop road leading out of the park.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - SOUTH LAWN - DAY

President River Harris, Admiral Brancor and Dr. Samuel May exit the White House and hurry across the south lawn towards Marine One.

Following close behind are Chief of Staff Laslow, Secretary of State Wilson, Secretary of Defense Clark and National Security Advisor Steven Richards.

Beside the chopper, a U.S. Marine, MARINE #3 stands beside it SALUTING.

The engine of the chopper WHINES over the scene as reporters yell questions in the background.

PRESIDENT HARRIS

(loudly to Admiral Brancor)

What’s the status of the evacuations?

ADMIRAL BRANCOR

(looking at a tablet)

It’s underway, Mr. President.

Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Delaware, Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.
PRESIDENT HARRIS
(waving to reporters)
God help us, Lew. I don’t think we have enough time.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
We will do our best, Mr. President.

President Harris STOPS and shakes the hand of MARINE # 3 then leads his entourage up the stairs of Marine One.

The door to Marine One closes and it LEAPS into the sky where it is immediately met by two identical helicopters.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

Marine One and the two identical helicopters are flying above Washington D.C.

The National Mall and Capitol building lay in the distance.

INT. MARINE ONE

President Harris is seated on his plush seat staring through the window.

PRESIDENT HARRIS’ POV

Looking from Washington D.C. into Virginia with the Jefferson Memorial in the foreground.

Military Vehicles are moving slowly along the 14th Street Bridge.

A cellphone RINGS.

ANGLE ON PRESIDENT HARRIS

The President glances from the window and peers at something.

PRESIDENT HARRIS POV

Chief of Staff Laslow, Secretary of State Wilson, Secretary of Defense Clark and National Security Advisor Richards are staring at Dr. Samuel May.

Admiral Brancor glances at Dr. Samuel May seated beside him.
ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to Sam)
Is that your phone, Dr. May?

Dr. Samuel May reaches into his pocket and retrieves a cellphone.

DR. SAMUEL MAY POV

A picture of Dr. Tish Harriet is on the display.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(looking at President)
Mr. President, it’s my wife, would you mind if I take it?

PRESIDENT HARRIS
Go ahead, Sam.

ANGLE ON DR. SAMUEL MAY

Dr. Samuel May PRESSES the accept button and places the phone to his ear.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(emotionally into phone)
Tish, thank heavens you’re alive!
We thought you all had died in the eruption.

CUT TO:

EXT. 10 DOWNING STREET - DAY

An aerial shot of 10 Downing Street from above the Thames River.

Zoom into Big Ben.

CUT TO:

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - A HALLWAY

Dr. Tish Harriet and Will Squire are walking down a hallway.

Tish is wearing her backpack and holding a cellphone to her ear.
DR. TISH HARRIET
(into phone)
Sam? Only Grossman and I made it off Cumbre Vieja. I love you Sam.

CUT TO:

INT. MARINE ONE - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Samuel May places his free hand to his forehead, then runs his hand through his hair. He is visibly RELIEVED.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(sighing)
I love you more.

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - HALLWAY - FURTHER ALONG
ANGLE ON DR. TISH HARRIET

Dr. Tish Harriet is leading Will Squire around a corner and through the foyer busy with visitors.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(into phone - loudly)
Dead, Sam, me? Are you shitting me, really? Come on, I have nine lives.

An UPPITY LADY with blue hair is walking with an OLDER MAN close beside Dr. Tish Harriet.

The Uppity Woman hears what Tish says and acts shocked.

UPPITY LADY
(to Tish)
That’s no way for a lady to speak. You should be ashamed of yourself and embarrassed, if you asked me.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(to Uppity Lady)
Nobody asked you and I’m not a lady. I’m a scientist who watches good people die so snobs like you can live.

The Uppity Lady grabs her chest in shock and scoffs.

UPPITY LADY
(to Tish)
Oh, you’re an American, that explains everything, doesn’t it?
(to Older Man)
(MORE)
DR. TISH HARRIET
(yelling at lady)
What are you, mamma smurf, a Sharia law monitor for the Taliban? What is it you do, walk around listening to private conversations as if you worked for Rupert Murdock’s News of The World? Maybe you didn’t hear, there’s no more phone tapping, the rag is closed!

INT. MARINE ONE - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone in the helicopter can hear Dr. Tish Harriet yelling at the Uppity Lady through Sam’s cellphone.

DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)
Oh, and by the way, I’m British, you self righteous bitch.

Dr. Samuel May is grinning, holding the phone away from his ear.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(to Sam jokingly)
We could use her in the White House, when she’s not creating international incidents.

ADMIRAL BRANCOR
(to the President)
Dr. Tish Harriet is one hell of a woman, that’s for sure. She helped the Defense Department and FEMA during the New Orleans disaster.

MILDRED WILSON
(to Sam)
Sam, has she spoken to the Prime Minister about the Underground?

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - FOYER

Dr. Tish Harriet glances back at the Uppity Lady and the Older Man who disappear from view around the corner.
DR. TISH HARRIET
(into phone)
Yes, sweetheart, tell Mildred that the Prime Minister has assured us the Underground would be cleared.

WILL SQUIRE
(elbowing Tish)
Awe, you guys are such love birds.

Tish LAUGHS at something Sam has told her on the phone.

WILL SQUIRE (CONT’D)
(curiously to Tish)
What’s so funny?

DR. TISH HARRIET
(pressing the end button)
Sam said to ask about your singing lessons?

WILL SQUIRE
(jokingly)
Damn bugger!

