

# Perception

## 6

Vol-2

**“The Gate”**

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He heard Carly calling him, asking why he didn't come for them, he dreamed of finding his daughter and wife alive, kissing them. Jake told her "he was coming", drifting over to his wife, she didn't seem to see him, and he could feel she was frail, sick, desperately; he tried to wake her, to show Her he was there, but she never responded.

Carly cried "Daddy Hurry" Momma sick...

He awoke with a start, aching all over; his head felt like it had been in a blender. Moaning as he was feeling the back of his head he felt a lump and it was tender to the touch and bloody...

Jake felt desperate now. He was sure Carly was still alive.

Fuck what happened, Jake thought, without moving much he opened his Eyes and all he saw was darkness, but of course he was blind what else would he see.

Jake could smell the humid earth below him, reaching out he felt the walls and realized it was stone.

He was in some kind of cave, feeling around more Jake found a door, it felt like metal with rivets, he found a small sliding door about head high, following the door to the rock wall he followed it top to bottom, side to side and couldn't find any gaps, Fuck!

Lying back trying to relax, to think, he knew full well his only escape would come when they opened the door. So he tried to come up with a plan.

Closing his eye's he let his mind drift, trying to find Carly again but all he could barely hear was a little girl crying.

What he heard next was the same song Sue was humming in the shower the day they were killed... "I Will Always Love You" They had  
Gone to a Whitney Houston Concert and Sue fell in love with that song...

It was tearing his heart out, gasping he choked back a scream  
Jake tried to locate her but something/someone was blocking him  
Again, Jake scream "you bloody bastard" I'll kill you and then he  
Sensed someone laughing...taunting him trying to invade his mind  
And Jake forced himself back, jumping up he beat on the door  
Screaming at the door, at his blindness and his unknown captors.  
Falling to his knees, he fell over onto his back sobbing until he

Heard noises on the other side of the door, a light switch, a lock  
Being thrown back, oh my god he saw a dim light. His sight was Blurry but  
he saw something...  
The door was thrown wide open and in walked.....

In the control room Niki looked at Gil and said are you happy now? We  
Wanted him to come in on his own but you've forced us to move up the  
Schedule.

Niki we are under a time constraint and it's taken long enough to get him  
this far.

And that screw up with the cars, Gil, I still can't believe it.

Niki how was I supposed to know they would change cars? And we've  
already hashed this out.

Your right but bringing them here wasn't the best idea.

Niki we can use this to our advantage plus we didn't have a choice in the

matter.

I know, but I think it's time to try and get him to help us on his own and not using his family as bait...

I couldn't agree more Niki.

Niki thought back to when she and Jake were on the plane. She never intended for it to go that far, she only wanted to bait him, but then they made love, now everything was different, she was getting too close, she needed to keep her mind on the mission and not on Jake.

Looking around she shivered from the dampness of being underground, finally she turned from the monitors and Gil, She moved out onto the catwalk that was suspended above a large cavern about as large as the Dallas Dome, the view was breath taking but with her vertigo she kept a hand on the rail as she watched the work being done below.

Gil came up behind her; it's a beautiful sight isn't it...

Yea it's like a mini-city with all the lights.

How is the progress?

Well if we could keep on schedule we are about 3 days away from it, but with the weird accidents that have been escalating for the last week I'm not sure.

Niki shook her head, I couldn't agree more.

OK let's go see Jake and try to appeal to his heroic side...

Gil laughed and said. You'll be lucky he doesn't take your head off for keeping him from his family...

Niki thought to herself and what they did together..

Squinting at the light that flooded his cell, he held up his hand to help block some of the light that now filled his blurry vision. The first

thing he saw was two shapes moving towards him, jumping to his feet he  
Readied himself for attack. But then he heard Niki...

Jake calm down, it's Niki

What the hell Niki did you escape?

Not exactly Jake

What do you mean?

Well Jake let me start from the first OK

Yea that would be smart before I start kicking ass

Jake we need you and your special abilities to help us...

And because of your retirement and your refusal to come back for one last  
mission Remember you were offered a special assignment, to finally get use  
your abilities in the field?

Yea I remember Niki but I couldn't, I had promised Sue that I was done;  
I had to do it Niki I wanted my marriage to work. I needed it too...

