

WITHER

by
Stephanie Koff

Based on
"Wither: The Chemical Garden Trilogy"
By
Lauren DeStefano

Violet House
Prospect Park

BLACKNESS. So dark, we are lost.

Still, there are sounds. Anxious BREATHING. WHISPERS. SOBS. Sounds only girls can make.

And we hear the ENGINE and TIRES beneath us. We're in the back of a large vehicle. We are kidnapped.

*RHINE (V.O.)
This is how it happens.*

The tires roll to a stop.

BACK OF THE VAN

The doors open. Daylight shines in, frightening the girls. 15 of them - mostly teens - huddled together.

CAMERA finds RHINE (17), blonde and beautiful beneath the dirt she wears. JENNA (23), a brunette, clings to her.

TWO MEN with guns stand at the open doors - one tall, one short. They wear gray coats - half a uniform. They are in their early 20s.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Where I'm from, girls have been
disappearing for years.*

One by one, the girls stumble out of the van. Towards the back, Rhine clasps Jenna's hand - keeping her close.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Now it's my turn.*

Rhine steps out to find -

AN ABANDONED LOT

The girls are lined up for inspection. The Short Man in gray measures their hips. Checks their teeth.

A black limo idles in front of them. The passenger door opens. A man - ancient, but strong - steps out. This is VAUGHN, and the girls are for him.

Vaughn walks the line. Comes to Jenna. *Too old.*

*RHINE (V.O.)
If I'm not chosen, maybe they'll leave
me behind. I can find my way home...*

Vaughn steps up to Rhine - so close, his breath is on her.

Rhine keeps her eyes down, shielding them from his, trying to be invisible.

RHINE'S POV - Vaughn cracks a smile, showing teeth capped in gold.

*RHINE (V.O.)
...if I don't stand out.*

The flash of gold does the trick. Rhine looks up -

And we see HER EYES. One blue, one brown - a genetic kiss. This startles Vaughn in the best of ways. He could eat her up on the spot.

Instead, Vaughn walks the rest of the line. Whispers to the Tall Man in gray, then returns to his limo.

The Tall Man pulls a petite red-head, CECILY (14), out of the line. She seems delighted.

He moves on to Rhine and Jenna. Lifts Rhine's face with the tip of his gun, peering into her eyes.

*TALL MAN
(to Rhine)
You.*

He breaks Jenna's grip. Takes Rhine.

RHINE'S POV - as she's led across the gravel to her fate.

*RHINE (V.O.)
There are only three options from
here. Which will be mine?*

Rhine is shoved into the back of the limo.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Slave..?*

BACK OF LIMO

The partition rises, and Vaughn disappears from view.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Prostitute..?*

Cecily sits across from Rhine, feeling the leather seats - luxurious and rich.

*CECILY
(excited)
We're going to be brides!*

The Tall Man shuts the limo door, sealing the two girls inside and RELEASING THE GAS. We hear it pouring out of the vents - invisible and scentless. Cecily slumps onto the seat.

The haze of coming unconsciousness blurs Rhine's vision. She takes a last look out the window. Sees the other girls being loaded back into the van by the men in gray coats.

Then, slips into a dream.

BLACKNESS.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CELLAR - FLASHBACK

An old storm cellar made warm by its belongings. There's a living area and make-shift kitchen, two beds, stacks of rare books - Rhine's home. We're in her memory, and our future.

Rhine stands at a dresser. On it are photos: a mom and dad in their 60s with two young children: a boy and girl who are the same age and height. Rhine's family. In one, little Rhine smiles and waves from her sunfish sailboat.

Rhine pulls a drab sweater out of the dresser. Tucks her hair under a hat - completing an androgenous look.

Rhine opens another drawer to find a LEATHER BOUND JOURNAL. On top of the journal is a container for eye contacts. She opens the container - empty.

*RHINE
(to herself)
Dammit, Rowan.*

She puts on sunglasses. Slings a pack over her shoulder. Walks over to the storm doors, which are chained and locked. A shotgun rests in the crook between the doors and the wall. Beneath the doors lies a step ladder.

Rhine slides the ladder over to a small cellar window, secured with a padlock. She removes the lock - climbs out with it - locks the window from the outside.

EXT. CITY - LATER

Rhine emerges from an alley to find empty streets - no cars, no commuters, no business. This is the norm. Our most vibrant metropolis has barely a pulse.

SUPER OVER: NEW YORK CITY, 2130 A.D.

Rhine walks under a HOLOGRAPHIC BILLBOARD, showing a group of 20 yr-olds who stand together: "Donate before 25 - Your body could be humanity's future"

She passes a driverless street cleaner that scans everything within 50 feet, including her. We stay with Rhine, but watch it over her shoulder. It stops in the distance, scoops a dead body off the street, continues on. The norm.

Ahead a crowd is forming. YOUNG MEN and SENIORS gather at a platform, where a PROTESTER - an old woman who is anything but frail - shouts over a speaker.

PROTESTER

It's time to stop!

Rhine blends into the crowd, which is becoming agitated.

PROTESTER (CONT'D)

Experimentation must end. We can no longer spend our resources on a hope that will not come.

On a building above is another billboard. This one advertising an entertainment - a gala - where young, beautiful people drift about. Even stronger-looking are the elderly, dressed as if they own the place: "An Evening of Inspiration Gala - Tonight at 8"

We're beginning to get it - no one exists between the ages of 25 and 75. Only the very young and very old have survived.

PROTESTOR

After 50 years of wasted science, it's clear that my generation has failed you. You are our children. We love you. But we can not undo your fate. Nature has made its choice.

OLD CROWD

Stop the madness!

YOUNG CROWD

Screw You!

While the Young and Old turn on each other, Rhine seizes the opportunity. She makes her way to the building behind the protest - a lab. Its sign reads: "CURE-TECH"

Young GUARDS stand outside the lab entrance. Rhine glances past them - to another door into the building.

The NOISE FROM THE CROWD builds in the b.g. Rhine WHISTLES to the Guards - getting their attention.

RHINE

Riot.

The Guards abandon their posts, scattering off - away from the riot.

Rhine jogs for the second door, entering -

INT. KITCHEN - LAB - CONTINUOUS

An industrial kitchen. No people, but the sounds of RUNNING and SHOUTING elsewhere inside have begun.

Rhine grabs a pot and finds the walk-in. There are sparse food supplies - all in cans and bags too big to carry.

She rips open a bag of rice. Uses the pot to load her pack in a hurry - never losing sight of the door.

She leaves the walk-in. Makes her way back outside, where a swarm of RIOTERS are SMASHING IN the front door. Like the Guards before, she leaves this mess behind.

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN - LATER

A "BIO-WASTE" disposal truck motors through the old financial district. Rhine hangs onto the back of it, hitching a ride with two strangers - a YOUNG BOY in a hat, and an OLD WOMAN.

The Boy eyes her pack.

RHINE

Take off your hat.

(off his hesitation)

It's okay. I won't take it.

He looks to the Old Woman - his guardian. She nods approval.

The strangers watch in amazement as Rhine uses her free hand to open her pack and pour rice into the hat.

OLD WOMAN

We can't pay.

RHINE

Neither could I.

They share a smile. In this future, humanity lives in the small gestures.

The truck makes a turn, passing another billboard: "Save your smile! - First Gen Dentistry"

CAMERA SOARS UP - following the truck as it crosses the Brooklyn Bridge.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - BROOKLYN - DUSK

Rhine squeezes through a chain-link fence that separates two exhausted buildings. She walks down a row of residential backyards - each home boarded up, stopping at her fence. She looks around - all clear.

RHINE'S POV - as she crosses the yard, passing dead garden boxes. A BUTTERFLY flutters in front of her, then disappears through the open cellar window. The one we saw her lock shut.

Rhine freezes at the sight of it - danger.

CLOSE ON - the rectangular opening of the cellar window.

MATCH TO:

A RECTANGULAR LIGHT FIXTURE ON A CEILING.

LABORATORY

WE ARE RHINE - IN HER POV. BACK IN HER PRESENT.

We find ourselves on our back - on a surgical slab. We cannot move. We are drugged.

The man with the gold-capped teeth - our kidnapper - stands over us. He is cutting into our body, making an incision below our belly button. He HUMS A HAPPY TUNE as he works.

A NURSE (80s) assists him. She looks into the incision -

NURSE
You got a fertile one.

We are terrified, but we cannot speak. We want to scream, but all that comes out is a WHIMPER.

The man turns his head at the sound. Sees we are awake.

VAUGHN
Whoopsy.

The Nurse pulls a loaded syringe out of her pocket. Stabs us with it. Our vision blurs. We look up at the rectangular light fixture. Then -

BLACKNESS.

RETURN TO RHINE'S DREAM - TO HER MEMORY.

Rhine stands frozen in her backyard - next to the garden boxes - staring at the open cellar window.

Then, she hears familiar LAUGHTER from within.

INT. CELLAR

Rhine drops down through the window to find ROWAN (17), her twin, with his arms around a girl.

RHINE
(pissed)
Is this a joke?

Rowan and the girl turn to face her. We see that he has hazel eyes, and that the girl is Jenna.

ROWAN
Remember Jenna? From the delivery job
last year. She took the orders.
(to Jenna)
This is my twin. Rhine.

JENNA
Hi.

Rhine ignores the introduction. She drags the ladder under the window. Climbs up. Shuts it.

RHINE
We made a promise, Rowan.

ROWAN
She has no where else.

RHINE
She can't stay here.
(to Jenna)
You can't stay here. We don't have
enough.

ROWAN
Now we do.

Rowan holds up a wad of cash. More than Rhine has ever seen.

RHINE
Where did you get that?

He hands her a flier: **"Bone Marrow Donation. Sanctioned Trial. Payments Made on Site."**

RHINE (CONT'D)
You didn't.

ROWAN
Yes. I did. I'm done struggling.

RHINE

You could have been cut up or killed.

ROWAN

It was a sanctioned trial. Run by a real geneticist, like mom and dad. Nothing to fear.

RHINE

Can you hear what you just said?

ROWAN

You know what I mean. I wouldn't have gone if it wasn't safe.

RHINE

What about the Gatherers?

ROWAN

What about them? I'm not a girl. Rhine, come on. Can't you just be happy? We deserve better than this. You deserve better. We'll finally have an easy winter. And, there's more to be made. They want me to come back.

RHINE

Let her go earn it!

Rowan walks Rhine out of the "living room". Pulls a hanging sheet to separate them from Jenna.

ROWAN

You don't have to be mean. She brought you a gift.

Rhine looks at her bed. A jar of jam sits on it. Precious.

Rowan goes to the dresser. Opens the drawer with the Journal inside. Takes out the contacts case to remove his lenses.

RHINE

How old is she, Rowan?

ROWAN

23.

RHINE

*(can't believe it)
Two more years? Or less? You can't take care of the virus. We've never done that.*

Rowan turns to face Rhine. We see that he has the SAME EYES: one brown, one blue.

ROWAN
I'll figure it out.

Rhine starts to protest - but Rowan stops her with the truth.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
I'm tired of being alone.

RHINE
You're not alone.

ROWAN
Don't you want someone to love? Don't
you want to know what that's like,
before...

He can't finish. It's an impossible thought to say out loud.
A moment of silence sits between them, then Rhine SIGHS.
Plops her pack down in front of him.

RHINE
Can she cook?

CELLAR - NIGHT

Rhine, Jenna, and Rowan sit in the living room, eating rice
with jam. Rhine reads one of her books. Jenna and Rowan watch
the gala that the billboard advertised - it floats before
them, projected from a small box. This is TV.

RHINE
I don't know how you watch that.

ROWAN
I love it.

RHINE
Which part? The people you'll never
know, or the life you'll never have?

Rowan playfully tosses his napkin at Rhine. Gets up to re-
fill his bowl.

JENNA
(to Rhine)
Thank you for letting me stay.

RHINE
You're welcome.

JENNA
You made a nice home.

The butterfly that flew in with Rhine flutters through the TV projection. It lands on Rhine's book - captivating the girls.

HOURS LATER

Rhine sleeps in her bed. Rowan has pulled his into the living room for Jenna, sleeping next to her in a chair.

TWO MEN stand watching them. They wear the gray coats.

ANGLE ON WINDOW - open. ANGLE ON CORNER - shotgun missing.

SWING BACK TO SEE - the men are suddenly on either side of the room. Quiet as mice.

One holds a handgun over Rhine's sleeping body. The other stands behind Rowan's chair. We recognize him as the Tall Man from the opening scene.

The Tall Man raises the butt-end of the shotgun. SMASHES it down onto Rowan's skull.

The noise wakes Rhine and Jenna, and disturbs the butterfly.

FOLLOW THE BUTTERFLY. It flutters up to the open window with the SOUNDS of girls being taken accompanying its flight.

It flies out - into the yard - over the garden boxes -

RHINE (V.O.)

*These were my mother's gardens. She
grew food and flowers here...*

- and into the night sky.

RHINE (V.O.)

And people in her lab.

DISSOLVE TO:

A BLUR OF SOFT, PEACEFUL HUES - MOSTLY GOLD AND PINK. THERE IS A PERSON STANDING IN FRONT OF US, HOLDING SOMETHING. EVERYTHING SLOWLY COMES INTO FOCUS TO REVEAL -

BEDROOM - THE MANSION

Rhine wakes in a bed of satin and goose down. She is clean. Her hair has been washed. She has been dressed in a nightgown with lace. We can see now how truly striking she is.

A servant - GABRIEL (17), stands in front of her. He holds a gilded tray of tea and treats - silver and linen.

The room SPINS for Rhine. She is three shades of green.

Gabriel sets down the tray and grabs a waste bin just in time for the vomit. He reaches to hold back Rhine's hair, but she slaps his hand away - retching into the bin.

Gabriel walks into the bathroom.

GABRIEL (O.S.)
Nurse said you might get sick. It will
wear off soon. The ginger tea helps.

He returns with a cool wash cloth for her. There is something humble and sweet about him.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
You were talking in your sleep.

That can't be good. Rhine wipes her face. *What do you say to your kidnappers?*

RHINE
Where am I?

GABRIEL
This is the Ashby mansion. Your new
home.

RHINE
In New York?

GABRIEL
In Florida. Are there Ashby's in New
York?
(sparkle in his eye)
Have you been to New York City?

Rhine doesn't answer - she's not sharing shit with these people. She looks at the tray of tea and food instead.

RHINE
How long was I out?

GABRIEL
Two days.

RHINE
What about the other girl?

GABRIEL
She woke up this morning. Dr. Vaughn
took her to tour the gardens.

At the mention of "Dr. Vaughn" - Rhine has FLASHES OF DRUGGED MEMORY: BEING IN AN ELEVATOR.

BEING ROLLED ON A SLAB DOWN A STERILE HALLWAY WITH THE RECTANGULAR LIGHTS OVERHEAD. HER BARE LEGS SEPARATED AND LIFTED INTO STIRRUPS.

The sound of Gabriel FLINGING OPEN the drapes snaps Rhine back to the present.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

If you care for something else, I'm right outside the door. Just press the light on the panel, and I'll bring you anything you like.

ANGLE ON WALL PANEL - a control panel with only one light to press: "**Attendant**".

RHINE

I'd like to be alone.

Gabriel grants her wish. The moment the door shuts behind him, Rhine throws off the covers.

She goes for the window. Tries to open it, but it's sealed tight - without a lock to pry open. A large tree obscures her view of the grounds. What little she can see beyond it is vast and magnificent.

She sees another window over the bathroom sink. Rushes to it. Same as the first. Won't open. No lock. No view.

She rifles through the bathroom drawers. Frantic. Finds a metal nail file. Tries it on the edges of the window - *maybe there's a hidden latch*.

Her hand slips - SMASHES into the window with enough force to break the glass, but only her hand is hurt. The file cuts her skin. At the sight of the gash, she has another FLASH OF MEMORY - VAUGHN CUTTING HER OPEN.

She pulls up her nightgown to see the small incision over her ovary. Her fingers shake as she traces the cut - sealed with surgical glue.

Rhine leaves the file on the counter, and storms back into the bedroom. She picks a small, bronze sculpture off a side table. Throws it - *HARD* - at the bedroom window. It bounces to the floor without leaving a scratch.

Rhine stands in the lavish room - a prison of ruffles and crystal chandeliers. Trapped.

She plops onto the bed. Buries her face in a pillow. And SCREAMS WITH RAGE.

JUMP TO:

RHINE'S ROOM - HOURS LATER

Rhine lies on the bed, staring at the ceiling. Listening to a woman MOAN IN PAIN from somewhere nearby.

The MOANS become a VIOLENT COUGH, and someone RUNS outside Rhine's room - past her door. *Something's happening.*

Rhine gets up. Picks the sculpture off the floor. Walks to the door. Leans against it to hear MUFFLED VOICES.

She tightens her grip on the sculpture. Reaches for the door handle. It turns.

She peeks out. There's a chair outside her door, but Gabriel isn't in it.

Rhine steps out - into a long hallway. At one end is Gabriel, talking to Vaughn's Nurse - NURSE CLARA. They are too caught up in their conversation to notice her. At the other end is a door - cracked open. A MOAN comes from inside.

Rhine walks towards it - towards the suffering.

RHINE (V.O.)

The wealthy love their mansions and galas. They broadcast their lives to give us all "hope" - to keep us believing in a stable society. Believing that life will go on. But the truth cannot be denied...

Rhine pushes open the bedroom door. Steps inside to find -

ROSE'S ROOM

An opulent suite filled with hand-chosen decor and personal photographs. Bowls of candy in brightly-colored wrappers sit on every counter top.

RHINE (V.O.)

We are dropping like flies.

At the far end of the room, surrounded by windows, is a large bed. The COUGHS are coming from here.

Rhine approaches the bed. In it is a young woman - ROSE (24), blonde and pretty like Rhine. But frail beyond words.

ROSE

Who's there?

Rose is drenched in sweat. A fever. She opens her eyes to see Rhine, still holding the statue.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Who are you?

RHINE
Rhine.

ROSE
Come closer.

Rhine steps up to bed's edge. Rose looks her over.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Ah. My replacement.
(re: statue)
Is that a gift, or are you going to
hurt someone with it?

Rose looks straight into Rhine's unique eyes with blue pools of her own. There is a depth behind Rose's eyes that pulls the truth from anyone she meets.

RHINE
It's from my room.

Rose gestures to her side table. Rhine puts the statue down.

ROSE
How old are you?

RHINE
Seventeen.

ROSE
Do you hate it here?

RHINE
Yes.

ROSE
Then, you should see the verandah.

Rose closes her eyes, about to slip into oblivion when Rhine sees it. On the other side of the bed. AN OPEN WINDOW.

Before Rhine can leap across the room to fly out of it, Rose COUGHS again. SPRAYING BLOOD all over Rhine.

Gabriel and Nurse Clara rush in.

NURSE CLARA
Lady Rose? Lady Rose?!

Nurse Clara reaches for the wall panel - this one has several lights on it. She presses: "**Dr. Vaughn**"

Gabriel takes Rhine's hand - pulls her away with him.

GABRIEL
(a scared whisper)
You shouldn't be in here. Go back to
your room.

A GIRL DOMESTIC (14) enters, charging past them for the bed.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
(to Rhine)
I'll send someone to help you. Go!

Rhine bolts out. Turning into the hall. And colliding into
Vaughn - the monster with the gold-capped teeth.

VAUGHN
Why, hello.

He smiles again for Rhine - *his delicious purchase*. Then, he
sees the blood that covers her.

NURSE CLARA (O.S.)
Dr. Vaughn!

Vaughn strides past Rhine, disappearing into Rose's room.
Leaving Rhine frozen in fear. Her legs barely keeping her up.

She wills herself forward. Down the hall, where there is no
one in sight. She picks up her pace - aiming for a way out.
When she passes her doorway, a child's arms reach out - and
YANK her inside.

RHINE'S ROOM

A little girl (8) - with cheeks shaped like apples and braids
that circle her head, proudly announces herself.

DEIRDRE
I am Deirdre. Your domestic.

Deirdre has one foot on a step stool with wheels. She uses it
like a whirling scooter. Shutting the door, then stripping
Rhine out of her bloody nightgown in one giant spin.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
Did you like the nightgown? I made it
for you. The color suits your skin.

She stops her scooter to admire Rhine - her new doll.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
Oh, your eyes! I definitely got the
pretty one. Let's get you cleaned up!

With dizzying speed, Deirdre wheels to a large wardrobe. Takes out a robe. Drapes it over Rhine. Pulls her into the bathroom. And sits her down on the edge of the tub.

Rhine watches the strange child mix together a concoction of liquid soaps. Her skill and focus way beyond her years.

*RHINE (V.O.)
In the century before mine, science
perfected the art of children...*

SMASH TO:

A NEWBORN'S FACE - staring out at his world without cry.

[Rhine NARRATES, and we watch the history of this future world unfold.]

*RHINE (V.O.)
Babies were engineered in the womb.
Their bodies designed. Born free from
weakness, affliction, and disease.*

DELIVERY ROOM: Hands wipe the infant clean and pass him into his mother's arms. He is perfect.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Soon, genetic perfection became a
basic human right.*

CENTRAL PARK: The "perfect" children play. Pregnant mothers visit. Happy fathers watch over their families.

*RHINE (V.O.)
It was a time of great triumph. Until,
the real suffering began.*

SHOPPING MALL: Holiday shoppers crowd a packed food court.

*RHINE (V.O.)
A flawless generation gave birth to an
even stronger population. They passed
down their perfect genes...*

A COUGH RINGS OUT. Bringing the busy mall to a complete stop. CLOSE ON A YOUNG MAN. Terrified. He COUGHS - spraying blood.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Then watched their children die.*

HOSPITAL ER: An ER in full-blown panic. Young people cough and bleed from every orifice. Confused parents scream at doctors and nurses.

RHINE (V.O.)

We inherited an expiration date. Genes that mysteriously shut down the moment they mature. Except for the First Generation to be engineered, no one in my lifetime lives past the age of 25.

A GIRL, early twenties, collapses in the ER waiting room. Dead before she hits the ground.

RHINE (V.O.)

We call it a virus. But really, it's just the penalty for playing God.

HOLD ON THE DEAD GIRL'S PERFECTLY BEAUTIFUL FACE -

RHINE (V.O.)

Now, while scientists and "Naturalists" clash over man's fate, some have taken measures into their own hands. Purchasing new wombs to keep their bloodlines alive...

MATCH TO:

RHINE'S FACE - BEING SCRUBBED CLEAN FROM ROSE'S BLOOD

RHINE (V.O.)

...and calling them brides.

RHINE'S BATHROOM - MANSION

Deirdre moves on to cleaning Rhine's hair.

RHINE

The sick girl. Who is she?

DEIRDRE

That's Lady Rose, of course. She is the House Governor's First Wife.

RHINE

Who is the House Governor?

DEIRDRE

Master Linden. He is very in love with her.

RHINE

Where is he? If he's so in love with her, why isn't he here?

DEIRDRE
 Because she loves him too.
 (off Rhine's look)
 Master Linden was a famous architect.
 Lady Rose has insisted that he return
 to work. She put her foot down! He
 will be home soon, and then he will
 stay by her side.

RHINE
 How romantic.

DEIRDRE
 Isn't it?

Rhine's sarcasm is lost on the little girl.

RHINE
 Who's the First Gen with the gold
 teeth? Dr. Vaughn.

Deirdre's demeanor changes. She does not like Vaughn.

DEIRDRE
 A scientist. He works to find the
 cure.

RHINE
 Does he work for Linden?

Deirdre LAUGHS.

DEIRDRE
 No, silly billy. Dr. Vaughn is
 Linden's father. He's super protective
 of him. His first son died. There!

Deirdre stands Rhine up to face the mirror.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
 All clean.

Not only is Rhine clean, her hair is styled and her cheeks
 are full of color. Deirdre is a magician.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
 My turn for questions!
 (whispering)
 I've never seen anyone die up close
 from the virus. Does it take long?
 Lady Rose has been sick a long time.
 She gets very bad, and then she gets
 better. Is it always like that?

RHINE

I don't know.

DEIRDRE

So your parents sent you to orphanage before they died. Like mine. We're the same! Except you're much prettier. And I'm not growing up in orphanage, *obviously*. My sisters are, though. I think. Maybe the Gatherers came for them. They wouldn't have cost much.

RHINE (V.O.)

Or the Gatherers could just steal them and make an even bigger profit.

DEIRDRE

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Rhine doesn't answer her. *The less these people know, the better.* She's saved by a KNOCK at the door.

Deirdre rolls out to answer it. Rhine looks for the nail file - it's not on the counter or in the drawers. She walks into the bedroom to find Gabriel holding another tray.

GABRIEL

I thought you might be hungry.

Deirdre seems concerned for Gabriel - she takes the tray. Sets it down for him.

DEIRDRE

She needs her sleep. Tomorrow's a big day. I've made my best gown!

Deirdre pulls a gown out of the wardrobe. Admires it.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)

I'll have to steam it again. I'll be back in the morning, and we'll do your hair. I've been practicing a special design. You're going to love it!

She flies out. Leaving Gabriel and Rhine alone.

RHINE

(almost afraid to know)
What happens tomorrow?

GABRIEL

Master Linden returns.

Rhine's face falls.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 Good night, Lady Rhine.

RHINE
 How do you know my name?

GABRIEL
 You told it to Lady Rose.

Gabriel turns to leave. Rhine can see the shadow of new bruises forming under his white shirt. He has been beaten.

RHINE
 Don't call me that.

Gabriel looks back. Scared he did something wrong - *poor kid*.

RHINE (CONT'D)
 My name is Rhine. Just Rhine.

GABRIEL
 Good night, Rhine.

He walks out with a slight limp. LOCKS the door behind him.

RHINE'S ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

A storm blows outside the window. In the room, Rhine wears Deirdre's gown.

Her hair is up. Her make-up is perfect. She is a bride.

She looks at herself in the wardrobe mirror while Deirdre scoots about her, making final adjustments.

WOMAN (V.O.)
*Some day, you will wear a beautiful
 dress and make all the boys blush.*

DISSOLVE TO:

BEDROOM - NEW YORK - FLASHBACK

Rhine, just 5 years old and sleepy, is tucked into bed by an elegant older woman in a beautiful party dress. Her MOTHER.

Rowan lies in the twin bed across the room, listening in with his identical eyes wide open.

Mother strokes Rhine's small hands, soothing her to sleep.

MOTHER

*Ten fingers, ten toes. My special
little girl is safe in her dreams.*

DEIRDRE (V.O.)

My mother was a painter...

RHINE'S ROOM - MANSION

We're back with Rhine - the bride. Deirdre admires her work.

DEIRDRE

She told me, "anything can be a
canvas." Like you.

A KNOCK at the door. Deirdre opens it to find another
DOMESTIC - a First Generation woman in her 80s. And Cecily -
the other girl Vaughn purchased, wearing a gown of her own.

Cecily charges in. Looks over Rhine. Yells at her Old
Domestic.

CECILY

See?! Her dress is better.

(in mirror)

Look at all these stupid ruffles. I
told you they'd make me look fat. You
don't put ruffles on a short frame.
Everyone knows that.

OLD DOMESTIC

Yes, Lady Cecily.

Cecily opens Rhine's wardrobe - picks through the dresses.

CECILY

What else does she have in here? We'll
be in the garden, so nothing floral. I
need to pop.

DEIRDRE

Those are Lady Rhine's dresses.

CECILY

Rind?

(to Rhine)

That's your name? You're named after a
banana peel?

VAUGHN (O.S.)

She's named after a river.

The girls turn to see Vaughn standing in the doorway. Cecily
marches over to him.

CECILY

I hate my dress. I look ridiculous.

Vaughn puts his hands on her shoulders - paternal, like a creepy grandpa.

VAUGHN

You look very pretty. Linden will love it.

CECILY

Really?

Cecily strikes a pose in the mirror just to be sure.

CECILY (CONT'D)

What about the rain?

VAUGHN

Not to worry, little bird.

Vaughn locks eyes with Rhine. Extends his hand.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Shall we?

Rhine refuses Vaughn's hand, but he takes her elbow anyway. Escorting her with Cecily in tow.

In the hall is Gabriel. He holds a CLEAR CYLINDER. He sets it down on the floor and SPINS IT.

The CYLINDER HUMS. And from its power -

A GARDEN OF FLOOR TO CEILING FLOWERS ROLL OUT BEFORE THEM.

RHINE'S POV - ENTERING THE HOLOGRAPHIC WORLD

WE ARE RHINE, walking through the endless foliage. We see sunlight bouncing off the flowers and vines. We hear birds SINGING in the distance. It is a fantasy.

We follow the garden path around a corner, and there he is -

LINDEN. He's taller than we thought. Handsome. He stands next to a MAN IN WHITE ROBES - under a canopy of roses. Their petals slowly drop, like floral raindrops.

RHINE (V.O.)

Only the rich still had weddings.

On our way to Linden's side, we pass a small gathering of First Generations, all dripping with wealth. They smile and nod to Vaughn - here at his invitation.

*RHINE (V.O.)
Father said people used rituals to
show that their beliefs were real.*

The Man In Robes reads from a small book. Cecily follows his every word, but we are not listening. Neither is our groom.

*RHINE (V.O.)
I wonder what he would say about this.*

Linden's face wears the weight of his heart. He does not look at us, but we can see that his eyes are red and tired. His expression detached. He does not want to be here. He is in love with someone else.

ROWAN'S VOICE echoes through our thoughts -

*ROWAN (V.O.)
Don't you want someone to love? Don't
you want to know what that's like,
before...*

*VAUGHN (O.S.)
Answer him, Rhine.*

Rhine SNAPS OUT OF IT. Realizes they're all watching her - waiting for her to say something to the Man in Robes.

Linden turns, finally noticing Rhine. She is breath-taking.

*LINDEN
You don't have to.
(to Vaughn)
That's enough, father. You made your
point.*

*VAUGHN
Now Linden -*

*LINDEN
ENOUGH.*

The ceremony grinds to a halt. Pin drop quiet, until the Man in Robes rattles on.

*MAN IN ROBES
Do you, Linden Ashby, take this -*

Linden snatches the cylinder from Gabriel - shuts it off. THE HOLOGRAM VANISHES, taking the Man in Robes with it. The illusion is gone. We are no longer in a garden, but a LIBRARY. Surrounded by a collection of paper books.

Linden looks across the startled faces of his guests, his father, his brides - and SIGHS.

LINDEN

Sorry.

And he walks out without another word.

CECILY

Where's he going?

VAUGHN

(to his guests)

Please enjoy the reception downstairs.

The Guests disperse for a set of elevators along a far wall.

CECILY

You said I would marry Linden. You promised.

VAUGHN

I promised you a garden wedding, and that's what you had.

CECILY

But I'm supposed to be Linden's wife.

RHINE

(gets it)

You already are. We both are. He filed the paperwork when he bought us. This was all for show.

CECILY

It was not!
(to Vaughn; confused)
Was it?

VAUGHN

It's best if you return to your rooms.

Vaughn walks off after his guests.

CECILY

So, we had a fake wedding?

RHINE

Rituals help to cement the truth, Cecily.

CECILY

What does *that* mean?

RHINE

It means that Linden's first wife is dying and now he's married to us.

CECILY

Oh. Good. Then I can get rid of this dress.

RHINE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rhine stands at the window, watching the storm outside. Deirdre has changed her out of the dress.

RHINE

How long have you been here?

DEIRDRE

Almost two years.

RHINE

And you're happy? You like being a slave?

DEIRDRE

It's not as good as being a bride, but at least somebody wanted me.

A TIMID KNOCK. Rhine hears the door OPEN, but doesn't look.

RHINE

I'm not hungry.

LINDEN (O.C.)

Rhine?

Rhine spins to see her husband in the doorway.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Linden.

An uncomfortable silence. Deirdre scoots out.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

Rose asked me to check on you. Is there anything you'd like?

Rhine thinks:

RHINE (V.O.)

To kill you and then find my way home.

But says:

RHINE

You could open my window. It's stale in here.

LINDEN
You'll get more than fresh air. The
storms are bad here.

RHINE
I like the rain.

LINDEN
It's not wise.

After a moment.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about today. My father has
these ideas about what's best for me.
He means well.

RHINE
Does he?

Gabriel enters, interrupting with a lunch tray.

LINDEN
I'll check on you in the morning.

Linden leaves without shutting the door.

RHINE
I don't want to eat.

GABRIEL
You haven't had anything since you
came. Cook is becoming upset.

RHINE
Then take me to talk to him.

GABRIEL
(correcting)
Her. And, I'm not supposed to...

He stops himself.

RHINE
You're not supposed to what? Let me
out of this room? Is that why you were
beaten?

Gabriel is taken aback - unsure of what he's allowed to say.

Rhine leans into the hall. Sees Linden entering Rose's room.

RHINE (CONT'D)
(stopping him)
Linden.

