

30,000 Leagues

by

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Based on the Novel
"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea"
By Jules Verne

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FOR THE ASYLUM
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EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

We are in the dark, cold ocean depths. A nuclear submarine, glides silently into view with the markings "USS SCOTIA". Words type onto the screen in military font:

"North Pacific Ocean. Time 08:30.

Edge of the Marianas Trench"

As the murky waters open we see vast cliffs & crevices coming into view. The Submarine enters the mysterious terrain.

INT. DECK OF THE SCOTIA - DAY

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN, FIRST OFFICER CLARK and others are at their stations. CAPTAIN RUPERT ANDERSON commands.

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN
Approaching Marianas Abyssal Plain.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
Approaching Marianas Abyssal Plain!
Depth twenty one thousand feet.

ANDERSON
Steady as she goes.

SEAMAN BOGEL stares as the radar picks up a large green blip.

SEAMAN BOGEL
Sonar, unidentified contact aft,
Submarine bearing north northwest,
forty two degrees.

ANDERSON
Make a path! Take the conn.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
Aye Captain.

Captain Anderson rushes over to the radar station.

SEAMAN BOGEL
It just came out of nowhere, sir,
not ours.

ANDERSON
File?

SEAMAN BOGEL
Checking. Sorry captain, there's no
record. She's new.

SEAMAN KOTTER
Her tubes are not flooded.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
No signs of hostility, captain.
She's just looking.

The blip is closing in.

SEAMAN BOGEL
Could be... North Korean.

ANDERSON
Or PRC. Okay, run a track on her.
(orders out)
Take us down another two thousand
feet. Hide this boat in the trench.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
Aye aye, Captain. Make depth down
two thousand to twenty three
thousand feet! Ruder left.

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN
Aye twenty three thousand feet.
Ruder left.

A command bell rings. The submarine creaks as it descends.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Scotia plunges into the Trench, behind a tower of rock
lit by the glow of a volcano. Above a shadow passes.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

SEAMAN BOGEL
There's some major volcanic
activity in this area, Captain.
I... am... detecting... energy
surges.

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN
The water temperature is getting
hotter, sir. Up to sixty seven...
sixty eight... seventy degrees and
rising.

There's a slight buzz as the lights flicker for a moment.

ANDERSON
Steady as she goes.

The radar screen shows the blip. Then it's gone.

SEAMAN BOGEL
We're out of range.

ANDERSON
Okay. Cut the engines. Let's sit
silent for a while. See what she
does.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
Power down, engines to low!

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN
Engines are... down, sir.

The hum of the engines diminishes to near silence.

ANDERSON
What's the time?

SEAMAN BOGEL
0:8:36 Captain.

ANDERSON
Note this boomer as alpha gamma
delta, and send the fingerprint to
Admiral Hobson. Tell him "we found
a bogie, please advise".

SEAMAN BOGEL
Yes sir.

ANDERSON
Fucking Chinese. In 25 years this
whole place is gonna belong them.

SEAMAN BOGEL
Not likely captain.

SEAMAN KOTTER
Captain, sir. You should see this.

They move to a video monitor showing the exterior view.
Seaman Kotter flicks through a number of images landing on...

EXT. VIDEO IMAGE OF OCEAN - DAY

In the shadows of a crevice are sparkling lights and the
edges of what appears to be man made structures.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

They watch the screen.

ANDERSON

What is it?

SEAMAN KOTTER

I don't know sir. I checked the chart for... sunken ships, or downed oil platforms... there's nothing. This area has never been mapped. It's just...blank.

Something else appears on the screen.

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN

What the hell is that?

EXT. VIDEO IMAGE OF OCEAN - DAY

In the distance, dark creatures approach. They have tendrils like squids but they are monstrous.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

Suddenly a cluster of small blips appear on the edge of the radar screen, moving quickly towards the center.

SEAMAN BOGEL

Multiple bogies closing in!

ANDERSON

All ahead full.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK

ALL AHEAD FULL!

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN

Full ahead.

The engines power up loudly as the ship moves.

SEAMAN BOGEL

They're coming in to starboard.

ANDERSON

RIGHT FULL RUDDER!

FIRST OFFICER CLARK

RIGHT FULL RUDDER!

ANDERSON
FLOOD TORPEDO TUBES!

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
TUBES ONE AND TWO ARE FLOODING!

There is a thud on the hull. And then another. The entire submarine is shaken. The crew is anxious.

Then a huge thud rams them hard. Crew members fly as they are thrown from their feet. Spray shoots out of a pipe

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Scotia shifts in a lumbering maneuver as a giant squid smashes and tears at the hull. Another squid joins it, sending the sub careening into the gulch.

A torpedo shoots out slamming into the side of a cliff with an explosion of debris. A cloud of smoky underwater dust expands as the Scotia careens into it's midst

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

Gaskets blow and the water sprays in. Steam blows into the deck and men flounder and scream.

ANDERSON
BLOW THE TANKS! BLOW THE GOD DAMNED
TANKS.

NAVIGATOR RUSKIN
I... I CAN'T!!!

A pipe burst lose and pummels into the Navigator's head cracking his skull.

FIRST OFFICER CLARK
WE'RE LOSING HER CAPTAIN! WE'RE
GOING DOWN!

As men fly to and fro, and the ship spins out of control, Captain Anderson claws his way to a lone control panel with a big yellow switch on it. He reaches, barely able to touch it as the sub spins. His eyes bugging out, sweat pouring, his hand finally grasps the switch and he pulls

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

A distress buoy blasts out of the sub shooting towards the surface.

The sub tumbles into the shadows below.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - DAY

Waves as far as the eye can see. The buoy explodes from the water. It flashes with a bleep every two seconds.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

Just above the ocean bottom floats a hi tech miniature submarine. On the side it says.. "U.S. Navy: Aquanaut 3"

Words type onto the screen in military font:

"Deep Sea Habitat Project

300 miles South East of the Marianas Trench"

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Operations Specialist (OS) NOREEN SUSTIN is in the cockpit. Ensign NED LAND works another control panel. In the center of the action is Lieutenant MICHAEL ARONNAX. He is intent on his controls and screens. **

ARONNAX **

Deep one is ready to go. I'd like a systems check, please. **

NED LAND **

Surge generator, check. Water transformer check. **

SUSTIN **

The ship is steady and good to drop the pod. **

ARONNAX **

Drop it on my count, three, two, one, and release. **

EXT. OCEAN - DAY **

We see a small, high tech, experimental submarine on it's side are the words "Aquanaut". Clamped to it's underside, it carries a scientific device, like a large high tech oil drum covered in tubes and regulators. On it are the words "US Navy: Deep One". Connected to the device by an umbilical chord is a wrapped bundle like a folded tent. The bundle drops, floating out into the water. **

INT. MINI SUB - DAY **

SUSTIN **
The pod is released and in **
position. **

ARONNAX **
Fill the pod with water. **

SUSTIN **
The pod is filling. **

EXT. OCEAN - DAY **

The bundle expands with sea water, connected to the Deep One **
device by the umbilical. **

INT. MINI SUB - DAY **

SUSTIN **
We have reached maximum capacity at **
ten thousand gallons sir. **

ARONNAX **
Power up the generator. **

NED LAND **
Generator coming on. **

Ned flicks a few switches and turns a knob. The Generator **
surges with a loud power sound and buzzing. **

NED LAND (CONT'D) **
And power is at full. We are ready **
to deconstruct the water molecules **
and make some air. **

ARONNAX **
All right let's blow that thing up **
like a balloon. **
(he holds up the remote **
control device) **
I am releasing the charge... now. **

He pushes the button on the remote control. **

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The Deep One tank sparks with power. Suddenly the bundle on the umbilical chord expands, unfolds and inflates, growing into a Buckminster Fuller type under water dome the size of garage. **

INT. MINI SUB - DAY **

SUSTIN

The hydrogen and oxygen atoms have been successfully separated. Inside the dome is reading 100% breathable air. You did it, sir. **

The crew is happy. **

ARONNAX

We all did it. Nice work. Thanks. Alright, let's get our wet suits on get a closer look. **

NED LAND

Officer Aronnax. There's an urgent communication for you on channel one. **

Aronnax flicks on the communicator.

ARONNAX

Aronnax here.

FARRAGUT (OVER RADIO)

Officer Aronnax, it's Captain Farragut calling from the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Aronnax straightens up and puts FARRAGUT on video screen.

ARONNAX

Yes sir, sorry sir. What can I do for you, Captain?

FARRAGUT (ON SCREEN)

An American nuclear submarine, the USS Scotia disappeared this morning just north of us. I've been ordered to pick up you and your crew and go straight to the Marianas to find her. I told Admiral Hobson that you're the best recovery specialist in the entire Navy.

(MORE)

FARRAGUT (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

He wants you to use Deep One to bring her up. Congratulations.

ARONNAX

Thank you sir.

FARRAGUT (ON SCREEN)

The Abraham Lincoln will be directly above you for rendezvous and dock link at 0:11:00 ZULU. I'll brief you further then.

ARONNAX

Yes sir. If the Scotia's down there, I promise you, deep one can blow the water right out and get her to the surface.

FARRAGUT (ON SCREEN)

There's 160 men on board that boat. For their sake I hope you're right.

The screen goes out. Aronnax thinks for a moment.

ARONNAX

Hey Sustin, Land.

SUSTIN

Yes sir?

NED LAND

Yes sir?

ARONNAX

Change of plans.

EXT. USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN - DAY

We see the ocean surface, broken only by the long, black steel submarine speeding in a crest of foam.

Words type onto the screen in military font:

"USS Abraham Lincoln

200 miles South East of the Marianas Trench"

INT. USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Captain Farragut is storming down a passage way through the congested sub. He is followed by a frantic SEAMAN LITTLE who is thumbing through papers on a clip board.

FARRAGUT

...and I want all life rafts on the ready.

SEAMAN LITTLE

Yes Captain.

FARRAGUT

And start having our men sleep in 6 hour shifts. I want those bunks clear by the time the survivors arrive.

SEAMAN LITTLE

Yes sir. And what's the procedure if they're aren't any survivors Captain?

The Captain freezes, staring daggers at Little.

FARRAGUT

You're dismissed.

Then he turns and enters a room with a sign... "DOCK LINK & DEPRESSURIZATION".

INT. DOCK LINK ROOM - DAY

Cap Farragut enters. Aronnax is there with Sustin and Land.

FARRAGUT

Aronnax.

ARONNAX

Permission to board sir.

FARRAGUT

Permission granted. Welcome back.

ARONNAX

Thank you captain.

Farragut knows the other also.

FARRAGUT

OS Sustin.

SUSTIN

Sir.

FARRAGUT

Ensign Land.

NED LAND

Captain.

FARRAGUT

Welcome aboard. I wish it were under better circumstances.

SUSTIN

As soon as I knew that officer Aronnax was leading the team I had to be part of it.

The captain looks a bit uncomfortable.

FARRAGUT

Well, we're lucky to have you, all of you.

(pause)

Officer Aronnax, would you come with me for a moment.

ARONNAX

(speedy to his helpers)

Start backing up all the systems on the Aquanaut, fuel cans, air tanks anything you can fit. And puts casings on the external pipes.

(to the captain)

Sorry sir.

He steps out with the captain.

INT. USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Farragut and Aronnax step into the hallway.

ARONNAX

Is everything all right sir? Any word from the Scotia?

FARRAGUT

No word. And I've received news that we're the only boat going out there. The Navy wants to keep this... quiet.

ARONNAX

I understand, sir. I can do it.

FARRAGUT

I'm sure that you can. But Admiral Hobson has decided to put his own team leader into place. I'm sorry.

ARONNAX

(hurt)

I'll do anything I can to help. Who is it?

FARRAGUT

It's Lieutenant Commander Conciel Rollins.

ARONNAX

(shocked)

Conciel? She's not a field operator. She can't even get in the water without a suit.

FARRAGUT

She's the best person we have from the admiral's desk and she knows your deep one project inside and out.

ARONNAX

I know. She's very good. We went through Annapolis together. She was the best in our class. It's just...

