HYDROPOLIS

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - JUST OFF LONG ISLAND - DAY

A yacht slices through the water. A foamy wake spreads behind it.

I/E. NIMBUS 340 COMMANDER YACHT - DAY

MARTIN LOCKE (40's, rugged) pushes the throttle as JEAN LOCKE (40's, petite) and ALEX LOCKE (late-teens, athletic) hold tight.

They slide out of their seats and fall on top of each other.

JEAN
Not fair!

YOUNG ALEX
C'mon Dad!

Martin eases up on the throttle. The yacht slows.

MARTIN
A bet's a bet! One of you is buying dinner tonight.

JEAN
Not it!

MARTIN
Looks like it's you buddy.

YOUNG ALEX
Shoot...

JEAN
Just let me freshen up first.

MARTIN
Sure. Hey... take charge, OK? I've gotta change this shirt.

Alex jumps behind the wheel.

YOUNG ALEX
Yes!

MARTIN
Keep it under five knots and stay to the right.

He tussles Alex's hair and throws a Captain's hat at him.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Be right back.

YOUNG ALEX
Aye, aye!

Alex is in heaven as he mans the controls.

INT. YACHT - GALLEY - DAY

Jean brushes her hair while Martin searches the closet.

MARTIN
Did you see my jacket? It's getting a little chilly out th--

BOOOM!

A tremendous EXPLOSION of metal, wood, fiberglass, and seawater erupts into the galley.

Martin and Jean are thrown off balance as the yacht jerks violently from side to side.

He grabs Jean and makes his way to the galley door.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Alex!!!

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

A dazed Alex swims towards the yacht.

YOUNG ALEX
Mom! Dad!

He fights his way through the water. The boat is severely damaged and starts to list forward - nose down.

A much larger boat bisects the Locke's yacht. Smoke billows from the larger vessel.

INT. YACHT - GALLEY - DAY

The galley continues to flood with seawater and debris. Martin and Jean fight against the raging ocean and struggle to reach the door.

JEAN
Omigod...

MARTIN
Go! Go!

The boat continues to rapidly tilt nose down.

EXT. YACHT - DAY

Alex reaches the boat and moves along its side until he's at the back steps.

The boat's rear end lifts off the water's surface as its nose tips forward. Alex grabs the ladder and holds on.

Coast Guard SIRENS wail in the distance.

INT. YACHT - GALLEY - DAY

Martin and Jean are almost at the door. He reaches for the doorknob as...

Everything in the room rotates 90 degrees. They're slammed backwards by the sudden shift of water.

The galley doorway in now above them as the ship's back end points straight up.

The galley door SLAMS shut above their heads.

JEAN
Alex! Alex!

I/E. YACHT - DAY

Alex hears her muffled yells as he pulls himself onto the deck. He rushes over to the galley door and pulls the handle with all of his might.

The door is jammed.

He looks through the door's circular window and sees...

THROUGH WINDOW

His mother and father as they struggle inside the galley.

YOUNG ALEX
Nooooo!

He SLAMS his hands against the window.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT'D)
Help!

Ocean water quickly laps over the sides of the boat and onto Alex.

The faces of his parents through the window blurs as seawater floods over the door and consumes the yacht.

Alex is washed away as the entire vessel is sucked downward into the ocean.

The boat disappears below the ocean's surface.

He floats alone amid debris as the larger yacht burns next to him. Three Coast Guard cutters speed into the area.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - AERIAL VIEW - DAY

The same view of Alex, the large yacht, and the three cutters as they approach.

SUPER: 8 YEARS LATER

STREETS OF DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - DAY

Cars, trucks, and pedestrians move together with clockwork-like precision on this beautiful sunny morning.

ALEX jogs towards a modern glass and steel residential building. He cradles a brown paper bag and passes by...

A small group of ARAB CHILDREN gathered underneath a tree, their eyes fixated up into its branches.

Alex stops and peers up into the tree. He quickly leaps onto the trunk and effortlessly navigates up its branches.

A few moments pass by and...

He drops to the ground with a yellow balloon in one hand, and the brown paper bag in the other.

He hands the balloon to one of the children and continues towards the building.

CHILDREN
(in Arabic)
Thank you Mister!

INT. JUMEIRAH ESTATES - APARTMENT 1117 - DINING ROOM - DAY

SARAH MILLAND (20's, American, athletic) turns away from the dining table with a wine glass in her hand.

The front door opens.

Alex enters the room. He reaches into the brown paper bag and pulls out a bottle of wine.

ALEX
This is all they had. Mahgi... Majji, or something. I can't pronounce it.

SARAH
It's Mahagi, and it'll do just fine.

ALEX
Mahagi.

SARAH
Thanks for running out for it...

She approaches Alex and wraps her arms around his waist.

SARAH (CONT'D)
And thanks for being here.

ALEX
Wouldn't miss it for the world.

SARAH
Be careful... I've heard that line before, and then poof!

ALEX
I know, I know.

Alex plucks a camera off the couch and walks over to a huge bay-window overlooking Dubai. He snaps a few shots of the skyline and the towering Burj Khalifa.

His camera CLICKS and GRINDS. He spins the lens collar.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Damn sand.

SARAH
Sweetie?

ALEX
Yeah?

SARAH
They're finally going to fill Hamadi's position. I really think you should reconsider and go in for the interview.

ALEX
Sarah, please...

SARAH
C'mon. They'd take you right away.

ALEX
I just can't... I'm done with all of that. Plus the water...

Sarah holds up a mug with the BLACKWATER logo on it.

SARAH
You still use this, don't you?

ALEX
I like the shape... and that's the only thing I kept. I'm a regular guy now. I can't--

SARAH
OK, OK... I'll drop it. I just thought we could work together, that's all.

Sarah sits at the table.

SARAH (CONT'D)
C'mon shutterbug. Let's eat.

INT. APARTMENT 1117 - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Alex sits at the empty table. The sound of a SHOWER can be heard from another room.

He pulls a small light-blue box from his pocket and pops it open. A sparkling marquis-shaped diamond solitaire ring is nestled inside.

He sits back and SNAPS the box shut.

ALEX
I was thinking... have you given any more thought to--

Sarah enters the room and towels off her hair.

SARAH
To what?

ALEX
To heading back to the states?

SARAH
Sure, I'll be able to take a few weeks off if today goes without a hitch. Check that... make it about a good month without a hitch.

ALEX
No... I meant permanently.

Alex walks over to Sarah. She tenses up.

SARAH
My life's here, at least for now. You're bouncing all over the world on a moment's notice... I ask you to be with me and then the phone rings... and you're gone.

ALEX
Sarah...

SARAH
I want us to settle down, plant some roots... make a commitment...

ALEX
I can be there for you.

SARAH
Then show me. Show me that you can... starting with tonight.

ALEX
I'd love that but--

SARAH
Hey... I understand it's tough for you to go down there but this is the biggest night of my life... please tell me you're coming.

ALEX
I uh...

Alex reaches into his pocket and palms the blue box.

A silent moment, and then...

RING! RING! RING!

Alex's iPhone BLARES. He winces - silent moment over.

SARAH
Saved by the bell again, right?

Sarah turns away while Alex takes the call.

INTO PHONE

ALEX
Hello? Yeah, it's me. Where?
Sure, sure... I'm uh, ready now...
yeah, yeah, just send the info...

INT. APARTMENT 1117 - SARAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah weeps at her bedroom mirror.

Photographs are wedged along the mirror's frame.

---A picture of a younger Alex in BLACKWATER security garb

---A picture of Alex and Sarah in Tae Kwon Do outfits

---A picture of Alex and a group of men hunkered down against a barricade. The letters 'CNN' on their videocameras

She composes herself, slips on her shoes, and heads for the living room.

INT. APARTMENT 1117 - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alex sits on the couch with his head down as Sarah moves towards the door. He jumps up and heads her off.

SARAH
Let me guess... you won't be able
to make the opening tonight.

ALEX
Gotta be at DXB in three hours.

SARAH
Then that would be a 'no' right?

ALEX
Right...

SARAH
Where to this time?

ALEX
Egypt.

Sarah briskly adjusts her outfit. She grabs her purse and two cell phones.

SARAH
The part-time boyfriend thing hasn't really been working out for me.... or for us...

She opens the front door.

ALEX
Wait! I'm trying to...

SARAH
Always trying.

ALEX
But--

Sarah pushes past Alex.

SARAH
Lock it up when you leave. I'll tell everyone that you <u>still</u> haven't met that you said hello.

She exits through the door and SLAMS it shut. Alex EXHALES and heads back into the living room.

INT. APARTMENT 1117 - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Alex carries his packed gear/luggage towards the front door. He grabs the door handle just as...

His phone RINGS... it RINGS again... and again.

He presses the IGNORE button on the phone and walks out the door.

I/E. GULF TRANSPORT COMPANY TAXICAB - DAY

Alex sits in the back of the taxi. He stares out the window at the city skyline.

He pulls his phone from his pocket and peeks at the VOICEMAIL icon.

It blinks and reads: 1 MESSAGE.

He presses the PLAY button.

THROUGH PHONE

SARAH'S VOICE
Hey it's me. I'm sorry I took off... the pressure of getting everything together for the opening and all this other crap has me freaking out... and then you got that call and had to go... I'm really sorry I snapped... I'll try to reach you tomorrow... um... gotta go... just wish you were here, that's all...

He sits back, rubs his temples, and TAPS the glass partition.

ALEX
Excuse me...

The CAB DRIVER (40's, Middle Eastern) turns his head.

CAB DRIVER
Sir?

ALEX
Forget the airport. Take me to Hydropolis.

CAB DRIVER
Yes sir.

The cab driver turns the wheel and makes a quick U-turn. The tires on the taxi SCREECH.

EXT. JUMEIRAH BEACH - STREET - DUSK

The taxi pulls up to the curb. Alex gets out, pays the fare, and scans the area.

ALEX
Hey buddy!

The cab driver looks out his window.

CAB DRIVER
Yes?

ALEX
Where is it?

CAB DRIVER
(in broken English)
You kidding me, right?

The cab driver points in the direction of the bay at a futuristic bubble-shaped structure.

ALEX
Where's the rest of it?

CAB DRIVER
(in broken English)
Funny guy! The rest of it is how-you-say... down under! Place some more shrimps into that barbie!

ALEX
I'm American, not Austral... just forget it.

The cab driver pulls the taxicab into a parking spot.

CAB DRIVER
(in broken English)
I wait for you?

ALEX
Yeah, be back in thirty minutes.

Alex walks towards the bubble-shaped structure.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Here goes nothing.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION - DUSK

Alex reaches the Surface Station for Hydropolis. It shimmers in the setting sun. Spotlights, lasers, and MEDIA PEOPLE surround the red carpet and take photos as CELEBRITIES, POLITICIANS, and ROYALTY make their way towards the hotel.

He reaches the end of a huge line of PEOPLE and looks up at...

A two-story mass of steel, marble, and polycarbonate Plexiglas. The smooth curves and architecture of the building look like they're 100 years ahead of their time.

Camera flashes POP and flicker along the building's surfaces from every angle... almost as if it's some sort of rock star - and building-wise, it really is.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION - DUSK

Alex watches as various CATERING STAFF and HVAC WORKERS wheel their equipment through a security checkpoint and pack their gear into a cavernous service elevator.

Alex looks up ahead towards the front of the line and SIGHS.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - LATER

Alex finally reaches the front of the line.

Two security guards, SAMEED (40's, male, Middle Eastern) and HANNAH (20's, female, Israeli) approach him.

SAMEED
Identification please.

Alex hands his ID to the guard.

SAMEED (CONT'D)
Name?

ALEX
Alex Locke. I'll be on the guest list. Guest of Sarah Milland.

Hannah smiles at Alex. She checks her clipboard.

HANNAH
Your name's been crossed off.

ALEX
You're kidding, right?

She shows him the clipboard.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Shit... hold on a second.

He pulls out his phone and dials quickly.

INTO PHONE

ALEX (CONT'D)
Hey Pete, it's me. I need a huge favor... you gotta get me into Hydropolis. VIP pass, regular media pass, anything. No, no, no, I don't care, I'll do anything. Switch me with Chad for next week...
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
hell, I'll cover for you the next eight Sundays if I have to... just get me in there...

He ends the call.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Can you check the media list?

SAMEED
Nothing on my screen.

ALEX
You know how these computer things are... can you check again?

Sameed rechecks his monitor.

SAMEED
Nope... you're still not there buddy, sorry.

Sameed walks over to Alex. Other PEOPLE in line slowly become aware of the situation.

ALEX
Wait! Just check it again, please...

Sameed takes Alex's arm and starts to escort him out of the line. Alex quickly spins out of Sameed's grasp and reverses the situation.

SAMEED
Hey!

Alex's phone BUZZES. He releases Sameed and checks it.

ON PHONE SCREEN

It reads: GOOD TO GO. YOU OWE ME BIG TIME!!!

Hannah clicks a button and refreshes Sameed's monitor.

HANNAH
Hold on a second. He's right here... Locke, Alex.

Sameed rubs his shoulder.

SAMEED
Thanks for the dislocation.

HANNAH
Welcome to Hydropolis Mister Locke...

She notices his ratty clothes.

ALEX
Last second decision.

HANNAH
OK... by the way, I'm Hann--

SAMEED
Place your items in the tray and step through the machine please.

Alex drops a few items, including the blue ring box, into the tray. He steps through the magnetic body scanner.

WHOOP! WHOOP! WHOOP!

ALEX
Don't worry, it's licensed.

SAMEED
Weapons are forbidden down below. We'll locker it up here.

Alex hands his pistol to Hannah and holds up his phone.

ALEX
What about this?

HANNAH
Keep it. Here's your credential.

Hannah hangs a media pass around Alex's neck and smiles.

ALEX
Thanks.

Alex grabs his stuff from the tray and makes his way over to the large steel and glass elevator. He slowly and reluctantly enters the elevator car.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION ELEVATOR - DUSK

Alex waits as GUESTS slowly filter inside. He's <u>extremely</u> under-dressed and sticks out like a sore-thumb as MEN in tuxedos and WOMEN in elegant gowns fill the elevator.

ALEX
Yeesh.

The elevator doors close and an LCD display above the door frame blips to life. It reads: DEPTH 0 METERS - SEA LEVEL

Alex fidgets, swallows hard, and starts to blink rapidly.

The elevator moves and begins its slow and steady descent.

