

RAW NERVE

Written by

J.R. Schram and J.A. Schram

646-248-9296 or 646-248-9298

thetoryboulevard@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. OCEAN COASTLINE - PRE-DAWN

Otherworldly dark skies devoid of color hover above an angry ocean.

Camera shot rides the air mass above the rocky shore.

In the distance an OCEAN BLUFF, the camera lens races toward it like a bird of prey.

EXT. OCEAN BLUFF - ROCK - DAWN

MARCUS MALAC, 60s, stands sharp and imposing.

DR. ADAM THORNE, 30s, approaches.

MALAC

Your historic research and data on this location is unequivocal Doctor Thorne. I knew there was a reason to keep you around.

THORNE

Malac, I do what I do better than anybody. The frequency emanating beneath the surface is an energy source unlike anything I've ever seen before-

MALAC

And I must control it.

Thorne's eyes hold deep secrets.

MALAC (CONT'D)

(points to a shoreline house)
Those who cling to the past are blind to the future, they hinder progress-

THORNE

They're not just going to leave.

Malac hands Thorne a PACKET OF CASH. He takes it.

MALAC

You persuade them.

Thorne's eyes dance uncomfortably.

THORNE

I'm an Astro-biologist, that's not my job-

MALAC

It is now. Use any means necessary to overcome their ancient warnings. The future, belongs to he who dares to take it.

Malac removes an ENVELOPE from a pocket and it hands Thorne.

MALAC (CONT'D)

This will help with your task.

THORNE

No offense, but what are you going to do with frequency alteration, and distortion?

MALAC

Dominate.

Ominous dark clouds and thunder from an offshore storm fill the frame.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - DAWN - CONTINUOUS

This is the house Malac identified.

INT. SOMMER HOME

We are looking out an upstairs second story window.

The backyard acreage is large and the vegetation, indigenous.

The land abuts an OCEAN BAY upon which sun-rays struggle to break through dark clouds. Everything is beautifully perfect, like a postcard.

Suddenly, we HEAR A WOMEN SCREAM. IT'S FAR AWAY. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S COMING FROM.

INT. TINA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

This bedroom doubles as an artist's studio. Naturalistic paintings on canvas abound.

TINA SOMMERS, 30s, wakes up from her sleep. She thought she heard something. She listens.

SHE HEARS A WHIRLING FAN. THE HUMMING REFRIGERATOR
DOWNSTAIRS. THE OCCASIONAL BIRDS OUTSIDE CHIRPING.

Tina climbs out of bed. She moves in her nightshirt towards
the bedroom door.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tina stands in the hall-landing where another bedroom door is
closed. She puts her ear close, listens, and relaxes.

Tina softly touches a hallway painting of a WHALE BREACHING
IN THE BAY, then heads back into her bedroom.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The bathroom door is open.

Outside the bathroom on the wall is a FADED PHOTO OF TINA AND
THORNE holding a first place trophy for a science fair
project. It hangs ghostly stained, forever forgotten.

WE HEAR THE TOILET FLUSH AND THE SINK FAUCET RUNNING. WE HEAR
THE SOUNDS OF TEETH BEING BRUSHED.

Again, a WOMAN SCREAMS FROM FAR AWAY. THE WATER FROM THE SINK
STOPS. Tina steps into the doorway. Toothbrush and paste in
her mouth. She becomes very still.

INT. MAEVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bedroom door bursts open. Tina steps into MAEVE SOMMER'S
bedroom, her 70 year old grandmother.

There are indigenous family artifacts everywhere. Overflowing
off shelves. Piled in corners. Tina's eyes move to Maeve's
sleeping area, empty.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

WE HEAR THE VOICE OF A WOMAN NOW. HER SCREAMS FLOAT INTO A
DARKENED GARAGE BEDROOM.

KAI SOMMER, 20s, throws the bed sheets off himself as he
swings onto his feet in one quick motion. He is hyper-awake.

His muscles are tense as he stands in his underwear, and
looks around bewildered.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Tina bangs open the back door and runs into the backyard. She spins as she looks around.

Kai, now with a T- shirt and jeans, rumbles through the brush towards Tina.

Tina and Kai make eye contact as they approach each other across the yard.

KAI
Where is she?

Tina looks around with panic growing in her eyes.

MAEVE (O.S.)
(yelling in the distance)
Tina... !

Tina and Kai in unison turn in the direction of the YELLING.

They look away from the house, across the yard and into THE THICK WALL OF TALL SHORELINE GRASS.

EXT. SHORELINE - CONTINUOUS

The tall grasses smack Tina and Kai's faces as they run through the wall to the shore.

Maeve appears thirty feet ahead of them like an apparition on the shoreline. She is in her nightgown.