EXT. PHARE DU CHREAC’H - FRANCE - DAY

SUPER: Ouessant, France

A FRENCH MAN is riding a bicycle along a blacktop driveway towards the Kreac’h lighthouse.

The sound of CRASHING waves gains his attention and he glances over his shoulder.

FRENCH MAN POV

The tsunami wave rolls past the English Channel and a surge moves into the channel and towards the rocky banks of the Kreac’h lighthouse.

ANGLE ON FRENCH MAN

He LEAPS from the bicycle, RUNS towards the lighthouse, through the blue gates and up to a red door.

He pulls a ring of keys from his pocket and FUMBLES with them while GLANCING back over his shoulder.
FRENCH MAN POV

The surge crashes over the huge rocks protruding from the sea and the surge heads directly for him.

FRENCH MAN
(french)
Zut! zut!

The red door PUSHES inward and the French Man disappears through it.

CUT TO:

INT. KREAC'H LIGHTHOUSE - STAIRWAY

The French Man is RUNNING up the circular stairs two at a time, PANTING for air.

Reaching the top stair he BURSTS through the door and onto a lookout deck.

EXT. KREAC'H LIGHTHOUSE - LOOKOUT DECK - DAY

CLOSE SHOT

The French Man GASPS in disbelief and glances around in shock.

FRENCH MAN POV - PANNING

The surge has flooded the banks of the English Channel and is PUSHING houses free of their foundations.

EXT. LONDON BRIDGE - DAY

British police cars are RACING across the bridge with their SIRENS blaring, LIGHTS FLASHING, weaving in and out of traffic.

CUT TO:

EXT. A LONDON STREET - DAY

The police cars speed along a street in London.

CUT TO:
EXT. LONDON’S WATERLOO STATION - DAY

BRITISH POLICE jump from the police cars and hurry into the station entrance.

INT. LONDON’S WATERLOO STATION

The British Police are SPRINTING around PEOPLE and through the station.

FURTHER ALONG

The British Police approach a ticket office, ordering people away from the window.

BRITISH POLICE (V.O.)
Out of the way!

One of the British Officers leans into the window.

BRITISH OFFICER
(to clerk)
Close the Underground by orders of the Crown!

CLERK
(unsettled)
But, that is quite impossible, the station is full,

BRITISH OFFICER
(angrily)
Her Majesty has room in the lockup, should you so wish!

The clerk quickly picks up a phone and dials a number.

CLERK
(into phone)
Suspend all train departures at once!

A loudspeaker erupts over the station PA system.

A VOICE FROM PA SYSTEM (V.O.)
(British accent)
Attention passengers! We apologize for this inconvenience, but all trains are cancelled from Waterloo Station. Please proceed to the nearest exits.
(french)
(MORE)
Attention, les passagers, nous sommes désolés pour ce désagrément, mais tous les trains sont annulés à partir de la gare de Waterloo. S'il vous plaît procéder à la plus proche des sorties.

The British Officer glances around the station.

The Waterloo Passengers STOP in their tracks, then begin frantically moving towards the exits.

**BRITISH OFFICER**

(to clerk)
That’s a good boy. I trust you don’t fancy the Queens fare?

**CLERK**

(urgently to Officer)
There are still trains in the tubes.

**BRITISH OFFICER**

(to his men)
Get into the tubes and stop all trains!

CUT TO:

**INT. LONDON’S WATERLOO STATION – PLATFORM 7**

A train pulls away from the platform just as the British Officer and a few of his men RUN onto the platform.

**INT. ST. PETERS SQUARE – LATER**

Fifty thousand faithful people fill the square, many of whom hold pictures of Pope Callixtus IV.

CUT TO:

**INT. ST. PETERS BASILICA – AN OFFICE – LATER**

Cardinal Manning is staring through the curtains at the crowd below in St. Peters Square.

A KNOCK at the door gains his attention and he looks to it.

**CARDINAL MANNING**

(loudly)
Come!
The Monk steps through the door holding a piece of paper. A hopeful smile on his face.

MONK
Cardinal Secretary, there has been word from the Gendarmerie Corps.

CARDINAL MANNING
(nervously)
And, what are the words from the Swiss?

MONK
They have received what they believe to be a signal from the Holy Father.

CARDINAL MANNING
A signal?

MONK
(nodding at paper)
A tweet, Cardinal Secretary.

CARDINAL MANNING
(grabbing the paper)
From the holy father? Impossible.

CARDINAL MANNING POV
A printout of a twitter message from @popecallixtusIV to @SwissGuard.

"Il Signore ha salvato pochi eppure abbiamo perso molti. Tenerife, alla deriva nelle imbarcazioni di salvataggio."

CARDINAL MANNING (CONT’D)
(reading message)
“Cardinal Secretary, the lord has saved few but taken many. I am adrift off the coast of Tenerife.

The Cardinal glances up urgency, places his hand on the Monk’s shoulder and takes a deep breath.

CARDINAL MANNING (CONT’D)
(shocked)
His Holy Father sending a tweet, imagine that. (Beat) Send word to the nations; a personal message from me.
MONK
What is the message?

CARDINAL MANNING
The Holy Father’s life depends on their immediate rescue, on the waters off the coast of Tenerife.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF TENERIFE – DAY
A dozen cruise ship life boats are moving through calm seas off the coast of Tenerife.
People are being pulled onto them from the water.
In the background the Valencia is sinking.
Bodies float on the water as far as the eye can see.

CLOSE IN ON ONE OF THE BOATS
Pope Callixtus IV sits in one of the lifeboats surrounded by other LIFE BOAT PASSENGERS.
Beside the Pope Michael is softly sobbing and tapping on a tablet.

