

THE PROFESSOR

Original Screenplay  
by  
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SECOND DRAFT

EXT. TECH INSTITUTE - DAY

Groups of students hang out around campus.

EXT. TECH INSTITUTE - SCIENCE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

LAUGHTER comes from the science building.

INT. TECH INSTITUTE - LECTURE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Student LAUGHTER fades as:

PROFESSOR MATT DEKKER, late 30s, a rugged, athletic type, geeked out with thick black glasses, a pocket protector filled with pens, and a lab coat, moves to a large transparent rectangular box with two square halves.

MATT

The box on the left is filled with purple smoke. The box on the right is empty. What kind of membrane is in the middle?

STUDENT 1

A strong one.

Students laugh. Several students raise their hands. Matt points to:

STUDENT 2

Is the first box heated?

Students moan.

MATT

Great question. Yes it is.

STUDENT 2

Then there is an "H" and "T" rated air barrier between sections with a thick and viscous material.

MATT

Correct.

Students boo.

MATT (CONT'D)

It's on the test.

STUDENT 3

Do we need to know the actual material?

MATT

What you need to know is what happens when I pull the high viscosity material out.

Matt steps behind the lab table and pulls a panel out from the center of the box. Clear steam shoots into the empty side. The purple dissipates from the left side.

MATT (CONT'D)

What principle does this experiment represent?

STUDENT 4

Osmosis.

MATT

Who can define it?

STUDENT 2

When molecules pass through a semipermeable membrane from a less concentrated solution into a more concentrated one, to equalize the concentrations on each side of the membrane.

MATT

Partially true. The equalization did occur, creating the movement, but how was the purple smoke filtered?

STUDENT 1

The membrane allowed the moisture through, but not the dye.

MATT

Why?

STUDENT 4

It had to have been a special filter.

MATT

Do DNA sequence filters exist?

The students look at each other in amazement.

Matt glances at his vibrating watch. The screen lights up: "Shanghai Now!"

MATT (CONT'D)

While you ponder the possibilities,  
I have a demonstration for you.

Matt signals two students wearing gloves and goggles. A large glass cylinder is placed on the table. Matt squirts dishwashing detergent around the inside of the cylinder.

MATT (CONT'D)

I'm about to make what's called  
elephant toothpaste.

Student 5 pours a 30% hydrogen peroxide solution into the cylinder. Student 6 pours potassium iodide solution into two large bowls flanking the cylinder.

Matt writes formula on the board: " $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2(\text{aq}) + \text{OI}^-(\text{aq}) \rightarrow \text{I}^-(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + \text{O}_2(\text{g})$ "

MATT (CONT'D)

What do you think the outcome?

STUDENT 3

A reaction.

MATT

What substance?

STUDENT 2

Foam.

MATT

Why?

STUDENT 2

Dish soap.

MATT

Slow or fast reaction?

STUDENT 1

Fast.

STUDENT 4

Could you use yeast instead of  
potassium iodide?

MATT

To what end?

STUDENT 3

It would glow under blacklight.

MATT

Yes.

Students ooh.

STUDENT 1

But wouldn't it rise slower?

MATT

Yes. That's why we're using potassium iodide to cover my escape.

The students look perplexed.

Matt flips the lever that pours the two bowls into the cylinder. A rapid column of foam shoots toward the ceiling then collapses on itself.

No one notices the ceiling tile being put back into place.

The students applaud as the foam falls to the floor. Everyone looks for Professor Dekker. He's gone.

STUDENT 1

I guess class is dismissed.

Everyone CHEERS.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHANGHAI - NIGHT

City lights. The night life picks up tempo. Colorful reflections dance on the river. Three black SUVs cross a bridge. The SUVs stop at the tallest hotel in the world:

EXT. GRAND HYATT SHANGHAI - CONTINUOUS

SHANGHAI S.W.A.T. TEAM exit SUVs. Ten heavily armed officers gather at the front vehicle. A building blueprint spreads over the hood.

SERGEANT GUI HUANG, mid 30s, points at the blueprint. Two officers head inside.

A CROWD forms to watch the S.W.A.T. team.

Huang points at two more map locations. Two officers flank the right side of the building. Two more flank the left side.

Huang faces EAGLE OFFICER who wears his cap backwards.

HUANG

You're my eagle. The subject's on the 87th floor in the Cloud 9 bar. Find the angle, hold for my signal.