(MORE)

RHINE (CONT'D)
 (summons her courage)
 I'd like to see the kitchen. Gabriel
 can take me.

Linden nods.

RHINE (CONT'D)
 (to Gabriel)
 Let's go.

Time to case the house.

HALLWAY

Gabriel leads Rhine down the long hallway. This is her first look at it without the Hologram. Where a garden was just hours before, now there are only closed doors.

RHINE
 What are those?

GABRIEL
 Bedrooms.

RHINE
 How many are in the house?

GABRIEL
 Twelve. Plus the staff quarters.

They come to another hallway. At its end is the library.
Already been there. Rhine plows forward.

They come to a SITTING ROOM, with couches and a piano. Cecily sits in a chair, playing a game.

CECILY
 Where are you going?

GABRIEL
 To the kitchen.

CECILY
 Tell Cook my lunch was cold.

Cecily returns to her game. Rhine continues on.

RHINE
 She's so comfortable here.

Gabriel makes a face.

They come to another elevator. Gabriel's ring opens the doors. Rhine steps inside.

Gabriel touches his ring to the elevator panel. Four "buttons" appear: **L, 1, 2, 3.**

RHINE (CONT'D)
What floor are we on?

GABRIEL
Three. The wives floor.

He presses "L". Down they go.

LOWER LEVEL/ KITCHEN

Rhine steps out of the elevator and into another long hallway. No fancy decor here.

GABRIEL
This is the staff level.

He leads her to the kitchen - an enormous workspace, where several STAFF are at work - preparing food and cleaning up.

Rhine looks past them all. To her prize. A DOOR TO OUTSIDE. For the first time, Rhine can HEAR THE STORM.

COOK (100+) - an extra-large version of Paula Deen, complete with wild hair, leathered skin, and a thick Louisiana accent - waddles up to Rhine.

COOK
Is this the one who don't eat?

GABRIEL
Yes, ma'am.

COOK
Well? What's wrong with you? You got a problem with my cookin', Blondie?

RHINE
I don't know. I haven't tasted it, yet.

COOK
Ha!

Cook pokes at Rhine's figure - inspecting her like a side of beef.

COOK (CONT'D)
Too lean.
(pinches Rhine's skin)
You could use some iron, sure.
(MORE)

COOK (CONT'D)
 (sees Rhine's eyes)
 I cannot fix that.

GABRIEL
 Cook thinks she can cure us all with
 her food.

COOK
 Straightened you out, now didn't I?

A CLAP OF THUNDER rings out. Rhine jumps.

COOK (CONT'D)
 Oh, child.

Cook takes Rhine's hands - strokes them, just like Rhine's
 mother had. The warmth of this woman's soul oozes out.

COOK (CONT'D)
 Come. Let me feed you.

Exhausted, hungry, homesick - Rhine finally gives in. She
 allows Cook to sit her down at the staff table.

Gabriel sits next to her. Almost immediately, there are bowls
 of hot soup in front of them. Rhine eats, relaxing a bit with
 every spoonful.

Gabriel winks at Rhine - then calls out to Cook -

GABRIEL
 Lady Cecily says her lunch was cold.

COOK
 Ohhh! Dat brat! I gonna spit in her
 soup! I gonna put a curse on her
 Remoulade!

Cook explodes in TIRADE OF CREOLE - waving her arms in wild
 gestures. It makes everyone in the kitchen LAUGH. Even Rhine.

One of the Staff opens the door to throw out a pot of water,
 and Rhine sees that this door has no lock. No wall panel
 controlling it. *This is her way out.*

RHINE
 (to Gabriel)
 Do you get to go outside?

GABRIEL
 Just to do yard work and take in
 deliveries.

RHINE
 What's out there?

GABRIEL

Gardens. A pool and mini golf. Maybe a few other things. I don't know. It goes on forever.

One of Cook's HELPERS chimes in -

HELPER

You would have to climb the lighthouse to see the end of it.

RHINE

Lighthouse? So, we're by the sea. Is there a harbor?

HELPER

There's everything.

COOK

Shush now! Don't be puttin' ideas in this girl's head.

(to Rhine)

A whole world of trouble is what's out there for you, Blondie.

(to Gabriel)

Best finish eatin' and get her back upstairs 'fore we catch ours.

STAFF HALLWAY/ ELEVATOR

Gabriel and Rhine walk back to the elevator.

GABRIEL

It's good to see you relax a little.

RHINE

You don't know me, Gabriel.

GABRIEL

But I'd like to. If you give me a chance.

He uses his ring. They step inside. When the doors close -

RHINE

I'm sorry you were beaten.

GABRIEL

It's not your fault.

RHINE

Was it Vaughn?

Before he can answer, the elevator SHAKES. The panel TURNS RED. Only one "button" lights up - a new one: "B".

RHINE (CONT'D)
What's happening?

GABRIEL
It's the storm.

The elevator GOES DOWN AUTOMATICALLY. STOPS.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
The doors should open.

Gabriel tries his ring - no good.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
The panel's not working.

RHINE
Is it broken?

GABRIEL
Maybe. The elevators are only supposed to do this in a hurricane - when the alarms go off.

Gabriel squats down to find an access panel on the floor. He lifts it. Inside are clusters of cables and wires - the elevator's controls.

RHINE
What are you doing?

GABRIEL
My first owner was an electrician.

He unplugs wires -

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
There's another elevator that comes from the library. It's probably working.

The DOORS OPEN. The sterile smell hits them both.

BASEMENT

They step out. Gabriel looks down the long hall.

GABRIEL
I've never been down this way. It's restricted.

But Rhine knows where they are. She was down here before - on a slab - being cut into by Vaughn as she stared up at the same rectangular lights that line this hallway.

RHINE

I can't be here.

The lights above flicker from the storm.

GABRIEL

Don't worry. We'll find the other elevator.

They walk along slick floor tiles - their shoes SQUEAKING with every step. Rhine hangs onto Gabriel, digging her fingers into his arm.

Other hallways, darker hallways, branch off of this one. They dare not venture off their path.

They pass an open door to a treatment room. They pass a windowed lab. Creeping forward. About to turn a corner, when they hear VOICES.

TECH 1 (O.S.)

This one lived longer than I thought.

TECH 2 (O.S.)

Yep. Maybe the old man's finally on to something.

Rhine and Gabriel duck into the lab. Hide on the floor.

SQUEAK. SQUEAK. The men's shoes are getting closer.

Rhine crawls over to the other wall. Peeks up through the windows to see -

Two men - LAB TECHS, wheeling a slab. On it is a naked woman's body. Her skin is a sickly, blueish color - as if her blood were poisoned. Her limbs and body are bent and twisted, like she died mid-seizure and froze that way.

TECH 1

Could be. The blue thing is new.

CLOSE ON DEAD GIRL'S FACE. Contorted by pain, but she is unmistakable. JENNA.

TECH 1 (CONT'D)

What are we harvesting?

TECH 2

Brain and kidneys.

TECH 1
Are you beaching it this week-end?

TECH 2
Nah. Shitty weather.

The Techs wheel Jenna around another turn - out of sight.

Gabriel sticks his head out the door.

GABRIEL
All clear. Let's go.
(looking back)
Rhine?

Rhine sits. Shaking. Terrified from what she just saw.

Gabriel pulls her to her feet. Leans her against a work station.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Wait here.

FOLLOW GABRIEL BACK TO THE ELEVATOR. He goes for the wires. Unplugging all of them. Then, putting them back in their sockets one-by-one.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Come on, come on. Reboot.

BACK IN THE LAB.

Rhine tries to get her bearings. She looks around the work station: equipment, security monitors with views around the house, and a holographic photo floating above the desk.

CLOSE ON PHOTO. Vaughn in his forties, beaming with pride. His arm is wrapped around a young graduate who is not Linden. Rhine is in Vaughn's private lab.

On Vaughn's desk - sitting in plain sight - is the item that rocks Rhine to her core. The JOURNAL. The one from her dresser. Stolen from the cellar, like Rhine and Jenna.

Rhine picks it up. CLOSE ON JOURNAL PAGES - hand-written equations and notes. Dates and formulas.

Gabriel returns.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
I think I got it.
(sees the journal)
What did you find?

RHINE

It's mine. From my home.

Rhine holds it to her chest. Tears welling in her eyes.

GABRIEL

You have to leave it.

Rhine shakes her head.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You can't take it. He'll hurt you.

Gabriel gently reaches for the Journal. Helps her release it.

Rhine points to the desk - where she found it. Gabriel sets the Journal down. Takes her hand. Leads her into the lift.

He bends down. SNAPS in the final wire. The doors close. The panel LIGHTS RETURN. Up they go.

WIFE'S FLOOR

The elevator doors open. Rhine steps out, leaving Gabriel inside. She turns to face him - sharing a silent stare before the doors cut them off from one another.

ROSE (O.C.)

Escaping so soon?

Rhine whips around to see Rose - standing in the hall - using a long umbrella as a cane. She looks considerably better than when we last saw her. Her hair is swept up in a ribbon.

RHINE

I was in the kitchen.

ROSE

(not buying it)

It's alright. I won't tell on you. I understand.

RHINE

Do you?

ROSE

Mmm-hmm.

(re: the umbrella)

Do you know where I found this?

Rhine shakes her head.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Just inside your bedroom door. Do you know you're not supposed to open them inside? Bad luck. Linden told me this. And he has final say on what's in your room. Did you know that? Your clothes, your shoes - this umbrella. If he allowed you to have this, what do you suppose that means?

RHINE

He doesn't want me to get rained on.

ROSE

Exactly. And despite the flowery holograms, it only rains *outside*.

Rose hobbles close to Rhine. Whispers in her ear.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Forget about the house. Your husband is your only way out.

Rose takes Rhine's arm.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Now, help me to my room, and we'll open a window.

ROSE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rose lies in bed. Candy wrappers litter the floor.

Next to her bed, a window is open. Rhine sits on its ledge.

RHINE'S POV - a deadly drop. No way down from here.

The storm is less violent, but the rain persists. Through it, Rhine can see the circulating light of the LIGHTHOUSE. Almost a mile away.

ROSE

Where are you from?

Rhine hesitates.

ROSE (CONT'D)

It's a simple question.

RHINE

Where were you from, when they took you?

ROSE

I was born here in Florida. This town,
in fact.

Rose reaches for a frame behind her - a photo of a girl on a horse, smiling big with her hair tied in a ribbon.

ROSE (CONT'D)

This is me.

Rose shows it to Rhine. Standing next to young Rose and her horse is a shy-looking boy. Rose strokes the boy's image.

ROSE (CONT'D)

And this is my Linden. We grew up
together.

(points to an orange tree)

This was in the orange grove. My
father owned acres of them.

RHINE

They're lovely.

ROSE

Aren't they? Linden prefers flowers,
but an orange grove is my favorite
kind of garden. Linden was only six
when this was taken. Do you know how
old he is now?

Rhine shakes her head.

ROSE (CONT'D)

He's 21. Four years younger than me.
He proposed to me every year since we
were children. Linden is a hopeless
romantic, you know. It drives Vaughn
nuts.

(smiling at that)

I said no for nine years before giving
in. I didn't think it was fair to
Linden to be so much older. But he
believed Vaughn would find a cure, and
we would live together forever. I
think he still does. He's as romantic
about his father as he is about me.
And because of that, I will die having
had his love my entire life.

(looking at the photo again)

Anyway, I always knew it would come to
this. Sometimes I think it's a race to
see which will crush me first - the
virus or the guilt.

Rose looks up at Rhine.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm sorry. I've made you
uncomfortable. Here -

She holds up a bowl of her candies.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Try the pink ones. They make your
breath sweet.

Rhine comes off the ledge. Sits next to Rose. Takes a candy.

ROSE (CONT'D)
So, does everyone ask you about your
eyes?

RHINE
They comment more than ask.

ROSE
They are unique. Like you, I think.
He must have paid a fortune for them.

Rose lies back into her pillows. Closing her eyes.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I'm going to rest now. Thank you for
visiting with me.

Rose falls asleep, clasping the photo to her chest just as
Rhine had done with the Journal an hour ago.

And like Gabriel had done for her, Rhine gently frees the
photo - putting it back in its place.

OFF PICTURE - sitting alongside several others.

DISSOLVE TO:

*FAMILY PHOTOS - THESE WITH A YOUNG RHINE AND ROWAN, ONE WITH
THE WHOLE FAMILY ON A LARGE SAILBOAT - SIT ON A SHELF WITH
THE LEATHER BOUND JOURNAL.*

*STOP ON ONE PHOTO. RHINE'S MOTHER AND FATHER, LOCKED IN A
PASSIONATE EMBRACE.*

*YOUNG RHINE (O.S.)
Why do people kiss?*

PULL TO REVEAL -

LAB - FLASHBACK

A 10-yr-old Rhine sits on her mother's desk - staring at the photos. A curious Macaque monkey sits next to her.

Behind Rhine, her parents work away in their lab. They are both First Generations. Rhine's Mother injects fluid into petri dishes. Her FATHER draws blood from an animal in a cart - one we cannot yet see.

MOTHER

That's an interesting question. I believe the kiss evolved from mothers chewing food for their infants, and then passing it mouth to mouth.

RHINE

Ew.

MOTHER

It's logical, right? Our sense of love and affection comes from our mothers.

FATHER

I don't think that's what she's asking.

He looks at the blood through a computer - a DNA machine.

MOTHER

You mean when grown-ups kiss?

RHINE

Rowan says it's what you do before you take your clothes off.

MOTHER

Does he? Well, there's a science to all that as well. Romantic love comes from our need to find a partner and have children. A kiss is the test.

Rhine's Father looks up from the machine.

FATHER

DAF-16 present.

MOTHER

Test subject?

FATHER

542.

Mother grabs her journal from the shelf. Walks over to see for herself. It only takes a second.

FATHER (CONT'D)

There's your confirmation, Miriam. Are you ready to publish?

MOTHER

Yes. Code it.

Father works the machine. **ON ITS CONTROLS:** a GENE SEQUENCE. One number in the chain blinks: "DAF-16". The cure.

Father removes a data chip from the machine. Hands it to Mother. Then, twirls her in a celebratory dance.

FATHER

(beaming at his wife)

You want to know about true love, angel eyes? There's no science to it. It's as natural as the sky.

The monkey suddenly SCREECHES and runs out, just as a 10-YR-OLD ROWAN runs in - out of breath -

ROWAN

People are shouting outside!

Mother and Father go to the window - open the blinds. Outside, a CROWD - a riot in the making. They hold up signs: "STOP HUMAN TESTING" "SCIENCE KILLS" "LET NATURE DECIDE"

The GUARDS at the doors are overwhelmed by the mob.

SMASH! Someone throws a rock through a window.

Father scrambles around the lab, grabbing precious items. Mother PUTS THE DATA CHIP INSIDE HER JOURNAL - hands it to Rhine.

MOTHER

Take your brother back to the house. Lock yourselves in the cellar.

RHINE

(scared)

Mom...

MOTHER

It's okay, Rhine. You remember what we talked about? You take care of each other. No one else.

(re: Journal)

Hide this, and don't tell anyone who you are. If we don't come home -

RHINE

No!

ROWAN

No, Mamma!

MOTHER (CONT'D)

*Listen to me. If we don't come home,
you do whatever you have to do to
survive.*

Father joins Mother. They embrace their children.

FATHER

*You are special. Both of you. Never
forget.*

A BOOM! from somewhere inside the building. SCREAMS ring out.

MOTHER

Run, Rhine!

Rhine grabs Rowan's hand. Runs with him out of the lab.

OFF MOTHER - reaching into the cart for the miracle -

SMASH TO BLACK:

KNOCK. KNOCK.

RHINE'S ROOM

Rhine wakes in a haze. Her surroundings slowly come into focus.

RHINE (V.O.)

From one nightmare to the next.

Linden opens the door. He has the umbrella.

LINDEN

*You left this with Rose. We won't need
it.*

He sets the umbrella in the corner.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

*But you may want a sweater. It's
chilly out.*

He shuts the door - giving her privacy to change.

*Rhine jumps out of bed - looks out the window. The sun is
shining.*

LIBRARY/ ELEVATOR/ GROUND FLOOR

*Linden walks Rhine from the library into the elevator. He
waves his ring - selects the first floor.*

The short ride is tense. Linden doesn't speak. Doesn't really look at her. He is somewhere else.

The elevator opens into decadent foyer. The house is spectacular. On the other end of the foyer is the front door. Rhine gets only a glimpse of it before Linden leads her in the opposite direction. Out a wall of glass doors that open onto the grounds.

HOUSE GROUNDS

Rhine walks beside Linden in silence. The sunlight is perfect. Invigorating. A fresh breeze blows through her.