They reach her fast. She stands unaware of them in a daze. Her hair is messed from sleep.

TINA
Grandmother!

Maeve stands peacefully lost in her thoughts. A small, CRYSTALLINE AMULET hangs from her neck pulses with different color lights and glows erratically.

She finally looks at Tina. She smiles softly.

MAEVE
This land... it breathes, Tina. It remembers. The whispers of our ancestors woke me with a warning.

KAI
Who? What? Why's that thing changing colors?

MAEVE
I don't know, yet.

Kai and Tina grow more concerned.

Suddenly, WE HEAR THE ROAR OF A BOAT approach.

TINA
What in the-

KAI
Fisherman? Why are they coming so
close?

We hear the boat stop unnervingly close, its motion whipping
up waves on the bay.

Maeve tucks the Amulet inside her shirts to hit it from
Thorne.

Jumping from the bow of the boat to the shore is a stern-
faced Thorne.

He surveys what he can see of the pristine coastline with
cold, assessing eyes.

He approaches Tina, Maeve and Kai, with Malac's envelope in
hand.

THORNE
Ms. Meave Sommer. I'm Dr. Adam
Thorne. I represent the Atlantic
Development Corporation.
(offers the envelope)
This is a Quick-Take Legal notice
of eminent domain.

MAEVE
Who? What are you talking about?

THORNE
This land has been designated
for... progress.

Kai stands protectively beside Tina & Maeve.

TINA
You can't do that, Adam. This is
our home. We pay our taxes.

Thorne's eyes tell a story of historic significance, yet his
words belie the moment.

THORNE
I'm Doctor Thorne now.

Tina snatches the envelope and rips it open.

Inside, a CASHIERS CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS attached to the Quick Take Notice.

Thorne points to the Sommer's Home.

THORNE (CONT'D)
Your home, 48 hours until
demolition.

Tina's body begins to quiver.

THORNE (CONT'D)
Start packing, take the money, and-

TINA
Don't act like you don't know me,
Adam.

THORNE
I told you, it's Doctor Thorne.
And, that was a long time ago, Miss
Sommer.

TINA
What happened to you Adam?

THORNE
Good day.

Thorne departs, his presence a jarring intrusion that leaves a lasting sting. He hops back on the bow of the boat.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(to the Boat Captain)
Let's go.

The CAPTAIN puts the boat in reverse and they head back out into the bay.

The salty air whips strands of Tina's dark hair across her face as her eyes search for guidance.

INT. SOMMER HOME - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Refracted sunlight filter through woven reeds, illuminating dust motes dancing in the air.

Maeve, her face a tapestry of life's journeys, studies the legal document. Tina and Kai watch her, anxiety etched onto their features.

Maeve traces a symbol (MALAC LOGO) on the PAPER CHECK, there's a flicker of recognition in her ancient eyes.

MAEVE

If they call it progress, why is
there always a wake of destruction?

Kai and Tina grow more concerned.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

The stars weep for such arrogance.
The sea itself recoils.

TINA

What do they want, grandmother?

MAEVE

They seek the heart of the earth,
child. The veins of power that flow
beneath us. Power they cannot
comprehend, control, or capitalize.

KAI

What are we going to do?

EXT. TOWN HALL - PARKING AREA - DAY

Tina protectively gripping property deeds going back centuries rushes toward the building entry door.

Thorne exits the building and is face to face with Tina, he tries to escape her, as she confronts him.

TINA

Our land is not for sale.

Tina hands Thorne back the cashier's check. He reluctantly takes it.

TINA (CONT'D)

It holds our stories, and your
money doesn't interest us.

THORNE

(chuckles)

My dear, the future does not
concern itself with the past. And
what you perceive as 'stories' are
merely, inefficient data.

TINA
Inefficient data? What kind of
greedy robot did Malac turn you
into?

THORNE
A well compensated one.

TINA
This isn't how your parents raised
you.

THORNE
They died, I survived, and that's
what I have to do.

TINA
Go home and work on that lie in the
mirror some more.

THORNE
Grow up-

TINA
We're not for sale, unlike you and
your dirty soul.

There is a fleeting glimmer of the past in Thorne's eyes.

THORNE
It's too late. The town clerk has
the executed document.

TINA
I beg you to stop... you and Malac
will be our death.

A small, patronizing smile plays on his lips.

THORNE
You'll be just fine.

Thorne hands the cashier's check back to Tina, she resists.

THORNE (CONT'D)
Please, take the money and enjoy
the rest of your life.

TINA
We're not going anywhere Doctor
dick head. Get that through your
skull.

THORNE

There are forces at play here that
you cannot comprehend.

TINA

Not all of us dream about power and
money.