Eagle Officer heads to the back of the SUV. He pulls out sniper equipment and crosses the street. A crowd forms.

Huang taps the shoulder of another officer.

HUANG (CONT'D)

You've got the river side emergency staircase.

(looks to the other)

And you, the opposite steps.

Both officers hustle past onlookers and into the building.

Huang gets on his radio.

HUANG (CONT'D)

We're ready for the flying tiger.

Huang looks skyward.

EXT. GRAND HYATT SHANGHAI - ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

A black chopper with a pink tiger emblem flies into position over the Hyatt's roof. Ropes drop from the helicopter. S.W.A.T. team rappel to the roof.

INT. GRAND HYATT SHANGHAI - CLOUD 9 BAR - CONTINUOUS

This jazz lounge is packed with business people drinking signature martinis and negotiating after-hour deals. The skyline view of Pudong and Shanghai is dizzying.

An American businesswoman sits across from a Chinese businessman, whose back is against the window.

The American, CARLA KRANTZ, late 50s, lifts her martini for a toast.

The Chinese businessman, FOSHAN SHUHONG, 50s, lifts his glass with concern.

KRANTZ

Once the transfer is complete, you might want to start a new life in the tropics.

SHUHONG

Tropics?

Shuhong glances at his laptop.

INSERT

Bank transfer completes.

BACK TO SCENE

Shuhong nods.

KRANTZ

Thank you for the funds.

Krantz hands him a handcuff key. Then lifts her right hand above the table revealing:

HANDCUFF locked to her wrist and a sealed titanium tube with a thick acrylic pane housing a glowing flash drive.

Shuhong stands and bows across the table to unlock the handcuff. The tube slams into his head. The table is shoved into his gut, pinning him against the window.

Patrons are shocked.

Krantz gets up from the table. She quickly walks halfway around the 360 degree skyline bar.

OPPOSITE SIDE OF ROOM

She faces the patrons sitting at a window table.

KRANTZ (CONT'D)

You'll want to move.

The patrons scramble from their seats.

A HAND clicks a red button.

The WINDOW BLOWS outward.

Patrons run in all directions, blocking Shuhong from pursuing Krantz.

A HAND clicks a blue button.

A CEILING TILE swings down. A parachute drops on the floor.

EXT. NEARBY BUILDING SHANGHAI - ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The Eagle sniper shifts his rifle slightly.

EAGLE OFFICER

I've got a lock.

CROSS HAIRS focus on Krantz. She drops down out of sight.

EAGLE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Negative. No shot.

Eagle Officer looks up and sees:

EXT. GRAND HYATT SHANGHAI - ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

S.W.A.T. team rappels down the building. They stop in position around the 360-degree bar.

The S.W.A.T. LEAD looks around.

S.W.A.T. LEAD  
She's got to be on the floor.

He swings over to the glass and pushes off hard. He soars up into the air and swings back.

MACHINE GUN FIRES.

The window shatters and S.W.A.T. Lead swings and lands inside the room.

INT. GRAND HYATT SHANGHAI - CLOUD 9 BAR - CONTINUOUS

Krantz stands with a parachute strapped to her back. She clips the buckle closed.

Two of the S.W.A.T. team step to her left side with guns pointed at her.

A GUN COCKS to her right. It's the S.W.A.T. Lead.

KRANTZ  
Sorry to disappoint, but you'll  
have to pick up the tab.

Krantz runs a few steps and jumps out the window.

The S.W.A.T. team rush to the window and see:

A PARACHUTE opens.

EXT. ORIENTAL PEARL TOWER SHANGHAI - CONTINUOUS

Krantz glides past this landmark.

The parachute soars over the:

EXT. HUANGPU RIVER - CONTINUOUS

The parachute descends. Krantz lands in a speed boat and releases the parachute into the water.

The boat speeds under a:



## BRIDGE

Matt jumps from the opposite side of the bridge in a swan dive. He drops in front of the boat. The bungee cord pulls him back just missing the bow of the boat. He grabs Krantz, lifting her in a fluid motion.

A clip fastens to the titanium tube. A small bolt cutter severs the handcuff chain. Matt lets go of Krantz. She plummets into the water.

The speed boat circles back. Matt slips over the concrete balustrade rail out of sight. Krantz is pulled into the boat fuming.

CUT TO: