EXT. NIGHT SKY

We open on the night sky. An BRIGHT OBJECT trails overhead.

We follow through various amateur clips, keeping our eyes on what now looks like a METEOR come crashing down over Western Quebec.

A jumble of audio from news reports plays overhead:

NEWS REPORT #1
Breaking news: meteor spotted in the night sky.

NEWS REPORT #2
Meteor strike reported in Western Quebec.

NEWS REPORT #3
Reports are confused but...

NEWS REPORT #4
Meteorologist in Quebec rejoice! A possible meteor landing in the vicinity of Ste-Justine.

INT. STUDY

An EXPERT (40), sits in a chair, off-centered. He faces an INTERVIEWER who’s off-screen.

INTERVIEWER (O.C.)
Okay, we rolling? Good. Let’s take it from the beginning. What was so special about that night in December.

EXPERT
Scientifically speaking, very little. However, what does science have to do with the machinations of our minds?

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

NEWS CLIP

OVERLAY: WQC NEWS - METEOR IMPACT IN WESTERN QUEBEC

Winter street. Old snow and ice cover everything.

(CONTINUED)
A MAN (50), stands at the end of his driveway, leaning on a shovel. His eyes are on a REPORTER standing nearby.

The man speaks in FRENCH but a woman’s voice with ENGLISH TRANSLATION plays over him.

MAN
There was a light, overhead, like a flare, trailing in the sky. Then, a loud noise. BOOM! Over there, beyond the forest.

He points to the dark, thick woods in the background.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

We find ourselves on the inside of a moving vehicle. We’re driving along an old country road. High beams light up the road ahead while dense forest boxes in both sides of the street.

NATHAN (30), sits in the passenger seat. He’s holding a hand-held camera. DAVID (32), his brother, drives, while MARIE (25), his girlfriend, sits in the backseat leaning forward.

MARIE
We must be close.

Nathan spots a light beyond the trees.

NATHAN
Stop the car! It’s nearby!

QUICK CUTS:

The car pulls over;

The three passengers file out, and slam their doors.

EXPERT (V.O.)
It’s not the first time debris has fallen to earth.
INT. STUDY

EXPERT
Nor the last.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSIDE

Nathan, David and Marie hurry through the woods towards the light.

David leads the way. As they push past a patch of evergreens, David approaches a large and misshapen CYLINDER in the snow trapped behind some broken branches.

DAVID
What the hell is this?!

NATHAN
Wait! Don’t touch it! Let me get the camera.

SUDDENLY --

AGENT #1 (O.C.)
Hold it right there!

We turn to see AGENT #1, a figure in uniform wearing a surgical mask and gloves. He approaches the newcomers.

There’s a rustling in the bushes. AGENT #2 emerges, carrying a handgun.

AGENT #2
This is a restricted area. Turn around and go back to your vehicle now!

Nathan argues with the Agents but the audio is clipped by his voice over.

NATHAN (V.O)
I tried to tell them that I was a journalist, but they had none of it. They just sent us away, told us they were part of the sureté...
INT. APARTMENT

WEBCAM FOOTAGE

We’re in Nathan’s messy apartment. Nathan and David sit in the frame, looking into the computer monitor that films them. Marie hovers in the background nervously.

NATHAN
... but they didn’t look like any cops we’ve ever seen.

David SNEEZES! and covers his lower face with his hand nervously.

INT. STUDY

EXPERT
Meteors, comets, auroras, every sort of astral event... they’ve all held a certain mythological significance to our species. I mean, how else are they going to explain what they cannot understand?

INT. BASEMENT

WEBCAM

We’re in a small room. Christian extremist posters cover the walls behind us. A large crucifix hangs from a hook.

A fiery RELIGIOUS NUT (30) waves a bible and addresses his unseen audience.

RELIGIOUS NUT
This is the end times. It’s all in here! You saw it in the news. Well, I saw it in this book.

He flicks to a page and begins to recite.

RELIGIOUS NUT (CONT.)
They shall be marked on the right hand and their forehead. The name of the beast and the number of its name!
INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nathan is seated at his computer.

We hear coughing from the other room, followed by a CRASH!

Nathan gets up and we follow him to the kitchen.

   NATHAN
   David?

As he rounds the corner, cutlery is scattered over the floor. We discover David, facing away and leaning over a sink. There’s blood all around the basin.

He’s moving his arm up and down, but we can’t see what’s in his hand.

   DAVID
   Gotta get them out. Gotta get them out.

   NATHAN
   David?! Stop!

David turns around. His forehead is a cut to ribbons, and so is the back of one hand. In the free hand, he holds a bloody kitchen knife!

   DAVID
   They’re in me. Can’t you feel them too?

David slumps to the floor as Nathan rushes over.