THORNE

This is the only offer you're going
to get, Tina.

Tina is frozen in anger and fear. Thorne extends the cashier's
check to Tina.

THORNE (CONT'D)

Cooperate, go live the life you
could never afford. You're a
millionaire, now.

Thorne stuffs the check into Tina's property deeds, and
exits.

Tina holds back tears.

EXT. COASTAL MOUNTAIN - DUSK

Maeve leads Tina and Kai along a windswept cliff path
overlooking the bay. The air is clean, carrying the scent of
salt and pine. The Amulet hangs from Maeve's neck and glows
peacefully.

A low, resonant HUM vibrates from the earth beneath their
feet. They pause, listening.

MAEVE

This is it.

KAI

What's that sound?

MAEVE

What our ancestors have protected
for centuries.

Tina, her movements sure-footed and graceful, points to a
rock face.

TINA

Kai, look.

Tina, followed by Kai move towards the rock.

KAI

Whoa.

TINA

These markings. They are not
natural, grandmother.

Kai follows her gaze. Ancient symbols, weathered by time are
etched into the stone.

MAEVE

They're old.

Tina reaches out, her fingers brushing against the cool,
rough surface.

TINA

They feel... warm.

As her skin makes contact, a faint glow emanates from the
symbols.

KAI

Did you see that?

Tina's eyes widen as a fleeting image - a sky ablaze with
stars - a pulsating crystalline power source, flashes behind
her eyes.

TINA

This is what they've come to take.
Our ancestors fears now tangible.

KAI

Can't we just hide it?

MAEVE

We could, but only for one day. It
requires human touch to sustain
itself, otherwise it will wilt like
a flower.

KAI

So, let's just buy it and come back
everyday.

MAEVE

They'll find it. There's only one
place to hide it.

TINA

What is it?

INT. SOMMER HOME - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Warm firelight dances across the interior, illuminating ancient carvings on the walls. Maeve, eyes sharp and ancient, holds a small, CRYSTALLINE AMULET.

Tina watches and listens, a knot of anticipation tightening in her chest. Kai stands beside her.

MAEVE

This amulet is more than adornment.
It is a frequency conduit, a key to
the earth's true heart. And it must
stay near to maintain homeostasis.

TINA

I've seen this, well, a vision of
this, in my meditation. It vibrates
with unearthly energy.

MAEVE

(grimly)

The spirt of the sky... passed down
to me from my mother, and she got
it from hers - for as long as our
ancestors have been on this coast.

Tina and Kai hang on every word.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Your mother, rest her soul never
got the chance, and now you, young
Tina, are being tasked with the
greatest challenge our people, and
our species have ever seen.

TINA

If we lose this, we lose all
control?

MAEVE

They don't understand the balance
it requires, they just seek to
exploit.

TINA

We are the protectors of peace for
the world?

MAEVE

Correct. It contains the collective
consciousness of creation.

TINA

Wow. No wonder Malac and Throne
want it so bad.

KAI

We can't let them have it. And we
can't leave. We must fight.

MAEVE

You must protect it.

TINA

We will grandmother. With
everything we have.

KAI

What do we have?

MAEVE

A chance to save our species.

This hits Tina and Kia like a brick.

EXT. MALAC HOTEL - DAY

INT. MALAC SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Malac sits in a comfortable chair.

He is using FaceTime with Thorne, who is in an old truck
resting along the shoreline of the Sommer property.

MALAC

Stand by, Thorne.

Malac touches the keyboard of his laptop computer.

We immediately see Malac's SATELLITE ORBITING EARTH on the
screen.

The satellite strikes the earth with a NARROW BEAM OF WHITE
LIGHT.

THORNE (O.S.)

Ok, we're a go.

An auditory sync sound is heard.

MALAC

(to the laptop screen)

So, you are ready my lovely, a
taste of things to come.

Malac pushes another button on his laptop, the NARROW BEAM OF WHITE LIGHT TURNS RED.

THORNE (O.S.)
Testing.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - BACKYARD BURIAL SITE - CONTINUOUS

Tina stands in front of two graves, her mother and father.

TINA
Please give me the strength to face
what comes next. Grant me a brave
heart and the raw nerve to not let
my spirit break under this heavy
weight.

EXT. COASTAL MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Beautiful, and serene. Suddenly, a deafening roar fills the air drowning out all natural sounds.

Camera dives below the waters surface. A violent tremor shakes the seabed. Schools of fish scatter in panic, their silver bodies a blur against the disturbed silt.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - BACKYARD BURIAL SITE - CONTINUOUS

The earth shifts under Tina's feet.

The Bay becomes turbulent.

She struggles to keep her balance.

EXT. COASTAL MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Granite reefs groan and crack under immense pressure, their delicate structures begin to crumble.