TWO SHOT

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Michael)
Do you think they got our message?

MICHAEL
(wiping a tear)
Yeah, I guess so. Will they come for us?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(confident)
That is for sure, young Michael.

The Pope wraps one of his arms around Michael.

MICHAEL
Do you think my mom and dad are dead?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(nodding)
Only God knows, Michael.
(MORE)
You know, when I was a young boy I lost both my parents.

MICHAEL
Really?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(the Pope nods)
I was about your age, maybe a year or so on either side of puberty.

MICHAEL
They died, your parents?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(nodding)
In November 1967, Iberia Airlines number EC-BDD was flying to London's Heathrow airport. The plane crashed into the southern slopes of Blackdown Hill, not far from Fernhurst village. All 37 of the people on board were killed.

MICHAEL
Do you remember them?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(glancing in distance)
Oh, Yes.

Michael wipes a tear from his eye.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV (CONT’D)
(looking back at Michael)
It was the hardest thing in the world losing my parents, and in many respects it changed the way I looked at life.

MICHAEL
Do you think my mom and dad are with your parents in Heaven?

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(pointing at Michael’s chest)
What does your heart tell you?

MICHAEL
I know my mom is.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
And your dad?
MICHAEL
I don’t think my father believed in God.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
Sometimes, reality is much deeper than what we might think.

MICHAEL
I hope so.

The Pope hugs the boy then points off into the distance.

A group of large helicopters are approaching from the horizon.

POPE CALLIXTUS IV
(to Michael)
That is the response to our message on your machine, young Michael!

EXT. QUEEN ELIZABETH II BRIDGE - LONDON - DAY


People are JUMPING out of their cars and peering over the east railings of the cable-stayed bridge, as if expecting something.

Suddenly the surge sweeps around the river bend and passes beneath the bridge.

EXT. THAMES BARRIER - DAY

HELICOPTER SHOT

A British Police Boat watches from the west side of the Thames Barrier as the flood gates RISE from the water and lock into place.

The surge barrels through the Thames River and CRASHES into, and then SPILLS OVER the barrier.

The British Police Boat attempts to flee, but is overtaken and TOPPLED by the surge.

INT. LONDON’S WATERLOO STATION - LATER

A train pulls into the station and the British Officer and his men quickly usher the train PASSENGERS along the platform and towards the stairs.
BRITISH OFFICER
(urgently)
Lets go! Move along! Quickly now!

A flow of water flows down the stairs and onto the platform.

The train passengers SHOUT as they STRUGGLE to climb the stairs, but they are quickly swept back down the steps by the force of the water.

EXT. OXFORD STREET - LONDON - DAY

HIGH ANGLE SHOT

The street is very busy with PEDESTRIANS and motor vehicle traffic.

A TX4 London Taxi is BEEPING its horn beside the Centre Point office building.

INT. TX4 LONDON TAXI

Will Squire and Dr. Tish Harriet sit LAUGHING at something inside the taxi.

Tish’s backpack lies behind her up against the rear view window.

WILL SQUIRE
(to Tish)
You think that’s funny, do you?

DR. TISH HARRIET
Oh, come on, William! Don’t you see the humor in it all? We spend our entire lives researching volcanoes to prevent this exact situation...

WILL SQUIRE
(interrupting)
And they don’t take us seriously when it occurs! Yeah, I get it.

DR. TISH HARRIET
(glancing out window)
It’s sad, almost, if it weren’t so tragic.

Dr. Tish Harriet stops talking in mid-sentence and glances down at her feet.
DR. TISH HARRIET POV

Water is filling the floorboard of the taxi.

TWO SHOT

Will Squire PUSHES open the taxi door and water GUSHES in. He GRABS Dr. Tish Harriet’s hand and DRAGS her from the taxi.

Tish’s backpack lies abandoned in the taxi. A cellphone RINGING.

EXT. OXFORD STREET - MOMENTS LATER

There is pandemonium along the street. People are slogging through waist high water.

The taxi floats down the street and plows into an electrical pole which CRACKS and FALLS atop the taxi.

The electrical pole’s transformer is SHOOTING sparks just inches from the water surface.

WILL SQUIRE
(glancing at transformer)
We have to get out of the water!

DR. TISH HARRIET
(pointing to something)
Over there!

The Centre Point glass office building is just ahead of them and they struggle through the water.

SCREAMS for help fill the air as people are washed away on the current.

EXT. CAMP DAVID - LATE AFTERNOON

We approach and then pass the Camp David wooden sign outside the Presidential retreat.

The road is packed with TELEVISION REPORTERS and their station trucks.

The camera snakes its way through the dense woods until Laurel Lodge is revealed in a clearing.
ZOOM INTO WINDOW

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP DAVID - LAUREL LODGE - AFTERNOON

President Harris, Mildred Wilson, Robert Laslow, Admiral Brancor and Ronald Clark are staring at a wall of TV screens where different news reports are underway.

In the middle of the room, a desk is surrounded with JUNIOR STAFFERS who are working a half dozen phones. In the middle of the table sits a RED PHONE.

President Harris is POINTING a remote at a wall of TV monitors.

The volume rises of a FOX NEWS report showing people leaving an apartment building.

ZOOM INTO MONITOR

EXT. BOSTON STREET - DAY

Hundreds of RESIDENTS are being led from an apartment buildings by Boston Police in riot gear.

SHEPARD SMITH (V.O.)
The riot started when Boston Police were attempted to remove residents from this complex behind me. ABC News witnessed the evacuation which suddenly took a violent turn when a rookie Boston Police officer made a poor choice of physically slamming a teenager to the ground.

