
LIQUIDATED
A SCREENPLAY BY PETER BOCKENTHIEN

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by

Peter Bockenthien

Peter Bockenthien
Tempe, AZ
1-800-NOTSPAM
dont@diditanyways.com

EXT. UNIV. OF WYOMING CAMPUS - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE "SEPTEMBER 2047"

Students are entering and exiting door of a large building. The sign on the window adjacent to the door reads "DAN PEQUA GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING"

INT. U. OF WYOMING LECTURE HALL - DAY

The lecture hall doors are wide. Students stream in underneath a sign that reads "CAPACITY: 832"

A lively crowd of fresh faces stream through the large doors. Backpacks are still the norm but they're much smaller. Thin iPad-like devices are everywhere. Students jostle for seats and place their devices in the built-in magnetic stand.

The lights dim as the last students sit in their chairs. Their devices glow a dull blue.

An old man shuffles across the floor towards the podium as students applaud. One student beats a drum. The old man stops, turns to the sound of the drum and raises his fist. Raucous cheers ensue as he continues shuffling to the beat on his way to the podium. The old man is bent slightly to the left.

A man comes out on the stage and motions for the students to quiet down. An image appears on the translucent screen behind the podium: "DR. DANN PEQUA, PhD, PROF. EMERITUS, GEOLOGY 101"

Dr. Dann - the old man - turns to the screen and turns back around facing the students.

DR. DANN
Geology 101 - are you in the correct lecture hall?

The students cheer wildly.

DR. DANN
Alright then. Welcome to Geology 101. Lest you think that a professor emeritus with his name on the building should not stoop to teach a hundred level course-

The screen behind him displays a scene of utter devastation.

DR. DANN
We used to think that "quick" geological events occurred over several decades at least. Hundreds and thousands of years to set up. Then in the blink of an eye, entire mountains are gone!

The students are super quiet, staring at the image on the screen.

EXT. CAPITOL OF COLORADO - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MAY 2018, DENVER, CAPITOL OF COLORADO"

INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Several charcoal suited men file into the Governor's office. They file past a nameplate bearing "HONORABLE JOHN BENSON, GOVERNOR OF COLORADO"

The suits are smiling and chattering among themselves and fiddling with their smartphones. They are animated, excited as they line up 3 deep behind a desk.

A sharply dressed woman with brunette hair walks into the long office, drawing silence and the attention of the men, who smile at her. She walks to the front of the desk, pivots and speaks dryly.

LESLIE BERMAN
Ladies and gentlemen? The Governor of Colorado, John Benson.

Applause erupts among the men and the crowd mingled with the Press on the opposite side of the room.

Gov. Benson walks briskly into the room, shaking a few hands of the men in front nearest the desk. He sits quickly, grabs a pen and poses for the cameras. Flashes go off in rapid fire succession.

His aide, Leslie Berman, signals to the photographers to stop. The governor signs the papers, stands up, shakes the outstretched hands of several more men and then exits the office through door the lead directly out to the West steps of the Capitol.

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING WEST STEPS - DAY

Waiting for him is a large, loud crowd of protestors.

INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The men in suits remain the office, most are calling on their smartphones, a few are texting.

LAWYER #1
Drill, baby, drill!

BUSINESSMAN
It's official. We're all in.

LAWYER #2
You can do whatever you want, you're covered.

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING WEST STEPS - DAY

TV cameras on tripods are lined across the top of the stairs. Away from towards the door there is a podium. Below all of that are protestors on the landing at the bottom of the stairs. Several are trying to get past the barricade set up to prevent them from interrupting the news conference. Governor Benson strides out from the adjacent office doors followed by his by party's contingent.

Gov. Benson
Today I have signed historic legislation that will give local communities control over fracking. My Task Force has found innovative ways to protect communities.

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING WEST STEPS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SOUND: CHAOTIC PROTESTORS SHOUTING

News trucks and their reporters speak to their cameras while protesters chant and wave signs in the background.

REPORTER #1
We're live outside the Capitol. Just moments ago the Governor signed the Local Water Protection Act. Some say it doesn't go far enough.

PROTESTER
There are loopholes in the bill's amendments that are industry-friendly.

REPORTER #2
I'm with Tom Jefferies, Director of Citizens Against Fracking. Tom, you said this bill is actually worse for communities-

TOM JEFFERIES
-this bill allows them to drill as many wells as they want, drill injection wells even deeper and gives Frackers senior water rights-

REPORTER #2
But Tom, this is the Local Water Protection Act the Gov-

TOM JEFFERIES
-it gives frackers senior water rights regardless of the name of the bill. That water will be contaminated, will never be used again. They are burying billions of gallons-

REPORTER #3
I'm here with the leader of the Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force, David Verilli. David, you've heard what opponents-

DAVID VERILLI
They're wrong. This bill actually ensures the rights of senior water rights holder to-

TOM JEFFERIES
-it ensures nothing - tell them the truth for once!

A chaotic scene devolves into more chaos as people and cameras are jostled.

INT. UNIV.OF WY OFFICE - DANN PEQUA, PHD GEOLOGY, - PRESENT DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "SEPTEMBER 2018"

Dr. Dann Pequa is casually reading through a report looking bored when he flips to the summary.

CUT TO "REPORT SUMMARY" SHOWING THE WORDS "UNKNOWN ORIGIN, SUSPECT FRACKING FLUIDS"

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. RANCH NEAR PARACHUTE, COLORADO - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE "JULY 2014"

2 men are near a fence, the end of the ranch boundaries, beneath a steep slope of rock outcroppings and cliffs.

HANK DEL REY
I contacted every geology office in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Not a single one returned my call.

DR. DANN
(Looking down at the rocks, using a stick to poke around while using a red bandana to cover his nose)
You really shouldn't be breathing this-

HANK DEL REY
(Exasperated)
-I know but it smells this way all the way along back here. I can't be dressing like an outlaw.

DR. DANN
(Nodding)
Hmm...

HANK DEL REY
(pointing to where Dr. Dann is poking around)
At first I thought it was water. When this formation goes dry I have to start my well pumps. This usually happens in late May, early June right around when the Colorado reaches its peak flow.

DR. DANN
(Nodding)
Hmm...

HANK DEL REY
But 2 years ago it started in April. And in May through June it started smelling really bad. My horses won't come near it.
(Motioning towards his horse who was pacing back and forth 100 yards away)

HANK DEL REY
And now it's starting to show up year round and smells horrible! Just like it does now (coughing)

DR. DANN
You really should not be breathing this. It's extremely toxic. I think it's from an injection well.
(Pointing to the top of the Mesa)

HANK DEL REY
(Pointing to the top of the Mesa)
What the hell does that have to do with this?

SOUND: ROCKFALL.

Dr. Dann and Hank del Rey turn to listen.

HANK DEL REY
That happens a lot.

DR. DANN
That?

HANK
(Nods) Uh huh. Several times a day.

Dann and Hank ride their horses around the base of the cliffs to another cliff area.

EXT. CLIFF WITH LARGE BOULDERS AND ROCKS AT BASE - DAY

DR. DANN
Whoa!

HANK
Yeah, even the cattle know better than to come here.

DR. DANN
This seems fresh, like within the last 15 years.

HANK
No, the last 3. Starting 2 years ago it's been coming down every day.

DR. DANN
(Pointing)
Do you see that?
(Pulls out binoculars)
That's where the injections wells are leaking. I've never seen anything like this.

HANK
(looking worried)
Like what?

DR. DANN
Well, there's fracking all over the top of the Mesa. It's 3,000 feet up to the top. Supposedly they're drilling injection wells 5,000 feet down. They pump the leftover fluids into the wells and leave them there.

END FLASHBACK

INT. NCAR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE BOULDER - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "September 7th, 2018"

An impeccably casually dressed neat and tidy man sifts through stacks of papers, journals, desk trophies in a messy office.

SOUND: PHONE RINGING

The man knocks over a box which topples a nameplate to the floor. The nameplate reads "JIM HANSON, NCAR COMMUNICATIONS".

The man finds a cord and follows it to the still ringing phone, and answers.

DR. JIM HANSON
Call me back, sorry.

Dr. Jim Hanson hangs up the phone and resume searching. The phone rings constantly as he sorts through slim folders, irritatingly opening most of them for a quick glance. A young librarian type woman knocks on the door and enters. She is holding a folder to her chest.

JENNIFER
Jim. Jim?

She sighs and Dr. Jim Hanson looks up at her above his glasses.

DR. JIM HANSON
Yes?

JENNIFER
(handing him the folder)
Here's what you're looking for.

Jennifer turns and abruptly leaves the office and closes the door behind her. Jim opens the folder and scoffs. He sits in his chair and flips to the last page. It's blank except for the word "SUMMARY" at the top.

He flips to the front page.

DR. JIM HANSON
(mumbling to himself)
Tren...

He sighs and shakes his head. He flips to the next page, his eyes widening in astonishment.

DR. JIM HANSON
Tren...Jesus...oh come
on...really?

He picks up the ringing phone, hangs up, and dials.

INT. NCAR TABLE MESA BUILDING - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "NCAR SUPERCOMPUTING DIVISION, SEPT. 7, 2018"

Several scientists are performing various tasks and monitoring computer monitors in a supercomputer room. Several offices are adjacent to the supercomputer area. Most of them are stark, spartan and barren save for a desk, chair and a computer merely sitting on the desk. The real action is on the main floor.

SOUNDS: PHONE RINGING, SUPERCOMPUTER HUMMING

After the phone has rung 7 times a few scientists attempt to get the attention of a petite woman who is staring intently at a large state of art video screen that is rapidly playing meteorological simulations.

SCIENTIST #1
Dr. Liu-

The petite woman waves him off.

SCIENTIST #2
(he smiles as Scientist #1 walks away)
It's for you.

Annoyed, the petite woman runs down to the far corner office that is decorated with Ancestral Pueblan artifacts and Mandarin figurines. It's the only colorful office in the stale white male dominated Supercomputing Division.

Dr. Tren Liu enters her office to answer the phone. The nameplate on the window reads: "TREN LIU, PhD, SENIOR CLIMATE MODELING, NCAR SUPERCOMPUTING DIVISION".

DR. TREN LIU
Hi, this is Dr. Liu.

DR. JIM HANSON
Hi Tren. I was reading your analysis of the Long Term Winter Forecast.

DR. TREN LIU
(Smiling nervously)
Hi Dr. Hanson, I was expecting your call.

DR. JIM HANSON
Call me Jim, please. I just want to verify that I have everything correct because I've never seen anything like this, and I want to verify-

DR. TREN LIU
-the models were fed clean data.

DR. JIM HANSON
Right. So with that out of the way, you have the strongest El Niño we've ever seen and a high pressure over California that will pump copious amounts of moisture into the Central Rockies, our backyard basically-

DR. TREN LIU
-right on top of us.

DR. JIM HANSON
You're positive the jet stream is going to stall out for 10-16 weeks.
(Sighing)
I'm having trouble digesting what this means.

Dr. Hanson looks at the most prominent photo in his office: 2 men leaning on the top of a 24 foot tall telegraph pole. Photo caption: May, 1898, Breckenridge, Colorado.

DR. TREN LIU
Mmm-hmm.

DR. JIM HANSON
You're confident of this?

DR. TREN LIU
We incorporated Jet Stream Oscillation research into the models. High pressure systems over the Southwest Deserts and Eastern US seem to lock it in place until April or so. How that affects the normal Northwest flow aloft is really interesting.

DR. JIM HANSON
How much snow are you thinking the mountains could wind up with?

DR. TREN LIU
Well, that's what's bothering me.

DR. JIM HANSON
I'm missing the model summary in the report..

DR. TREN LIU
I omitted the Summary because I found it hard to believe. I don't want to stake my reputation on any of this. I'm confident that we'll see a stubborn high pressure over the SW Desert that will pump up huge amounts of moisture. But will we have the systems pull it out? So far the models say maybe, but my gut says yes.

DR. JIM HANSON
Okay. That works for me.

Jim begins typing up a Press Release on his computer.

We see his screen showing this text:

"Skiers, rejoice! A strong El Nino is setting up and with luck we'll see one of our best ski seasons ever."