EXT. SHORELINE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Thorne's truck.

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Thorne is gaunt and unshaven.

He stares at his laptop monitor. The screen flickers erratically, displaying complex energy signatures emanating from below the earth's surface.

THORNE
(to himself)
It's changing. The waveform is
destabilizing, but also...
coalescing.

A low, persistent HUM vibrates the truck, the sound emanates from the earth.

Thorne blinks, seeing faint, shimmering outlines at the edge of his vision, like heat haze.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
It's not just energy. It's
influencing the... the very air.
The space.

He rubs his eyes, the shimmering outlines briefly solidifying into ALIEN HUMANOID shapes before vanishing.

The HUM intensifies, making it hard to breath.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(breathless)
This isn't a containment breach,
this is an infiltration of reality
itself.

He presses a button on his laptop. A burst of static hisses back, and knocks Thorne unconscious.

Then silence. The screen goes black.

INT. MALAC SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Malac watches his satellite orbit the earth on his laptop.

MALAC
Nineteen hours, eight orbits, and
the world is mine.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

As suddenly as it began, the earth normalizes. Tina runs towards Kai and Maeve. A visible weight of grief on their faces.

Kai feels the same helplessness reflected in his own eyes.

They feel the magnitude of the threat to their home, heritage and to everything they cherish.

KAI

What do we do, Tina?

Tina's mind is working overtime.

INT. TRUCK - LATER

Thorne regains consciousness as the test ends. Thorne struggles with what he has witnessed, and has an epiphany.

He starts the truck and takes off down the dirt road. Thorne opens the selfie camera on his phone and presses record.

THORNE

(to camera)

My name is Doctor Adam Thorne, astro-biologist and behavioral engineer. I studied life in the universe, its origin, how it evolves, and whether it exists beyond Earth...

Thorne swerves the truck to avoid an animal.

THORNE (CONT'D)

Marcus Malac incarcerated me and his AI scraped my research. He made me his algorithmic auditor, a person who ensures that the AI shaping our lives remain, "aligned with human values."

My job was to be his human in the loop. A living failsafe, the fleshy speed bump. I was good at it, or so I thought, until the AI began hallucinating and vibrating at frequency levels that will cause global catastrophes.

It was my research that started this, I'm not sure I can stop it.

Thorne's truck fishtails onto a paved highway.

THORNE (CONT'D)
If I don't make it, this is my
message to the world; you must stop
The Malac Corporation.

He uploads the video clip to YouTube, drops the phone on the
passenger seat and drives on.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - FRONT PORCH - DUSK

A convoy of construction vehicles line up in front of the
Sommer house ready to break ground.

Maeve, sits mediating. Her eyes, though ancient, hold a
startling clarity.

The AMULET hangs around her neck.

Tina and Kai sit in respect of Maeve's wisdom.

Maeve's hands, gnarled with age, rest on her lap. Images
flicker behind her eyelids that pulsate malevolently.

We feel and hear it.

MAEVE
The resonance...

Behind Maeve's eyes we see a HUMANOID on the ancestral
shoreline. It places the Amulet at the waters edge.

MAEVE (CONT'D)
It feeds the spirit of the yet
unmade.

Maeve's brow furrows.

MAEVE (CONT'D)
The earth weeps.

She takes a deep, shuddering breath.

MAEVE (CONT'D)
The hum is deeper now.

We begin to hear it.

MAEVE (CONT'D)
It does not belong to the earth.
They reach out, these lights in the
sky, but they grasp at more than
stone and metal. They stir the old
currents.

TINA
Tell us what to do Grandma.

MAEVE
The veil thins when the old ways
are forgotten. This is no mere
curiosity they have awakened. It is
a hunger.

Maeve hands Tina the Amulet.

MAEVE (CONT'D)
You must hide the amulet in the
forbidden cave, now.

KAI
The forbidden what?

TINA
Oh.

MAEVE
Tina will show you. Both of you go.
Now!

EXT. SHORELINE - MOMENTS LATER

Tina and Kai toss some items into their kayaks and paddle
off.

EXT. OCEAN ROCK OUTCROPPING - MOMENTS LATER

Tina and Kai ground the kayaks.

Tina secures the AMULET around her neck. Her touch causes the
sacred piece to GLOW.

Tina looks to see if they've been followed, and then she
slips into the water.

Kai follows.

They disappear under the water's surface.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CITY UNIVERSITY OFFICE - DAY

ABERNATHY, 60s, the University Dean, and THORNE converse.

ABERNATHY

Professor Thorne, this university and its donors are asking you to step down.

THORNE

What?

ABERNATHY

You're no longer the right fit for us.

THORNE

Is this about my academic journal manuscript?