FARRAGUT

I understand. And she's willing to put things aside if you are.

ARONNAX

Yes sir. When will the Lieutenant Commander be boarding?

FARRAGUT

She's already waiting for you in the briefing room.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM ON THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN - DAY

Lieutenant Commander CONCIEL Rollins paces, agitated. Her assistant, LIEUTENANT BLACKWELL, a kiss-ass stud, watches on.

CONCIEL

Where is he? I don't want him in charge of prepping the rescue sub. He'll load us down with a bunch of unnecessary junk.

BLACKWELL

I'll take care of it.

CONCIEL

You know what his problem is? He cares too much. He's a fucking boy-scout. Good officers are supposed to see the big picture. Not him. He'll risk twenty people to save one. I wouldn't want that responsibility, would you. I'd rather be left to die knowing that the 20 people are safe. I didn't want him on the team. No way.

BLACKWELL

Sound like you still have a thing for the guy.

CONCIEL

Absolutely not!

The door opens. It's Aronnax. He and Conciel stare at each other for a moment, tensely.

CONCIEL (CONT'D)

How long have you been there?

ARONNAX

A moment.

There is a tense uncomfortable silence. Blackwell breaks it, getting up and heading for the door.

BLACKWELL

Looks like you two need a minute. I'm Lieutenant Blackwell by the way.

ARONNAX

(distracted)

Nice to meet you.

BLACKWELL

Where can I find OS Sustin and Ensign Land? I have orders to oversee the load in.

ARONNAX

They're in the dock room putting redundant systems into the Aquanaut.

Conciel gives an "I told yo so" look to Blackwell.

BLACKWELL

From now on all orders of that nature should go through the Lieutenant Commander.

(to Conciel)

You know where I'll be if you need me.

He steps out. Aronnax and Conciel are alone.

CONCIEL

Do you have a problem with him?

ARONNAX

No.

CONCIEL

Do you have a problem with me?

ARONNAX

No. I don't have any problems.

CONCIEL

I want our relationship to be strictly professional.

ARONNAX

Fine.

CONCIEL

Fine then. I'd like an itemized list of everything you're bringing.

ARONNAX

Why?

CONCIEL

I am your commanding officer and I want the information.

ARONNAX

Alright. I'll have it to you in an hour.

CONCIEL

Ten minutes.

ARONNAX

Excuse me.

CONCIEL

I want it in ten, including bios.

ARONNAX

Including bios for my crew?
Impossible.

CONCIEL

For one, they're MY crew, and for two, there's a United States nuclear submarine in a trench out there, with half a dozen nuclear warheads just sitting waiting for some terrorist group to steal them.

ARONNAX

I'm sorry, I didn't hear you mention the men down there.

CONCIEL

If the men are alive it's a miracle. But I'm talking about saving millions of people. Of course to you that must sound silly. But I guess that's why the put me in command.

ARONNAX

Fine, I'll have a written list in ten.

He walks out the door. She runs after him.

INT. USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Aronnax walks up the hall as she stick her head out.

CONCIEL

You only have nine left. DO YOU HEAR ME ARONNAX! NINE!

INT. LAB ON THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN - DAY

Aronnax sits down and grabs some paper and starts writing.

NED LAND

What's up with you?

ARONNAX

I have to write an inventory list for our new lieutenant commander.

NED LAND

Who is it?

ARONNAX

My ex wife.

INT. NAVIGATION AREA OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN - DAY

Slam, we are at the navigator's chart table as Conciel slams a chart down. Farragut is watching, transfixed.

CONCIEL

Here is where the distress buoy was found, but currents actually dragged it, from here.

(points to uncharted area)

The Circle of Fire, a ring of deep sea volcanos, uncharted. It's like the Bermuda triangle. Ships go in but they don't come out.

FARRAGUT

How far down do you think the Scotia is?

CONCIEL

About thirty thousand feet, maybe more. That's two thousand pounds of pressure per square inc, enough to crush a refrigerator into the size of a brick.

FARRAGUT

Well, can the Aquanaut take it?

CONCIEL

She did in my computer simulations.

FARRAGUT

(calls out)

Chart a new course, North by ten degrees east. Let's go to 75 knots.

FIRST OFFICER MEANS

Aye aye Captain. Chart new course, north by ten degrees east, increase to 75 knots.

NAVIGATOR

Increasing to seventy five knots.

FARRAGUT

I'll get you to the circle of fire. After that it's up to you.

EXT. USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN THE OCEAN - AFTERNOON

The submarine moves into an undersea area of volcanos and canyons. Military letters type onto the screen:

"Circle of Fire: Marianas Trench: Uncharted"

INT. DOCKING TUBE & AQUANAUT - AFTERNOON

Conciel, Aronnax, Land, and Blackwell are suited up and sitting in the cab of the Aquanaut. Sustin is in the cockpit.

BLACKWELL

(sweating)

Is there an emergency hatch?
Where's the hatch?

CONCIEL

There's only the dock port. It's fine.

ARONNAX

Actually there's two. One up one down.

Conciel stares daggers at him.

BLACKWELL

(looking at the generator)

What's this thing?

NED LAND

It's like a giant battery, for jump starting subs. We use it to deconstruct the water molecules in deep one so we can make air.

BLACKWELL

Oh.

NED LAND

So, how many saturation dives have you done?

BLACKWELL

Me? Ugh... I've been on a dozen or so. In training.

NED LAND

What depth?

BLACKWELL

Oh, three thousand feet in a suit.
More in a regular sub, you know...
a real one.

CONCIEL

Lieutenant Blackwell's qualifications
are in engineering and technology
rather than dive time.

NED LAND

Oh.

ARONNAX

She means that he's here to make
sure that the nuclear weapons's are
taken care of.

CONCIEL

(whispering)
Stop correcting me!

ARONNAX

You're being defensive.

NED LAND

How long were you two married?

ARONNAX

Don't ask.

CONCIEL

Don't ask.

Captain Farragut comes on the on-screen communicator.

FARRAGUT

Everything set in there?

CONCIEL

Yes sir.

FARRAGUT

We will release you as soon as
we've spotted the USS Scotia. Good
luck.

They flick on the other video screen. They see the ocean.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - AFTERNOON

We see the Marinas tench and the circle of fire. It is
incredible and frightening.

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

ARONNAX
It's incredible.

CONCIEL
Twenty million years ago this was
the surface of the earth. Trees
grew on it. Animals roamed.

BLACKWELL
(pants and sweats)

ARONNAX
Sustin, are you seeing this.

In the cockpit, Sustin has the best view of all.

SUSTIN
Oh ya, I'm seeing it.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - AFTERNOON

As one of the cliff faces is revealed we see The USS Scotia,
in tact, resting on a ledge.

BACK TO:

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

SUSTIN
I see the Scotia! There it is!

ARONNAX
(into mic)
This is the Aquanaut to the USS
Abraham Lincoln. We have sited the
USS Scotia. I repeat, we have sited
the Scotia.

INT. RADAR NICHE OF THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN - DAY

A blip shows up on the radar screen

RADAR BOB
We've got her!

The sub crew cheers.

FARRAGUT
(into mic)
I see her. She's deep. I'll get you
as close as I can.

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

ARONNAX
Captain, The Aquanaut requests
permission to be released now sir.
We'll get there faster on our own.

Pause. Conciel looks at Aronnax like he should have checked.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
(to Conciel)
Is that okay with you?

CONCIEL
I concur sir.

FARRAGUT (OVER RADIO)
All right. Let's do it.

FIRST OFFICER MEANS (ON RADIO)
Releasing dock link on my mark. 5,
4, 3, 2, 1, release.

There's a powerful clank & swoosh as the Aquanaut's released.

SUSTIN
Beginning descent.

The propellers spin and the mini sub moves out swiftly.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - AFTERNOON

The Aquanaut zips down, heading for the Scotia.

INT. USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN - AFTERNOON

The captain is watching on the radar.

FIRST OFFICER MEANS
The Aquanaut is heading down at
thirty knots. Thirty five.

FARRAGUT
And how far down is the Scotia.

FIRST OFFICER MEANS
Approximately ... thirty six
thousand feet down sir.

Farragut looks worried.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - AFTERNOON

The Aquanaut travels down into the trench.

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

The crew holds tight as they dive. Blackwell grits his teeth.

SUSTIN
Depth 29,000 ft. Water temperature
is 41 degrees and dropping.

It is a bumpy ride.

BLACKWELL
What's wrong, why are we shaking so
much?

ARONNAX
Each layer of water temperature is
like slamming into a brick wall.

NED LAND
It's just a matter of which breaks
first, the bricks or us.

SUSTIN
We are at thirty one thousand feet.

The Aquanaut creaks from the pressure. They all look up.

CONCIEL
Ever been down this deep?

ARONNAX
Not in this thing.

There is a sharp clank of metal buckling. They all stare at
the moisture building up on the pipes.

NED LAND
Hey, I'm getting some nasty
internal pressure readings in here.

Another big creak.

SUSTIN

Thirty three thousand feet. Water temperature is thirty five degrees

BLACKWELL

I think we should go back! I want to go back!

FARRAGUT (ON RADIO)

How are you doing down there?

ARONNAX

We're fine.

Another huge buckling sound. Followed by continuous creaking.

FARRAGUT (ON RADIO)

If the boat can't take it I want you to come up.

ARONNAX

We can make it to the Scotia sir. We can.

SUSTIN

Thirty four thousand feet.

NED LAND

I don't think we're going to hold much longer.

BLACKWELL

What's happening! What's going on!

CONCIEL

Prepare to abort.

ARONNAX

Cancel that order!

Suddenly the oxygen caps blow off with a burst of steam.

NED LAND

We're losing oxygen fast. It looks like the external pipes blew out.

ARONNAX

Blew out? Through the pressure casings?

NED LAND

Lieutenant Blackwell ordered us not to put them on.

ARONNAX

What!

CONCIEL

They weighed too much. If we had them on we couldn't get back with our cargo.

ARONNAX

Cargo? What? Bombs!

SUSTIN

Dive capacity is dropping sir. Fuel pressures down to... ten percent... twenty... thirty.

BLACKWELL

Bring us back up to the Abraham Lincoln!

SUSTIN

She won't respond!

ARONNAX

I think I can still get us to the Scotia. We can tap her fuel lines.

CONCIEL

Then do it.

The strain gets too great. The Aquanaut shudders like it's going to explode. Suddenly it stops, the noise stops.

ARONNAX

Patch the air pipes!

Aronnax & Ned turn off valves. They descend peacefully. Orange light glows through the windows.

CONCIEL

What happened? Something happened.

ARONNAX

The water pressure just dropped to normal. Outside water temperature is... eighty two degrees. It's the volcanos.

NED LAND

We lost most of the air down here.

BLACKWELL

What's that mean? What's that supposed to mean?

ARONNAX

Okay, let's put on the scuba gear,
we can last another hour with the
re-breathers.

NED LAND

We were told not to load them, sir.
I'm sorry.

CONCIEL

Dive gear, at 35,000 feet, it's
ridiculous. It was a lot of weight
we didn't need.

ARONNAX

That gear was on board for
emergencies!

BLACKWELL

(freaked out)
Are we going to die?

ARONNAX

No we are not going to die.

FARRAGUT (ON RADIO)

Your readings just went hay wire.
Are you okay down there?

CONCIEL

We've lost our power and oxygen in
the dive, sir.

ARONNAX

I'm bringing us to the Scotia, sir.
We're going to lock deep one to the
deck vent. Then we'll blast her
full of air.

**
**

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - AFTERNOON

The Aquanaut travels down to the Scotia and lays the Deep One
tank on the target spot. It locks into place.

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

NED LAND

Deep One is locked in place.

**
**

SUSTIN

The Scotia's scratched up a bit
sir, but she looks sound.

**

ARONNAX

I'm reading that there's a pocket of air in the center chamber. It looks like... yes, I have life signs. **People are in there.**

**

FARRAGUT (OVER RADIO)

That's good news. Dock link to the Scotia and bring her back up.