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH NEAR PARACHUTE, COLORADO - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: "OCTOBER 22, 2018"

Dr. Dann's powerful, huge F650 kicks up a large trail of dust as it drives over dirt roads to Hank del Rey's ranch. In the back is a 4 foot cube box strapped down, marked with biohazard, chemical and radiation warning symbols.

Dr. Dann parks near another large truck. As he gets out of the truck a bobcat vehicle can be seen moving the box into the other truck.

Dann casually gives a shiny, new briefcase to the driver of the other truck who silently takes it, climbs into the truck cab and waits for the box to be secured.

Dr. Dann walks over to the hacienda's wide porch where Hank is waiting for him. They shake hands and sit down to drink coffee that Hank has poured.

DR. DANN
(looking at the distant rock striata, then to the driver of the truck who is now backing up and driving away)
Good to luck to him.

Dr. Dann and Hank grab their coffee mugs and drink.

INT. NCAR COMPUTER MODELING SCREEN - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "January 6, 2019"

Dr. Tren Liu's climate models are feeding the meteorological models extremely copious amounts of moisture on a huge sleek plasma TV screen. Graphics on the screen:

"El Niño February-April Forecast Model"

Graphics on modeling monitor: Colorado; dark blue to deep purple colors over much of Colorado's mountains indicating heavy snow.

Adjacent computer monitor: Snow Depth monitor showing white where the deepest is usually a pale pink indicating 48" snow depth at various Colorado River Basin snow gauges.

Taped to the screen are the current snow depths of 6 stations. A CLOSEUP shows they read: 18.75' 20.5' 17.25' 21.00' 23.25' 22.6'

Camera backs out of the NCAR Climate Modeling office and zips 80 miles north to Laramie, Wyoming.

INT. UNIV.OF WY OFFICE - DANN PEQUA, PHD GEOLOGY, - DAY

DR. DANN
(Dialing cell phone)

INT. NCAR SUPERCOMPUTING OFFICES - DAY

Several scientists are milling about checking several computer monitors and hi-tech flat screen monitors. Dr. Tren Liu is walking from the Modeling room when her cell phone rings.

DR. TREN LIU
Hello, this is Tren.

DR. DANN
Hi, it's Dann.

DR. TREN LIU
Dann!
(Smiles and sighs)

Nearby scientists notice how happy she looks and make juvenile kissing expressions.

DR. DANN
What're your models telling you?

DR. TREN LIU
They're showing 3 to 4 times the amount of snow for the Colorado River basin. Hold a sec...
(Runs to her office, enters password on her computer, sends email)
Just sent you email.

Dann swivels to his computer monitor and clicks on Tren's email. Scrolling to the bottom he finds the "Summary: 300-400% above average snowfall for February-April".

Dann pauses to mentally calculate what that meant. Crazy, he thought. Models can be wrong more often than not. 25%, or even 15% would mean a lot more water. But 300%? That was unheard of.

DR. DANN
What are you telling Communications? I bet they'd flip if they read what you just sent.

DR. TREN LIU
Yeah, I told them 'above normal' and omitted the Summary because, well, that's just an awful lot of snow. Every time I think of that much snow I think "flooding" And I just... I don't know, it seems weird.

DR. DANN
Yeah.

DR. TREN LIU
Our models have always shown water vapor would increase dramatically, but not when it would. So maybe it's now.

Long pause as Dr. Dann opens up a few windows on his computer.

DR. DANN
(using a calculator while cradling the landline headset in his neck)
I'm having trouble imagining what 35 feet of snow in a 3 week period looks like. And another 20-35 feet on top of that afterwards!? Wow...

DR. TREN LIU
Yeah, I get that. We've been tweaking the models left and right and this is the middle of the pack, so...

DR. DANN
I'll be down this weekend-

TREN
Text me.

They both hang up at the same time.

Dann looks at the rock samples from Hank's ranch encased in acrylic on his desk, glances at the large scale topographic map on his office wall of the Parachute area, runs his fingers along the contours of the Colorado River, trying to imagine his childhood state under 30 feet of snow, and scoffs.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DEEP SNOW ON VAIL AND I-70 AREA

SUPERIMPOSE: "FEBRUARY 2019"

A) Empty Chairlifts disappear and then reappear again as they head up the slopes of a ski resort. The top of the towers are barely visible.

B) There is a visible rut at the top of a lift as as the chairs circle at the top to go back down the mountain. It's a mini slot canyon of snow.

C) Superimposed: "February 21, 2019, 9:00 am"

A checkpoint in Vail. Sign reads "CLOSED TO ALL AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC. NO CARS ALLOWED. $1,000 FINE." The sky is beautifully dark. Heavy snowfall makes it seem like late afternoon before sunset.

D) Panning vertically from the sign above the highway, it resembles deep ski tracks. A convoy of semi-trucks follows 3 evenly spaced snowplows. The snow is flush with the top of the trucks, but at the top of the pass the rut is deeper and the top of the snow is 10 feet above the top of the semi-trucks.

E) Inside a semi-truck, a driver moves at 10mph through a wall of snow, routinely bouncing into the wall of snow on either side.

F) There are 7 places over 10 miles on the western side of Vail Pass where snow can be moved off the highway. The smallest one has 3 snowplows moving in overlapping circles. The largest one has 9 snowplows moving in circles to push snow into the small valleys. Flamethrowers are used to melt the snow up and down the highway. They are mounted on trailers with 5,000 gallon tanks driving behind every 10th truck. There are over 100 of them on the West side of Vail Pass alone.

It is a disturbing scene of trucks, fire, water, and snow.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. NCAR SUPERCOMPUTER LAB - DAY

Dr. Tren Liu and the male scientists are gathered in front of the main climate modeling plasma video display. Dr. Liu and a technician sit in front.

SUPERIMPOSED: "FEBRUARY 23, 2019, 12 NOON"

CLOSEUP of the snow amounts now reads: 34.25' 33.75' 33.0' 35.5' 36.25' 36.75'

The screen alternates between different climate overlays, displaying split screen, reverts back to previous full screen overlays, then repeats.

DR. TREN LIU
Again, but quicker.

The video screen plays the same video sequence faster.

DR. TREN LIU
Ready guys?

The scientists nod.

DR. TREN LIU
Okay. Ron-display it as soon as I say it.

A technician nods as he sits in front of a touch screen to deploy the modeling data.

DR.TREN LIU
Play January to today's snowfall accumulation at a rate of a half a second per day.

That displays in rapid fire succession the snowfall accumulation each day for the previous 50 days.

DR. TREN LIU
Okay, faster and tint it green.

The video plays .25 seconds for each day, tinted green.

DR. TREN LIU
(sighs)
Make the tint lighter and transparent so it gets darker as each day plays.

RON THE TECHNICIAN
Sure...here we go.

The video displays darker green as it progresses to day 50.

DR. TREN LIU
Great, now overlay our model run and tint it blue to purple.

The display overlays and the scientists gasp and smile.

DR. TREN LIU
We're not done guys. Ron-do a step by step of 8 hours per day.

The video display shows an overlay of daily snow accumulation that almost matches the model's prediction.

DR. TREN LIU
Can you make the discrepancy yellow?

Ron nods and adjusts the settings

DR. TREN LIU
Play it faster.
(it plays faster)
Stop!
(turns back to look at the scientists)
See where the models missed?
Okay Ron, overlay the Jet Stream.

The video runs fast with the Jet Stream overlay oscillating up and down, wavy, slithering almost like a snake.

DR. TREN LIU
Display the variance again and play the model into March 31st.

The video displays recent snow accumulation and then plays to the end of March. As it displays March, the screen quickly goes from blue to purple to black. The scientists collectively gasp.

Dr. Liu looks around the room at the scientists gathered around her. A man in a black suit is standing in the back of the room with two other men at his side, one of them is almost smiling and the other looks bored. The man in black is NCAR Director John Roberts.

Dr. Liu spots her protégé Jeremy Allen towards the back.

DR. TREN LIU
Jeremy, would you please tell Director Roberts what we're looking at?

Jeremy Allen is almost 30 but looks 19. He's tall, super skinny, wears glasses, and simply doesn't look like a typical scientist because of his colorful shirts and clashing pants.

JEREMY
Right. Ahem. Last October we updated the long term climate models to incorporate positive feedback loops to account for a sluggish Jet Stream and higher temperatures in the Arctic.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
(Nods at Dr. Lui and then looks back at Jeremy)
Continue.

JEREMY
We took snapshots of this year's meteorological events-

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
-weather.

JEREMY
Right-weather-and we looked for matches in the models. This is the match.

Jeremy nods to Dr. Liu who turns to Ron the technician who plays the previous video display that turns to black.

JEREMY
We found a match from the year 2052. Assuming current weather parameters remain the same - and we have high confidence that they will - the models are predicting the last 3 weeks of March to dump 30 to 50 feet of snow in the mountains.

Director Roberts looks surprised.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
(Looking at Dr. Liu)
Has this been discussed with Jim?

DR. TREN LIU
No, we were seeing this for the first time just now.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
And what's your level of confidence? 60%? 70%?

Dr. Liu looks at Jeremy, smiles and nods.

JEREMY
It's 90% sir.

Silence fills the room save for the hum of the nearby supercomputer room. Director Roberts moves to the front of the room, standing next to the plasma video display. All eyes are upon him as he is the longest tenured director in NCAR's history. He's a man of impeccable integrity yet there have been rumors that privately he leans conservative to appease the ultra-conservative White House administration.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
My fellow scientists, we can't allow any of this information to go out to the public.

DR. TREN LIU
But they need to know.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
Yes they do, but right now the mountains are shut down with so much snow that this-
(looking at the video screen)
-will not change anything, it won't help them, and I guess it would make things worse in that it will crush their spirits. This information will not change their circumstances. What I will do is contact the Governor so that they can figure out what needs to be done for the mountain communities.

The roomful of scientists nod and murmur.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
But none of this leaves this office, understood?

He looks at each scientist as if memorizing their names.

DIRECTOR ROBERTS
As bad as this looks, I'm proud of each one of you for all of your efforts, especially you Dr. Liu.

The room erupts in spontaneous applause while turning their attention to Dr. Liu who looks increasingly uncomfortable but smiles anyways.

SERIES OF SHOTS - WEATHER REPORTERS AND WEATHER SCIENTISTS

INT. CHANNEL 7 NEWS STUDIO - EVENING

A) Colorado's most famous Weatherman Mike Nelson's cheery demeanor was replaced with a serious look.

MIKE NELSON
The mountains continue to get dumped on and there's no change in the weather pattern for up to 5-6 weeks from now. The average daily snowfall ranges from 16 inches in the San Juans to 30 inches in Central Colorado. Folks in the mountain communities are not able to receive this broadcast.
(MORE)

MIKE NELSON (CONT'D)
Contact the National Guard at the number or website on the screen. They are making daily deliveries, but it takes up to 7 days to reach recipients. That's how deep it is folks!

INT. OF F650 TRUCK IPAD CONSOLE - CLOUDY DAY

B) Dr. Jeff Master's screencast is playing on iPad:

DR. JEFF MASTERS
Climate change is absolutely at work here. The Jet Stream goes through seasonal changes each year and this is the first time in recorded history that we've seen the Jet Stream locked into one place. We have the strongest El Niño ever. It has warmed up parts of the Pacific Ocean. That extra warm water has created a high pressure system that won't budge because of the Jet Stream. It's pumping an unbelievable amount of moisture into what we call the Pineapple Express...

EXT. I-70 MORRISON CHECKPOINT - DAY

SUPERIMPOSED: "MARCH 1ST, 2019"

Although it's day, the clouds are so thick with moisture that it's unbelievably dark.

I-70 at Morrison near Golden Colorado, several highway patrol cars with their lights flashing are partially buried near signs that read "CLOSED TO ALL AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC. NO CARS ALLOWED. $5,000 FINE."

Dr. Dann Pequa's F650 looks very much like a short semi-truck. Stenciled letters on both sides and the back of his truck reads "DANN'S SHORT HAUL". In the bed were neatly strapped down crates from his Antartica expeditions, lending him scientific credibility to go along with weather scientists flocking to Colorado. Sitting next to Dann is Dr. Tren Liu.

Dr. Dann pulls up to the checkpoint.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN
What are you hauling and where are you going?

DR. DANN
Food and scientific instruments to Parachute.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN
Are you tanked up? What's your capacity?