Abernathy nods affirmatively.

THORNE (CONT'D)

I presented empirical data, Dean. Do you all just prefer fairy tale conspiracies now?

Malac enters the room from behind Thorne who doesn't notice him.

ABERNATHY

I see you're going to make this difficult, Dr. Thorne. We have a more important role for you.

THORNE

What are you talking about, dean?

Malac speaks and Thorne jumps.

MALAC

Your hometown holds more than just picturesque views. A universal pulse beats strongly there.

THORNE

Who are you?

MALAC

Your captor, Marcus Malac.

THORNE

What do you want with me?

MALAC

We want you to identify the source frequency, so we know what kind of power is beneath the surface.

THORNE
How am I supposed to do that?

MALAC
Use that empirical data you love so much.

THORNE
Why should I?

MALAC
Because I am the testament to human ambition, Professor Thorne. Let me help you, or destroy you.

Malac drops cash and a small pistol on a desk.

MALAC (CONT'D)
Your choice.

END FLASHBACK

INT. THORNE'S MOTEL ROOM - DUSK

Thorne wakes up. His eyes shoot open and he gasps for air.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Maeve is in a meditative state.

INT. THORNE'S MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

An incessant, rhythmic FREQUENCY emanates from the television.

Thorne is connected to Maeve by an extra-sensory frequency.

MAEVE (V.O.)
The earth weeps.

Thorne's face is etched with exhaustion and dawning horror.

Thorne turns off the TV, but the rhythmic FREQUENCY continues.

He opens up his laptop.

Another persistent maddening drone begins.

He hears what we hear, Maeve's words supersede the electronic cacophony.

MAEVE (O.S.)
Tina, you are the way.

Maeve's words enter his nervous system.

Thorne hunches over his laptop reading the data from the test.

THORNE
(to himself)
It's not weaponizable. Not in the way Malac understands it.

Thorne attempts to silence the electronic sounds.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
It's an amplifier. A receiver. It feeds on us, and feeds us.

Thorne makes more adjustments, by typing and key strokes on his laptop.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
It takes echoes, of our own despair, and magnifies them, in a perverse feedback loop.

He adjusts and types keys again.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
These signals, they're not random. They're patterns. A language, perhaps, but not ours.

The rhythmic FREQUENCY momentarily spiking in intensity.

He winces in pain, clutching his throbbing head.

THORNE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
The danger isn't just what it can do to us, it's what its doing within us. It will destroy us. All of us. Tina was right.

Thorne twists and turns in PAIN.

INT. FORBIDDEN UNDERWATER CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Tina and Kai sleek from the water onto the cave floor which is illuminated by bioluminescent fungi.

The air HUMS with a low, resonant frequency. The walls glow like the rocks did above them. There is a mini-alter for the Amulet.

KAI

What is this place?

TINA

Our family secret.

KAI

How come nobody told me?

TINA

Go back up, make sure we weren't followed, and then hide the kayaks.

Kai exits the cave by entering the water.

Tina moves in, her presence a calm counterpoint to the cave's unease.

Her eyes are kind and knowing, fixed on the alter. Tina removes the amulet and places it down on the alter, it holds a steady glow. Then the cave walls begin to glow showing ancient hieroglyphics.

TINA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

It's a mirror, not of glass, but of spirit. It amplifies what is already within us, and uses our bad memories against us.

Tina moves closer.

TINA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Our deepest wounds are the most potent fuel. The loss we carry, the anger we suppress... it will play on repeat until it shatters us.

EXT. COASTAL MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Thorne's laptop is on the tailgate of the truck, and he's working to stop what he started. The frequency fluctuates in the distance now.

THORNE

Almost.

He works with frantic precision, fingers flying across the interface as alien chatter fills the space.

THORNE (CONT'D)

Got it!

Thorne's phone rings, he answers, revealing MALAC's cold, measured tones.

MALAC (O.S.)

(to Thorne)

What are you doing Doctor?

THORNE

(strained voice)

Malac, the fluctuations are dangerously accelerating. The containment field is degrading faster than projected.

MALAC (O.S.)

Divert more power. The nexus must be opened.

THORNE

I don't think your containment cells can hold this much power. It's much more than we calculated. It's going to explode.

MALAC (O.S.)

A risk we must take.

THORNE

(voice trembling)

But the stellar nursery, billions of nascent lives, this could send us straight into a black hole.

MALAC (O.S.)

A necessary sacrifice for the ultimate balance-

THORNE

But Malac-

MALAC

You did the calculations! You said it will hold, it will hold. Press on.

THORNE

No.

MALAC

Proceed, or you're fucking dead!

EXT. OCEAN ROCK OUTCROPPING - CONTINUOUS

The kayaks are hidden in the rocks.

