

H U L K

by

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PRISON OFFICIAL yanks a noose, testing the rope's strength. Below, an official hits a lever releasing A SANDBAG through the trapdoor. The rope SNAPS taut.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW IBERIA PRISON, LOUISIANA - GAS CHAMBER - DAY
DOUBLE DOORS BANG open. A PRISON OFFICIAL leads in two guards escorting an Hispanic convict: HECTOR.

PRISON OFFICIAL
Dead man walking!

The guards lead Hector into a GAS CHAMBER. They seat him, strap him down, and exit. Air tight seals lock.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. JOLIET STATE PRISON - ELECTRIC CHAIR - DAY

Guards strap Convict Novack into the electric chair. A METAL BAND circles Novack's head, cables curling from it. Novack stares with dead eyes at the JOLIET WARDEN, calm, still chewing his gum.

The Warden nods to the Official, who reaches for the SWITCH. Suddenly A PHONE next to the Warden RINGS. All eyes stare at the phone.

INT. CARIBOU STATE PENITENTIARY - GALLOWES - DAY

Convict Deacon mounts the gallows platform. The Caribou State WARDEN and other prison officials stand below. A HANGMAN fixes a black shroud over his head, lowers the noose and draws the knot. He goes to the release lever.

A GUARD rushes into the courtyard.

GUARD
Warden, it's.....the Governor.

INT. NEW IBERIA PRISON - ELECTRIC CHAIR - DAY

Convict Hector is in the gas chamber, staring out at the Warden and observers. The Warden nods to an OFFICIAL, who begins to throw the CYANIDE GAS EMISSION SWITCH. A phone rings. The WARDEN answers. A pause, then:

WARDEN
Yes Mr. Governor.

END TITLES and FADE OUT:

BRUCE BANNER (o.s.)
Mars. A flight time of seven
months. Rocky soil, unbreathable

BANNER (cont'd)

air, arctic cold. How long before we have our first Martian Colony? 100 years? 200? And in what shape will Earth be then?

EXT. MARS SURFACE - DAY

Red, jagged rocks under a hazy salmon sky: the images sent from SOJOURNER I. It looks hot and arid but it's really -60. The famous "TWIN PEAKS" rise in the b.g.

BANNER (o.s.)

Building materials and equipment? Think again. We can't haul a bulldozer and steel girders up there, not with existing space technology. And how will normal humans work in this environment?

A MARTIAN COLONIST crests a hill, wearing only a thin gortex suit, breathing through a SCUBA re-breather. His skin is reddish, radiating heat.

BANNER (o.s.)

But what if we redefine "normal?"

The Colonist stoops, picking up a 1000 POUND BOULDER. He walks off with it, like an ant carrying a crumb.

BANNER (o.s.)

What if our colonists didn't mind the cold? And didn't need sleep? And could do the work with just...their hands....?

ANGLE WIDENS to a HUGE COLONY in the far distant b.g., built entirely from Martian surface rocks.

EXT. MARS - SOUTHERN POLE - ICY TUNDRA

An icy tundra. Two MARTIAN COLONISTS drag ICEBERGS the size of small houses across the ice in insulated gortex body suits and SCUBA re-breathers.

BANNER (o.s.)

Those icebergs will be turned into drinking water and liquid oxygen propellant for the return trip. Here at Mars' South Pole, it's 90 below, but those workers don't look uncomfortable.

EXT. MARS - DEEP RAVINE

Steep land formations on both sides. Two MARTIAN COLONISTS leave their ROVER VEHICLE and approach a jagged IRON OXIDE BOULDER in their way.

BANNER (o.s.)

That iron oxide boulder weighs four and one half tons.

One man, with astounding speed and aggression, burrows into the boulder, spewing rock chips like a jackhammer. The other SMASHES the boulder in two with his fist. Each picks up half the boulder and tosses it aside.

BANNER (o.s.)

You don't see that on Earth every day. And they can do this 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no sleep. In minus 90 fahrenheit, wearing a gortex windbreaker.

CAMERA PANS SLOWLY across the Martian Surface to --

A MAN in grey suit and horn-rims, staring directly into camera like Rod Serling. The two Colonists walk off in the b.g., and CAMERA STOPS, framing BRUCE BANNER.

BANNER

We can't change Mars, but at Amalgamated Dynamics, we can change man. If Martian colonization is science fiction to you - at Amalgamated Dynamics it's all science...and no fiction!

IMAGE FADES AND WE ARE IN:

INT. ARIZONA - MARS LAUNCH FACILITY - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

The VIDEO SCREEN goes dark. Sitting there are convicts DEACON, NOVACK and HECTOR in wrist and ankle shackles. Heavily armed U.S. MARSHALS ring the room.

Agent MCGURK, of a Certain Governmental Agency (which will not be divulged herein, ever), addresses the convicts. McGurk is ruthless, authoritarian, possessing a morality which is, at best, situational.

MCGURK

The offer's on the table. Accept, we move forward. Don't accept, you'll be remanded back to your respective penitentiaries for immediate execution.

DEACON

I got a question. (nods) For them. The Doctors.

Widen to BRUCE BANNER and DR. MOLLY MICKELSON, next to McGurk. Banner is a triple P.h.D. and reflects this in all ways. Molly, an M.D., is no slouch, Banner's equal.

DEACON

Go over this... "procedure" again.

BANNER

Gamma radiation. Common in outer space, uncommon on Earth....

NOVACK

Not what it is, what it does....

MOLLY

Its single apparent benefit to Man is that it stimulates growth in genetically altered tissue.

The convicts exchange glances. This gets them going, all at once:

NOVACK

What if I like my "tissue" the way it is....

DEACON

Does it hurt? I'll kick somebody's ass if this hurts....

HECTOR

I ain't gonna be turned into a freak, man...

MCGURK

(sharply)

Quiet.

The convicts shut up. But they still want answers.

BANNER

You won't be freaks. You'll be...different. One of you will be stronger; the strength-to-weight ratio of, say, an ant or a beetle.

DEACON

I can dig that....

MOLLY

One will have a higher metabolism, like a hummingbird - you'll have to eat more, but won't need sleep.

HECTOR

I like eatin'. Don't like sleepin'.

BANNER

And one will run hotter. Your temperature won't read 98.6, but about 130. You'll be able to walk across the North Pole in a gymsuit.

MOLLY

You'll ultimately be given all three: greater strength, higher metabolism, hotter body temperature.

NOVACK

But otherwise we're normal, right?

BANNER

That's the idea.

DEACON

Okay, I do this - an' I ain't sayin' I'm gonna - I'm not goin' back to the hole.

MCGURK

You'll have quarters at San Ramos Air Force Base. You'll have anything you want - food, liquor, entertainment - within reason. Acceptable?

NOVACK

Let's see the letter again.

McGurk pushes A FORM across the table to each man.

HECTOR

Whoah, the President's John Hancock.
(looks up)
Look docs, bottom line: how dangerous are we talkin'?

Banner and Molly Mickelson exchange a glance.

MOLLY

We haven't performed this therapy before. Yes, the procedure has some inherent risks.

NOVACK

So does the electric chair.

Novack signs, then Deacon, then Hector. McGurk nods to Banner, who hits a switch. THE WALL retracts into ceiling and floor, revealing a floodlit 6-story LAUNCH GANTRY and the MARS BOOSTER ROCKET.

BANNER

The A-D III booster - the first nuclear propulsion system used in space. The Mercedes of rockets. You'll see her launch in six days.

NOVACK

Cadillac, I drive a Cadillac.

BANNER

The next launch window is 26 months to the day from now. Which means in little over two years you could be living on a another planet.

MCGURK

We start in the morning. Marshal?
Take 'em to San Ramos.

The convicts rise. U.S. Marshals lead them out.
Molly watches them exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. AMALGAMATED DYNAMICS GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY - DAY

The next day. CAMERA PANS from the LAUNCH GANTRY sitting 2 miles across the desert floor to a sign: "AMALGAMATED DYNAMICS - the future is now" as a SECURITY TRANSPORT VEHICLE drives under the sign into --

The GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY, like a standard nuclear reactor, with a containment dome and surrounding buildings. 10 U.S. Marshals wait with shotguns. The vehicle stops, doors open. Deacon, Novack, and Hector, in wrist and ankle shackles, duck-walk off the vehicle.

INT. AMALGAMATED DYNAMICS GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY - DAY

Banner, Molly and McGurk watch the convicts off-loading from an upstairs window. A group of AMALGAMATED EXECUTIVES approach. The leader is Amalgamated's C.E.O., SAM DASH. Dash is 50, with a ubiquitous cigar. He is a vulgar, disgusting man, but shrewd. A player.

SAM DASH

Ahh! Our geniuses!
(nods out window)
These the guinea pigs?

MOLLY

They're human beings. I'd prefer the phrase "subject," or "patient."

An embarrassing pause.

SAM DASH

Is there a problem here, Dr. Mickelson?

MCGURK

Doctor Mickleson, if your sympathies prevent you from doing this, we can replace you.

MOLLY

Calm down. I saw their files. I know they're scum. But...are we condemning them to something worse than death?

(to Banner)

The ethics of this - no worries?

BANNER

First DNA splitting, 1974, first gene splice, 1986, first cloning, 1997. The potential benefits have no limit. They're mind-boggling. We're at the eleventh hour. I can't think about ethical questions.

SAM DASH

(lighting cigar)

Damn right! Leave 'em to the thinkers, not the doers. This is about progress. Wall Street and 11 million investors are betting we'll get to Mars first and you know what they say about last placers.

MOLLY

Yeah. They're nice guys.

SAM DASH

(askance at Molly)

Don't let me down, Banner.

BANNER

You'll get your results, sir.

Sam Dash walks off with the Amalgamated executives. Molly watches them leave, then turns to the window.

MCGURK

They're not going to bite, Doctor.

MOLLY

(under breath)

They might, after we're through with them.

INT. GAMMA FACILITY - MOLLY MICKELSON'S SURGERY - DAY

U.S. Marshals at the door. The convicts, manacled, sit in chairs. Molly's Assistant CLARE hands each a FORM.

MOLLY

I need your medical histories. Measles, mumps, asthma, any previous surgeries - anything and everything.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GAMMA FACILITY - BRUCE BANNER'S LAB - DAY

Banner's inner sanctum. Birds and insects predominate: cages and cages of pigeons and hummingbirds, and jars and jars of insects (mostly ants and beetles).

Banner and his Assistant, HAROLD, have a SQUIRMING BEETLE pinned under an ELECTRON MICROSCOPE. Banner speaks into a micro-cassette recorder as he works:

BANNER

Successful chromosome extraction of Genus Camponotus, Coleoptera and Cerambycidae, or, respectively, the Carpenter Ant, Hercules Beetle, and Pacific Hummingbird.

INT. MOLLY MICKELSON'S SURGERY - DAY

Convicts Novack and Hector lie unconscious on operating tables. Molly examines their SUTURED INCISIONS, speaking to a team of SURGICAL NURSES.

MOLLY

Move these two into post-op.

(moves to DEACON)

Beginning tissue extraction of subject Ray Deacon's pectorals and upper biceps. Scalpel please.

NURSE 1 slaps a scalpel in Molly's hand. Molly makes small incisions on Deacon's arms and legs. She scalpel-carves out TISSUE SAMPLES and hands them to NURSE 1.

MOLLY

Tissue sample one...tissue sample two....

INT. BRUCE BANNER'S LAB - DAY

Banner sits at his desk speaking into a MICRO-RECORDER. In front of him are FILES on each convict "subject."

BANNER

Subject Carl Novack, implantation of spar-necked pigeon D.N.A., rungs 17 through 24, in thyroid gland, to increase body temperature. Subject Hector Allende, implantation of hummingbird D.N.A., rungs 56 through 74, in adrenal glands to stimulate metabolism.

(turns to Deacon's file)

Subject Ray Deacon, implantation of Genus Coleoptera, or Hercules Beetle....

Banner looks up. A 10-year old boy stands there.

RALPH

I'm Ralph. My mom works with you.

BANNER

Hello Ralph.

RALPH

You like my mom? She thinks you're weird.

BANNER

She's probably not alone.

RALPH

"Bruce-the-Obtuse."

BANNER

Bruce-the-Obtuse?

RALPH

What's this?

Ralph picks up a large plastic D.N.A. MODEL.

BANNER

D.N.A. It's in our chromosomes and genes. Looks like a twisted ladder, right? Each of those little rungs carries a separate characteristic. If this D.N.A. was yours...

(points at rung)

....this rung might be your blonde hair, and....

MOLLY enters behind Bruce, who doesn't see her.

BANNER

...this rung might be your charming, ingratiating personality - you obviously got that from mom....

Eh Hem. Molly clears her throat. Banner whirls around.

MOLLY

(smiles curtly)

Father, actually.

BANNER

Doctor Mickelson. Just giving your son a lesson about....

RALPH

(chirps)

Deoxyribonucleic Acid. D.N.A.

MOLLY

Let's go, Ralph.

Ralph goes to Molly.

MOLLY

The brains he got from me.

Molly exits. Ralph, before exiting, turns back:

RALPH

Hey. It's not a twisted ladder.
It's called a "double helix."

Banner watches Ralph exit.

BANNER

Kid's got a future.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOLLY MICKELSON'S SURGERY

The convicts sit in dental chairs in Molly Mickelson's surgery. Three DENTISTS are working on their teeth. To the side, McGurk observes with Banner and Molly.

MCGURK

Why this?

MOLLY

We're pulling all their silver and gold and replacing them with non-metallic fillings.

BANNER

The reactor can tolerate nothing of metal. It's like putting a tin pie plate in a microwave oven. Not good.

CLOSE ON NOVACK, under the dentist's drill, as he listens to Banner and Molly. His eyes glint....

INT. MOLLY MICKELSON'S SURGERY - DAY

Again, Deacon, Novack and Hector under surgery. Molly scalpels open the same small incisions and this time, implants new tissue.

MOLLY

Re-engineered Tissue Sample Four entered. Re-engineered Tissue Sample Five entered....

Behind Molly is BANNER, in smock and surgical mask.

INT. TRANSPORT VEHICLE - MOVING - NIGHT

The convicts after surgery, going back to their cell. Each wears several ADHESIVE BANDAGES over their incisions. Two U.S. Marshals sit opposite.

NOVACK

You feel anything?

DEACON

I got indigestion.

HECTOR

My teeth hurt.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BANNER'S LAB/GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Banner enters to his crowning achievement - the GAMMA RAY REACTOR. (See description below.) He begins running diagnostics on its components in a CONTROL ROOM. His assistant HAROLD makes checks on a clipboard.

BANNER

Gamma reactor core, check. Gamma reactor beam, check. Radiation modulator, check. Reactor emergency termination switch, check.

(pointedly, to Harold)

The second protocol is to cut power to the whole facility, understood?

HAROLD

Yes Doctor.

CUT TO:

INT. BANNER'S LAB - DAY

MOLLY (o.s.)

Dr. Banner?

Molly, with a sheaf of DATA, pokes her head in. No one's home. Molly walks to Banner's desk, glancing around. A well-leafed BOOK is open on the table, print-side up. Before she can pick it up, she hears FOOTSTEPS. Banner enters. He stops, startled by Molly.

BANNER

Oh. Hello.

MOLLY

(hands Banner the DATA PRINTOUTS)

The data from their final CAT scans and physicals. Are you nervous?

BANNER

Yes. And excited.

MOLLY

I uhhm...want to tell you what an honor this past year has been. I've learned a lot from you.

BANNER

Likewise. You're an extraordinarily skilled surgeon.

MOLLY

(pleased)

Thank you. When all this is over, you want to, maybe some time...do drinks?

(Banner stares

blankly)

Drinks, Bruce. Two glasses. You pay the good man your money. The good man pours. You talk.

BANNER

Oh. I can do that.

(beat)

About what?

MOLLY

Guess they didn't teach everything at M.I.T.

(smiles)

Things. You talk about things. Like: my son, and I'm a little league soccer coach, and I knit, and take jazz dancing class...

BANNER

(interested in this)

Really? Are you good?

MOLLY

At what? Coaching, knitting, or dancing?

BANNER

Uhm, the uhh dancing....

MOLLY

I'm not bad. I could use a new partner.

BANNER

Ahh.

(thinks about this)

I read. I have a broad field of interests. I don't get out much.

MOLLY

I see that.
 (picks up book)
 This any good?

BANNER

(embarrassed; tries to
 get to it first)
 No don't, it's one of those....
 those stupid self-help things....

Molly turns the book over. It's John Gray's "Men are From Mars, Women are from Venus." Banner picks up a pencil and begins flexing it between two fingers.

BANNER

I uhm...have a hard time relating
 to uhm, you know....women.

MOLLY

Always a problem with you rayon
 shirt, pocket-protector, chess club
 M.E.N.S.A. types. But deep down? I
 bet there's a primal side just
 itching to, let's say...bust out.

The pencil in Banner's hand SNAPS. Banner stands up too quickly and hits his head on the file cabinet.

BANNER

Uhh right, well, we can discuss my
 primal side over uhm..."drinks."

Molly's Assistant Clare pokes her head in.

ASSISTANT CLARE

Molly? Dr. Banner? The subjects
 are arriving.

Molly exits smiling. He watches her go, exasperated.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY - APPROACH CORRIDOR - DAY

The 3 convicts duckwalk in shackles past a phalanx of U.S. Marshals lining the corridor to the Prep Room.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY - PREP ROOM - DAY

Two U.S. Marshals (the younger is named TED) stand guard. The convicts sit on a bench. Young Marshall Ted looks at Novack, who stares back. Ted, intimidated, averts his eyes. He pulls out a 12-PACK OF JUICYFRUIT.

Novack stares at Marshall Ted. Specifically, THE GUM.

INT. CORRIDOR FROM BANNER'S OFFICE TO REACTOR - DAY

TRACKING WITH Banner and Molly, in white lab coats, walking toward the reactor wing, now all business.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY - PREP ROOM - DAY

Marshall Ted unfolds the gumstick's ALUMINUM WRAPPER and raises the gumstick to his mouth.