She glances around. The green lawns and clusters of trees stretch out to infinity - no driveway or road in sight.

Beneath Rhine's feet is a path that circles the elements of the property - some near, some far: gardens, the mini golf course, a tennis court. All of it as perfect as can be. None of it offering a clear way out. Especially with the GUARDS positioned on the perimeter.

Linden leads her to a marshy pond with a trickling stream. Colored fish swim beneath its surface.

LINDEN

These are Koi fish. From a place called Japan. Ever heard of it?

RHINE (V.O.)

When the virus first hit, borders were closed and never re-opened.

RHINE

I've read about it.

LINDEN

You read? I thought the orphanages didn't have schools.

Rhine thinks:

RHINE (V.O.)

I was stolen from my home - where my genius parents once educated us to a level of intelligence you could never achieve, you heartless prick.

But says:

RHINE

I taught myself.

LINDEN
I mostly studied mathematics. Rose
taught me about the world.

Beyond them, Cecily trots out of the house wearing a bathrobe. Her Domestic hurries after her carrying towels.

RHINE
Where's she going?

LINDEN
To the pool. She's been waiting all
week to swim through the holograms.

RHINE
(did she hear that right?)
To do what?

POOL

Cecily sits on the pool's edge, putting on a mask. She takes off her robe - shivers.

CECILY
(to her Domestic)
Make sure you're waiting with my towel
as soon as I get out.

Cecily sees Linden and Rhine approaching. She waves.

CECILY (CONT'D)
Linden! Watch me!

Cecily grabs a long tube that supplies oxygen, and slides into the pool.

Rhine steps up to the edge. Looks into the pool. No holograms - just Cecily swimming under the clear water.

RHINE
I don't see anything.

LINDEN
You have to be in the water.

RHINE
What's down there?

Cecily surfaces. She splashes frantically for the edge.

CECILY
There's a shark!

LINDEN
It's just an illusion.

CECILY
I DON'T LIKE IT! Can't you change it?

Cecily's Domestic hands Linden a remote. He scrolls through the options. Rhine looks over his shoulder - points to "Atlantis".

Linden hesitates - shakes his head "no."

RHINE
(*fuck him*)
How about Atlantis?

CECILY
What's that?

RHINE
A lost city.

Linden looks at Rhine - surprised again by her knowledge.

CECILY
Whatever. As long as there are no sharks.

Rhine reaches over Linden - makes the selection. A wave of light changes the water's color to a darker shade of blue.

Cecily floats face down on top of the water. Holds up her thumb - *all good*. Dives under.

Rhine takes off her shoes and sweater.

LINDEN
What are you doing?

Rhine grabs an oxygen tube and dives into the pool.

IN RHINE'S POV - BREATHING through the tube, swimming over a volcanic shelf. A school of tropical fish flutter past us, then dive into an opening in the shelf.

FOLLOW THE FISH. Into a dark tunnel. Crustaceans line its walls. There is a soft light in front of us - the end of the tunnel.

ABOVE WATER - POOL SIDE. Linden watches Rhine swim through the clear water.

UNDER WATER - IN RHINE'S POV. Just before she reaches the tunnel's end, A LARGE RAY FLIES UP from underneath.

She stretches to touch the ray - her hand passes through its skin. It flaps its wings. Soars into the opening, covering our view before diving out of sight to reveal -

Atlantis. Imagined like no rendering before. Temples, palaces, statues to the gods - all nestled in an underwater paradise of winding sea cliffs and coral gardens.

Cecily is ahead of Rhine, watching a mother dolphin and her baby play together. Magic.

The girls cannot help but join hands. Their eyes wide as saucers as they swim and point to one marvel after the next.

ABOVE WATER. Linden watches the girls swim together. Smiles.

His father, Vaughn, appears at his side.

VAUGHN

It's nice to see you smile.

(re: pool)

What program?

LINDEN

Atlantis.

(off Vaughn's curious look)

Rhine chose it.

VAUGHN

She did? And you allowed it? That sounds like a breakthrough.

LINDEN

It's just a hologram, father.

Linden hands Vaughn the remote and walks away.

UNDER WATER. Rhine and Cecily enter a temple. Light shines through the ruins, which are executed with incredible detail. An architectural wonder.

Rhine looks up to see an elaborate dome - its carved relief a kaleidoscope of gold and jewels. IT SWIRLS, and DISAPPEARS.

The illusion is gone. All that's left to see is Vaughn, standing above them at the pool's edge. The girls surface.

CECILY

Hey! We were still swimming.

VAUGHN

We're having a party tonight.

CECILY

A gala?!

VAUGHN

Yes, pet. I'm having Deidre make you one of her dresses.

Cecily climbs out. Her Domestic wraps her in the towels, and they scurry off.

Rhine pulls herself out of the pool - sopping wet in her clothes. Unsure if she's shaking from the cold, or the man standing before her.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

My, my. Aren't you quickly turning into something interesting.

RHINE

I'm not turning into anything.

VAUGHN

We'll see.

Vaughn hands her her sweater.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

You've already managed to get my son to show off a little. He hasn't done that for months. And here I thought I was just paying for those eyes.

RHINE

You don't own me.

VAUGHN

No? Hmm. I suppose there's an argument for that. Your future is in your hands. You can be Linden's wife and all that entails. You can charm him, pull him out of his grief. Help him to move on from Rose and return to his work - giving yourself a life of wealth and privilege...

He gets way too close to her. Sniffs her, as if he's looking for a scent. Then spits out his threat.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Or I can find another use for your flesh and bones.

Vaughn steps back. Politely gestures to the house.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Alrighty then. In you go.

RHINE'S ROOM

Rhine enters, still dripping. She goes right to the wall panel: "**Attendant**".

As soon as she hits it, Gabriel enters - startling Rhine.

RHINE

I was just calling you. Where have you been?

(shutting the door)

How many guards are there? Are they in the front of the house, or just the back?

Gabriel goes to her bathroom, returns with a towel.

RHINE (CONT'D)

Are there less of them at night?

GABRIEL

Lady Rose wants to see you.

RHINE

I don't care. Answer my questions.

GABRIEL

I can't. I don't know anything about the guards. Really. And I don't think we should be talking about them.

(whispering in her ear)

Not in here.

He wraps Rhine in the towel.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Lady Rose is asking for you.

ROSE'S ROOM

Rhine stops outside the open door. **INSIDE** - Linden sits at Rose's bedside, holding her hand.

Rhine **KNOCKS**.

LINDEN

(without looking)

Not now.

ROSE

Come in, Rhine.

As Rhine approaches, she sees that Linden is painting Rose's fingernails. She's caught them in an intimate moment.

RHINE
I can come back later.

ROSE
I heard you saw Atlantis.

LINDEN
(a protest)
Rose...

ROSE
Oh, stop.
(to Rhine)
Well? What did you think?

RHINE
(the truth)
It was extraordinary.

ROSE
Linden designed it. He won the AIA.

Nurse Clara enters - interrupting with her job to do.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Time for my torture.
(to Nurse)
How many bags today?

NURSE CLARA
Six.

ROSE
Pulling out the big guns.

Linden steps aside. Rhine follows.

RHINE
What are they doing to her?

LINDEN
Transfusions. To clean her blood.

RHINE
That therapy was proven inept decades ago. Scrubbing the blood does nothing to the genes.

LINDEN
My father developed a new protocol. It helps with her pain.

RHINE
Placebo effect.

LINDEN

How do you know these things?

From the bed -

ROSE

Linden, can you bring me some tea? I want to speak with Rhine.

Linden would prefer to get his answer, but he does as his love requests - leaving the room.

Rhine takes Linden's seat. Rose looks weaker than when Rhine last saw her. Feeling for her, Rhine picks up Rose's hand - finishes polishing her nails.

ROSE (CONT'D)

You'll see the world again, Rhine. I can tell. Linden is going to fall in love with you.

Rhine looks nervously at Nurse Clara - *should she be over-hearing this?* But the nurse seems to be ignoring them, and Rose has no time left to wait.

ROSE (CONT'D)

He'll take you anywhere you want to go.

RHINE

Not anywhere. Not home.

ROSE

This is your home now. The more you resist, the tighter the trap gets.

With her free hand, Rose pulls one of her ribbons from the headboard.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Here. Linden likes my hair tied back.

RHINE

No. That's yours.

ROSE

It's a ribbon, not an heirloom. Besides, you have such lovely cheekbones. Let the world see them.

RHINE

The world?
(the penny drops)
Oh my god. I'm going to a gala.

Rhine takes the ribbon, but Rose doesn't let go of her end.

ROSE
And you will have a wonderful time.

Rose's eyes well with emotion. *Her life has been replaced.*

ROSE (CONT'D)
I know I always did.

OFF ROSE'S HAND - releasing the ribbon.

RHINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Deirdre hand-stitches Rhine into a tight, red velvet dress.

Rhine watches in the wardrobe mirror. The ribbon hangs above its door.

RHINE
This is too much make-up. I need to look like myself.

DEIRDRE
You could never look like anyone else. Never, never, ever!

RHINE
Please Deirdre, this is important.

DEIRDRE
But it has to be evening make-up.

RHINE
Just tone it down, so that I'm recognizable when I'm on camera.

DEIRDRE
Oh, there won't be cameras.

RHINE
What? I thought it was a gala.

DEIRDRE
They aren't all on camera, silly. Especially ours. Dr. Vaughn doesn't allow broadcasts from the house.

Rhine visibly deflates. Quiet tears stream down.

RHINE (V.O.)
I will never be free.

DEIRDRE

No, no, don't cry! It's okay. You can get on a broadcast. Just get Master Linden to take you to an Expo, like he used to with Lady Rose.

RHINE

What's an Expo?

DEIRDRE

That's where Master Linden shows his designs. Cook would make a big dinner just for us, and we'd watch them from the kitchen. Last year, I did Rose's dress. It was my first, and everyone saw it! Rose was the prettiest wife, so the cameras followed her all night. Lift your arms.

Rhine does as instructed.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)

Did you hear I had to make something for Lady Cecily? It's not my fault if her domestic can't design a proper dress. She's had a hundred years to practice!

(a final stitch)

There...

Deirdre stands back to admire the dress.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)

Perfect.

RHINE

Can you give me a minute alone?

Deirdre scoots out.

Rhine faces the mirror - the image so different from her last look as "the bride." Every curve of her body is hugged by the red velvet - her breasts, her hip bones, even the ghost of her ribs appear ready to burst through the fabric like ripened fruit.

Her mother's words ring in her ears -

MOTHER (V.O.)

...you do whatever you have to do to survive.

Rhine reaches for Rose's ribbon. Ties back her hair.

GALA

OUTSIDE - Vaughn's GUARDS dot the grounds, which have been lit for glamor. A colorful tent is up.

INSIDE - over 100 people dressed in their finest, mingling about a holographic replica of Versailles' Gallery of Glass.

Linden stands across the tent - sullen and alone with his drink.

Cecily struts through the crowd - smiling and greeting guests, showing everyone her pretty dress.

Vaughn stands in a circle of First Generations that we recognize from the wedding: including LANCASTER (80s), a construction mogul who finances Linden's designs, LANCASTER'S WIFE, and a WOMAN whose plastic face is pulled so tight that one side nearly wraps around to meet the other.

LANCASTER

I'm surprised to see Linden out and about.

VAUGHN

He was out and about with you last week. You had a productive meeting, I'm sure.

LANCASTER

I hate to rain on your unflappable certainty, Vaughn, but Linden has no interest in returning to work. I listened for two hours as your son moaned about his dying wife.

PLASTIC WOMAN

This generation is so morose.

VAUGHN

You would have them jumping for joy?

PLASTIC WOMAN

Oh, please. They have their youth! We're the ones sentenced to watching decades of death. Yet, here we are. Celebrating.

MAN

What are we celebrating, by the way?

VAUGHN

Linden wanted to show off his brides.

They know it's bullshit, but indulge Vaughn anyway.

LANCASTER'S WIFE

How nice. Although, we thought you might have finally stumbled upon an antidote in that basement of yours.

VAUGHN

That will be the next party.

Lancaster lifts his glass.

LANCASTER

To unflappable certainty.

ACROSS THE TENT

Cecily has wandered into a group of Linden's "friends" - elitist youth in their late teens/ early 20s: SOPHIA - Lancaster's daughter, TAYLOR - Sophia's snarky co-hort, and BARKLEY - Linden's former classmate.

CECILY

Sophia Lancaster! I watch you all the time. My favorite was the summer ball, when you wore the mirror dress.

TAYLOR

How cute. A fan.

CECILY

I'm Cecily.

Sophia and Taylor exchange a look - they know what she is.

CECILY (CONT'D)

Don't you love my dress? I designed it.

SOPHIA

A designer, huh? I didn't realize the orphanages had career counseling.

TAYLOR

Maybe she's self-taught.

BARKLEY

Like you two know how to do anything.

SOPHIA

Like we would ever need to. My father doesn't buy attendants just to keep them off the streets.

CECILY

I have attendants. And a cook.

SOPHIA
Those are Linden's.

BARKLEY
Where is he, anyway?

TAYLOR
(pointing)
Moping.

They follow Taylor's finger. See Linden in his corner.

SOPHIA
Poor thing needs some consoling.
(to Taylor)
How's my lipstick?

BARKLEY
Sophia, he's not interested. He's
never been interested.

SOPHIA
Barkley, he's never been available.

CECILY
Linden's my husband.

SOPHIA
Then why aren't you at his side?

Cecily is stumped. Completely out of her depth in this world.

TAYLOR
Trot along, Cinderella.

Cecily leaves the vipers behind, weaving her way to Linden.

SOPHIA
(rolling her eyes)
"My husband." That twit has no idea
why she's here.

TAYLOR
She will soon enough. Dr. Ghoul will
see to that.

BARKLEY
So dark, ladies. Maybe having a new
face around the house will help
Linden.

TAYLOR
Anyone who gets hung up on someone
four years older is beyond all help.

CATCH UP TO CECILY - landing at Linden's side.

CECILY

Hi.

Linden barely nods to her existence.

CECILY (CONT'D)

Your friends said we should be together.

LINDEN

They're not my friends.

(downs his drink)

Enjoy the party.

FOLLOW LINDEN - past the gowns and jewelry - past the self-congratulatory laughter of the rich - to his father's group.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

Alright, I'm done.

VAUGHN

Linden. We were just discussing your work. Everyone is excited to see some new designs.

LANCASTER

Come to the Expo next month. Get your feet wet again.

LINDEN

Rose needs me.

Linden strides off for the tent's entrance/ exit.

LANCASTER

(to Vaughn)

If you want to get that boy back on track, you're going to need a seismic event to shake him back to life.

CATCH UP TO LINDEN - reaching the entrance. He sees Deirdre, and then stops cold. His jaw drops, as does everyone else's inside. All eyes on -

RHINE. Stunning Rhine. She has arrived.

DEIRDRE

Sorry we're late.

(covering for Rhine)

It was my fault.

LINDEN

It's fine.

Rhine takes in the crowd - an intimidating sight.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
You okay?

RHINE
Why are they all staring at me?

LINDEN
Because you're beautiful.

Rhine looks at Linden. He means it. He is captivated.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
Here. Let me.

Linden extends his elbow for her to take. Turns back to the crowd with Rhine on his arm. Ushers her inside.

ANGLE ON "FRIENDS" - The girls are speechless.

BARKLEY
Whoa.

ANGLE ON CECILY - Her eyes narrow. She is enraged.

ANGLE ON FIRST GENERATIONS - Impressed by the entrance.

VAUGHN
Here comes my earthquake.

Linden walks Rhine over to them.

LINDEN
Rhine, this is Mr. Lancaster and his wife. I used to design for his company.

LANCASTER
And you will again soon, we hope.
Lovely to meet you, dear.

LANCASTER'S WIFE
Your dress is exquisite.

RHINE
Thank you.

The Plastic Woman gets a look at Rhine's eyes - GASPS.

PLASTIC WOMAN
Your eyes. Wherever did you get them?

RHINE
My parents.

This amuses the group.

VAUGHN
You are ravishing, Rhine. I see our
little talk rubbed off.

LINDEN
What talk?

VAUGHN
Oh, just a father-daughter chat.

Cecily barges in. Yells at Linden.

CECILY
I'm your wife too, you know! You
should have introduced me to people.

VAUGHN
Now, Cecily. I've already...

CECILY
(barrelling over him)
You said this was MY gala! For Linden
to introduce me. Why is she getting
all the attention?!

Vaughn grabs her. Drags her to the side.