I/E. HYDROPOLIS - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

The elevator emerges from underneath the Surface Station foundation. The guests GASP in unison. Alex swallows.

The glass elevator slides quietly down its 20-inch thick-walled polycarbonate Plexiglas shaft - there's no metal structures to be seen, it's all Plexiglas. It appears that they're floating down through the ocean.

Various sea creatures and fish swim by the outside of the shaft. You'd think you could touch them.

It's almost as if the guests are part of a larger-than-life aquarium... that's because they are.

Alex starts to tremble a bit and breaks into a sweat. He struggles to take slow deep breaths.

ALEX
(to himself)
Relax... just relax.

The display reads: DEPTH 30 METERS - BELOW MEAN SEA LEVEL

The sunlight from above the ocean surface starts to dim as the elevator descends deeper.

NOTE: <u>Sunlight is non-existent in Hydropolis - so the slugs while inside the hotel will no longer contain DAY and NIGHT.</u>

Alex looks down through the clear floor of the elevator and watches as a large illuminated structure slowly comes into focus from the depths below.

The elevator continues its descent - the display now reads: DEPTH 50 METERS - BELOW MEAN SEA LEVEL

The lights from below grow brighter with each passing moment.

Alex looks out across the seascape and sees three other elevator tubes like this one, all reaching down to a now visible massive 20-story steel and polycarbonate structure...

HYDROPOLIS

The hotel is a larger-than-life, architectural masterpiece.

Complex and angular, Hydropolis seems to shimmer as the sea currents refract the light emitted from its state-of-the-art construction.

Polycarbonate Plexiglas tunnels run along the outside of the structure and along the ocean floor in various geometric patterns... like a futuristic Habitrail... only this one's on steroids, and solely for humans.

The display reads: DEPTH 100 METERS - BELOW MEAN SEA LEVEL

Alex looks up through the ceiling of the elevator. The shaft disappears into blackness. He drops to one knee and starts to hyperventilate.

WELL-DRESSED MAN
Are you OK? Sir?!

A BUMP and they're at the bottom.

Alex starts to breathe easier.

The doors slide open and everyone excitedly files into...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

Alex slowly follows the guests out into the ornate lobby and across a second red carpet.

Tons of steel, marble, and Plexiglas envelop the entire area.

The ceiling is constructed of hundreds of giant Plexiglas bubbles and spheres, adding to the aquarium-like illusion.

The lobby is packed with other GUESTS, and VARIOUS PERFORMERS (fire eaters, jugglers, mimes).

Large fire effects flicker throughout the room.

Alex grabs one of the marble statues and sticks his face in front of an air vent on the wall. He slowly relaxes.

He lets go of the statue and walks past a large gold plaque that reads:

IN HONOR OF THE TEN DEEP-SEA WELDERS/ENGINEERS THAT PERISHED DURING COMPLETION OF THE FINAL PHASE OF HYDROPOLIS.

He closes his eyes and breathes deeply a few more times.

Alex walks past the Front Desk. The FRONT DESK ATTENDANT (40's, male, Middle Eastern) looks up from his paperwork.

FRONT DESK ATTENDANT
Excuse me sir, the exit for the hired help is that way.

The Attendant eyeballs Alex's tattered clothing and credential.

FRONT DESK ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
Oh, I see you're with the media.

ALEX
Yes.

FRONT DESK ATTENDANT
Then you have access to the press room on level nineteen. Food, computers, even a nice shower.

ALEX
Thanks for the tip.

Alex walks away from the front desk and admires the celebration around him.

He follows a sign that reads: ELEVATORS -->

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOWER LEVEL - SUITES

A TOUR GUIDE (20's, female) leads a small group of well-dressed GUESTS into one of the Presidential Suites.

The clear Plexiglas room is accented in the finest marbles, woods, and silks. Bubbles stream through the Plexiglas floors, walls, and ceilings.

TOUR GUIDE
State-of-the-art accommodations... your own private corner of the ocean.

A FEMALE GUEST (30's) runs over to the wall.

FEMALE GUEST #1
Look at the bubbles! How fun...

HENRY (40's) turns to the Tour Guide.

HENRY
Magnificent!

FEMALE GUEST #2
What are those switches for?

The Tour Guide flips the switches. The floor, walls, and ceiling all slowly turn from clear to black.

TOUR GUIDE
Piezoelectric shading.

HENRY
Instant darkness...

TOUR GUIDE
Yes.

FEMALE GUEST #2
Fantastic.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - MEDIA ROOM

Alex pours a bottle of Perrier over his head and towels off his hair.

ALEX
It's showtime.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Alex enters the enormous, lavishly decorated Ballroom. The place is completely packed. Laser lights flash as a DJ spins techno-pop songs.

He scans the room for a few seconds and finally sees Sarah.

Sarah's absolutely beaming, obviously very proud of this place and this moment. She's shocked to see him.

He walks up and gives her a huge hug and kiss.

ALEX
Wow! Just wow!

SARAH
Better than that brochure, right?

ALEX
A million times.

SARAH
This is quite a surprise.

ALEX
I know.

SARAH
I'm... I'm glad you're here.
It <u>really</u> means a lot to me.
I know it's tough for you.

ALEX
I just figured what the heck,
y'know? I can always catch a later
flight. I had to see what all the
fuss was about.

SARAH
Yeah right. You're shaking and
sweating.

ALEX
I'm just very excited, that's all.

Sarah's parents, BRIAN (50's, wearing an oxygen mask) and EMMA MILLAND (50's) approach the couple.

BRIAN
Alex!

EMMA
So nice to see you again.

ALEX
Hey!

EMMA
It's our thirtieth anniversary
tonight.

ALEX
Is it now? Congratulations!

He gives them both a hug and then gives Sarah another hug.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Excuse me Sir... please be gentle
with our Planning Director...

The MAN walks over to Alex and extends his hand. This is TARIQ ZAIDI, the CEO of HYDROPOLIS (40's, Egyptian, intelligent, refined). He speaks with an Arabic accent.

TARIQ
You must be Alex. It's a pleasure
to finally meet you!

They shake hands.

ALEX
Same here sir.

TARIQ
No, no. You must call me Tariq, I insist.

ALEX
Yes.

TARIQ
(to Sarah)
Ready to begin?

SARAH
Absolutely.
(to Alex)
I have a million things to take care of. Just mingle for a while.

ALEX
Sure.

She leaves Alex's side and is almost run into by...

JOSH and AMANDA GETTY (20's, American, and dressed to the nines) as they dance across the floor.

JOSH
Awesome!

AMANDA
I know.

JOSH
Best honeymoon ever.

AMANDA
Hell yeah!

PHILLIPE DODICI (40's, Italian, well-dressed, suave) approaches KASHMIRA AMBANI (30's, Indian, beautiful).

PHILLIPE
Excuse me Miss, may I have this dance?

KASHMIRA
Perhaps later. I'm waiting for my date.

She looks at her watch and cracks an uneasy smile.

PHILLIPE
There's no date, is there?

KASHMIRA
No.

PHILLIPE
Then please...

He extends his hand. She pauses and then takes it.

KASHMIRA
Why not.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL ELEVATOR AREA

The HVAC CREW empties their equipment from the elevator car. They've unloaded a huge amount of gear down here.

One MEMBER of the crew (this is DMITRI, second in command, 30's, Russian, long ponytail, thick Russian accent) slides a key into the elevator lock.

He turns it left, then right, and then left again.

The elevator doors open, but the car is stopped halfway up the tube.

He removes two steel V-shaped wedges from his toolbox. A steel pipe CLANGS to the floor.

He SLAMS the wedges between each side of the elevator's caster/wheel assembly and then...

Slides a block of SEMTEX with multiple mercury switches under the wheel assembly.

Dmitri JAMS the key back into the lock and SNAPS it off.

He turns to one of his CREW.

DMITRI
Let's get to work.

Dmitri and the rest of the crew strip off their work uniforms. They're now all dressed in tuxedos.

They stash their uniforms in one of the equipment carts and wheel them down the hallway.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA

A light blinks on Sameed's LCD panel.

SAMEED
Uh-oh. Service elevator down.

HANNAH
Damn HVAC guys tripped the circuit again. I've got it.

SAMEED
You sure?

HANNAH
Just have to flip the override again.

She flips a switch.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
This is why we make the big money.

SAMEED
Yes.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

The elevator opens and a new batch of GUESTS filters out.

The last one out is LUCIEN VIDAKOVICH (30's, Russian, large and imposing, intelligent, ruthless). He speaks with a Russian accent.

Vidakovich strolls across the lobby, his large frame covered in a pricey tuxedo. He makes his way towards the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Guests mingle as champagne-filled flutes are dispersed by the WAIT STAFF. The crowd buzzes - excitement's in the air.

A closer look shows that this crowd is loaded... filthy-rich. They sparkle almost as much as the hotel does.

It's definitely a diamonds and platinum gathering. More 'ice' here than in the arctic.

VIDAKOVICH enters the room and disappears among the revelers.

SECURITY GUARDS stand at each entrance to the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOWER LEVEL - VIEWING AREA

The Tour Guide ushers the guests into a large open area.

TOUR GUIDE
Look up...

They all turn their heads towards the large opening. It leads almost 100 feet straight up. Beautiful crystal designs and sculptures hang from various levels.

The Tour Guide checks her watch.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)
Get ready...

A CHIME sounds ten times. The designs start to move... some of the crystal objects appear to be human. Cirque du Soleil-type ACROBATS gracefully rise and fall... a human clock!

HENRY
I'm speechless.

FEMALE GUEST #1
Wow!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Guests mingle and admire the large tubular floor-to-ceiling aquarium in the center of the room.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM STAGE

Tariq, Sarah, and other EXECUTIVES gather on the stage. Tariq approaches the microphone.

TARIQ
(into microphone)
Ladies and gentlemen, dignitaries, and distinguished guests.

Tariq raises his glass.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Please join me in raising your glasses... a toast to the newest and most precious architectural jewel known to man... Hydropolis!

The crowd CHEERS wildly.

A large 3-D holographic image of Hydropolis rotates in front of the stage area.

Video screens all around the perimeter of the Ballroom display schematics of the hotel and its structures.

Alex SNAPS multiple pictures of the hotel's layout with his phone.

Sarah catches his eye and mouths the word...

SARAH
Shut-ter-bug!

Alex smiles. He's much more relaxed now.

TARIQ
(into microphone)
I know you're all anxious for the festivities to begin, but first... a demonstration!

Curtains withdraw from the Ballroom's walls.

A spotlight illuminates a 55-gallon drum, suspended from a cable at the bottom of the ocean.

The drum sits silent and still.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Turn your attention to the south wall. What you're seeing is a live real-time demonstration. Only twenty inches of borosilicate polycarbonate Plexiglas separates us from the astronomical pressure down here. The hotel is situated one- to two-hundred meters below the surface of the Persian Gulf.

The crowd OOOHS and AHHHS.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
The English equivalent in PSI at the surface is roughly fourteen-point-seven pounds per square inch.

He pauses.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
The PSI down here is between one hundred thirty-five and four hundred pounds per square inch.

He pauses.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Were it not for this specially-treated Plexiglas your body would react like this steel drum.

He points to the illuminated drum and SNAPS his fingers.

The drum IMPLODES in the blink of an eye. The crowd GASPS.

What was once a four-foot tall steel drum is now a metal ball the size of a grapefruit.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
A record setting achievement in the field of architecture! And now...

Tariq clicks a remote control. A 10' by 20' section of the floor opens and a large display slowly rises into the room. Four HUGE GUARDS take their positions around the display.

A 1/1000th scale replica of Hydropolis and the Dubai skyline constructed completely in diamonds of every color, shape, and size rises up into the room.

Sarah takes the microphone.

SARAH
(into microphone)
A thirty nation collaboration nearly two years in the making.

The crowd APPLAUDS.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
The most valuable specimens from throughout the world all in one place for the first and only time... a once-in-a-lifetime event in honor of the eighth wonder of the world, Hydropolis!
(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)
You could say that it's actually the ninth wonder of the world contained within the eighth wonder of the world!

She walks around the thick glass-walled display.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
The Centenary from Russia with its beautiful heart shape... the Akbar Shah from Turkey. The Angola Star from Africa and the Chloe Diamond from Switzerland on the left. The Cullinan One and Cullinan Two from Great Britain on the right. The Golden Jubilee from the United Arab Emirates and the Millennium Star from Germany. And finally...

She takes a breath.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
The Tiffany Yellow, Star of the Season, and the Hope Diamond, all from the United States.

The crowd approaches the display.

SARAH (CONT'D)
The red lights you see on the inside are motion-sensitive infrared lasers and the glass is a twelve inch thick ceramic-polycarbonate composite... the newest and strongest on earth.

Vidakovich's eyes widen as he examines the security measures.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - COMMAND LEVEL - CORRIDOR

The group of thugs walks rapidly down the corridor. They leave their equipment here and turn the corner to reach...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

The large, glass-enclosed nerve center of HYDROPOLIS. Thousands of wires and circuits are visible through the Plexiglas framework.

State-of-the-art LCDs and touchscreen controls fill the entire room.

TWO CONTROL CENTER WORKERS and TWO SECURITY GUARDS are busy at work inside the center.

The YOUNGER SECURITY GUARD (20's) sees the tuxedo-wearing men (led by Dmitri) approach. He opens the door.

YOUNG SECURITY GUARD
Hey guys, you're in the wrong area. Party's up on Lobby Lev--

Dmitri pulls out a pistol with silencer and quickly fires two shots into the guard's head - THWIP! THWIP!

The young security guard crumbles to the floor.

Dmitri steps over him as the other thugs enter the room.

DMITRI
Touch ANYTHING and die!

The workers and the older guard cower in fear.

The other thugs wheel their carts into the room and remove wires, clamps, cables, and electronics from within.

And with rapid precision they...

---Clamp a line marked: SECURITY CAMERA FEED

---Clamp the circuits marked: PHONE LINES

---Clamp the circuits marked: CELL-TO-SURFACE LINES

---Clamp the circuits marked: CELL-BELOW-SURFACE LINES (this clamp partially slips off the circuit)

---Tap into a line marked: ELEVATOR ACCESS

---Tap into a line marked: SURFACE ALARMS

---One thug (YURI) places a small display on the counter and clamps two cables to a line marked: SURFACE DATA I/O

The screen on the display shows sequences of random numbers that flicker and change too fast for the eye to see.