NOVACK

Hey pal.

(Ted looks at him)

Juicyfruit's my favorite.

Marshall Ted looks at the OLDER MARSHALL, who shrugs. Marshall Ted offers Novack the wrapper-less gumstick.

NOVACK

Ain't got time to chew it now.

(smiles)

How 'bout one for the road?

Marshall Ted offers Novack the pack. Novack, with shackled hands, plucks AN ALUMINUM WRAPPED STICK from the pack and slides it inside his jumpsuit's pocket.

NOVACK

Much obliged.

The door opens. Molly and Banner enter.

BANNER

This way please.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR FACILITY - "FRAME" ROOM - DAY

Marshall Ted escorts the convicts inside. The "Frame" Room has three frameworks designed to hold the convicts in place during the procedure.

BANNER

Lie on your backs please.

The convicts lie down on the frameworks. Banner checks their SURGICAL INCISIONS. Molly attaches circular adhesive epidermal sensors to the convicts' foreheads. Banner closes the frameworks; they're now trapped, safe to be unshackled. Marshall Ted removes their shackles.

Banner hits a switch. A "pie window" type aperture opens in the wall, revealing the GAMMA REACTOR ROOM.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

A circular room with white walls. In its center is a turntable with three sleds, one for each convict.

Above, behind tinted glass, is an OBSERVATION ROOM. McGurk and several FEDERAL MARSHALS take seats.

Banner, using a control console, rotates the turntable. One by one, each convict's framework is conveyed through the pie window onto a sled inside the reactor room.

Banner, Molly and Marshall Ted exit.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR - OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Molly enters and sits next to McGurk. Sam Dash and the Amalgamated Dynamics EXECUTIVES sit in the back. Sam Dash lights a cigar.

SAM DASH

This is a big day. Big big day.

MOLLY

Sir, you can't smoke in here.

Dash frowns; stubs out his cigar.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Banner enters, dons a headset, takes a look through a thick window into the reactor room, and throws a switch.

THE GAMMA REACTOR, recessed in the wall like a massive brick kiln, comes to life with a droning HUMMM. Thick, iridescent green light glows within the gamma reactor's chamber. Into this will go the rotating sleds, one at a time, like an M.R.I. machine.

Banner flips more switches, turns more dials and --

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

THE TURNTABLE begins to rotate. Hector is rotated to the mouth of the gamma reactor and entered. Hector receives ten seconds of gamma radiation. Hector is removed; the table rotates; Deacon, second, is pushed inside for his first ten second dose of radiation.

NOVACK, as he rotates toward the gamma reactor, cranes his neck and plucks, with his teeth, the ALUMINUM GUM WRAPPER from his pocket. His body enters. The green gamma radiation swaths his body. Suddenly there is a SPARK. Then another and another and another.....

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Banner whirls toward the window, drawn to the sparks.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR - OBSERVATION ROOM

Molly sits upright. Sam Dash drops his cigar.

SAM DASH

What's happening...what the hell is happening!

Molly bolts from the room.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM = DAY

A SHOWER OF SPARKS erupts from Novack's chest as the ALUMINUM FOIL gum wrapper reacts to the intense radiation. Novack's body spasms violently; he SCREAMS, writhing in the framework's tight enclosure.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Banner, shocked, stabs the shut-off switch, hits the KLAXON, and goes for the door.

INT. STAIRS TO OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Molly comes barreling down the stairs, almost running into Banner. They race into the FRAME ROOM.

INT. "FRAME ROOM" - DAY

Assistant Harold, startled, sees Banner, then Molly, CRAWL through the tight aperture into the gamma reactor room. Young Marshal Ted appears in the doorway. He, too, crawls inside.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

The KLAXON BLARES. Banner and Molly hurry to the gamma reactor which drones to a stop. The green light fades. They pull Novack out. Molly takes Novack's vitals; his eyes are rolled, he's convulsing and unconscious.

MOLLY

Medic! Get a gurney in here! What happened?

BANNER

Ion discharge from something metallic! Check for cardiac arrest!

Molly does so. Banner rummages Novack's pockets, pulling out the ALUMINUM-FOIL GUM WRAPPER.

BANNER

Who gave him this....!

MARSHALL TED enters, stops, staring aghast.

MARSHALL TED

It was...I gave it to him...

BANNER

You idiot!

Banner and Molly begin to unfasten Novack's framework.

MARSHALL TED

Doctor...you're not supposed to do that...that man is dangerous....

MOLLY

He's dying...!

Banner pulls open Novack's framework.

Novack's EYES JUT OPEN.

He's no longer convulsing, he was faking. He's alive and lethal. He sits bolt upright, logrolls off the sled and grabs Molly by the throat and slips behind her, vise-gripping her neck, using her as a shield.

Marshall Ted draws his gun.

MARSHALL TED

Let her go!

Molly, terrified, struggles in Novack's grip. Marshall Ted levels his gun at Novack. He's callow, unconvincing. Novack knows it.

NOVACK

I'll snap her neck like a pretzel.
Hand it over. Turn the barrel
around, and hand it over.

Marshall Ted, trembling, indecisive, turns the gun around and extends it handle first to Novack. As Novack reaches for the gun, fingers closing around the handle -

BRUCE lunges, knocking Molly from Novack's grip. Novack levels the gun at Bruce; Bruce backhands Novack's arm, knocking the barrel sideways.

BANG! Novack fires. THE BULLET ricochets through the aperture into a panel of switches and circuitry. A JARRING HUM! The REACTOR comes to life! The turntable begins to spin!!

INT. GAMMA REACTOR CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Assistant Harold frantically toggles the TERMINATION SWITCH. Nothing. The reactor continues droning to life. Harold runs from the room.

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Banner and Novack struggle. The gun falls from Novack's grip and scuttles across the reactor room floor.

The reactor begins glowing green. Sparks reappear. The HUMMM builds, louder and louder....

INT. GAMMA REACTOR - SUBBASEMENT STAIRS

Assistant Harold sprints down the stairs to the GAMMA REACTOR MAIN HOUSING ROOM:

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

DEACON and HECTOR SCREAM in their frameworks. Banner, struggling with Novack, screams at Molly:

BANNER

Get out!

Marshall Ted yanks Molly toward the aperture. The reactor's HUM is ear-splitting as it overloads to "critical." Molly turns back but Marshall Ted yanks her into the aperture....

MOLLY

BRUCE!!!

Banner and Novack struggle for control of the gun. The REACTOR is now violently shaking, vibrating. Deacon and Hector writhe in the frameworks. Novack strikes Banner, flooring him, and gets to the gun....

INT. GAMMA REACTOR SUBBASEMENT - MAIN HOUSING ROOM

Assistant Harold gets to the facility's MAIN ELECTRICAL POWER CIRCUIT BREAKER. He begins frantically flipping switches, shutting down the facility's power....

INT. GAMMA REACTOR - FRAME ROOM - DAY

Molly is helpless; she can only watch as --

INT. GAMMA REACTOR ROOM - DAY

Novack levels the gun at Banner's head. BAMMM! The Gamma Reactor blows, mechanical debris flying --

GAMMA RADIATION blasts the room with astonishing, psychedelic hues of green, then red, then blue, then aqua, a burst of shimmering, mind-blowing colors....

BANNER AND NOVACK turn to shield themselves but they're pole-axed by the radiation - gripped by the intense force of heat and light - frozen in a single, stark tableau like tortured statues. SCREAMS ring out.

The humming dies. The light fades. Smoke curls from the destroyed gamma reactor. Banner and Novack lie on the floor. Deacon and Hector still in their frameworks. All unconscious. The turntable spins round and round...

SLAM CUT TO:

DOUBLE DOORS BANGING OPEN

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE - LIGHT

Two PARAMEDICS roll a gurney bearing Bruce Banner. They roar down a corridor into I.C.U. WARD #2. Outside the I.C.U., the HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR hurries up to McGurk.

ADMINISTRATOR

What is this? You can't take an entire Intensive Care Unit.

MCGURK

You have another. This one's mine.

ADMINISTRATOR

And who the hell are you?

McGurk flips out his credentials. The Administrator squints at the laminated badge.

ADMINISTRATOR (cont'd)

United States Bureau of...what?
Never heard of it.

MCGURK

There's a reason for that. Now you'll do exactly what you're told.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM 1 - NIGHT

U.S. MARSHALS and FEDERAL AGENTS flank the entrance. The three Convicts lie on gurneys pushed together in the center of the room. NURSES check their vital signs.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM 1 - NIGHT

Banner lies on a gurney in a separated area. Molly and Assistant Clare hover over him.

MOLLY

Pulse normal. Blood pressure normal. Brain waves normal. All vitals normal.

Molly looks perplexedly down at Banner.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER

Sam Dash enters. Molly walks up, pulls him aside, conferring privately.

MOLLY

They're in shock, Novack's running a slight temperature, otherwise

MOLLY (cont'd)
they're in perfect health. No
radiation burns, no cell growth, no
mutation.

SAM DASH
No. That's not possible.

MOLLY
Examine them yourself.

SAM DASH
(thinking)
Simply not possible.

MOLLY
In gamma therapy what is and isn't
impossible I can't predict. It's
uncharted territory. Why are you
utterly certain?

(narrowly)
What's going on, what aren't you
telling me?

SAM DASH
Just do your job, Doctor. Call me
when they wake up.

Dash turns and coldly walks off.
Molly, troubled, watches Dash, thinking, and --

TIME CUT TO:

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM #1 - NIGHT

The Convicts lie quietly on their gurneys.
EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF DEACON'S NECK - The skin around one
of Deacon's small incisions suddenly...pulses.
Deacon's eyes blink open with a start.

CUT TO:

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM #2 - NIGHT

Dimly lit. Bruce lies there. Suddenly his eyes flutter
open. Bruce glances around, disoriented. He props
himself up on one elbow. He sees something.

It's A LARGE FLY crawling across the wall.
The fly begins to grow and grow.

Bruce eye's widen in terror.

The fly grows to the size of a dog. It releases from
the wall and buzzes down, landing on Bruce's bed. It
stares at Bruce, then lunges at him!

Bruce waves madly, the fly covers his face, gnawing, scratching. It's about to suck his head off when --

Bruce awakens, SCREAMING.
It was all a dream.
Molly hovers over him.

BANNER

What time is it?

MOLLY

6:15.

BANNER

A.m. or p.m.

MOLLY

A.M. You've been out 14 hours.

BANNER

What happened?

MOLLY

I'll tell you in the car. C'mon,
I'm checking you out.

Banner sits up. Looks around, remembering.

BANNER

The others?

Molly pulls open the curtain, revealing the Convicts
EMPTY I.C.U. BEDS.

MOLLY

They woke up a half hour ago.
McGurk sent them back to their cell.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVICT TRANSPORT VEHICLE - EARLY A.M.

The transport vehicle motors back to the convict's
compound at San Ramos Air Force Base.

INT. CONVICT TRANSPORT VEHICLE - EARLY A.M.

Deacon, Novack, and Hector sit shackled on benches. Two
U.S. Marshals sit opposite, watching them.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF DEACON'S INCISION - Ba-bump. Ba-
Bump. It's pulsing hard. Thumping. A BLACK, SPIKE-
LIKE HAIR pushes through the skin next to the incision.

IN THE FRONT CAB - Two U.S. Marshals stare at the road
ahead, eyes weary. A loud THUMP emanates from the rear
compartment.

U.S. MARSHAL (DRIVER)
What was that?

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - EARLY A.M.

Banner and Molly exit the hospital. McGurk and Sam Dash are by Dash's limousine. McGurk's Agents lurk in b.g.

SAM DASH
You alright Banner? Go home and get some sleep. I'll need a damage assessment first thing.

BANNER
Damage assessment? The reactor's shot. The project's over.

SAM DASH
Like hell. The project's over when we get results. Repair the reactor and we'll start again.

Dash ducks into his limousine; McGurk moves off. Molly leads Banner to her large WHITE SUBURBAN.

MOLLY
That guy gives me the willies.

BANNER
Where's my car?

MOLLY
Clare drove it home. Don't even think about driving. Get in.

They get in Molly's Suburban and drive off.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - EARLY MORNING

Sunrise. A beat-up WOODY STATION WAGON motors down the highway on which the convicts were being transported.

INT. WOODY STATION WAGON - EARLY MORNING

Desert couple MARGE and FLOYD. They drive past A WRECK off the highway's shoulder. They slow down to the highway's shoulder

MARGE
Floyd, go back.

He nods. Floyd backs up. There are pieces of torn metal strewn about the shoulder. The highway drops off down a small hill. Marge and Floyd look down at --

THE TRANSPORT VEHICLE'S SHREDDED HULL. It looks like

it's exploded from the inside. The shattered bodies of U.S. Marshals lie next to the wreckage.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - MORNING

Molly's white Suburban moves down a different stretch of highway, heading for Banner's home.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN

Molly drives. Banner is quiet in the front seat.

MOLLY

Bruce, you awake?

BRUCE

Yeah. What?

MOLLY

Something's bothering me. Something Dash said. How long has gamma therapy been around?

A PICK-UP is approaching in the other lane. BANNER looks at his FOREARM with alarm. The skin is grey and splotchy. Banner starts hyperventilating.

BRUCE

In concept, uhh, about thirty years. But never in practice....

Banner looks up at the windshield. The FLY FROM THE HOSPITAL is on the windshield right in front of him, hideous mandibles reaching for Banner....

Banner SCREAMS and FLAILS at the fly, knocking into Molly's hands, which shove aside the steering wheel.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - MORNING

The Suburban swerves into the oncoming lane. The PICK-UP swerves to avoid the Suburban, fishtails, and rolls. It comes to a stop in the middle of the highway.

The Suburban SCREECHES to a stop. Banner and Molly get out and run to the overturned pick-up.

An OLD FARMER is trapped inside. The cab's side and top are crushed. GASOLINE drips from its ruptured tank.

OLD FARMER

Get me oughtta here! It's gonna blow!

Banner grabs the passenger door handle but the door's crushed inward and metal-fused shut. Gasoline continues leaking from the pickup's smashed gas tank.

Banner impulsively RIPS THE DOOR from the pickup, metal SCREECHING. Banner reaches in and lifts the Farmer out.

Banner and the Farmer scramble away from the pick-up as it blows sky-high.

Molly, Banner and the Farmer stand watching the pick-up burn. The Farmer looks at Banner, awed.

Molly looks at Banner, awed.

And Banner just stands there, dazed and confused, and --

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - SECURITY VEHICLE WRECK - MORNING

Local sheriff JIMBO and his deputy RANDY chew tobacco and scratch their heads, staring at the convicts' splintered transport vehicle.

GOVERNMENT SEDANS have pulled up across the highway. McGurk and his Agents approach Jimbo and Randy.

MCGURK

Thank you, gentlemen, I'm Federal agent William McGurk, that's my vehicle down there. We'll be handling this from here.

SHERIFF JIMBO

Feds, huh? You F.B.I.? Customs? Alcohol and Tobacco?

DEPUTY RANDY

Maybe he's CIA, Jimbo.

McGurk flips out his credentials. Jimbo and Randy stare at the laminated badge.

SHERIFF JIMBO

Never heard of that one. Listen, Agent McGurk, there's some fishy stuff down there. I put a call into state forensics.

MCGURK

We don't need their help. You can go now.

McGurk turns and walks off, firing orders to three trailing subordinate agents.

MCGURK

(to Agent 1)

Three men on foot, one hour lead time. I want a twenty mile perimeter with all roads blocked.

(to Agent 2)

Call Pendleton and Edwards. We may need military assistance.

(to Agent 3)

Get me the Pentagon, and put 24 hour surveillance on Andy Taylor and Barney Fife back there. If they hear anything I want to hear it too.

BACK WITH JIMBO AND RANDY

as they walk up to their PATROL CAR.

DEPUTY RANDY

Damn, Jimbo, we got our very own Roswell Incident. And I was the first on the scene. I'm gettin' one-point-five for the book rights, I'm goin' on Letterman, I'm callin' the Enquirer right now....

SHERIFF JIMBO

There ain't no aliens, Randy, and you ain't sellin' anything, so just shut the hell up.....

An old hippie, BERNIE, crosses the road to meet them.

BERNIE THE HIPPIE

Hey, Jimbo, what's goin' on?

SHERIFF JIMBO

Better clear out, Bernie. G-Men down there. They don't like counter-culture types like yourself.

BERNIE THE HIPPIE

My purple V.W.'s gone. Boosted right oughtta my driveway. I'm bummed worse than when Hendrix died. I've had that baby since Woodstock....

and CUT TO:

A WEATHERED "PEACE SIGN" bumper sticker and WIDEN TO --

EXT. DESERT ROAD - MORNING

Bernie's stolen purple microbus motors down a road.

INT. PURPLE V.W. MICROBUS - MORNING

Novack at the wheel. He looks sunburned.

DEACON (o.s. in back)
Pull over, I gotta get something to
drink, something sweet. Coke!
Apple juice! Anything sweet!

HECTOR (o.s. in back)
We're dyin' back here, Novack!

NOVACK
Shut up! Both o' you! We're gonna
go someplace and hide out. We're
gonna be cool, and we're gonna
figure out what to do next.

CUT TO:

EXT. PHOENIX SUBURBAN SUBDIVISION - MORNING

A Phoenix planned subdivision where all the houses look
the same. Molly pulls the Suburban into Banner's drive.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - MORNING

Banner and Molly sit quietly.

BANNER
I don't know what happened. I'm
sorry.

MOLLY
You pulled that truck apart like it
was tin foil, Bruce.

BANNER
You're the medical doctor. You tell
me.

MOLLY
(looks at watch)
Shoot. Ralph's soccer game.
(to Banner)
Listen: go inside. If you feel
weird, anything at all, call me on
my cell.

Banner gets out and leans in the window.

BANNER
Doctor Mickelson...uhm Molly, thank-
you.

MOLLY
Get some sleep.

Molly pulls out of the driveway.

