

Extinction

by dallas jones



Genre

SciFi

Logline

Tagline

Synopsis

UCLA bio-researcher, **Talbert Harding**, wants to join National Geographic to hunt down a rare primate, the Indri Lemur, in the rainforests of Madagascar. New satellite cameras will broadcast the expedition live over the Internet.

Complications. UCLA will only approve the trip if Talbert contacts a **Professor Aver de Rayos** to discuss Tana University's genetic research program. Talbert agrees.

Upon arriving in Tana, Madagascar's ancient capital, Talbert meets with Professor Rayos, a strange little man with an odd symbol tattooed on his right hand. Through **Jenna**, the interpreter, Talbert learns that the professor is sending restrictive biological agents to the remote Ambatovaky Special Reserve. Upon further questioning Talbert begins to suspect Rayos' claim as a researcher. He smells of fraud.

Talbert, fascinated by Jenna, takes up her invitation to explore the city's marketplace and stay at her place the ambassadors' estate. With her dog Black, a 120-pound mastiff, in tow, they quickly run into trouble when Black goes berserk at the sight of a strange silver haired primate, a giant Indri. Its handler, his hand also tattooed, sparks Talbert's further interest, and Jenna tells him of the legend behind the cult of the Indri.

Jenna leaves Black with Talbert while she flies to France to visit her father, the French ambassador.

Talbert and the dog connect with the expedition, but Talbert's request to visit the Ambatsovaky Reserve meets with strong opposition. "Impossible. Dangerous floodwaters," says the expedition guide. Provoked by the guide's scent, Black attacks and injures him, which forces him to return to Tana for medical treatment. Talbert's suspicions increase after the man's replacement mentions the drought currently plaguing the country, which would not impede them from traveling to the reserve. The injured guide wears the tattoo of the Indri. A change in itinerary is made and the expedition enters the reserve. Talbert unpacks the satellite camera and connects to the Internet. Then as Robert and Jenna join him online, the expedition halts abruptly. Black leaps from the jeep to investigate. Cries, a dog's yelp, and then silence sends Talbert to investigate, the satellite cam still running. Ahead, an Indri like the one in the marketplace approaches with a silver staff extended toward Talbert. A flash of lighting from the staff stuns him.

Talbert awakes dangling by his feet from a hook in a large warehouse. The heat from a fire burns at his back. He swings around, horrified by the sight of expedition members' bodies also hanging, seared alive. He struggles as two Indri move toward him. To Talbert's amazement, the one with a silver-ringed eye begins to speak. Talbert listens in fascination as the Indri describe their efforts to create a virus that will destroy mankind. Silver Eye hears a commotion outside and goes to investigate. The other Indri approaches Talbert with its silver staff menacingly pointed at him. As Talbert thrashes about, a black blur pounces. A dead Indri hangs limply from Black's jaws.

Talbert frees himself and picks up a metal bar for a weapon as he and Black race out toward the cliffs. A fog rising from the valley begins to engulf them. A glance back shows the Indri in pursuit. At the cliff's edge, an Indri attacks. Black strikes but the Indri's staff sends the dog unconscious to the ground. Talbert wraps the metal bar over the Indri's head. A treacherous slide down a power cable offers the only avenue of escape. But Talbert can't leave Black, so he packs the unconscious dog and the staff into his parka, hooks the bar over the cable and steps off the cliff into the unknown. The Indri arrive moments later. Silver Eye touches the cable and motions into the valley.

Fatigued, Talbert loses his grip and plunges into a river, alive with gators. He struggles for the shore as night descends over the jungle. A baobab tree slanting up from the river's edge offers protection in its upper branches. Later that night, Black's twitching awakens Talbert. Along the river, the gators begin to growl. Soon after, the tree creaks under the weight of Indri. Above, Talbert hides and waits out of sight. As the Indri draw closer, Talbert hurls himself among them snapping the tree branch which plunges everyone into the river. Indri can't swim and the gators are hungry. A small canoe left on the riverbank by the Indri allows Talbert and Black to escape. Down the river they flee. They come ashore at the first town only to discover Talbert's picture on a wanted poster, sought for the massacre of the expedition. Talbert steals a plane at a nearby landing field and makes for Tana.

Meanwhile, Jenna, now home, contacts **Robert** back at UCLA. She learns of the murder charges facing Talbert but worse problems await her. The Indri's followers, tracking down Talbert's contacts, kidnap her.

Talbert makes his way to the American Embassy, intent to warn the world of the Indri. However, Rayos arrives with a counter proposal. The authorities will file no charges against Talbert and will release Jenna if the Indri's existence remains a secret. Left without a choice, Talbert agrees, knowing they are lying. With Jenna's life in danger, Talbert conceives a plan to free her. That evening, Talbert and Black visit the marketplace where they search out the same silver haired Indri that they had encountered there previously. An ensuing confrontation renders the Indri unconscious. Talbert hides the creature in a duffel bag and carries it back to the ambassador's estate. He handcuffs the Indri to a post within a secret room in the compound, then contacts Robert to establish a live link to National Geographic's web site. On the web page, he sets the caption:

*Countdown Extinction Begins! Will mankind be wiped out?
Contact site for details.*

He switches on a satellite cam, turns it on the unconscious creature and waits. Finally, a voice message comes over the Internet. "Let us talk."

Talbert demands Jenna's release to the French Embassy in exchange for the whereabouts of the Indri.