DR. DANN
Topped out at 300 gallons.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN
(Whistling, signs the permit and hands it to Dann)
It's about an 18 hour drive. Traffic moves at 10mph on average. Expect a few hours of delay. Radio is spotty. And you have food and necessities, right?

DR. DANN
Yep.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN
(Waving Dann through and signaling the gate to be raised.)
You're good to go.

EXT. VAIL PASS - SUNSET

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 2, 2019"

Intensely heavy snow is falling in fat flakes that are 3-5 inches big. It's falling at a rate of 2-3 inches an hour. Over 36 hours, 12 feet of snow fell.

SERIES OF SHOTS - VAIL PASS

A) At the top of Vail Pass, the 25' of snow starts collapsing into the the deep, semi-truck sized rut that snowplows struggled to keep open for semi-trucks. One truck gets stuck briefly, the wall of snow collapsed on top of the truck. The next truck came 2 minutes later and didn't see the snow-covered truck. It gently rear-ends the first truck. A snowplow driver could not see where it was going.

The snowfall rate of 6" an hour at that time cut visibility to zero.

B) The snowfall rates stops several drivers dead in their tracks. Unable to drive, they idle for a few hours. By the time visibility improves, it's been 3 hours and 20" of snow on the road.

NCAR CLIMATE MODELING LAB - EVENING

C) NCAR scientists' jaws hit the floor as they watch the snowfall rate on the data monitor. Real time, real life. Knowing that radio is spotty at best, one scientist calls CDOT.

INT. COLORADO DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION - DAY

2 men and 1 woman sit at large stack of small black and white CCTV monitors. Several are showing dark screens because snow has covered them.

A phone rings and 1 of the men answers it on speaker phone.

CDOT EMPLOYEE #1
CDOT Road Update. Whatcha got?

CDOT female employee elbows her colleague, who chuckles about her response.

CDOT EMPLOYEE #2
How can we help you?

NCAR SCIENTIST
Hey guys. Heard your some of your cameras are down. Our new mountain dopplers are up again, and they're showing 8 inch per hour snowfall rates the past hour and think it's another hour at least before it "tapers" off. I don't think any of your drivers will be driving.

CDOT DISPATCHER
Copy that.

INT. CAPITOL PRESS CONFERENCE, DENVER - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 5TH, 2019, 10:00 A.M."

Governor John Benson and others are hosting a Press Conference.

GOV. BENSON
Today I'm declaring a State of Emergency in Colorado as the unprecedented snowfall continues to blanket mountain communities and disrupt economic activity.

All automobile traffic on I-70 has been suspended. 3 days ago Vail Pass, Frisco are and the Tunnel areas received 12' of snow in 36 hours. I-70 is now effectively shut down from Glenwood Springs to Denver.

Best case scenario is we re-open I-70 within 3 days. Worst case scenario is 7 days. I ask you to pray for our mountain communities. They are shut off completely for the first time ever. Snowmobile rescuers are dealing with perilous, life-threatening conditions.

Our focus is getting food to the people in mountain communities, many of who have been facing medical emergencies due to being snowed in and unable to communicate with anyone. We are exploring all options as to how to get help into the mountain communities.

All vehicular travel is now impossible within the red areas of this map. Yellow areas indicate severe difficulties and extremely slow travel.

The President's Transportation Secretary is here and will now tell you how he intends to help Coloradans deal with these conditions.

EXT. AERIAL SHOTS OF I-70, GRAND JUNCTION TO RIFLE - DAY

Commercial trucks were lined up from Rifle to Grand Junction, a distance of 60 miles, and sporadically another 80 miles to the I-70/191 junction that leads to Moab.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 5th, 2019, 10:00 A.M."

Hank del Rey and Dr. Dann come up a ramp of snow. At the top of the ramp we see a 5 foot high wood pyramid. It's the roof of HANK's ranch house.

INT. HANK'S HACIENDA - DAY

Dr. Dann and Hank del Rey are strapping on their snowshoes. Dr. Dann checks both of their packs, and then bends down awkwardly to check Hank's snowshoes.

HANK DEL REY
You do this a lot? A geologist?

DR. DANN
(grunts as he tightens Hank's snowshoes)
These are expedition snowshoes. A colleague and I
(looks over at Dr. Liu)
Last wore them in Antarctica on a 3 day hike to collect rock samples.

HANK DEL REY
Rocks? In Antarctica? Oh!

Hank laughs and looks over to Dr. Liu who is chuckling.

DR. TREN LIU
Some of the planet's most amazing geology is found in Antartica. Dann is quite the accomplished outdoorsman. He's the first to-

DR. DANN
-fall down a crevice and climb back out of it alive.

Dr. Liu laughs. Dann smiles, stands up and lifts Hank's pack onto his shoulders. Hank turns around and checks it.

DR. DANN
We're good to go.
(turning to Dr. Liu)
We should be back in 3 hours.

Dr. Dann and Hank del Rey clomp awkwardly across the wood floor, open the front door and head 20 feet up a steep snow ramp and emerge from the hacienda into dark clouds and snow. It's a dark grey world.

DR. DANN
It wasn't this dark in Antarctica.

EXT. A WORLD OF GREY SNOW - DAY

They snowshoe 2 miles to base of the mesa where Dann collected rock samples 4 years earlier. When they arrive they are startled to see that the rock band is not covered in snow, but is oozing and smells horrible.

DR. DANN
1 hour to go 2 miles. Not bad. How are you holding up?

HANK DEL REY
(sweating profusely)
This is a first for me.
(contorts his face)
How awful!

Dr. Dann nods to Hank and just then they feel and hear vibrations.

HANK DEL REY
Avalanches?

DR. DANN
That was more than an avalanche...
There! Did you feel that?

HANK
Oh my wow...

Hank and Dann look at each other. They can feel vibrations under the snow.

Hank and Dann snowshoe back to the ranch house. Rockslides and landslides can be felt and heard.

EXT. THE MESAS AROUND PARACHUTE, COLORADO - DAY

The walls of mesas are buckling under the weight of the snow and snowmelt. Small landslides are happening everywhere but they're difficult to see because of the snow even though the sky has begun to clear; the slides slip unseen beneath the snow.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - DAY

Hank and Dann arrive back at the ranch house. The sky is clearing a bit, allowing some sunshine to peak through.

DR. DANN
I'm going to set up right over there. It's a helluva view you have.

HANK
(smiling)
Yeah, it's a scary one.

Hank tramples down the snow ramp, and a few seconds later Dr. Liu emerges.

Dr. Dann unloads 2 boxes from his truck and sets them on an expedition sled. Dr. Liu joins him.

DR. DANN
You coming with?

DR. LIU
I wouldn't miss this for the world.

She scans the mesas and the mountains. A few clouds linger against the brilliant blue skies.

DR. LIU
How about right over there?

DR. DANN
(looks around)
Looks good to me.

They drag the heavy sled 200 yards up to a small rise that's in between the hacienda and the Colorado River.

He positions one of the boxes on the snow. It has a thick wood base. Using an avalanche shovel, he digs and moves a bit of snow around to make it level and stable. Then he unlatches the box to reveal a telescope and stool placed on a hand-cranked swivel plate. It's ready to use.

He pulls a folding solar panel out from a sleeve and sets it up a few feet away and then plugs in various cords that plug into a black motor box at the base of the telescope and a small podium stand.

Dr. Dann pulls 3 iPad Pros out of his pack. He places one in a tray connected to the telescope and connects them. He places and plugs one into another tray. He places and plugs the third one into his chair's armrest.

DR. DANN
Umm... you know what? I'm used to doing this by myself.

DR. TREN LIU
Good, cause I'm getting cold.

DR. DANN
They keys are in the ignition. It can idle for hours. You'll be warm, you can work. I've got a lot to do here.

Dr. Liu kisses him and walks away. He just looks at her in wonderment, smiles, then turns to continue setting up his equipment.

He expertly moves the levers and the telescope swings into position. He begins scanning the mesas and then settles onto the one closest to Hank's ranch. Dr. Dann is surprised by all of the activity he is seeing. The rockfall from the top is constant, as if the snow was casually pushing off rocks for the fun of it.

But it's the base of the steep walled mesa that captures his attention. The base is the intersection of two formations. The one on top is harder, the bottom one is softer. At this intersection he sees rivulets of water staining the steep slope below it. In some places there's obviously more fluid draining. Every time Dr. Dann sees something of note, he pushes a button that marks the location on a map on the iPad. He pushes another button to attach a dictated note on the marked location.

EXT. CLOSEUP OF THE IPAD

As Dr. Dann scans the mesa and digitally marks significant observations by pressing the buttons, the camera displays how his voice notes are converted to text and placed on the maps.

DR. DANN
(small beeps are heard when he presses the button)
Constant streaming, marginal volume.

DR. DANN
Irregular flow, significant volume.

DR. DANN
Significant rock deterioration, large volume of pressurized fluids?

EXT. HANK'S RANCH - LATE AFTERNOON

The second box Dr. Dann unloaded from the truck contains a large drone. This black box has a larger solar panel attached to a large port on its side near the top with recessed levers. It's made of carbon that absorbs light. It's exotic looking.

Dr. Dann slowly scans his surroundings making mental note of power lines, roads, trees and whatever obstacles that might interfere with control of his custom drone. Satisfied with the lay of the land, Dann walks over to the telescope, unhooks the primary iPad, walks back to the drone, attaches it, turns on its 6 cameras, iPad, and walks back to the telescope to sit in the chair. He pulls out yet another iPad from under the seat, sees the "ALL MAPS SYNCED" notification, plugs it into a tray port, pulls out another tray with another iPad and launches the Flight Control app.

His chair now resembles a dental chair. His 2 armrests have iPads so he can control the drone with one and view the camera with the other.

He launches the drone. POV is that of the drone cameras flying 2 miles through the air to the base of mesa walls. As soon as a drone hovers on the coordinates from Dann's iPad it activates a LIDAR scan.

Dr. Dann's iPad shows the live stream. The other one shows the LIDAR scan of the base of the mesa wall.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 19, 2019"

Dr. Dann, Dr. Liu and Hank del Rey are dressing down. In just a week it has become noticeably warmer. 14 days of mostly sunny skies sunshine while 8 storms had passed overhead.

Dr. Dann walks over to Hank's hacienda. The top is "higher" now because the snow has rapidly melted. The windows are completely visible as heat from the interior of the hacienda has melted through.

INT. HANK DEL REY'S HACIENDA - DAY

Dr. Lui has moved her computer into the hacienda on a large wooden table near a wood burning stove.

Dr. Dann walks in, clomps the floor to remove the wet snow from his shoes.

DR. DANN
Do you have a few minutes Tren?

Tren gets up, comes over and kisses Dann.

DR. LIU
Of course.

DR. DANN
I haven't told you much about how I feel and what I've been doing.

DR. TREN LIU
That's okay. I've been busy.

DR. DANN
I thought you might be interested in how your model looks in real life out here on the Western Slope. We're on the outer edge of this craziness. I have footage and LIDAR scans that you might find interesting.

He nods to the melted snow ramp. Tren dons a lightweight jacket.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S HACIENDA - DAY

Dr. Dann's equipment has a large awning over it to protect it from the sunshine. It's brilliant, blinding white and blue sky.

Dann and Tren walk to the awning. Dann unlocks his iPad and enters a few other bits of info via a separate keyboard.

DR. DANN
I ran out of disk space so I uploaded most of this to the GOES 11 satellite.

Cut to show iPad with satellite icons and their orbits. It's D.O.D classified info of broadcast and scientific satellites. GOES 11 is 30 seconds away from being available. Dr. Dann splits the screen to reveal his drone footage, scrolls the footage and selects "Logan Horse".

As the Logan Horse video plays, Dr. Dan records his narrative.

DR. DANN (V.O.)
This is Mt. Logan from the top to its base near Parachute. You can see that the immense weight and water volume is causing the mesa to buckle. (long pause as video plays). Technically there should be more water coming from the base like you see here. But instead it's coming out just above the base of the hills.

Video footage shows a steady stream of water shooting out from the base of a hill.

DR. DANN (V.O.)
This footage is south of the Colorado river at the base of Horse Mountain. I found water streaming from the base of that mountain, too.
(Pause)
Here's footage from 17 different locations scattered at the base of Horse, and 23 from the base of Mt. Logan.

Video footage of various streams.

DR. DANN
Here's the kicker: I guesstimate half of this is from snowmelt. While it's warm down here in the valley, all the snow on top is reflecting heat back into space.

DR. TREN LIU
Makes sense.

DR. DANN
(opens a jar)
Here's a water sample from the base of Logan.

Dr. Liu doesn't even come close to the jar before almost gagging from the overpowering smell of sulphur and other hydrocarbons.

DR. TREN LIU
Ugh! Oh!

DR. DANN
Yeah, that's just the worst smelling stuff ever.

INT. CHANNEL 9 NEWSROOM - DAY

A Jr. Producer is sitting at the satellite computer feed when she notices several new files listed for GOES 11. She opens a few files and is puzzled why they contain video of terrain.

She clicks a few buttons to display the meta info from the footage: "PARACHUTE, COLORADO, 3/11/2019, DR. DANN PEQUA, PhD, U. WY GEOLOGY."

Curious, she walks to her desk on the other side of the room. opens a new browser window and types in "Dr. Dann Pequa, University of Wyoming". She pulls up the Staff Directory, finds his phone number, writes it down on a post it note.

She walks over to the Executive Producer's office.

JR. PRODUCER
Hey, come check out this video feed on GOES 11.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
(turning slightly from his computer monitor)
What's it of?

JR. PRODUCER
Snowmelt in Parachute.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Snowmelt? Hmmm... sounds fascinating.

He turns back to his computer monitor.

JR. PRODUCER
It's a LOT of snow melting and some rather large landslides. Apparently it's shot from a drone by a geologist from the University of Wyoming. Now why is a geologist posting video to the GOES 11? There's 7 days of ginormous video files.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
(gets up from his desk)
Okay, I'll bite.

They walk from his office to the satellite computer display, bringing a few others from the meteorology team with them.

They gather around and watch a few segments of video.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Let's look at that one, Mt. Logan with voice over.

The Jr. Producer selects the video. Jaws drop when they hear the voice over describing what they are seeing. The executive Producers sighs, closes his eyes, wipes his face with his hands. Sighs again.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Wow. I grew up there. I know what he's talking about. Let's get News over here. Carrie, get permission from the guy who shot this.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - 10 MINUTES LATER

Dr. Dann is in the chair staring intently at the drone control panel on the iPad when his phone rings. It goes straight to voicemail..

JR. PRODUCER (FEMALE V.O.)
Dr. Pequa--

DR. DANN
Call me Dr. Dann (scoffing)

JR. PRODUCER (FEMALE V.O.)
--this is Carrie Weber at 9News Denver. We received your footage of Mt. Logan and would like to air it today. I need your permission to edit the footage to fit and to air it.

Without looking away from the control panel, Dr. Dann taps his phone and calls the producer back. He reaches her voicemail.

DR. DANN
Hi Carrie, this is Dr. Dann. You have my permission to air it.

Dr. Dann resumes reviewing footage.

INT. CHANNEL 9 NEWSROOM - DAY

Several people are gathered around the Satellite computer display in the Weather newsroom. The Jr. Producer clicks the Mt. Logan Voice Over file to play.

DR. DANN (V.O.)
My best guess is that this isn't snowmelt that's causing these landslides everywhere in the valley, but injection well water from fracking. The water is shooting out because that's the softest formation-

The Executive Producers of News, motions his hands across his throat.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER-NEWS
I'm not interested, thank you.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 27, 2019"

The snow around the ranch is now mostly melted with a few stubborn spots in the shade of cottonwoods. Dr. Dann and Dr. Liu load up Dr. Dann's truck with Dann's two boxes. Then they walk into Hank's hacienda.

INT. HANK DEL REY'S HACIENDA - LATE AFTERNOON

Dr. Liu pours herself hot tea while Hank pours two beers on the kitchen counter and brings both over to Dann seated at the thick, large table. Hank sets the beer down, slides one to Dann, and pulls his chair out to sit. Dr. Liu sits next to Dr. Dann across from Hank.

HANK DEL REY
Are you finished?

DR. DANN
No. I'm going further up the valley, and then down to Debeque.

HANK DEL REY
I've seen the footage. What does it mean? Does it change anything about my property issues?

DR. DANN
Yes, I think the injection wells are not as secure as the industry claims them to be. I think that with that much snowmelt and pressure that the water has saturated the rock surrounding the wells.

DR. DANN
See, when people hear the word well, they think "pipes" when actually injection wells are nothing more than a mile deep 2 foot wide hole in the earth. All kinds of ways for water to get in and out.

HANK DEL REY
Hmmm....

DR. DANN
I think those wells are not as deep as they say.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - LATE AFTERNOON

Dr. Dann and Dr. Liu load up a large ATV that is bigger than a Jeep. Worn out lettering on the side reads "Antartica 2008". Loaded up with scientific equipment, they hop in and head up the valley towards the far reaches of Hank's ranch.

They come to a stop where Hank originally showed Dann about his water issues.

DR. LIU
Oh my God - that smell!
(covering her face)

Dr. Dann quickly gets out, opens one of the boxes and hands her a gas mask and then puts on his own. With a video camera in hand, they walk closer to the site. Dr. Dann is shocked to see the small stream is now a 20' wide river that looks like salad dressing.

They shoot footage of it quickly, return to the ATV, and drive as fast as possible away from the foul water.

EXT. FURTHER UP THE CANYON - NOON

Dr. Dann and Dr. Liu get out of the ATV and try breathing without the gas masks. It's impossible. Dr. Liu bends over as to throw up.

SOUND: ROCKFALL AND A LOW GROAN -

DR. DANN
Do you hear that?

DR. LIU
(gasping for air)
Rockfall.

DR. DANN
No, that low humming sound, like the earth is groaning...
There! That!

There's a low rumbling vibration that rises in intensity, then mellows out, then rises again briefly.

Dr. Liu nods and stumbles back into the ATV

DR. LIU
We gotta get out of here Dann.

Dr. Dann nods as both get back into the ATV to head back to the hacienda.

EXT. COLORADO RIVER AT BURNS, CO - NOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "BURNS, COLORADO, APRIL 6, 2019, 12 NOON"

Under the crushing weight of 35 feet of snow that leaves the forest looking like 8 foot Christmas trees, a massive landslide unfolds before our eyes. An entire mountain side of 5 square miles turns into slush and mud. The white snow disappears with a disturbing speed as the muddy maelstrom quickly smashes into the opposite side of the Colorado River canyon, triggering several other adjacent landslides just west of Burns, Colorado.

INT. CELLAR OF FARM, BURNS, CO - 12 NOON

Farmer John is stuffing carrots, onions and cheerfully about to put a large squash into his sack when suddenly the dimly lit cellar is filled with light, then debris and knocks over the farmer as the resulting shockwave rips through the Colorado River canyon in all directions.

Aerial shot shows the shockwave as it rips over the farm adjacent, above, and opposite the landslide, and then spreads a few miles downstream while decapitating the tops of the tallest trees, and bending smaller tops into the deep snow.

EXT. COLORADO RIVER, DOTSERO - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "DOTSERO, 15 MILES DOWNSTREAM, 12:07 PM"

Eagle County Sheriff truck, sheriff sitting inside, windows ajar, music playing. Sheriff turns down music and lowers window. Concerned, he gets out of his truck. He can feel massive rumbling in the ground. It's like an earthquake.

SOUND: the Colorado River roaring nearby, and traffic from the highway.

SOUND: a growing roar of a shockwave traveling down canyon

A brown haze is starting to become visible just above the contours of the hills, filling the sky from the ground up.

EXT. SHERIFF TRUCK, DOTSERO - AFTERNOON

Sheriff Jim notices the growing cloud of debris. He frantically gets in his truck and speeds towards an old metal bridge near the Interstate 70 exit. He slams on the brakes, his truck sliding just under the bridge abutment.

The front of the truck juts a mere foot out of the abutment. Seconds later the shockwave hits Dotsero, turning the air into a dark haze of flying debris. In an instant it has passed, and the haze remains, filtering the sky and sun with a sooty gauze.

SUPERIMPOSE: "12:28 PM"

Everything is still. 20 minutes later the haze settles enough to see that the river is no longer flowing. It's trickling. Everything is eerily quiet save for the trickle of the river. Normally 230 feet wide at the bridge and and almost 20 feet deep, it was a 4 foot wide shallow creek.

The Sheriff looks at his phone and radio. Both are silent. The radio and cell towers have been destroyed by the shockwave.

The Sheriff gets in his truck, turns on his lights and sirens, and races up I-70 towards Eagle, 13 miles away.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT MOVING UPSTREAM IN THE CO. RIVER CANYON - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "12:30 PM"

Camera lands in Farmer John's farm which is 250 feet above the river, revealing the Colorado River backing up behind the massive, muddy dam with trees sticking out everywhere.

Usually 250 feet below the farm, the Colorado was rising up the slopes quickly. Across the river he saw his fellow farmers peering down at the river, glancing around at others who came to watch the spectacle. 2 cars were driving up the road below him, the bridge they crossed was now underwater.

Looking again across the river with binoculars, he saw Len Bias, his friend of 30 years, drive up to the edge of the embankment in his tractor. Len pointed to his phone, shook his head, pointed to the river and shrugged his shoulders.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT ZOOMS PAST FARMER LEN UP THE GENTLE MOUNTAIN SLOPE TO KING MOUNTAIN - AFTERNOON

Farmer John feels a lurch followed by a growing rumble. He lifts his binoculars above farmer Len and see a terrifying sight behind his friend: another landslide.

King Mountain West, about 8 miles up the gentle slope has just slumped into its creek and was sliding directly towards farmer Len and his kids.

A wall of mud 80' high quickly buries Len and his farm, hurtles over the 250' embankment and starts building up the other side towards Farmer John, and upstream. The impact is so powerful that causes the embankment on Farmer John's side to collapse into the muddy maelstrom, nearly take the farmer down with it.

The river starts damming up behind that fresh injection of mud and debris. Panicking, Farmer John gets into his truck and drives south to higher ground, the mud moving like a lava flow as it creeps towards his speeding truck.

INT. FARMER JOHN'S TRUCK - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "12:33 PM"

John pulls out his cell phone and looks for a signal.

Shot: cell phone shows "No Service"

INT. USGS EARTHQUAKE CENTER, GOLDEN, COLORADO - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "LANDSLIDE MONITORING PROGRAM, 12:33 PM"

Several scientist are monitoring seismographs, puzzled by a large number of earthquakes that are lighting up their monitors.

LANDSLIDE TECHNICIAN
Is our equipment checking out okay? Or is this for real?

SECOND TECHNICIAN
For real, man.

The lead technician breaks from the group, walks quickly down a long hall to a large corner office with several people in an apparent meeting.

SUPERIMPOSE: "CAROLE FENN, PHD, DIRECTOR"

The technician knocks and enters even though the woman at the head of the table is visibly annoyed with the intrusion.

LANDSLIDE TECHNICIAN
Sorry to interrupt Director, but I think you and everyone here should see what appears to be several dozen large landslides to go along with this weeks record.

INT. EAGLE COUNTY SHERIFFS BUILDING - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "12:40 PM"

Sheriff Jim is frantically moving the dials of a ham radio set behind his desk. Seldom used, Jim is relieved when he gets a signal.

SHERIFF JIM
This is Sheriff Jim, Eagle County Colorado. What's your location?

RADIO ENTHUSIAST
Laramie, Wyoming, Longitude-

SHERIFF JIM
It's an emergency, do you know anyone in Denver?

RADIO ENTHUSIAST
Yes, tune to 510, that's the emergency channel for the Feds in Lakewood.

SHERIFF JIM
10-4 good buddy (chuckling awkwardly)

Sheriff Jim tunes into the emergency broadcast channel and begins relaying the news as he knows it.

SHERIFF JIM
This is Eagle County Sheriff Jim Anderson. Approximately 25 minutes ago there was a probable landslide upstream from Dotsero, Colorado on the Colorado River. Communication towers are down. Currently the Colorado River is not flowing. I repeat, the Colorado River is stopped upstream from Dotsero.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) EXT. EAGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S BUILDING - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "12:41 PM"

Camera zooms out the window from Sheriff Jim's position at the ham radio and zooms to the nearby highway where 3 State Patrol cars drive in formation down the highway west of Eagle.

B) Same 3 patrol cars arrive 2 miles East of Dotsero and block the road.

C) Mud continues to flow down the 8 mile long King Creek. The mud flow is 1 mile wide by 100 feet high moving like lava into the Colorado River which is backing up furiously under the immense pressure of 50' of mud and debris.

D) A few miles downstream the Buck Lake Mountain slide is being topped. Small streams are pouring out over the debris.

E) A few miles upstream, the King Creek mudflow is now moving faster and faster down the canyon. In seconds its flow smashes over the first slide. With a loud, deep rumble that is felt for miles, the earthen dam breaks with the mudflow, with the constipated Colorado River snowmelt blasting through and over the mudflow down the canyon.

F) The Highway Patrolmen look shocked as they feel the rumble and hear the disturbing growl of the impending disaster mauling its way down the canyon.

G) They see a brown hazy mist over the foothills just north of the Eagle and Colorado river confluence at Dotsero. A minute later a wall of mud, water, and debris boiling 150 feet high pours out of the canyon.

H) Terrified, they get in their cars and speed down the median into the Eastbound lanes of the highway. Soon all of the cars and trucks that are backed up do the same, but it's too late, as the hellish boiling water flows up hills and upstream at the same time.

G) After the initial flow settles, the swollen Eagle River and the furious Colorado river mudflows reverse course and begin grinding down the Colorado river bed to the narrow and majestic Glenwood Canyon.

H) 15 miles downstream as the raven flies, guests at the famous Glenwood Hot Springs scramble out of the hottest of the pools, most with scald burns as they exit. A geologically active area, the earthquakes have widened the channel that feeds the springs, causing the super-heated water to surge through the resort's plumbing. Nearby at Yampa Vapor Caves, guests can be heard wailing as there aren't any controls to regulate the water temperature. People are steamed alive.

I) 1500 feet above Glenwood, customers in the Iron Mountain Caves were already moved quickly out of the caves when the landslides upstream caused a panic. Looking upstream they see a brown 200 foot high boiling wall of muddy water rushing down the Glenwood Canyon. Ravens and other birds fly quickly by, shrieking mournfully. Just above them herds of deer and elk along with bobcats, mountain lions, bears and other wildlife were seen and heard moving quickly through the forest's south-facing slopes that had very little snow left.

SOUND: INTENSE RUMBLING

J) The rumbling from the canyon grows louder. Cave patrons stood on the edge of the overlook and wept at the fearsome sight. Panic overcame a few who then fell to their deaths. The noise is growing disturbingly louder. People covered their ears in a futile attempt to block out the terrifying noise.

K) The massive, engorged wall of debris chokes its way down the canyon, destroying it as it goes. In narrow places it slows considerably as if it were to stop and dam up. In a normal year that would've been the case, but there is so much snow melt that this mudflow wins every battle, blasting its way through, under, and over the debris dams and continues its massive smashmouth march down the canyon. Fits and heaves grew bigger as it engulfs small side canyons and their streams.

L) Several patrons run uphill for better cell phone reception, frantically calling their loved ones down the hill at the now empty hot springs pool. The lead caver is among them.

LEAD CAVE GUIDE
(yelling into cell phone)
Mom, Dad, get out!

Shot zooms from the Glenwood Caves hilltop down to downtown Glenwood Springs where most everyone has come out of their houses and businesses.

LEAD CAVE GUIDE
Go! South on the 82 now!
Go! Go! Go! Go!

M) Cave patrons watch in horror as the massive red-brown debris-choked wall smashes through the No Name river bends and easily rushes up the 200' hill that houses the last tunnel before Glenwood Springs. The sound is so loud that it knocks patrons back into the cave. For 10 minutes the water grows higher and higher, just like the videos of tsunamis they had seen.

END SERIES OF SHOTS.

EXT. 60 MILES WEST NEAR PARACHUTE - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "2:30 PM"

Dr. Dann and Dr. Tren stop at a bridge close the I-70 highway to see the Colorado River flowing just under the bridge.

They jog back to the truck and drive across the bridge, knocking down the "HIGHWAY CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING" signs. The truck speeds down the highway and disappears around the first bend of Debeque Canyon.

As they drive, Dr. Liu notices the water levels are dropping.

DR. TREN LIU
Dann - the water is dropping.

DR. DANN
Huh? What?

Tren points out the window as Dann slows down and comes to a stop on the shoulder. The river seemingly dries up in front of their eyes, slowing to a trickle.

They notice water streaming from a canyon on the other side of the river isn't slowing down. Scowling, Dr. Dann starts pacing back and forth, swearing under his breath.

He then has an "Eureka!" look on his face and recoils in horrors about what he thinks is happening.

DR. DANN
(grabbing Dr. Liu by the shoulders)
Let's get out of here!

DR. TREN LIU
What!?

DR. DANN
(grabs her by the arm)
Go!

Spooked, Dr. Dann and Tren run to his truck. Dann floors it like a madman down I-70 to Grand Junction.

DR. DANN
(On his cell phone, panicky, urgent, looks at Tren)
Airport!

INT. GRAND JUNCTION AIRPORT - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "2:40 PM"

A bored teenager is swiping up her Facebook feed on her smartphone when the phone rings at her desk.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
Hi! How-

DR. DANN
Do you have any commercial flights to Denver within an hour?

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
(sucking on a lollipop)
Ummm... Let me check... Yeah, we've got one leaving in 90 minutes on-

DR. DANN
Book me in first class-

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
I can't actually do that but I'll switch you over to the airline-

DR. DANN
No! It's an emergency-

DR. LIU
(grabbing his phone)
(Cheerfully)
Hi! It's an emergency! My credit card number is 4745 5764 0021 8769, 2 first class tickets to Denver on the next flight out.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
But I can't-

DR. LIU
It's okay sweetie, you're going to be a hero.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
(whispering)
What's that credit card number again?

EXT. - FLYING ABOVE THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY - EARLY EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: "4:30 P.M."

Dr. Dann looks outside his window down onto the Rancho del Rey and witnesses the most shocking scene in his life.

EXT. MT. LOGAN AND SURROUNDING HILLS AND VALLEY COLLAPSE

The collapse of Mt. Logan, Horse Mountain and adjacent hills is a 2 minute long "mise en scene" involving a little known fault line that is triggered by the injection wells lubricating the fault. The massive amount of snowmelt applies the coup de grace to the area. There are landslides all over Colorado, but nothing like these 2 mountains dissolving in front of their eyes.

DR. DANN
Oh! ... My god!
(grabs Dr. Tren's arm)

DR. LIU
(gasping)
How is that possible?!

A minute later Dr. Dann, from the window seat on the airliner, see the Colorado River's bloody, muddy wall of death pouring into the newly dammed river bed.

DR. DANN
(grabs Tren's arm excitedly)
Look! Look at that! The Colorado?! Ohmygod it is!

Following the river path north past Dotsero, Dr. Dann is able to make out patches of brown where there should be snow covered trees.

DR. DANN
They're happening everywhere! Huge landslides!

DR. LIU
Of course!
(pulling out her iPad Pro, looking at a professional geographical map)
I think it must have dammed up at the narrowest part of the canyon - that's why the Colorado slowed down!

DR. DANN
(pulls out his phone)

PILOT (INTERCOM)
We are currently experiencing communication issues with various control and cell phone towers.

Dr. Dann and Tren look at each other in silence.

SUPERIMPOSE: "5:20 PM"

PILOT
We now have contact with front range communication towers. I understand we have an emergency on the ground.

STEWARDESS
Dr. Pequa?

DR. DANN
(nodding)
Yes.

STEWARDESS
You can make your call now.

INT. GOVERNORS OFFICE RECEPTIONIST DESK - EVENING

RECEPTIONIST
Governor Benson's office.

DR. DANN
We have an emergency - the Colorado River is dammed up at Parachute.

RECEPTIONIST
And you are?

DR. DANN
Dr. Dann Pequa. I'm on the Governor's Climate Task Force.

RECEPTIONIST
Hold while I get the Governor.

INT. CAPITOL SENATE CHAMBER - EARLY EVENING

Governor Benson is addressing the Legislature in the Senate chamber podium.

GOV. BENSON
"... in retrospect, we've done everything we can to alleviate the suffering in our great mountain communities-

Long-time aide Leslie Berman steps to the podium to interrupt. Gov. Benson glances at her irritated but changes his expression when she whispers in his ear as he leans forward.

GOV. BENSON
Please excuse me, it's an emergency.

Gov. Benson points at several legislators, motioning them to follow him. Their aides are making an entrance to the chamber with alarm on their faces and join them as they all walk briskly out of the chamber.

INT. GOV. BENSON'S OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

As Gov. Benson walks in through the double wide doors, one of his aides motions for the legislators and their aides to wait in the reception area.

INT. GOV. BENSON OFFICE - CONTINUED
(Male aide hands him a satellite phone)

GOV. BENSON
This is Governor John Benson

DR. DANN
John, it's Dann. We just flew over Rifle and Glenwood Springs. There appears to be several massive landslides like the one in Cedaredge, but these are far more massive.

Another aide bursts into the Governor's office.

YOUNG MALE AIDE
Oh my god - my city is gone!

GOV. FRANKS
(waving off his aide Leslie Berman, he puts the call on speakerphone)
I appreciate you calling me Dann. Do you have any other info about this? Do you have any idea what I'm looking at?

DR. DANN
We saw huge landslides everywhere. Somewhere a big one dammed up the Colorado, and then broke up and right now it's rampaging through Rifle. We saw 2 mountains collapse on both sides of the Colorado at Parachute where it's likely to dam up. We couldn't see anything but dark muddy water in Glenwood Springs. No buildings, no streets, nothing. It was completely covered.

A hush falls through the room. Moments later a burly man bursts through the door into the Governor's office.

BURLY MAN
(calmly)
Sir, the President is on the phone.

Everyone looks around in bewilderment.

GOV. BENSON
(pushes button to turn off speakerphone)
Hello Mr. President, this is Governor Benson. We have an emergency sir-
(Gov. Benson grows silent, nods as he continues to listen for an agonizingly long 60 seconds. He motions to his aide Leslie and together they listen to the President. Tears well up in her eyes as she silently mouths "oh my god!" repeatedly)

EXT. DEBEQUE - AERIAL VIEW - EARLY EVENING

The small town of Debeque is covered up by Mt. Logan to the north and Horse Mtn. to its southeast. The massive earthen dam is 800' high and burning out of control as billions of gallons of fracking fluids burst up from hundreds of injection wells. Thick black toxic smoke hinders visibility. Those unlucky enough to live above or below the twin landslides are at risk from the toxic smoke.

EXT. AERIAL SHOTS - EARLY EVENING

A) The camera rises from Debeque and travels upstream as the Colorado's raging maelstrom begins to settle in behind the dam. The water begins filling the valleys between Debeque and Parachute.

B) The camera rises up from Debeque and follows the Colorado downstream. Peach orchards and vineyards are the first to notice that their irrigation canals are not working.

PEACH FARMER
(speaking into walkie talkie)
Pedro! Did you forget to open the sluice? There's no water over here!

Peach Farmer looks over to Pedro on the other side of orchard by the Colorado River.

Pedro shrugs his shoulder, pointing to the river.

PEDRO
(walkie talkie)
Boss, there's no water in the river.

PEACH FARMER
(walkie talkie)
Come on Pedro, just open the sluice!

Pedro again shrugs and points to the river.

PEDRO
(walkie talkie)
Boss, the river is dried up!

Peach farmer's wife pulls up in her ATV.

PEACH FARMER'S WIFE
David! There's been another landslide! The river's cut off!

PEDRO
(shakes his head, shrugs his shoulders)

INT. PEACH FARMERS HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: "5:45 P.M."

Peach farmer, wife and Pedro burst in to watch the TV.

TV REPORTER
We bring you breaking news from our Grand Junction affiliate. This is live from just outside of Parachute. 2 major landslides have buried the town of Debeque. Due to the fires we can't see the extent of the damage. We do know that the Colorado River is dammed and not flowing below the town of Debeque. We'll have more information as it becomes available. First, we'll switch over to Jaime Wilson who is live at the Governor's office.

EXT. CAPITOL, WESTERN STEPS - EVENING

Governor Benson is at the microphone facing just a few microphones on a podium. He looks haggard and sleepy.