Banner walks up the driveway past his PORSCHE ROADSTER with a bike rack on back. He taps it affectionately.

At the front door Banner pulls out keys, then stops, looking at his arms. The GREENISH/GREY SPLOTCHY AREA has widened. Banner sees something across the street.

A CREEPY OLD MAN: a steel-grey crewcut like Samuel Beckett's standing with a Schwinn 10-speed, staring at Banner. Banner, unnerved, enters his apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. BATES MOTEL - DAY

A crappy little desert motel. Novack finishes signing the motel register. The Manager hands him his key.

MANAGER

Bungalow 9, right down from the pool.

Novack sets the pen on the table and exits. The Manager picks up the pen. *It has melted where Novack's fingers gripped it.* The manager stares at the pen.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - PARKING LOT/BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

The purple V.W. microbus pulls up outside Bungalow 9, located down a rocky slope from the motel pool. Novack gets out and opens the back door. Deacon and Hector, cloaked in blankets, climb out; we can't see either.

The convicts pile inside BUNGALOW 9. Novack tosses the deceased U.S. MARSHAL'S WALLETS in a dumpster, pocketing their CASH DOLLARS. He slides three 9 mm HANDGUNS in his waistband and --

CUT TO:

EXT. SECURITY VEHICLE WRECK - MCGURK'S COMMAND - DAY

A quickly-assembled hangar with communications linkage. The convicts' TRANSPORT VEHICLE is being reassembled like after a plane crash. McGurk's Agents examine it. Three Agents surround McGurk.

AGENT 1

The wall was burst - from the inside.

AGENT 2

We found this. Thought it was a fingernail. It's not. I don't think it's human.

AGENT 3

The scratch marks on the guard? Not human.

Sam Dash's limousine pulls up. McGurk walks up to it.

MCGURK

A couple yahoos found the van. They saw nothing. Local Sheriff was sniffing around. I got rid of him.

SAM DASH

Does Banner know about this?

MCGURK

Not unless you told him.

SAM DASH

(thinks)

Let's keep it that way. Find them. I don't care what you have to do, I don't care what it takes. And McGurk: no press. If this leaks our problems are just beginning.

The door SLAMS. The limousine drives off.

INT. BATES MOTEL - BUNGALOW 9 - NOON

The blinds are closed and it's very dark. A crusty old TV plays in the corner.

IN THE BATHROOM - NOVACK, his skin glowing red (like a severe sunburn) pours the last of 20 BAGS OF MOTEL ICE into the bathtub. He lowers his glowing body into the ice cubes in the tub. Novack smiles. Ahhh.....

DEACON (o.s.)

Hurry up, Novack, I gotta get a Milky Way or somethin'. I need sugar. I gotta craving you wouldn't believe.

CAMERA TILTS through the bathroom door to get a view of the bedroom. TWO CREEPY SILHOUETTES are thrown against the bedroom wall by T.V. light: DEACON'S looks vaguely insect-like. HECTOR'S is stranger. His arms are fluttering at an inhuman rate. Like a hummingbird's....

HECTOR (o.s.)

You got money! Let's order out for godsakes!

CAMERA TILTS back to Novack in the tub. THE ICE in those 5 seconds has entirely melted to WATER.

NOVACK

Shut up and lemme think!

and CUT TO:

INT. BANNER'S HOUSE - DAY

Banner emerges from his bedroom, yawning, into the kitchen. He pours himself a coffee and sips it by the window. He sees something outside.

IN BANNER'S BACKYARD - THE CREEPY MAN stands off the back lawn, staring at the house.

Banner double-takes, looking back. The man is gone.

EXT. BANNER'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Banner exits. He goes around the side of the house to the rear. A CLICK behind Banner's right ear. He turns, facing a HANDGUN in the hand of the creepy man, FRANK.

BANNER

(fumbles for wallet)

Take it. All of it. Just don't hurt me.

FRANK

I don't want your money.

Frank hands Banner a glass laboratory SPECIMEN SLIDE and a CUE-TIP SWAB. Banner, confused, stares at the items.

FRANK

Swab the inside of your mouth and wipe it on the slide.

BANNER

What? What kind of robber are you?

FRANK

(waves the gun)

Don't make me use this.

BANNER

I don't think you know how.

Frank's hand shakes. The tough-guy exhibition is wearing thin. Banner snatches the gun - just grabs the barrel and yanks - from Frank. He turns the gun on Frank, who totally falls apart.

FRANK

Don't shoot! Don't hurt me.

I....I'm sorry! What gave me away?

Banner motions to Frank's bike leaning against a hedge.

BANNER

Armed robbers don't ride 10-speeds.

FRANK

I know about the accident at the reactor. I have friends there. I know everything.

BANNER

Keep talking.

FRANK

"Raise body temperature to endure severe cold; make men industrial-task strong; men who don't need sleep." Familiar?

BANNER

(stiffens)

Who are you?

FRANK

Frank Ringwald. Your predecessor.

Banner stares at Frank, utterly confused, and --

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

Banner's Porsche Roadster flies down a desert road, Frank's 10-speed bike loaded on the bike rack.

INT. BANNER'S PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Banner drives while Frank explains.

FRANK

It all started in 1971 during the Apollo Moon landings. Amalgamated was just a tiny company back then. But Sam Dash - the man is maniacal - he lobbied like hell for the Space Program's next generation life-support contracts. By God he got 'em. I was head of R & D.

BANNER

Why haven't I ever heard of you.

FRANK

Dash and the government pay me to keep it that way - I live pretty well, got a 6 handicap.

BANNER

Where does McGurk fit in?

FRANK

McGurk's just government muscle. But believe me, the government's behind this - they want to go to Mars. They figure if N.A.S.A. can't do it, Amalgamated will. Anyway, we knew our species couldn't endure Mars, so we tried gamma radiation. It didn't work. Martin called it our Martian Folly.

BANNER

Who's Martin?

FRANK

Then you came up with the animal and insect D.N.A. part - which, by the way, was a brilliant stroke....

BANNER

Wait - you've been using gamma radiation on humans for 27 years?

FRANK

On and off. Really off, since Martin.

BANNER

Who the hell is Martin!?

FRANK

You're going to meet him. Pull over here.

EXT. ROAD/GUARDHOUSE TO MARTIN'S COMPOUND - DAY

Banner pulls off the highway onto a driveway leading to A MILITARY GUARD HOUSE. A silver-helmeted MARINE M.P. leans in, says sternly:

GUARD

I'm sorry, sir, this is a restricted area.

Frank leans across Banner, looks out at the Guard.

FRANK

He's with me, Joe.

GUARD

Oh sorry, Doctor, didn't see you.

The gate arm rises; Banner pulls into the compound.

EXT. MARTIN'S COMPOUND - DAY

They pull up to a large ADOBE-STYLE HOUSE and get out.

They walk up to the house. Martin's Hispanic caretaker, FELIPE, sits on the porch threading a needle.

FRANK

Hello Felipe. How is Martin today?

FELIPE

Oh...so-so. He's always glad to see you Doctor.

Frank and Banner start inside. Felipe picks up a PAIR OF MEN'S CANVASS SNEAKERS, 3 feet long, size 47 EEE. Banner stares at the shoes and just keeps walking....

INT. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

CAMERA PANS across the floor to a PAIR OF SHOELESS FEET each the size of a surf boogie board.

BANNER, standing in the doorway, jaw dropping, looks up from the huge feet to the legs, then waist...up and up...to the neck and shoulders of --

MARTIN. A giant, misshapen man, sitting on a crate/stool. He's 12 feet tall and weighs 1000 lbs.

Banner is stunned, appalled. It is every scientist's greatest fear: the dream turned into the nightmare.

FRANK

Hello, Martin.

MARTIN

(deep, slow voice)
Hello, Doctor Ringwald.

FRANK

I've brought someone to see you. This is Doctor Banner. He's the head of the latest Gamma project.

MARTIN

Tell him to go away.
(to Banner)
Go away. I don't want you here.

Martin stands. He lumbers, crouching under the 11 ft. ceiling, across the room. The house shakes.

MARTIN

My glasses are dirty.

FRANK

I'll clean them, Martin.

Martin removes his custom wire-rim spectacles and hands

them down to Frank. The lenses are the size of dinner placemats. Frank wipes the huge lenses with a kerchief.

Martin picks up a GLASS from a MASSIVE TABLE and drinks.

MARTIN

Good lemonade. Have some.

Martin hands Banner his "glass," a CHAMPAGNE BUCKET.

BANNER

Uhh no thank you.

Banner puts down the champagne bucket. Frank hands Martin his spectacles. Martin puts them on. Sits.

FRANK

Martin came to us with inoperable liver cancer. The gamma radiation cured the cancer and left him like this.

MARTIN

Yes.

FRANK

Tell Doctor Banner what you do all day.

CLOSE ON MARTIN, sadly.

MARTIN

I watch T.V. I think about the old days. My job. I was an accountant. My friends. My family. I like to look at pictures of my family. I play chess with Doctor Ringwald.

Frank points to a CHESSBOARD in the corner; the pieces are a foot tall.

FRANK

He's very good. Beats me all the time.

Martin SNEEZES. The force of the sneeze blows the room's massive curtains back.

MARTIN

I have a cold. I'm tired. I'll take a nap. Please go now.

Martin rises, lumbers off through the house.

BANNER

How...how long has he been here?

FRANK

Twelve years.

BANNER

And his family? They don't know?

FRANK

No.

BANNER

Does he ever leave this place?

FRANK

Not in twelve years.

EXT. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Banner exits, shattered and shaking, unnerved, utterly disillusioned about his life's work, now living a nightmare akin to Scrooge's in "A Christmas Carol."

BANNER

Why did you bring me here? I had to see it for myself?

FRANK

Yes. And to show you what you will become. Maybe not like Martin, but you will change - I hate to think how. Gamma radiation is unpredictable.....

BANNER

Shut up...SHUT UP!

Banner, quivering, turns toward the car. This is too much to handle.....

FRANK

Martin was the last person to receive a gamma dose equal to what you and the others got last night.

BANNER

No....No!

FRANK

Show me your forearms. That's where it started on Martin. Show me!

Frank seizes Banner's forearms and rips up the shirtcuffs, revealing Banner's GREENISH/GREY SKIN. It's tougher now, resembling NAUGAHYDE.

FRANK

It's happening.

BANNER

No....I'm not going to change....!

FRANK

You will. You will unless you cooperate. There's a cure.

BANNER

Cure?

FRANK

A synthetic protein. It can bond with gamma mutated D.N.A. and shut it down, reversing the process. Now you're wondering why, if I have a cure, Martin is the way he is.

BANNER

Yes I'm wondering that.

FRANK

My dear boy. There's a hundred million D.N.A. strands in the body! Some have natural, healthy mutations, ones you were born with. If I shut those off, the body will go haywire. Certain death, or worse.

BANNER

You need a match!

FRANK

Now you're thinking. Yes: I need the tissue of one other person who's been radiated. I can match the gamma-mutated strands of DNA with Martin's, and voila, shut them off.

BANNER

There's someone we have to call.

FRANK

Doctor Mickelson? Of course.
(whips out cell phone;
punches numbers)
We'll call her right now.

BANNER

She's on her cell phone.

FRANK

Fine.

BANNER

How do you know her number?

FRANK

I know everything.

Frank punches numbers and hands Banner the phone.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DRIVING - DAY

Ralph is in his SOCCER UNIFORM. Molly's on the phone.

MOLLY

You're kidding me. Bruce, is this
an episode of the twilight zone,
because I've got a soccer game....

RALPH

We've got a soccer game.

MOLLY

(into phone)

All right, all right, I'll be there
in five minutes.

(clicks phone off)

We're gonna take a little detour,
honey, okay?

RALPH

What?

INT. BATES MOTEL - BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Novack is poised to exit at the front door, speaking
back to Deacon and Hector, who still go unseen.

NOVACK

Okay, Milky Ways, Snickers, Three
Musketeers. Anything else?

DEACON (o.s.)

Coke. Sprite. No water!

HECTOR (o.s.)

Grape juice! And Tropical punch!

Novack exits.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Novack walks from Bungalow 9 to a bank of VENDING
MACHINES between Bungalows 7 and 8.

INT. BATES MOTEL - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

The MOTEL MANAGER pushes open the Venetian blinds. He
sees Novack walking. He thinks a moment, then snaps his
fingers and grabs the phone.

INT. SHERIFF JIMBO'S OFFICE - DAY

Deputy Randy, feet propped, is reading a National Enquirer piece on alien invaders. The phone rings. Sheriff Jimbo answers.

SHERIFF JIMBO
Sheriff's office.

MOTEL MANAGER
Hey Jimbo? This is Bobby down at the Bates Motel. Something's been bothering me all morning and I just figured out what.

INTERCUT - SHERIFF JIMBO / HOTEL MANAGER

SHERIFF JIMBO
Heya Bobby. Shoot.

MOTEL MANAGER
Ya know that ol' hippie whatsis-name?

SHERIFF JIMBO
Lotsa old hippies 'round here, Bob.

MOTEL MANAGER
Bernie, that's it. Doesn't he own an old purple V.W. microbus? Well it's parked down here, but Bernie didn't drive it in.

SHERIFF JIMBO
That vehicle's stolen, Bob.

INT. SECURITY VEHICLE WRECK - MCGURK'S COMMAND - DAY
McGurk's SURVEILLANCE TECH, with headset, listens to:

SHERIFF JIMBO (v.o.)
(in Tech's headset)
Stolen from Bernie's place out on Route 4 this morning....

The Technician motions frantically to McGurk.

INT. SHERIFF JIMBO'S OFFICE - DAY

Sheriff Jimbo hangs up and grabs his jacket.

SHERIFF JIMBO
Randy, put that damn thing down and let's go!

They hustle out.

INT. SECURITY VEHICLE WRECK - MCGURK'S COMMAND - DAY

McGurk and men race to ten black sedans. McGurk on a cell phone:

MCGURK
Bates Motel. Route 10.

And the sedans ROAR off. And CUT TO:

INT. BATES MOTEL - BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Novack ducks back inside, arms laden with candy bars and beverages. He tosses everything to Deacon and Hector. We hear RIPPING and GUZZLING.

NOVACK
Take it easy. They're the last in the machine.

DEACON (o.s.)
They're melted! You melted them!

NOVACK
Sorry, I'm running a slight fever, oh, only about A HUNDRED AND FIFTY. Beggars can't be choosy.

HECTOR (o.s.)
Diet Coke? I don't want Nutra-Sweet, I want Real Sweet!

NOVACK
Ya know, you guys ain't lookin' so good.

REVERSE ANGLE - and finally we see THE MUTATED DEACON AND HECTOR. Deacon is 1/2 man, 1/4 carpenter ant, 1/4 sugar beetle. Hector is becoming a hummingbird, but he's real strong, and real mean....and --

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOULDER OF DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Molly's Suburban is parked behind the Porsche Roadster on the shoulder. Ralph is in the Suburban:

RALPH
Mom, come on, kick-off's in four minutes!

Molly, Banner and Frank are huddled by Banner's Porsche. Banner's mouth gapes open. Frank is taking CELL SAMPLES with the swab, wiping the cells on the glass slide.

MOLLY

Does anyone have a valium? This is a little too much to handle.

FRANK

Ask your questions now, Doctor, I'll be glad to answer.

MOLLY

I only have about FIVE HUNDRED, but they can wait. Let me see that arm again.

Banner mumbles, mouth open, holds out his SPLOTCHY ARM.

MOLLY

Well it's either the worst case of impetigo I've ever seen....

FRANK

It's not, I guarantee that.

(he finishes; Banner shuts his mouth)

Now one more thing: your car keys.

(Banner hands keys)

I'll take your car, go to my lab and start making the protein.

MOLLY

Where is it?

FRANK

My lab? The launch facility.

BANNER

The launch facility? I've never seen you...

FRANK

They keep me in the basement, out of sight. Pathetic, really....

BANNER

We'll find Dash and McGurk and get to the bottom of this.

Molly's looking o.s., down the highway.

MOLLY

We just found him, Bruce.

McGurk's 10 BLACK SEDANS, roar past.

Frank, Molly and Banner, exchange a glance and --

CUT TO:

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DRIVING - DAY

Molly roars after McGurk's black sedans. Banner's in the passenger seat. Ralph's in the back seat, and he's not too happy about all this....

RALPH

We can still make it by halftime
mom....

MOLLY

I'm sorry, honey, sometimes life
gets in the way of soccer....
(to Banner)
You talk to him.

BANNER

(turns to Ralph)

Hi there.

Ralph stares back stonily and the SUBURBAN ROARS after McGurk's 10 BLACK SEDANS, and --

CUT TO:

EXT. BATES MOTEL - DAY

Sheriff Jimbo and Deputy Randy pull into the motel driveway. MCGURK'S BLACK SEDAN swoops in and cuts him off. McGurk gets out and stands in Sheriff Jimbo's way. The other black sedans enter the motel driveway.

MCGURK

Federal jurisdiction, Sheriff. Go
on back to your office.

SHERIFF JIMBO

You sure get around, Agent McGurk.
Let's do what the man says, deputy.

They walk off; Randy whispers to Jimbo:

DEPUTY RANDY

Ya know who this guy is? One o'
those "Men in Black," like Tommy Lee
Jones? Roswell, Jimbo, Roswell....

SHERIFF JIMBO

Shut up, Randy.

Jimbo and Randy get in their car. They peel out of the parking lot passing Sam Dash's limousine, which enters. Dash gets out and walks toward McGurk.

EXT. POSITIONS AROUND BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

MCGURK'S AGENTS, heavily armed with shotguns and automatic rifles, take up positions around Bungalow 9.

INT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Hector, now very Hummingbird-like, is bouncing, literally bouncing, off the walls. Deacon, now very Beetle/Carpenter Ant-like, is pacing furiously.

HECTOR

I need more sugar.

DEACON

We have to have more sugar....

NOVACK

I gave you NINETEEN CANDY BARS. And you ate them all!