A small color LCD screen that was knocked on its side during the commotion reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 50/50

Dmitri taps a tiny communication device in his ear.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Boss...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Vidakovich touches his right ear.

VIDAKOVICH
Yes?

DMITRI'S VOICE
(in VIDAKOVICH'S earpiece)
Hydropolis is ours.

Vidakovich smiles.

Alex twirls Sarah as the song ends. The crowd APPLAUDS.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Dmitri blows the smoke from his still-hot silencer. The two workers and older guard lie on the floor motionless.

DMITRI
You know what to do.

Yuri and another thug (OLEG) manipulate the touchscreens.

YURI
Yes.

Dmitri exits the Control Center and...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - COMMAND LEVEL - CORRIDOR

He confidently strides down the hallway. Four thugs follow behind him with their equipment carts.

Dmitri reaches an elevator bank area and presses the UP button. The five men smile.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

The party continues. Phillipe and Kashmira dance next to Alex and Sarah. The Getty's get into the act.

ALEX
Very impressive... Mister?

JOSH
Josh Getty. Not too bad yourself.

They shake hands.

ALEX
Thanks. Alex Locke.

JOSH
Pleasure.

Phillipe and Kashmira walk over and look at Alex.

ALEX
The clothes, right? I wasn't planning on being here.

PHILLIPE
I might be able to help you out...

AMANDA
This place is incredible!

ALEX
My girlfriend Sarah. She set up the whole thing.

AMANDA
Hella party.

SARAH
Thanks.

JOSH
(to Kashmira)
You look familiar.

SARAH
That's Kashmira Ambani, heiress to the Reliance fortune... and you are?

PHILLIPE
Phillipe Dodici, planner with Foster and Partners out of the U.K.

They exchange greetings as the DJ spins another dance hit.

AMANDA
I love this song!

Alex pulls Sarah close to him.

SARAH
Exciting night, huh?

ALEX
I think it's just getting started.

They dance off into the crowd.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri flips a switch on one of the consoles. A series of red lights flash in the room.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

The guards (about 30) quietly move from their posts towards the exits. A STOCKY SECURITY GUARD approaches Tariq.

STOCKY GUARD
Threat code two on security level.

TARIQ
Take care of it as quietly as possible.

STOCKY GUARD
Yes sir.

The rest of the guards leave the room.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri and Oleg watch the LCD monitors as...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOWER LEVEL TUNNELS

The Tour Guide leads the group through the tunnels.

TOUR GUIDE
Three miles of viewing tunnels at your disposal any time you wish...

FEMALE GUEST #1
Much better than the brochure...

PSSSSHT!

The Airlock at the far end of the tunnel SLAMS shut.

FEMALE GUEST #2
Did you see that?!

TOUR GUIDE
They're still double-checking the doors. We'll just turn around.

They walk towards the other Airlock and watch nervously as...

PSSSSHT!

The Airlock at their end SLAMS shut with a dense THUD.

FEMALE GUEST #1
What's happening?!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SECURITY ELEVATOR

The guards from the Ballroom enter the giant security elevator. They check their weapons and gear as the doors close.

CHIEF GUARD
Intruder alert in sector seven.
Fan out across the level.

STOCKY GUARD
Where's Basil?

(Basil was the older guard from the Control Center, so he won't be showing up any time soon... or ever)

A slight HISSING NOISE is heard from the ventilation system.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri slides his finger along a touchscreen. An animated gauge that reads: SECURITY ELEVATOR CO2 LEVEL increases rapidly.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SECURITY ELEVATOR

The HISSING noise gets louder as gas fills the elevator.

Five guards attempt to pry open the locked door as the Chief Guard points his weapon at the elevator panel.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

Nothing.

The HISSING continues as the guards drop to their knees.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Thugs dressed as guards enter the room and take the exact positions that the real guards manned.

Tariq watches from afar and gives them a polite nod, oblivious to the fact that these are different people.

Alex and Sarah dance between the other two couples.

PHILLIPE
(to Alex)
We're about the same size... forty-two long, right?

SARAH
Bingo!

PHILLIPE
Check out the Tumi bag over at my table. I tend to overpack a bit.

ALEX
That's very nice of you, but...

Josh twirls Amanda next to Alex.

JOSH
C'mon dude, take his offer... make the night extra special for her.

AMANDA
You know what they say about a well-dressed man...

ALEX
What?

AMANDA
Hell if I know!

Sarah meets Alex's gaze and smiles.

ALEX
OK, I'm in! Exciting right?

SARAH
Oh, I think you're just getting started.

He runs for the dining area.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

Alex dashes through the empty lobby with the Tumi bag.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - MEDIA ROOM

Alex BURSTS into the empty room and quickly strips off his ratty clothes. He opens the bag.

ALEX
Sweet!

He's dressed in a flash. Snappy tuxedo, slick shoes, white shirt, tie... the works.

He grabs the ring box and slides it into his pocket.

Alex bends to one knee.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Sarah, I...

He adjusts his tie.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Would you be my...

He pretends to hold Sarah's hand.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Will you marry...

He's too excited to get the words right.

Alex stands up and brushes himself off...

Tonight's the night.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM STAGE

The DJ winds down another techno-pop dance hit. The guests all APPLAUD.

Tariq steps up to the microphone. Vidakovich emerges from the crowd and slowly moves towards the stage.

TARIQ
(into microphone)
Please join me in a moment of silence as we honor the brave men and women that lost their lives during the final phase of Hydropolis' construction.

The room goes silent for 10 seconds.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
And now the most special of treats before we dine... please join me in welcoming the five-time Grammy Award winning...

The crowd APPLAUDS.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Pop-album-of-the-year winning artist...

The crowd gets LOUDER.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Lady Mysteri!

The crowd goes crazy with CHEERS and APPLAUSE.

The Ballroom goes dark for a few seconds, until...

A spotlight illuminates the ceiling of the Ballroom.

Another spotlight shines on the stage.

Simultaneously, a glass bubble descends from above, and a giant rectangular object rises from beneath the stage.

The bubble descends further and the rectangular object from the stage is revealed to be...

A giant fish tank with a huge clamshell inside.

The bubble rotates open and a plastic-tube encased Lady Mysteri (20's, American, Lady Gaga-esque) continues her descent.

Her outfit mimics HYDROPOLIS.

She sheds the tubes as she descends and tosses them into frenzied crowd. People clamor for the pieces.

She removes the final piece of her outfit, revealing an elaborate mermaid costume.

Lady Mysteri plops down into the fish tank and sits on the submerged clamshell.

The clamshell rises from the water and opens...

It’s a giant piano!

Her BAND MEMBERS hurry into position.

LADY MYSTERI
Let’s do it!

Lady Mysteri gets behind the keys and starts to hammer out one of her hits as lights and lasers fill the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

Alex enters the lobby and sees Sarah. He runs over to her.

ALEX
Sarah?!

The ‘woman’ is actually a life-size 3-D hologram projected onto a piece of Plexiglas.

AVA (HOLOGRAM)
Welcome to Hydropolis. I’m your virtual host Ava. Please ask me anything about the hotel’s layout or our wonderful amenities...

ALEX
Amazing.

Alex shakes his head and walks towards the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM ENTRANCE

Alex enters the energized Ballroom.

He snakes through the crowd, actually bumps into Vidakovich, and finally reaches Sarah and the others.

SARAH
You look fantastic!

ALEX
Can’t believe I blew her entrance.

SARAH
Don't worry, she's just about to amp it up.

Vidakovich moves closer to the Ballroom stage as Lady Mysteri continues to rock the crowd.

Vidakovich leaps onto the stage and grabs Lady Mysteri. He waves a GLOCK for all to see.

Her band members scatter.

Alex grabs Sarah and pulls her close. Her parents join them.

Pandemonium breaks loose as guests flee in every direction.

The weird thing is... no one takes any action against Vidakovich.

Guests run towards the exits as the thugs/guards watch them.

SCREAMS are heard as the thugs suddenly brandish weapons - 9A-91 COMPACT ASSAULT RIFLES and GLOCKS.

The guests recoil from the exits and flock towards the center of the Ballroom.

Vidakovich pulls Lady Mysteri towards him. He reaches into his pocket and leans in for a kiss.

VIDAKOVICH
That last high note?

He swings his hand - a metallic blur WHOOSHES in front of her neck. Blood SPURTS from her throat as she crumbles to the floor.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
It was a little too sharp.

Guests SCREAM in horror.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Listen up. You obey and nobody gets hurt.

Four small POPS are heard.

The four huge guards around the diamond display reach for their necks and drop to the ground.

Four thugs lower their dart guns and wheel their equipment carts into the room. They head towards the diamond display and remove high-tech tools from their carts.

Special hypersonic tools - made for just one thing - cutting ceramic-polycarbonate.

Other thugs remove canvas sacks from their pockets.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
A collection for yours truly. Just drop it into the bags. Rings, watches, necklaces... everything.

Some people remove their jewelry, while others stand in shock.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
And your cell phones too. This can be quick and painless... or very, very painful. Hurry!

Sarah hands one of her phones to the thugs.

Tariq approaches Vidakovich.

TARIQ
A jewelry heist?!

VIDAKOVICH
Ahhh, Mister Hotel Man...

TARIQ
You think you're going to just walk out of here?

VIDAKOVICH
I do, I do. Right after we crack that case open. No one seems to be stopping me, right?

Tariq looks over at the motionless guards near the exits.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
I'll take a few hostages with me right through the front door so to speak. After all Mister Zaidi... as you can plainly see... I own YOUR building.

TARIQ
Just take the jewels and leave. Please. I'll call the surface and give you safe passage.

VIDAKOVICH
Mister Zaidi... you couldn't call for a pizza right now.

The thugs grab a SCREAMING WOMAN and a few other GUESTS. Alex moves towards them. Sarah holds him back.

TARIQ
Please, please! What can I get for you? Anything, but please leave them here.

Vidakovich stops in his tracks.

VIDAKOVICH
I was hoping you might ask...

TARIQ
Anything.

VIDAKOVICH
How about the display codes? You'd really save us some time and effort.

TARIQ
Codes? I don't understand.

VIDAKOVICH
Don't fuck around with me! There is a panel on the top of the display with seven electromagnetic locks and a retinal scan.

TARIQ
H-H-How could you know that?

Vidakovich puts his arm around Tariq's shoulders.

VIDAKOVICH
He wouldn't give me any answers at first either... I'm so sorry...

TARIQ
Who?

VIDAKOVICH
Like I said friend... I'm really sorry... about your brother.

Tariq's eyes open wide.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
I bet you'll never forget him, right? I know I won't.

Tariq shakes his head from side to side in disbelief.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
He had a really great smile... until I bashed his fucking teeth in.

Vidakovich squeezes Tariq's shoulder.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
So... how good is <u>your</u> dental plan?

TARIQ
Wha... what?

Vidakovich pulls a plastic bag from his pocket.

VIDAKOVICH
You see... I've got the retinal scan covered.

The bag contains a pair of human eyes. Vidakovich shakes the bag and LAUGHS.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Hello Tariq! Peek-a-boo! It's me Hamadi... so nice to SEE you again.

Vidakovich kisses the bag.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Your brother really has an eye for detail... or should I say had?

Vidakovich walks over to Tariq. Tariq drops to his knees.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
I have only one request for you Mister Hotel.

Vidakovich grabs Tariq by the hair and lifts him up.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Give... me... the... codes!

He throws Tariq to the floor. Phillipe rushes over to help.

Vidakovich touches the device in his ear.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
Do it now...

The giant video screen at the back of the stage flickers to life. A live video feed showing the guests trapped in the lower level tunnels appears.

Everyone GASPS.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Feast your eyes on the video wall. What you're seeing is a live real-time demonstration. Only twenty inches of borosilicate polycarbonate Plexiglas separates them from the astronomical pressure down here.

TARIQ
Don't!

VIDAKOVICH
The codes!

A pause. Tariq grits his teeth.

TARIQ
The codes are transmitted twice a day... at five A.M. and five P.M.

VIDAKOVICH
I know. I'll take the five P.M. codes if you don't mind.

TARIQ
I don't have them!

Vidakovich turns back to the video screen.

VIDAKOVICH
Now then... without this specially-treated Plexiglas their bodies will react like that steel drum.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
Now!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri slides his finger down a touchscreen.

An animated gauge that reads: TUNNEL #5 PSI increases rapidly.

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 50/50.

It suddenly changes to 48/52.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

ON VIDEO SCREEN

Everyone watches the video screen in horror as the trapped guests start to hold their ears and heads.

A few moments pass and...

The trapped guests start to jerk around violently.

VIDAKOVICH
Do I need to kill my way through your guest list?

TARIQ
I swear to you that I don't have them!

Some of the guests SCREAM.

ON VIDEO SCREEN

Henry's ear and eye sockets stream blood.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
You don't know what you're doing! You're going to endanger every--

VIDAKOVICH
And you're putting everyone's life at stake!

TARIQ
I don't have the codes!

VIDAKOVICH
You know what...

ON VIDEO SCREEN

The tunnel CRACKS and violently IMPLODES in spectacular fashion. The occupants are obliterated. A red plume mushrooms from the debris.

A small tremor vibrates through the hotel.

The panicked guests SCREAM again.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
I don't believe you.

Vidakovich grabs a MAN and WOMAN from the crowd.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Take these two next.

UNLUCKY MAN
No please!

UNLUCKY WOMAN
No!

A JAPANESE MAN (50's) approaches Vidakovich. The thugs train their weapons on him.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
May I help you?

JAPANESE MAN
Please stop this madness.

VIDAKOVICH
Who are you?

JAPANESE MAN
Nobody...

Vidakovich quickly raises his GLOCK...

BLAM!

And calmly SHOOTS the man dead.

VIDAKOVICH
You're right.

Vidakovich walks over the dead man's body.

Phillipe runs in front of Vidakovich and is pistol-whipped. He falls to the floor bloodied. Kashmira runs to his side.

A small group of guests breaks free and storms one of the exit doors. The thugs FIRE a few bullets into the Plexiglas ceiling and the crowd stops in its tracks.

Guests SCREAM in terror.

Alex grabs a medical kit from the wall and opens it.

ALEX
Here!

He hands bandages and other items to Josh and Phillipe. They tend to some of the injured victims.

Alex pulls a small vial of gel (marked Potassium Permanganate) from the medical kit and pockets it. He walks over to the banquet table and grabs one of the sugar bowls.