Everyone feels the lack of air. The Aquanaut bangs up against the side of the Scotia.

SUSTIN

The dock link on the Scotia is damaged, sir, we can't link.

FARRAGUT

Well then how CAN you get in?

They choke.

CONCIEL

Are there any tears in the hull that we can dock to?

SUSTIN

No, ma'am, she's sound.

ARONNAX

I say we take advantage of this low pressure pocket and swim for it, no suit no gear. I'll open the top hatch manually.

(he labors breathing)

FARRAGUT (ON RADIO)

Then do it fast.

NED LAND

Let's go.

CONCIEL

You go without me.

ARONNAX

What?

CONCIEL

I can't go out there. Not without a suit. I'm sorry.

ARONNAX

I'm not leaving without you.

CONCIEL

GO!

It's hard to breath. The oxygen dial reaches zero.

INT. ABRAHAM LINCOLN - AFTERNOON

Farragut listens to the Aquanaut's chaotic transmissions.

FARRAGUT

Officer Aronnax? Commander Rollins?

What's going on?

(to seaman)

How long would it take to send down
a tether? Tow you up?

FIRST OFFICER MEANS

Five minutes.

FARRAGUT

They don't have five minutes.

RADAR BOB

Captain! I have something on the
radar!

Farragut goes to the radar. Bleeps are closing in.

RADAR BOB (CONT'D)

Unidentified objects coming on
screen.

FARRAGUT

What the hell are those.

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

Blackwell is unconscious and Ned is passing out.

ARONNAX

Ned.

NED LAND

Sorry... sir...

(he passes out)

FARRAGUT (ON RADIO)

We're detecting a number of
unidentified objects heading our
way. Are you picking them up?

CONCIEL
I... can't... I...

Aronnax grabs Conciel. She moans. He bends a small oxygen tube to reach her face.

ARONNAX
Breathe.

FARRAGUT (ON RADIO)
They appear to be some kind of
giant animal.

The Aquanaut begins to tip.

ARONNAX
Sustin?

Sustin is passed out. The sub floats out of control. Aronnax jumps to the cockpit and tries to take control. He slams his hand down on the emergency SOS button. Morse code is sent.

INT. ABRAHAM LINCOLN - AFTERNOON

FARRAGUT
(into mic)
Can anybody hear me?

RADAR BOB
Captain, the objects have changed
course. They're coming right at us.
Fast.

FARRAGUT
Right Full Rudder!

FIRST OFFICER MEANS
Right full rudder!

FARRAGUT
REVERSE ENGINES!

FIRST OFFICER MEANS
REVERSE ENGINES!

RADAR BOB
BRACE FOR IMPACT!

Suddenly the sub is hit with tremendous impact. Everyone goes flying. Water spews and spray. As men run towards us, the hull behind them gets crushed in increments.

The captain spins around just as a huge pipe swings at him to kill him. In the nick of time Radar Bob hauls Farragut out of the way. A second later he is torn from the sub by giant tendrils.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Aronnax regains some control of the Aquanaut as the radio transmits a chaotic array of screams and crashes from the Abraham Lincoln.

ARONNAX
(into mic)
Sir! Sir! What's going on!

Aronnax looks up through the window at the Abraham Lincoln.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - AFTERNOON

The Abraham Lincoln is a sitting duck above. Giant squids attack it and rip at it. Eventually they crack the Abraham Lincoln in half.

INT. MINI SUB - AFTERNOON

Aronnax is staring in horror as the Lincoln is torn apart. His radio goes crazy with violent sound. Aronnax passes out.

The edge of a gigantic futuristic submarine comes into view above him.

INT. BED CHAMBER ON THE NAUTILUS - DAY

Michael Aronnax begins to wake up. He is laying on a bed in a nice cruise ship style state room.

Aronnax leaps from his bed and looks around. There is a door. He goes to it. It's locked. Aronnax bangs on the door. Nothing. He puts his ear to the wall. He hears the hum of distant engines.

Aronnax rushes to the curtain and yanks it aside. There is a small round window. On the other side is the ocean.

EXT. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY

Towers of pink and red coral rise from the sandy sea bottom like the New York skyline. Fish swim, whales call in the distance, it is amazing.

INT. BED CHAMBER ON THE NAUTILUS - DAY

There is a knock on the door. Aronnax opens it. A guard, HIRSCH is there. He wears a uniform and a head piece with a little box like earpiece on one side of his head.

HIRSCH
Officer Aronnax, would you come
with me, please.

ARONNAX
Where are we going?

HIRSCH
Just follow me.

Aronnax steps out with Hirsch.

INT. NAUTILUS RESIDENT HALLWAYS - DAY

Aronnax steps out with Hirsch. Another guard, RANGLES waits in the hall. He too has the box like earpiece.

RANGLES
This way.

They flank him as they walk. The hallway looks like a typical cruise ship hall, long and narrow with door after door on either side. Some doors he passes have names, some Russian, some Chinese, some French, some American.

ARONNAX
Where am I?

HIRSCH
The Captain will answer all of your
questions.

Off to the side an odd looking man, COOPER, is watching him with curiosity. Cooper follows at a distance.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Aronnax is brought in by Hirsch.

HIRSCH
Wait in here.

Hirsch exits. There is a conference table. Sustin and Land are there. Ned has a bump on his head.

SUSTIN

Sir, you're alive. Thank God! Thank God.

She runs to Aronnax.

ARONNAX

It's okay. Everything is going to be all right.

NED LAND

Do you have any idea where we are?

ARONNAX

Some sort of submarine, that's all I know. Have you seen the others?

NED LAND

No sir, I just woke up and they brought me straight here.

SUSTIN

Captain Farragut must know where we are, right? I mean the Abraham Lincoln must have seen what happened to us.

ARONNAX

Listen, the Abraham Lincoln was attacked.

SUSTIN

What?

ARONNAX

She was totally destroyed.

SUSTIN

Oh God.

NED LAND

Jesus!

ARONNAX

By some sort of sea creatures, thirty, forty yards long.

SUSTIN

Then who knows we're down here?

NED LAND

Nobody. Everyone's dead.

ARONNAX

Not everyone. There's still a hundred and sixty people inside the Scotia. Their still alive.

A door clicks open and Captain Nemo enters. He is dressed in an eccentric uniform.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Well, you three are lucky to be alive. Welcome to the Nautilus. I am Captain Nemo.

ARONNAX

Lieutenant Michael Aronnax, United States Navy.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I know who all of you are. And I respect the work you've done together. Especially your designs, Officer Aronnax for deep sea habitats. I'm an engineer myself, as you can see.

ARONNAX

What happened to the other two people that were with us?

CAPTAIN NEMO

They're fine. They're here.

ARONNAX

Can we see them?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Soon.

ARONNAX

Do you have a radio? I need to contact my superiors.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Of course. As soon as we can get above the thermal canopy you can radio whom ever you like.

ARONNAX

I appreciate it, but I have one more thing to ask. I need to get back to where you found us. I need to bring up that sunken submarine.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Yes, Commander Rollins and Lieutenant Blackwell have both been quite open with me about your mission. Personally I don't believe in countries. There are no borders down here and I am usually neutral in these matters but in your case I am willing to help.

ARONNAX

Thank you.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I'll even give you back your little rescue sub.

SUSTIN

You have the Aquanaut?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Yes. I took the liberty to repair her. She's in one of our salvage bays.

NED LAND

(to Aronnax)

Sir, I can put casings on that baby in half an hour. She'll be fine at any depth.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Already done. In fact I've made some modifications on my own.

He pushes a call button.

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

I hope you don't mind.

Hirsch enters.

HIRSCH

Yes sir?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Please take OS Sustin and Ensign Land to Salvage Bay number twelve.

NED LAND

Yes.

ARONNAX

I need to go too.

CAPTAIN NEMO

In a moment. There's something I want you to see. Indulge me.

SUSTIN

We'll be fine.

Hirsch exits with Sustin and Land.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Well, it looks like soon you'll be on your way. If you don't mind my asking, how are you planing to bring the Submarine up to the surface?

ARONNAX

I have a... a device.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Ah, the small tank that you left attached to the top of the Scotia? Is it an atomic extractor? For the transformation of water molecules into breathable air?

ARONNAX

I'm not allowed say.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I see. It's the nature of the military mind to be suspicious and proprietary. But I think you'll find that cooperation and respect is much more likely to get what you want, from me. We'll speak more about this device latter. Come.

Nemo leads Aronnax to a side door. They go through.

INT. NEMO'S ROOM - DAY

Commander Conciel Rollins is in Nemo's private lab exploring the captain's many amazing science journals. She pours over them, fascinated. The door opens quietly. Aronnax enters.

ARONNAX

Conciel.

CONCIEL

Michael. Are you all right?

ARONNAX

I'm fine.

CONCIEL

Where's Captain Nemo?

ARONNAX

He was right behind me.

Nemo is gone.

CONCIEL

(almost secretive)

Listen. Do what ever he says, do you understand. You must appear to cooperate.

ARONNAX

I am cooperating. And I have things under control.

CONCIEL

(privately)

It's not that simple.

ARONNAX

All right, stop, please.

Nemo steps up from a corner.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Commander Rollins speaks very highly of you as a visionary designer and scientific architect, Mister Aronnax. I thought that you'd like to see my notebooks.

He points to a large book of mechanical designs.

CONCIEL

The captain asked me to look them over. Analyze them for improvements. They're quite amazing.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I have schematics for the Nautilus, pollution free thermal generators.

Conciel reaches into a box of small silver cylinders with a mouth pieces on them.

CONCIEL

Look at this. It's a miniature oxygenator.

Aronnax examines & breaths through it. A blue print catches his eye.

ARONNAX

These look like plans for an under water city.

CAPTAIN NEMO

They are. I hope that we have a chance to look at them together later.

ARONNAX

Sure. Maybe one day. But right now I'd like to focus on getting to the Scotia.

CAPTAIN NEMO

You're right. It's time for you to finish your job. We should be arriving there at any moment. Shall we go.

INT. NAUTILUS HALLWAYS - DAY

Nemo leads Aronnax and Conciel down the hall. Aronnax finds that he is still holding the little cylinder. He puts it in his pocket. The weird fellow, Cooper spies from the sidelines. Only Aronnax sees him spying.

CAPTAIN NEMO

The Nautilus is actually like a floating city than a submarine. There's multiple levels with guest rooms, restaurants, entertainment. You can get anything you want here. But we also have science labs, medical facilities and of course salvage bays.

He gets to a door with the words "Salvage bay #12" over it. Nemo punches in an unlocking code: 2,2,7,3,4,3. Aronnax watches the code carefully. He commits it to memory.

The door opens and they step in.

INT. SALVAGE BAY - DAY

They walk into a large warehouse like room. In front of them is the entrance to the Aquanaut. The rest of the room is filled with things picked up from various shipwrecks. There are sheets covering most of it like old furniture.

CAPTAIN NEMO

It's amazing what you can find on
the bottom of the ocean.

Lt. Blackwell is off to the side, working with a guard,
VOGEL. They have a cart. Blackwell sees them and comes.

BLACKWELL

We're all set.

CONCIEL

Thank you.

Sustin pops out of the Aquanaut.

ARONNAX

How is she?

SUSTIN

There's a few new things installed
but she's still home. Ensign Land
even gave the dock port a few
pounds so it will fit on the
Scotia.

ARONNAX

Perfect. Let's load in. Conciel?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Commander Rollins and the
Lieutenant will be following you.

ARONNAX

What? We're not going together.

CONCIEL

It's all right. We have an agenda
of our own, as a back up plan.

BLACKWELL

You're not the only person with
good ideas around here.

CONCIEL

Lieutenant, Please.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(to Aronnax)

You go ahead in the Aquanaut. If there's a problem and you have to abort, Commander Rollins will be right behind you in the salvage tube ready to load everything and everyone onto the Nautilus. Acceptable?

ARONNAX

(pause)

Acceptable. If we have to abort. Otherwise, Commander Rollins, please load into the Scotia through the salvage tube and we'll all go home together.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Very good.