EXT. BATES MOTEL - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Molly pulls into the Motel parking lot behind the black sedans. Banner gets out, Molly and Ralph stay.

BANNER

Wait here.

Banner walks toward McGurk and Dash. One of McGurk's Agents blocks Banner's path. Banner walks past the Agent who tries to restrain him.

HUGE AGENT

Sorry, Dr. Banner, this is a restricted area.

BANNER

Get the hell out of my way.

HUGE AGENT

Uhm....Doctor Banner?

Banner shoves the Huge Agent aside and forces his way up to Dash and McGurk, irate.

BANNER

You've got a lot of explaining to do. I know everything.

A pause. Dash looks down his nose at Banner.

DASH

You've been talking to Frank Ringwald.

BANNER

And Martin.

DASH

Ahh yes. Martin.

BANNER

Why didn't you tell me? Why? I had
the right to know.

DASH

We'll discuss this later.

BANNER

We'll discuss it now.

MCGURK

Later, Banner, we have your
"patients" to deal with.

BANNER

(stunned)
What? The convicts?

MCGURK

Down there. Bungalow 9.

INT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Hector, frantic now, peeks through the venetian blinds
at a 7-11 STORE across the street, neon sign beckoning.

HECTOR

There's a 7-11 across the street.
I'm goin'.

NOVACK

Not like that you're not.

HECTOR

Oh yeah? Try and stop me.

Hector lunges for the door.

EXT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Hector exits the Bungalow. He freezes, or rather
"hovers." He looks out at a SEA OF GUN-WIELDING AGENTS.

PUSH IN ON CLOSE-UPS OF BANNER, MOLLY, and RALPH, all
seeing Hector for the first time.

BANNER

Cardio-acceleration. Expanded
muscle and tissue.

MOLLY

The gamma rays...

RALPH

Bitchin'.

PUSH IN ON CLOSE-UP OF DASH - He's awed, thrilled.

DASH

It worked. It really worked!

EXT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Hector turns and scrambles back inside.

INT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Hector bursts in.

HECTOR

We got company. Lots of company.

Novack passes out THE HANDGUNS. The three Convicts grab their guns and start firing out the windows.

EXT. POSITIONS AROUND BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

MCGURK'S AGENTS open up at once. All of sudden the Motel is locked in fierce gun battle.

DASH

Wait! Stop firing! Stop firing!

McGurk's Agents, oblivious to Dash, keep firing.

The MOTEL MANAGER, exiting his office, runs back inside with A MOTEL GUEST who abandons his brand new Lexus.

EXT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

Bullets fly like hail.

MOLLY

Get in the car, Ralph!

Molly gets behind the wheel, Ralph next to her. Molly reverses out of the parking lot, avoiding the gunfire.

INT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

The WINDOWS get blown in by BULLETS. The three convicts blast away, returning fire. It's like a gangster movie.

DEACON

(screaming)

We're surrounded!!

Deacon throw down his gun and goes to the center of the floor. He RIIPPPPS away the carpet and RIIPPPPS up the Bungalow's floorboards.

Deacon crouches, his arms stabbing into the dirt beneath the floorboards. With a churning, shoveling motion --

spectacularly - he digs into the floor and disappears, burrowing as fast as a sugar beetle.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - DRIVEWAY/MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

Molly backs the car out the motel driveway. It roars backwards up and around --

-- to the parking lot above Bungalow 9, next to the MOTEL POOL area. They're safe here.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

Molly and Ralph, out of the line of fire, looking down at the motel.

MOLLY

We're safe here.

EXT. AREA BETWEEN BUNGALOW 9 & POOL AREA - DAY

Not for long. Sprinkler heads pop - PING! PING! PING! - in a vector stretching from Bungalow 9 up to the Motel pool, marking Deacon's subterranean tunneling process.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

The vehicle starts to shake like an earthquake. Molly grabs Ralph and hugs him.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - POOL - DAY

A WOMAN is sun-bathing next to the pool. The surface of the placid pool begins to vibrate, sloshing over the sides.

DEACON explodes through the pool's tile bottom, and shoots up and out of the pool in a geyser of water.

He lands on the cement deck. Glistening. Half-man, half-insect. The woman SCREAMS and runs off.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

Molly and Ralph SCREAM. Deacon is very close to them.

The POOL WATER begins to drain like a bathtub into the tunnel out of which Deacon burst, and --

INT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

THE POOL WATER, forced by gravity through Deacon's tunnel, fountains up in the middle of the room. Novack and Hector continue firing as POOL WATER rains down.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

Molly frantically throws the car in drive as --

Deacon jumps with super-human ability over the small hedge around the pool and lands --

ON THE SUBURBAN'S HOOD - right in Molly's face. MOLLY recoils in fright and FLOORS IT.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - DRIVEWAY - DAY

The Suburban roars off, out of control, Deacon clinging to the windshield with inhuman resolve.

Deacon climbs in the window next to Molly, who SCREAMS. She scrambles into the back, pulling Ralph with her.

Deacon grabs the wheel and takes over. In the back seat, Molly and Ralph cower, terrified.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - BETWEEN POOL AND BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

Deacon barrels the Suburban straight down the rock slope to Bungalow 9, grinding over the shrubs and rocks.

The Suburban SLAMS through the side of the Bungalow, the siding and sheet rock splintering.

INT. BUNGALOW 9 - DAY

The Suburban plows inside the living room. Hector and Novack climb inside. Deacon puts the Suburban in reverse, peels back out.

EXT. BATES MOTEL - BUNGALOW 9/DRIVEWAY - DAY

The Suburban backs out of Bungalow 9, swings around, slinging gravel, and tears off down the motel driveway.

Banner, DASH, and McGurk watch in horror.

BANNER

That's Molly Mickelson's car!

DASH

Don't stand there. Go after 'em!

McGurk and his Agents pile into their sedans. Banner tries to get in next to McGurk. McGurk slams the door.

MCGURK

Go back to your lab, Banner.

MCGURK'S sedans speed off after Molly's Suburban.

Banner sees the BRAND NEW LEXUS idling with its doors open, having been abandoned by its terrified owner. Banner gets behind the wheel and takes off.

A CHOPPER with "Amalgamated Dynamics" logo lands; Dash gets. The chopper takes off in pursuit.

INT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

Deacon still drives. Novack next to him. Molly and Ralph sit with Hector. Molly looks at him. His arms flutter like a hummingbird. Molly SCREAMS.

INT. MCGURK'S BLACK SEDAN - DAY

McGurk and his Agents pursue.

INT. BANNER'S COMMANDEERED LEXUS - DAY

Banner drives, adrenaline pumping. He looks at his arms in shock. They are growing, and getting green/greyer and more like naugahyde, and the skin is PULSING....

BANNER

Molly...I'm coming!

EXT. "Y" FORK IN ROAD - DAY

A "Y" in the road. The left fork runs parallel to a TRAIN TRACK leading to a RAIL TUNNEL through the side of mountain, just ahead. The right fork leads around the mountain through which the rail tunnel is cut.

The Suburban goes left at the "Y."

DEACON, driving Molly's Suburban, reaches out the window and stabs his arm into the side of mountain, dislodging rocks, causing a ROCK SLIDE into the middle of the road.

As the Suburban flies on toward the Rail Tunnel --

The FIRST OF MCGURK'S SEDANS, trying to avoid the rock slide, fish-tails and crashes into a BOULDER. Two other sedans pile into the first, blocking the road.

MCGURK'S SEDAN and the OTHER SEDANS skid to a stop. Roaring up fast behind is BANNER'S COMMANDEERED LEXUS.

INT. BANNER'S COMMANDEERED LEXUS - DAY

Banner, avoiding the rock slide and crashed sedans, jerks the steering wheel and veers off onto --

EXT. RIGHT FORK - DAY

-- THE RIGHT FORK ROAD at the "Y".
Banner's now in front of McGurk and his agents.

INT. MCGURK'S SEDAN - DAY

McGurk sees Banner's Lexus taking the right fork.

MCGURK
Who the hell is that?

DRIVER
I think it's.....Banner, sir.

MCGURK
Banner? BANNER? Damn it!
(to Driver)
Follow him!

McGurk's sedan backs up and roars off, leading the rest of the sedans down the right fork, trailing Banner.

EXT. LEFT FORK - ROAD TOWARD RAIL TUNNEL - DAY

The Suburban heads down the left fork road running parallel to the train track. Ahead, the left fork joins the train tracks at an INTERSECTION. The Suburban roars into the intersection, then veers sharply and lurches up onto the train track, heading for the RAIL TUNNEL.

INT. AMALGAMATED DYNAMICS CHOPPER - DAY

Dash sits with the Chopper Pilot, following the action below. They see Molly's Suburban enter the tunnel.

CHOPPER PILOT
They've left the road, repeat,
they've left the road! They're
goin' down the train track!

INT. BANNER'S LEXUS - DRIVING - DAY

Banner, adrenaline pumping, completes his first, true physical change. His torso and legs expand. His SHOELACES POP. The seams of his clothing split. His skin THICKENS to a greenish/grey naugahyde.

His body fills the Lexus' cramped interior. (Banner, "transformed," is referred to as HULK). HULK'S HEAD, cranium expanding, bursts through the sunroof. Hulk, annoyed, rips the top of the car off and heaves it aside. He rips the seat out from under him and tosses it behind the car like a discarded tin can.

INT. MCGURK'S SEDAN

MCGURK
Air surveillance come in, over.
We're heading south around the
mountain.

Banner's CAR SEAT SMASHES through the front windshield, glass cracking and spider-webbing. The Driver swerves. McGurk and the other Agents recoil.

MCGURK

WHAT WAS THAT?

DRIVER

It's uhh....Banner's car seat, sir. Look...

MCGURK AND AGENTS' POV - HULK is now sitting more comfortably in the Lexus' back seat, operating the steering wheel and pedals from there. He looks like a circus clown in a mini-car.

MCGURK AND THE AGENTS

(unison)

Oh my God.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO RAIL TUNNEL - DAY

The Suburban, riding on the slippery rails, enters the RAIL TUNNEL, a quarter mile of darkness.

INT. AMALGAMATED DYNAMICS CHOPPER - DAY

Dash and the Pilot see the Suburban enter the tunnel.

CHOPPER PILOT

Visual contact lost, repeat, visual contact lost, they're in the tunnel!

INT. RAIL TUNNEL - DAY

The Suburban pulls over in the rail tunnel. The following happens very fast, just flashed images:

A SERIES OF QUICKLY CUT SHOTS:

- The three Mutant Convicts exit the vehicle.
- ITS RUBBER TIRES are ripped from the wheels.
- The vehicle is lifted on its steel rims to the rails.

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOLL ABOVE RAIL TUNNEL EXIT - DAY

Hulk jerks the wheel, pulling the Lexus up onto a knoll on the other side of the mountain, above the Rail Tunnel's exit, waiting for the Suburban to exit.

MCGURK'S SEDANS fly past, again running PARALLEL to the train tracks as --

-- MOLLY'S SUBURBAN roars out of the rail tunnel, now

rolling steadily on its steel rims, like a train. We cannot see inside the vehicle.

Hulk HOWLS (a deeper, primal version of Bruce Banner's):

MOLLY!
HULK

Hulk floors the Lexus down the knoll onto the gravel traintrack shoulder. It catches the Suburban, then pulls abreast of it.

HULK jumps from the Lexus to the roof of the Suburban.

Hulk grips the steel roof of the Suburban and RIIIPPS it off like a can of tuna, revealing --

NO ONE IS INSIDE THE SUBURBAN. A ROCK is wedged on top of the vehicle's ACCELERATOR PEDAL.

EXT. PARALLEL ROAD TO TRAIN TRACK - DAY

McGurk and his agents stop and pull over, watching with stunned amazement. Suddenly a long sustained HORN BLAST.

EXT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

The Hulk looks up, hearing the HORN BLAST.

An EIGHT CAR AMTRAK COMMUTER TRAIN is rounding the corner ahead, onrushing at eighty miles per hour.

INT. AMTRAK LOCOMOTIVE - DAY

The BRAKE MAN sees the onrushing Suburban, Hulk atop it.

BRAKE MAN
What in heaven's name is that...?

He grabs the brake frantically and yanks it.

INT. AMTRAK PASSENGER CARS - DAY

Passenger cars DECELERATE violently. Cups of coffee fly. Commuter PASSENGERS are thrown violently forward.

EXT. MOLLY'S SUBURBAN - DAY

HULK desperately tries to rock the Suburban back and forth off the tracks.

INT. AMTRAK LOCOMOTIVE - DAY

The Brake Man continues pulling on the brake. The Suburban is closing fast. Impact is imminent, definite.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

The train and the Suburban hit at a combined 100 m.p.h.

HULK dives away. The locomotive hops the track, derailing and severing from the passenger cars. The locomotive rumbles down a culvert and skids to a stop.

The Locomotive-less COMMUTER PASSENGER CARS continue down the track with no steering or braking capability, rumbling back toward the RAIL TUNNEL.

EXT. CULVERT - NEXT TO CRASHED LOCOMOTIVE - DAY

The Hulk recovers. The BRAKE MAN and ENGINEER emerge from the locomotive, dazed. They see the Hulk and pass out, dead away.

The Hulk races down the track, chasing THE RUNAWAY PASSENGER CARS back toward the RAIL TUNNEL.

INT. FRONT PASSENGER CAR - DAY

A FEMALE PASSENGER opens the door between the front car and the locomotive. She's hit by a stiff wind. There's nothing there. Nothing but onrushing track.

The PASSENGERS, panicked and hysterical, race from the front cars to the rear cars. The cars pick up speed.

EXT. CABOOSE PASSENGER CAR - DAY

Hulk, thundering down the train track, closes on the caboose passenger car. He grabs the bumper, gripping the car's steel frame.

HULK digs in his feet, attempting to stop eight runaway train cars the way a teenager stops a skateboard. HULK'S stiff legs jack his feet into the track bed, snapping the 8x8 oak railroad ties like toothpicks.

INT. CABOOSE PASSENGER CAR - DAY

The PANICKED PASSENGERS flood into the caboose car. The same FEMALE PASSENGER seizes the door to the caboose porch and throws open the door, only to find --

AN EIGHT FOOT TALL MAN WITH GREY SKIN surfing the train three feet from her face.

The Female Passenger SCREAMS.
Hulk SCREAMS back at her.
The Female Passenger slams the door, faints dead away.

The caboose car slowly lists to a stop. An eerie quiet. All the Passengers look at each other.

A MAN opens the caboose door. The Passengers file out cautiously onto the caboose porch. They look around. No one's there. The track is ripped to shreds for over 1/2 mile in the b.g. A 5 YEAR-OLD BOY hops down from the caboose. His mother yells after him:

LITTLE BOY'S MOTHER
Michael, get back here!

The LITTLE BOY walks around the caboose car. HULK is standing there, looming huge above the little boy.

Hulk is spent, winded, panting like a marathoner. THE LITTLE BOY smiles at Hulk.

LITTLE BOY
Nice monster.

Hulk looks at the boy and seems to smile, too.

EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - THICKET OF TREES

In a THICKET OF TREES above the tunnel exit, Deacon, Novack & Hector, with Molly and Ralph in their custody, watch Hulk and the passengers below.

PUSH IN TO EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF MOLLY:

MOLLY
(under her breath)
Now that's what I call a primal
side.....

EXT. SIDE OF AMTRACK CABOOSE PASSENGER CAR - DAY

SIRENS WAIL in the distance. The Hulk hears them, reacting with alarm, and lumbers off into the woods.

LITTLE BOY
~~Eye.~~

MCGURK'S SEDANS barrel up to the caboose car. McGurk gets out. The dazed, frightened Passengers are beginning to disembark the caboose car.

MCGURK
Where is he?

A Passenger stares back, shaking his head.

PASSENGER
We don't know. There are people
hurt up here!

MOTHER OF LITTLE BOY
My son is gone!

The Little Boy walks around the back of the caboose car.

LITTLE BOY
I saw him. The monster.

MCGURK
Which way did the "monster" go, son?

The little boy points off into the woods. McGurk nods to his Agents, who head in that direction.

The Little Boy looks off to the OPPOSITE DIRECTION to --

HULK, behind a rock and clump of trees, watching. The kid smiles at Hulk. The Hulk seems to smile back. HULK slinks off into the forest.

EXT. ABOVE THE TUNNEL EXIT - SAPLING THICKET - DAY

Above the tunnel exit are cliffs and small pines. The Mutant Convicts climb through a sapling thicket with Molly and Ralph. Ralph is in Deacon's evil clutches.

RALPH
LEGGO OF ME!

DEACON
Let's kill them and get out of here.

HECTOR
I'm with Deacon.

MOLLY
(desperate)
Don't. There...there's a cure.
(they stare at her)
A protein. We just developed it.
One shot and you're good as new.

HECTOR
She's lying.

DEACON
Kill them! Now!

NOVACK
Hold on. Let's think about this.
(approaches Molly;
bores in)
You lyin', lady? You better not be
lying to me.

MOLLY
I'm not lying. I swear it.

NOVACK

Would you swear say...on junior
here's life?

(Molly gasps)

You can fix us? Okay, fix us. Or
the kid dies. Got it?

MOLLY

Don't hurt him, he's done nothing to
you.

NOVACK

You got a phone?

(Molly nods)

Give it to me.

(she hands over her
cell phone)

You call me on this when you've got
your cure in hand. I don't hear
from you in four hours, the kid
dies. You tell the cops, the kid
dies. Play ball, he lives. Got it?

The convicts, dragging Ralph, slink off into the woods.
Molly stands there alone, in anguish. Her eyes well
with tears.

RALPH

Mom....!

MOLLY

Don't worry honey, I'll be back!

She turns INTO CAMERA, apoplectic, and --

CUT TO:

EXT. BY THE TRAIN WRECK - DAY

A half hour later. The Amtrak Passengers are being
treated by PARAMEDICS and evacuated. Dash's helicopter
whirs in the b.g.

MCGURK

San Ramos is deploying two teams of
Special Forces and six Apaches.