Jake I know,

Jake we needed you so we did something drastic and we screwed it up and  
then everything escalated into a big fucking mess...

What do you mean Niki?

Jake...You were supposed to be in the car

What car Niki?

Jakes mind was moving a mile a minute he started to form a thought...he  
was trying to keep his temper in check to not let on that he knew what she  
was going to say..What they did!

Jake your car...

What you wanted to kill me but instead fucked it up and killed my family?  
You fucking bitch you knew all along and never told me?

Jake lunged at her but his vision was still blurry. He missed his mark but

nagging her by one arm he flipped her around and grabbed her around the neck and started choking her, he kicked her in the back of her knees and dropped her to the ground.

She fought him but Jake felt her losing her strength. The next thing he remembered was looking up at the light on the ceiling. What the hell, he ached all over again.

Rolling over he heard Niki saying something.

Finally he could understand her.

Jake quit this bullshit... We didn't want to kill you, we wanted to talk you in to helping us but it got all screwed up...

How could you do this to me...My family goddammit Niki... fucking it up isn't even close to what you did...

I know Jake, Now listen to me, your family is alive

Jake, tried to clear his head as he stumbled to his feet...WHAT!

Jake, Sue and Carly are alive and they are here.

Where I have to see them NOW

Follow me Jake...

Niki lead Jake down a hallway that looked totally different then his cell, it was new, bright and white, and

it almost looked like a hall in a hospital nothing like his cell which was a hole in the wall...

Following Niki Jake couldn't understand the logic that these assholes were using. Making him believe his family was dead, blinding him with their stupid kidnapping shit, He was getting more pissed by the minute.

But then Niki stopped at a door and turned to Jake

Jake, Sue has been sick but we flew in a specialist and she is recovering... It seems that Sue was allergic to the chemical we used on the steering wheel. And she had a bad reaction but she is a lot better now. Fuck you Niki and your idiots, just open the door... Niki knocked and opened the door

Ben Johnson had been on digs before, but he never guessed that he would be over Ten stories underground looking for something that they bosses called "The Gate" Fuck whatever that was and he couldn't get any straight answer to what it was..Hell they probably didn't know either... Maybe it was King Solomon's treasure he laughed.

It was bad enough that they all had to sign confidentiality contracts and be isolated on this island.

Sure they had everything they needed, and first rate at that but, that didn't help, when you wanted to drown out the world around you with your friends and just let loose with some willing strippers, at least they didn't outlaw after sifting drinking Ben thought as he lowered the next team down "The Hole" as everyone called it..

This would be even more tolerable if the strange shit wasn't happening, hell just yesterday Tim his relief operator had some kind of mental break down. He started babbling about voices and something following him, but the hell of it was Tim was the quietest guy he knew and he seemed to have his shit together, but then those are the ones you need to watch. From the corner of Ben's vision he saw something move on the opposite side of the hole, He quickly looked in that direction and his

jaw dropped "What the Hell" is that he thought but as fast as he saw it he slid  
thered down the hole.

Quickly he stopped the Pod that was descending and radioed the team

Jack this is Ben come in

Yea Ben why the hell is up?

I just saw something go in the hole

What was it Ben?

I'm not sure but it was big and crawling

Fuck up Ben you asshole quit fucking around

I'm not Jack do you see it on your tracker?

Wait

Ok we got something heading for us fast...

You sure it's not a boulder or something?

Goddammit Jack does a Boulder crawl?

Ben have you been drinking?

Fuck you Jack

I'm calling this in Jack

Gil this is Ben do you hear me come in

This is Gil what's up Ben?

We've got an unknown boggy going down the hole after the pod

What the hell are you talking about Ben speak English...

Sir I saw something crawl down the hole and it was big...

I rock?

No sir unless a rock has legs...

What the hell are you talking about Ben? Never mind I'm on my way!

Ben this is Jack. We'll have impact in 2 minutes.

This thing looks big... I'm trying to get a visual from our camera but I don't see anything yet...

Jack I don't like this I know the pod to withstand just about anything but titanium isn't infallible.

90 sec. to impact... God dammit Ben do you have anymore info for us...