ARONNAX

I don't know how to thank you captain.

CAPTAIN NEMO

No thanks necessary. Good luck.

They shake hands and salute.

BLACKWELL

(privately to Aronnax)

You'd better play thins right and cooperate. I'm watching you.

**
**
**
**

Aronnax goes into the Aquanaut with Sustin. Conciel watches.

BLACKWELL (CONT'D)

All right, let's make it happen.

**
**

Blackwell goes off and Conciel and Aronnax glance at one another one last time. Then the Aquanaut door shuts.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Aronnax and Sustin join Ned in the Aquanaut.

NED LAND

Where are the other's?

ARONNAX
Their going in through the salvage
tube. It's all right.

They sit.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
Systems check.

SUSTIN
Everything's good sir.

ARONNAX
Deep One remote generator? **

NED LAND
Generator is juiced. Just get me
close enough for Deep One catch the
signal. **

ARONNAX
She should be right where we left
her, locked on the Scotia. **
**
**

The radio crackles on.

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)
This is Captain Nemo.

ARONNAX
Yes Captain?

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)
I didn't mention this before but
I've installed a remote control
device to assist you in leaving our
transit bay.

SUSTIN
I remote control?

ARONNAX
Find it.

NED LAND
I'm on it.

CAPTAIN NEMO
I am bringing you out... now.

She ship rumbles and begins to move. Sustin has no control.

SUSTIN
I don't like this sir.

ARONNAX
Have you found it yet?

NED LAND
No sir.

SUSTIN
We're clearing the transit bay
doors.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The enormous Nautilus is nearing the USS Scotia on it's
ledge. The scotia has the deep one tank on it. **

The Aquanaut zooms out from under the Nautilus and heads for
the Scotia.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

SUSTIN
There she is sir. We are still on
automatic pilot. Deep One is right
where we left her. **

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)
I have you at one minute to touch
down with the Scotia.

NED LAND
Found it.

ARONNAX
Captain. I appreciate everything
you've done for us. We're going to
take it from here on our own.

Aronnax flicks off the radio and Ned yanks out a bunch of
wires.

SUSTIN
And I have regained control of the
ship. And I'm heading for the dock
port.

ARONNAX
Steady as she goes.
(into radio)
This is the Aquanaut rescue sub to
the USS Scotia. Come in. Scotia do
you read me?
(MORE)

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
(changes frequency)
USS Scotia, are you there?

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Aquanaut travels through the clear waters. Suddenly a tendril comes into view and another and another. A cluster squid creatures race towards it.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

ARONNAX
Bring us right to the dock port.

NED LAND
I bent the frame pretty good. I'm
sure that we can pound her into
place sir.

There is a thump. And then another, and another.

SUSTIN
What on earth was that?

**

Suddenly the beak and face of a huge squid shoots in front of her window. Sustin shrieks.

Thump, Thump, Thump!

NED LAND
JESUS CHRIST! WHAT THE HELL IS IT!

SUSTIN
OH MY GOD!

ARONNAX
(into the Radio)
This is the aquanaut to Nautilus!
Come in! Do you read me!

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Captain Nemo is almost serene as he holds the mic to his lips.

CAPTAIN NEMO
This is the Nautilus. I read you.

ARONNAX (ON RADIO)
We're being attacked by some kind
of Squids!

CAPTAIN NEMO
Calm down. I'll take care of
everything.

ARONNAX
They're going to rip us apart!

CAPTAIN NEMO
First, reattach the remote control
device.

ARONNAX
What!

CAPTAIN NEMO
You heard me! It's the only way I
can get you out.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

ARONNAX
Reattach the device! Ned!

They crouch and cower as the Squids swam around their ship. **
Ned crawls over and reattaches it.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
(into the radio)
It's attached!

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)
Thank you.

The Aquanaut hums into gear. It spins one way and then
another. It's blasts a high pitched squeal. The Squids swim
off.

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO) (CONT'D)
Are they gone?

ARONNAX
Yes.

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)
Good. If you detach the device
again they will come back and I **
will stop the evacuation of the **
Scotia. **

The ship drives itself, away from the dock port and up to the
top of the boat where the deep one tank was left before. **

ARONNAX

What's gong on?

**

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)

I am deploying the salvage port.
We're going to bring everything and
everyone back on board the Nautilus
immediately. I am connecting the
salvage tube.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

A wide tube line an airport terminal entrance extends from
the bottom of the enormous Nautilus and lands with a sucker
mouth onto the front of the Scotia.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

SUSTIN

We're heading to the deck. I can't
control it.

**
**

CAPTAIN NEMO (ON RADIO)

You lied to me mister Aronnax. The
tank that's on top of the Scotia,
that's a molecular transformer
isn't it.

**
**
**
**

ARONNAX

Yes.

**
**

CAPTAIN NEMO

Well, we certainly wouldn't want to
leave that behind.

**
**
**

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Aquanaut goes to the top of the Deep One tank and lands
on it. Connector clamps link to it. It lifts it from the deck
of the Scotia and zips off.

The Aquanaut, with the Deep one device connected under it,
heads for the Nautilus.

INT. NEMO'S ROOM - NIGHT

The door bursts open. Aronnax stands there with Sustin and
Land behind him. They are flanked by Hirsch and Randles. Nemo
is waiting for them.

ARONNAX

What the hell is going on!

HIRSCH

Sorry sir, he insisted on talking to you.

CAPTAIN NEMO

It's fine.

ARONNAX

No it's not fine. First you put a remote control on my boat, and then you abort my mission before we can get the job done.

CAPTAIN NEMO

As far as I'm concerned the job IS done.

ARONNAX

Did you get those men off the Scotia? A hundred and sixty men, did you evacuate them through the salvage tube? Are they on board? If so I didn't see it.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I took what I needed to take.

ARONNAX

Like my Deep One tank.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Yes.

ARONNAX

That experiment belongs to the United States Navy. Not you.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I don't believe in countries, Mr. Aronnax or armies that destroy. Remember, you'd all be dead if I hadn't saved you. Remember that.

ARONNAX

Better me than the hundred and sixty sailors on the Scotia.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(to Hirsch)

Please escort these other two guests to dome. So they can relax.

HIRSCH

Yes sir.

NED LAND

What's the dome?

SUSTIN

Michael?

ARONNAX

I need to stay with them.

CAPTAIN NEMO

No, you need to stay with me.

HIRSCH

Come on.

Hirsch takes Sustin and Land out.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Do you consider yourself a good man, Mr. Aronnax? A fine American?

ARONNAX

So what can we do for you Captain? What do you want from us?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Did you know that a person in Bangladesh consumes two litres of fresh water a day, while an American, with all of your power plants and your swimming pools goes through nearly five thousand. That's your country Mr. Aronnax. And with only seven percent of the world's population, the United States consumes over half of the world's energy, and creates most of world's pollution.

ARONNAX

I hear that the Chinese are coming up a close second.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Following your model, Mr. Aronnax. Now in contrast this environment I've created here is totally self sufficient, and non polluting. Even all of the food we eat is farmed here.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

There's enough sea life surrounding these lava tubes to feed the population of earth for a thousand years.

ARONNAX

But what if you like steak?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Everyone who comes here is the same way as you, Mr. Aronnax. Full of Suspicions. Questions. But then it all comes clear. Would you like that Mr. Aronnax? Some clarity?

ARONNAX

Yes, I would.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Come with me. I want to show you something.

Nemo leads Aronnax to his special door.

INT. PASSAGE - NIGHT

They pass through a small passage.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Aronnax enters with Nemo. Gunner and Canner stir.

CAPTAIN NEMO

As you were.

(to Aronnax)

Come, see something magnificent.

Aronnax goes to the window and sees a spectacular site.

EXT. CITY OF ATLANTIS - NIGHT

It is the ruins of lost city of Atlantis. Bits and pieces have new construction going on.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

CAPTAIN NEMO

Now do you see, why I have to be so... careful?

ARONNAX

(awed)

CAPTAIN NEMO

This is the eighth continent of the world, known to the ancients as Mu, the land of Lemuria. A place of untold riches and wisdom. Ten thousand years ago it slipped into the sea. And now I've found it: the lost city of Atlantis. Lost no more. Lost no more.

ARONNAX

It's... it's amazing.

CAPTAIN NEMO

As you see, work has already begun on the dome. I've used obsidian glass from the volcanoes. But the process is slow, pumping out water and pumping in air. It could take, a dozen years. But with your device, that turns water into air, I could build this dome in three days. These streets would live again. A Utopia in the most real sense. A utopia that must be protected, kept secret.

(looks him in the eyes)

I'm inviting you to take part in this historic event, this revolution in science. What ever designs, whatever dreams you've had, even as a child of under water cities of geothermal generators, I can fund them: anything, everything you ever wanted to build. Down here a human being can live for two hundred years. Think of it. The surface of the planet is already dead, it may not look it but we all know that by the next century it will be nothing but deserts, nuclear winter and anarchy. A land of insects and fall out shelters. But down here... we can live in peace. Even the volcanic thermal shield protects this region from radiation: this place is the future of mankind.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

I want you to help me to prepare it, this shelter from the storm: prepare it to receive people, animals, plants, books, works of art. The sum of human knowledge. This is the library of Alexandria, the ark of Noah, Shangri-la. But to do it, I need your device. I need you.

Aronnax is truly moved. Suddenly...

GUNNER

Perimeter breach captain. Ship moving in fast.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(to Aronnax)

Did you call any other ships into this region?

ARONNAX

No.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Maybe you sent an SOS, on an open circuit?

ARONNAX

I... I may have.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Classify the boat.

GUNNER

It looks like a... Cyclone Class patrol boat, sir. Large and heavily armed.

CANNER

By my readings it could be Philippines Navy or American coastal guard out of Guam.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Course?

GUNNER

It's on course for... here, sir. Right above us. Like it's looking for something.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Is she scanning us?

GUNNER

Yes sir. Infrared and standard sonar are sweeping the area.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(to Aronnax)

Your actions may have cost more lives than you can imagine.

(to Gunner)

All right, bring the Nautilus up behind the patrol boat. Use the stealth propulsion drives.

GUNNER

Yes sir. Switching to hydro-magnetic engines.

CANNER

Switching engines in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

The sound of the ships engines significantly changes to a more fluid and silent mode.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Take us up.

GUNNER

Yes sir. Engaging hyperbolic equalizers.

CANNER

Hyperbolic Equalizers engaged.

(into mic)

Secure all personnel for a rapid ascent.

GUNNER

Hold on.

The Nautilus tilts up and with the hum of engines, begins to rise. Aronnax grabs hold.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(to Aronnax)

If the U.S. Navy we're to know about this, about the Nautilus, the underwater city, they would destroy it all.

ARONNAX

No. No, they would embrace it, explore it, help you.

CAPTAIN NEMO

You're deluded, hypnotized by fast food and television to believe that your country is a benevolent force in the world. Anything and everything the United States touches, it must own. And they will want to own me too.

CANNER

Leaving deep ocean basin and entering Pelagic environment.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - NIGHT

We see the Nautilus ascending.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

GUNNER

We approaching mid way point.

CANNER

I am intercepting radio traffic from the boat sir. They are speaking English. It's American.

ARONNAX

What if it's just a patrol boat making the rounds.

CAPTAIN NEMO

No one makes the rounds in these waters unless their looking for something.

(to Gunner)

Get us as close as you can without being detected.

GUNNER

Yes sir.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT

We see a mid sized US Navy cruiser pummeling through the waves of a rough sea.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

GUNNER

We are at five thousand feet and
rising sir.

CANNER

Approaching Neritic Zone.

Aronnax slyly reaches over to the volume button on the radio
and turns it up.

BASE (ON RADIO)

We read you Bounty, over.

KELLEY (ON RADIO)

This is Bounty, we detected
something large on the sea floor...
over.

ARONNAX

I know him. I'll make him go away.

BASE (ON RADIO)

Circle round again and send
coordinates, over.

Aronnax brings the mic to his mouth to speak. Nemo nods to
Canner who flicks it of.

ARONNAX

You're making a mistake.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Flood torpedo tubes one and two.
Lock distance to target.

ARONNAX

Don't fire on it! Make friends. Let
me bring up the Scotia and the
Americans will be so grateful
they'll leave you alone. I swear!

CAPTAIN NEMO

It's too late to make friends,
Michael. We have to protect
ourselves.

GUNNER

Target locked.

ARONNAX

Captain, please. I will help you.
You don't have to do this.

CAPTAIN NEMO

You're going to help me whether I do it or not. Arm missile one.

CANNER

First missile armed in 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, ...

Aronnax doesn't know how to stop it, what to do. He sees the emergency alarm. He hits it.

SFX: A thunderous alarm bell rings. Canner leaps up and turns it off immediately.

GUNNER

Target has seen us and is turning hard to port.

CAPTAIN NEMO

FIRE.

CANNER

Firing torpedo one.

CANNER (CONT'D)

Torpedo is wide sir. It's a miss.

Nemo looks sternly at Aronnax.

CAPTAIN NEMO

You had better stop living in the past if you want to stay alive.

CANNER

The target is heading towards us in attack formation.

The guard, Vogel enters.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Get him of here! Bring him to the dome! Let him sit there until he and his friends figure out whose side their on.

GUNNER

DEPTH CHARGE ON IT'S WAY! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

There is an explosion outside. The whole ship shakes.

Vogel pulls Aronnax out the door.

INT. NAUTILUS HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Aronnax is pulled down the hallway by Vogel.

ARONNAX

Your boss is insane. I hope you
know that.

There is another explosion outside and the whole sub shakes.
Aronnax and his guard goes flying. There is a dark Alcove.
Aronnax pulls the unbalanced Vogel into it.

Out of view Aronnax pummels Vogel into unconsciousness.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

CAPTAIN NEMO

HARD LEFT! ARM TORPEDOES TWO
THROUGH SIX!

CANNER

Arming two through six.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Keep to her Starboard bow.

GUNNER

She's too fast sir.

CANNER

Two through six are armed.

CAPTAIN NEMO

LOCK TWO AND THREE TO TARGET!

GUNNER

Two and three are locked sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO

FIRE!

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - NIGHT

The Nautilus fires two torpedoes. They soar towards the hull
of the other boat.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT

The American boat tries to manoeuver but the torpedoes hit
very close. There's an explosion that nearly knocks the boat
over. Water sprays.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

GUNNER
We grazed her sir. She's hurt.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Lock four and five!

CANNER
INCOMING!

There is explosion. The ship shakes.

GUNNER
Four and five are locked sir!

CAPTAIN NEMO
FIRE!

Gunner pushes the "fire" button. We hear the missiles zoom out.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT

The torpedoes head for the ship. Machine gun fire from the boat detonates them in the water and there is an explosion off to the side. The Boat is unscathed.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

GUNNER
Total miss sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Lock the last torpedo.

CANNER
She's coming around again in attack formation.

CAPTAIN NEMO
FIRE!

Gunner pushes the button. Nothing happens.

GUNNER
It's jammed.

CANNER
The boat is right above the bridge sir.
(he suddenly scarred)
(MORE)

CANNER (CONT'D)

They're going to drop one right on our heads.

CAPTAIN NEMO

SURFACE!

Nemo slams his hand on the controls.

CANNER

SURFACE!

They work incredibly fast. The nautilus goes up quickly.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT

The American boat prepares to drop a depth charge.

Suddenly the Nautilus comes up from under it like a giant island dwarfing the boat. It lifts the boat out of the water and flings it upside down into the sea.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Gunner and Canner cheer. Nemo is lost in thought.

GUNNER

Congratulations captain.

CANNER

Should we send out the salvage team, sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO

No. There's no time. Bring it down to the bottom. Use the sentinels.

CANNER

I think we should hit them again sir, before they send out an SOS.

CAPTAIN NEMO

They've already radioed the navy about this. We're not a secret anymore, you can count on it.

GUNNER

What are we going to do sir?

CAPTAIN NEMO

We're going to blow it all up. Then they'll have to leave us alone.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

Call Lieutenant Blackwell to the bridge. And bring us to launch depth at twenty five thousand feet.

CANNER

Yes sir.

INT. LOWER HALLS - NIGHT

Hunched over with his helmet pulled down over his face a guard walks past a couple of workers and moves on. The guard is Aronnax in disguise. He walks as normally as he can, avoiding cameras where he can. One camera moves to the right and then to the left. He walks only when it can't see him.

For a moment he thinks that some one is following him. After a second he moves on.

Up ahead is a door he knows "Salvage Bay #12". He has reached his goal. He goes to the lock and begins jogging his memory for the code that he saw Nemo punch in. He visualizes it. He punches in the numbers, 2,2,7,3,4,3. It clicks open and he enters.

INT. TRANSIT BAY - NIGHT

Aronnax enters the transit bay, it is just the way he left it but for one thing. A cart load of nuclear warheads from the USS Scotia.

ARONNAX

My God.

He looks at them in wonder. Then he glances with new eyes at the rest of the room. He goes to one of the sheets covering a pile and lifts it. Underneath are more missiles, these from a different ship.

He wanders in awe as he sees, as he realizes that the room is filled with captured weapons, from WWII water mines to Torpedoes and other sea born gear: US. Russian, Chinese.

For a moment he thinks he hears footsteps echoing behind him. It's nothing. He moves on.

There before him is a large sheet covering something big. He pulls it off. It is Deep One. He touches it, examines it. It seems to be okay. He checks out the control panel. All good. He checks on the detachable remote control device. He pulls it free.

There is a slashing sound, like a person in the water. He looks around. It came from a shadow off to the side. He carefully goes to check it out.

He passes an area that is wet. Off to the side on the other side of a fence, is a large black pool of water. Aronnax stares into the water.

Suddenly the face of a giant squid emerges from the water, it's enormous eye staring straight at Aronnax. He flies back in shock. Above the fence it says "Sentinel #7". Aronnax knows now that Nemo was the one who brought down the Abraham Lincoln.

A tendril whips up and goes back down. With a moan the creature slides back into the black liquid.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Nemo is watching out the window. Canner and Gunner are at their posts.

GUNNER

Holding steady at twenty five thousand feet.

CAPTAIN NEMO

What's the nearest ship?

CANNER

Battle ship, approaching from the south. At her present course she will miss us by... eight miles.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Tell if she gets within three.

CANNER

Yes sir.

Blackwell enters.

BLACKWELL

You wanted to see me captain.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Yes, lieutenant. About our little discussion, are you prepared with the launch codes?

BLACKWELL

Of course.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Good. Because our, situation here has changed. Mister Aronnax's molecular transformer was the last piece of a large puzzle. There's no reason to wait any longer on the rest of the plan.

BLACKWELL

What? Now? Tonight?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Soon there will be hundreds ships in these waters. Far more than the Nautilus or the sentinels can stop. By this time tomorrow we will no longer exist, unless they no longer exist.

Blackwell looks apprehensive.

INT. TRANSIT BAY - NIGHT

Aronnax moves through more salvaged navy things, collecting a few oxygen masks and some other things including the remote device for deep one, and then returning to the Aquanaut. He puts them inside.

Aronnax goes for another run. There is a noise. Someone is coming. Aronnax goes and hides in the closest niche. He waits. A few moments later he sees someone's legs, walking slowly past him, sneaking. He seems to be alone.

Aronnax leaps up and grabs him, pulling him down into his hiding place. It's the man who was spying on him, Cooper.

ARONNAX

Shhhhh. Shhhhh. Don't shout out.

COOPER

(shakes head)

ARONNAX

Why are you following me? What are you, Nemo's watch dog?

COOPER

(shakes head)

ARONNAX

Are you a friend?

COOPER
(nods yes)

ARONNAX
Okay. Quietly.

Aronnax removes his hand from Cooper's mouth.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
Who are you?

COOPER
Seaman Billy Cooper, sir. Stationed
out of Subic Bay, Philippines.

ARONNAX
Subic Bay? How long have you been
here?

COOPER
A long time sir.

ARONNAX
What do you want from me?

COOPER
I want to go home sir. Will you
take me with you please? I know
everything about this place. All
the back passages. All the door
codes. I even know where your
friends are.

ARONNAX
All of them? Even Conciel?

COOPER
They're together, in the pleasure
dome. Captain Nemo puts people
there till they come round, see
things his way. I can help you get
them. But you've got to take me
with.

They are interrupted by a noise. Aronnax pulls Cooper deeper
into hiding. Cooper cooperates.

Nemo, Blackwell and a number of guards, including Hirsch,
Randles and Wheeler enter through an automatic door.

BLACKWELL
There's over here. I stacked them
according to range. Long range,
medium range and short range.

CAPTAIN NEMO

The short range, how far can it go?

BLACKWELL

Guam, the pacific fleet, area bases.

CAPTAIN NEMO

And the others?

BLACKWELL

Medium will reach bases in Japan, South Korea, Hawaii; Long range, easily California, maybe Texas.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Very good.

They go straight to the nuclear missiles and start moving the cart

BLACKWELL

Slow, they tip easily.

CAPTAIN NEMO

They've handled these types of missiles before.

(to guards)

Install them in the launch silos with the others.

(to Blackwell)

How long will it take you to arm them?

BLACKWELL

Five minutes each, and another forty to punch in the target sequences.

CAPTAIN NEMO

We need it done sooner. There's already have a battleship coming our way and I'm sure that the Americans have more on their way. Hit them with one short range missile and the rest go to major cities and bases. By tomorrow I want us to hold all the cards.

BLACKWELL

I'll do it, captain. You have my word.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Keep communication lines open.

Nemo leaves.

BLACKWELL
All right, you heard the man, let's
move.

Blackwell wheels the cart with the warheads out. The door
closes behind them.

ARONNAX
All right, you're coming with. Now
take me to my friends.

Cooper smiles.

INT. PLEASURE DOME - NIGHT

We are in a room filled with vice and sin. A Roman spa mixed
with a strip club and a cruise ship casino. The lights are
dimmed with flashing colors and spotlit staging areas where
naked women dance. People on the couches smoke from long
pipes or eat from huge platters. It is almost a Bacchanal.

Guards with black hoods on patrol the area. There is a red
curtain with a guard at it. Men go in and out. It looks
sleazy.

Server JEAN comes from a side entrance like a kitchen

The main door is closed and there is guard at it, JACKLE.
There is a signal and Jackle checks who it is and opens it.
HORNY ROGER enters. Jackle closes and locks the door behind
him. Horny Roger goes straight to the red curtains.

Back at the kitchen entrance, Cooper pokes his head out. A
moment later he motions for Aronnax to emerge. Aronnax is
amazed and disturbed by what he sees.

COOPER
I told you. It's crazy in here.

Aronnax moves off looking around for Sustin and Land. Cooper
follows. Aronnax passes SHEILA LOVE and MAX HEART kissing. He
passes TINO smoking something from a pipe. He sees BINGE, a
stoned man, face down. SCARLET is dancing sexy on a stage in
the corner, moving and grooving.

There are also some mean looking HOODED GUARDS watching over
things. Nobody notices Aronnax in his disguise.

Aronnax sees Ned in a corner, stoned out of his mind. He rushes over. Ned is passed out in front of a table of drugs and pipes and drink glasses.

ARONNAX

Ned. Ned, wake up!

He slaps him a few times.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)

Ned. Ned! Ned!

NED LAND

(barely conscious)

They gave me something... sir...
I'm... going to go home... right,
sir?

ARONNAX

Ned! We need to get off this boat.
I found a secret way back to the
Aquanaut. NED!

Aronnax clutches him. Ned curls away, defensive and hurt.

NED LAND

(delirious)

We didn't take the offer, sir. The
others did, but Sustin and I didn't
take it.

ARONNAX

Where's Sustin, where is she?

Ned motions to the curtain where Sustin had been taken behind earlier. Aronnax releases him. He looks at the curtains.

CONCIEL

I didn't take it either.

Aronnax turns. Conciel stands before him, ruffled like she's been in a fight.