DASH

Let me be very specific: no live
ammunition. I want them armed only
with tranquilizers.

MCGURK

I won't give that order. Those men
are cold blooded killers, they have
to be stopped. Dead or alive.

DASH

Agent McGurk, take a little walk
with me....

(they walk)

You remember the Sojourner mission
on C.N.N? The little car, the
little rover thing?

MCGURK

Yeah, my two sons loved it.

DASH

I didn't know you were a family man,
that's very nice. Let me tell you
what the government didn't tell your
boys. There's gold up there.

MCGURK

Gold?

DASH

Enough gold to fill the Grand
Canyon. Literally. And titanium.
And platinum. I have an unmanned
mission waiting on a launch pad.
Turn about six screws and it's a
manned mission. Those men are going
to Mars. And I'm not waiting
another twenty-six months. Now I'd
like you to do what I ask, and I'll
guarantee that your future, and your
family's future, is paved with,
excuse the pun....

MCGURK

I understand. What about Banner?

DASH

Oh right, him. Banner as we knew
him doesn't exit. He's expendable.

Dash coldly walks off. And CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - CLIFFS/ROCK OUTCROPPINGS - DAY

HULK emerges on a high mesa miles from the train wreck,
panting, eyes feral. He's cut, bruised, exhausted.
Hulk sees a shelter under a ROCK OUTCROPPING. A wolf's
den. Hulk crawls in and disappears.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

A car moves down the highway. A BILLBOARD announces:
"BATES MOTEL - For Rest and Relaxation! EXIT 12"

MOLLY steps from behind the billboard to the highway shoulder, and sticks her thumb out. THE CAR whizzes by. Molly frowns. The vacant highway stretches endlessly.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

A RED '62 CADILLAC with huge fins pulls up to a rickety abandoned SHED on a desert back road. A few ranches in the b.g. The back door flies open.

LONG SHOT - Hector and Deacon, pulling Ralph, emerge from the shed, scuttle over to the Cadillac, and pile inside. The Cadillac drives off.

INT. RED CADILLAC - DRIVING - DAY

Novack drives, his skin now a burnished red/gold. Ralph is in the backseat between Hector and Deacon. Hector is more hummingbird-like now; Deacon, more beetle-like.

DEACON

Real inconspicuous car, Novack.

NOVACK

Bitch bitch bitch - YOU STEAL THE NEXT CAR, OKAY? Here, put these on.

Novack flings TWO DUSTER-STYLE RAINCOATS over the seat.

RALPH

(looking at)

You nervous about something?

TILT DOWN TO HECTOR'S HANDS - he's twiddling his thumbs, at 4000 r.p.m.

HECTOR

Shuddup ya little brat.

Novack turns on the radio. An OLD ROCK 'N ROLL SONG plays. Novack scowls, flips the dial.

RALPH

Wait, those were the Beatles! I love the Beatles!

(looks up at DEACON'S BEETLE FACE)

Maybe another song's a good idea....

DEACON

Where the hell are we goin'?

HECTOR

Yeah, where are we goin'?

NOVACK

We got four hours to kill. We'll think of something.

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD - A BRINKS TRUCK pulls out from a warehouse and passes the other way.

Deacon and Hector look at Novack, who smiles evilly.

NOVACK

We just thought of something.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT MESA - DAY

AN ARMY HELICOPTER stops, hovering in mid-air. FOUR SPECIAL FORCES OPERATIVES repel from the helicopter to the mesa floor. They detach from the repel ropes and immediately fan out, searching.

AT HULK'S ROCK OUTCROPPING - A SOLDIER (we only see his fatigue pant-legs and boots) walks past. Seconds pass.

BRUCE BANNER, not Hulk, crawls out from the shelter. His clothes are split, shredded. Banner, watchful of the patrolling soldier, crawls around the side of the outcropping and descends the other side of the mesa.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT ROAD - HIGHWAY UNDERPASS - DAY

A BRINKS TRUCK moves under a HIGHWAY UNDERPASS. A FIGURE drops from the overhang to the truck's roof.

EXT. BRINKS TRUCK - DAY

NOVACK climbs down to the rear bumper. Riding on the bumper, Novack reaches and grabs the truck's RED-HOT EXHAUST PIPE. He feels no pain, his fingers don't burn.

Novack grips the pipe and bends it, crimping it.

INT. BRINKS TRUCK - DAY

The two BRINKS GUARDS ride along. One sniffs the air. Again. Again.

BRINKS GUARD 1

You smell that?

BRINKS GUARD 2

Yeah. Exhaust. Damnation!

EXT. BRINKS TRUCK - REAR BUMPER - DAY

The crimped exhaust pipe is SPUTTERING and SHAKING with

the enormous pressure of unescaped exhaust. Suddenly BANG!! the truck backfires.

INT. BRINKS TRUCK - DAY

The truck cab is filled with EXHAUST FUMES. The Guards are coughing violently. Guard 1 pulls the truck over.

EXT. SHOULDER OF DESERT ROAD - DAY

The two guards, coughing violently, scramble out of the Brinks Truck cab, sucking up oxygen. They walk around the back of the truck. Each GUARD runs into a TRENCHCOATED MAN. The Guards go for their guns.

HECTOR, hands moving with a blur, grabs Guard 1's handgun before it's out of the holster. DEACON grabs Guard 2's gun in his CLAW/HAND and twists the barrel to a right angle. The guards cower in terror.

The Cadillac sits in the b.g., down the shoulder of road. Novack walks up.

NOVACK

Unlock the truck.

GUARD 2

We....we don't have keys!

GUARD 1

The destination Guards have the keys. They don't give 'em to us!

NOVACK

Deacon?

Deacon rips the door off like cardboard and TIME CUT TO:

THE TWO GUARDS stand on the shoulder like idiots, handcuffed to the truck's ripped-off door handle. The 3 mutant convicts haul BAGS OF CASH down the road shoulder to their waiting CADILLAC.

HECTOR

This is good. I can use to this.
Maybe we oughta forget this cure.

There's BANGING inside the Cadillac's trunk. Novack opens it. RALPH lies there with a lug wrench in hand. The convicts toss the money bags into the trunk. Ralph looks at the STACKS OF \$100 BILLS.

RALPH

That's not Monopoly Money, is it?

Deacon yanks Ralph out of the trunk and CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD IN FRONT OF MARS LAUNCH FACILITY - DAY

The MARS LAUNCH GANTRY sits across the desert from the road. A FARM TRUCK pulls over. Molly gets out.

MOLLY

Uhh no thanks, sure 'ppreciate the ride, but I've got a boyfriend...

The door SLAMS angrily; the truck ROARS off. Molly stands there looking at the launch facility.

EXT. MARS LAUNCH FACILITY - SCIENCE LAB BUILDING - DAY

A small parking lot. BANNER'S PORSCHE ROADSTER sits outside the launch facility's SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. Molly walks past the Porsche and enters.

INT. MARS LAUNCH FACILITY - FRANK'S LAB - AFTERNOON

Frank hovers over a D.N.A. MODEL. A Buzzer BUZZES. Frank looks at it uncertainly, then hits a button. The door to the lab opens. MOLLY enters.

FRANK

Doctor Mickelson! Where's Bruce...and your son?

MOLLY

What have you heard? Were you told? Is it on the news?

FRANK

Is what on the news? I've been working. Told what?

MOLLY

You really don't know. Oh my God.
(she sits, buries her head, begins to weep)
They...they.....

FRANK

They what? They who?

She looks up, her face a sheet.

MOLLY

They've got my kid.

FRANK

Who?

MOLLY

The convicts.

(looks up, grim)

Only they're not convicts anymore,
Frank....

Off Frank's reaction --

CUT TO:

EXT. RUNDOWN HACIENDA - MORNING

A run-down hacienda. NOVACK and Hector stand at the front door. The Cadillac sits in drive.

NOVACK

You sure she's gonna wanna see you?

HECTOR

(stabs doorbell)

Chiquita's my old lady! I holed up here for two months after my last job. How do I look?

NOVACK

Uhh...she might think you changed a little in prison....

INT. HACIENDA - MORNING

Aforementioned hispanic gun-moll CHIQUITA is shaving her legs, cigarette dangling from lips. The doorbell RINGS. CHIQUITA grabs a Budweiser and swigs. Goes to the door; throws it open. NOVACK stands there.

NOVACK

You Chiquita? I brought an old friend to see you.

HECTOR

Chiquita my little Sweeta!

(holds up stacks of

\$100 bills)

Look at the money! We gonna party!

Chiquita goes white at the sight of mutated Hector. She SCREAMS and SLAMS the door. 14 locks bolt shut.

CUT TO:

INT. RED CADILLAC - DRIVING - DAY

Ralph in the back with Hector and Deacon. Novack drives.

RALPH

Uhhh...there's this Beatles song?
"Can't Buy Me Love"...?

HECTOR

Shut the hell up you little punk!
I'm a freak! Chiquita thinks I'm a
freak!

DEACON

You are a freak, man.

HECTOR

I wouldn't talk.
(snarls at Ralph)
Your mother better come through with
this cure, little man....

A beat-up PICK-UP pulls into the next lane to pass them.

The Pick-up truck DRIVER, guzzling cheap whiskey, looks over at the Cadillac. Novack, Beetle/Deacon, and Hummingbird/Hector stare at the DRUNKEN FARMER.

The Red Cadillac continues down the road.
The Pick-up truck veers off the road into a ditch.

NOVACK

That tears it. We gotta do
something about this....

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT TOWN - DAY

The RED CADILLAC sits at a curb.
It's a grungy little desert town with one MAIN STREET.

A storefront window: "MAD MAX'S NOVELTY SHOP."
Novack, Hector (wearing raincoat), and Deacon (wearing
raincoat with Ralph in tow) stand looking in the window.

The storefront window has HALLOWEEN MASKS for sale.
DEACON looks at MASK #1. But it looks like him, a
beetle-like monster. HECTOR looks at MASK #2. It looks
like him, a bird-like monster. Novack looks both ways
down the sidewalk, then starts inside.

NOVACK

Wait here. Don't talk to nobody...

INT. "MAD MAX'S" NOVELTY SHOP - DAY

KA-CHING. MAD MAX (30's, you get the picture) sticks

Novack's cash in the register and hands Novack a
MERCHANDISE BAG.

MAD MAX

That'll be all? Gee fellah, you
don't look too hot. I mean you look
real hot....

NOVACK

Fell asleep under a sun lamp.

MAD MAX

For a week?

(Novack exits)

Hope ya like those. They're my best
sellers!

EXT. BELOW DESERT MESA - DAY

A small hill below the mesa. Banner crests the hill.
He looks around. A mile in the distance, a ROAD cuts
through the desert. There's a couple buildings. Bruce
wearily trudges off toward the buildings.

CUT TO:

INT. MARS LAUNCH FACILITY - FRANK'S LAB - DAY

A BEAKER OF VISCOUS BLUE LIQUID in Frank's hand. Molly
stands looking over Frank's shoulder.

FRANK

Protein serum. We can chemically
treat it to bond with any D.N.A.
rung we choose. We get this right,
their cells will revert to the DNA
they were born with.

MOLLY

(skeptical)

It came from....that?

Molly looks at the serum "still," a contraption of
beakers and tubes. Looks like a Kentucky whiskey still.

Frank moves to TWO COMPUTER RENDERINGS of DNA STRANDS,
one marked "Martin," the other "Banner." The "rungs" on
each D.N.A. double helix are numbered 1 through 72.

FRANK

That's Martin's gamma mutated D.N.A.
That's Banner's.

8 numbered POST-IT NOTES are stuck next to 8 DIFFERENT
D.N.A. RUNGS. Frank counts them.

FRANK (cont'd)

I've isolated and matched one two three...six...eight rungs.

MOLLY

(examines, impressed)

Bruce and Martin's shared mutations....

FRANK

Yes. Logic dictates these are the rungs affected by the gamma exposure. It'll work on Martin and Bruce, it'll work on the convicts. How much time?

MOLLY

(consults watch)

Less than an hour.

FRANK

Let's make some serum, Doctor.

(starts pulling down the POST-ITS and handing them to Molly.

D.N.A. rungs 4 through 6, rung 19, number 21, numbers 47 and 48....

CUT TO:

INT. FAST-FOOD DRIVE-THRU WINDOW - DAY

This could be McDonald's, Burger King, etc. FAST FOOD WORKERS make fast-food. The DRIVE-THRU WAITRESS walks through the kitchen with a HUGE TRAY.

She goes to the fast-food window and leans out:

DRIVE THRU WAITRESS

Okay, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Clinton get two large coffees with uhhh... fourteen sugars.

REVERSE ANGLE - THE RED CADILLAC

Novack, Deacon, and Hector sit in the Cadillac wearing Halloween masks of PRESIDENTS CLINTON, REAGAN, CARTER. Ralph is pushed down under the seat.

DRIVE THRU WAITRESS

And Mr. Carter gets three large ice teas....

She hands the ice teas to Novack.

Novack hands her a \$100 BILL.

ROAAARRR. The Caddy burns rubber and exits.

The waitress stands there, looking at the bill.

WAITRESS

Nice tip....

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT ROADHOUSE - DAY

Bad news. No one nice goes here. Harleys and rusted pick-ups parked outside. RATTLESNAKE HIDES for sale. A rusty porch swing CREAKS.

Banner straggles INTO FRAME in f.g., staggering in his split-seamed clothes towards the roadhouse.

EXT. DESERT ROADHOUSE - DAY

JED, NED, and RED, desert rats, play pool. The WAITRESS slouches at the bar/counter. The door opens. Banner enters.

The LOCALS turn and stare.
At Banner. At his split-seamed clothes.
Banner sits self-consciously at the counter.
A cruddy T.V. plays in the corner.
Banner's eyes are drawn to the T.V.

T.V. ANCHORMAN

Jim, can you tell us any more about the crash?

The T.V. NEWS REPORTER stands next to the AMTRAK WRECK.

T.V. NEWS REPORTER

Well Tim, the passengers have some pretty...unusual theories about what happened....

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S LAB - DAY

Molly and Frank watch the SERUM drip from the still.

FRANK

Just a couple c.c.'s more....

Molly grabs the phone. Punches numbers. It RINGS.

INT. RED CADILLAC - DRIVING - DAY

Novack grabs MOLLY'S RINGING CELL PHONE.
Intercut - NOVACK driving/MOLLY in the lab.

NOVACK

Yes?

MOLLY

I'm almost done.

NOVACK

Be at the intersection of Routes 66
and 90 in thirty minutes.

MOLLY

Let me speak to my son!

NOVACK

In thirty minutes, lady. Be there.

CLICK. END INTERCUT.
Molly turns to Frank.

MOLLY

Hurry.

INT. DESERT ROADHOUSE - DAY

Banner sits at the counter, transfixed by THE NEWSCAST.
They're playing a series of pre-recorded VIDEO BITES.

LITTLE BOY'S MOTHER

It was a large, grey, sort of
greenish...man.

COMMUTER BUSINESSMAN

I saw nothing. I was under my seat
the whole time....

COMMUTER BUSINESSWOMAN

I have nothing to say other than
Amtrak will hear from my lawyers....

LITTLE BOY

I saw him! He was big. A big
Hulkin' guy! Like a big Hulk....!

BACK TO SCENE - THE WAITRESS

taps on Banner's shoulder. Banner jolts.

BANNER

Oh. Hello. Uhh ma'am, I need to
make a phone call. And some food...

WAITRESS

(stares at him)

There's a payphone outside.

BANNER

I don't have any money. Can I use
yours?

WAITRESS

I' guessed you were goin' in that direction, Mister. Hell No. Jed? Ned? Red?

The LOCALS move in, surrounding Banner's bar stool. Banner swivels, facing Jed, Ned, and Red.

BANNER

I have four major credit cards, a home, not mortgaged, not far from here, a very expensive coin collection....

JED

Coins, huh? 'Spensive ones? What you want in return, boy?

BANNER

Just pay my bill - a phone call and a meal.

Ned looks at the others. Grabs a MENU and shoves it front of Banner. Banner looks at the Menu.

BANNER

Uhm...I'll have twelve hamburgers. Make that cheeseburgers.

(looks up)

I'm very hungry....

The LOCALS exchange looks.

RED

That does it. You're outta here, boy.

BANNER

This is a public place!

ED

Public fer you, private fer us.

JED

NOW, boy.

Banner doesn't move.

Jed slugs Banner hard, in the head.

Banner recovers. His eyes FERAL AND WILD.

BANNER

You shouldn't have done that.

JED

What? Did I make you angry?

CAMERA DUTCHES exactly like the Tom Cruise/Henry Czerny moment in "Mission Impossible":

BANNER

You've never seen me angry....

The locals move in on Banner and --

CUT OUTSIDE TO:

EXT. DESERT ROADHOUSE - PAYPHONE - DAY

All this is shot from the Roadhouse Public Payphone.

We hear SCREAMING! The POOL TABLE comes flying out of the Roadhouse's window. Then JED. The whole building shakes and shudders. NED comes flying out a second window. ONE WALL collapses. A SECOND WALL collapses.

The ROADHOUSE STRUCTURE implodes. Walls and roof collapsing in a heap. Dust flies. A pile of wreckage.

Seconds pass.
The dust settles.

BRUCE BANNER emerges from the rubble. He dusts himself off and walks to the payphone with a DIME in his hand. Goes inside the booth and punches numbers.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S ABANDONED LAB - DAY

Frank is readying VIALS OF PROTEIN SERUM.
The phone RINGS. Molly grabs it.

INTERCUT - MOLLY IN LAB/BRUCE IN ROADHOUSE PHONE BOOTH

BANNER

Molly?

MOLLY

BRUCE!?

BANNER

Molly, listen: I've changed. I'm not like the others, but I'm.... different.

MOLLY

I know, I know, I was there. Bruce, uhm what do you look like at this point?

BANNER

What do I look like?

MOLLY

Last I saw you, you were about two feet taller than Shaquille O'Neil and sort of...green...?