In the distance we see the red beam of light from Malac's satellite penetrating the ground, otherworldly sounds are heard.

INT. FORBIDDEN UNDERWATER CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Tina traces ancient petroglyphs on a cavern wall.

Kai sneaks out of the water again.

KAI

It's getting very scary out there,
Tina. Can you hurry up.

The wall symbols depict celestial bodies and figures interacting with what look like swirling nebulae.

TINA

I'm trying, I don't really know
what I'm doing Kai.

It is a nuclear force, the
frequency that binds the universe
together.

The force flows through Tina.

TINA (CONT'D)

(solemnly)

The echoes of creation itself...
cosmic consciousness.

More nuclear-life-force flows through Tina.

KAI

Tina, you're scaring me. Are you
okay?

TINA

This energy is a dormant frequency
that is used to anchor our world.

KAI
Makes sense, because all hell has
broken loose up there.

TINA
Go protect Maeve.

Kai turns to leave again.

TINA (CONT'D)
Wait.

Kai stops.

TINA (CONT'D)
And it's not just energy. Malac's
trying to sever our connection to
the universe and destroy the soul
of our planet.

The nuclear-life-force flows through the cave.

Suddenly, the light and frequency go dormant.

Tina knows what she must do. She places the Amulet back
around her neck, grabs Kai by the arm and they race back to
the water.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Maeve, Kai and other towns people are huddled together,
around a camp fire trying to hold off the construction and
demolition crew from taking the land and home.

Malac's satellite with a red beam of light is still digging
into the earth, otherworldly sounds are heard.

The townspeople begin to HUM, their voices, a low drone that
steadily grows into powerful chant.

MAEVE
(crescendo)
Against the shadow, we stand
united. Against the void, our
spirits align.

TOWNSFOLK
Our will, our hope, our ancient
might!

The Amulet around Tina's neck stops flickering and glows
peacefully.

MAEVE

Deeper, stronger. Feel the earth
beneath you.

TOWNSFOLK

Deeper, stronger. Feel the earth
beneath you.

INT. FORBIDDEN UNDERWATER CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The cave responds to the chant with a calm glow, and we see
glimmers of an ALIEN HUMANOID.

EXT. COASTAL MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Thorne's Truck HUMS with otherworldly sounds and pulsating
light.

Thorne is still on the tailgate working his laptop keyboard.

Tina, sees him from a distance and sprints to Thorne.

TINA

Adam! You must stop this! You don't
understand what you're unleashing.

THORNE

I just realized. It's not a power
source. It's a prison.

The Amulet on Tina's neck begins to pulsate with light.

TINA

It's not a weapon. It's a reset.

THORNE

Reset of what?

TINA

A cosmic reset.

THORNE

(awed)

How is that possible?

Tina extends her hand to Thorne.

TINA

Take it. Feel it.

Thorne takes Tina's hand as the Amulet's power flows through
each of them.

ALIEN FREQUENCY sounds become more evident.

Tina and Thorne break their physical bond.

Out of nowhere, Malac arrives on scene.

MALAC

This foolishness ends now. No one
interferes with my ascension.

Thorne steps towards Malac, protecting Tina.

THORNE

You call annihilation ascension?

Angry, otherworldly LIGHT and SOUND build.

THORNE (CONT'D)

You can't do this, Malac! Not like
this.

MALAC

(calm and resonant)
You misunderstand, Thorne. I can
and I will -

TINA

This energy was only meant for
protection.

MALAC

Maybe I should have hired her.
She's a whole lot smarter than you.

Malac snatches the Amulet off of Tina's neck and holds it in
his hand.

THORNE

You've gone insane, Malac.

MALAC

Chaos is the crucible of change.

THORNE

Do you hear yourself?

MALAC

Your limited reality is weakness.
Allow me to rebuild humanity anew.
Stronger. Pure. Evolved.

THORNE

Evolved into what? Your perfect
cyborgs?

MALAC

Into what I consider worthy. Your
primitive desires, your chaotic
emotions are flaws to be purged.

The lights and sounds begin to crescendo, as the force
fluctuates through Malac now.

Thorne stares at Malac.

MALAC (CONT'D)

You cannot stop this. It is
destiny.

THORNE

We'll see about that.

Thorne types a code into his laptop, then hammers his fist
into his interface.

MALAC

You will pay with your life!

Malac pulls out a sidearm and aims it at Thorne.

The ghostly tendrils of light and sound saturate the space.

Chaos ensues, sensory overload, hyper-stimulation, an
inescapable immersive environment that envelops them all.

Malac stumbles, but regains his footing.

He puts the gun under Thorne's chin.

Tina picks up the laptop from the truck.

MALAC (CONT'D)

I'm unstoppable...

Tina WHACKS Malac in the head with the laptop.

Malac stumbles back, drops the gun and goes down on a knee.

Tina grabs Thorne.

THORNE

Take cover it's gonna blow!

TINA

This way!

They run off.

Malac gets back on his feet, picks up the gun and aims it at Thorne.

The lights and sounds get so violently chaotic, the Truck explodes, hurling Malac into the air.

He crashes hard into the ground, he drops the gun, and the Amulet falls out of his pocket and rolls to the rocks below.

Malac is badly injured. Tina and Thorne head towards the explosion to get back the Amulet.

Thorne's override code screams through the system, the earth and the air.

The red beam of light, flickers white and red, as Thorne's override begins to take hold.

They see the Amulet but it's out of reach. They struggle to reach it, they slip on the rock, it almost falls off the ledge, and at last, they regain possession of the Amulet. The lights flicker chaotically.

INT. FORBIDDEN UNDERWATER CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Tina and Thorne stand in the cave before the altar once again holding the Amulet.

The chaotic groans of the earth are deafening as the Amulet and the cave pulsates RED and emits intense psychotic frequencies.

Tina touches the Amulet and slowly peace returns to the cave, and the world.

EXT. COASTAL MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Thorne's truck is ablaze, and the white beam of light dissolves as homeostasis is restored.

However, Malac is nowhere to be seen.

EXT. SOMMER HOME - BACKYARD - DAWN

The community wakes up as a new day begins.

A small transistor radio is heard.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Authorities are investigating what is being called a severe industrial accident at a Malac Corporation Coastal-Research facility. Early reports indicate a localized seismic event may have contributed to the structural integrity failure.

THORNE

Seismic event? They're already burying it.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

There are no confirmed reports of casualties, and a full investigation is underway to determine the cause and prevent future occurrences.

Thorne addresses the group.

Thorne hands Tina a Thumb Drive.

THORNE

It's all here. Encrypted, of course. But the key is on this drive too. Years of Malac's hubris, his illegal resource extraction, the seismic tampering... proof of everything. And, all the dirty work I did for him.

Tina places a reassuring hand on Thorne's shoulder.

TINA

It's not enough to have the data, Adam. You have to testify. You're the only one who can link it all together.

THORNE

I know. I will.

MAEVE

The earth has been wounded, many times before, just like us, but it heals. This balance is what Malac sought to shatter.

INT. HIDDEN BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

Malac, scarred and burned, but alive, looks at the satellite visuals of the Sommer property on his laptop. He also holds the phone to his ear.

He taps a control, zooming in on a magnified image of Tina in her backyard. She stands defiant, surrounded by her community.

MALAC

(to phone)

She spreads her lies like a contagion. We will counter her narrative. We will show the world the 'true' cost of their ignorance.

Malac speaks to Dean Abernathy.

MALAC (CONT'D)

(to phone)

The cosmic energy is a tool. And I will wield it better than they ever could. Their hope is my arsenal. Who else have you got for me dean?

ABERNATHY

It's the end of the road for us, Malac. You left too much evidence in your wake.

Malac's blood boils.

MALAC

I am a god...

INT. GOVERNMENT SKIFF ROOM

SENATOR AVERY (50s) stares intently at a secure tablet. Thorne's face appears on the screen, looking weary but resolute.

AVERY

The leaked archives, coupled with Dr. Thorne's testimony... it's damning.

Across the table, DIRECTOR STEVENS (60s), sharp and calculating, nods slowly.

STEVENS

Malac's narrative about cosmic salvation was always a thinly veiled power grab. This confirms our suspicions.

AVERY

His allies in the corporate sector are going to be difficult to sway. They've invested too much in his vision.

STEVENS

Doubt is a seed, Senator. Once planted, it grows. We just need to water it with facts. Thorne's data paints a very different picture of Malac's intentions for that energy source.

Stevens zooms in on a document detailing weaponized applications of the cosmic energy.

Avery's brow furrows with concern.

AVERY

This is far beyond a political disagreement. This is a threat to global security.

STEVENS

Precisely. And we will ensure everyone understands the true cost of Malac's ambition.

INT. UNITED NATIONS SKIFF ROOM

CHIEF PROSECUTOR

We stand at a precipice. The evidence presented by Dr. Thorne, corroborated by whistleblowers from within the Malac Corporation, leaves no room for doubt. Marcus Malac's relentless pursuit of profit unleashed forces that threatened not just our planet, but the delicate balance of life itself. We indict Marcus Malac for crimes against humanity, for ecocide on an unprecedented scale, and for global endangerment and exploitation.

DELEGATE 1

This is a global reckoning. The stars themselves demand justice.