GOV. BENSON
At 4:45 this afternoon, two major landslides completely covered the town of Debeque, Colorado which is an hour east of Grand Junction. I-70 is now closed at Grand Junction and at Eagle. Concurrently, there was a flooding event near Glenwood Springs. That's all we know right now. I'm in touch with first responders who are on the scene right now. My office will have more information as we receive it.

REPORTER #1
Governor, do you have any information about reports of the Colorado flooding impact on Glenwood Springs?

GOV. BENSON
I will release more information when we have it.

REPORTER #2
Since we know that Debeque is covered, are we to assume that there is large scale loss of life? And what about the Colorado River - it flows right through town.

INT. DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: "6:15 P.M."

Dr. Dann is disembarking from the plane. He is greeted by 3 men in suits who dryly greet him.

DARK SUIT MAN #1
Dr. Dann Pequa?

DR. DANN
Yes.

DARK SUIT MAN #1
Come with us sir, the Governor is expecting you.

DARK SUIT MAN #2
I'm sorry Ma'am, but you are not coming with us.
(MORE)

DARK SUIT MAN #2 (CONT'D)
We have arranged transportation to take you to either your home or office.

Dr. Dann nods to Dr. Tren. Dark Suit Man #3 escorts her in a different direction while the two others and Dr. Dann go to an adjacent terminal.

EXT. TARMAC AT DIA - EVENING

The 3 men step down internal stairs. At the bottom the doors open revealing the President's helicopter. Dr. Dann looks around.

DR. DANN
What's going on?

DARK SUIT MAN #1
It's a national security issue Dr. Pequa.

INT. DARK, SMALL AUDITORIUM - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: "APRIL 7, 9:00 A.M. - DAY 1"

In a small office, the lights are off and several people are seated around a table, silhouetted by a screen on the wall displaying a satellite image of the Western United States.

DR. LISA COLLINS (FEMALE V.O.)
The primary tributaries with normal flows for this time of the year are the Gunnison, Dolores, and Green rivers. Tributaries not listed have far above average flows for this time of the year-

Camera pulls away from satellite shot to reveal hydrologist Dr. Lisa Collins and a projector as the voiceover continues.

GENERAL PALMER
-but we can't protect rivers.

DR. LISA COLLINS
Correct.
(clicking remote control revealing another slide)
But you can guard dams. The big three are the Glen Canyon, Hoover, and Parker Dams. Upstream are three more: Blue Mesa, Vallecito, and Navajo.

GENERAL PALMER
(looking at iPad Pro)
Mr. President, we're going to begin with the big three and take a wait and see approach with the lesser three dams, sir.

POTUS
(nods in agreement)
What's your timetable?

GENERAL PALMER
2 days, sir.

POTUS
(aide whispers quickly in his ear)
Get in there today, General. You have 6 hours.

GENERAL PALMER
(looks uncomfortable)
Yes, Mr. President.

EXT. SATELLITE SHOT OF THE SOUTHWEST - AFTERNOON

Satellite view of the Southwest zooms into the Glen Canyon Dam and zeroes in on the Visitor Center adjacent to the west side of the dam. The shot travels from the parking lot into the interior offices where there are a few bodies. Camera peeks into offices to see a few more bodies.

It is silent, then there are footsteps barely heard and the camera peers out of the office to see a Navajo man move out the door to the observation area. The camera goes out the door, follows the man who then waves his hand towards the other (east) side of the dam.

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM PARKING LOT, EAST SIDE - AFTERNOON

A man standing on top of a car returns the waves and calls out to the leader of a small crowd of 60 Navajo

SIGNAL MAN
Ready!

NAVAJO LEADER #1
(turning from the signal man to the crowd)
We're ready! This land is our land! This water is our water! This dam is their dam!

SMALL CROWD
This dam is their dam!
This dam must go!

NAVAJO LEADER #1
(speaking into walkie talkie)
We're ready brothers!

INT. GLEN CANYON DAM TURBINES - AFTERNOON

NAVAJO LEADER #2
(speaking into walkie talkie)
We're ready to set the timers. T-minus 30 minutes.

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:15 P.M."

NAVAJO LEADER #1
(walkie talkie to his ear)
30 minutes brothers! Everybody out! Go to your families - tonight we celebrate!

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:23 P.M."

The Navajo and tourists have vacated the Visitor Center. Only a few cars remain in the parking lot.

3 Military helicopters descend on the dam, landing in the Visitor Center parking lot. Fully armed soldiers pour out and race into the Visitor Center.

INT. GLEN CANYON VISITOR CENTER - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:24 P.M."

Soldiers run into the Visitor Center, weapons drawn. 2 women and a man bound and gagged under a table in the back office are freaking out. A soldier stoops down and undoes their gags.

1ST FEMALE VICTIM
(struggles to catch her breath)
They're going to blow up the dam!

SOLDIER 1
(into shoulder mic)
Evacuate! It's wired to explode!

The soldiers quickly search the rest of the Visitor Center for other survivors. They find 1 in the bathroom, then rush out to join their fellow troops in the helicopters. They take off far more urgently than when they arrived.

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:45 P.M."

The magnificent, breathtaking detonation of the Glen Canyon Dam can be heard 70 miles away and felt within 30 miles of the dam. The Dam's sandstone canyon above and below the dam is destroyed by the force of the powerful, jaw-dropping explosions.

12 explosions start in the bottom middle of the dam, traveling up and out in a fan shape. These crack the dam in many places. They are followed 12 larger, earth-shattering explosions that also start at the bottom and rapidly detonate in a 3-4-5 bottom to top fashion from within the dam itself. This also destroys the sandstone canyon on both sides one quarter mile above and below the dam so that what remains is a pile of concrete buried by sandstone. The dam basically implodes on itself to two thirds of its height, topping out at 150 feet below the water level of Lake Powell. The sediment on the upstream part of the dam has also been blown out. Lake Powell begins to drain.

INT. MILITARY CONTROL ROOM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:50 P.M., 5 MINUTES AFTER DETONATION"

Satellite video feed captures the explosion and displays on one of the military control room monitors.

GENERAL PALMER
Holy shit!
(barks into a secure communication device)
Hoover! Status report!

EXT. HOOVER DAM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:52 P.M."

3 military helicopters approach Hoover Dam from upstream the dam, and 4 approach from downstream the dam.

INT. HELICOPTER APPROACHING HOOVER DAM DOWNSTREAM - AFTERNOON

Navy Seal scanning the dam and terrain with LIDAR. The LIDAR video is live streamed into the Military Command Room.

NAVY SEAL
Nothing on LIDAR, sir. We are landing now.

2 helicopters land on top of the dam. 5 others land in the other parking lots.

INT. HOOVER DAM OFFICE - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:53 P.M."

Navy Seal and other soldiers calmly walk into the office.

OFFICE WORKER
Hey! We were not informed of military exercises.

NAVY SEAL
(speaking into shoulder mic)
Mr. President, Hoover Dam appears to be free of external threats.

Manager comes out from a bigger office with puzzled look.

HOOVER DAM MANAGER
What the hell's going on?

NAVY SEAL
National Security, sir. Terrorists have blown up the Glen Canyon Dam.

EXT. CONFLUENCE OF GUNNISON AND COLORADO RIVERS - DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 2, 5:00 A.M."

SUPERIMPOSE: "CONFLUENCE: GUNNISON AND COLORADO RIVERS

Gasoline tanker parked at river's edge is dumping gas downstream while a generator driven pump is pumping water from upstream. 3 men with automatic rifles on 3 sides of the tanker scan for threats.

Camera lifts up, flies down the Colorado River to northeast of Moab, enters the river canyon at Castle Valley, flies above the river and presents a bird's eye view of Red Cliffs Lodge.

EXT. RED CLIFFS LODGE - DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "NEAR MOAB, UTAH, DAY 2, 5:20 A.M."

8 men dressed in desert camouflage are waking up guests, robbing them, getting their cards and PINs. 3 gas tankers roll in to begin pumping water from the river.

Camera lifts up once again, flies down the river, up over the Slickrock area, down to Main Street Moab where a furious gun battle is taking place.

EXT. MAIN ST. MOAB - DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "MOAB, 5:23 A.M."

A gas station begins to burn, spewing thick black smoke as thugs shoot it out over 2 gas tankers while gas pours into the street. Tourist and citizens alike begin shooting at each other for no apparent reason. Police and Grand County Sheriff win the battle but shoot several citizens to gain control of the tankers.

SERIES OF SHOTS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE WEST

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 2 CONTINUED"

SUPERIMPOSE: "DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT, GREEN RIVER, UTAH"

A) Armed militia takeover the west part of Dinosaur National Monument where the Green River intersects with the Yampa River.

SUPERIMPOSE: "NUCLA, COLORADO, DOLORES RIVER"

B) Nucla, CO 3 miles from the Dolores River, a tiny town where guns are mandatory. Citizens convoy down to Naturita and face a fierce gun battle at the Dolores River with Naturita locals.

SUPERIMPOSE: "CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO"

C) Camera flies to Crested Butte, Colorado. Front loaders are creating an earthen dam on the East side of town to dam the Gunnison River.

SUPERIMPOSE: "ASPEN, COLORADO"

D) Pan up and fly to Aspen Airport where billionaires disembark from planes with private armies and cargo planes are bringing in heavy equipment.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. NYC NEWS STUDIO - EARLY AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 2, 2:00 P.M."

NATIONAL REPORTER #1
We interrupt our normal programming to bring you breaking news from Denver, Colorado where once again the weather is wreaking havoc. Janice is with us.

EXT. CAPITOL OF COLORADO - EARLY AFTERNOON

JANICE (REPORTER)
2 days ago scores of landslides occurred throughout Colorado. 3 of them have blocked the Colorado River. As word of this event spread, so has violence.

We are live at the Capitol of Colorado where Governor John Benson will be addressing this issue.

INT. WHITE HOUSE CABINET COMMAND ROOM - EARLY EVENING

POTUS, Dr. Lisa Collins, Dr. Dann Pequa, General Palmer and other Cabinet members are present.

POTUS
Dept. Of Interior Amanda Johnson is here with Dr. Lisa Collins and Dr. Dann Pequa.
(nods at Amanda)

AMANDA JOHNSON
The Navajo-

GENERAL PALMER
Terrorists.

POTUS glares at General Palmer.

AMANDA JOHNSON
The Navajo actually did us a favor as the Glen Canyon Dam has been drastically weakened by sediment buildup over time. Although the dam is destroyed and beyond repair, there's so much debris that Lake Powell is not draining as fast as we first feared.
(MORE)

AMANDA JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Because the Colorado remains dammed at Debeque, the Green, Gunnison, Dolores, and San Juan Rivers have enough flow to sustain the communities-

GENERAL PALMER
-California, Arizona, Vegas are not communities Ms. Johnson! We have 39 bases that are crucial to the Commander-In-Chief's decisions.

AMANDA JOHNSON
(from looking down, looks to POTUS)
Downstream we have strict conservation measures in place and a feasible water rationing plan.

GENERAL PALMER
Bullshit! What we have Mr. President are thugs manipulating this crisis.

POTUS Chief of Staff whispers into the President's ear.

PRESIDENT
General, do whatever it takes to help law enforcement get this under control. This meeting's over.

The attendees get out of their chairs silently and walk to the door.

Chief of Staff nods to Secret Service agent who blocks Dr. Dann and nods to the Chief of Staff who silently mouths the word "wait". After all of the attendees have left the President speaks.

PRESIDENT
Dr. Pequa, a word.

The Chief of Staff nods to the Secret Service agent at the opposite wall. As Dr. Dann turns the main door, he sees the wall reflected from a photo on the President's desk magically open. A tall man - "Z" - with radiant silver hair enters.

CHIEF OF STAFF
(nodding to the President)
This way gentlemen.

The President and the 2 SS agents look on as Dr. Dann and the tall man with the brilliant silver hair exit via yet another hidden wall door.

INT. VERY LARGE GRANITE ROOM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "BASEMENT: SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM"

The windowless granite room is cozy, cool, curvy, a mix of rough hewn granite and impressive precise smooth blocks. Dr. Dann follows the silver-haired man known only as "Z" through the maze of tables to a small safe on a sagging shelf. Z steps up to the safe, bends over slightly, and spins the combination. The shelf sags a bit more and objects clatter and smack into the safe. Z ignores it. He pulls out his phone to look at it.