TEENAGERS begin YELLING at the police. A BOSTON COP SHOVES one of the teenagers who PUSHES the Boston Cop back.

The Boston Cop picks up the teenager and SLAMS him to the ground.

A street riot begins between the police and citizens.

ZOOM OUT FROM SCREEN
INT. CAMP DAVID - LAUREL LODGE

Dr. Samuel May is pacing by the window. He is holding a cellphone to his ear.

He frowns, presses the end button, and pushes the phone back into his pocket.

He glances back at President Harris and his staff watching SHEPARD SMITH of FOX NEWS on a TV monitor.

SHEPARD SMITH
(on TV monitor)
...and the violence has not been confined to this neighborhood. Just moments ago, we heard over the wire that a National Guardsman was shot on the streets of South Boston when his unit entered a low income housing project.

Dr. Samuel May pulls a wallet out of his slacks, opens it and glances down at something.

DR. SAMUEL MAY POV

A photo of Tish Harriet and himself stealing a kiss, a pile of books lay at their feet.

ZOOM INTO PHOTO

FLASHBACK

EXT. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON - AFTERNOON

It is spring, the birds are CHIRPING, people are LAUGHING.

Samuel May, 20-something, and Tish Harriet, 20-something, are walking amongst other students in front of The Wilkins Building.

Beside them is Chris Grossman, 20-something.

CHRIS GROSSMAN
(to Sam and Tish)
Look at you two, sickly in love, you are!

SAMUEL MAY
(chuckling)
We’re not sickly.
(MORE)
SAMUEL MAY (CONT'D)
(to Tish)
Are we?

TISH HARRIET
(blushing)
Kind of, I suppose.

SAM stops, TURNS to Tish and stares into her eyes.

Tish DROPS her books to the ground, wraps her arms around Sam and kisses him.

Sam DROPS his books.

Chris Grossman pulls a camera out of his backpack, points it at them.

CHRIS GROSSMAN
(snapping the picture)
Ah, yes, young love in Spring!

BACK TO PRESENT

Mildred Wilson walks up to Dr. Samuel May and glances over his shoulder at the photo.

MILDRED WILSON
Sam?

Dr. Samuel May doesn’t respond. Mildred Wilson places her hand on his arm.

MILDRED WILSON (CONT’D)
Sam, are you okay?

Sam TURNS to her and FROWNS, his face is lined with concern.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(frowning)
Not really. I’m worried sick, Mildred.

Across the room President Harris points the remote again at the TV monitors and FOX NEWS is replaced by BRIAN WILLIAMS sitting at his anchor desk at NBC Nighty News.
OS OF PRESIDENT

BRIAN WILLIAMS
(on a TV screen)
Good evening from New York, where evacuations are in full swing for what the President is calling “the greatest disaster to ever face our nation.”

The President points at the monitor and glances around at his staff.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(disturbed)
I said that?

ROBERT LASLOW
You did.

The President looks back at the TV monitor.

BRIAN WILLIAMS
(on TV monitor)
From Key West to Maine, looting, robbery, and violent clashes have erupted between citizens and police. All this, mind you, as the game changing tsunami bears down on our shores. We have correspondents all over this story and we start in Charleston, South Carolina, where Richard Engel is witnessing citizens looting.

The President points to the monitor.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(to Admiral Brancor)
Look at that, Lew. I thought we had this contained?

ZOOM INTO SCREEN

EXT. KING STREET - CHARLESTON, S.C. - DAY

NBC News reporter Richard Engel is pointing down the street.

A POLICE CAR is on fire, another is upside down and is being ROCKED to and fro by MASKED PEOPLE.
RICHARD ENGEL
That’s right, Brian. Here in Charleston, along the well heeled and heavily shopped King Street, opportunistic looters are having their go at merchandize inside closed businesses. For much of the past hour we have watched as the National Guard and Charleston Police have battled to take back the streets of this embattled city.

A line of National Guardsmen are MARCHING down the street holding shields.

Masked People are THROWING rocks and Molotov cocktails which explode at the Guardsmen’s feet.

LOOTERS are hurrying along the street CARRYING stolen goods in their arms.

RICHARD ENGEL (CON’T)
The south is under attack tonight, Brian, reminiscent of the Miami Riots of 1980 and the situation is growing more grave by the hour.

A WHITE MAN throws a CINDERBLOCK into a plate glass window of an electronics store.

The glass SHATTERS, falling to the ground.

LOOTERS are jumping into the window and then RUNNING out with electronics.

The Guardsmen shoot TEARGAS cannisters. They EXPLODE with smoke amongst the scattering looters.

RICHARD ENGEL (CON’T)
And, as tragic as the situation here is, the looting has overtaken much of the east coast’s major cities. There are reports from Georgia, the Carolina’s and closer to you, Brian, right there in Manhattan.

CUT TO:
INT. NBC NEWS STUDIO

Brian Williams STARES at a wall monitor behind his anchor desk where Richard Engel is replaced by a live shot of LESTER HOLT.

BRIAN WILLIAMS
Thanks Richard, we wish you a safe journey home to your family. We are now joining Lester Holt who is down on the street, however briefly, right here in Manhattan. Lester?

ZOOM INTO WALL MONITOR

EXT.- PARK AVENUE - MANHATTAN - DAY

Lester Holt is walking down the middle of Fifth Avenue which is bumper to bumper with traffic. HORNS blare and SIRENS fill the scene.

LESTER HOLT
That’s right, Brian. We are in the middle of chaos on Fifth Avenue as people attempt to flee the city in expectation of the worst disaster since nine eleven.