SARAH
What are you doing?

ALEX
Getting us out of here...

Alex swiftly moves over to the tubular aquarium and squirts the vial of gel across its surface.

He tosses the bowl of sugar onto the gel...

BLAM!

The chemicals react and cause a small EXPLOSION. Thousands of gallons of water gush from the shattered aquarium.

ANGLE ON: A small stream heads towards the diamond display.

ALEX (CONT'D)
The elevators!

Alex grabs Sarah and they bolt for the doors. Fifty other guests join in the stampede.

The group rushes the thugs and breaks through the exits. The thugs open fire and empty their weapons into the crowd. Bodies collapse to the floor like rows of falling dominoes.

Alex gets caught in the crush of people and loses his grip on Sarah.

SARAH
Alex!

Alex and three other guests are pushed towards the lobby while Sarah is pulled back towards the Ballroom.

They grab each other's hands for a moment...

And then lose their grip for good.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

Alex watches as Sarah is engulfed by the crowd and pulled back into the Ballroom.

The thugs fill the exits and FIRE their weapons towards Alex and the other guests in the Lobby.

The other three guests are struck and crumple to the floor as Alex ducks behind a marble statue, unseen.

THUG IN LOBBY
Got ‘em.

The thugs scan the room for a moment and retreat back into the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY - OUTSIDE BALLROOM DOORS

Alex carefully makes his way across the lobby. He eases up to the door, peeks through the circular window, and sees...

THROUGH WINDOW

---Dead and injured guests

---Armed guards

---Canvas bags stuffed with jewelry

---Vidakovich

---Sarah

Alex staggers and blinks his eyes repeatedly.

ALEX’S POV - The window blurs and swirls in front of him - just like 8 years earlier.

ALEX
Ohhhhh...

He shakes his head and refocuses.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Sarah sees Alex through the doorway window from across the room. Her eyes are frozen in fear.

INTERCUT - ALEX OUTSIDE BALLROOM / SARAH INSIDE BALLROOM

Alex's pained expression meets Sarah’s.

She averts her eyes to avoid being caught looking at Alex.

He shakes his head in disbelief and realizes...

That he is completely...

And utterly...

Helpless.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Sarah rushes towards her parents. She looks back towards the doorway windows.

Alex is gone.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

Alex frantically darts across the lobby. He scans each wall until he sees what he's looking for.

He runs to an illuminated box on the wall that reads:

EMERGENCY FIRE ALARM: PULL HANDLE OR DIAL 999

Alex grabs the handle and jerks it down, breaking the sensor.

Nothing happens...

He pulls the handle again and again... still nothing.

He lifts the telephone receiver... it's dead.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri and Oleg jump to their feet as the screens on their monitors start to flash and RING.

The screens all read: FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION - MAIN LOBBY

Oleg reaches for his communication device.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

A LARGE THUG at the doors touches his earpiece. He nods at a TALL THUG. They both head for the exits.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY

The two thugs sprint into the lobby, guns drawn.

It's empty.

They reach the flashing Fire Alarm box. The Large Thug touches his earpiece.

LARGE THUG
(in Russian)
Just a malfunction. All clear.

They walk away, barely avoiding the broken glass sensors on the floor.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY - AIR DUCT

THROUGH VENTS

Alex is crammed inside a small ventilation duct.

He exhales as he watches the thugs leave the area.

He pulls his phone from his pocket and taps the numbers: NINE -- NINE -- NINE.

The call never connects. He tries again... nothing.

He dials another set of numbers.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Sarah stands near her parents. Her phone buzzes quietly in her jacket pocket.

SARAH
Dad, you OK?

BRIAN
Damn hose popped out. Lost quite a bit of oxygen.

EMMA
There's more in our room.

SARAH
I don't think that's going to happen right now.

ANGLE ON: The stream of water from the destroyed aquarium slowly snakes closer to the diamond display.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY - AIR DUCT

Alex shakes his head as the phone goes to message.

ALEX
(into phone)
Hey baby, it's me. I don't know how... but I'll get you out of there. Just sit tight.

He puts the phone back in his pocket.

Alex POPS open the vent, climbs out, and replaces the screen.

He carefully makes his way towards the elevators.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOBBY ELEVATORS

Alex presses various buttons on the up/down panels.

Nothing... they're all dead.

ALEX
Fuck.

Alex sprints for the stairway.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - TUNNEL

He emerges from the stairway and runs down a long Plexiglas corridor until he reaches...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - ELEVATOR AREA

Alex examines the crippled/sabotaged elevators.

ALEX
This is bad...

He picks up the steel pipe that Dmitri dropped and makes his way towards the duct/vent covers on the far wall.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA

Sameed and Hannah sit in the empty security area. His feet are up on his desk as he plays ANGRY BIRDS on an iPad.

SAMEED
You bad bird... you very, very angry bird!

Both guards are unaware of the chaos taking place below.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

A couple of thugs drop the Japanese Man's body over by the banquet table. Vidakovich storms back and forth as his thugs cut their way into the display.

VIDAKOVICH
(to Dmitri)
How long?

DMITRI
Sixty minutes tops.

VIDAKOVICH
Not a moment longer.

ANGLE ON: The small stream of water from the aquarium trickles between Dmitri's shoes and reaches the display.

Lights FLASH on the display and the floor panels open up. The display slowly descends into the floor.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
What's happening?!

Two of the thugs jump off the top of the display, their tools CLANG to the ground.

A third thug slips and falls into the open floor.

FALLEN THUG
Ahhhhh!

The display recedes below the floor as the floor sections close. The two thugs race over to help their friend.

The floor sections smash against the Fallen Thug, cutting him in half. He's very dead.

VIDAKOVICH
What the fuck is happening?!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

Alex struggles as he navigates the narrow, steel ductwork. He examines the yellow tubes marked: GAS LINES and the blue tubes marked: COMMUNICATIONS.

ALEX
Just head back to the hotel.
It'll be great...

Alex struggles up the duct, peers through a vent, and sees...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - CORRIDOR

A thug (VIKTOR) sits in the hallway with his back to Alex. Viktor is asleep. His pistol sits off to the side.

Alex slowly pushes the vent out and slips into the hallway.

He approaches Viktor.

ALEX
Ding dong!

Viktor opens his eyes and turns around...

Alex's left hand CHOPS down on Viktor's shoulder.

He follows with a straight RIGHT to the chin -- Viktor reels backwards -- Alex finishes with a PALM to the jawline -- Viktor's head makes an ugly jerk backwards -- and he's down.

THROUGH SECURITY CAMERA LENS

Alex searches Viktor's pockets and pulls out a small map of Hydropolis with some hand-written notes on it (in Russian).

He grabs Viktor's pistol and one of the earpieces from his pocket and heads back towards the open duct - unaware of the security camera's blinking light.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

Alex slumps back against the duct wall and catches his breath, adrenaline still coursing through him.

ALEX
One down, about a hundred to go.

Alex lowers himself deeper into the duct.

He slips and drops the pistol. It CLATTERS down the duct and disappears into the dark.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Shit!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - CORRIDOR

Viktor lies on the floor - unconscious. His earpiece CRACKLES.

OLEG
(through intercom)
Viktor... Viktor!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

The thugs have the guests corralled at gunpoint in the middle of the room. Vidakovich pulls Tariq towards the exits.

TARIQ
The water activated the security measures!

VIDAKOVICH
Where did it go?!

TARIQ
Please!

VIDAKOVICH
Where is it?!

TARIQ
Twenty levels down. Basement level.

Vidakovich puts his gun to Tariq's head.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
Y-Y-You triggered the security drop. The codes are now obsolete. Next transmission is at five in the morning...

Vidakovich turns to the thugs with the cutting equipment.

VIDAKOVICH
Take it all to the basement!

They gather their tools.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
As for you... let's try this on a larger scale, shall we?

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
(in Russian)
Everyone outside!

He pushes Tariq through the doors as Sarah and the others watch. The thugs step away from the guests and head towards the exits, guns drawn.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

Vidakovich tosses Tariq aside.

VIDAKOVICH
Lock it!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Everyone runs for the locked doors.

PHILLIPE
Your boyfriend! Where's your boyfriend?!

Sarah feigns sadness.

SARAH
They shot him... he's dead.

PHILLIPE
I'm so sorry...

Phillipe looks through the door's window.

PHILLIPE (CONT'D)
I've seen him somewhere before...

SARAH
Who?

PHILLIPE
The leader... but I don't remember where...

A MIDDLE EASTERN OFFICIAL (50's) runs towards Phillipe.

OFFICIAL
The walls are closing in!
We're all going to perish!

PHILLIPE
Easy buddy, easy...

Phillipe calms the man down.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

Vidakovich carefully inspects the exit doors.

VIDAKOVICH
Please help me and my friends so I can help you and yours.

TARIQ
What do you mean?

VIDAKOVICH
(into earpiece)
Increase the CO2 levels in the Ballroom.

Tariq’s eyes open wide.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

Alex's eyes open wide. He’s wearing the earpiece and has just heard Vidakovich’s command.

He pulls his phone from his pocket, holds it above the Cyrillic writing on the map, and taps the screen.

ON PHONE SCREEN

The Cyrillic letters slowly morph and blur...

ALEX
C’mon you sexy piece of technology.

Until they refocus - only this time in perfect English. The markings on the map show various locations - basement level, lower level access, CO2 line, communication line, etc.

ALEX (CONT’D)
Yes!

The phone flashes CRITICAL BATTERY. Alex scampers through the ducts and finds the location of the CO2 lines.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Everyone looks up as a HISSING NOISE emits from the ventilation system.

AMANDA
What’s that?

JOSH
They’re gassing us!

They all stampede towards the exits - a full-blown panic.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

Vidakovich watches the mayhem through the windows.

TARIQ
You animal! You're going to kill them!

VIDAKOVICH
Yes.

TARIQ
You don't understand... you're going to corrupt the balance--

Vidakovich SLAMS his fist into Tariq's ribs.

VIDAKOVICH
I know exactly what I'm doing!

THROUGH WINDOWS

The thugs watch as everyone starts to fall to the floor. Tariq struggles to his feet and watches the chaos.

TARIQ
Stop this!

VIDAKOVICH
Enlighten me with the override codes... or the identity of the other two people with that information as per Hamadi...

TARIQ
There are no override codes and I'm the only one left you imbecile! You killed Mister Matsuda earlier and I assume my chief of security as well. Since the hotel is now yours as you say, call the surface and get your damn codes yourself. I will not go down as the one that helped you.

VIDAKOVICH
Then you'll go down as the one that helped them all die...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 48/52.

It suddenly changes to 44/56.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

Alex wedges the steel pipe between two yellow tubes. The tubes crack away exposing two lines marked: O2 and CO2.

ALEX
Nice.

Alex slides the pipe between the CO2 line and the wall.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

More guests fall to the floor. Sarah struggles to stand. Josh and Amanda fall unconscious, as do Sarah's parents.

Sarah's eyes roll back into her head as Phillipe struggles to keep her and Kashmira from falling.

KASHMIRA
We're going to die!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

Alex pushes with all his might against the pipe.

It slowly moves... a little more... a little more... until...

Alex is grabbed from behind by a THUG.

He SLAMS the pipe with his arm and RUPTURES the CO2 line.

A large plume of gas BLASTS into the ducts and directly onto the thug.

Alex breaks free, pushes against a vent, and disappears from the duct.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

The HISSING NOISE stops. A few of the barely-conscious guests look up at the ceiling.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

Vidakovich watches as guests stop falling.

VIDAKOVICH
(into earpiece)
It's not working!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

The two thugs frantically check their screens and gauges.

YURI
(into earpiece)
The CO2 line is corrupted.

VIDAKOVICH'S VOICE
(through earpiece)
Then fix it! Bypass it!

YURI
(into earpiece)
Right away boss!

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 44/56.

It suddenly changes to 43/57.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

The plume of CO2 continues to jet into the duct and onto the now motionless thug.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - TUNNEL

The Plexigas in the tunnels starts to slightly discolor and change from clear to cloudy white.

CREAKS and GROANS come from within the hotel's framework.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

Vidakovich paces back and forth.

VIDAKOVICH
Keep an eye on him. I'll figure out what the hell is going on.

Two thugs surround Tariq.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Phillipe, Josh, and Sarah tend to the injured guests. Everyone slowly regains their strength.

PHILLIPE
I know where I saw him!

JOSH
Where?

PHILLIPE
The head guy... I remember his face from the news. There was a big jewel heist back in Milan about five years ago... that guy was rumored to be one of the two masterminds. They took the jewels and slaughtered everyone after it went down.

SARAH
We can't just sit here...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Oleg checks his screen. Yuri pushes buttons and uses a small joystick to change the camera angles on the monitors.

YURI
See him?

OLEG
No.

YURI
Probably sleeping again.

OLEG
Uh-oh...

Oleg rewinds the video on his large monitor.

ON MONITOR

It shows Viktor asleep, then...

Alex as he attacks Viktor, and then...

Alex as he ducks into the ventilation system.

BACK IN CONTROL ROOM

Oleg zooms in on Alex and pauses the tape. He taps a keyboard and listens as...

A printer WHIRRS and spits out an 8 x 10 of Alex.

OLEG (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
Boss?

A pause.

OLEG (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
You might want to see this.

Oleg nods to one of the other thugs (MIKKA) outside the Control Center. Mikka enters the room, grabs the printout, and dashes back into the hallway.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Phillipe makes his way across the room to Josh.

PHILLIPE
Josh! Look.

He pulls his jacket aside and reveals - a gun.

JOSH
Where did you get that?

KASHMIRA
What's that?

PHILLIPE
Shhh!

AMANDA
Quiet!

PHILLIPE
I lifted it from one of the guards when they pushed us back.

EMMA
You'd better be careful.

JOSH
You know you're going to have to use it, right?

PHILLIPE
Never used one and guns scare me.
You take it, OK?

Phillipe looks around and palms the gun over to Josh.

JOSH
Sure, sure.

Josh pockets the weapon.

AMANDA
You're gonna get us killed.

JOSH
No chance. I'm going to save us all. Just wait until that asshole gets back in here with us.

SARAH
(to her father)
How's your oxygen?

BRIAN
Getting low.

A shock wave shakes the entire Ballroom. Ice sculptures CRASH to the floor.

KASHMIRA
What the hell?