No but has seemed have speeded up

Ben calmly said, Jack it's now at 45 meters a sec

Holy shit Ben that's a 100 mph how long?

5 sec Jack Brace for impact!

Ben I see it...

Ben heard Jack yelling at his crew of four to brace for impact

4 Ben now heard screaming in the back ground

3 Ben give us an update...

2 It's to late Jack

1 Pray....

Ben just stood there; he couldn't think he was frozen in that spot

Ben we are still here...where did it go?

Jack are you OK? I don't see it, it off the radar

What the hell is going on Ben?

I don't know Jack, I don't know

Gil came running up,

Ben I've been monitoring the radio, what the hell happened?

It just vanished Sir...

Vanished?

Yes sir one minute it was there and right before impact it vanished...

Ben do you have it on camera?

Yes Sir...

Ok bring those men back up I want to talk to them

Yes Sir

Send them to the conference room when they get here.

Yes Sir

And send that video to the conference room also

Yes Sir

Goddammit Ben shake the shit outta your head and bring the boys  
back up

Sir?

What is it Ben?

What the hell is going on?

I don't know Ben but we are working on finding out and keep this  
under your hat I don't want to panic everyone... That reminds me...Ben call  
in your relief operator and you come along to the crew...

Yes Sir.

Slowly Ben brought up the Pod.

Just as it crested the hole Ben let out a gasp!

Running from top to bottom were small scratches like a cats play toy...A

Holing shit Ben thought

Gil this is Ben come in over,

Yes Ben, Sir you need to get back down here and see this

Ben I don't have time for more false readings

Sir dammit you need to see the POD!

Is it damaged?

YES!

Are the Men OK

Yes Sir!

Ok sorry, I'm on my way Ben

As Gil walked up he stopped in his tracks, looking at the POD

What the hell did that he said more to himself than anyone.

The men were extracting themselves from the POD as Gil walked up; they turned to look at what Gil was staring at

What the Hell did that, In fact what could do that to titanium? Jack said out loud

Gil shook his head and said...I have no idea but I want a full report with the video feed in the conference room right now!

Get yourselves a drink you deserve it! And head to the conference room I'll see you all in 15

Yes Sir!

Jake stood in his spot for minute taking in the scene that was in front of him. He could barely make out a bed and a child standing next to it...

The room was dimly lighted it looked like their bedroom at home.

Sue, Carly, Daddy! And Carly rushed him, Jake swepted her up, hugging her, both of them were crying.

Jake! He turned his attention to the bed; he carried Carly to the bed, hugging them both.

Sue are you OK?

I'm better Jake, they tell me I can go home soon

What? Jake I got really sick and these people have been my savior.

Sue it's their fault you were sick

I know Jake but they explained what happened

Haven't they told you?

Not really Sue

Well it was that new Boss of yours

Sue save your energy, I'll get the totally story from Gil and Niki later  
but right now I want to just hold you two..

I love you Jake

I love you too

Daddy I love you

You're my angel and I love you too

Jake,

Yes Sue, they need your help

I know Sue but I'm not happy with all of this crap they put us through

I know but, something is happening here

What do you mean?

I've heard rumors plus I've seen a dozen or people change over night  
and it's getting worse.

What do you mean change?

Well it's them alright but something is different about them, I can't  
put my finger on it...

OK, hush for now Sue, save your energy.

I'll ask Niki about it.

Niki approached, Jake we need you to be in this meeting that's going  
to happen in a few minutes...

Something has happened to the POD and we would like you to be  
present for the debriefing.

Jake go, Carly and I will be fine, they need you

Are you sure?

Yes they've taken good care of us.

But Jake I'm worried about what they are doing here and why they felt the need to try and kidnap you in the first place

I know, but I think I'm going to find out soon enough

Jake, hugged and kissed both of them, telling them he'll be back soon.

Niki had stayed in the room after asking Jake to be in the meeting, and watching Jake with his family made her a little sad, knowing that life would never be hers.

Jake was a good man, and she would make everything right with him after this; It's the least she could do.

On the way down in the elevator Jake turned to Niki

Niki, Sue tells me something is going on here

Looking up at the camera mounted in the corner of the elevator, Niki grabbed Jake's hand and squeezed it twice as she said, and

oh everything is fine we are just having some problems with people not used to being used to being secluded for so long.