VAUGHN
Lower your voice.

CECILY
OR WHAT?!

VAUGHN
One more word, and you'll find out.

Vaughn's threat brings a **FLASH OF MEMORY** for Rhine: *JENNA'S NAKED BODY ON THE SLAB. HER DEAD FACE CONTORTED FROM PAIN.*

Rhine turns three shades of green. It doesn't go unnoticed.

LANCASTER'S WIFE
Are you alright?

RHINE
I think I should leave.

LANCASTER
Vaughn will handle the girl. There's a
whole night to enjoy.

Rhine thinks:

*RHINE (V.O.)
Every one of you is a monster.*

But says:

RHINE
I'm not feeling well. It was nice
meeting you.

LINDEN
I'll go with you.

Linden leads Rhine out of the tent. The cold night air hits her. She takes a deep inhale. Her color starts to return.

In the distance, the Lighthouse beacon spins and shines.

RHINE
Can we walk around for a little bit?
Somewhere away from the tent.

Linden takes off his jacket. Wraps it around her shoulders.

LINDEN
Where would you like to go?

ORANGE GROVE

Rhine stands in front of three acres of mature orange trees. With the exception of a GUARD at this post, the grove is different from anything else about the house - inside or out. It's natural. Wild. *Real*.

Rhine steps off the perfectly manicured lawn and into the grove. She walks through the trees with Linden - the moonlight lighting their way.

She sees a DEER ahead, grazing on the tall grass that grows between the trees. The Deer catches her scent. Looks up.

RHINE
(whispering)
Is it real?

LINDEN
Yes.

The deer leaps, disappearing into the grove.

RHINE
Rose is right.

LINDEN
About what?

RHINE
This place is special.

Linden picks an orange. Does a charming trick - peeling the rind into the shape of a man, with the round fruit as a belly.

For the first time since she was stolen, Rhine smiles.

RHINE (CONT'D)
You're so talented. Why don't you go back to work?

LINDEN
I can't imagine why I would.

RHINE
I can't imagine having a gift like yours and letting it wither away.

LINDEN
Wow. Well, designing houses for other people's lives is not how I want to spend what's left of mine.

RHINE
So, you don't believe your father will find the cure.

LINDEN
No, I do. I do believe it. It's just...

His voice cracks with a sudden emotion.

RHINE
(finishing for him)
You don't know when.

LINDEN
I don't.

Linden takes a section off the orange and hands it to Rhine. She tastes it - *delicious*.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
Can I ask you something?

RHINE
I guess.

LINDEN

Why did you choose to be a bride?

TIME SLOWS for Rhine. The question rattles through her body. She is in shock.

RHINE

What?

LINDEN

I know the orphanages can be hard to overcome, but you seem like you could have done anything with your life. Why marry a complete stranger?

Rhine thinks:

RHINE (V.O.)

He doesn't know...

But says:

RHINE

I'd like to go inside now.

WIFE'S FLOOR

Linden walks Rhine from the library elevator to her room.

She says nothing - her walls are up. *Just a few steps more. Don't fall apart.*

At her door -

LINDEN

Do you need anything? I can have an attendant -

RHINE

(cutting him off)

I'm tired.

LINDEN

I didn't mean to upset you, Rhine. I'm just curious how you came here. I mean, I'm married to you, and I don't know anything about you. Where are you from? What was your last name?

He stares into her - eager for answers - seduced by her mystery.

Rhine's Mother's voice echoes through her mind -

*MOTHER (V.O.)
Don't tell anyone who you are...*

*RHINE
Good night.*

Rhine shuts him out. Collapses to the floor. Panic attack.

ENTER HER POV. WE ARE RHINE - SEEING NOT OUR ROOM, BUT THE CELLAR OF OUR NEW YORK HOME:

Rowan lies unconscious on the floor in front of us - his head bleeding, his arms and legs tied like ours. Jenna is to our right - bound and gagged - trying to scream.

We can feel our captor's boot pressing into our back. The barrel of our dead father's rifle hovers above our head. In the background, we hear the SOUNDS of the cellar being RANSACKED, and the dresser's drawers SLAMMING to the floor.

*TALL MAN (O.S.)
Found it. Let's go.*

BANG! The man above us shoots the lock off the cellar door.

Rowan opens his eyes. Looks from Jenna to us. It is a nightmare. He breaks down.

*RHINE
(afraid for him)
Shh.*

The Tall Man returns. Grabs Jenna by the ropes around her feet. Drags her out of the cellar.

*ROWAN
(whispers)
I will find you.*

A gag is jammed into our mouth.

And we are ripped away.

SMASH TO:

RHINE'S ROOM - MORNING

Rhine lies exactly where we left her - still in her dress. She wakes to an eerie SILENCE.

It is morning, but there is no daylight from the windows. They are blacked out. The only light she has is coming from the floor dimmers and the crack beneath her door.

She goes for the wall panel to call Gabriel. It's off.

She opens her door. Walks into the hall. Every member of the staff - domestics, attendants, even Cook - line the walls. Some crying. All with their heads down.

At the end of the hall, Rose's door opens. Vaughn steps out. Followed by Nurse Clara, pushing a slab. On the slab lies a body covered by a sheet.

As they pass Rhine, she sees Rose's hand exposed from under the sheet. The nails that Rhine painted are perfectly pink, but the fingers are blueish and gnarled - as if she died in great pain. *Like Jenna.*

A few doors down, Cecily also watches from her doorway. Quiet for once.

Vaughn stops at the elevator - the one that leads to his basement.

Rhine breaks the silence.

RHINE
(an accusation)
What are you doing with her body?

That startles the sacred moment. Even Vaughn is taken aback.

VAUGHN
You shouldn't worry about such things.
Your husband needs you.

Vaughn and the slab disappear into the elevator.

Gabriel steps out of the line of mourning staff. Shoos Rhine into her room. Shuts them inside.

GABRIEL
You're going to get hurt.

RHINE
He killed her.

Gabriel hurries her into the bathroom. Turns on all the faucets to cover their voices.

GABRIEL
(low voice)
Rose died from the virus.

RHINE
Did you see her hand? It was blue.
Like Jenna's. That's not the virus.

GABRIEL

Who's Jenna?

RHINE

The dead girl in the basement.

GABRIEL

You knew her?

RHINE

Vaughn must have put something in the IV. And now he's going to cut her up.

GABRIEL

Why would Vaughn kill Rose?

RHINE

To get rid of her. To get her out of Linden's life, so he can...move on.

Rhine trembles. Gabriel puts his arm around her.

RHINE (CONT'D)

I have to get out of here. Will you help me?

GABRIEL

I don't know how.

RHINE

You can get me down to the kitchen. I'll use that door.

GABRIEL

What about Cook?

RHINE

I'll go at night. When she's asleep.

GABRIEL

And then what? You don't know where you are, or where you're going. You won't make it.

RHINE

I'll figure it out. Please, Gabriel.

CECILY

What are you talking about?

Cecily is in the bathroom doorway.

RHINE

(collecting herself)
Nothing.

CECILY

I guess you think you're First Wife.

RHINE

I'm not thinking anything.

CECILY

Yes you are. You want to be First.
Well, he might like you better, but
that won't last. You'll see.

OFF A SUDDENLY CONFIDENT CECILY.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS - DAYS PASSING

RHINE'S ROOM: Rhine paces her room. The windows remain black. Deirdre buzzes about. Gabriel enters with his tray. Sets it down next to Rhine. Subtly shakes his head - *No way out, yet.*

ROSE'S ROOM: Linden lies in Rose's bed. By the look of the room, he's been holed up in here since Rose died. He clings to Rose's photo.

SITTING ROOM: A bored Cecily tries to play a holographic game of chess with her Attendant. She looks up to see Nurse Clara -

NURSE CLARA

Come along.

Cecily happily trots off with her.

KITCHEN: Rhine and Gabriel sit at the table, eating lunch. A KNOCK at the back door. Cook answers it. A DELIVERY MAN needs a signature. His food truck idles behind him.

DELIVERY MAN

See you next month.

COOK

Careful drivin' out. That storm's
comin'.

Rhine and Gabriel exchange looks - *A way out.*

COOK (CONT'D)

Ooo-hoo, you see dat sky? Alarms are
sure to ring. You two princesses goin'
be locked in the basement.

Rhine turns white at the thought of it.

COOK (CONT'D)

Don' worry, Blondie. You'll be comfy cozy in your shelter, and us'll be up here cookin' and bringin' your meals.

RHINE

You work through the hurricanes?

COOK

That's our jobs.

RHINE

Even the guards?

COOK

The scarecrows? Ha! Hell, maybe we all blow away. Then, what will you do?

(serious)

Now go get dressed. We got to say our good-byes.

ORANGE GROVE

Linden stands in the Orange Grove - holding an urn. Vaughn, Rhine, Cecily, and the entire staff are present.

IN THE SKY ABOVE - the storm gathers.

Linden scatters the ashes. He stares into the grove - lost. Vaughn puts his hand on Linden's shoulder, but his son doesn't respond.

Vaughn looks at Rhine, then takes Cecily by the arm and walks back for the house.

The others follow Vaughn, leaving Linden to his grief.

Rhine watches Linden for a moment. She approaches him. Holds out her hand. In it is Rose's ribbon - the one Rhine wore to the gala.

OFF LINDEN - taking the ribbon - touched by the gesture.

SITTING ROOM - LATER

Family and staff are gathered. Everyone but Linden. Cook has laid out a buffet. Some of Rose's photos are placed around.

Rhine sits with Deirdre and Cecily.

CECILY

What do they call this again?

RHINE

A memorial.

CECILY

It's so boring. I thought it was going to be a party. With people.

RHINE

The staff are people, Cecily.

CECILY

You know what I mean. We're supposed to be important.

Cecily sees her Old Domestic at the buffet - filling a plate - talking with another servant.

CECILY (CONT'D)

Look at her. You'd think she'd check on me first before helping herself.

RHINE

You catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

CECILY

Huh?

RHINE

It's something my father used to say. It means if you're nice to people, they'll be willing to do more for you.

DEIRDRE

That's so true. Honey or vinegar. Sweet or sour. I like it.

CECILY

Is that why you're always with that boy attendant? You're being nice to get what you want?

RHINE

I guess.

CECILY

Well you shouldn't use so much honey. It gives the wrong impression.

Vaughn approaches.

VAUGHN

I have to leave town tomorrow for work. I'm expecting the two of you to look after Linden.

(MORE)

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
 (to Cecily)
 How are you feeling, pet?

CECILY
 Exactly the same.

VAUGHN
 Come eat. I had Cook put out some of
 your favorites.

Cecily shuffles over to the food with Vaughn, passing her Old Domestic who joins Rhine and Deirdre.

RHINE
 Is Cecily sick?

DEIRDRE
 If only.

The Old Domestic SNORTS in agreement.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
 Oh, that's terrible, terrible of me.
 No. Not sick. We think she's started
 her fertility treatments.

RHINE
 What makes you think that?

DEIRDRE
 (shrugs)
 That's why she's here. And she got a
 ring for the elevator.

OLD DOMESTIC
 She go down in the basement.

Vaughn addresses the group.

VAUGHN
 Rose was a loyal wife. Linden and I
 appreciate how you all cared for her.

After a moment of silence, Vaughn waves his ring at a wall panel. It comes to life - showing a hundred or more controls. Vaughn makes a selection. The black lifts from the windows, ending the mourning. But light does not pour in.

OUT THE WINDOW - Beneath the ominous clouds is our first view of the mini-golf course. It's carnival-themed, including a small Ferris Wheel and gigantic ice cream cone.

Gabriel lifts an empty tray from the table, catching Rhine's eye as he walks out of the sitting room.

RHINE
I'm going to lie down.

Deirdre jumps up to go with her.

RHINE (CONT'D)
It's okay. You stay.

Rhine enters the hall - sees Gabriel ahead, turning into the library.

LIBRARY

Gabriel and Rhine whisper in a corner - keeping an eye on the open hall. Gabriel walks her through his plan.

GABRIEL
There's a pick-up tonight. Linens. I was able to get on the shift.

RHINE
Tonight?

GABRIEL
Do you want to wait?

Rhine shakes her head - *no waiting*.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
I'll come and get you before the truck buzzes the gate.

RHINE
What happens to you when they find out I'm gone?

Gabriel can't say it.

RHINE (CONT'D)
You're coming with me. When does the truck come?

GABRIEL
9:30.

They hear VOICES coming.

Rhine grabs a book. Rushes for the hall, where a group of Domestic's are passing by - including Cecily's.

OFF THE OLD DOMESTIC - looking from Rhine to the library, where Gabriel pretends to be cleaning up.

RHINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rhine stands at her window - waiting. A KNOCK at the door.
The clock reads 9:15.

As she opens the door -

RHINE

I was getting worr...

Linden stands in her doorway, wearing his broken heart.

LINDEN

I need you.

He steps inside. Goes to her bed.

In the hall, Gabriel has just appeared. Ready to take Rhine with him, until he sees Linden sitting on her bed.

The three of them are stuck in the moment. Each staring at the other.

With no choice, Rhine shuts the door on her freedom.

She walks over to face Linden. He gently takes her hands, pulling her to him as his tears fall. He is desperate, but not dangerous.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

Will you let me hold you? Please.

Rhine lies on the bed. Linden wraps himself around her stiff body, and sobs for his dead wife.

RHINE'S ROOM - MORNING

Rhine is asleep, still in her clothes, and lying on top of the covers. From the bathroom, we hear the SHOWER being turned off.

Without knocking, a First Generation MALE ATTENDANT enters with a cart of food. Startling Rhine awake.

RHINE

Who are you?

GEOFFREY

I am Geoffrey, Lady Rhine. Master
Linden's Domestic.

Linden emerges from the bathroom - wet and naked, but for the towel around his waist. His body is perfect.

LINDEN
Did you bring the oranges?

Geoffrey pulls a basket of oranges out from under the table. Places them next to Rhine.

RHINE
Where's Gabriel?

GEOFFREY
Resting, ma'am. He worked the night shift. I can wake him if you'd like.

LINDEN
That won't be necessary. Thank you, Geoffrey.

Geoffrey leaves. Linden stays.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
I should be thanking you.

RHINE
For what?

LINDEN
Letting me stay in here last night.

Last night - when she would have escaped.

RHINE
It's your house.

LINDEN
It's your room.
(looking at the food)
I think I can finally eat something.

Linden picks his pants off the floor. As he slides them on, Rhine looks away. Embarrassed. It makes Linden smile.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
I used to be shy.

The lights FLICKER on and off. LIGHTENING outside the window flashes the room. Rain pours down.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
The storm's getting worse. Let's stay in here all day.

Linden waves his ring across the wall panel. It comes to life like the one in the library. Hundreds of controls. *His ring is a Master Key.*

He makes a selection. A movie hologram appears at the foot of the bed - projected from the ceiling.

RHINE
Can you open the window?

LINDEN
You really do like the rain.

Rhine fakes a smile. Linden selects the "window" button. The glass pane slides open, and the WIND GUSTS blow in.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
(shivering)
...and the cold.

Rhine grabs a plush robe from the back of the bathroom door. Hands it to Linden.

RHINE
Here.

Linden takes the robe. He hangs on to her hand, intertwining his fingers in hers.

LINDEN
How do you do that?

RHINE
What?

LINDEN
Make me feel better. I wish I could do the same for you.

RHINE
I'm fine.

LINDEN
No, you're not. You're sad beneath those walls. I wish I knew why.

He searches her unique eyes.

RHINE (V.O.)
I am a prisoner.

RHINE
(out loud)
I lost somebody.

LINDEN
Someone you loved?

Rhine nods.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

RHINE

Me too.

Rhine lets him pull her into his arms.

RHINE (CONT'D)

I'm not her, Linden.

LINDEN

I don't want you to be.

Linden closes his eyes - soaking her in. Rhine looks to the open window.

RHINE'S ROOM - JUMP CUTS OF THE DAY PASSING

Linden watches his movie. Rhine sits by the window, reading the book she pulled from the library - "Frankenstein". She has one eye on his ring.

Deirdre picks up around the room. Lies out clean clothes for them both.

Linden sketches on his tablet. Rhine watches as he conjures up fantasy structures from his imagination. His talent is dazzling.

The storm surges. Linden reaches for the wall panel - SHUTS THE WINDOW. Returns his attention to his latest drawing - a sketch of Rhine.

Gabriel brings them food. Linden's presence in Rhine's bed keeps Gabriel from looking at Rhine. The uncomfortable silence drives Rhine into the bathroom. She splashes water on her face. Looks in the mirror. She is trapped.

Another movie. Rhine lies under the covers with her back turned and eyes closed. Linden yawns - slides down to a more comfortable position. Rhine opens her eyes.

NIGHT - LATE

Finally, Linden sleeps. Curled next to Rhine. She watches him to be sure, then carefully starts to move his hand towards the wall panel. He stirs. She stops - waits - moves it again, and his ring ACTIVATES the controls.

Rhine slides out of bed. She pulls on a coat and shoes. She considers the umbrella, but leaves it.

She takes one last look at Linden, then reaches for the controls - opening the window. The storm outside is raging.

Rhine climbs onto the window ledge - she can barely see into the night. A FLASH of lightening shows her the distance to the tree - and the ground beneath. Both dangerously far.

She prepares herself -

BOOM!

The thunder wakes Linden. He reaches for Rhine. She's not in the bed. She's sitting on the open window ledge.

ALARMS SOUND! The window starts to close. Rhine LEAPS OUT.

LINDEN

Rhine!

OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Rhine FALLS! She grasps for the tree, but her hands and feet slip in the rain. She tumbles through the branches, landing on a hedge. Scratched, but unbroken.

Above her, Linden looks out the window but sees nothing.

LINDEN

RHINE!

Rhine untangles herself, and RUNS!

Her sense of direction is off. All she can see is the angry air. And there's so much NOISE.

But her feet don't stop. They pound ahead - every stride driving her towards freedom, until the ground disappears beneath her - and she plunges into the sea.

Her arms and legs flail in the dark water. She looks for the way up - sees nothing but black until a sudden FLASH of light illuminates the surface, and the silhouette of a Great White circling above.

Rhine swims frantically underwater. The shark spins to follow her - flying towards her. Her hands find an invisible wall. She turns to see the black eyes and rows of deadly teeth open - ready to rip her in half.

The shark FLICKERS and swims right through her. A hologram.

Rhine scales up the wall - finding the surface - gasping for air.

She pulls herself out of the pool. And hears her name being screamed into the wind by more than one voice.

VOICES
RHINE! RHINE!

She glances behind as she runs - in the distance, flashlights shake at the hands of her captors. They're chasing after her.

She looks forward - and there's a Guard. Standing right in front of her. She reels back in fear - believing she's caught - skidding to a stop at his feet.

Then, he FLICKERS, like the shark.

Rhine runs through his hologram body. She has a clear path to the treeline. She bolts for the woods, but before she can reach them -

WHACK! Rhine is pummelled by a giant ice cream cone - blown free from the mini golf course. She tries to press forward - for the trees - but the wind knocks her back into the chocolate scoop.

The rain pelts Rhine's face and body. She falls to her knees. About to give in when a LIGHT shoots at her, then spins away on a circular path.

The Lighthouse!

WITH THE SEARCH PARTY: Linden, Vaughn, and several STAFF - including Gabriel and Geoffrey, brave the storm to find Rhine. The fierce wind has temporarily stopped them.

SHOUTING above the storm -

VAUGHN
(to Linden)
She'll be running for the gate.

LINDEN
She's not running away. She fell.
She's lost in the storm.

VAUGHN
(to Gabriel)
Where is she, boy?

Gabriel hesitates - afraid to answer. Vaughn GRABS HIM - lifts Gabriel up by his neck.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
You will tell me!

Linden is shocked - pulls Gabriel free.

LINDEN
What are you doing?!

VAUGHN
If we don't find her, she will die in
this storm. Do you want that?

Linden looks at Gabriel. The boy is scared.

LINDEN
If you know something, tell us.

GABRIEL
She doesn't know the way out, but
she's trying to find it.

WITH RHINE: In the woods. She pushes her way through the
trees with arms out-stretched - away from her SCREAMED NAME
and the ALARMS. She's bloody, but the injuries don't stop
her.

The dense trees open up into a circular clearing. At its
center is the lighthouse - a battered structure, four stories
high with a windmill on top.

Rhine keeps moving until she touches its weathered surface.
Her hands grope for a solution - a way out. She finds a
ladder and begins to climb.

Up, up, up! The rusty, jagged rungs of the ladder cut open
Rhine's hands. She makes it to the top - and the spotlight
greet her, blinding her on its spin. She looks away and
almost falls.

The spotlight passes. She can see. She is higher than all the
trees, and *THERE IT IS!* -

An iron gate. In the distance - on the other side of the
woods. She has found the end of the property. The exit from
hell. And it is beautiful.

From here, Rhine can also see the drive from the house to the
gate. *Where has that been?*

The drive feeds into a road that winds away from the gate -
to a rocky beach - where it runs alongside the shore until it
disappears into a distant city skyline.

Rhine begins her descent, and hears her name again.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
RHINE!

Gabriel has found her. He stands in the clearing below.

RHINE
I'm getting out! Come with me! Run
away with me!

He cannot hear her.

GABRIEL
Come down! You have to come down!

Linden appears at Gabriel's side.

LINDEN
(a warning)
LOOK OUT!

She cannot see it, but we can. A blade from the windmill has
broken off and is flying for the back of her head.

SMASH! Light's out.

Rhine falls into Linden's open arms.

CUT TO:

IN RHINE'S POV. WE LIE ON OUR BACK, BUT WE ARE MOVING
QUICKLY. ROLLING ON A SLAB.

OUR VISION IS BLURRY, BUT WE CAN SEE WHERE WE ARE - THE
RECTANGULAR LIGHT FIXTURES ARE ABOVE. WE ARE IN THE BASEMENT.

BASEMENT

STAY IN RHINE'S POV. Linden runs alongside us.

LINDEN
Hang on, Rhine. Hang on.

The pain is excruciating. We reach up our hand and claw at
the air - *we want out of here.*

Linden takes our hand.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
We're going to save you...

The gurney wheels into a treatment room. We were in here
before - right after our capture - when our ovaries were
harvested.

We turn our head and see Vaughn. He hates us. We have
betrayed him.

Vaughn takes our hand from Linden. Jams an IV into it.
Injects the morphine. And we slip away from this earth.

DISSOLVE TO:

RHINE'S UNCONSCIOUS AND WAKING DREAMS - REAL AND IMAGINED

IN HER FAMILY HOME: We're not in the cellar, but upstairs in the main house. Rhine and Rowan - both little and in their nightclothes, sit on the upper steps, looking down through the bannister rails at their parents who dance in the living room.

If we were paying close attention, we would get it by now that as lovely as these parents are, they are much too old to have such young children.

Father gives Mother a twirl, and she spins into a thousand butterflies.

VAUGHN (O.S.)
Open your eyes.

RHINE'S EYES BLINK OPEN TO SEE -

THE TREATMENT ROOM: Linden is there.

LINDEN
Thank God.

Rhine looks down at her body. She is broken - bandaged.

Vaughn pulls at her eyelids. Shines a light into her eyes. His gold teeth and breath are inches from her face.

She has a FLASH OF MEMORY - the moment Vaughn first leered at her in the line-up. This time, he speaks to her -

VAUGHN
*I'll squeeze every secret out of you,
angel eyes.*

Vaughn's eyes widen and turn black. He opens his mouth to bite her, and his gold-caps turn into rows of razor-sharp teeth. He is the Great White.

Rhine drowns in the deep water - falling into darkness.

TREATMENT ROOM: A familiar blur hovers over her. She focuses her eyes to find -

ROWAN'S FACE. Filling the screen.

ROWAN

Come with me.

Rhine looks down at her body. Her bandages are gone.

She unplugs her IV. Swings her legs to the floor. Follows Rowan past a sleeping Nurse Clara. Out of the treatment room.

Rowan leads Rhine through the maze of halls - to a set of doors with a "BIOHAZARD" sign. She cracks them open - peeks inside to find a large room lined with empty hospital beds. All but five of them -

On these beds lie the GIRLS. The girls from the van - only six of them left. They are hooked up to tubes and machines. Half on their way to turning blue - like Jenna and Rose, writhing in pain.

Rhine spins in horror to find Jenna standing in the hall. A ghost. She wears the gruesome scars of her organ removal.

Rhine collapses. Rowan and Jenna are gone. The bandages are back on her head, body and hands. She sees the legs of LAB TECHS running for her -

And the world goes black again.

CUT TO:

AN ANIMATED SKETCH OF RHINE'S HOUSE.

DRAWN IN THE WINDOWS ARE A DANCING COUPLE - RHINE'S PARENTS IN THE UPSTAIRS LIVING ROOM, AND JENNA - BLUE AND COVERED IN SCARS IN THE CELLAR BELOW.

PULL TO REVEAL.

RHINE'S ROOM - DAYS LATER

Rhine sleeps in her bed. Her mouth is moving - she is mumbling. Most of her bandages are gone, but she is still hooked to an IV.

Linden is beside her - keeping watch. His tablet is in his lap. He draws from her dreams.

Rhine's mumbling stops. She takes a deep breath and MOANS on the exhale. She is finally coming to.

Linden hits a button the wall panel: **"Dr. Vaughn"**

RHINE

Where am I?

LINDEN
You're in your room.

Rhine weeps at the news.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
It's alright. You're safe now. I'm
here.

She opens her eyes.

RHINE
The basement...

LINDEN
There was a hurricane, but it's over.
Everything's back to normal.

RHINE
The girls are in the basement.

LINDEN
We're all upstairs. Cecily and Deirdre
are fine.

RHINE
Not them. The girls from the van.
Vaughn kept them. He's experimenting.

LINDEN
You're not making any sense.

RHINE
Your father is a monster.

LINDEN
My father saved your life, Rhine.
We're lucky he was here.

RHINE
Linden, please listen.

LINDEN
I have been.

Linden shows Rhine his sketch tablet.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
You were talking in your dreams.

He flips through the tablet. There in front of Rhine is the
crumbling city of Manhattan -

RHINE
New York.

LINDEN

Is that where you're from?

She nods. He smiles - *finally, he knows something about her.*

LINDEN (CONT'D)

You were dreaming about labs. See?

The next sketch is of her parents' lab. Linden has captured Mother perfectly - she writes "DAF-16" and "542" over and over again in her Journal.

And he's drawn Father hovering over rows of carts.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

Are these your parents?

RHINE

They were scientists.

We can't see what's inside the carts, but tubes are running out them.

Linden flips to the sketch he was just working on: Rhine's house with her dancing parents and blue Jenna in the windows. He OPENS the house to show its interior - throughout are items/ symbols in pairs. Pairs of sailboats, shotguns, monkeys, and butterflies.

LINDEN

You kept saying "twin," so I drew some things in twos.

(pointing to Jenna)

I think this was from that book. I started reading it.

Rhine glances at the bedside table - sees "Frankenstein."

LINDEN (CONT'D)

It's no wonder you had nightmares.

Vaughn enters. Checks Rhine. She recoils at his touch.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

She's afraid. She thinks she saw something in the basement.

VAUGHN

Just hallucinations from the concussion and medication. Can you lift your head by yourself, Rhine?

She can. Vaughn checks the small bandage on the back of her head.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

You heal well. Can you tell me what you last remember?

RHINE

Falling.

LINDEN

You fell from the window. I thought I lost you.

Vaughn looks from Rhine to Linden. He wants more answers from her, but his son is in love. Vaughn unhooks Rhine's IV.

VAUGHN

You gave us quite the scare.
(getting up)

I'll check on you again when I return.

Vaughn walks out. Linden follows him into the hall.

LINDEN

I can't believe you're still going.

VAUGHN

The Nurse can handle things. I can't waste any more time on this, okay? I have work to do.

LINDEN

What if something else happens?

VAUGHN

(flip)

Then you move on to the next wife. I bought you two.

LINDEN

Jesus, dad.

Vaughn SIGHS.

VAUGHN

Look, she's going to be fine. If you don't want to lose her, Linden, then I wouldn't let her out of your sight.

Vaughn leaves. Linden returns to Rhine.

LINDEN

(to Rhine)

He'll be back. There's a summit in Washington, and father is presenting new findings. It's very hopeful.

RHINE
You should go with him.

LINDEN
My place is with you.

Rhine remembers Rose's advice -

ROSE (V.O.)
The more you resist, the tighter the trap gets.

Rhine looks to the corner for the umbrella. It is gone.

MORNING

Geoffrey rolls in a food cart. Deirdre follows him in.

DEIRDRE
Oh, Lady Rhine! We were so worried.
But Cook said,
(imitating Cook)
"Don' worry 'bout that child. She got
a will like no other." And she was
right!

Deirdre GASPS at the sight of Rhine's bruises.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
My perfect skin! I'll get my brushes.
We can cover this up.

RHINE
I'd like a bath. Will you help me?

Rhine pulls herself out of bed. Deirdre helps her into the bathroom. Sits her on the edge of the tub.

RHINE (CONT'D)
Shut the door.

Rhine runs the tub. Deidre pulls on Rhine's robe to help her undress. Rhine whispers in her ear -

RHINE (CONT'D)
Where is Gabriel? Have you seen him?

DEIRDRE
Dr. Vaughn took him. Cook says he's
okay, but we're not supposed to ask
about him. Especially you.

Cecily pokes her head in -

CECILY

I heard you were awake. You don't look so bad.

RHINE

I didn't realize you cared, Cecily.

CECILY

Well, it's not like I want you to *die*.

The way she says it makes the girls LAUGH.

RHINE

I saw the shark. You were right. It scared the shit out of me.

CECILY

I know! I told them to get rid of it, but no one listens around here.

DEIRDRE

More honey, less vinegar.

OFF RHINE - time to take her own advice.

NIGHT

More movies. Rhine puts her head on Linden's shoulder.

RHINE

Linden.

LINDEN

Yes?

RHINE

Please take me out of this house.

LINDEN

We'll go for a walk tomorrow.

RHINE

In the city, or on the beach?

LINDEN

Rhine...

RHINE

I need to see the outside world. Rose said you would show it to me.

Linden turns off the movie. Stares at Rhine. Makes a decision.

LINDEN
Get your coat.

ROOFTOP - VERANDAH

Linden leads Rhine from a rooftop door onto a covered VERANDAH - lit in a thousand sparkling lights.

He walks Rhine to the railing. Puts her hands on it.

LINDEN
Hold on.

Linden waves his ring. The covering above them parts. And the Verandah LIFTS AND SEPARATES from the rooftop below.

THEY BEGIN TO CIRCLE - floating over the house on a magical ride. The view is spectacular. Rhine can see everything from here - the orange grove by the woods, the lighthouse, the beach and harbor, the city.

ANGLE BELOW. Rhine can see the drive out through the trees - to the gate. An even better view than from the top of the lighthouse. *Is she above the illusions, or inside of them?*

RHINE
Is this a hologram?

LINDEN
(smiling)
No. It's a suspension lift.

RHINE
It's incredible. Did you design this?

Linden nods.

RHINE (CONT'D)
Thank you for showing this to me.

Before she realizes what she's doing, Rhine gives Linden a quick kiss - catching them both off-guard.

RHINE (CONT'D)
See what happens when you take me out of my room?

Linden takes her face in his hand. His fingertips explore her lips. Her neck. Her collarbone. The electricity of his touch courses through Rhine's body. This man has loved before. He knows what he's doing.

RHINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Don't lose control. Stay in control.

RHINE (CONT'D)
 (out loud)
 Let's go somewhere. Take me to an Expo.

LINDEN
 An Expo? Why would you ask for that?

He pulls back.

RHINE
 (thinking fast)
 So I can learn more about you.

He's not quite believing her. *Time to pour on the charm.*

RHINE (CONT'D)
 And we can get out. of. this. house.

Linden LAUGHS.

RHINE (CONT'D)
 Please, Linden. I've been here for weeks. I don't even know how many.

LINDEN
 You are persistent.

RHINE
 I am.

The wind picks up. Linden brushes Rhine's hair out of her face, wrapping his arm around her waist.

LINDEN
 (a confession)
 I can't lose you, too.

RHINE
 (a lie)
 You won't.

He looks into her eyes - she can tell that he believes her.

LINDEN
 Okay, Rhine. Okay.

He leans in for a real kiss, and she gives in - melting into him, as they ride through the night under a blanket of stars.

FRONT DRIVE

Linden stands next to his limo - in a tuxedo and coat.

Rhine emerges from the house. A vision in a flowing pink gown covered in crystals, and a white fur shawl.

Linden opens the door for her. Rhine takes a deep breath - pushing through the MEMORY of the last time she was in this limo.

They climb inside.

LIMO

The windows are black - the outer world barely visible beyond them. The divider is raised, giving them privacy and blocking the view from the windshield. But there is a sunroof.

RHINE
Can you open it?

LINDEN
You and your windows.