ARONNAX

Are you all right?

CONCIEL

He beat me up. I tried to stop him
and he just started hitting me.

ARONNAX

Who?

CONCIEL

Lieutenant Blackwell. We opened up the front of the Scotia but instead of the men he started loading the Nuclear War Heads onto the Nautilus. I tried to stop him. That's when they put me here.

ARONNAX

Look, Nemo and Blackwell are in cahoots. I don't know what he offered him but Blackwell's going to arm the missiles and launch them all the way to California.

COOPER

Excuse me, you should grab a drink or something, so you'll look less suspicious.

CONCIEL

Who's this?

ARONNAX

He's okay. In fact, I want you to go with him, back to the Aquanaut, take Sustin and Land, get to the Scotia and get out of here.

CONCIEL

What about you.

ARONNAX

Don't worry about me. I've got things to do here.

He jumps away quickly and heads for the curtains. Men are going in and out. Aronnax walks casually over to it and steps in with some other men.

INT. BROTHEL - NIGHT

Aronnax enters a dark area with red lights and smoke. Cubicles show women in various degrees of nakedness begin pawed by men. Drunken stoned men wander in and out of cubicles. Aronnax searches for Sustin.

INT. CUBICLE 1 - NIGHT

He goes into a Cubicle and looks closely at HENRYS on top of MATILDA.

HENRYS

Hey, find your own!

Aronnax sees that it's not Sustin and leaves the cubicle. He wanders around trying to look like he belongs.

INT. BROTHEL - NIGHT

He bumps into a MASKED MAN standing guard inside the brothel. Aronnax hides his face and continues on. The masked man follows him with his eyes, suspiciously.

Aronnax goes into another Cubicle.

INT. CUBICLE 2 - NIGHT

HORNY ROGER is there. Aronnax yanks him up. Under him is Sustin, drugged and beat up.

ARONNAX

Get off of her.

HORNY ROGER

Wait your turn buddy!

Aronnax grabs him and almost clobbers him hard. Horny Roger tumbles unconscious to the floor. Aronnax goes to Sustin.

ARONNAX

Sustin. Sustin, can you hear me?

SUSTIN

(beginning to come round)
Aronnax. You came back... for me.

ARONNAX

I don't have much time. This ship is preparing to launch a nuclear warhead.

SUSTIN

You came back.

ARONNAX

Look, the aquanaut's waiting and ready to go in the Transit Bay. I have a friend who will show you a secret way to get there. Here's the code for the lock.

He jots down the code on a scrap of paper.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)

Get to it. Don't worry about me.

Aronnax turns to go. Right in front of him is the MASKED MAN and Jackel. Aronnax is dragged out.

INT. PLEASURE DOME - NIGHT

Aronnax is dragged out into the dome by the Masked Man and Jackle. They tie his hands. The music goes off and the lights come up. Everyone is blinded and curious. Cooper watches from the sidelines.

They drag Aronnax to Nemo.

CAPTAIN NEMO

What a disappointment you are Mr. Aronnax. I was willing to give you so much.

ARONNAX

What, are you going to do, blow everybody up? End the world?

CAPTAIN NEMO

I not going to end the world. I'm going to save the world. From people like you.

The Masked Man flings a garrote around Aronnax's neck and chokes.

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

Do you want die Mr. Aronnax, like this?

Conciel runs up.

CONCIEL

No! No! What are you doing! Leave him alone! Are you out of your mind.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(to Conciel)

Another disappointment. Don't look so innocent, I know what you did.

(to Aronnax)

Had enough Mr. Aronnax?

He nods and the Garrote is loosened.

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

Now, are you going to show me how to use your Deep One device or not? There's still a chance to do the right thing, and survive.

ARONNAX

What about the bombs? Is that the right thing to do?

CAPTAIN NEMO

Choke him!

The garrote tightens.

CONCIEL

No! No! Please! Please don't kill him!

Conciel charges in and tries to help him. She struggles with the executioner and tears off the hood. It's captain Farragut.

Aronnax and Conciel are shocked. She is pulled away by guards.

FARRAGUT

(to Aronnax)

Don't you see Aronnax? You represent a world that should end?

Aronnax looks around as he dies. For the first time he sees that many of the people hidden in corners and watching from the sidelines are old crew members of the Abraham Lincoln.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Yes. This is how it works. Those who accept me, live. The rest, die. So, are you going to help me or not!

Conciel throws herself at Nemo's feet.

CONCIEL

Oh, please. Please. I'll do it. I'll make the deal.

CAPTAIN NEMO

But you don't have anything I want.

CONCIEL

Yes, yes I do. I helped Michael with the early designs for molecular restructuring.

(MORE)

CONCIEL (CONT'D)

I was an engineer on the prototype for Deep One. I know it almost as well as he does. I'll show you. I'll stay with you. I'll tell you everything. I'll be your lover. I'll be your servant, I'll be anything you want.

Aronnax tries to shake his head "no".

CONCIEL (CONT'D)

Only just don't kill him.

She weeps as she grovels at his feet kissing his hand and begging.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I accept.

He nods and the Masked Man stops choking Aronnax. Aronnax gags and coughs as he lays. His neck is bleeding and red.

Conciel runs to him and holds his head, smiling through her tears. He reaches up as he gasps and touches her face. It is a tender moment of love.

Nemo turns to the other guards. (Hirsch and Randles)

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

Take her to my room.

They pull Conciel away from Aronnax. She stares into his eyes smiling through her tears as she goes. He reaches for her.

ARONNAX

(gagging and weak)

No.

As she passes Nemo he stops her.

CAPTAIN NEMO

You're a smart woman Conciel. Maybe when this is over we can... truly get to know one another.

Making sure that Aronnax is looking Nemo gives Conciel a huge, sexual kiss on the mouth. She is blank. He nods and they take her off. Nemo looks at Aronnax with disdain. He turns to Vogel who is still a beaten mess from the fight earlier.

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

Put him in the tube and keep him there.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN NEMO (CONT'D)

When she tells me what I need to know, feed him to the squids.

Nemo turns and leaves. Vogel and a few others drag Aronnax out.

INT. LAUNCH ROOM - NIGHT

Blackwell is in the Launch room working at a panel in front of a dozen rows of nuclear missiles ready to launch.

INSERT: Screen says "ICBM 1: Target". He types in "United States Navel Base at Okinawa".

BLACKWELL

The first missile is ready to launch in... twenty minutes.

He pushes the button and the countdown clock begins.

INT. TORPEDO ROOM - NIGHT

Aronnax is pulled into a room. A latch is opened on a tube. Above it the words say... "Torpedo Bay #1"

Vogel puts Aronnax into the tube. He punches Aronnax in the face over and over.

VOGEL

HOW YOU LIKE IT! WANT SOME MORE!

Aronnax collapses into the tube.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

Captain Nemo said for me to keep you alive.

(pause)

That's one order I'm not going to follow.

The door is shut.

INT. TUBE - NIGHT

Aronnax is jammed into the tube. He is locked in.

He tries to pound his way out. He feels around for something anything to use. There is a small pipe like a rebar which he pries from the side. He bangs on the tube trying to gouge it through the tube wall. No luck.

INT. TORPEDO ROOM - DAWN

The guards who put him in set a few levers and a few buttons and click on a timer. A countdown begins.

INT. BROTHEL - DAWN

Noreen Sustin is a mess. She goes through an array of emotions including weeping as she tries to resolve herself to her fate. To the fate of her partners.

Each time she gains a little strength. She sucks it up, stands and stumbles towards the door.

INT. TORPEDO ROOM - MORNING

The timer counts down... 3 ...2 ...1... then the red light begins to blink.

INT. TUBE - MORNING

Aronnax is trying to pry open one of the screws. Water starts to pour in. The tube is flooding. It is happening fast. His efforts to claw his way out are redoubled. But to no avail. The water pours in and he begins to drown.

He feels around in his pockets. He finds what he is looking for. The oxygenator. He cracks it and puts it in his mouth. He breathes. But it's only a matter of time before the emergency air runs out.

INT. TORPEDO ROOM - MORNING

The blinking light suddenly stops blinking and beeps. Something is going to happen.

INT. TUBE - MORNING

A whirling sound begins, Aronnax is shot out like a torpedo.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - MORNING

Aronnax flies through the water in a rush of bubbles.

EXT. VIEW OF OCEAN DEPTHS - MORNING

A small torpedo like object is shot across the water and the slows and floats.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

He watches the city.

CAPTAIN NEMO

It's so beautiful at dawn. What a world it will be.

GUNNER

Yes sir, it will be a very different world.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Release the sentinels. I want this city protected when we launch.

GUNNER

Yes captain.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS BY THE GATE - MORNING

An algae covered grate under the Nautilus opens and a giant squid comes out. Then another, then another.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

GUNNER

Sentinels are released.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Good. They deserve so much for all the work they've done.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - MORNING

The enormous Nautilus squirts out a cluster of squids like a guppy giving birth.

Aronnax sees this and begins to swim for the cliffs.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

Only of the squids comes right up to the window and peers in with it's enormous eye.

Nemo reaches up to touch the glass affectionately. It swims off.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Get me the launch room.

CANNER
Yes sir.

He hands the mic to Nemo.

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)
Blackwell.

CAPTAIN NEMO
How close are we to launch?

BLACKWELL
Seventeen minutes captain. I'm just
inputting target data now.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Very good.

INT. LAUNCH ROOM - MORNING

Blackwell hangs up. He returns to his work. Before him is a seemingly endless row of missile silos with warheads sticking out ready to launch.

He types something.

INSERT: Screen says "ICBM 17: Target". The words "Los Angeles" are typed in.

The countdown clock clicks to Sixteen.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - MORNING

Aronnax is floating there, semi conscious. He begins to come round. He still holds the rebar.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - MORNING

Aronnax tries looks around trying to figure out what to do, which way to go.

Suddenly tendrils fly all around him. It is the giant squid. The squids enormous eyes stare at him and huge tendrils surge around him. But he has fight. He uses the rebar like a spear, jabbing at the squid.

The squid's beak snaps at him. Then Aronnax pokes the squid in the eye and it pops. Suddenly black ink is jettisoned into the water. Tendrils and beaks and eyes and spears flail.

Suddenly the Aquanaut soars into the frame. The little mini yellow sub has come to the rescue.

Aronnax grabs the side of the Aquanaut. There are a number of emergency tools including a flare gun.

Aronnax grabs the flare gun. And fires it.

The flare hits the squid squarely in the mouth, lighting up it's whole head like a lantern. Before it can recover Aronnax crawls under the sub unlocks the dock hatch, opens it and crawls up.

INT. MINI SUB - MORNING

The squid is heading towards them.

SUSTIN

OH FUCK!

She imitates the moves that the Aquanaut did earlier, spinning and letting out a squeal. The squid shoots away for a moment. The Aquanaut spins it out and over the squid and races for a crack in a nearby cliff.

**
**
**

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - MORNING

The Aquanaut races into a crack in the cliff wall. The giant squid races after it slamming into the rock. It is too big to fit. It sends it's tentril in but the Aquanaut is too far in.

INT. MINI SUB - MORNING

There is all dark outside the windows.

SUSTIN

God damn! God damn!

There is a banging on the inside hatch.

SUSTIN (CONT'D)

Let him in.

Cooper comes from the shadows and opens the hatch. Ned Land remains passed out in the corner. Cooper and Sustin haul Aronnax up.

INT. NEMO'S ROOM - MORNING

Nemo enters the room. Conciel is there, drawing a schematic for the deep one system. **

CONCIEL

I sketched out the basic design for deep one. Is Michael all right? **

CAPTAIN NEMO

He's fine. They tended to his wounds and we gave him food. He said that he was sorry and wished that he had cooperated from the beginning. That now he knows that I am right.

CONCIEL

You're a liar.