Jake nodded his head like he understood, but he understood the squeezing more.

Maybe we can have a drink later

That sounds good Jake,

Jake and Niki entered the conference room just as Gil was starting the meeting.

OK Ben tell us what you saw.

Well I was lowering the POD into the hole and out of the corner of my eye I saw something move, it was hard to make out because it was the same color as the rocks around it.

Ben looked around the room, I'm not crazy!

Go on Ben

Well it was like it just appeared but maybe it was there before but when it moved I saw it.

What do you mean? Gil asked

Well since it blended color wise so well the only time you could see it was when it moved.

Gil glanced over at Niki and Jake

OK go on Ben

Ben was nervously, talking faster and faster, Sir after that all I saw was it go down the hole after the POD, like a cat after a toy and Sir, it was big!

OK Ben, take a break and calm down

Yes Sir

Jack tell us what you saw and heard...

Well Ben stopped the POD and informed us that something went down the hole.

At first I thought maybe a rock came dislodged or something but Ben told us it had legs...

"Legs?"

Yes sir, I thought he was clowning around but he insisted, so we brought up the outside cameras and at first we couldn't see anything

Jack I just want to clarify something

Ok Sir

Does Ben pull jokes on you often?

Well Sir, yea he does

And you felt this could be a joke?

Well if someone told you something big with legs was after you, how would you feel?

Dammit Sir this is bullshit I saw something and we have film to prove it...

Calm down Ben I have to check out every bit of this story and yes the video will tell all

Well Sir as I was saying, I wasn't sure it was real and I expressed this to Ben, But it didn't take long before I became a believer.

Why is that Jack

Because we picked it up on our radar also... and it was moving fast!

How fast?

Forty Five meters a second Sir

hundred miles per hour?

Yes Sir

Gil whistled, what animal can move that fast?

None that I know of... Niki offered

How about we stop this now and watch the video it might give us more information

Good idea Jake

Gil turning to a laptop, he brought up the video feed and they all sat and watched everything, they heard Ben's alarm to Jack, their back and forth communications

And then he hit another key, bringing up the radar images

They all watched as the object descended down the hole and it accelerate faster and faster...

Then nothing!

Jack what did you feel on impact?

Well something jarred us hard and then we heard a noise like finger nails on a chalk board

Interesting anything else?

That's it Sir

I'm going to bring up the security cameras we have in the Dome.

As Gil panned through the cameras he found the one he wanted.

Ok Ben does this look like the area where you saw the object?

Yes Sir it was on the right side of the screen there.

Gil, then found the correct time recording, bringing it back 60 seconds before Ben saw it

OK let's see if we see anything...

He hit the start button and they all strained to see something.

Suddenly they saw it...

Gasp around the room as they saw something that was a cross

Between a lizard and spider move... it wasn't there and then it was

Holy Shit Jake said out loud

What the Hell is that

I'm not sure Jake,

But I'm putting us on high Alert and issuing weapons to everyone

Niki get extra security to the hole

Hopefully we won't see it again and we can finish here and get the hell out...

Niki once you get the security down there let's do a sweep of the area.

OK I'm issuing a standing order; none of this is to leave this room.

If anyone ask just tell them we had a problem with a rock slide  
Everyone nodded their heads in agreement  
You men take the rest of the day off and we will resume in the  
morning after we've done a sweep of the area and set up a security fence around the hole.  
Jake and Niki come with me.

Jake followed Gil down the hall to where they entered an elevator, He noticed Gil push the Sub-15th floor.  
How long have you been working on whatever you're working on?  
We've only been here 2 years  
You've done an amazing redecorating job  
Haha well we can't take all the credit most of what you see was formed when this Volcano went silent, air pockets  
These are sure big air pockets  
Well at one time this was the largest active Volcano in the world but that was hundreds of thousands of years ago...  
So it's dormant now?  
Gil hesitated for moment then said "Of course"  
And the slight shaking I've felt doesn't bother you?  
What do you mean?  
You better rethink your attitude about this being a dormant volcano  
Gil looked at Jake, I'll look into it  
Jake felt the elevator come to a stop and Gil lead the way through several Bank vault type doors until he came to one marks "Observation Room"

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