Linden opens the sunroof. Rhine stands up - grips the roof as the limo pulls away from the mansion.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
What are you doing up there?

Rhine watches the winding drive. A wall of trees stands in the distance. The Guards are there. Unlike the view from the Verandah, it's impossible to tell where the road is covered by holograms. She'll have to watch them drive through it.

Linden pops up next to her.

RHINE
(quick thinking)
We used to close our eyes and feel the wind. Try it.

She watches for the break in the trees. They're getting closer - about to pass the Orange Grove.

LINDEN
It's freezing.

He opens his eyes and smiles at her.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
Who's "we?"
(off her look)
You said "we."

RHINE
Did I?

She can't tell him. She can't have him see her looking for the road. She sits down.

Linden follows. He stares at her with curiosity. Rhine takes his hand to distract him.

OUTSIDE: The limo flies into the woods. Exits the gate. Drives along the quiet beach road.

INSIDE:

LINDEN
Have you ever had champagne?

RHINE
No.

LINDEN
There will be lots of champagne at the Expo. It makes you dizzy. Rose would -
(stopping himself)

RHINE
Tell me.

LINDEN
She would pretend to take sips, then have the waiters serve her empty glasses.

RHINE
What else would she do?

LINDEN
She laughed at everything anyone said, and she looked in their eyes when they spoke. And she was always smiling. The cameras want to see you happy.

OUTSIDE: They drive past a HARBOR and into the city. A WEALTHY CITY - not like Rhine's New York. There are crowds of young people in the streets. All are dressed well, partying, seemingly unfazed by the death that awaits them.

The party on the street builds towards the venue. We've seen nothing but darkness to this reality, but here is the other side - an unbridled exuberance. A reckless spirit, driven to indulge. In a world run by youth, there is bound to be INTOXICATING, ARROGANT FUN.

The limo pulls up to a tall building with velvet ropes.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
Ready for this?

Linden and Rhine step out into the crisp air. He leads them past the crowd. The MEN at the ropes know who he is. No waiting for Linden Ashby and his new bride.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
 Don't freak out if they all want to
 kiss your hand.

EXPO - CONTINUOUS

As glamorous as it gets. VIP only. Holograms are suspended all over the room - images of houses and innovations with their architects standing beside them. Where there isn't a building, there's nature - blue sky, clouds, tall green grass with valleys of wildflowers.

LINDEN
 They try to present an atmosphere in which a house could be built. This is better than the last Expo I attended - that was more like a desert. All it did was make everyone thirsty. The year before was an empty sidewalk to encourage the builders, but it just looked post-apocalyptic and depressing.

Linden walks Rhine through the maze of it all. People stare at them. Linden nods to a few of them. Some of the men stop and kiss Rhine's hand. It's obvious - *Linden is a star.*

They come upon an exhibit: "**LINDEN ASHBY RETROSPECTIVE**"

LINDEN (CONT'D)
 What's this?

A hand slaps Linden on the shoulder from behind.

LANCASTER
 Surprise.

Linden's boss and his wife are there.

LINDEN
 Lancaster, what the hell?

LANCASTER
 Calm down, Linden. When we heard you were coming, I decided to remind everyone what they've been missing. Including you.

Lancaster holds out his elbow to escort Rhine.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Allow me.

They walk through the exhibit. On display are sections of Linden's buildings. His designs are beyond strong. The precision and beauty of the lines demand attention.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Linden is our only architect who's in the national gallery. We've built every one of his designs. The best ones I kept for myself.

RHINE

Why don't you go back to it?

LINDEN

It steals time.

LANCASTER

Nonsense. There's plenty of time. And when your father's successful, there's an eternity ahead of you.

Rhine stops beneath an undulating staircase that re-defines gravity. Linden is a genius.

RHINE

Wow.

A little boy jogs down the stairs. He lands in front of Rhine, smiling up at her. Rhine bends to pat his head, and her hand passes through him - a hologram. He does a little dance - making Rhine LAUGH.

She turns to look at Linden - in awe of his talent.

LINDEN

It helps me envision the house if I draw someone in it. It gives it...

He searches for the word. Rhine finds it -

RHINE

Soul.

SOPHIA

(smug)

I would live here.

Sophia Lancaster has wandered up to them with her friends Taylor and Barkley.

LANCASTER

You do live here, darling. Rhine, this is my daughter Sophia.

Lancaster's Wife pulls at his arm - there are people behind them to meet. And CAMERAS to shine for.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

(to Linden)

Don't go anywhere. We have to talk about Chicago.

Lancaster turns around to talk business.

SOPHIA

(to Rhine)

Linden built this house for me.

(to Linden)

I'm still waiting on the little boy.

BARKLEY

Linden built this house, and your daddy bought it for you.

(to Rhine)

Hi. I'm Barkley. I went to school with Linden.

Rhine does as Rose would - she looks him in the eye and gives a stunning smile.

RHINE

Hello. Are you an architect, too?

BARKLEY

(like he's hit by a truck)

No. I mean, yes. I'm over there.

Somewhere. I think. OH MY GOD, you're so beautiful! Linden, where on earth did you find her?

SOPHIA

Off the streets, no doubt. Same as the little ginger slut.

TAYLOR

(drunk; loving this)

Maybe they came as a set. Like those ...what are they called? The things you shake?

RHINE

Morons?

BARKLEY

HA!

(to Linden)
Hang on to her.

LINDEN

I plan on it.

Linden pulls Rhine away from the group and into the CAMERAS. They call LINDEN'S NAME - like Paparazzi. He smiles and waves and shows off Rhine.

CAMERAMAN

Who's your date?

LINDEN

This is my wife, Rhine.

They call out her name now: "RHINE!" "RHINE, OVER HERE!"

Rhine looks straight into the cameras, remembering Rowan's last words -

ROWAN (V.O.)

I will find you.

CAMERAMAN

Where are you from, Rhine?

RHINE

(loud and clear)
NEW YORK.

OFF RHINE'S IMAGE - CAPTURED BY THE CAMERAS.

LIMO - AFTER THE EXPO

Linden and Rhine are both tipsy -

RHINE

How did I do?

LINDEN

You were perfect.

He kisses her. His lips move down her neck.

RHINE

Linden...

LINDEN

Yes...

RHINE
Those people are awful.

LINDEN
(laughs)
I know. It's so true.

ENTER RHINE'S POV - Absorbing Linden. His smile, eyes, shoulders. The way his tux fits his perfect body. The way his hand rests on our knee. He is gentle and masculine - effortlessly sexy, and completely unaware of it.

RHINE
You're not like them.

LINDEN
You're not like anybody.

He moves his hand up her leg - *if she's going to resist him, it will have to be now.*

Rhine gently stops him - catching her breath.

RHINE
I'm a little dizzy.

He squeezes her hand. Accepts the rejection without question.

MANSION

The limo stops at front of the house. Linden opens his door. Rhine tenses as she looks past him.

Before she is pulled back into her prison -

RHINE
I need to know something.

LINDEN
Anything.

RHINE
Why did you purchase brides?

LINDEN
(surprised by the question)
What?

RHINE
Any one of those girls tonight would marry you. Especially Sophia. You could have had her.

LINDEN
I don't want her.

That answer is not good enough.

RHINE
Why did you buy me?

LINDEN
I didn't. My father did. I asked him not to, but he did it anyway. And look what happened. He found you.

RHINE
Is that what he told you? That he "found" me.

LINDEN
He didn't tell me anything. Neither have you. I don't know why you're here. I wish I did. It's as if you fell out the sky.

RHINE
Do you remember what you asked me in the orange grove?

LINDEN
I asked you why you chose to be a bride. I still don't have an answer.

Now, or never.

RHINE
I didn't choose to be a bride. I didn't grow up in an orphanage. I was stolen from my home by Gatherers. They took me and my friend, who your father then murdered in his lab.
(making sure he gets it)
The answers you're looking for are in that goddamn basement.

Linden pulls away. He looks at her in disbelief, then shakes his head. And flies out of limo. Rhine follows.

RHINE (CONT'D)
Linden, stop!

LINDEN
(turning on her; yelling)
My father doesn't murder people. He's working on an antidote.

RHINE

Vaughn doesn't have a cure. He has only pain and death. Even Rose knew that.

Linden visibly reacts to the mention of his dead wife.

RHINE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm not trying to hurt you.

LINDEN

Yes you are.

RHINE

(a confession)

Not anymore.

That stops the fight. He walks over to her.

LINDEN

What do you want, Rhine?

RHINE

I want you to believe me. You need to know the truth, if this can ever be real.

ELEVATOR

Linden is alone in the elevator. He waves his ring. Selects "B". Zooms down. The doors open to reveal -

STORM SHELTER/ BASEMENT

Not the sterile halls or cold labs, but a homey living area. Warm and inviting, unlike the elaborate decor and antiques in the upper mansion. This is the storm shelter.

Linden walks through the shelter to an inner door. When he reaches it, the door SWINGS OPEN from the other side - startling him.

TECH 1

Sorry, Master Linden.

LINDEN

Enjoy your break.

Linden passes by him and into the slick halls. The rectangular lights are bright. It's quiet.

He walks past the treatment room where Rhine was held. It looks perfectly harmless. Nurse Clara is inside, re-stocking.

NURSE CLARA
Linden. You look so handsome.

LINDEN
Thank you, Clara.

He continues on his way.

STAY WITH NURSE Clara FOR A BEAT. She access the wall panel.
Makes a selection.

CATCH UP WITH LINDEN. Turning a corner to find the double
doors with the **Biohazard** sign.

INTERCUT WITH:

RHINE'S ROOM

Rhine paces in her dress. Waiting for Linden.

BACK TO:

BASEMENT

Linden reaches for the door handle. He hesitates - *what if she's right?*

He opens the doors to find a room half the size as it was in Rhine's vision. Instead of girls on hospital beds there are deep-freeze containers for storing biochemicals.

VAUGHN'S LAB

Linden stands at Vaughn's desk - Rhine's Journal is nowhere in sight. He looks at the photo of a younger Vaughn with his first son. Flicks off the light.

RHINE'S ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Rhine reacts to the news.

LINDEN
It was just a nightmare.

RHINE
I know what I saw.

LINDEN
You were badly hurt and on opiates.

RHINE

Not when I saw Jenna.

LINDEN

That could have been stress. You were scared. Anybody would have been.

RHINE

What about my journal? I held it. I didn't imagine that.

Linden shakes his head.

LINDEN

There's no journal, Rhine. There's nothing down there but a lab.

RHINE

Vaughn's covered it all up.

LINDEN

He covered what up? Girls that don't exist? What would my father - the scientist leading the world towards a cure - need to hide? Human experimentation, which is perfectly legal?

RHINE

Kidnapping at gunpoint isn't. Last I checked, you still went to prison for that.

LINDEN

Not if...

Linden stops himself before saying the unthinkable.

RHINE

What? Say it.

LINDEN

What if you weren't randomly taken? What if you were sold, and you didn't know it?

RHINE

That could never happen.

LINDEN

Really? Look at you. You know the world we live in better than I do. Do you honestly think there wasn't someone who would have traded your life for a fistful of cash?

INSERT MEMORY FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE RHINE'S KIDNAPPING:
ROWAN'S EYES GLEAMING - HIS HAND HOLDING UP THE WAD OF MONEY.

ROWAN
I'm done struggling...

RHINE
No one would have sold me.

LINDEN
Maybe someone thought they were doing
what was best for you.

RHINE
It's not true.

THE ROOM SPINS for her. Her brother's voice rings out -

ROWAN (V.O.)
*We deserve better than this. You
deserve better.*

Rhine covers her ears. Her knees give. Linden catches her.

RHINE
(crying; lost)
Rowan...Rowan...

DISSOLVE TO:

RHINE'S ROOM - DAYS PASSING

Rhine lies in the dark. Linden opens the window.

RHINE
Close it. Close the drapes.

He does as she asks - DARKNESS SWALLOWS THE ROOM.

NIGHT. A CRACK OF LIGHT EXPANDS TO FIND RHINE ALONE - UNMOVED
IN THE BED. She turns her face to see Geoffrey entering the
room - rolling in a food cart. She turns away from him.

Geoffrey leaves the cart at her bedside. Shuts the door -
returning her to the dark.

THE DRAPES ARE FLUNG OPEN. Letting in the daylight. Linden
walks from the window to the cart. The food is untouched.

LINDEN
Rhine, you need to get up.

RHINE
 (from the bed)
 Leave me alone.

FOLLOW LINDEN - into the hall, where a concerned Deirdre waits.

LINDEN
 Not yet, Deirdre.

As he walks off, Deidre musters her courage.

DEIRDRE
 What about Gabriel?

Linden turns. Listening.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
 He's her friend. It might help.

NIGHT - AT RHINE'S BED

A tray is gently set on the bed, waking Rhine.

Rhine turns to see Gabriel. She sits up - throws her arms around him.

RHINE
 I thought you were gone.

GABRIEL
 I'm here.

RHINE
 Where have you been?

GABRIEL
 Vaughn assigned me to the lab.

RHINE
 Oh, Gabriel.

GABRIEL
 It's not so bad. I have to stay in my room unless they call for me, and they don't need much.

RHINE
 Was it real - what we saw? Or am I crazy?

GABRIEL
 You're not crazy.

Rhine sits back - relieved and feeling the weight of it all at the same time.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I have to get back.

RHINE

What? Why?

GABRIEL

Dr. Vaughn comes home soon.

RHINE

But, I thought...

GABRIEL

Linden came and got me. He said he was worried about you.

RHINE

Not enough to believe me.

GABRIEL

Would you believe it, if it were your father? Linden will never see Vaughn like we do.

RHINE

He has to. He's my only way out.

CUT TO:

CECILY'S ROOM

Cecily SNORES in bed. Rhine sneaks into the room.

RHINE

(whispering)

Cecily.

CECILY

Huh?!

RHINE

Shh.

CECILY

Rhine? What are you doing in here? I'm sleeping.

RHINE

Do you want to go to the next party?

CECILY

What?

RHINE

I'll have Linden take you, if you give me your ring. Just for tonight.

CECILY

You can't escape with it. It only works the elevator, not the doors or windows.

RHINE

Fine.

Cecily takes off her ring.

CECILY

(before giving it up)

I want all the parties through the holidays, including New Year's. And Deirdre does my dresses and make-up.

Rhine nods. Cecily hands it over.

ELEVATOR

Rhine is at the elevators she took with Gabriel weeks earlier. She uses the ring - steps inside. Only her floor and "B" light up. She makes the selection.

BASEMENT

Rhine wanders out. Listens for any sound. Inches her way down the hall - into Vaughn's lab.

She goes right for the desk. Rifling through his things - looking for the Journal. Finds nothing.

She keeps going - back into the hall - around a corner - deep into the bowels of the lab, when she hears the SHOE SQUEAKS.

CAMERA FINDS ON NURSE Clara - walking through the halls, shoes SQUEAKING on the slick floors.

BACK TO RHINE - she hurries for a set of doors. When she reaches them, she sees the sign from her nightmare: **BIOHAZARD**

SQUEAK. SQUEAK. SQUEAK.

Entering the room is her only escape. With hands shaking, she opens the doors. Shuts herself inside - prepared to see the worst.

In front of her are the deep-freeze cannisters - and only half the size of the room she remembers. It's exactly as Linden said - except for the MAN WHO IS EMERGING RIGHT THROUGH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.

Vaughn.

VAUGHN

There you are.

He grabs Rhine by the shoulders. SQUEAK. SQUEAK.

Rhine turns her head to see Nurse Clara behind her, holding a large syringe.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Nighty, night.

Nurse Clara stabs Rhine in the neck.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LAB - RHINE'S MEMORY - FLASHBACK

We're back in Rhine's parents' lab - when the rioters have gathered outside, and Mother has handed her Journal to 10-yr-old Rhine.

MOTHER

(to both her kids)

You remember what we talked about? You take care of each other. No one else.

(re: Journal)

Hide this, and don't tell anyone who you are. If we don't come home -

No!

RHINE

ROWAN
No, Mamma!

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Listen to me! If we don't come home, you do whatever you have to do to survive.

Father joins Mother. They embrace their children.

FATHER

You are special. Both of you. Never forget.

A BOOM from somewhere inside the building - the rioters.

MOTHER

Run, Rhine!

Rhine grabs Rowan's hand. Runs with him out of the lab.

THIS TIME WE FOLLOW THEM. Through the lab. Past the LAB TECHS scattering in every direction. PAST A LARGE TREATMENT ROOM - where Rowan slips, falling outside its open door.