At the French Embassy, Talbert informs Jenna's father of her kidnapping. Professor Rayos and two police officers arrive outside the embassy with Jenna in handcuffs. Talbert and the ambassador join them. Rayo's displays the captured Indri on a handheld computer. Talbert makes a phone call and the image disappears. Talbert reveals the location of Indri, and Jenna is released into her father's custody. Rayos and his men drive off.

An incredulous ambassador confronts Talbert and Jenna about their wild stories of mankind's destruction. "What proof of this nonsense do you offer?"

Talbert walks over to a computer in the ambassador's office, types in a few commands, and alive on the screen a now conscious Indri issuing orders to Rayos and his men – in French.

Jenna's father, visibly shaken, finally speaks, "The world must know of these monsters."

Talbert reaches out his hand to Jenna, "We'll make sure they do."

Characters Analysis

Talbert Harding

Age: 27
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 215 lbs.
Hair: Short Light Brown
Education: Ph.D. Biochemistry & Computer Design
Athletic: Wrestler Freestyle & Track & Field
Personality: Shy but aggressive once mind set.
Occupation: Associate Professor at UCLA, research on Gnome project
Language: English
Financial: Mid Income \$80,000 a year plus side income \$25,000
Interests: Reading, running, hiking, National Geographic expeditions.
Other:

Monique Mauroe

Age: 17

Height: 5'1"
Weight: 100 lbs.
Education: Student at University of Antananarivo (Junior)
Athletics: Inline Skater, and Modern Dance
Personality: Volatile and passionate head strong
Occupation: Translator at the University for foreign visitors
Languages: Speaks French, English & Malagasy
Background: Father is French Ambassador to Madagascar

Professor Aver de Rayos

Age: 55
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 200 lbs.
Occupation: Dean of Science at Tana
Athletics: Overweight chain smoker
Personality: Grinning snake oil salesman
Language: French & Malagasy
Background: Head of research at University connected to the cult that worships the Iri.

Robert Davidson

Age: 28
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 180 lbs.
Occupation: Assistant Professor UCLA Photography
Athletics: Moderately Athletic
Personality: Liberal Democrat
Language: French & English
Background: Lectures on Imaginary

Silver Eyes

Age: Unknown
Height: 4'6"
Weight: 75 lbs.
Personality: Reflective, never a rush to judgment
Language: Iri & Modified French, English, Malagasy
Occupation: Head of the Iri

Scenes From Extinction

- Opening scene in front of Bruin mascot
- Drake Stadium UCLA track workout – interval quarters
- UCLA steps – 42 step – buildup of 6 at a time
- Describe research at UCLA
- Getting Job with National Geographic
- Learning that it is a exploration to Madagascar in search of Lemurs
- Going to the Library to learning something about Madagascar.
- Learning that the University Medical Center has a research
- Exchange program with the University of Madagascar.

- Testing of new satellite relay equipment to go live on line to National Geographic website.
 - Flight to Tana.
 - Night life in Tana.
 - Visit to University.
 - Encounter with girl outside the Professor's Office
 - She is on roller blades and knocks the papers and book Harding out of his hands as she races up the stairs to see Rayos.
 - Meeting with Professor Rayos
 - Learning of the drive to Ambatovaky Special Reserve to deliver biological agents.
 - Trip to the Zahamena Nature Reserve in search of the Iridia Lemur.
 - Setting up of Camp.
 - The main expedition into the reserve.
 - The attack on the expedition.
 - The escape up the Cliff of Angavo.
 - Capture and return with equipment to Ambatovaky Special reserve.
 - Interrogation setup.
 - The piano.
 - Escape down the Cliff of Angavo and down the manigory.
 - Flight back to Tana.
 - The disintegration of Tana.
 - Attempted communication with outside world.
 - Escape to Mauritius by plane.
 - Arrest of Harding by American Police.
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- Capture and return with equipment to Ambatovaky Special reserve.
 - A. Dog is startled by sight of Iridia.
 - B. Dog attacks Iridia, Harding does not see attack but hears dog yelp.
 - C. Also extremely shocked at seeing Iridia. Run up to attack it with a stick. Is touched by Iridia stick and knocked unconscious.
 - D. Dream of Attack.
 - E. Wakes with the smell of burning flesh. And realization that friends and other members are being turned into food.
 - Interrogation setup.

- A. Idria has small laptop hooked up to INTERNET GLOBAL via STARLINK.
 - B. Starlink is facilitated with a small satellite disk.
 - C. Idria has programmed the voice in the computer to ask a series of questions.
 - D. Idria finally walks over and prods me. I do not dare move.
- The Piano.
 - A. The keyboard that Harding was carrying he sees one of the Idria's playing one of the songs Harding was working on, Etude in C by Chopin. Plays it incredible sensitively. Then improvises his own song. The emotions and insights are seen in this song that the Idria improvises.
 - Escape down the Cliff of Angavo and down the manigory.
 - A. Idria is called away by companion.
 - B. My hands are behind my back and I am hanging 3 feet upside down from a pulley. I cannot remove the rope holding my feet because my hands are behind my back. I start swinging.

Themes

1. The dilemma of being the dominate species on the planet and how easy it is to be benevolent to other creatures when you feel they are no threat to your exist.
2. The shattering of ones belief that you as a human have a lock on greater insight and sensitivities of the world.
3. The realization that you do not hold the moral high ground.