BANNER

No, I'm myself again. The mutations are in my brain stem, maybe adrenal glands - any extreme fear or anger, I get this hormonal rush and....

(looks at collapsed roadhouse)

...it's not a good situation.

MOLLY

Okay, the good news: we've got the serum made.

BANNER

(as if praying)

Thank-you thank-you thank-you....

MOLLY

The bads news is the convicts have Ralph. I'll explain it later, where are you?

BANNER

A roadhouse, uhh, what was a roadhouse...on route 66.

MOLLY

I'll be there in twenty minutes.
DON'T GO ANYWHERE.

CLICK. END INTERCUT - Molly hangs up, turns to Frank.

MOLLY

I need a delivery system.

FRANK hands Molly four COMPRESSION INNOCULATORS.

FRANK

Done. Compression innoculators, they use 'em in the Third World. No needles, just press the button and the juice is delivered....

MOLLY

Frank, I'm a doctor.....

FRANK

Right. Sorry.

MOLLY

Look, I just met you - this has been kind of a strange day - but thank-you. I mean it. For everything.

FRANK

You're welcome. What should I do?

MOLLY

Pray for us.

And Molly hurries out, and --

CUT TO:

INT. MCGURK'S COMMAND POST - DAY

Sam Dash paces in front of McGurk and his agents.

DASH

It's been nearly four hours! You have no results? Nothing?

MCGURK

The Pentagon's giving us thermal images from a surveillance satellite.

DASH

(he's not)

Oh, I'm very impressed with this....

MCGURK

(holds up MELTED PEN)

What Novack used to sign in at the Motel. He's running a little hot.

A TECHNICIAN looks up from his CONSOLE, displaying the satellite's THERMAL IMAGING of the area.

TECHNICIAN

Thermals coming in from the satellite, sir. Here! Got one off the charts! Looks like a...vehicle heading toward Route 66 on Route 90.

Dash grabs a phone, punches numbers.

DASH

San Ramos Air Force Base...

EXT. SAN RAMOS AIR FORCE BASE - DAY

TWO U.S.A.F. PILOTS run across the tarmac to their jets, the A-10 THUNDERBOLT "WARTHOG" tank killers.

INT. RED CADILLAC - DRIVING - DAY

Novack, his skin glowing preternaturally, drives. Ralph and Hector and Deacon in the back.

CUT TO:

A COMPRESSION INNOCULATOR - with LIQUID PROTEIN SERUM shifting inside.

BANNER (v.o.)

Amazing. Why didn't I think of it?

INT. BRUCE'S PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

RACK FOCUS from the innoculator to BRUCE BANNER, riding with Molly, who steers with the pedal to the floor.

BANNER (v.o.)

Coating the mutated DNA with an amino acid protein.

MOLLY

What are you waiting for.
Administer it.

Banner looks at the innoculator. Hands it to Molly.

BANNER

I take that when Ralph's safe. Not until.

MOLLY

(nods understanding)
That's big of you - sorry, bad pun.

BANNER

(closes eyes)
Like one that on Lonesome Road
Doth walk in fear and dread.
Because he knows a frightful fiend
Doth close behind him tread....
(voice trails off...)

MOLLY

Edgar Allen Poe?

BANNER

Coleridge. Freshman year. I was too busy with Salk and Einstein. I should have listened.
(slams his fist against the dashboard)
My entire life...given to this.
This is isn't science, it's madness!
What a fool I've been...!

Molly casts Banner a nervous glance.

MOLLY

Don't get angry, Bruce. Swear, cuss, stamp your feet, just don't get angry....

CUT TO:

EXT. A-10 THUNDERBOLTS - IN FLIGHT - DAY

The A-10 Thunderbolts scream across the desert floor.

INT. A-10 THUNDERBOLT #1 - DAY

The A-10 Pilot looks at a THERMAL TRACKING DEVICE.

TECHNICIAN

Hot one bearing 145 degrees
longitude, 80 degrees latitude.

CUT TO:

EXT. INTERSECTION - ROUTES 66 and 90 - DAY

The bi-plane location from "North by Northwest."
Endless irrigated farmland. Mountains in the b.g. Next
to the intersection is a field of WITHERED CORNSTALKS.

THE RED CADILLAC and BRUCE'S PORSCHE approach the
intersection and stop.

Novack and Hector (still wearing the duster and
President Reagan mask) emerge from the Cadillac. Ralph
stays in the Cadillac's rear seat with Deacon.

Molly gets out of the Porsche carrying the SERUM CASE.
Molly on one side of the road, the convicts on the
other. They tensely regard each other.

NOVACK

Where's the cure?

MOLLY

Where's my son?

From inside the Cadillac:

RALPH

Mom! I'm all right!

MOLLY sees Ralph. Satisfied, she opens the case,
revealing the three remaining VIALS OF SERUM and three
COMPRESSION INNOCULATORS.

MOLLY

One for each of you.

HECTOR

How do we know it works?

MOLLY

I've already tested it. Bruce.

BANNER emerges from the Porsche. Walks up to the Molly.

MOLLY

See? Looks fine to me.

Novack and Hector look Banner up and down.

NOVACK

You told no one?

MOLLY

No one.

NOVACK

Big mistake lady. 'Cause outside o'
the 81st Airborne, who can stop us?

(advances)

Give me the drug.

MOLLY

Not without my son.

NOVACK

We're goin' to Mexico. Your boy's
our insurance. Say "adios", boy.RALPH, terrified, wriggles in Deacon's grip.
Novack advances.Banner grabs the SERUM VIALS from Molly, puts them on
the asphalt. He raises his shoe over the vials.

BANNER

Give her the boy...

MOLLY

And my phone.

BANNER

And her phone, right now, or goodbye
cure.Novack stops cold, eyes burning. Banner's got him.

NOVACK

Okay, doc. We do it your way.
Deacon, let him go!

Novack slides Molly's PHONE across the asphalt to Molly.

AT THE CADILLAC - Deacon releases Ralph. RALPH runs across the
intersection to Molly, falling into her outstretched arms.
Molly hugs Ralph tight.

MOLLY

Oh honey, you okay?

RALPH

Yeah mom.

MOLLY
Hop in the car, okay?

Ralph goes to the Porsche. Molly kicks the SERUM. It scuttles across the asphalt to Novack. Novack picks it up and hands out vials to Deacon and Hector.

MOLLY
Three compression inoculators and three vials of serum. Insert the vial in the slot in the handle.

Each convict takes a vial and a CO2 inoculator and begins preparing for injection, and --

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S LAB - CONTINUOUS

Frank is jotting down the serum's recipe on a NOTEPAD. Frank looks at the yellow POST-IT marked "61." Something is wrong. He goes to the COMPUTER RENDERING of Banner's D.N.A.

FRANK
61? I don't remember a 61....

The Post-it doesn't fit with the others. Its adhesive is seemingly on the wrong end. So Frank turns the "Post-It" upside down. And the "61" now becomes "19."

Frank shudders, his jaw dropping. He wanted the serum to treat D.N.A. Rung #19. Instead the serum will treat D.N.A. Rung #61.

FRANK
Oh no.....

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. INTERSECTION - ROUTES 66 AND 90 - DAY

MOLLY
Put it against your necks and press. It'll pump into the bloodstream.

The convicts raise the inoculators to their necks, exchanging anxious glances.

BANNER
What are you waiting for? Pull the trigger. Welcome back to the world.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. FRANK'S LAB - DAY

Frank frantically grabs his phone. Punches numbers.

FRANK

My God what have I done...it wasn't
61...it was 19. The serum...

EXT. INTERSECTION - ROUTES 66 and 90 - DAY

The three CONVICTS' FINGERS begin to press down on the
innoculators, when suddenly --

MOLLY'S CELL PHONE RINGS. Molly and Banner stare
ominously at the phone. Molly answers.

MOLLY

Hello?

FRANK (o.s, over phone)

Molly! Don't give it to them! I
made a mistake - the serum's bad!

MOLLY

What?

THE CONVICTS squeeze the innoculators; the CO2 fires
serum into their veins. They lower their innoculators.
There is A CRACKLING NOISE. Molly and Bruce stare open-
mouthed across the road in shock.

MOLLY

Little late to tell me this, Frank.

DEACON straightens, stretching his spine. TWO SLIMY
WINGS sprout between his shoulder blades. Insect-like
armor appears on his face. He grows six feet a second,
his skin turning to scales like roofing shingles.

RALPH

(inside Porsche)

Whoah....

NOVACK'S skin grows redder; his face elongates. He
grabs the Cadillac's side mirror, looks at himself.
POOF! His hair ignites. THE SIDE MIRROR melts in
Novack's fingers like melted cheese.

HECTOR starts vibrating, becoming a blur, like a humming
bird. He jumps about - a streak of color - not going
anywhere, not standing still.

MOLLY AND BRUCE back towards Banner's Porsche. Bruce
opens the door and shoves Molly inside next to Ralph.
Bruce kicks the door shut, stands outside the car.

BANNER

Start the car, go as fast as you
can, and don't look back...

ON THE HORIZON - two A-10 THUNDERBOLT "WARTHOG" TANK KILLERS head toward the intersection.

INT. A-10 THUNDERBOLT #1 - COCKPIT

THUNDERBOLT PILOT #1
(into mouthpiece)
We have targets in visual, I repeat
we have targets in visual.

CUT TO:

EXT. INTERSECTION - ROUTES 66 and 90 - DAY

Novack, Hector, and Deacon move across the intersection toward Banner and the Porsche.

NOVACK
You lying witch!

HECTOR
You tricked us!

BANNER
Molly, GO!

Molly engages the gears. The Porsche BURNS RUBBER and flies off down the highway.

The CONVICTS, rushing forward, stop in their tracks.

BANNER grows from 6 ft. to 9 ft. in four seconds. Becoming THE HULK. Hulk snarls at the convicts. The convicts surround Hulk. Just as the Fight Of The Century is about to engage...

IN THE AIR ABOVE - The A-10's ENGINE WASH grows louder. The fighters are closing in.

EXT. SKIES ABOVE INTERSECTION - DAY

Down the A-10 Thunderbolts come.

EXT. INTERSECTION - ROUTES 66 AND 90 - DAY

The convicts SCATTER.
NOVACK sprints to the Cadillac. He grabs the BAG OF MONEY. The PAPER MONEY ignites in Novack's hands. NOVACK SCREAMS and runs off into the desert.

DEACON runs to the side of the road and, with immense power and aggression, corkscrew-churns into the sand.

HULK and HECTOR sprint into the cornfield.

EXT. CORNFIELD OFF ROUTE 66 - DAY

The stalks are picked of corn and dried out.

HULK'S HUGE HEAD AND HUGE SHOULDERS move through the cornstalks, leaving a FLATTENED PATH. This is the "Classic Hulk," as close to the comic book as we'll get. He's about 12 feet tall, grey naugahyde-like skin.

In the b.g., the A-10 Thunderbolts arc around.
And down they come.

A-10 Thunderbolt #1 dives over the cornfield, releasing NAPALM CANISTERS on the dried-out stalks. Instantly the field is raging inferno - as volatile as a canyon fire.

A RING OF FIRE surrounds Hulk. His eyes dart in terror; He whirls around, ROARING. It is ungodly, terrifying.

HULK sprints through the fire.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF CORNFIELD - DAY

Hector emerges, now almost totally hummingbird-like. HIS HAND BONES have grown into elongated, spread-out, hollow BIRD BONES, the skin stretching over them. He flaps his arms at 2500 motions per minute and....

HECTOR lifts off the ground, taking flight!

INT. A-10 THUNDERBOLT #2 - COCKPIT - DAY

The pilot sees HECTOR taking flight. He stabs a ROCKET LAUNCH BUTTON.

EXT. A-10 THUNDERBOLT #2 - IN FLIGHT - DAY

A ROCKET launches from the A-10's under-wing. The ROCKET is not concussive. It flies straight for Hector, then POPS OPEN, fanning into a 50 FT. DIAMETER STEEL NET. The net hits Hector, closing around his wings, trapping him. Hector falls....

HECTOR lands with a THUD, wrapped in the steel net. He SCREECHES like a bird. The fire in the cornfield rages in the b.g.

EXT. SIDE OF CORNFIELD - DAY

Hulk lumbers out of the cornfield next to an old FARM SHED. A RUSTED COCA-COLA SIGN (10 ft. diameter, round like a frisbee, used to adorn sides of buildings). He rips off the Coca-Cola sign and turns --

A-10 Thunderbolt #1 is diving straight for Hulk.

HULK throws the Coca-Cola sign like a frisbee. It whirls toward A-10 Thunderbolt #1.

INT. A-10 THUNDERBOLT #1 - COCKPIT - DAY

THE PILOT looks down in shock as the COCA-COLA sign

whirls toward his cockpit window. It hits, SMASHING the windshield.

The A-10 veers, out of control. It rolls over. THE PILOT hits the EJECT BUTTON and ejects from the cockpit.

EXT. SKIES OVER CORNFIELD - DAY

The pilot's parachute pops. The A-10 veers over a hill in the b.g. A HUGE EXPLOSION as it crashes and burns.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Hulk races away, running parallel to the cornfield. He stops. In his path is HECTOR, writhing in the steel net.

HECTOR

Help me! Don't leave me!

Hulk looks up to the skies. A-10 Thunderbolt #2 is a mile off, arcing around for another run.

Hulk untangles the steel net, freeing HECTOR.

HECTOR

Thank-you doctor....

And Hector's eyes go dead. He chirps evilly.

HECTOR

Thank you very much for all you've done for me....

Hector, wings buzzing, attacks Hulk. Hector's torso is huge and muscular. He has a BEAK now. The effect is terrifying. He lands on Hulk's shoulders like a falcon, stabbing his beak into Hulk's head!

Hulk ROARS, flailing, trying to get off him. Hector's attack is relentless. In the b.g, the A-10 THUNDERBOLT begins to dive again.

Hulk, driven to his knees by Hector's savage attack, grabs the STEEL NET and whips it around - THWWP! THWWP! - Hector's flapping wings, enmeshing him. Hulk then heaves Hector, encased in the net, flapping furiously, into the RAGING FIRE IN THE CORNFIELD.

We HEAR HECTOR'S SCREAMS as he burns.... Hulk sprints off toward the highway.

EXT. ROUTE 66 - DAY

Hulk exits the cornfield and thunders down Route 66. Thunderbolt #1, on Hulk's tail, fires a SECOND "NET" MISSILE. The net POPS. It falls to the highway.

The metal net CLANGS down on the asphalt like heavy chain-mail, just missing as Hulk races under it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT GAS STATION - ESTABLISHING - DAY

One crappy gas pump and two tin-shack buildings.

INT. DESERT GAS STATION - GARAGE - DAY

Like the facade, crappy and cluttered. Two legs stick out from under a Ford Thunderbird.

UNDER THE THUNDERBIRD - a scraggly desert-rat MECHANIC wrenches a muffler clamp tight. On the ground next to him, TWO FEET appear...

NOVACK (o.s.)

'Scuse me. Where's this road go?

The Mechanic responds to Novack without looking away from his work.

MECHANIC

Winds through the mountains about twenty miles until the suspension bridge.

NOVACK (o.s.)

Any faster way to the bridge?

MECHANIC

By dirt bike it's a mile and half. That means goin' through the desert.

NOVACK (o.s.)

I like the desert.

MECHANIC

Won't like this one, fellah. Full o' nuclear waste. Been dumpin' since Amalgamated built that damn reactor and rocket launcher. Not a real attractive short cut.

Novack's feet walk away. Moments later - VROOM! - the sound of a motorcycle starting up.

The Mechanic slides out from under the car.

MECHANIC

Hey!!

NOVACK, glowing on the motorcycle, rides off into the desert. The mechanic looks down at --

ACROSS THE ASPHALT - there are STEAMING, MELTED FOOTPRINTS, as if left in snow, where Novack walked from the Thunderbird to the motorcycle.

The Mechanic scratches his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROUTE 66 - DAY

Hulk pulls up next to a TELEPHONE POLE (the telephone lines stretch all the way down Route 66).

A-10 Thunderbolt #2 is banking in the distance. It divebombs for another run at Hulk.

Hulk stoops next to the telephone pole. With all his might he strains.....and lifts the telephone pole out of its hole! The telephone pole rises another 20 feet, pulling up the TELEPHONE LINES with it.

The A-10 Thunderbolt can't veer away, can't maneuver under or over the raised telephone line. The line clips the rear of the A-10 Thunderbolt, cleaving the jet's REAR-MOUNTED JET engine clear off.

The engine-less A-10 Thunderbolt falls. The pilot ejects. The A-10 Thunderbolt THUDS down and, slinging dirt, skids into the cornfield.

The Pilot parachutes to the ground. He gets up, fumbling with his parachute pack when --

HULK'S 15 FOOT SILHOUETTE falls over him. The Pilot yanks off the parachute and runs into the desert, never looking back. Hulk lets loose a primordial howl.

HULK

Molly!

Hulk runs off down the road, towards the mountains in the direction of the Suspension Bridge.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD TO SUSPENSION BRIDGE - DAY

Banner's Porsche moves through the mountain pass.

MOLLY

Thank God, we're out of these mountains.

RALPH

Mom, I've got to go to the bathroom.

They round a corner and descend. The SUSPENSION BRIDGE comes into view, ahead and below.

Novack runs across the bridge into the oncoming traffic!

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

Country Joe sees Novack and slams on the brakes.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly slams on her brakes to avoid hitting the Humvee.

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE - DAY

Novack reaches the bridge's other side. Oncoming motorists swerve. One of them is a YELLOW SCHOOL BUS.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The SCHOOLBUS DRIVER hits the brakes to avoid Novack. The bus starts to skid. The SCHOOL KIDS SCREAM.

EXT. BRIDGE RAILING - DAY

Novack reaches the other side of the bridge and swings his arm at two more suspension cables. FLASH! FLASH! and THWWPP! THWWPP!, the two cables sever and retract violently.

EXT. BRIDGE - WIDE SHOT - DAY

RIP! The roadbed gives way, snapping across the cut fissure. Concrete and steel rebar burst up. The roadbed drops 3 feet and hangs like a ramp with a 3 foot lip between it and the still-supported half of roadbed.

The School Bus, tires SCREECHING plunges over the lip, dropping 3 feet onto the unsupported half of roadbed, and SMASHING DOWN. The bus' rear wheels remain on the still-supported side of the bridge.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

Country Joe, foot on brakes, throws up his hands. He's going to smash into the lip.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly stomps on the brakes, her tires screeching behind the Humvee.

EXT. BRIDGE - WIDE SHOT - DAY

THE HUMVEE slams into the jagged 3 foot lip of concrete, impaling its front grill on the jagged rebar.

The Porsche Roadster rams into the Humvee's rear.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly's and Ralph's seatbelts cinch, saving them, but Molly's head smacks on the steering wheel.

EXT. BRIDGE - WIDE SHOT - DAY

The cars behind Molly swerve and fishtail, smacking into each other. Finally stopping.

Finally it's over. All still.

EXT. HUMVEE - DAY

The door flies open. Country Joe falls out on his butt on the pavement. He sits there, dazed, his UNLIT CIGAR dangling from his lips.

NOVACK, emanating heat like a human torch, enters frame in the foreground.

COUNTRY JOE looks up at Novack, speechless, terrified. His unlit cigar blubbering in his mouth.

Novack leans down, snaps his fingers, producing a flame from his index finger like a BIC lighter. He lights Country Joe's cigar.

NOVACK

Now get out of here.

Country Joe gets up and sprints off down the bridge, running the way his vehicle came.

Nearby MOTORISTS see Novack and, also terrified, take off behind Country Joe, abandoning their cars.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly comes-to, dazed. Her forehead is cut. She turns to check on Ralph.

RALPH

Mom! Are you all right?

MOLLY

I think so. Get out honey, quickly.

Ralph opens the passenger side door. Suddenly --

A GLOWING HAND reaches in, closing around Ralph's seatbelt PUSH-BUTTON RELEASE. It's instantly spot-welded into a smoldering clump of plastic and metal.

NOVACK

You're not going anywhere.

Novack kicks the door shut and walks around the side of the car. He's calm. He has plenty of time.

RALPH
(struggling in seat
belt)
Mom, I can't get out!

Molly rolls up the windows, locks the doors, and desperately tries to help Ralph out of his seatbelt.

NOVACK'S GLOWING FORM appears outside Molly's window. His hand touches the glass, inches from Molly's face. His HOT FINGERTIPS push right through the glass.

MOLTEN GLASS falls on Molly's seat. Molly squirms away from the dripping glass. Novack waves his hand, widening the hole in the window. Molly SCREAMS like Neve Campbell in "Scream."

NOVACK'S FACE lowers into frame, looking demoniacally through the burning glass at Molly.

NOVACK
You double crossed us.

MOLLY
I didn't, I swear, something went wrong!

NOVACK
You're right, lady. Something went very wrong.

Novack's burning hand moves towards Molly's face. He's going to burn a hole in her skull, when:

HULK (V.O.)
Leave her alone.

EXT. PORSCHE ROADSTER/SUSPENSION BRIDGE - DAY

Novack whirls around.
HULK stands twenty yards behind Molly's car.

Novack leaves Molly's car and advances on Hulk.
Hulk advances to meet Novack's challenge.

Novack swings his arm like a light saber, slashing Hulk's thick naugahyde skin - burning a foot-long gash in Hulk like an acetylene torch.

Hulk spins around, HOWLING in pain. His eyes glint with pain and fear.

Novack advances again. Hulk, intimidated now, begins

backing up past Molly's car, past the Humvee, toward the jagged fissure between the two halves of bridge.

On comes Novack. Hulk jumps up 3 feet onto the still-supported side of the bridge. Novack jumps up after Hulk, bearing down on him....

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The SCHOOL BUS DRIVER is trying to open the door but its flush against the bridge railing. Kids are trapped inside; many are crying. They look down in horror at Hulk walking backwards, followed by Novack.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly now struggles to get Ralph out of his fused-shut seatbelt.

RALPH

Mom, you've got to cut it!

MOLLY

Hang on, honey, I'll be right back!

Molly gets out, looks around frantically for something sharp to cut the vinyl seatbelt.

EXT. BRIDGE RAILING - SUSPENSION CABLES - DAY

The UNSEVERED CABLES on the damaged side of the bridge are beginning to weaken under the added weight. THREADS start to POP and shear off.

EXT. STILL-SUPPORTED SIDE OF BRIDGE - DAY

Hulk picks up a Ford sedan, holds it sideways, in front of him like a Roman Centurion's shield.

Novack advances, swinging his arm down like an axe, splitting the car in two.

The Hulk is left with the car's rear in one hand, the front in the other. He tosses the two car halves aside.

On comes Novack.

EXT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly finds a HUGE SHARD OF WINDSHIELD GLASS. She rips off a piece of her shirt, wraps her hand with it, picks up the shard, and climbs back in her car.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly, with the glass shard, starts sawing Ralph's vinyl seat belt.

EXT. BRIDGE RAILING - SUSPENSION CABLES - DAY

The UNSEVERED CABLES on the bridge's damaged side can't stand the weight. More threads begin to break POP! POP!

EXT. STILL-SUPPORTED SIDE OF BRIDGE - DAY

Novack has the Hulk backed against the rear of a turned-over, fishtailed truck with a SMASHED-IN CAB. Over the truck's REAR DOORS: "ARMOUR FROZEN MEATS." The rear door hangs open. FROZEN SIDES OF BEEF hang within.

Novack lunges at Hulk. Hulk steps aside, letting Novack's momentum carry him into the meat truck. Then Hulk slams the door.

The meat truck's door glows red-hot. NOVACK'S HAND presses out through the steel door, turning it molten. Novack's hand rips the door lock violently off.

The Meat truck's door bursts open. Novack emerges, revealing the frozen sides of beef, NOW COOKED LIKE STEAKS! Novack yanks off a beef shank, eats a piece.

NOVACK

...Mmmmm...

He throws the shank aside, steps towards Hulk.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly continues to saw on Ralph's seat belt.

EXT. SUSPENSION CABLES - DAY

The cables continue to fray, more steel threads POPPING.

EXT. STILL-SUPPORTED SIDE OF BRIDGE - DAY

On Novack comes. The Hulk backing up. Novack lunges, searing a HUGE GASH in Hulk's arm, then leg. Hulk goes to one knee, groaning. He's not going to make it.

On Novack comes. Hulk now straggling/crawling for his life. As Novack appears over Hulk, ready to torch his body in two, HULK reaches through the meat truck's SMASHED WINDSHIELD, grabbing the HALON GAS FIRE EXTINGUISHER mounted on the cab's back wall.

Hulk comes up, firing the halon gas extinguisher in Novack's face. NOVACK SCREAMS, an other-worldly howl.

Novack writhes in a death dance, his fire, literally, extinguished. He's blinded, flailing, as ruined as the Wicked Witch of the West.

The Hulk gets to his feet and grabs a BROKEN STREETLIGHT

POLE. He swings it like a baseball bat. It connects, hitting Novack flush. NOVACK rockets like a baseball off the bridge, falling, flaming, crashing into the river below, disappearing into the water like AN IMMERSSED STEEL INGOT.

INT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly finally saws through Ralph's seatbelt. The two frantically get out of the Porsche as --

EXT. SUSPENSION CABLES - DAY

-- SNAP!! The last suspension CABLES rip apart. The damaged side of the bridge drops another 10 FEET.

EXT. HUMVEE - DAY

As the bridge drops, the Humvee's front tires and grill ram further into the concrete and rebar of the lip, preventing the Humvee from going over the edge.

EXT. PORSCHE ROADSTER - DAY

Molly and Ralph struggle to their feet as the bridge falls. It's now like being on a steep hill. The PORSCHE ROADSTER slides off the bridge.

THE ABANDONED CARS "above" them start rolling down the steep incline towards the bridge's fissure, coming straight for Molly and Ralph.

EXT. STILL-SUPPORTED SIDE OF THE BRIDGE - DAY

The Hulk whirls around; sees the cars rolling at Molly and Ralph.

HULK

Molly!

Hulk then hears SCHOOL CHILDREN SCREAMING. He turns toward the sound.

THE SCHOOL BUS is TEETERING OFF THE LIP OF THE STILL-SUPPORTED SIDE OF THE BRIDGE; the front wheels, before supported by the damaged side of bridge, hang in mid-air; the bus rocks on its undercarriage like a see-saw.

Hulks runs to the school bus' REAR BUMPER and begins pulling it off the lip, back to safety.

EXT. HUMVEE - DAY

Molly shoves Ralph into the Humvee. One of the ROLLING CARS jackknives and begins tumbling....

Molly jumps into the Humvee behind Ralph as the tumbling car CRUNCHES the Humvee's rear, ricochets off and --

-- rolls off the lip of the bridge, dead-falling into the swirling river of the gorge below.

OTHER CARS TUMBLE BY. The Humvee remains anchored, stuck in the twisted rebar and concrete at the lip.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

Molly turns the ignition, throws the Humvee into gear.

EXT. HUMVEE'S REAR - DAY

The Humvee's tires spin, burn rubber, but they can't free the vehicle from the rebar.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

Ralph climbs through the Humvee's smashed windshield onto the front hood.

MOLLY

Ralph don't. Get back!!

RALPH

Stay here mom!

EXT. FRONT OF HUMVEE - DAY

Ralph crawls across the Humvee's hood, grabbing the Humvee's FRONT TOW-WINCH CABLE. He flips the release lever and spools out the hook-and-cable.

Ralph climbs over the top of the car, from front to rear, and steps from the Humvee to --

EXT. BRIDGE RAILING - WITH RALPH - DAY

-- the bridge railing. Ralph reaches up to hook the towing cable to one of the severed suspension cables.

Below Ralph is 600 feet of sheer drop. Ralph's feet slip and slide on the bridge railing.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Hulk pulls the bus up to still-supported side of bridge. The kids CHEER. Hulk runs around the bus to the lip.

EXT. STILL-SUPPORTED SIDE OF BRIDGE - DAY

Hulk watches Ralph trying to attach the winch hook to the severed suspension cable. Ralph's coming up short.

Hulk stands on the extreme lip of the still-supported

side of bridge. The twisted railing of the collapsed side is within his reach. He stretches a long arm out, grabs a girder....and STRAINS.

The roadway lifts, just 10 inches maybe, but maybe enough for Ralph to connect the cable....

EXT. BRIDGE RAILING - WITH RALPH - DAY

Ralph strains, reaching as high as he can. His foot slips! Ralph nearly falls 600 feet. He recovers and reeeeeeaches again.....

EXT. SUSPENSION CABLES - DAY

Further down the bridge MORE SUSPENSION CABLES begin to fray and SNAP!

EXT. LIP OF BRIDGE - DAY

Hulk can't hold the bridge any longer. And the last suspension cables are SNAP SNAPPING!

EXT. BRIDGE RAILING - WITH RALPH - DAY

Ralph, straining.....
Finally he connects the two cables as --

EXT. DAMAGED SIDE OF BRIDGE - DAY

THE ENTIRE SECTION OF BRIDGE BENEATH THE HUMVEE falls away. The Humvee flips over and drops.....and SNAG. It stops, supported by the towing cable connected to the suspension cable, and it hangs there.....

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

Molly is thrown around the inside of the cab.

EXT. SIDE OF SUSPENSION BRIDGE - DAY

The connected cables catch and hold, suspending the Humvee. Ralph clings to the cable like a kid on a rope in Phys. Ed. class.

RALPH

Mom, hit the spool-in switch!

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

Molly comes to her senses. She looks for the Humvee's TOWING CABLE "SPOOL-IN" SWITCH. She flips it.

EXT. FRONT OF HUMVEE - DAY

The winch comes to life and begins pulling in its cable, raising the supported Humvee.

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE - WIDE SHOT - DAY

The Humvee winches itself up to the level of the supported side of the bridge.

The Hulk rushes to the levitating Humvee, reaches out and grabs the front bumper, swings it over to the still-supported side of bridge, and sets it down.

Ralph shimmies down the cable to the roof, and jumps safely to the pavement. Molly climbs out. Ralph runs to Molly, who reels in Ralph, squeezes him tight. The terror is finally over, emotions pitched.

MOLLY

Ralph Ralph, oh honey, I love you -
DON'T EVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT
AGAIN.

RALPH

We did it mom!

MOLLY

(looks around for
Hulk)
Where is.....he?

Together Molly and Ralph walk around the other side of the Humvee to find, not the Hulk, but --

BRUCE BANNER lying beind the Humvee in a heap where the Hulk collapsed. Molly and Ralph help Banner up. He's dazed, his nerves shattered.

Banner, Molly and Ralph, a weary threesome, get in the Humvee. CRANE UP as they drive off and away from the suspension bridge, leaving the disaster area.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAUNCH FACILITY - DAY

The Humvee is where the Porsche was parked, outside the launch facility, with the gantry and rocket in the b.g.

INT. FRANK'S LAB - NIGHT

Molly is applying a bandage to Ralph's cut and bruised arms and hands.

RALPH

Thanks mom.

Frank is with Banner by the protein serum "still."

FRANK

A simple mistake. It could've happened to anyone.

BANNER

An upside down post-it note?

FRANK

Okay, sue me! I'm sorry.

Frank looks like he's gonna start bawling....

BANNER

Take it easy, Frank, it's all right.

FRANK

(looks up)

So what happened out there?

BANNER

Watch the news tonight. Where do we stand with the serum?

Frank leads Banner to his serum "still." Banner stares at the pieced-together contraption of beakers and tubes.

FRANK

You'll need at least 10 cc's. It'll take another...

(looks at watch)

....half an hour.

(Banner gives him a hard look)

It's a slow drip process. I promise! In thirty minutes you'll be a new man.

BANNER

I am a new man, Frank. I'd like to be the old version....

FRANK

You know what I mean.

Banner looks at the wall-mounted CLOCK reading 9:01, turns and looks at the still, then at Frank and --

CUT TO:

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE - NIGHT

Police floodlights illuminate the bridge entrance. McGurk's agents examine the destroyed bridge. Sam Dash, watches from the foot of the bridge. McGurk paces.

AGENT 1

Hector's dead. They found what was left of him out by that cornfield.

MCGURK

Novack?

AGENT 1

Down there sir.

Agent 1 points down below the bridge. A team of DIVERS is pulling up NOVACK'S CORPSE, charred like a burnt log.

DASH

Which leaves Deacon and Banner.

(looks off to horizon)

Where are you, boys, or whatever you are....

AGENT 2

The vehicles on the bridge are accounted for, sir, except one.

MCGURK

Lead somewhere with this, quickly.

AGENT 2

The missing vehicle's parked outside the launch facility, sir.

McGurk and Dash exchange a glance and CUT TO:

EXT. LAUNCH FACILITY - NIGHT

The Humvee sits parked there.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY - FRANK'S LAB - NIGHT

The wall mounted clock clicks to 9:30 pm. DRIP... DRIP...DRIP the last drops of protein serum fill the petrie dish beneath the serum "still."

FRANK

Done. It's done!

Banner watches it patiently. Molly grabs the petrie dish. She pushes a syringe NEEDLE into the dish and starts drawing the protein serum into the syringe.

MOLLY

Hang on Bruce, this nightmare is almost over....

CUT TO:

EXT. BETWEEN GAMMA REACTOR AND LAUNCH FACILITY - NIGHT

No it isn't. The GAMMA REACTOR DOME looms unmistakably

across the desert floor. The sand trembles, shakes. DEACON'S BEETLE-LIKE HEAD churns up out of the sand. His fully developed ANTENNAE take in the surroundings.

Deacon turns 180 degrees, toward the MARS LAUNCH FACILITY. With a WHIRRING noise, he burrows back down. The ground bulges up in a-vector toward the launch facility, marking Deacon's SUBTERRANEAN progress.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY - LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The control room for the Mars launch, inside the immense hangar which warehouses the 6-story launch gantry and Mars booster rocket.

MARS LAUNCH TECHNICIANS move about, monitoring a vast array of CONSOLES. The floor shakes. TECHNICIANS check their monitors. The read-out needles jiggle violently.

MARS LAUNCH TECHNICIAN 1

The seismic's are spiking off the map, Skip!

INT. FRANK'S LAB - NIGHT

The floor shakes. BEAKERS and BOTTLES RATTLE on the shelves and counter tops. The serum "still" topples, hitting the serum dish. It slides toward the edge.

MOLLY snags it in time. Nothing spills. Everyone freezes. The room continues to SHAKE.

MOLLY

Earthquake?

FRANK

We're in the safest place! We've got shock absorbers underneath and triple reinforced steel and concrete!!

EXT. MARS LAUNCH FACILITY - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

McGurk, Dash, and Agents exit their vehicles. The ground is rocking.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY - LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The room is QUAKING. Technicians are nervous now.

TECHNICIAN

I've got a 7.2 Richter reading!

THE CONCRETE FLOOR bursts upward, spewing concrete chips, bending the rebar up --

DEACON, in all his glory, churns up into the room. He

stands 12 feet tall; his arms are giant, beetle-like pincers; his skin is an insect exoskeleton.

LAUNCH TECHNICIANS stare in horror and fascination. One stabs a KLAXON. The Technicians run screaming from the room. They pile through a door into the control room's SECURITY ANTE-ROOM and spin the hatchwheel shut.

Deacon emits an ear-piercing SCREEEECH.

INT. OUTSIDE SECURITY ANTE-ROOM - NIGHT

FRANTIC TECHNICIANS exit the ante-room, running into Dash, McGurk and his agents. Chaos. The Klaxon DRONES. Dash grabs a fleeing YOUNG TECHNICIAN.

DASH

Get back in there! It's just an earthquake!

YOUNG LAUNCH TECHNICIAN

It's not an earthquake!

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Klaxon stops. Bottles and beakers stop rattling.