INT. CAMP DAVID - LAUREL LODGE

President Harris, Dr. Samuel May, Mildred Wilson and the rest of the staff are staring at the NBC News coverage on one of the TV monitors.

LESTER HOLT
(on TV monitor)
This is a much different scene than we saw just an hour ago, Brian, as looters grabbed anything they could get their hands on.

The image of Lester Holt fades and is replaced by a video of an NYPD Police Car speeding along Fifth Avenue.

ZOOM IN TO DISPLAY

EXT. MANHATTAN - PARK AVENUE - EARLIER

The NYPD Police car is weaving in and out of traffic, LIGHTS FLASHING and SIREN WAILING.
LESTER HOLT (V.O.)
Manhattan was under attack from the criminal element as NBC cameras rolled earlier today. These are scenes of disgrace in what can only be described as mayhem here in the city which never sleeps. And we want to warn our viewers, what you are about to see is quite violent.

The police car SCREECHES to a stop in front of the Gucci store.

Two NYPD Cops LEAP from the car and are immediately approached by a BLACK MAN who exits the Gucci store, PULLS a 9mm handgun from his jacket and SHOOTS both NYPD Cops.

They SPIN around from the force of the gunshots and FALL to the sidewalk.

The Black Man CALMLY walks over them, gets into the police car and it pulls away.

HIGH ANGLE SHOT

The police car speeds down Fifth Avenue.

LOOTERS are RUNNING in and out of the shops along Fifth Avenue with armfuls of merchandise.

FADE TO:

INT. CAMP DAVID - LAUREL LODGE - LATER

ZOOM OUT FROM TV SCREEN

The President and his staff are staring at the TV monitors displaying NEWS COVERAGE from various cities.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(turning to staff)
Jesus, what a mess!

Ronald Clark points to one of the other TV monitors.

RONALD CLARK
It won’t last much longer, Mr. President. That’s the satellite feed of the wave.

On one of the monitor is a satellite image of the tsunami wave rolling through the open ocean.
PRESIDENT HARRIS
How long before landfall?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Twenty minutes.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
Where will it hit first?

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Maine, Boston, New York and then south.

The President walks up to the TV monitors and leans in close peering into another monitor.

EXT. ATLANTIS PARADISE ISLAND RESORT - LATE AFTERNOON

HELICOPTER SHOT

SUPER: Nassau, Bahamas

The Atlantis Paradise Island resort lay below. The pool and beach absent any trace of life.

A line of passenger buses, vans and limousines are pulling away from the entrance of the hotel.

FADE TO:

EXT. NASSAU AIRPORT - LATE AFTERNOON

HELICOPTER SHOT

Buses, vans and limousines are dropping off hundreds of people in front of the airport terminal.

The people are PUSHING and SHOVING one another to get into the airport terminal.

PAN TO TARMAC

A line of commercial, private and military C-130 airplanes are taking off one after another.

FADE TO:
EXT. HAVANA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Thousands of CUBAN CITIZENS are angrily CHANTING and SHAKING their fists toward the CUBAN POLICE which stand guard at the palace gates.

CUBAN’S SCREAMING
(Spanish)
Fidel, nos salva de la inundación!
Fidel, nos salva de la inundación!
Fidel, nos salva de la inundación!

SUPER: Fidel, save us from the flood!

INT. HAVANA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - AN OFFICE

FIDEL and RAUL CASTRO are staring through a window at the Cuban Citizens who angrily chant below.

A single rock CRASHES against the window, then another, and then a hail of rocks hit causing the window to CRACK.

CUBAN’S SCREAMING
(louder)
Fidel, nos salva de la inundación!
Fidel, nos salva de la inundación!
Fidel, nos salva de la inundación!

Raul Castro PULLS his brother Fidel away from the window and they are quickly shielded by three CUBAN POLICE.

The ARMED Military Officer who spoke at the United Nations steps forward.

CUBAN MILITARY OFFICER
(urgently in spanish)
Venga, rápido, señor Presidente, tenemos que evacuar el palacio a la vez!

SUPER: Come, quickly, Mr. President, we must evacuate the palace at once!

EXT. HAVANA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - MOMENTS LATER

The Cuban Citizens surge forward, FIGHT the Cuban Police and CHARGE the palace.
INT. HAVANA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - HALLWAY

Fidel, Raul, the Military Officer and three Cuban Police Officers hurry through a plush hallway.

CUBAN MILITARY OFFICER
(to Fidel)
Prisa! Prisa!

SUPER: Hurry! Hurry!

INT. HAVANA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - FOYER

The front door BURSTS from it’s hinges and CRASHES to the floor as THREE ANGRY CUBAN CITIZENS lead the charge through the foyer SHOUTING in spanish.

CUBAN CITIZEN #1
(spanish)
¡Abajo con los cerdos!

SUPER: Down with the pigs!

CUBAN CITIZEN #2
(spanish)
Matar a Fidel!

SUPER: Kill Fidel!

CUBAN CITIZEN #3
(spanish)
Y Raúl también, hacia abajo con el régimen!

SUPER: And Raul, too! Down with the regime!

HUNDREDS of CUBAN PEOPLE storm through the foyer and RUN up the stairs.

EXT. HAVANA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - ROOF

A Cuban Military helicopter lands on the roof.

The Military Officer pulls open its door, helps Fidel and Raul Castro into it, then pulls his sidearm.

He SWINGS the handgun around and SHOOTS the three Cuban Police dead.

Dozens of Cuban Citizens sprint through the roof door and YELL at the helicopter.
A CUBAN MAN LEAPS and GRABS hold of the Cuban Military helicopter landing rails, just as it lifts off the roof.