CAPTAIN NEMO

All right, he's locked in a torpedo tube. If you fail to implement these plans you drew, I'll flood it and he will drown. **

CONCIEL

That's more like it.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(checks out the drawing) **
So, it looks like he lives to see **
another day? **

CONCIEL

If I'm going to help you further. I need access to the Deep one device. And I'll need a map of the area that you wish to build the dome over. **

CAPTAIN NEMO

Of course. **
(he puts the drawing in **
his pocket) **

INT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

Aronnax is laying on the floor, soaking wet, gasping for air. Sustin is in the cockpit. She is coming out of her daze. Cooper is drying him off.

ARONNAX

Oh my god! My God! Thank you!

COOPER

Hey, if you can get me out of here
I'm game for anything.

SUSTIN

As soon as it's clear, we're
leaving. I'm taking us up.

ARONNAX

Not without Conciel and not without
the Scotia.

SUSTIN

All right, then I'm going to the
Scotia.

ARONNAX

We need the Deep One tank to bring
her up.

SUSTIN

Come on Aronnax, sir, make sense,
we can get to the surface, regroup
and come back in a few days to
rescue everyone.

ARONNAX

By the time we get back it's going
be too late.

Pause.

SUSTIN

FUCK! All right. But I hope she's
worth it.

Sustin revs up the Aquanaut and starts to pull out.

Aronnax opens an equipment case. It is filled with spear guns
and flare guns.

INT. NEMO'S ROOM - DAY

CONCIEL

We'll need to do this in stages.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I will need the first stage to
begin soon.

CONCIEL

How soon.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Immediately. At present our air supply comes from the surface. I expect that to be... compromised rapidly.

CONCIEL

So, you're on your own?

CAPTAIN NEMO

In...

(he looks at the time on
the wall)

Thirteen Minutes we will be on our own.

CONCIEL

I can have the first stage ready to oxygenate in ten minutes if you can get me to deep one.

He clicks on the radio.

HIRSCH

Yes sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I would like an escort please.
We're going to the salvage bay.

HIRSCH

We'll be right there.

CAPTAIN NEMO

I would hate to take any chances,
even if you are... as delicate as
you appear.

INT. SALVAGE BAY - DAY

Aronnax, Sustin and Cooper step out. Aronnax is loaded down with spear guns and flare guns.

ARONNAX

All right. Give me ten minutes. In the meantime I want you to reattach deep one to the Aquanaut. Then look around for any kind of missile you can haul.

(MORE)

ARONNAX (CONT'D)

If it's nuclear, open the casing
and remove the plutonium device.
US, Russian, I don't care. Let's
get them out of here. Load up the
Aquanaut with as many as you can
find. If I'm not back, leave
without me.

He turns to go.

SUSTIN

Michael.

(he stops)

You were right to come here, to get
her.

He smiles and moves on.

INT. NAUTILUS HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is silent and empty. After a moment Aronnax
sneaks around the corner. He moves with experienced stealth.

They come to an open door. Aronnax peers in.

INT. ROOM ON THE NAUTILUS - DAY

A couple of guards, Vogel and Clancy are talking and gearing
up.

INT. NAUTILUS HALLWAY - DAY

Aronnax moves silently past the door to the other side. It is
like crossing a rope bridge over a precipice.

Vogel steps out to see what's up. He sees them.

VOGEL

You?

ARONNAX

Me.

Vogel reaches for his gun.

ZZZZZIIIPPPPP!

Aronnax fires a spear into the Vogel's chest.

Aronnax goes quickly to the door

INT. ROOM ON THE NAUTILUS - DAY

Clancy moves quickly to grab his weapons.

ZZZZIIIIIPPPP! ZZZZIIIIIPPPP!

He falls, pierced by spears.

INT. NAUTILUS HALLWAY - DAY

Aronnax pulls the body of the first guard into the room and shuts the door. He moves on.

He continues up the hallway. He sees a camera. He fires at it. The spears pierces the lens.

A moment later there is a noise. People are walking down the hall. It is Nemo with Hirsch and Randles escorting Conciel.

Aronnax ducks into an alcove or an open door and watches from the shadows as the group passes.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(on radio)

How are you doing with the codes.

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)

We're at eleven minutes forty seven seconds to launch sir. I have half the missiles coded.

CONCIEL

Blackwell, you're a son of a bitch traitor.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(clicks off radio)

Now now, you should be friends. After all, you both made the same deal.

They move on. Aronnax steps out of his hiding place and follows.

INT. SALVAGE BAY - DAY

Cooper and Sustin are finishing loading up. Deep One is hooked on precariously.

Suddenly the doors open and in walks Nemo with Conciel and the two guards.

SUSTIN

Oh shit.

CAPTAIN NEMO

They have the device!

Hirsch and Randles pull their weapons.

HIRSCH

Hold it!

SUSTIN

GO!

She and Cooper run for it. Shots are fired.

Suddenly the door opens. Aronnax leaps in shooting spears.

ARONNAX

CONCIEL, GET IN THE AQUANAUT!

Conciel runs for the boat. She falls. Cooper grabs a spear gun and starts firing.

COOPER

I've got your back.

Hirsch gets it and grabs Nemo and pulls him from the room. Randles gets speared and crumples into a pile of junk still firing.

Aronnax grabs Conciel and throws her in.

ARONNAX

(to Conciel)

Get in.

Nemo is gone. Randles is laying on the floor bleeding.

COOPER

We did it sir, we're going home.

Randles fires one last time. Cooper is shot dead. Aronnax shoots Randles. He checks Cooper.

ARONNAX

Damn it. I'm sorry.

He closes Cooper's eyes and dives into the Aquanaut.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

They are in. It is packed with bomb parts.

ARONNAX

GO GO GO!

Conciel shuts the door as the Aquanaut tears out of the dock.

SUSTIN

By the way, I yanked out this
stupid remote control and
reattached our own. What happened
to your arm?

Aronnax is bleeding.

CONCIEL

You're shot.

SUSTIN

Where's Cooper.

ARONNAX

Dead. Make for the Scotia.

INT. NAUTILUS HALLWAYS - DAY

Nemo is stumbling down the hallways followed by the wounded Hirsch. Eventually Hirsch collapses. Nemo continues on, a fire in his eyes.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The door bursts open.

CAPTAIN NEMO

They took it, took the water
transformer. Get Blackwell on the
radio. And turn this ship around.
We have to follow them. We have to
get it back. Damn!

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Sustin, Aronnax, Conciel and the semi conscious Ned Land are racing towards the USS Scotia. Aronnax is opening up some of the weapons cases and reconnecting wires.

ARONNAX

Can we go any faster?

SUSTIN

We're maxed out as it is. I used a
lot of power charging up Deep One.

Conciel is looking out the window.

CONCIEL

No, there's something caught in the propeller

ARONNAX

I'll go out, I'll take care of it.

He get's up with hardship.

CONCIEL

I'll go.

ARONNAX

That's ridiculous, I didn't just save you so you could drown.

CONCIEL

Look, you're hurt. We need you to connect deep one and raise the Scotia. I can clear these propellers.

(she gets tender)

I can do it.

She kisses him. Then she grabs her gear and goes to the exit portal. She is nervous.

ARONNAX

Use this.

He hands her a hook and tether.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)

I don't want to lose you.

She looks deep into his eyes and smiles. Then she looks down into the open hatch. She looks at her small mask.

CONCIEL

Is this all we have? Oh well.

She puts it on, prays and dives in.

Aronnax closes the hatch.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

Suited up, Conciel crawls under the moving sub midst tons of bubbles and begins hacking at the seaweed stuck around the propeller.

INT. THE NAUTILUS - DAY

Captain Nemo is at the controls, his crew on the ready. The sea is before them through the huge window. The Aquanaut is up ahead.

CAPTAIN NEMO

There they are. Keep them in your sites.

(into radio)

Blackwell?

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)

Yes Captain.

CAPTAIN NEMO

(into radio)

I want you to tell me the exact moment that I need to freeze the Nautilus so you can launch.

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)

I'll need the Nautilus stationary in 8 minutes 34 seconds.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Very good.

(to Gunner)

We have eight minutes to get that device back.

CANNER

Captain, I'm showing multiple ships coming into the area.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Then we don't have any time to lose. Ramming speed.

GUNNER

Ramming Speed!

The Nautilus speeds up.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

SUSTIN

Nautilus, on our tail. She's heading right for us sir.

ARONNAX

Cut aft propeller, hard dive.

SUSTIN

HOLD ON!

The Aquanaut turns sharply and dives. Through the cockpit window we see the hull of the Nautilus moving past, ultimately close.

She scrapes and rattles the aquanaut.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

Conciel holds on for dear life as the Nautilus passes, scraping her and knocking a tool from her hand.

She holds on and digs into the seaweed with her knife. The sea weed comes loose.

Another hit knocks her off the mini sub, but the tether catches her. She dangles behind the Aquanaut.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

SUSTIN

Number two propeller is clear. The lieutenant commander did it sir. She did it. We've got full speed.

ARONNAX

Tell me when she's in the hatch.

SUSTIN

She's not in yet, sir.

He stares at the hatch.

ARONNAX

Come on. Come on Conciel.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

Giant squids zoom into the frame.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

Suddenly two giant squids slam into the Aquanaut.

Conciel faces one dead on. It wraps around her but she pulls herself out of the way and the tendril hits the propeller instead.

It cuts deep and blood fills the water. The squid squeals and writhes back. Conciel crawls under the Aquanaut. There is a small niche. She makes for it.

The squids attack again and again. They rip at things including the tether.

It begins to pull Conciel from her hiding place. She pulls out a dive knife, prepared to make a last stand.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

The inside of the Aquanaut is being rattled and shudders.

ARONNAX

I want to go up top with a harpoon.
Maybe I can get its eyes. Give
Conciel a chance to get back
inside.

SUSTIN

No way sir. The emergency exit is
toast. We got one of those things
sitting right on top of it sir.

The ship shudders. Ned Land stirs. He is barley conscious.

NED LAND

What's going on.

Suddenly there is a slamming and the entire Aquanaut twirls. Everyone flies, crashing into things.

ARONNAX

Are you sure it's over the
emergency exit.

SUSTIN

Absolutely.

ARONNAX

Blow the life raft!

SUSTIN

We may need it later sir.

ARONNAX

We're not going to be alive to need
anything in minute. Now release the
raft.

Sustin flicks a switch and after a breath she yanks the life raft release chord.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

The squids are wrapped around the Aquanaut, one over the top.

Suddenly the balled up life raft unit blows out right into the center of a squid, it's long chord hooking into it.

A split second later the life raft inflates and rushes towards the surface. The baffled squid is pulled up by the chord with it.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

The sub is stable.

SUSTIN

I see her. I see her sir.

ARONNAX

Conciel?

SUSTIN

The USS Scotia sir. Just like we left her.

ARONNAX

Put Deep One on the aft deck ballast vent. Then make for the docking port. I'm going out to get her.

SUSTIN

Please Michael don't. She's dead, she has to be. I can't bring the Scotia up alone.

ARONNAX

SHE'S NOT DEAD!

SUSTIN

Please, Michael, please sir.

Another thud. Suddenly the hull of the Aquanaut begins to be crushed. Water sprays in from new cracks.

ARONNAX

SHIT!

Water sprays on Ned, who is still delirious.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)

Can you attach deep one and get us to the dock link?

SUSTIN
I'll try sir.

Aronnax grabs the oxygen masks and gives one to Sustin.

ARONNAX
Take it.

He puts a mask on Ned. Then he puts one around his own neck ready to use it.

He goes to the box surge generator and flicks the switches. It powers up.

The water rises. The vessel shudders again. Water rushes in.

Ned Floats with his mask on. Sustin dunks her head under water to see the control panel. Aronnax removes the battery from the wall. All of the lights in the Aquanaut go out.

Aronnax pulls the final switch.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

The giant squid is wrapped around the crushed mini sub when the electricity surges, lighting it up like a candle. The giant squid writhes away.

EXT. MINI SUB IN THE OCEAN - DAY

Conciel dangles from her tether, safe.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Submerged in the flooded Aquanaut, Sustin steers the sub over the aft deck.

EXT. OCEAN AT THE SCOTIA - DAY

The Deep One Tank hooks into place on the vent.