Z
(smiles wryly at Dr. Dann)
Too many numbers.

After 20 seconds that seems like 2 minutes, Z opens the safe and casually pulls out a pair of thin gold gloves and thin booties. Both are limp and unimpressive.

DR. DANN
(gently scoffs, smiling in mild amusement)

Z
Yeah. I figured as much, too.

DR. DANN
What is this?

Z
(sighing)
Found technology.

DR. DANN
Found where?

Z
Navajo Mountain.

DR. DANN
(flustered)
What's this all about? What am I doing here

Z
(Speaks up the ceiling)
Send in the techs.
(Looking at Dr. Dann)
They call it E2 for Electron Expansion. I call it the Hand of God for reasons that will be obvious.

Z puts on the gloves and slips the boots over his shoes. They expand to accommodate his large foot size.

Z
Intent, doctor. Whatever you intend you will have. Point to cut through rocks, sweep to sweep aside. Lift to lift up. Throw to throw, you get the idea. The gloves work only when wearing the booties. We don't know what, if anything, the booties do beyond that.

Z pulls Dr. Dann away from the safe. They both step back while Z lifts the safe using the gloves from a distance of 20 feet and throws it against the stone wall. He then begins slicing it in 2. He cuts a hole in the granite wall, lifts the remains of the safe, places it into the hole, caps it with the granite plug he just cut, and seals it into the wall, all in just 15 seconds.

Dr. Dann stares in disbelief.

Z
You're familiar with Scripture doctor? My favorite is Mark 11:23, 'Say to this mountain "be removed and cast into the sea" and it shall be done'.
Remember, intent is everything.

Z nods to the 2 techs.

Z
You'll have to check these out of this room. You know what to do, doctor?

DR. DANN
(nods uncomfortably)

Z
(takes off the gloves and booties, puts them in a small faraday bag)
You can never tell anyone about the gloves and the booties.
(handing bag to Dr. Dann)
You were never here, you don't know what these are, and these two are your newest graduate assistants.

DR. DANN
And who are you again?

Z chuckles softly, turns and walks away as Dr. Dann's "assistants" silently stand by.

Z
(cryptically)
The Navajo know me by a mythological name. You can call me "Z".

EXT. RULISON, COLORADO, INTERSTATE I-70 - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 3, AIRLIFT DAY 1"

Aerial view of I-70 highway packed with cars, trucks and fracking rigs evacuating from Rulison and Rifle that were not damaged by the landslides and the initial wall of mud and debris loosed near Burns, Colorado. The newly formed dam can be seen in the distance with black smoke reaching high into the sky. Front loaders are everywhere, clearing debris and making temporary berms to allow traffic on the highway.

A dangerous major airlift is underway. Helicopters are everywhere, ferrying people from residences south of the river onto the highway, which offers little relief nor safety.

INT. FEMA HQ, LAKEWOOD FEDERAL CENTER - DAY

FEMA DIRECTOR
(on video phone)
Mr. President, the situation is dire.
(MORE)

FEMA DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
Evacuees have only 1 way out. That's up a highway into ranching country. There's no infrastructure for 60,000 people, let alone a few thousand. People downstream have evacuated to Grand Junction. We can airlift people down that way. But we need fuel, food and shelter.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - WHITE HOUSE

POTUS
That was done yesterday. Why are you not airlifting them?

FEMA DIRECTOR
The military won't let us sir. National security.

POTUS
Hold please.

POTUS turns to Chief of Staff.

POTUS (CONT'D)
Remove Palmer! Get Z!

INT. WHITE HOUSE CABINET COMMAND ROOM - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE "DAY 3, 3:00 P.M."

The President, Chief of Staff, Dept. Of Interior, a new General (Bonner), and hydrologist Dr. Lisa Collins are seated in the Cabinet Command room used for emergencies.

POTUS
Ms. Johnson has put together a projection of rate of expansion of the newly formed lake. I've heard her explain it, but I want your professional opinion Dr. Collins.

The room dims and a video of a computer model plays. It shows detailed contours of the lake's expansion rate, starting with Day 3. It shows days 4 through 14. On Day 7, the town of Rifle will begin to be underwater, cutting off access to the northern route out of town.

Day 8-11 fills up the wide, gentle valleys south of Rifle and Silt before backing up the canyon between New Castle and Glenwood Springs.

Lights come up.

DR. LISA COLLINS
The projection seems accurate Mr. President. I would imagine that on the ground it's terrifying.

POTUS
Yes it is Dr. Collins. General Bonner, I've made my decision. That dam must be removed.

GENERAL BONNER
Yes, Mr. President.

POTUS
How soon can that be done?

GENERAL BONNER
(aide looks up from his tablet, whispers into General Bonner's ear)
Tomorrow, sir.

POTUS
Is the area clear?
(turning to Dr. Collins)
Are we rushing this?

GENERAL BONNER
It's clear.

DR. LISA COLLINS
The sooner the better Mr. President.

POTUS
Well, then. That wraps up this meeting.
(turning to Dr. Collins)
Share that with Dr. Pequa. Mr. Carter will get you a secure phone.
(nodding to Secret Service agent Andrew Carter)

INT. EAST WING, WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Secret Service Agent Carter hands Dr. Collins a secure phone.

AGENT CARTER
Dial any number. You have 15 minutes.

Agent Carter steps away, speaking into his lapel mic.

DR. LISA COLLINS
(whispering)
Pick up Dann! Please be there and pick up.

SOUND: DR. DANN'S VOICEMAIL PLAYING

Dr. Dann (V.O.)
You've reached Dr. Dann. Please leave a message at the tone.
(tone sounds)

DR. LISA COLLINS
(whispering)
Dann! Get out of there! The President has authorized the bombing of the dam!

EXT. GROOM LAKE AFB, AKA AREA 51 - BEFORE DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 4, 4:30 A.M. GROOM LAKE AIR FORCE BASE"

It's dark in this desert where Groom Lake AFB is located. The eastern horizon is dark blue just below an expanse of black sky. Sunrise is 90 minutes away.

In a non-descript old hangar near the runway, 2 large forklifts haul a bomb known as MOAB - the Mother Of All Bombs. Technically known as GBU-43, they are the largest bombs ever made, capable of causing a loss of all life forms within 2 miles of detonation, and a loss of all oxygen within a 5 mile radius.

Each forklift loads one MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft. 4 technicians assure that the 30 foot long bomb is in place.

5 minutes later, the Combat Talons take off side by side down twin runways as seen by the aircraft control tower.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

President is on the phone with General Bonner.

GENERAL BONNER (V.O.)
Mr. President, the MOABs are en route to the dam, sir. They are 30 minutes out. I'll see you in the command room.

POTUS
Copy.
(hangs up the phone)

POTUS gets up from his desk, nods to his Secret Service agents and with the President in between them, walk through the hidden door inside the Oval Office.

EXT. PARACHUTE DAM - EARLY MORNING

Dr. Dann Pequa is several hundred feet up a debris field on the south side of the earthen dam. He's wearing the gold boots and gloves. Prior to using them he looks himself over and thinks his appearance ridiculous.

His two "assistants" give him the once over, shrug, and resume scanning the area constantly with large binoculars.

He begins moving boulders one at a time. He's slow and cautious, as if trying not to break them and worrying how it will look. Soon he begins tossing boulders, and trying various motions. He hikes a little further uphill and downstream.

Satisfied with his location he starts "digging" away boulders rapidly with a force and efficiency that is astounding.

EXT. 30,000 FEET OVER UTAH - EARLY MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: "30,000 FEET OVER EASTERN UTAH, 5:40 A.M."

The view from the F-16 escorts show the two Combat Talons 500 feet from each other as the dark blue horizon below them is glowing brighter by the minute.

The view from the Combat Talon shows the two F-16 escort jets zoom ahead.

F-16 PILOT
Yardbirds, we're on the final approach for Operation Landscape. We'll paint the target for you.

MC130 PILOT
Copy that Falcon One. Yardbird One and Two are primed and ready to follow behind.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COMMAND ROOM - EARLY MORNING

GENERAL BONNER
Operation Landscape, you are "Go".

F-16 PILOT
Roger that General. We are 3 minutes out. Dam is in our sight. It's a beautiful day sir.

MC130 PILOT
(nodding to first pilot)
Affirmative General. Happy to help.

EXT. PARACHUTE DAM - EARLY DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "5:45 A.M."

Dr. Dann is busily moving boulders scores at a time. During a brief pause he hears the F-16 bombers. At first he thinks its commercial aircraft. Then he wonders why he hasn't heard any other aircraft this morning.

Suddenly, he realizes that it must be the bombing options discussed a few days ago with the President. He then sees the F-16s fly overhead followed curiously by two bigger, slower propeller aircraft that are much higher overhead. He then sees the bombs. Painted bright orange and falling rapidly. Terrified he guesses it's 20 seconds before impact.

He and the two assistants look around frantically. There's no place to hide. It's useless.

Z (V.O.)
Remember Doctor: intent.

Dr. Dann kneels with his arms outstretched and palms facing away from his body.

He waves in a circular motion, turning to sit in a calmer posture, closing his eyes and holding his arms straight out, palms out.

This motion forces the two bombs away from Dann towards the north. Together the two bombs detonate three miles away. The shockwave races towards Dann. He steels himself against this awesome force with a look of determination etched on his face.

The shockwave blasts over and around him, obliterating the two assistants and everything on the hillside but Dr. Dann.

He opens his eyes to see an ocean of boulders. He hears the F-16 recon plane circling overhead and furiously resumes "digging" away boulders. But this time he is sweeping away the dam by 10 cubic football fields per swipe. In just 2 minutes the dam is cleared enough for the lake water to begin rushing down the river bed.

Finished with removing the dam, he turns and is startled to see over 20 ghostly Native Americans looking at him. He tries to speak, but can't. Feeling paralyzed, he can hear their thoughts.

NATIVE AMERICAN #1
You have freed the river of our ancestors. The Fremont thank you.

DR. DANN
(Looks thoroughly confused)

NATIVE AMERICAN #2
(motioning to the gloves and boots)
We have not seen these since the Great Forgetting.

The other natives nod in agreement.

NATIVE AMERICAN #2
Come with us.

Dr. Dann is unsure if this is real, a hallucination, or he has crossed over into the afterlife. The natives hold out their hands and pull him completely into their realm.

EXT. PARACHUTE DAM - EARLY MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: "5:55 A.M."

Water is draining rapidly and becoming a torrent. On the hillside Dr. Dann looks confused, takes a few steps up the hill and disappears.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

The President is on the speaker phone surrounded by two aides and his Chief of Staff.

GENERAL BONNER (Speaker phone)
Mr. President, I'm happy to report that the Colorado is flowing again.

The President smiles and high fives his staff.

POTUS
Thank you General Bonner. Well done.

EXT. COLORADO CAPITOL STEPS - MORNING

Governor Benson is at the podium once again, but this time he is all smiles.

GOV. BENSON
As you can probably tell, we are all very excited to share with you that as of 5:45 this morning the mighty Colorado River is now flowing again!

Reporters can be seen and heard asking overlapping questions.

REPORTER #1
While this is certainly great news, the Governor also reiterated that many mountain communities remain in crisis mode from the historic and unprecedented snows this recent winter.

REPORTER #2
Even with the water flowing again, it will be several days if not weeks before Arizona and California water restrictions are lifted.

REPORTER #3
We are receiving reports that despite that the Colorado flowing again, violent activity has increased. Law enforcement thinks these are the last incidents and free-flowing water will restore order.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

The President is finishing a meeting. As soon as the participants have cleared the room, Z walks in with a tablet.

Z
Mr. President.

POTUS
Yes...

Z
Two FYEOs, sir.

POTUS
(Motions to Chief of Staff to leave)

Z looks dryly at the departing Chief of Staff who is obviously irritated, and smiles wryly.

Z
Here's video thermography of the dam removal in Colorado.

Tablet shows infrared and thermo overlays of the 2 bombs from overhead. 2 dots are neatly spaced and growing smaller when suddenly a cool looking series of pulsating waves shove the dots close together and then explode north the target.

Z
Here's a video of the Colorado River water after the detonation.

Tablet shows the dam intact.