ANGLE ON CUBAN MAN

The Cuban Man is DANGLING from the landing rails of the Cuban Military helicopter as it flies through the sky.

He glances below.

CUBAN MAN POV

Thousands of CHEERING CUBAN CITIZENS fill the palace grounds POINTING up at him.

INT. CUBAN MILITARY HELICOPTER

Fidel is staring out the Cuban Military helicopter window.

FIDEL’S POV

The white Statue of Neptune, Malecon, lies below. It is crowded with CHEERING Cuban Citizens pointing up.

FIDEL CASTRO
(to Raul)
Incluso ahora, que me animan!

SUPER: Even now they cheer me!

RAUL CASTRO
(spanish)
Ovejas masacre, mi querido hermano!

SUPER: Sheep to slaughter, my dear brother!

Fidel and Raul Castro laugh at the sight below.
EXT. STATUE OF NEPTUNE, MALECON - LATE AFTERNOON

The Cuban Citizens continue CHEERING and POINTING at the Cuban Man dangling from the Cuban Military helicopter.

ANGLE ON

An ALBINO MAN with an army bag slung over his shoulder steps from behind the statue.

He SHRUGS it onto the ground, REACHES into it and PULLS out a GRENADE LAUNCHER.

He peers into the sky.

ALBINO MAN POV

The Cuban Man releases his grip on the landing rails of the helicopter and FALLS into the Havana River with a SPLASH.

ANGLE ON CUBAN MAN

The Cuban Man swims for the shore where Cuban Citizens CHEER his bravery.

CLOSE OF ALBINO MAN

The Albino Man places the grenade launcher to his shoulder.

OS OF ALBINO MAN

The Albino Man aims the grenade launcher towards the Cuban Military helicopter.

CLOSE OF ALBINO MAN

ALBINO MAN

(spanish)

Para todo el pueblo de Cuba, Sr. Presidente!

SUPER: For the people of Cuba, Mr. President!

OS OF ALBINO MAN

The Albino Man FIRES the grenade launcher. A loud WHOOSH escapes it and a whiff of smoke trails through the sky towards the Cuban Military helicopter.
INT. CUBAN MILITARY HELICOPTER - MOMENTS LATER

Fidel Castro is peering out the window and observes the Albino Man on the ground raising the grenade launcher above his head.

    FIDEL CASTRO
    (shock on his face)
    Oh, Dios mio!

EXT. STATUE OF NEPTUNE, MALECON - MOMENTS LATER

The Cuban Military helicopter EXPLODES in a ball of fire, the fiery helicopter pieces CRASH into the river.

In the foreground the Cuban Citizens are PULLING the Cuban Man from the water.

CLOSE OF CUBAN PEOPLE

The Cuban Citizens YELL excitedly, their fists raised in the air, they are free.

INT. CAMP DAVID - LAUREL LODGE

President Harris, Mildred Wilson, Robert Laslow, Admiral Brancor, and Ronald Clark are staring at the TV screens.

Dr. Samuel May is staring out the window.

A phone RINGS, President Harris glances at the conference table, hands over the remote control to Mildred and walks across the room.

The Junior Staffers part to allow the president to REACH for and pick up the red phone.

    PRESIDENT HARRIS
    (into phone)
    This is President River Harris.

President Harris PAUSES, GRUNTS and then GRINS.

    PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
    (into phone)
    Son of a bitch, how sure are we?

    MILDRED WILSON
    What is it Mr. President?
PRESIDENT HARRIS
(into the phone)
Who has the story, Mike?

President Harris places the red phone back on its cradle and walks back to Mildred.

PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
(to Mildred)
Put on CNN.

Mildred POINTS the remote at the wall of TV monitors and one of them changes to CNN.

BROOKE BALDWIN
(on TV)
The chopper went down sometime within the last few minutes. Again, we are being advised that both Fidel and Raul Castro were killed when a missile or rocket propelled grenade shot down their helicopter as they attempted to flee the island in expectation of the catastrophic disaster heading for the Eastern Atlantic.

Mildred Wilson places her hand on the President’s shoulder and glances around to everyone.

MILDRED WILSON
(sternly)
Bastard, he finally got what he had coming!

ROBERT LASLOW
(to Mildred)
Glad I’m not your enemy.

MILDRED WILSON
(to Robert)
You’re not my enemy, yet, Robert. But since you are the Chief of Staff, you’ll have your chance.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(to Mildred)
Down, girl, down.

INT. A LARGE RESEARCH ROOM

SUPER : Hazard Research Centre - London
Professor Chris Grossman is huddled with a group of researchers looking at a satellite feed upon a large display. It shows a wall of water moving towards the east coast of the United States.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(pointing at the feed)
These are images of the wave from the European Space Agency ERS-1 and ERS-2 satellites. The data indicates something much different than we anticipated.

In the background, a young man tears a printout from a machine and walks across the room.

YOUNG MAN
(looking at printout)
This is not possible.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(turning)
What is it?

YOUNG MAN
(handing printout over)
The wave height is much greater in the southeastern Atlantic.

PROFESSOR GROSSMAN
(looking at printout)
Good Lord, these numbers indicate total destruction of South Florida.

INT. CHINOOK HELICOPTER - LATE AFTERNOON

Civilian evacuees fill the jump seats on either side of the isle, their faces drawn with uncertainty.

The sound of the chopper blades WHOMP, WHOMP, WHOMP is loud within the chopper.

A U.S. soldier makes his way down the isle glancing at the evacuees.