DELEGATE 2

For too long, his reach has been unchecked. His influence must end now.

A resounding 'Aye!' echoes through the hall and into the skiff room via TV monitor.

Vote after vote is cast, a unified front forming against a shared enemy.

The screen flickers, showing news feeds of Malac's assets being seized worldwide.

INT. SOMMER HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Sunlight streams through clouds.

THORNE

This is a new dawn. A dawn of ethical science, powered by the very energies that bind us all, guided by the spirits of this world and beyond.

TINA

(softly)

The stars have always spoken to us. Humanity just forgot how to listen.

INT. HIDDEN BUNKER - NIGHT

A bandaged Malac frantically works on his laptop. He's gaunt, ragged, his eyes burning with manic energy.

He clutches his small, humming device, his last hope. Sirens wail outside, growing closer.

MALAC

(muttering)

They won't stop me. Evolution will not be denied. This is the key, the final spark.

The reinforced door EXPLODES inward.

Heavily armed INTERNATIONAL ENFORCERS storm in, weapons raised.

ENFORCER LEADER

Malac! Drop the device! It's over!

Malac makes a desperate lunge for a larger, dormant piece of equipment, the device held high.

MALAC

You fools! You can't comprehend
what this means!

Malac makes a run for it and is struck by a non-lethal rubber bullet. He cries out, falling to the floor. The device skitters away, inert.

ENFORCER LEADER

Secure him. And confiscate all
experimental tech.

Enforcers move in, apprehending the broken figure of Malac. His grand vision is reduced to this pathetic, final moment.

INT. SOMMER HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT

The community is still engaged, and all the construction vehicles have left the scene.

MAEVE

The stars whisper warnings, but
also offer guidance. We must forge
a new path, one of respect and
shared stewardship.

TINA

The phenomena we've observed are
not mere curiosities; they are
interconnected threads of a cosmic
consciousness.

MAEVE

We are not merely observers of the
universe, but participants. Our new
path, forged in collaboration with
ancient wisdom, honors the delicate
balance of all things.

TINA

We will protect these sacred
energies, for the good of all life,
terrestrial and beyond.

A collective nod of agreement ripples through the group.

Maeve and Tina exchange a look of quiet satisfaction and determination.

For Thorne, the dawn of a new era.

EXT. COASTAL CLIFFTOP - PRE-SUNRISE

Thorne and Tina stand silhouetted against a vibrant, fiery sunrise.

Below them, the ocean teems with life, its waters clear and calm.

A colossal HUMPBACK WHALE breaches the surface with majestic grace, its immense form arcing against the twilight sky before splashing back into the sea.

TINA

For a minute, I never thought I'd see this again.

THORNE

You did it, Tina. You protected all of it. And, I'm so sorry I was the cause.

TINA

I'm just glad I didn't have to hurt you, too.

THORNE

But I hurt you... I'm-

TINA

Forgiveness is love in action. Let's rebuild the trust we had as students and friends.

THORNE

And no more science projects without you.

Tina smiles.

They turn to face each other, a deep, shared understanding in their eyes.

Thorne gently touches Tina's hand.

TINA

You made it right. Welcome back to alignment.

THORNE

All thanks to you.

Tina sees the multiple meanings in Thorne's eyes.

TINA

The accident that killed your
parents and spared you... we're all
connected Adam, and never let any
one or anything destroy that.

EXT. COASTAL CLIFFTOP - SUNRISE

The sun crests the horizon, painting the sky in hues of
orange and pink.

Waves crash against rugged cliffs, teeming with vibrant
marine life.

Seabirds glide on the breeze. Below, small fishing boats dot
the water, their hulls catching the light.

MAEVE (V.O.)

We look to the cosmos not with
fear, but with reverence. A guiding
star, for what comes next.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - ALIEN VESSEL - CONTINUOUS

INT. ALIEN VESSEL

Vast panoramic screens display the SOMMER BACKYARD, a
miniature diorama far below.

Strange crystalline consoles HUM with a low resonant THRUM.
Abstract, bioluminescent patterns pulse across the walls.

Several ALIEN HUMANOIDs, amorphous beings of shifting light
and shadow, coalesce around a central console.

They possess no discernable features, yet their collective
focus is palpable.

ALIEN 1

The metallic tang. Acknowledged.
Primitive, yet resonant.

ALIEN 2

Life's response to existential
proximity. A predictable variable.

ALIEN 3

The data confirms containment and
subsequent integration. Minimal
disruption.

A single, large indicator on the main console shifts from a
pulsating CRIMSON to a steady emerald GREEN.

ALIEN 1

Observation protocol maintained.
Continued vigilance.

We see the earth is but a speck in the entirety of the
cosmos.

FADE TO BLACK.