   NATHAN
   Marie! Help!

EXT. COMMUNITY - DAY

NEWS CLIP

WQC NEWS - DEADLY INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

We see footage of a quiet, rural Quebec community in the middle of winter. A single car passes down the empty town.

   REPORTER (O.C.)
   We turn to the small community of St-Joseph where the seasonal influenza outbreak turned deadly this year, having already claimed (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
REPORTER (O.C.) (cont’d)
five lives. Health authorities are quick to point out that this is not H1N1 or any other...

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

WEBCAM

Nathan sits in front of his computer, alone. His face is red and his eyes are watery.

NATHAN
David never made it to the hospital. They said it was the flu, but it was bullshit.

He pauses to wipe his face.

NATHAN (CONT.)
They lied to me. They fucking lied to me.

Marie appears in the background. She approaches Nathan and hugs him from behind.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

We’re in inside a well-lit conference room. Two GOVERNMENT REPS, well-dressed and looking controlled, sit behind a table. Two JOURNALISTS are in the frame, but the clamor suggests there are more.

REP #1
Next question! You there from WQC.

She points to a hand in the audience.

JOURNALIST
What about the allegations spreading across the internet and in the wake of the recent email leaks? There’s all this talk of a ‘strain N’—are we looking at a cover up?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

REP #2
Cover up? Cover what up?

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT

NATHAN
My brother is... David, he...

Nathan can’t finish his sentence.

MARIE
It’s okay. It’s okay.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

JOURNALIST
So you’re saying a little cough and cold cost the lives of --

He flips through a notepad.

JOURNALIST (CONT.)
Eighteen people as of yesterday’s count, all in a single small town?

REP #2
There’s nothing to suggest this is anything other than the seasonal influenza.

The room gets rowdy. The Reps try to restore order.

REP #1
Next question!

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is in disarray. The front door is open, and the room is lit up from the headlights of a car parked outside. Snow is tumbles into the room.

Nathan and Marie scurry back and forth with boxes and bags of things into the car.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

NATHAN
What else are we missing?

MARIE
Just one more bag then we’re good to go.

NATHAN
Okay, but hurry!

We follow Marie as she heads into the bedroom. She goes to take a bag from the bed by a window, but as she approaches...

SUDDENLY -- we briefly see a BLOODIED FACE behind the glass! But then it’s gone.

MARIE
What the hell!

Nathan rushes in.

NATHAN
What is it?

MARIE
A face. There was someone in the window.

Nathan takes her hand.

NATHAN
Let’s get out of here.

The two of them rush back out the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

REP #1
Listen, we see no reason to quarantine the area around the crash site.

REP #2
Last one. You there!

The Rep signals a person in the crowd.

(CONTINUED)
JOURNALIST #2
Excuse me minister, but is it policy to refer to a meteor impact as a crash site?

The Reps look like they slipped up.

Rep #2 is about to respond but SNEEZES. Her face is surprised. Blood leaks through her fingers and onto the table.

INT. CAR - NIGHT
HAND HELD

We’re with Nathan and Marie driving through the night. There’s heavy snow outside and the wipers are on full tilt.

Marie plays with the radio, but all they receive is static and emergency broadcasts.

As the vehicle rounds a corner we make out multiple FIGURES standing still in the street. Nathan slows the vehicle down.

MARIE
Why are you stopping? Just go! Just go!

NATHAN
I can’t just run them over!

He flicks on the high beams and honks. The figures turn towards the car.

MARIE
They’re coming here!

NATHAN
Calm down. Think clearly. Maybe they just need help.

Marie tugs at his coat, but Nathan is indecisive.

EXPERT (V.O.)
People are going to see signs and portents where they will...

CUT TO:
INT. STUDY

EXPERT
The lore around UFOs, extra-terrestrials, visitations... it’s all very much wrapped up in a belief of the paranormal and the supernatural.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The figures are approaching the car out front. As they near, we see that they are covered in blood - with marks on their forehead and hands.

NATHAN
Oh shit!

MARIE
Back up, back up, back up!

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT

RELIGIOUS NUT
But the dead will live, their bodies rise, and the earth will give birth to her dead once again!

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Marie turns to lock her door.

SUDDENLY -- Agent #1 with a bloody surgical mask appears in her window. A bloodied hand slams against the glass.

EXPERT (V.O.)
Angels, demons...

INT. STUDY

EXPERT
They’re symbols; humanity’s way of coping with the unknown.

What it all comes down to, when you stop and look at the data, is that (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
EXPERT (cont’d)
99% of all these occurrences can be attributed to natural phenomena.

INTERVIEWER (O.C.)
What about the other 1%?

The Expert looks annoyed and is about to speak, but then he sneezes!

When he takes away his hand, it’s covered with blood.

END