MOLLY

Thank God.

(turns to Banner with
the FULL SYRINGE)

You ready?

Banner nods. Grips a length of SURGICAL TUBING around his arm, swelling a vein. Molly hands him the syringe. Banner presses it to his arm, thumbing the plunger.

BANNER

So long, big green guy....

Banner hesitates. Lifts the needle from his arm.

BANNER

It's October, right?

FRANK

The twelfth.

BANNER

October through December has the lowest incidence of earthquakes.

MOLLY

Bruce, we can discuss this later.

RALPH

He's right, mom. Never any earthquakes in October. The odds are like sixty thousand to one....

Banner points at a bank of SURVEILLANCE MONITORS showing points around the launch facility.

BANNER

Can you see into the control room?

FRANK

Yes.

Frank flips the MONITOR, gets the LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM.

ON THE MONITOR - DEACON moves through the LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM, throwing computers aside, ransacking the place.

PUSH IN ON Banner, Molly, Frank and Ralph.

BANNER

Deacon's come home.

DASH (o.s.)

That's exactly what he's done.

The group whirls around. DASH, MCGURK, AND TWO AGENTS stand in the doorway. They enter. Dash looks at Banner's syringe and surgical tubing.

DASH

Have you been driven to drugs, Banner?

BANNER

It's an antidote. It reverses the mutation.

DASH

(condescends)

Ahh. The antidote Frank's been promising Martin for ten years?

BANNER

No, one that works. It's been a long day, Dash. Let's go down to the control room and end this.

(holds up SYRINGE)

Deacon's waiting for his medicine.

MOLLY

Bruce, no! That dose is for you!

BANNER

(determined)
 We'll make more.
 (to McGurk)
 I'll need a delivery system.
 Something to get it into his tissue.

McGurk opens a case, pulling out TRANQUILIZER RIFLES.
 McGurk slides the action with a CLICK.

MCGURK

Like this?

BANNER

Perfect.

DASH

(to Banner and Molly)
 You two come with me.
 (to Frank and Ralph)
 Those two stay here.

RALPH

But mom...

MOLLY

(kneels next to Ralph)
 It's okay, honey. Nothing bad's
 going to happen. Stay here with
 Doctor Ringwald.

Banner and Molly follow Dash and the group out.

RALPH

Hey Bruce. Better take this...
 (holds up can of RAID)
 Just kidding.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY - LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Deacon stands at the LAUNCH CONTROL PANEL. He reaches out his Pincer Claws and begins flipping switches and hitting buttons. EMERGENCY LIGHTS BEGIN TO FLASH.

INT. OUTSIDE SECURITY ANTE-ROOM - NIGHT

The group approaches the security ante-room to the launch control room. Overhead, an L.E.D. EMERGENCY BOARD begins to flash: "LAUNCH SEQUENCING"

MOLLY

He's launching the rocket!

DASH

No he's not. Give me the serum.

Banner hands Dash the FULL SYRINGE.

BANNER

Drain a tranquilizer round and inject the serum into the casing.

Dash slides the SYRINGE into his pocket.

- DASH

I don't think so. Load tranquilizer rounds.

McGurk passes out TRANQUILIZER CARTRIDGES. McGurk and his agents begin inserting them in the rifles.

BANNER

(stunned)

What are you doing?

DASH

Take them into custody.

McGurk's Agents advance on Banner and Molly.

BANNER

What THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

DASH

We're not bringing Deacon back, Banner. We're bringing him in. As is. Congratulations. Both of you.

BANNER

No, we failed. Get it through your head. We failed catastrophically.

DASH

Failure is that pathetic mongoloid Doctor Ringwald created who can barely lift himself onto a toilet. Success is in that room. A perfect specimen. He might be hideous on Earth. He'll be a superstar on Mars. And Banner, Amalgamated Dynamics is going to Mars....

BANNER

The program's goal was to design a man - with superhuman traits, yes, but still a man. That....thing in there is no man.

SAM DASH

He'll listen. He has a plane to catch.

(Banner reacts)

Oh yeah, Deacon's going, and not in twenty-six months.

BANNER
You're out of your mind.

SAM DASH
That's what they'd probably say at
N.A.S.A. Welcome to the private
sector, Banner.

McGurk's agents close in on Banner and Molly.

BANNER
Back off. I'm warning you.

BANNER'S shirt-seams POP. His SHOELACES POP. And the
HULK'S MASSIVE BODY fills the small corridor.

McGurk's Agent 1 levels his rifle at Hulk. Hulk grabs
the barrel, twisting it into a pretzel. Hulk backhands
Agent 2 against the wall and advances on Dash, ROARING.

McGurk lowers his tranquilizer rifle and FIRES.
The TRANQUILIZER DART impales in Hulk's chest.
Hulk stumbles, falling to his knees.

MOLLY
No....!

Hulk looks down at the DART stuck in his hide. His eyes
roll. He lists sideways; falls over in a heap.

MCGURK
He'll be good for something.

DASH
A new chess partner for Martin.

MOLLY
You fool, Dash!

Dash, McGurk and the two Agents disappear into the
Launch Control's SECURITY ANTE-ROOM.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Deacon, perched atop the Control Console, under-lit by
flashing warning lights, continues punching buttons.

INT. SECURITY ANTE-ROOM - NIGHT

Dash, McGurk and his two Agents move cautiously through
the ante-room, eyes darting. They approach the
hatchwheeled door to the Launch Control Room.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Deacon at the console hits another button. The L.E.D.
DISPLAY blinks a message: DO YOU WISH TO PROCEED? Y?

Dash and McGurk stand there, frozen.

INT. OUTSIDE SECURITY ANTEROOM - NIGHT

MOLLY

Come on Bruce, you can do
this....get up, -damn it!

She tugs on his eyebrows. She SLAPS his face. HULK
ROARS, knocking Molly against the wall. She recovers,
panting, pleading with him:

MOLLY

You've got to go in there. You're
the only hope.

HULK gathers himself. Lumbers to his feet. He's woozy,
swaying. He slumps against the wall unsteadily.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The "big board" displays a graphic of the rocket's new
trajectory, downtown Phoenix, and the launch protocols:
TRAJECTORY CHANGED. BEGIN LAUNCH SEQUENCE: Y? or N?

Deacon drops to the floor in front of Dash and McGurk.
He curls out a PINCER CLAW, poised over the LAUNCH
COMMAND BUTTON. Dash raises his hands, gesturing peace.

SAM DASH

Don't do it. Dropping that rocket
on innocent people achieves what?
Revenge for what we did to you? We
made you better, Deacon. Look at
you. The power of fifty men,
working 24 hours a day, never
fatiguing. We'll keep our end of
the deal. Put the gun down. PUT
THE GUN DOWN, MCGURK.

McGurk reluctantly lays his tranquilizer rifle down.
Deacon looks at the rifle curiously.

MCGURK

Think of it, Deacon. Mars.

Deacon tilts his freakish head, contemplating.

DASH

Columbus. Lewis & Clark. Neil
Armstrong. Deacon. Has a ring to
it. Answer. Give me a sign.

Deacon raises his claw-hand into a familiar shape. He
gives Dash "the finger," then brings his finger down to
the LAUNCH COMMAND BUTTON.

DASH

No! You idiot!

Deacon stabs it. The L.E.D. LAUNCH SEQUENCE begins counting down: LAUNCH IN: 5:00....4:59....4:48...

Deacon speaks, his voice, and message, are chilling.

DASH

I like it here.

McGurk lunges for his tranquilizer gun. Deacon thrusts his finger forward, impaling McGurk. McGurk falls to the floor, instantly dead.

DASH turns and sprints for the LAUNCH PAD EXITWAY.

KA-CHUNK. THE SECURITY ANTEROOM DOOR bursts open. HULK, back-lit like a John Ford western, steps inside.

Deacon stops, turning to the Hulk. The two mutated men circle each other. Hulk moves forward unsteadily but resolutely. Deacon advances on Hulk. The two collide in the middle of the room.

EXT. EXITWAY TO LAUNCH PAD - NIGHT

DASH exits. The launch pad, 6-story gantry, and MARS ROCKET AND SPACECRAFT sit across a concrete yard, about 100 yards long. Dash sprints for the rocket gantry.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

DEACON and HULK fight it out. Hulk, tranquilized and undersized, is no match for Deacon. Deacon just beats the living crap out of Hulk, pile-driving him into the floor, cutting him, flinging him against the walls.

It is tragic, gut-wrenching. Hulk can't get his bearings; his vision is blurry; his energy sapped. Hulk is left in a heap on the floor. Near dead.

DEACON moves out the LAUNCH PAD EXITWAY.

EXT. ROCKET GANTRY - NIGHT

Dash reaches the gantry; he dashes inside the ELEVATOR to the SPACECRAFT LOAD-IN PLATFORM. It ascends.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

MOLLY, in the ante-room doorway, sees Hulk. She goes to him. HULK is cut and bleeding, contused, hemorrhaging. He's dying and Molly knows he's dying.

MOLLY

No, don't die...Bruce....Bruce....

HULK

Molly. Give me the serum...the bad serum....in your pocket...

Molly fishes in her pocket, pulling out the FOURTH VIAL OF "BAD" SERUM intended for the convicts (and Bruce), still in her pocket.

MOLLY

Bruce, if I give you this I don't know what will happen. Are you sure?

HULK nods, and CUT TO:

EXT. ROCKET GANTRY ELEVATOR - NIGHT

DASH, in the elevator, ascends to the top of the gantry.

DASH

C'mon c'mon c'mon.....

The elevator stops; the door opens to the SPACECRAFT LOAD-IN PLATFORM. Dash runs across the platform to the SPACECRAFT MODULE. He punches numbers into an ELECTRONIC LOCK, which opens the SPACECRAFT'S COCKPIT HATCH (somewhat like the current space shuttle).

The SPACECRAFT COCKPIT SYSTEMS show the launch sequence counting down: 3:32...3:31...3:00....

EXT. EXITWAY TO LAUNCH PAD - NIGHT

DEACON reaches the rocket gantry. He begins climbing the scaffolding with a fury, strength and agility not of this world.....

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Molly shoots the CO2 innoculator into Hulk's thigh. The transformation is instantaneous. It's like when Popeye gets his spinach. The "bad" serum, just as it mutated the convicts at the cornfield, mutates HULK.

Hulk gets to his feet with a ROAR. He is HUGE, 12 feet tall, astoundingly muscular, the equal to Deacon.

MOLLY

Go get 'em!

HULK, ROARING, goes for the launch pad exit-way.

INT. SPACECRAFT COCKPIT - NIGHT

The launch sequence counts down: 2:47...2:46...2:45...

Dash maneuvers in the tight, vertically-turned cockpit. He turns on the ONBOARD SYSTEMS COMPUTER and hits a series of keys: TERMINATE LAUNCH SEQUENCE.

This blinks back: LAUNCH SEQUENCE LOCKED. And the countdown continues. Dash, exasperated, sputtering maniacally, thinks a moment, then types new commands.

The computer responds. MANUAL TRAJECTORY OVER-RIDE: RESTORE PREVIOUS TRAJECTORY Y? N? Dash hits "Y."

EXT. TOP OF GANTRY SCAFFOLD - NIGHT

Deacon reaches the top of the gantry and pulls himself onto the SPACECRAFT LOAD-IN PLATFORM.

EXT. EXITWAY TO LAUNCH PAD - NIGHT

HULK bounds across the 100 yard-long concrete surface to the rocket gantry in three jumps, like an Olympic triple-jumper. HULK looks up to the top of the gantry.

INT. SPACECRAFT COCKPIT - NIGHT

The launch sequence counts down: 1:23...1:22...1:21... Dash turns the computer and opens the hatch. He steps out onto the Load-in Platform.

DEACON stands there. Dash freezes, terrified. Deacon moves in. Dash fishes in his pocket, removing the SYRINGE OF SERUM.

DASH

Serum, Deacon. A cure. You don't want to go to Mars, that's fine.

Deacon stares at the syringe.

EXT. BOTTOM OF GANTRY - NIGHT

HULK crouches, HIS HUGELY MUSCULAR LEGS RIPPLING.

IN ONE SPECTACULAR SHOT - HULK, in one leap, jumps from the ground to the top of the gantry, all six stories.

EXT. SPACECRAFT LOAD-IN PLATFORM - NIGHT

DEACON

You lie!

Deacon swipes the syringe from Dash's hand. It falls over the railing and twirls 6 stories down.

Dash lunges back inside the spacecraft cockpit and hits the hatch button, closing as DEACON'S CLAWS rip into it.

Deacon suddenly stops. Looming over him, across the platform is....HULK. Deacon turns. Oh shit.

Intimidated now, Deacon backs up. Hulk comes at Deacon with a vengeance ramming Deacon against the gantry scaffolding. The force topples the gantry, which breaks the LOAD-IN PLATFORM away from the rocket.

Hulk, Deacon, and the entire LOAD IN PLATFORM falls six stories, clanging violently against the gantry scaffolding.

EXT. BOTTOM OF GANTRY - NIGHT

Hulk and Deacon land with a THUD. The massive steel Load-in Platform falls atop them. DEACON SCREECHES, flailing under the platform. Hulk is dazed, almost unconscious. Next to them, the ROCKET BOOSTER begins to heat up as the launch sequence nears completion.

INT. SPACECRAFT COCKPIT - NIGHT

Dash hits the HATCH exit button. The door is mangled from Deacons' blows. It won't open. Dash frantically hits the button again. He looks through sweaty eyes at the The LAUNCH SEQUENCE: 0:41...0:40....0:39....

EXT. BOTTOM OF GANTRY - NIGHT

THE ROCKET BOOSTER continues heating up.

MOLLY runs across the concrete to the bottom of the gantry. Deacon, just 20 feet away, is SCREECHING, flailing under the collapsed platform. Molly kneels next to Hulk, also writhing, trapped, weakened. His MASSIVE LEGS are caught under the platform.

MOLLY

Your legs are caught!

She sees something. She squints. It's the SYRINGE lying under the gantry! She sprints to it, grabs it, sprints back to Hulk.

MOLLY

Okay, Bruce, a truck gets wedged under a bridge. Raise the bridge, no, deflate the tires....

Molly slams the syringe through HULK'S THICK HIDE. The serum takes hold. Hulk shrinks, his color changes.

BRUCE BANNER, now 1/8 the size of Hulk, with much smaller legs, crawls out from under the steel platform.

The ROCKET begins to ignite. Banner turns to the SCREECHING DEACON.

BANNER

He didn't lie!

BRUCE AND MOLLY sprint across the concrete as --

THE ROCKET FIRES in an ENORMOUS BLAST of smoke and fire. DEACON is SHOT THROUGH with flames. THE LIFTING OFF rocket torches the platform and SUCKS DEACON into the rocket engine intake. HE SCREAMS as he burns.

INT. LAUNCH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Molly and Bruce, outracing the flames, dive inside the launch control bunker and slam the door. ROCKET EXHAUST licks the bunker windows. Then it subsides.

THE MARS ROCKET LIFTS off into the night sky.

BANNER

Am I....me again? I'm gonna miss the big guy.

MOLLY

I like you the way you are..

Banner and Molly watch the Mars rocket lifting off into the night sky. They fall into each other's arms.

The ROCKET is SCREAMING into the heavens above them. The horror is finally, yes finally, over.

MOLLY

Bruce...where's Dash?

BANNER

He wanted a man on Mars. Now he's got one.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE - LOWER EARTH ORBIT - NIGHT

CAMERA is pointed at EARTH. THE ROCKET, looming larger and larger, ROARS PAST US.

Amalgamated C.E.O. SAM DASH, his tortured face SCREAMING, is pressed against the glassed cockpit hatch.

FADE OUT:

FADE BACK IN:

EXT. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

The adobe house, as before.
A calm, sunny day. Birds chirp. Molly exits the front door. She turns and calls inside the house

MOLLY

Come on, it's all right.

Molly turns to Banner, Frank and Ralph, standing outside.

MOLLY

I'd like you all to meet.... Martin.

MARTIN walks out. He is not 12 ft tall and 2400 lbs. He's the man in the photo again. NORMAL. Just a regular guy. Totally cured.

Martin squints his eyes to the sun, like Alec Guinness when he emerged from the box in "Kwai." He stands gazing upwards, can't take his eyes from a sky he hasn't seen for 12 years. He looks at the others.

MARTIN

Thank you. Thank-you for everything.

FRANK

Let's play chess sometime, Martin.

MARTIN

I look forward to it.
(to Banner)
You, too, Doctor Banner.

BANNER

(smiles)
I'm pretty good, Martin.

DOWN THE DRIVEWAY - A YOUNG MAN, 19, exits a van. He approaches slowly, then quickens his pace.

MARTIN'S SON

Dad?

He rushes to his father. They hug. Martin's WIFE and 14 year-old DAUGHTER, finally the FAMILY DOG.

Banner turns his gaze to the heavens. Frank and Molly follow. They look in the direction of MARS.

BANNER

We'll get to Mars someday. And beyond. But we'll do it as men.

MOLLY

And women.

RALPH

And kids!

CRANE UP INTO THE SKIES and FADE OUT.

THE END

AS CREDITS CONTINUE TO ROLL....

HOWARD STERN (v.o.)

In case you just tuned in, we're
talking about that mysterious rocket
launch last week....

INT. HOWARD STERN'S RADIO STUDIO - DAY

Howard Stern sits behind his console.

HOWARD STERN

And okay, maybe it wasn't a simple
malfunction, but really,
Sheriff,....aliens?

RANDY AND JIMBO sit in flannels and jeans.

JIMBO

I thought Randy was goin' 'round the
bend myself....

HOWARD

Randy's parents might be a little
too closely related, Sheriff, if you
know what I mean...

JIMBO

They ripped up a truck, they cut a
bridge in two, and they rode that
rocket back to Mars, or wherever
they's from...!

Howard looks across to his cohort ROBIN QUIVERS.

HOWARD

Finally, Robin. Real proof!

And now we really --

FADE OUT

THE END END