PHILLIPE
You ready?

JOSH
Yes.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

An out-of-breath Mikka stands next to Vidakovich.

VIDAKOVICH
It seems we have a fly in the ointment.

Vidakovich crumples the printout of Alex and drops it.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Mikka, Petr, Sergei... go!

Mikke, PETR, and SERGEI nod. They stomp down the hallway.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
Progress report...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

The display is now encased in a reinforced titanium alloy security frame.

Dmitri watches as the thugs start to drill/cut through the frame.

DMITRI
(into earpiece)
It's going to be a little longer than we expected.

VIDAKOVICH'S VOICE
(through earpiece)
Just get it done! And eyes and ears open. There's a hero on the loose.

DMITRI
(into earpiece)
Seriously?

VIDAKOVICH'S VOICE
(through earpiece)
Yes.

DMITRI
(into earpiece)
You love a good hunt.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - OUTSIDE BALLROOM

Vidakovich looks down at the crumpled paper near his boot.

VIDAKOVICH
(into earpiece)
I do.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - CORRIDOR

Alex runs through the Conference Level and finds himself deep inside a maze of glass corridors, partitions, and rooms. He can see directly through the clear glass into...

Multiple conference rooms...

As far as the eye can see...

In every direction.

He makes his way towards the largest room and sprints past another Virtual Ava.

AVA (HOLOGRAM)
Welcome to Hydropolis. I'm your virtual host Ava...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #1

Alex enters the room. Multiple video screens, an enormous table, and chairs fill the area.

A life-size cardboard cutout of Brad Pitt with the caption "It's CISCO or nothing!" stands against the table.

Alex grabs the CISCO conference call system on the table and taps a few buttons - it's dead.

He goes over to a wall panel and flicks a switch.

The clear walls of the conference room instantly turn black - their piezoelectric properties now active.

ALEX
Interesting.

Alex turns a dial next to the switch. The opacity of the walls fades in and out - from clear to black - like a dimmer switch for a lamp.

He turns the dial and makes the walls clear again.

Alex flicks various switches on the panel.

Other walls on the Conference Level turn black and then clear again - this is the Master Control Panel.

ALEX (CONT'D)
That'll work.

Alex flicks all of the switches down. Every wall on the level turns black.

He grabs the cardboard cutout of Brad Pitt, sets it on top of the conference table, and heads for the door.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

The thugs reenter the Ballroom.

Sarah glances up at a vent in the ceiling. Her eyes follow along a catwalk, then to some rope rigging, and finally down to Lady Mysteri's giant set on the stage.

SARAH
I'll be back in a few. Don't tell the others.

EMMA
What?

BRIAN
Are you sure?

SARAH
Don't worry guys. Trust me...

Sarah heads towards the stage area.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM - ABOVE STAGE AREA

Sarah carefully makes her way up the rigging and up to the catwalk. The thugs patrol below her - completely unaware.

She quietly sneaks along the narrow catwalk.

One foot in front of the other...

She SLIPS and regains her balance - no one notices from below.

Brian and Emma nervously peek up and watch her.

A few steps to go... and she makes it to the vent.

Sarah pulls at the vent cover.

PLOOP.

It comes off easily and she slips into the duct.

I/E. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex jogs down a long Plexiglas tunnel and suddenly stops.

He stares as small cracks start to appear everywhere around him. They spiderweb across the Plexiglas and grow together. The tunnel quickly turns opaque and warps.

Alex can’t believe his eyes.

He tries to move but his legs won’t respond.

The tunnel walls grotesquely distort and flex to their breaking point.

Alex falls to his knees.

The tunnel starts to rupture...

He closes his eyes...

And opens them to...

Complete stillness and silence. The tunnel is fine.

Alex wipes his sweat-soaked face and gets to his feet.

He glances at the map of Hydropolis on his phone and makes a right turn.

He taps on the earpiece - nothing but static. He takes it out of his ear and examines it.

ALEX
Damn Chinese junk.

He looks at the map on the phone again.

ON PHONE SCREEN

The map dims and then flickers. The screen fades to black - his phone is dead.

ALEX (CONT’D)
No, no, no!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - DUCTS

Sarah navigates her way through the ducts.

SARAH
Cold...

She looks up and sees a large plume of gas venting into the duct.

She carefully moves towards the plume, reaches out, and pulls on a piece of clothing-like material...

A huge object slides past her.

She SCREAMS.

The frozen thug from earlier CRASHES down through the duct.

She heads back in the other direction, unable to pass through the plume of freezing gas.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri watches his gauges and monitors.

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 43/57.

It suddenly changes to 42/58.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - STAIRWAY ENTRANCE

Alex grabs a chair and repeatedly BANGS it off the doors to the stairway.

KLANG! KLANG! KLANG!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - CORRIDOR

Mikka, Petr, and Sergei hear the muted bangs. They rush down the corridor and find...

Alex at the bottom of the stairway with a chair in his hands. They FIRE their weapons as Alex runs through the doors.

ALEX
It’s about time!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - STAIRWAY

Alex bounds up the stairs with the thugs in pursuit.
He’s much quicker and widens the distance between them.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - CORRIDOR

Alex sprints through the black-walled corridor and sneaks into Room #1, unseen by his pursuers.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #1

Alex closes the door and crouches by the Master Panel.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL

Mikka motions for the others to split up. Petr heads to the left, Sergei to the right.

Mikka makes his way down the corridor towards Room #1. He CLICKS a new magazine into his rifle.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #45

Petr searches the room with his weapon drawn.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #13

Sergei pushes over a podium as he searches for Alex.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #1

Alex hears Mikka approach the door. He places his fingers under all of the buttons on the Master Panel.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - CORRIDOR

Mikka pushes the door to Room #1 with the nose of his rifle. It edges open...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #1

Alex quickly flips every switch and dives to the floor.

The black walls of the room and every other room on the entire level turn from black to clear in a millisecond and simultaneously...

---Mikka sees a man on the table and sprays a hail of bullets towards the figure

---Petr is surprised by the reveal of the maze of glass corridors and sprays rounds in every direction - clearly panicking

---Sergei is startled by the sudden gunfire and shoots a torrent of bullets at the blurry figures through the multiple layers of glass

Bullets streak in every direction. The glass walls SHATTER and EXPLODE with a deafening BOOM. The shattered walls crumble down like an avalanche of ice.

Mikka jerks violently as his body is perforated by gunfire.

Petr and Sergei meet the same fate and crumple to the floor.

The last few walls collapse.

Silence... the Conference Level is completely destroyed.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONFERENCE LEVEL - ROOM #1

A large pile of glass stirs. A hand BURSTS free, and then an arm.

Alex emerges from the pile. He's got a few cuts on his face and arms, but he's OK.

He grabs Mikka's weapon and surveys the damage around him. The tattered cardboard cutout rests on the bullet-riddled table.

ALEX
No hard feelings Brad, right?

Alex heads for the stairway.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex sprints through the corridor. A vent POPS off its frame ahead of him. He runs to the side of the vent.

Alex's finger tightens on his rifle's trigger.

A head pops out and turns to face him...

The rifle CLICKS. It's jammed.

It's Sarah.

ALEX
Jesus!

He pulls the magazine from the rifle, pockets it, and drops the jammed weapon to the floor.

Sarah jumps into the corridor.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You're gonna get yourself killed!

They embrace.

SARAH
Alex...

ALEX
How the heck did you get out?

SARAH
I kinda work here, remember?
Your face!

ALEX
It's fine, I'm OK. How are the
others?

SARAH
They killed a bunch of people, my
dad's low on oxygen, they're in the
basement with the display. Other
than that...

ALEX
Are you alone?

SARAH
Yeah. It's just you and me.
There's no one else.

ALEX
Just us? I haven't been too good
with the saving people thing...

SARAH
You've got a second chance now.
I need you... we <u>all</u> need you...
your parents would be proud...

ALEX
I know...

She takes his hand.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Who else knows you're here?

SARAH
No one.

ALEX
Then we'll just have to stop them,
won't we? How many guys are we
talking about?

SARAH
Twenty, maybe thirty.

ALEX
Damn.

SARAH
There's some stuff we can use in the Atrium.

ALEX
Then lead the way.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Vidakovich FIRES a shot into the ceiling.

VIDAKOVICH
Listen up people! It's almost time to make a move.
(in Russian)
Take ten with us!

The thugs grab a few of the guests - Phillipe and Amanda among them.

JOSH
Forget it euro-trash!

He tries to pull Amanda back. A thug SLAMS his rifle across Josh's face and splits his cheek open.

AMANDA
No!

Josh falls to the floor. He staggers to his feet.

Vidakovich makes his way towards the others.

He closes in on them... closer... closer... until...

Josh points a GLOCK at Vidakovich's head.

Guests SCREAM as thugs CLICK their weapons...

Vidakovich reaches for his gun.

JOSH
Don't even think about it!

The armed thugs inch closer.

VIDAKOVICH
(in Russian)
Halt!

They stop.

JOSH
Your life for our freedom...

VIDAKOVICH
Never.

JOSH
I'll do it!

VIDAKOVICH
Then do it without hesitation.

Josh's hand trembles.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Tell you what. I'll make it easy for you. I'll count to three and then I'll reach for my gun. We'll see who has the balls to use it.

Josh panics.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
One...

Josh looks at the others.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Two...

Tears stream from his eyes.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Thr--

Josh pulls the trigger repeatedly.

CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

The gun is empty.

He looks over at Phillipe in disbelief. Phillipe approaches him and takes the gun from his hand.

PHILLIPE
I have a confession Josh... I was the second mastermind.

Phillipe walks over to Vidakovich and stands by his side.

PHILLIPE (CONT'D)
(angrily)
Thanks for gassing me fucker.

VIDAKOVICH
All in a day's work. And now...

Vidakovich SLAMS Josh across the face...

He crashes to the floor...

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Time to wrap this up.

Vidakovich quickly CLICKS the slide of his pistol back...

And extends his arm.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

Vidakovich turns his back to everyone.

ALEX'S VOICE
(through earpiece)
Hey Igor! You're gonna need to send a fresh batch of flunkies.

Vidakovich's eyes narrow.

INTERCUT - VIDAKOVICH IN BALLROOM / ALEX AND SARAH IN TUNNELS

BOTH MEN TALKING OUT LOUD (PICKED UP BY EARPIECES)

Alex motions to Sarah to remain silent.

VIDAKOVICH
Mister Hero...

ALEX
That's me.

VIDAKOVICH
I have your friends...

ALEX
I have no friends in there. I'm here for the same thing you are...

VIDAKOVICH
Is that so?

ALEX
Better tell your buddies to watch out.

VIDAKOVICH
I'll crush you like a bug!

ALEX
Bring it on Igor. I just decommissioned three of your best.

VIDAKOVICH
It's Lucien... and the odds are still stacked against you.

ALEX
They'll change Lucien... that's a promise.

VIDAKOVICH
Here's a promise for you hero...

ALEX
Yeah?

VIDAKOVICH
I promise that you've taken your last breath of air from the surface...

CREAKS and GROANS are heard from the lower levels of the hotel.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL LEVEL - TUNNEL

A crack appears on the Plexiglas in front of Alex and Sarah. Alex swallows to relieve the pressure in his ears.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Everyone's in a panic. Vidakovich moves to his left, and reveals...

Brian, breathing erratically, wounded with a gunshot to his leg, and...

A critically wounded JOSH, lying in Amanda's lap. Four large crimson spots stain his white tuxedo shirt.

Josh GASPS and COUGHS blood.

KASHMIRA
Keep that pressure on it.

JOSH
No... no.

AMANDA
C'mon sweetie.

Josh COUGHS.

JOSH
Uhhh...

AMANDA
C'mon, you can do it...

Tears stream down her face.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
We'll have a nice house on the beach... a few babies...

Josh looks up at her. She sobs even harder, her hands covered in Josh's blood.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
We'll laugh as we grow old together...

Josh's eyes slowly close. His head falls to one side.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Nooooo!

VIDAKOVICH
Bring him over to the table.

Phillipe grabs Tariq and drags him over to the banquet table.

TARIQ
No!

Vidakovich pulls a large cleaver from a slab of prime rib.

VIDAKOVICH
Give me his hand.

Phillipe struggles to hold Tariq's hand flat. Another thug ties Tariq's wrist to the table.

TARIQ
Please listen to me...

VIDAKOVICH
You've made some bad choices tonight. Choices that have led to the deaths of innocents. Well...
(MORE)

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
at least your brother had a choice, right? A choice whether or not to give me those codes.

TARIQ
Why do you keep saying that?

VIDAKOVICH
Because... my brother never had a choice.

TARIQ
What does that have to do with me?

VIDAKOVICH
Everything!

Vidakovich licks the blade of the cleaver and slices his own tongue. A red streak runs across the blade.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
You sent them all down there knowing that the safety measures weren't up to code...

Vidakovich's anger swells.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Didn't even take the time to make sure that the oxygen system had proper backups.

Phillipe steadies Tariq's wrist.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
And then you had the fucking nerve to cover it all up during the investigation. Took a great big payoff from the developers of this water-logged shit hole to protect their multi-billion dollar investment.

KASHMIRA
Leave him alone!

TARIQ
It's just not true! And why does any of that matter?

VIDAKOVICH
Because one of the welders was <u>my</u> brother!

TARIQ
No, please--

VIDAKOVICH
You destroyed everything for me, and now I'll destroy all that you know. This little piggy...

Vidakovich quickly raises the cleaver and SMASHES it down on Tariq's pinky.

The severed digit flies across the table as blood spurts from Tariq's hand.

TARIQ
Ahhh!!!

CHOP! CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!

Tariq WAILS as Vidakovich removes the rest of his fingers.

He falls to the floor and clutches his bloody hand.

Kashmira tends to Tariq as he bleeds profusely. Emma tends to Brian as Phillipe approaches.

PHILLIPE
Where's Sarah?

EMMA
She's uh... she's over there helping other guests.

PHILLIPE
I don't see her...

EMMA
(thinking quickly)
Please help us! He needs his oxygen!

Vidakovich rushes over and pushes her aside.

VIDAKOVICH
Shut up grandma! You're all going to need oxygen.

TARIQ
Seventy-five... uhhh... it must not...

KASHMIRA
What's he saying?

PHILLIPE
You hear those groans and cracks? It's a change in the building's pressure differential. A three-to-one ratio is the theoretical structural limit before...

KASHMIRA
Before what?

PHILLIPE
You'll find out soon enough.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL ROOM

The small communications display BEEPS.

The two thugs move over to the display and watch as the spinning encrypted codes start to slow down.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - UPPER LEVEL

A THUG wanders into the area and activates the Virtual Ava.

AVA (HOLOGRAM)
Welcome to Hydropolis. I'm your virtual host Ava. Come closer, I have a little secret to tell you...

The thug approaches the hologram.

Alex runs out from across the hall and SLAMS the metal pipe into the back of the thug's head. He drops to the floor.

Sarah walks out from behind the Plexiglas frame - she was pretending to be Ava.

ALEX
No gun.

SARAH
Damn.

ALEX
Nice improv on her speech.

SARAH
Thanks.

They run down the hall and reach...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - UPPER LEVEL VIEWING AREA

This is the top of the ten-story viewing area. The human clock fills the entire space, all the way down to the Lower Level Viewing Area, almost one hundred feet below.

The performers are gone and the clock sits still, like a giant mobile.

FOUR THUGS at the other side of the Viewing Area spot the couple. They draw their weapons and run towards them.

ALEX
Do you trust me?

SARAH
Trust? What?

ALEX
Do you trust me with your life?

SARAH
Uh, yeah. Why?

The thugs close in on them.

ALEX
Then follow me!

Alex runs towards the edge of the balcony.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Keep your arms and legs together!
Don't get tangled!

He leaps out into the clock grabs one of the chains.

SARAH
You're crazy! I'm not doing that!

The thugs FIRE at Sarah. She runs to the balcony and jumps.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Shiiit!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CLOCK

Sarah flies into the clock, grabs a chain, and keeps her body rigid. Alex and Sarah descend through the clock.

The thugs FIRE repeatedly at the couple. Bullets ZIP all around them.

ALEX
Hold on tight!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - UPPER LEVEL VIEWING AREA

The four thugs jump out into the clock and continue to FIRE their weapons at Alex and Sarah.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CLOCK

Alex and Sarah rapidly descend towards the lower level.

The thugs flail as they fall into the large groups of chains that comprise the clock's timing mechanism.

They drop their weapons as they become entangled.

Alex and Sarah continue their descent and start to slow down as the chains torque.

They finally stop about three feet from the floor.

The thugs SCREAM as they careen towards the lower level at full speed.

ALEX
(to Sarah)
Look away...

She averts her eyes.

Their weapons SMASH into the marble floor and shatter.

Four sickening GASPS and SNAPS are heard as the four thugs stop suddenly about twenty feet above the floor.

Chains wrapped around their broken necks - they rock back and forth like marionettes.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - LOWER LEVEL VIEWING AREA

Alex and Sarah drop to the floor. She looks up and winces.

They head down the corridor and BURST through the doors into...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

A huge, Plexiglas enclosed room, larger than the Ballroom. The ceiling is domed and the walls are pure Plexiglas - eighty feet high.

The room is unfinished. Large compressed air tanks, wires, hoses, and construction equipment are everywhere.

Alex examines the tanks for a few seconds and sprints towards two sets of doors at the rear of the room.

Sarah follows him as he presses a button near the set of doors. They slide open.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - POD

They enter a small circular Plexiglas and steel room, no bigger than a closet.

A small sign on the wall reads: DEMONSTRATION POD

SARAH
We used most of this stuff to show the investors, really wowed them.

ALEX
We can use it to get to the surface.

SARAH
Forget it. The key cards are locked away.

Alex examines the navigational controls.

A large blue button on the panel reads: PUSH TO JETTISON

Lights on the navigation panel read: KEY CARD ABSENT

The status panel reads: STANDBY

ALEX
Why would it say standby?

SARAH
It shouldn’t.

ALEX
Think they’re going to use it to escape?

SARAH
It’s way too small.

ALEX
Not for one.

They exit the pod and head for the second set of doors.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex and Sarah run down the corridor. They hear a SOUND from around the corner and freeze in place.

Alex pulls the steel pipe from his pocket. He raises it above his head and slowly makes his way to the edge of the corridor. Sarah creeps along beside him.

They jump around the corner and see...

A RAT.

It scurries towards them, right between their feet, and down the tunnel.

They relax and laugh.

ALEX
We kinda know how it must feel.

They take off, make one final right turn, and enter the...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Sarah BURSTS through the doors of a small rectangular room - Alex follows. It’s a tiny version of the Control Center.

Alex runs over to a button marked: AUXILIARY ALARM

He lifts the cover and punches the button... nothing.

ALEX
Doesn’t anything work down here?

SARAH
They bypassed everything.

Alex touches numerous buttons and switches.

ALEX
Dead, dead, and dead... all of them.

Alex flips a lever on the wall. The power flickers for a second and dies. He tinkers with some wires.

His watch BEEPS.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Four fifty-eight. Give me your phone... quickly!

Sarah tosses her phone to Alex.

He opens the back of the phone, grabs some wire, and heads over to a panel marked: COMMUNICATIONS

Alex opens the panel - it's filled with circuits and fuses.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I hope this works...

He strips the wire with his teeth, inserts one end into the phone, and touches the other end to the main circuit board.

ZAAAAAP!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

The decrypted codes on the display start to spin faster.

OLEG
Shit! We're losing them!

A few seconds pass and the encrypted codes start to lock in again. One set locks in, then two, three, four, five, six... one set to go.

YURI
Let Lucien know we're almost ready.

They watch as red lights on their panels flash.

YURI (CONT'D)
It's coming from a power surge on atrium level.

OLEG
Check it out.

Yuri reviews his security camera monitor.

YURI
Scanning now.

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 42/58.

It suddenly changes to 41/59.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

A dazed Tariq sits on the floor between Kashmira and Amanda. Vidakovich approaches, gun drawn.

He CLICKS the slide back and raises his arm towards Tariq.

Vidakovich's watch alarm CHIMES five times.

He pauses, lowers his gun, and smiles.

VIDAKOVICH
Anyone have any paper? No?

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Alex taps his earpiece. Nothing but static.

SARAH
Did it work?

ALEX
I don't know. There isn't much power in this thing.

He tosses the phone back to Sarah.

Alex looks along the floor, the walls, and then the ceiling. He spots something on the floor and grabs it.

He jumps on a chair and strains as he reaches up as far as he can...

He holds a cigarette lighter in the air, just under a set of sprinkler system sensors.

He FLICKS the lighter... it sparks, a flame appears.

A red light GLOWS and a KLAXON sounds.

They're both drenched as a torrent of water pours from above.

A speaker on the far wall CRACKLES to life...

MAN'S VOICE
(from speaker in Arabic)
Dubai Station Five. Units to Hydropolis. Please respond.

ALEX
Do you speak English?!

MAN'S VOICE
(from speaker)
Yes.

ALEX
We have a serious problem here.

MAN'S VOICE
(from speaker)
I'm sending three units.

ALEX
I'm not reporting a fire!

MAN'S VOICE
(from speaker)
Then what are you reporting?
What am I sending?

ALEX
Send <u>everything</u>... everything
you've got.

INT. DUBAI FIRE STATION FIVE - NIGHT

FARHID (20's, Middle Eastern) turns from his intercom and signals his SHIFT COMMANDER (40's, Middle Eastern).

FARHID
Patch me through to Interpol...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Sprinklers from the ceiling drench Yuri and Oleg. Red warning lights flash from multiple screens.

OLEG
(into earpiece)
Boss?

VIDAKOVICH'S VOICE
(through earpiece)
Let me guess...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Water sprays from the ceiling as the sprinklers soak everyone. Vidakovich stands in the downpour.

VIDAKOVICH
(into earpiece)
We're going to have company...

OLEG'S VOICE
(through earpiece)
Yes.

VIDAKOVICH
My dear friends at Interpol.
(into earpiece)
Shut down this godforsaken water!

A few moments pass and the sprinklers stop. Vidakovich storms out of the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

Two thugs set up a large scaffold and attach mirrors to it.

Vidakovich arrives just as the thugs cut through the last section of the security frame.

The thick titanium frame slowly falls backwards.

KLAAAAANG!

It rocks a few times and finally stops.

VIDAKOVICH
Hit it.

Dmitri and the other thugs wheel their equipment towards the display.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - TUNNEL

Small cracks grow and merge together on the Plexiglas in this section of tunnel.

The Plexiglas turns opaque and then ruptures.

WHOOOOOM!

The tunnel implodes. A shock wave runs through the hotel.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - DAWN

POLICE and FIRE PERSONNEL storm the security area. U.A.E. SPECIAL FORCES arrive by the truckload.

The red dots from multiple laser sights appear all over Sameed and Hannah.

Sameed leaps to his feet.

SAMEED
C... can I help you guys?

The SHIFT COMMANDER grabs his radio.

SHIFT COMMANDER
(into radio)
Tell Fusion Task Force that we're waiting...

SAMEED
All of this for a tripped elevator circuit?

The Shift Commander adjusts his radio.

SHIFT COMMANDER
(into radio)
You there?

The radio CRACKLES and then...

ALEX'S VOICE
(over radio)
Still here.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Alex sits at the radio box. Sarah rummages through some lockers.

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from speaker)
Just give us a few minutes to get set up. We'll cut the main power line to the entire--

ALEX
You cut the main and the backup systems don't start up, and we're toast. I think I can delay them from down here, so please--

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(over speakers)
Got it.

ALEX
The elevator's are rigged too.

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from speaker)
Hang tight, we're going to send down some men--

ALEX
I said the elevators are out!

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from speaker)
We're not taking the elevators...

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - DAWN

The Shift Commander approaches a COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Tell them we need the Barracuda.

TECHNICIAN
Yes sir.

The Technician punches codes into his field communications station.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

Two thugs wheel the completed scaffold of laser/mirrors over the display. Vidakovich clicks a button and the motion detectors inside the vault short out in a shower of sparks.

The thugs check the access panel for any traps or triggers.

Vidakovich motions over to Dmitri and another thug (BORIS).

VIDAKOVICH
Go down the hallway past airlock seventy-four... there's an external docking port... cover it.

DMITRI
Yes sir.

VIDAKOVICH
And then cover the whole damn level.

DMITRI
Nice.

Dmitri and Boris open one of the wheeled equipment carts. It's packed to the hilt with large blocks of SEMTEX.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Alex and Sarah search the cluttered room. He finds a very small oxygen tank (the size of a banana) and mask apparatus.

The gauge on the tank reads: 30 MINUTES

He slides it into his pocket.

Sarah tosses aside some blueprints and uncovers...

A small electrical panel labeled: MAIN FUSES

The room shakes and shudders for a moment - another tremor.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

The thugs step away from the display.

VAULT THUG #1
All clear boss.

VIDAKOVICH
Excellent.

Vidakovich climbs on top of the display and pushes the lower half of the dead thug's bloody body off the side. Dmitri and Boris enter the area.

Vidakovich examines the access panel.

He pulls the bag with Hamadi's eyes from his pocket, takes one out, and holds it up to the retinal scanner.

A loud CLICK as the seven LCD sections light up.

DMITRI
I assume you've obtained the codes?

Vidakovich pulls a few dark red objects from his pocket...

Tariq's five severed fingers, covered in numbers.

VIDAKOVICH
Let's just say our host pointed us in the right direction...

They all LAUGH loudly.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Alex SMASHES the doors to the MAIN FUSE BOX.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

The first 6 displays on the access panel read: OPEN

The 7th display reads: INPUT SEQUENCE

The thugs watch with anticipation as Vidakovich enters the numbers from Tariq's fingers into the 7th and final combination keypad.

Vidakovich presses ONE -- ONE -- SEVEN -- SEVEN -- FOUR...

His eyes grow wide as his finger nears the keypad for the final number...

CLICK.

All seven keypads go black.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Alex looks down at the two fuses in his hand. He slips them into his pocket and pulls some wires from the fuse box.

ALEX
That'll keep them busy.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

Vidakovich and the thugs stand in the now darkened room.

VIDAKOVICH
He's alive! This fucking hero is fucking up my plans!

DMITRI
What now?

Vidakovich composes himself.

VIDAKOVICH
Use the sonic torches and cut, cut, cut!
(to Dmitri)
Come with me. Tonight this hero dies...

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - DAWN

A huge throng of INTERPOL AGENTS swarms into the area. An armada of weapons and tactical units arrives on the scene.

A large flatbed pulls into the area, on it...

A small four-man fast-strike submarine with stenciled lettering across its side: FUSION TASK FORCE FIVE - U.A.E.

The BARRACUDA.

SAMEED
Now that's what I'm talking about!

HANNAH
Indeed.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Vidakovich EXPLODES into the room with Dmitri behind him. The two thugs snap to attention.

OLEG
Circuits are open.

VIDAKOVICH
Can you reroute the power on basement level?

OLEG
We're trying--

VIDAKOVICH
Can you?!

OLEG
We're not sure...

VIDAKOVICH
Then find his signal...

Vidakovich grabs Oleg by the throat and lifts him off the ground.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Get me on his damn signal!

YURI
He must've turned it off.

Vidakovich tosses Oleg across the room and approaches Yuri.

YURI (CONT'D)
Wait! Wait! I can patch you through the P.A. system.

VIDAKOVICH
Then do it.

Yuri trembles as he flips various switches.

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 42/58.

It suddenly changes to 40/60.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AUXILIARY ROOM

Alex sits in the darkened room. Sarah wraps his injured arm with a piece of tattered shirt.

ALEX
Thanks.

SARAH
No problem.

ALEX
I'm sorry I haven't always been there for you.

SARAH
You're here now...

ALEX
I know, but I mean... up there...

Sarah puts her index finger over his lips.

SARAH
Shhh... later.

ALEX
Ok... don't say anything. I want them to think I'm alone.

SARAH
OK.

He takes Sarah's hand.

ALEX
But I'm not, you understand?

SARAH
I do.

Alex gets up and kneels over by the speaker.

INTERCUT - ALEX IN AUX. ROOM / SHIFT COMMANDER AT SURFACE

ALEX
Hello?

Silence... and then a CRACKLE.

SHIFT COMMANDER
You OK down there?

ALEX
I've been better.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Me too. But I'll say you have it much worse than me at the moment...

ALEX
Understatement of the year. But hey... in case I... y'know... in case I don't--

SHIFT COMMANDER
Shhh! C'mon... you're going to make it.

ALEX
Yeah... right...