A baby cries and the U.S. soldier glances towards a Hispanic woman rocking a baby in her arms.

Beside her an elderly couple looks on.
U.S. SOLDIER
(to woman)
What’s his name?

HISPANIC WOMAN
(nervously smiling)
Enrico.

U.S. SOLDIER
(confidently)
It’ll be fine miss, we’ll be
landing at Camp Exodus Six in just
a moment.

HISPANIC WOMAN
Where is that?

U.S. SOLDIER
On the grounds of the Billie Swamp
Safari in the Everglades.

ELDERLY MAN
(to U.S. Soldier)
Will we be safe there, sir?

The U.S. Soldier NODS before continuing down the isle and
into the cockpit.

INT. CHINOOK COCKPIT

The U.S. Soldier is standing behind the CHINOOK PILOT and his
CO-PILOT.

Through the window, the road below, ALLIGATOR ALLEY, is
visible. It is bumper to bumper with traffic.

CHINOOK PILOT
(over his shoulder)
How is this group holding up?

U.S. SOLDIER
They’re doing all right.

EXT. ALLIGATOR ALLEY (I-75) – LATE AFTERNOON

HELICOPTER SHOT

The Chinook helicopter is flying below us and above Alligator
Alley.

TRAFFIC is backed up for as far as the eye can see.
People are leaving their vehicles and walking in hordes down the road.

FURTHER ALONG

The Chinook swings away from Alligator Alley and descends towards Billie Swamp Safari.

EXT. BILLIE SWAMP SAFARI - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPER: Billie Swamp Safari, Florida Everglades

The Chinook lands in a parking lot packed with U.S Army trucks, civilian buses and cars.

The U.S. Soldier exits the Chinook and helps the Hispanic Woman, the Elderly Couple and the rest of the Evacuees from the chopper.

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN are handing out bottles of water to the Evacuees.

An AIR FORCE OFFICER is speaking through a bullhorn.

    AIR FORCE OFFICER
    Please move along, we have food and water for everyone. Please remain calm.

The ELDERLY COUPLE make their way through the camp and enter the amphitheater.

INT. BILLY SWAMP SAFARI - AMPHITHEATER

The Elderly Couple appear through the entrance with a group of Evacuees.

On the wall, a theater screen displays a helicopter shot of Miami Beach.

    WSVN REPORTER (V.O.)
    (in mid report)
    We now join Ralph Rayburn in Sky Force 7. Ralph, I understand the causeway is still not clear. What’s going on?
EXT. WSVN 7 SKY FORCE HELICOPTER - LATE AFTERNOON

A Bell 407 ENG Helicopter with WSVN 7 painted along its side is hovering over Ocean Drive on Miami Beach.

INT. WSVN 7 SKY FORCE HELICOPTER

Reporter, RALPH RAYBURN, is sitting beside the WSVN CHOPPER PILOT pointing a news camera out the window.

RALPH RAYBURN
That’s right, thousands are still trying to flee Miami Beach, but traffic is backed up along the MacArthur Causeway.

The reporter’s face twists in a grimace of shock.

RALPH RAYBURN (CONT’D)
Jesus Christ!

Ralph Rayburn places his eye to the viewfinder and points the news camera at something.

NEWS CAMERA POV

Barreling down on the shores of Miami Beach is a wave fifteen stories high.

TSUNAMI WAVE POV

The shoreline of Miami Beach lies in the distance.
Military Helicopters of every type are lifting into the sky.
The WSVN Sky Force 7 helicopter is hovering above the beach.

INT. WSVN SKY FORCE 7 HELICOPTER

Ralph Rayburn is pointing the news camera at something below.

NEWS CAMERA POV

PEOPLE crowd the rooftops of the boutique hotels along Ocean Drive.

MORE PEOPLE are RUNNING along the street.
The wall of water CRASHES into the boutique hotels and totally SUBMERGES them.
The wave continues to move over the streets of Miami Beach.

CUT TO

EXT. MACARTHUR CAUSEWAY - LATE AFTERNOON
HELICOPTER SHOT
In the distance are the skyscrapers of the City of Miami.
The Port of Miami lies below us.
Huge gantry cranes and thousands of stacked shipping containers sit in the port.

FURTHER ALONG
Two passenger cruise ships are moored to the docks.
The MacArthur Causeway is backed up with traffic along the three westbound lanes. HORNS are BLARING.
Thousands of PEOPLE are RUNNING away from their vehicles, POINTING east.

PEOPLE POV
A wave surge of 150 feet in height crashes over the buildings of Miami Beach and RACES across the Miami bay.

ANGLE ON PEOPLE
They are RUNNING and SCREAMING westbound along the causeway.
Army Black Hawk helicopters LOUDLY swoop out of the sky and hover over the people.

INT. A BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER
Two CREW CHIEFS are huddled in the chopper.
CREW CHIEF #1 attaches the hoisting hook to a rope ladder and TOSSES it out the jump port.
CREW CHIEF #2 leans out the jump port and peers below.

CREW CHIEFS POV

A dozen People are CLIMBING the rope ladder. Others are PUSHING and FIGHTING one another trying to GRASP the bottom rung.

The surge CRASHES into the abandoned vehicles and TUMBLES them in its wave which is heading for the fleeing people.

ANGLE ON CREW CHIEF #2

He twirls his finger in the air.

CREW CHIEF #2
(to Crew Chief #1)
Pull it up! Pull it up!

INT. WSVN 7 HELICOPTER

Ralph Rayburn is pointing the news camera through the open side door of the helicopter.

NEWS CAMERA POV

The Black Hawks are lifting into the sky with their rope ladders hanging below them crowded with People.