Z
The detonation didn't work, sir.

Z
Forwarding to 2 minutes later.
What you're about to see has been
seen by only me.

Z shows video of some invisible force violently moving massive amounts of earth.

Z
Here's a remarkable infrared.

The video displays a tiny dot that appears to be the source of the force.

Z
Here it is zoomed in on the
apparent source.

Video zooms in on what clearly is a human shape moving its arms out in sync with the massive amount of earth being moved, like an Orchestra Conductor.

POTUS
(stunned)
Wha- how is that possible!?

Z
I can't tell you that, sir, and
it's better that you don't know.
The reason I'm here sir is because
we know who and what. We don't
know where.

POTUS
Terrorist?
(looking confused)

Z
No. It wasn't the bombs that
destroyed that dam - it was Dr.
Pequa.

POTUS
(stunned)

Z
We can't find him.

POTUS
Oh
(mouths "my")

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM - DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "6:00 A.M."

Surrounded by the Ancient Elders, Dr. Dann is standing on the west side of the dam and sees why the explosives didn't completely clear out the dam. He see the decades of sediment built up against the dam and extending over a mile from it. He senses what he has been brought here to do. He starts quickly cutting lines into the dam, then clawing them out.

As the sediment and huge boulders and debris are removed, the water is finally freed. He intuits that he can hold the water back to better remove the sediment - he does so and senses the natives approval for the care he is showing.

In less than a minute he is done.

NATIVE AMERICAN #2
(hand on Dan's shoulder)
Come with us.

Dr. Dann sees the Grand Canyon from a bird's point of view from a few hundred feet over the river. It only appears that they are moving slowly and then in what was maybe 1 minute they are standing above the east side of the Hoover Dam.

EXT. HOOVER DAM - LATE DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "6:02 A.M."

The skies are a lite blue as a beautiful orange sunrise peeks over the horizon. It has been only a few minutes since he freed the Colorado River from 2 dams.

The Ancient Elders gather closely around him. He can sense their gratitude. They part slightly and glow as a withered and weathered old chief moves through them.

ANCIENT ELDER
(no jaw movement)
Your work is holy.

Dr. Dann is filled with an immense joy, falls to his knees and weeps, sobbing like a baby.

EXT. HOOVER DAM, DIRECTLY ABOVE DR. DANN - DAWN

The natives encircle Dr. Dann with their palms facing him. An energy field encircles them. Dr.

Dann is still sobbing when the gloves and boots begin to glow and radiate heat. The energy lifts him up as he unfolds from his fetal position and places his hands on his heart. He brings his palms together, fingers up, in front of his heart. The energy then enters the boots making them and his hands hands blindingly bright. He looks to his right at the Hoover Dam, he looks far away downstream and "sees" the Parker Dam, closes his eyes and throws his arms out to each side.

A shockwave vaporizes the Hoover Dam and the energy shoots it out into space. A similar shockwave travels down the canyon benignly and then vaporizes the Parker Dam.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. BASE OF NAVAJO MOUNTAIN - LATE DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "4 WEEKS LATER"

Navajo, Hopi, Paiutes, and remnants of Anasazi are decked out in ceremonial garb of their respective tribes at the base of Navajo Mountain, Arizona. A crowd of several hundred have gathered to honor Dr. Dann. There are several fires for ceremonial purposes, and primitive well-used grills with meats and vegetables roasting. People are eating and walking about.

In the center of all this is small stage. Next to it people line up to meet Dr. Dann and speak in their native tongue. Dr. Dann appears rather awkward with all this attention; he feels torn between two worlds. He is certain that what he has done was criminal in the eyes of the US government, and is reconciling that with the Navajo rejoicing in the cultural justice of his actions.

SOUND: DRUMMING AND THEN A BULLHORN

A young boy steps to the stage and can barely lift the bullhorn to his mouth. There is screechy feedback and squawks while he fiddles with it.

YOUNG NAVAJO BOY
Attention... Attention! We are starting!

CROWD
(Cheers)

Navajo President Russell Begaye steps up to the stage wearing a dark blue suit, turquoise shirt, brilliant beet red tie. He motions to Dr. Dann and several others. Dr. Dann is dressed in traditional Navajo garb.

A young man helps align the men on the stage. Most are very old, 2 are younger than 45 which includes Dr. Dann Pequa.

Navajo Nations President Russell Begaye looks behind him at the men, and then begins.

RUSSELL BEGAYE
(speaks in Navajo first, then speaks in English:)
By now you have heard that the River flows freely once again.

Wild cheers from the crowd. Begaye is beaming as the cheering goes on for almost a minute. He points to Dr. Dann a few times and gestures to quiet down.

RUSSELL BEGAYE
Many of you have met the man who had a role in this-

More wild cheering. Dr. Dann is embarrassed by the attention, still overwhelmed by his improbable experience, humbled beyond words about what he witnessed. He looks down at his shoes. One of the elders steadies himself by grabbing Dann's arm, so Dann puts his arm around the elder.

RUSSELL BEGAYE
I cannot overstate the importance of the astounding turn of events and the powerful impact it will have on each chapter of your respective tribes. You will each remember this day as will all Diné.

The crowd is cheering wildly once again, but Begaye will have none of it.

RUSSELL BEGAYE
(motioning the crowd to be silent)
Dr. Dann Pequa-

More wild cheering

RUSSELL BEGAYE
- we and all of our brothers and sisters honor your restorative work, and would be pleased to restore your heritage among our elders.
(hands Dr. Dann a stack of clothes)
(In Navajo:)
Today we celebrate!

CAPTION: "TODAY WE CELEBRATE!"

The crowd cheers as Dr. Dann and Navajo Tribal President Russell Begaye shake hands, share small talk, and then step down from the crude stage.

Many people come up to Dr. Dann to shake his hands. Mothers bring their babies and kids. It's a festive crowd.

EXT. BASE OF NAVAJO MOUNTAIN - LATER THAT DAY

To the south a cloud of dust rises behind a shiny black SUV in the distance. 3 Navajo teens see it, squint, and one pulls out a pair of binoculars. He recognizes the driver. He hands the binoculars to his two friends. They look at each other with alarm. They run over to the Navajo President Russell Begaye, and interrupt him.

NAVAJO TEEN #1
Mr. Begaye!
(pointing to the truck in the distance)
Negaynezgani!

CAPTION: "SLAYER OF ALIEN GODS"

Russell Begaye scowls, grabs the binoculars and looks in disbelief. He barks in Navajo to his two lieutenants. Word gets out, the crowd grows silent and turns their attention to the SUV.

The SUV comes to a stop. Glare from the sun on the SUV prevents most from seeing what's going on. After 30 tense seconds a tall man and his shock of radiant silver hair emerge from the car.

Dr. Dann is stunned to see Z. Russell Begaye sees the look on Dr. Dann's face and orders the boys and other men in Navajo to shield Dr. Dann. The crowd is quiet, the mood is tense as Z casually walks up to Russell Begaye.

Z
Hello Russell.

Russell Begaye glares angrily at Z.

Z drops his cigarette onto the ground, puts it out with his foot, pulls a small plastic bag out that has a few other butts in it, squats down while looking around, picks up the butt he just put out, stands and puts it in the bag, and puts the bag in his pocket.

Z
(looking at. Dr. Dann)
I need it back.

DR. DANN
I don't have it with me.

Z
(scoffs, looks at the
sacred Navajo Mountain
and becomes irritated)
Are you saying that you lost it?
Loaned it out to a friend did you?

DR. DANN
Or returned it to its rightful
owner.

Z quickly approaches Dr. Dann.

Z
(gravely)
If that's true doctor, you don't
know what you've done. You-

Z senses a change in the crowd's energy. It's dead silent, the air completely still. All animal sounds are gone, no ravens can be heard.

A brilliant white glowing Kachina walks toward Z as the crowd parts in awe, giving it plenty of space.

Russell Begaye, and the elders are shocked. Dr. Dann however sees the Kachina surrounded by the same group of Ancient Elders that assisted him.

The Kachina strides eerily up to Z where it stops exactly 9 feet from him.

Z loses his composure. The Kachina is wearing the gold boots and gloves. It looks beautiful, mesmerizing. The gloves, boots and the Kachina itself begin to radiate. The crowd falls on its face. Z is terrified.

DR. DANN
Our elders are present.
(pointing to Z)
Do not fear this man.

The Kachina moves his palms to pick up Z.

Z
(trembling)
Wait! I have come with the best intentions. I-

The Kachina swipes left, hurtling Z over 4 miles through the air to the north side of Navajo Mountain.

KACHINA
(speaking Hopi)
I slay the Negaynezgani! I remove the curse of those who destroyed our lives.

CAPTION: "I SLAY THE NEGAYNEZGANI! I REMOVE THE CURSE OF THOSE WHO DESTROYED OUR LIVES."

The crowd is stunned and then begins murmuring as they see the Ancient Elders surrounding the Kachina begin to materialize. Each Elder is exactly 9 feet from the Kachina facing outward to the crowd. As they walk out and away from the Kachina the people begin to see them clearly and a profound peace descends on them.

The elders on stage who were very old and bent over stood up straight and moved with vigor. The drunk men instantly became sober. Those who limped no longer did. Those with colds and other ailments suddenly were breathing just fine. All through the crowd disease and sickness was lifted, replaced with a vitality they had never known.

The crowd looks up towards Russell Begaye who is not quite sure what to do next. Dr. Dann takes the stage.

DR. DANN
We are one people, one tribe. Let us celebrate!

EXT. GROUND VIEW OF SKY THROUGH PINE FOREST SLOPE - LATE DAY

Silence fills the glorious bright blue sky and serene pine forest as the camera picks up a faint dot in the blue sky between pines. The dot grows bigger and smashes into the thick pine needles carpeted in front of the camera.

Camera moves up and around the object buried into the pine needles in a small impact crater. The debris moves enough to reveal a body. Then it moves some more and it turns out to be a man covered in dirt and pine needles. His back is towards the camera as he struggles to stand up, head bowed down.

As he struggles to stand, it is like watching a newborn colt, gaining strength and confidence. Finally he stands upright, shakes off the debris from his clothes and shakes the dirt and needles from his head to reveal brilliant silver hair.

CUT TO BLACK

CREDITS

EXT. BETATAKIN, SEET KEEL, MESA VERDE, CHACO CANYON, CEDAR EDGE AND MANY OTHER RUINS.

After the primary credits roll, we are treated to several scenes of ruins, the more the merrier. Some are in excellent condition, some are pitiful.

In the last ruin, a typical alcove, the camera pans left to reveal an impressive cliff dwelling in a massive 500' tall sheer vertical cliff made using the gold boots and gloves. It is absolutely astounding in scale and craftsmanship.

The camera moves to a tall immaculately "cut" rectangle. Beautiful cursive Diné words are carved into the stone next to the cut.

EXT. BETATAKIN RUINS - DAY

CAPTION: "GREAT HOUSE, BETATAKIN"

Dr. Dann hands the boots and gloves to a teenaged boy.

DR. DANN
Now you give it a try.

Boy puts on the gloves and holds it up to Dr. Dann

DR. DANN
(falling down to the ground)
Whoa whoa whoa! Do NOT point those at anyone! Point them only at the rocks.

A small group of teenagers giggle as the boy turns to the rock and starts carving it with the gloves.

DR. DANN
Remember, this is going to be your home and there is just this one cliff to use, so make it great, don't get silly.

Teenagers giggle as the boy starts carving out a door in solid sandstone.

EXT. MONUMENT VALLEY - DAY

Dr. Dann and 2 families are inside a new cliff house peering out various windows at the valley below. They hear a car. Camera goes out a window to peer down 20 feet at an old pickup truck carefully driving up a freshly cut rock ramp.

Camera continues out the window to reveal an immense house cut into vertical red sandstone, complete with a driveway and a 3-car garage.

THE END

Peter Bockenthien is a creative marketing professional in Phoenix, Arizona, via Boulder, Colorado, where he attended CU-Boulder and graduated from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

He has been writing since he was 12, including dozens of short stories, several screenplays, a forthcoming non-fiction book, and lots of songs. Like ravens, Peter does extremely well at things he's never done before.

He's hiked in all of the places listed in his recently published spiritual fiction, **Beyond the Back of Beyond** (Amazon). He loves being outdoors as much as possible.