The Aquanaut moves off.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Sustin steers the sub onto the dock port. It bumps but does not link.

Bumps but does not link. She pushes buttons in the dark cockpit.

"error" blinks and "dock link failure"

EXT. DOCK RING ON THE SCOTIA - DAY

The Aquanaut's dented and destroyed dock ring slams up over and over into the Scotia's dock link. They just don't fit.

The Aquanaut slams a couple more times and finally wedges itself precariously in.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Aronnax motions for Sustin to go on without him for a moment. Sustin grabs Ned and moves through the flooded Aquanaut and opens the link hatch. Aronnax goes down through the other hatch that Conciel went through.

EXT. OCEAN BY THE AQUANAUT - DAY

Aronnax looks around. No Conciel. He finds the tether. It is severed. He is heartbroken. He swims back in.

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

Aronnax comes in through the crack. He goes to the pile of bomb work and sets the timer. Three minutes. He goes to the control panel and flicks on "Auto Pilot", he punches in a course heading code. He sets a timer.

He swims into the dock port tube.

INT. DOCKING TUBE - DAY

It is dark and flooded. Sustin pulls Aronnax through the tube and into the Scotia.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

The Latch opens in the floor and the hatch lifts. A very wet and tired trio emerge from the dock port. Sustin, Aronnax and Ned in tow.

Sustin slams the hatch shut after them. They remove their masks and breath heavily. Aronnax is gasping for air.

ARONNAX

I didn't find her. She's gone.

SUSTIN

I'm sorry sir. We couldn't have made it without her. But look sir, it's dry. It's dry in here.

Aronnax gasps.

ARONNAX

We're in one of the central chambers. The rest of the ship is flooded. I should have gone instead of her.

Sustin removes Ned's mask. He coughs up water. She slaps his face a few times.

SUSTIN

Ensign Land. Ensign Land! Wake up.

ARONNAX

I've got to go back out. Conciel could still be there, maybe trapped under the Aquanaut.

SUSTIN

The Aquanaut's going to go any second. The link is shot. I'm sorry.

ARONNAX

I have to hurry then.

He goes to the hatch and puts his mask back on.

Sustin grabs him.

SUSTIN

You are NOT going back out sir. I'm sorry. The Commander knew what she was doing when she went in the water.

They are interrupted by a grinding sound and then a pop.

EXT. OCEAN AT THE SCOTIA - DAY

The battered Aquanaut mini sub shudders loose from the side of the Scotia and sinks down onto the ledge below.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

SUSTIN
I'm sorry sir.

Aronnax hangs his head in despair.

SUSTIN (CONT'D)
You did everything you could to
save her.

ARONNAX
Not enough.

There is a small banging sound on the outside of the hull.

CLINK CLINK CLINK

It is definitely human.

Aronnax and Sustin go to the hatch.

CLINK CLINK CLINK

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
Open it!

Almost frantically they open the hatch.

It's Conciel.

They pull her in and she goes right into Aronnax's arms. He clutches her and kisses her and she kisses him back. He pulls her to the side. He helps her with her gear.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
I was looking for you.

CONCIEL
I know. I know. I'm here.

They kiss again. Sustin is watching with a smile, standing next to the open hatch in the floor.

SUSTIN
See. Everything is working out just
fine.

Suddenly a Giant Squid tendril shoots from the open hatch, wraps around Sustin and pulls her with lightning speed back down.

ARONNAX
SUSTIN!!!

He flies to the open portal.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

Aronnax's POV of Sustin being pulled into the darkness below, her sad face looking up one last time into Aronnax's as she diminishes and is gone.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

Another tendril shoots up.

Aronnax grabs the nearest weapon, an ax. He swings the ax at the tendril a few times striking it.

A chunk of squid tendril falls to the floor and the rest whips back down into the water.

Aronnax throws himself onto the hatch and locks it. Conciel joins him.

The ship is pounded a few times from below, presumably by the giant squid.

CONCIEL

I'm sorry.

Aronnax pauses in grief.

CONCIEL (CONT'D)

Michael? Michael, we have a job to do. Let's do it and go home.

Aronnax looks up. The sudden hope of a life with Conciel glints in his eyes.

He heads to the air lock door. He pushes the button. It opens.

INSERT: Control room of the Scotia. There strewn about the chamber are the crew members of the Scotia, ragged, and starved, but alive.

Captain Andersen lifts his tired head.

INT. NAUTILUS - DAY

CAPTAIN NEMO

Turn us around. I want that ship
rammed and a salvage team on that
deck in two minutes. Right engines
full.

GUNNER

Right full engines!

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Nautilus turns around and heads straight for them at top
speeds.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

Aronnax is at the control panel. He turns a dial.

Conciel is on another panel turning knobs.

ARONNAX

Captain. We will have you and your
crew to the surface soon.

He pulls out the remote control for the Deep One.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)

She's all charged up and ready to
go.

(to Conciel)

I'm not getting a strong enough
signal yet. Have you converted the
Emergency power generators to the
hull.

CONCIEL

They're coming on.

There is a rush of power. The lights and panels in the sub
light up.

ARONNAX

She's on.

CONCIEL

I have a blinking light.

ARONNAX

Flick the switch that says "manual"
to the right.

CONCIEL

Got it.

INT. NAUTILUS - DAY

GUNNER

We have them in our sights sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Arm Torpedo bays. I want the Scotia crippled. We can salvage what we need from the wreckage.

FIRST OFFICER FOR NEMO

Flood bays one and two.

GUARD

One and two are flooding sir.

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)

Captain, we are one minute from Launch.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Keep on schedule.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

Aronnax flicks a bunch of switches and sets up to blow the tanks.

ARONNAX

How strong are your arms?

CONCIEL

Pretty strong.

ARONNAX

I need you to go to the emergency release valve that's on your left.

She goes to it.

CONCIEL

Okay.

ARONNAX

Now, grab it tight and turn it clock wise, one full rotation.

She tries.

CONCIEL

It's stuck.

ARONNAX

It's not stuck, just use your weight. I need the ballast tanks active and open so it can blow out the excess.

INT. NAUTILUS - DAY

FIRST OFFICER FOR

Torpedo bays flooded and ready to fire sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO

Aim for the propellers.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

Conciel is trying to turn it.

CONCIEL

Can you help me?

ARONNAX

I have to do what I'm doing here. Just pull.

She pulls and it squeaks clockwise a little.

CONCIEL

I can't do it alone.

NED LAND

Let me help.

ARONNAX

Thanks buddy.

Ned is standing there draggles and worn but awake.

He grabs the valve release dial and helps her turn it.

INT. NAUTILUS - DAY

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)

We have to start the ten second launch countdown sir. I need the Nautilus stabilized.

GUNNER
Torpedoes are ready captain.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Fire!

GUNNER
Fire torpedo one.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

A torpedo fires from the Nautilus.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

They are turning the dial.

CONCIEL
We're moving it.

NED LAND
She's coming.

Aronnax's watching his board.

ARONNAX
A little more.

NED LAND
(turns)
EEeeeggggg!

ARONNAX
A little more.

Both Ned and Conciel pull their full weight into it, knuckles turning white, hands bleeding.

NED LAND
EGEGGGEGGE!

ARONNAX
GOT IT!

Aronnax punches the remote control blow button.

ARONNAX (CONT'D)
HOLD ON!

EXT. OCEAN AT THE SCOTIA - DAY

Deep One begins to spark and rumble. The Scotia begins to move.

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

The sound of water rushing out of the ballast tanks is almost deafening. The USS Scotia begins to rise. **

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The torpedo zooms straight towards the Scotia. It nicks the bottom of the hull, bounces off and buries itself in the cliff wall.

EXPLOSION!!

A cloud of debris and underwater muck fills the screen.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY **

The window in front is full of a growing mud cloud. **

GUNNER
Direct hit sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Full stop!

GUNNER
Stop all engines!

CANNER
All engines stopped.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Blackwell!

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)
Yes sir.

CAPTAIN NEMO
Launch the missiles, NOW!

INT. LAUNCH ROOM - DAY

Blackwell flicks switches and the final part of the countdown ** begins.

BLACKWELL
Launching missiles in ten, nine...

INT. MINI SUB - DAY

The auto pilot timer on the control panel hits zero and the Aquanaut zips off.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Aquanaut lifts off the ledge and zips off towards the stationary Nautilus.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Nemo listens intently to the count down.

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)
...seven, six..

INT. LAUNCH ROOM - DAY

BLACKWELL
...five...

**

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

Midst the cloud of explosion dust the USS Scotia climbs, unharmed up out of the cloud heading towards the surface.

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Nemo's face turns to dismay as he watches the scotia lift off.

BLACKWELL (ON RADIO)
... three, two...

**

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

The Aquanaut zips right into the side of the Nautilus and explodes.

**

INT. NEMO'S CONTROL ROOM - DAY

**

Nemo looks in horror as the control room cracks open and water rushes in. Suddenly the tendrils of a giant squid wrap around the terrified Nemo and pull him out.

**
**
**

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS - DAY

**

Just as the squid pulls away from the ship with Nemo in it's tendril, the front of the Nautilus where the bridge is explodes.

**
**
**

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE

The submarine is shuddering as she climbs. Conciel and Ned clutch the floor and the nearby poll not to go flying off.

Aronnax holds tightly to the control panel trying to steer the ship.

ARONNAX

We're going up!

It's like a rocket taking off.

EXT. OCEAN DUST CLOUD NAUTILUS - DAY

**

Nemo looks in terror as the giant squid gobbles him up in one bite. The Nautilus tumbles into the depths of a huge black fissure below. The squid swims off.

**
**
**

INT. SCOTIA NUCLEAR SUBMARINE - DAY

The submarine is blasting through the high pressure zone, rattling and shaking. Aronnax grabs Conciel and holds her.

NED LAND

Twenty eight thousand feet. Twenty seven, **twenty six**. We're going up too fast sir.

**
**

ANDERSON

We're going to get the bends.

**

ARONNAX

Deep One regulates the pressure. We'll be okay. Slow down at 15,000.

**
**

NED LAND

I can see the surface sir. It's
smooth and beautiful.

**

The members of the crew begin to come to life again. The
radio buzzes. Aronnax jumps on it.

**

ARONNAX

Hello! Hello! This is the USS
Scotia! I repeat the USS Scotia.

**

DISPATCH (OVER RADIO)

This is the Aircraft Carrier
California. Would you repeat the
name of your vessel please.

ARONNAX

The USS Scotia.

DISPATCH (OVER RADIO)

(pause)

Admiral Hobson has informed me that
the USS Scotia was lost at sea two
days ago.

**

ARONNAX

Please inform the Admiral that I
brought her up. And we have
survivors.

DISPATCH (OVER RADIO)

Hold for Admiral Hobson please.

HOBSON (OVER RADIO)

What's your name son?

ARONNAX

Chief Operations Specialist Michael
Aronnax sir.

HOBSON (OVER RADIO)

Well you just bring her to the
surface and sit tight.

ARONNAX

Thank you sir.

HOBSON (OVER RADIO)

Now let me speak to the Captain.

Aronnax hands the mic to Anderson.

ANDERSON

Yes sir. Well, we have 17 dead and
one hundred forty eight survivors
sir...

Aronnax goes over to Conciel. They hold each other.

CONCIEL

If I show you something will you
keep it a secret... for a while...
just until we figure out to do with
it.

ARONNAX

All right.

Conciel reaches into her vest and pulls out a waterproof
wrap. She unfolds it. Inside are four amazing manuals of
Nemo's notebooks.

**
**

CONCIEL

Captain Nemo's notebooks. His
secret designs.

**
**
**

Aronnax and Conciel move closer to each other and begin to
read.

EXT. OCEAN DEPTHS ABOVE ATLANTIS - DAY

...the squid carrying Nemo rushes into the distance towards
the city of Atlantis.

**

There, midst a tumble of old buildings in a shiny glass dome.
Beneath it's shimmering surface is what looks like the
beginnings of an ultra modern under water city. A hatch opens
and the squid swims inside.

**

FADE TO BLACK.

**

THE END