SHIFT COMMANDER
You hang tight. We're getting it all together up here.

ALEX
Sure, sure... are there any hotel security guards still up there?

The Shift Commander spots Sameed among the commotion.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Yeah.

ALEX
Grab their earpiece, use channel two.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Will do... hey, you never told me your name. Mine's Ameet.

ALEX
Alex. Hey Ameet... if I make it back up there maybe you, me, and my girl will share a good bottle of Mahagi one day... deal?

SHIFT COMMANDER
Ha... most westerners can't pronounce that... it's a deal.

ALEX
I'll be in touch soon.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Good luck.

SARAH
(softly)
I know a great location for an ambush.

ALEX
Let's go.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex and Sarah sprint down long sections of tunnel. The cracks in most of the tunnel walls are now visible.

Alex notices. Sarah notices. They bolt down the corridor towards a stairway.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - ELEVATOR AREA.

Sarah leads Alex past the elevators, right into another THUG.

ALEX
Hello!

ELEVATOR THUG
You!

SARAH
Wordy type, huh?

Alex GRABS the thug -- Sarah lands a KICK to the thug's groin -- another KICK to his knees -- the thug doubles over.

The thug gets up, TOSSES Alex aside and PUNCHES Sarah in the temple, stunning her.

He grabs Sarah, gets a running start, and TOSSES her up into one of the half-raised elevators.

I/E. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - ELEVATOR

She tumbles into the elevator as the thug climbs inside. Alex LEAPS into the elevator.

The thug SLAMS Alex into the elevator panel -- pieces of the panel SHATTER and fall to the floor.

Alex POUNCES at the thug -- a LEFT CROSS to his head -- a RIGHT HOOK to his midsection -- the dazed thug reaches into his pocket.

Sarah LEAPS out of the elevator and grabs a piece of the broken panel.

Alex JUMPS out of the elevator.

The thug pulls a gun from a side holster and aims it at Alex.

Sarah takes the panel section and CHOPS at the steel v-shaped wedge that's stuck up in the wheel/caster assembly.

The wedge SPURTS out and the elevator SHOOTS up the shaft.

SARAH
(to thug)
Going up?

ALEX
Run!

They dash down the corridor.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE ELEVATOR SHAFT

The out-of-control elevator SCREAMS up the shaft.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - DAWN

Everyone turns as a RUMBLING SOUND comes from the elevator shaft.

People start to run away from the elevator doors.

SAMEED
Oh good. It's finally working.

The sound gets LOUDER... and LOUDER... closer and closer...

KABOOM!

An EXPLOSION rips through the area as the runaway elevator collides with the top of the shaft.

KAWHAM!

A second, much larger EXPLOSION as the SEMTEX detonates. The elevator car EXPLODES in a fireball.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex and Sarah reach a small open area. They push past a set of double-doors and into a large rectangular room.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - SERVICE LEVEL - LARGE ROOM

The doors SLAM shut behind them and FIVE THUGS emerge from behind a wall - a trap.

Alex LUNGES for the largest thug and is easily tossed aside. The thugs quickly retreat against the far wall.

A small black circular device slides across the floor between the couple - an LED blinks brightly on its surface.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

ALEX
Get down!

BOOM!

The EXPLOSION from the device blows Alex backwards.

A series of EXPLOSIONS takes place.

The room shakes as debris and smoke fill the entire area.

Sarah's stunned. She tries to make her way over to Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Hurry!

Another series of EXPLOSIONS rocks the room. Debris starts to fall from the ceiling.

SARAH
Alex!

ALEX
Sarah!

She stumbles backwards, disoriented. Alex gets up and heads over to her.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Over here!

He gets about twenty feet away from her, looks up, and watches as tons of marble from the ceiling CRASH down into the center of the room, right where Sarah stands.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Nooooo!

The thugs re-emerge and start to FIRE their weapons at Alex. The debris blocks them from being able to chase him.

Alex retreats towards the damaged double-doors, BURSTS through them, and falls to the ground.

He gets up and runs down the corridor - a fire grows in his eyes.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

Alex sees the intense light from the hypersonic torches. The thugs don't notice him as he slips past them and heads towards Airlock 74.

INTERCUT - VIDAKOVICH IN CONTROL CENTER / ALEX IN TUNNELS

The P.A. system in the tunnels CRACKLES to life...

VIDAKOVICH
You there hero?

Alex stops in his tracks.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Meet me in the Ballroom with those fuses in fifteen minutes or I start killing them one per minute.

A pause.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
I can't hear you but I'll know your decision based on your appearance. In case you have any qualms... take a look around you... we <u>both</u> don't have time to dick around anymore.

Alex looks at the cracks in the Plexiglas all around him and runs down the corridor.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AIRLOCK 74 TUNNEL

Alex enters the area and sees...

Hundreds of blocks of SEMTEX lining the corridor...

As far as the eye can see...

ALEX
Holy shit. He's gonna blow the whole damn building.

Alex darts down the hallway and disappears.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

He BURSTS into the room and runs over to the fifty or so compressed air tanks.

Alex grabs a small spool of the blue communications wiring and sets it near the tanks.

He stacks the tanks in a pyramid - with the valves facing him and the rear of the tanks facing the large Plexiglas walls.

He grabs the spool of wiring and loops it around the first valve... and then the next... and the next... like a string of fireworks.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Yuri and Oleg fiddle with their touchscreens while Vidakovich and Dmitri reload their weapons.

VIDAKOVICH
This is going to be fun.

DMITRI
Don't get crazy... eyes on the prize, remember?

VIDAKOVICH
This hero... he's my prize right now.

Oleg's monitor flickers to life. He pushes a button and manipulates the joystick.

OLEG
Cameras are back up.

An image pops up on the monitor.

ON MONITOR

It's Alex in the Atrium.

Oleg turns two large silver dials...

One marked: ATRIUM PSI

And the other marked: ATRIUM O2 LEVEL

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

Alex stops for a second and blinks. He shakes his head and rubs his eyes - a small trickle of blood drips from his nose.

He looks up at the blinking security camera light and staggers towards the back of the tanks - and out of sight.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL CENTER

Vidakovich and his three thugs watch the monitor.

ON MONITOR

Alex stumbles behind the large pile of tanks...

And out of the camera's view.

Another few seconds and the feed goes to static.

VIDAKOVICH
Not as exciting as my method, but the very same results.
(to Yuri)
Restore the pressure in ten minutes. I need to check on something down there. So much for our hero... this time make sure he's dead.

YURI
Yes.

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 40/60.

It suddenly changes to 39/61.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - TUNNEL

The small cracks in the Plexiglas grow larger and spiderweb across the tunnels.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

The thugs continue to slice through the display case with their hypersonic torches.

EXT. JUMEIRAH BEACH - EDGE OF GULF - DAWN

Spotlights illuminate the waterfront.

The area bustles with activity as a group of large cranes swings TEN INTERPOL DIVERS, in futuristic pressure suits, over the water.

The fully-manned BARRACUDA slides off the flatbed...

And disappears into the depths.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Two thugs enter the room. They drag Sarah's battered, unconscious body over to the banquet table and drop her there. She stirs ever so slightly... still alive.

Emma leaves Brian's side and rushes over to her. Brian takes shallow breaths, his oxygen almost depleted.

The Ballroom shakes and violently shudders from another lower level tunnel implosion. The guests are terrified.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

Alex sits behind the pile of tanks. The small mask is attached to his face - he's alive.

Alex slowly peeks around the tanks and looks up...

The light on the security camera is out.

He grabs a length of blue wire and wraps it around the remaining tank valves.

The main door to the Atrium CREAKS open...

Alex turns to see... another THUG (VLAD).

Vlad still has his HVAC outfit on. He wears a small mask and tank just like Alex's.

He RUSHES Alex and GRABS him -- Alex STOMPS on Vlad’s foot and ELBOWS him in the rib cage. Vlad stumbles back in pain -- Alex LUNGES at Vlad and GRABS him -- they both TUMBLE to the floor.

Vlad CHOPS his hand across Alex's arms and reaches for Alex's mask.

ALEX
Uhhh!

Alex ELBOWS Vlad in the nose and cheek -- Vlad’s mask shifts -- blood streams from his nose.

Vlad GRABS Alex and THROWS him against the tanks -- Alex's back SLAMS against the valves -- Vlad RUSHES at Alex -- Alex DODGES Vlad and PUSHES him against the tanks.

Vlad’s face SMASHES against the valve stems -- his mask is shattered -- he STAGGERS towards Alex -- Alex LOOPS some wire around Vlad’s neck and BRACES himself behind Vlad.

Alex PULLS at the wire -- Vlad FLAILS in his attempts to stop Alex -- Alex DIGS in and PULLS even harder -- Vlad’s arms weaken as his eyes roll back into his head -- Alex PULLS on the wire one last time.

Vlad’s body goes limp.

Alex holds the wire for a few more seconds...

He rolls Vlad’s lifeless body to the side and searches it.

ALEX (CONT’D)
Why do I keep getting the ones without guns?

Alex adjusts his mask and quickly unbuttons Vlad’s shirt.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex (now dressed in Vlad’s outfit) sprints down the corridor towards Airlock 74.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM DOORS

TWO STOCKY THUGS reach the doors to the Atrium.

THROUGH WINDOW

They see the body of a man in a tuxedo lying face down in the middle of the room.

STOCKY THUG
(into earpiece)
He's gone.

OLEG
(through earpiece)
Excellent. Lucien will be happy.

STOCKY THUG
(into earpiece)
Yes.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AIRLOCK 74 TUNNEL

Alex examines the corridor. He follows the string of explosives and complex web of wires.

He walks over to the DOCKING/EGRESS PORT and examines it.

He's about to walk away when he sees...

A small set of blinking lights...

And hundreds of small wires...

The entire port is completely packed with SEMTEX.

ALEX
Oh... my... god...

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - PERSIAN GULF - UNDERWATER

The Divers and the Barracuda slowly descend alongside the outside of the hotel. Their bright spotlights sweep through the ocean.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AIRLOCK 74 TUNNEL

Alex sees a FLASH from outside the hotel.

And then another.

He approaches the Plexiglas wall to get a better look.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - PERSIAN GULF - UNDERWATER

The Divers fan out, flank the Barracuda, and continue their descent. They're about 100 yards from the DOCKING/EGRESS PORT.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AIRLOCK 74 TUNNEL

Alex watches as five beams of light sweep the building from the outside.

He can see something but can't quite make it out.

A few seconds pass...

---The ten Interpol Divers slowly come into view

---The Barracuda takes shape

Alex quickly puts his earpiece back in.

ALEX
(into earpiece)
Ameet! Ameet!

Nothing but static as the Divers get closer.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
Pull them back! Pull back!

Alex frantically waves his arms back and forth.

The Divers get closer.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - PERSIAN GULF - UNDERWATER

The Divers are now 25 yards away.

DIVER #1
Breech formation one on my command.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - AIRLOCK 74 TUNNEL

Alex runs for his life. He reaches the end of the tunnel and closes the Airlock door.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - TUNNEL OUTSIDE AIRLOCK 74

Alex BANGS his earpiece on the Airlock door and reinserts it into his ear.

ALEX
(into earpiece)
Pull them back... for god's sake, pull them back!

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
What? I can't hear--

Static.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - PERSIAN GULF - UNDERWATER

The Divers stand at both sides of the DOCKING/EGRESS PORT. The Barracuda stops right in front of the port.

Diver #1 reaches for the door's compression latch.

DIVER #1
On three. One... two...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - TUNNEL OUTSIDE AIRLOCK 74

ALEX
(into earpiece)
Pull them ba--

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - PERSIAN GULF - UNDERWATER

Diver #1 turns the compression latch.

DIVER #1
Th--

A tremendous FLASH...

WHOOOOOM!!!

A gigantic FIREBALL and SHOCK WAVE erupt into the ocean.

A SERIES OF SHOTS

---The lights flicker in the entire hotel

---Everyone in the Ballroom gets knocked off their feet

---Alex gets blasted to the floor

---Major cracks appear in all of the tunnels

---Hydropolis CREAKS and GROANS

---The destroyed Barracuda sinks to the ocean floor

---A few of the Divers quickly ascend... lifeless

---The LCD from earlier quickly flips to: 32/68

I/E. HYDROPOLIS - FOUNDATION - UNDERWATER

Some of the hotel's main supports and struts start to shudder, and then warp.

EXT. JUMEIRAH BEACH - EDGE OF GULF - MORNING

WHOOOOOM!!!

Everyone stops as the ground SHAKES.

The Gulf begins to boil as bubbles and gasses HISS from beneath its surface.

Water rumbles and rolls from below, the Gulf now a foamy cauldron.

The Shift Commander watches as one... then two... then three lifeless divers rise to the surface.

Interpol Forces rush into the water.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Vidakovich and Dmitri enter the room.

DMITRI
I say we just leave!

VIDAKOVICH
Not without my diamonds.

Dmitri motions to the stuffed canvas bags.

DMITRI
Forget the display! Isn't this enough for you?

VIDAKOVICH
You’re losing it my friend...

DMITRI
This place is going down!

VIDAKOVICH
We’re not finished yet...

DMITRI
Well I am!

Dmitri heads for the doors. Vidakovich raises his gun.

BLAM! BLAM!

Dmitri crumples to the floor.

VIDAKOVICH
Yes... you are.

Everyone freezes.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT’D)
Anyone else losing it?

Silence.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT’D)
Don’t be too sad... one less share to split. Everybody wins!

Vidakovich exits the Ballroom.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - DISPLAY VAULT

Vidakovich hurries into the area as the thugs shut off their torches.

VIDAKOVICH
Yes?

VAULT THUG #1
Yes.

Vidakovich pulls on the massive glass case. The case CRASHES to the floor and the thugs rush inside.

BORIS
Where’s Dmitri?

VIDAKOVICH
He decided to take a long nap.

Boris frowns and slowly smiles. He grabs a large yellow diamond and tosses it to Vidakovich.

Vidakovich reaches in and grabs the largest diamond in the display. He slips it into a large green velvet bag.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
That stuff upstairs is birdseed compared to this... eh, comrades?

The thugs LAUGH as they fill Vidakovich's bag.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
(into earpiece)
It is done. Prepare the hostages.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - TUNNEL OUTSIDE AIRLOCK 74

Alex slowly regains consciousness. He staggers to his feet and walks up to the Airlock door.

THROUGH CRACKED WINDOW

There's nothing.

The entire section of tunnel that housed the DOCKING/EGRESS PORT has been blown away.

All that remains are twisted steel girders and a crater on the ocean floor.

Alex looks at the Plexiglas tunnel. It has so many cracks that it's almost opaque.

He taps his earpiece.

INTERCUT - ALEX IN TUNNEL / VIDAKOVICH ON BASEMENT LEVEL

Vidakovich and his thugs make their way down the corridor. He tosses a small canister behind them. Green gas vents from the canister.

ALEX
Hey jerkoffski!

VIDAKOVICH
You?!

ALEX
Yeah, it's me...

VIDAKOVICH
You’re like a cat... nine lives.

ALEX
I appreciate the compliment, means
I’ve got a few more left.

VIDAKOVICH
This party’s almost over hero.
I have what I came for.

Vidakovich and the thugs turn the corner. He tosses another gas canister down the corridor behind them.

ALEX
Almost over? I’m still alive.

VIDAKOVICH
I need... I want you dead.

ALEX
Then come and get me.

BORIS
No time... no time...

VIDAKOVICH
Quiet!

ALEX
Tell them that your plan is to
leave without them.

BORIS
Huh?

Vidakovich CLICKS his earpiece.

BORIS (CONT’D)
What does he mean?

VIDAKOVICH
Nothing!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Vidakovich and the vault thugs enter the Ballroom. He puts down the green bag and heads straight for Tariq.

VIDAKOVICH
Now where were we...

He STRIKES Tariq across the chest. Tariq falls to the floor.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Pushed deadlines!

He KICKS the fallen Tariq in the head.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Millions in bribes!

He KICKS Tariq in the ribs.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
And now I'll destroy your life's work, along with you...

Hydropolis shakes and GROANS violently.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Time to go! Herd them all against the stage!

The thugs shove the guests back towards the stage area. They pull Amanda from Josh's body.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Choose ten, just ten!

The thugs look over the nervous guests.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
She has some value... and him too!

He points to a SUDANESE PRINCESS and a SAUDI POLITICIAN.

Sarah staggers to her feet, she's in pretty bad shape.

NERVOUS THUG
C'mon! Move it!

The Nervous Thug shoves Sarah. A small object drops from her pocket to the floor.

SOUNDS emit from the object. She reaches down to grab it.

Vidakovich's boot steps on her hand. He reaches down, scoops up her phone, and turns up the volume.

ALEX'S VOICE (FROM PHONE)
Hey baby, it's me. I don't know how... but I'll get you out of there. Just sit tight.

ON PHONE SCREEN: The word ALEX and his picture.

He SMASHES the phone against the floor.

ALEX'S VOICE (FROM PHONE)
Just sit tight... just sit tight... just sit tight...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BASEMENT LEVEL - TUNNEL

Alex sprints down the corridor.

VIDAKOVICH'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
Hey hero... I have someone here you might want to talk to.

Alex freezes.

ALEX
(into earpiece)
Y-yes?

SARAH'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
I'm sorry...

ALEX
(into earpiece)
Sarah?! You're alive! Just--

INTERCUT - VIDAKOVICH IN BALLROOM / ALEX IN TUNNEL

Vidakovich holds Sarah firmly. Alex stands still.

VIDAKOVICH
Here's the deal Alex... your life for her life, or I'll kill her right now... simple as that. What do you say?

ALEX
You'll just kill us both.

VIDAKOVICH
Killing just her alone would be the same as killing you both. Am I right?

ALEX
You are.

VIDAKOVICH
So then your answer is?

ALEX
Yes.

VIDAKOVICH
Where are you?

ALEX
In the Atrium. Come and get me...

PHILLIPE
It's a trap!

Vidakovich raises his gun at Phillipe...

VIDAKOVICH
I'm not paying you on this job for your decision making. I'm paying you to follow orders!

And then he lowers it.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
I'll be right there with the girl.

ALEX
No goons.

VIDAKOVICH
Just you and me. You do know that only one of us will be walking away, right?

ALEX
I do.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

Vidakovich pulls the earpiece from his ear, drops it, and crushes it under his boot.

VIDAKOVICH
Like a bug...

He pulls Sarah towards the doors.

EMMA
No! Take me!

Brian gasps for air, his tank now empty.

BRIAN
Stop...

VIDAKOVICH
You're gasping like a beached fish. Don't worry... a few more minutes and you won't worry about air.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM LEVEL - CORRIDOR

Alex runs down the corridor.

His earpiece CRACKLES.

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
Alex? Alex?!

ALEX
Yeah...

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
The dive team's gone... all of them.

ALEX
I know.

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
We're coming down the shafts.

ALEX
I need more time!

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
We're going to blow the doors and come down the two mains.

ALEX
You gotta trust me! Just give me ten minutes!

A pause.

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
Ten minutes... and not a second more.

ALEX
OK.

SHIFT COMMANDER'S VOICE
(from earpiece)
And then we shit storm the place. Whether I hear from you or not, got it?

ALEX
Got it.

Alex reaches the Atrium doors.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL ROOM

The two thugs watch as most of the monitors and gauges flicker and flash. The entire room is now lined with SEMTEX.

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 32/68.

It suddenly changes to 30/70.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

The doors BURST open. Vidakovich pulls Sarah inside. They both notice the huge cracks in all of the Plexiglas.

Alex steps out from behind the pile of tanks.

VIDAKOVICH
Well, well, well...

Vidakovich pushes Sarah towards Alex.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Come on... aren't you going to introduce us?

ALEX
You got what you came for, just let her go--

BLAM! BLAM!

Vidakovich fires two SHOTS into Sarah's shoulder. She reels backwards.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You fucking bastard!

Alex pulls Sarah close and embraces her tightly.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Sarah...

Vidakovich raises his gun. Alex shields Sarah with his body.

CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

Empty.

He rushes at Vidakovich.

Vidakovich throws his gun at Alex and misses. It slides across the marble floor towards the rear of the room.

Alex GRABS Vidakovich -- the two men wrestle -- Alex tries a RIGHT CROSS to Vidakovich's face -- BLOCKED -- Alex throws a LEFT... and misses.

Vidakovich uses a series of Spetsnaz close combat techniques to neutralize Alex's offensive attempts -- Vidakovich breaks free from Alex's grasp with ease.

Vidakovich uses a SIDE FALL and brings Alex to the floor, obviously toying with him.

VIDAKOVICH
Is that all you have for me?

Alex JUMPS at Vidakovich -- Vidakovich steps to the side and STRIKES Alex in the rib cage -- CRACK!

Alex winces in pain and drops to the floor again.

He regains his feet just as Vidakovich GRABS him -- Alex uses a STRIKE to Vidakovich's sternum and momentarily DAZES his larger opponent.

Alex grabs a steel tube and SMASHES it against Vidakovich's legs -- sending him off balance -- Vidakovich CRASHES into a pile of boxes.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - MORNING

The Shift Commander watches as the first rays of sunlight creep over the horizon. He checks his watch. A large team of INTERPOL AGENTS stands ready.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Five minutes...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - BALLROOM

The thugs get antsy. The guests are frozen with fear.

PHILLIPE
I'm tired of waiting!

He opens the green bag and reaches inside.

Phillipe pulls his hand out. A fine powder runs between his fingers and falls to the floor.

PHILLIPE (CONT'D)
It's sand! It's fucking sand!

The other thugs bolt for the doors.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

Vidakovich SWINGS Alex into a Plexiglas wall in the middle of the room -- Alex SLAMS into the wall and DODGES a short PUNCH by Vidakovich -- Vidakovich's hand SLAMS into the wall.

Vidakovich GRABS Alex by the shirt and rolls backwards -- he CATAPULTS Alex with his legs and sends him head over heels -- Alex lands on the floor with a THUD -- Vidakovich closes in.

Vidakovich lands PUNCH after PUNCH on Alex's cracked ribs.

He chokes Alex.

ALEX
Uhhh!

Alex GASPS and falls to one knee.

ALEX'S POV - The Atrium walls swell and close in on him.

ALEX (CONT'D)
No... not this time...

Vidakovich lets him go and quickly heads for the DEMONSTRATION POD.

Alex struggles to his feet and steadies himself.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Not this time...

VIDAKOVICH
Huh?!

Alex DIVES for Vidakovich and TACKLES him -- Vidakovich SLAMS into the floor and drops a small plastic card (with the word HAMADI stamped on it) as...

Hundreds of glass-like objects BURST from his clothing and scatter across the slick marble floor.

A billion dollars in diamonds.

ALEX
You double crossed them all...

Vidakovich BREAKS free and heads for the POD.

Alex KICKS Vidakovich in the back of the knee -- Vidakovich goes down for a second -- and then gets up and continues towards the POD.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - CONTROL ROOM

The color LCD from earlier reads: EQUILIBRIUM BALANCE 30/70.

It suddenly changes to 27/73.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - MORNING

The Shift Commander checks his watch.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Three minutes!

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

Alex SLIDES into Vidakovich's legs, and grabs the plastic card as Vidakovich topples to the floor.

Alex runs into the POD, inserts the plastic card into the instrument panel, and PUNCHES the large blue button.

VIDAKOVICH
Nooooo!

Alex leaps back into the Atrium as the doors to the POD close.

Compressed air canisters FIRE and the POD jettisons away from the Atrium.

Vidakovich TACKLES Alex and lands multiple PUNCHES across his face -- LEFT CROSS -- RIGHT CROSS -- LEFT CROSS.

Alex starts to lose consciousness.

Vidakovich sits up and admires his work.

He rolls up his sleeves and COCKS his arm in preparation for a final blow.

WHACK!

Sarah SLAMS Vidakovich in the side of the head with a small metal ladder -- Vidakovich REELS backwards.

Sarah SHAKES Alex.

He quickly regains his bearings and picks up the gun that slid across the floor.

Alex grabs Sarah. They both back up against the door to the tunnels -- about 50 feet from Vidakovich.

Thick green gas can be seen through the window behind them - it's poison gas from the canisters that Vidakovich released earlier.

Vidakovich stands up and slowly walks towards Alex and Sarah.

He stops and LAUGHS.

Alex grabs the rifle magazine from his pocket and slips out a bullet.

Vidakovich gets closer.

Alex fumbles the magazine and drops it. It CLATTERS off the floor as Vidakovich closes in.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Nervous?

Alex pulls open the gun's magazine, CLIPS the single bullet into it, and SNAPS it back together. Vidakovich stops.

A quick CLICK of the slide and the gun is ready.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
You have two choices here my friend... the gas behind you... or my hands... both resulting in certain death.

Vidakovich takes a step towards them.

Alex raises the gun.

VIDAKOVICH (CONT'D)
Do you really think one little bullet is going to stop me?

Alex steadies the gun.

ALEX
I do.

Alex swings the gun towards the pile of compressed air tanks and FIRES his one shot.

CLANG!

The bullet strikes one of the valves.

POP! WHOOSH!

The valve BURSTS loose and sends one tank speeding across the room.

It SMASHES into the 80-foot Plexiglas wall -- and harmlessly bounces off.

Vidakovich turns and grins at Alex and Sarah.

Alex opens the Airlock and pulls Sarah into the tunnel.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - MORNING

SHIFT COMMANDER
Now!

The Interpol Agents storm the elevator shafts.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

POP! WHOOSH!

Vidakovich turns and watches another tank speed across the floor and into the Plexiglas.

POP! WHOOSH!

And then another...

POP! WHOOSH!

And another...

INT. HYDROPOLIS - TUNNEL OUTSIDE ATRIUM

Alex SLAMS the Airlock door shut and locks it. He pulls the small oxygen canister and mask from his pocket and motions to Sarah to use it.

ALEX
I thought you were dead.

She inhales and then passes it to Alex.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - ATRIUM

The section of Plexiglas that the tanks are colliding against starts to buckle and turn opaque.

Major cracks spread across the entire Atrium.

POP! WHOOSH!

Another tank...

Vidakovich turns to Alex and Sarah and stares at them from the other side of the window.

Vidakovich nods at Alex as another tanks flies behind him.

POP! WHOOSH!

KAWHAM!!!

The Atrium disappears in a spectacular IMPLOSION.

INT. HYDROPOLIS - TUNNEL OUTSIDE ATRIUM

Alex and Sarah watch as a thick red wave swirls against the window from the other side. The hotel SHAKES violently.

The red wave turns foamy and then swirls clear with seawater.

Alex inhales from the mask and passes it back to Sarah. He holds his breath while Sarah inhales from the mask.

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION SECURITY AREA - MORNING

Interpol Agents escort guests from the damaged elevator. POLICE, PARAMEDICS, and REPORTERS pack the area. Some of the guests receive medical attention.

An HVAC CREW maintains four giant air tubes between a bank of large generators and the elevator shafts.

Handcuffed thugs are escorted to transport vehicles.

Kashmira comforts a devastated Amanda.

Tariq is removed on a stretcher - he’s still alive.

Brian is removed on a stretcher - he's OK and on oxygen. Emma walks by his side.

Alex and Sarah exit the elevator and walk out into the morning sun. They embrace.

Cameras FLASH as reporters close in on the guests.

A handcuffed Phillipe is ushered past everyone.

The Shift Commander walks over to Alex.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Hey hero!

ALEX
Yeah.

Alex smiles and nods at him. They shake hands.

SHIFT COMMANDER
Vidakovich?

ALEX
I guess he couldn't handle the pressure.

They all LAUGH. And then... a SCREAM.

Phillipe bolts from the POLICE escort with one of the officer's guns in his cuffed hands.

The Shift Commander draws his weapon and FIRES at Phillipe as Phillipe FIRES his weapon.

Phillipe crumbles to the ground and is swarmed by Interpol Agents.

Alex falls to one knee and clutches his chest.

SARAH
Alex!

Sarah rushes over to Alex and cradles his head in her hands.

He looks up at her.

And slowly opens his hands.

He holds the blue Tiffany box... now in tatters.

The shattered diamond and twisted platinum setting fall to the ground.

Nestled in the middle of the mangled ring... a deformed bullet. Alex picks it up and bends down on the other knee.

ALEX
Will you marry me?

SARAH
(laughing)
You're asking me now? Shouldn't we wait until--

ALEX
I've waited too long as it is...

EXT. HYDROPOLIS - SURFACE STATION - AERIAL VIEW - MORNING

The same view of Alex and Sarah, this time from above. And then up and over the entire area.

FADE OUT.