The surge CRASHES over the People on the ground.

INT. WSVN NEWSROOM

Newsroom Staff are crowded around a large TV monitor watching people struggling to stay afloat in the surge.

PAN TO

A NEWS WOMAN is sitting at an anchor desk staring into a camera.

NEWS WOMAN
We welcome those of you who have just joined our broadcast across the country as FOX brings our affiliate stations into the broadcast.

(MORE)
Ralph Rayburn is above the city of Miami bringing us these horrifying images, Ralph?

INT. WSVN SKY FORCE 7 HELICOPTER

Ralph Rayburn is peering into the viewfinder of the news camera.

RALPH RAYBURN
The destruction continues as we watch these massive cruise ships which have been ripped from their moorings and are being carried on the water surge barreling towards downtown.

NEWS CAMERA POV

The surge, carrying vehicles, shipping containers and two cruise ships BARRELS towards downtown Miami.

Shipping containers are SMASHING into the Miami Herald building one after another.

PAN TO

On the other side of the causeway a passenger cruise ship is CRASHING into and through dozens of pleasure boats tied at the docks in Bayside Marina.

The cruise ship EXPLODES into the Bayside Marketplace.

CUT TO

EXT. METRO RAIL PARAMOUNT STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

A Metro Mover car SCREECHES to a SUDDEN stop on its tracks suspended 25 feet above seventh street.

CLOSE OF METRO MOVER CAR

Through the windows we see the Metro Mover is full of people.

INT. METRO MOVER CAR

A dozen Metro Mover RIDERS are SCREAMING and POINTING out the window.
METRO MOVER RIDERS POV

A cruise ship riding atop the surge CRASHES into the side of the American Airlines Arena, breaks in half and EXPLODES.

METRO MOVER RIDERS (V.O.)
(collectively)
Ooooooh!

A VOICE (V.O.)
Oh, shit!

ANOTHER VOICE (V.O.)
We got to get out of here!

Half of the cruise ship continues on the surge and SMASHES into the Freedom Tower.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON METRO MOVER RIDERS

The Metro Mover riders are hysterically SCREAMING and staring through the window.

A WOMAN, shaking with fear, tries to push the doors open.

WOMAN
(to the other Riders)
Come on, guys! Come on! Get the doors open.

A BLACK MAN, CUBAN MAN and WHITE MAN rush over to the doors and are trying to force the doors open, but they hold.

The Woman crosses herself, then POINTS out the window.

WOMAN’S POV

The surge, carrying cars, shipping containers and pieces of buildings advances toward them.

ANGLE ON METRO MOVER RIDERS

Everyone in the car is SCREAMING, expecting an impact.

The Metro Mover car suddenly SHAKES, the riders are violently being TOSSED from side to side.
EXT. METRO MOVER CAR - SECOND AVENUE

The front of the Metro Mover car is dangling over the concrete support, the surge pushing under the elevated tracks.

INT. METRO MOVER CAR

The Metro Mover riders STRUGGLE towards the back of the car and it TILTS with their weight.

HELIICOPTER SHOT

The WSVN Sky Force 7 helicopter is hovering above the surge in front of the Metro Mover car.

RALPH RAYBURN (V.O.)
Holy cow! Will you look at that Metro Mover! Its a miracle that isn’t crashing into the surge!

CUT TO

INT. CAMP DAVID - LAUREL LODGE

President Harris and his staff are watching the national coverage from WSVN 7.

The room is full with CAMP DAVID PERSONNEL who are looking over the shoulders of the President and his staff.

On the other TV monitors are scenes from New York, Boston and Washington D.C., all of which show flooded streets.

In the background a phone is RINGING.

A VOICE (O.S.)
Mr. President, it’s the dedicated line!

President Harris looks over the crowded room towards the conference table.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
(to the people)
Okay everyone, lets clear out the room except for my staff and Dr. May.

The Camp David Personnel leave the room as President Harris picks up the red phone.
PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
(into phone)
This is President River Harris.

Mildred Wilson and Dr. Samuel May are staring out the window, speaking in muffled conversation.

Robert Laslow, Admiral Brancor, and Ronald Clark surround the president.

The President glances toward the window.

PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
Sam?

Dr. Samuel May TURNS from the window.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
Yes, Mr. President?

President Harris holds the red phone out towards Sam.

PRESIDENT HARRIS
You’ll be the first civilian to ever speak on this line, but it has to be on speaker.

SILENCE fills the room as Mildred guides Dr. Samuel May to the conference table.

Sam STARES at the phone with a look of concern on his face.

The President PRESSES a button and replaces the phone in the cradle.

PRESIDENT HARRIS (CONT’D)
This is the President, Dr. May can hear you.

DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)
(over the speakerphone)
Sam? Sam?

Sam places both his hand on the conference table and breaks down in tears of happiness.

DR. SAMUEL MAY
(through sobs)
Tish, oh my god, oh my god!

The President leads everyone from the room.
EXT. LAUREL LODGE - EVENING

The President of the United States is closing the door to the lodge, stops halfway, and peers back into the room.

PRESIDENT POV

Dr. Samuel May is smiling and wiping tears from his face.

    DR. SAMUEL MAY
    (into speakerphone)
    I love you so much.

    DR. TISH HARRIET (V.O.)
    (through speakerphone)
    I love you more, Sam.

The President closes the door and TURNS to his staff.

He wraps his arms around their backs and guides them towards a horde of waiting reporters.

    PRESIDENT HARRIS
    (to his staff)
    We have lots of work to do.

    FADE OUT