Rhine goes down with him. The Journal flies from her grip - sliding into the Treatment Room. The DATA CHIP spills out and is instantly CRUSHED under someone's foot.

Rhine rips her hand free of Rowan's. Scrambles into the Treatment Room to fetch the Journal.

OFF YOUNG RHINE'S SHOCK AND AWE - from what she sees inside.

BACK TO PRESENT:

BIOHAZARD ROOM

Rhine wakes on her side. In a fetal position. Her clothes are off. She's on one of the hospital beds, and she cannot move.

Nurse Clara is behind her, putting three injection tubes in Rhine's body to extract bone marrow.

Vaughn is in front of her, sitting casually on a chair. The Journal is on his lap.

Next to Vaughn is a DNA machine similar to the one we saw in her parents' lab.

Rhine WHIMPERS.

VAUGHN

Oh, goody. You're awake. Is she all set, Clara?

CLARA

She certainly is.

VAUGHN

May we have a little privacy?

Nurse Clara disappears.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

I have a memento for you. Recognize this?

Vaughn holds up the blood donation flier - same as the one Rowan had in their cellar the night before this hell began.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

You know, I never believed in the donation programs. No one does. We have to do it for the federal sanctions.

PUSH IN ON FLIER - THEN, PULL OUT TO REVEAL -

WAREHOUSE - NEW YORK - MONTHS EARLIER

Rowan stands in line with the flier in his hand. Waiting his turn. The warehouse is full of the young and desperate.

VAUGHN (V.O.)

Only Government would put nature over science, believing that there's an undiscovered cure out there - walking among us. A cure that might somehow meet its death by some accident before turning 25, so we must all scramble around like maniacs trying to find it.

Rowan sits in a chair - his blood taken by one of Vaughn's Lab Techs. The Tech puts the blood sample in a DNA machine.

VAUGHN (V.O.)

I thought it was fabled hogwash, until your brother, Rowan, walked into my trial.

The Tech sees something on the DNA machine. YELLS OUT. Vaughn makes his way to Rowan.

ANGLE ON VAUGHN. Stares at Rowan, as if he's discovered the Holy Grail.

MATCH TO:

VAUGHN - LEANING OVER RHINE -

BIOHAZARD ROOM - PRESENT

VAUGHN

That is the name you cried out in your room the other night, isn't it? Rowan? Such an unusual name - like yours. He told me his last name, too. And all about the Journal. With a little cash, your brother can be quite the talker.

Rhine tries to scream, but the sound doesn't make it out. Only her eyes seem to be functioning.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
The famous Ellerys and their
miraculous breakthroughs.

Vaughn turns the DNA machine's screen to face Rhine. Her GENE SEQUENCE is on full display. One number blinks: **"DAF-16"**

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
See here? "DAF-16 present". That's the
gene that allows human cells to
mature. We don't have that anymore.
But you do.

He holds up the Journal.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
How smart of your paranoid mother to
put her findings only on paper.
(opens a page)
You are "test subject number 187" -
you and your brother. I always
wondered if some of the Ellerys' work
had survived. Come to find out, they
broke protocol and stored their most
precious results at home. Even raised
them as their children. Gave them
weird names, and personalities, and
wouldn't you know it? - each other.
Twins! Lucky me. You may think I'm a
monster, but at least my children are
my own.

As Vaughn continues his abuse, Rhine slips back into her
memory.

INT. ELLERY LAB - TREATMENT ROOM - RHINE'S MEMORY - FLASHBACK

*Were back with 10-yr-old Rhine. Where we left her on the
floor.*

TIME SLOWS WITH THE CHAOS. Little Rhine rises to her feet.

*ENTER HER POV. In front of Rhine is a room full of carts. In
each cart is an infant with a number. Nurses are hurrying to
scoop them all up.*

VAUGHN (V.O.)
It took your "parents" nine years, and
hundreds of babies, to cook up another
successful batch. Scientists are that
way. We have to replicate our findings
in order to establish proof. And we
always, always, write it all down.

Little Rhine reaches for her Journal. It's spilled open to the last page with her Mother's writing: "Antidote - 542."

VAUGHN (V.O.)
"542." The confirmed antidote.

INTERCUT WITH MOTHER AND FATHER:

Mother reaches into the cart to pull out the miracle. This time, we see what's inside - A BABY.

The infant wears a bracelet numbered "542". And it's eyes are familiar - one blue, one green.

VAUGHN (V.O.)
What must that have been like? To develop the cure...

WITH LITTLE RHINE:

She has the journal. She runs back for Rowan's hand. She pulls him through the back door of the lab. Out into the street.

VAUGHN (V.O.)
...and then have it all be blown to smithereens?

BOOM! BOOM! The world explodes.

OFF LITTLE RHINE - Staring back at the inferno. Every thing, every one inside decimated beyond all hope.

BACK TO:

BIOHAZARD ROOM

Rhine struggles under the drugs. Vaughn is behind her, adjusting his tubes.

VAUGHN
I tried their antidote with the other girls, but I didn't quite have it. I even gave Rose a dose to see if it would save her in her final hour. If I wasn't so pre-occupied, I could have guessed that the key ingredient I was missing was under my roof all along.
(leaning into her ear)
When I sent the Gatherers for the Journal, I should have known that if they found any girls, they'd sell them right back to me.

All done. Vaughn removes the tubes.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Okey-dokey. I got your eggs. I got your stem cells. You rest up. Put a smile on your face. Go make my son profoundly happy - and I won't cut up that servant boy while I'm whipping up the cure.

He exits - walking BACK THROUGH THE WALL, passing Nurse Clara on her return. She pats Rhine on the leg.

NURSE CLARA

You did great. Let's get you on your feet.

Nurse Clara takes out one of her syringes. Injects Rhine in the back of her neck.

NURSE CLARA (CONT'D)

Give it a minute or two.

She gets to work on Rhine's bone marrow - labeling the tubes.

WIFE'S FLOOR

Linden wakes to CLANGING from the hall. He sees Rhine is gone. Goes out into the hall, where Cecily's Domestic struggles with a food cart outside of Cecily's door.

CECILY (O.S.)

It's gonna get cold.

Linden follows the Domestic in with the cart. On it is a mountain of food.

CECILY (CONT'D)

(to Linden)

You're up to?

LINDEN

Where's Rhine?

CECILY

Who knows. She woke me up. You might want to tell her not to do that again. Vaughn says I need my sleep.

She dives into a pizza like she hasn't eaten in weeks.

CECILY (CONT'D)

You're still going to take me, right?

LINDEN
Take you where?

CECILY
To the holiday parties. Rhine and me
made a deal.

LINDEN
For what?

CECILY
I'm not supposed to tell you.

LINDEN
You don't have a choice.

CECILY
(negotiating)
Every party. And you have to hold my
hand the whole time.

BIOHAZARD ROOM

Rhine starts to move. She begins to pull herself upright.

Nurse Clara places Rhine's stem cells in a mini-freezer.
Steps over to Rhine's side, when the nausea hits.

Rhine pukes all over her.

NURSE CLARA
You're okay. Sit there - it'll pass.

Nurse Clara goes to the sink to clean up, turning her back to
Rhine. ANGLE ON NURSE -

NURSE CLARA (CONT'D)
I forgot you had that reaction.

She turns around to see Rhine standing in front of her,
holding the heavy DNA machine.

Rhine SWINGS with all she's got.

WHACK! Right to the head. Nurse Clara goes down - out cold.

Rhine drops the machine. She moves slowly at first, finding
her mobility. She looks for her clothes - pulls them on. She
leans over the Nurse - rifles through her lab coat - finds
three syringes. She TAKES THE DATA CHIP OUT OF THE MACHINE.
Shoves it all in her pockets.

She opens the mini-freezer. Grabs her organic material. Turns
on the sink and flushes it all down.

RHINE

Fuck you.

She walks to the wall with no door. Puts her hand through it to test - it's a hologram. She STEPS THROUGH THE WALL - into the fake room with the metal containers.

ANGLE ON A CONTAINER BASE - a foreign wheel sticks out.

Whatever the wheel is connected to is hidden by the container, which is clearly an illusion.

As Rhine jogs for the door, her foot catches on the wheel - sending it rolling out of the hologram, and Rhine hurling forward.

She doesn't stop to look back and see what she tripped on, and neither do we.

We stay with her, as she flies out of the room and into the halls.

BASEMENT HALLWAYS

The elevator doors open. Linden steps out, looking for Rhine. DOWN THE HALL - the lights are on in his father's lab.

VAUGHN'S LAB

Vaughn works on Rhine's stem cells - injecting them into petri dishes.

Linden enters.

LINDEN

You're back.

Vaughn looks up from his work. SIGHS at the sight of his son.

INTERCUT WITH:

RHINE: Rhine darts around corners - retracing her way out. She turns into the hall that leads to the elevator by Vaughn's lab. Then, hears their VOICES -

VAUGHN (O.S.)

What are you doing up so late?

LINDEN (O.S.)

Looking for Rhine.

Rhine turns back - escaping in the other direction.

VAUGHN'S LAB:

VAUGHN

I didn't realize she was missing.

LINDEN

I didn't say that she was. She borrowed Cecily's ring.

Vaughn keeps it cool.

VAUGHN

Well, she is not down here. You can use the monitors to search the wife's floor.

RHINE: Rhine finds the door to the storm shelter. Cracks it open to see Gabriel at the far end of the room, delivering food for a Lab Tech.

Rhine slips inside. She ducks down - sneaking between the furniture until she's behind the Tech and in Gabriel's line of sight.

She puts her finger to her mouth - *Shh*. She takes out a syringe. Rolls it to Gabriel.

The syringe STOPS SHORT. The Tech looks down to see it inches from his feet.

RHINE (O.C.)

Get it!

Surprised by her voice, the Tech spins to see Rhine. And Gabriel LUNGES for the syringe.

RHINE (CONT'D)

Stab him!

The Tech backs up - hands raised.

LAB TECH 2

Whoa! No, no. It's good. You're good. I won't stop you.

Gabriel hesitates. Rhine SNATCHES THE SYRINGE. STABS the Tech in the neck. He collapses in a paralyzed heap.

Rhine grabs one of his legs.

RHINE

Help me move him.

Rhine and Gabriel drag the Tech behind the sofa. He is conscious, but cannot move - just like she was.

Rhine covers the Tech with a blanket. Grabs Gabriel's hand -

RHINE (CONT'D)
Come on! We're getting out.

They run into the elevator. Rhine waves Cecily's ring. All she gets is floor "3" - the wive's floor.

RHINE (CONT'D)
Use yours.

Gabriel does. He only gets floor "1". Up they go.

GABRIEL
They'll come after us.

Rhine opens the floor panel - exposing the elevator's wires -

RHINE
Trap them.

Gabriel does his thing - disconnecting the wires, then getting the door to open.

RHINE (CONT'D)
Go do the other one. I'll wait for you outside the kitchen.

GABRIEL
What if someone sees me?

VAUGHN'S LAB

Linden searches the wive's floor for Rhine with the monitors. No sign of her in any of the rooms.

VAUGHN
She's there, Linden. She probably just needed a moment.

LINDEN
Probably.

VAUGHN
Why don't you go back upstairs and wait for her? If I see her, I'll send her up to you.

FOYER/ ELEVATOR

Gabriel kneels over the elevator's floor panel. From behind him - in the foyer -

GEOFFREY

What are you doing, boy?

Gabriel looks up at Geoffrey - *caught*.

BASEMENT

Linden uses his ring at the elevator. Nothing happens. He presses his hand into the controls. Nothing.

ELEVATOR

Geoffrey lies paralyzed on the floor - next to the disconnected wires, and an empty syringe.

KITCHEN

The kitchen is quiet - shut down for the night. Rhine opens the back door and the bitter night air hits her. Rhine looks down at her bare feet. She steps out to test the cold ground.

COOK

Bit cold for a stroll, ain't it
Blondie?

Cook emerges from the shadows.

COOK (CONT'D)

This kinda weather, you could find
your death if you walk too long.
Nobody wants that, do they child?

Gabriel appears. Cook looks knowingly from one to the other.

INSIDE RHINE'S POCKET - Rhine grips the last syringe. About to pull it out, when -

COOK (CONT'D)

Best you take the limo.

Cook takes off her ring.

COOK (CONT'D)

This'll open the garage.

Rhine releases the syringe. She reaches for the ring, holding Cook's hand for a beat.

RHINE

I won't forget you.

Rhine run outs out with Gabriel.

VAUGHN'S LAB

LINDEN
The elevator's down.

Vaughn goes to the monitors. Pulls up the elevator feed - sees Geoffrey, the dismantled wires, and the syringe.

VAUGHN
Go check the other one.

Linden runs out.

Vaughn switches the monitors to the other lab. Sees his Nurse collapsed on the floor.

He scans the interiors of the house - no Rhine.

He pulls up the feed from the GARAGE. Rhine and Gabriel are climbing into the limo.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE BASEMENT AND RHINE'S ESCAPE:

LIMO: Rhine is behind the wheel. She turns it on.

GABRIEL
You know how to drive?

RHINE
Can't be too different from a boat.

VAUGHN'S LAB: Vaughn swipes his ring across the wall panel. Selects the garage door - hits "CLOSE"

ON MONITOR - Too late. The limo peels out onto the drive.

Vaughn makes another selection: "GROUNDS"

STORM SHELTER: Linden tries the elevator. No good. He starts back for his father, when he KICKS SOMETHING.

Linden bends down to pick up the syringe - still half full. He pockets it and walks off without seeing the Tech under the blanket.

LIMO: THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD. GUARDS, coming from every direction, run for the drive ahead of them.

GABRIEL
Look out!

To Gabriel's horror, Rhine PLOWS THROUGH THEM.

RHINE
Holograms.

VAUGHN'S LAB: Vaughn watches the limo careen along the winding drive.

Linden returns, ready to tell his father what he found - but he sees the monitors first.

VAUGHN
She's running off with that boy servant.

LINDEN
What?

Linden watches his father manipulate the holograms. Vaughn SELECTS: "**TREELINE**"

LINDEN (CONT'D)
(can't believe what he's seeing)
What are you doing?

LIMO: Rhine and Gabriel plow up a hill - on their descent, the **TREELINE** SUDDENLY THRUSTS AT THEM.

Rhine reacts - turning the wheel hard.

They SKID OUT OF CONTROL - SLAM INTO THE ORANGE GROVE.

LAB:

LINDEN (CONT'D)
STOP!

Linden pushes his father back from the hologram controls.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
You're going to kill her!

VAUGHN
Take your hands off me, son.

Linden keeps his grip, staring at his father - finally seeing what a bastard he is.

ON MONITOR - Rhine and Gabriel climb out of the limo.

Linden releases Vaughn.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
Now call upstairs for some help, so that we can bring back your bride.

LIMO/ ORANGE GROVE: The front of the limo is smashed between two trees.

RHINE

We have to run.

GABRIEL

Which way?

Rhine looks up - sees the lighthouse SPOTLIGHT.

LAB: Linden is at work station - making the call -

LINDEN

How long until you get here?

Linden gets his answer and hangs up. On his way back to his father's side, he SEES IT. Sitting next to Vaughn's lab equipment is Rhine's Journal.

He walks over to it. Opens the Journal to see her mother's hand-writing. Flips to the last page: "**DAF-16 present. 542**" The same Journal - with the same words that he wrote from Rhine's dreams.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

You stole her.

Vaughn looks over his shoulder to see Linden holding the Journal.

VAUGHN

(pointing to the Journal)

I stole that. She was the candy on top.

Vaughn returns to his holograms. Linden walks out - on a search.

LIGHTHOUSE: Rhine leads Gabriel to the lighthouse clearing. It's light is still spinning, but the ladder she climbed before remains ripped away from the structure - mangled. There's no way to climb it.

Rhine's feet are cut and frozen, but she runs on - into the woods beyond.

WOODS: THE TREES MOVE AND SHIFT. They run through some, SMASH into others - like pin balls in a fucked-up fun house.

Gabriel hits a tree - HARD. Rhine runs to his side, helps him up - keeps him moving -

BIOHAZARD LAB: Linden stands in the lab of deep-freeze containers.

LINDEN'S POV. The wheel Rhine tripped on was attached to one of Vaughn's slabs.

It rolled half way out from the hologram container that was covering it. Showing Linden what his father has been hiding -

THE LAST DEAD GIRL from the van. Blue and disfigured.

He reaches into his pocket for the half-full syringe.

RHINE AND GABRIEL: They're exhausted. Freezing. Lost.

GABRIEL

We'll never get out.

RHINE

It's here. I can smell the ocean.

GABRIEL

We have to go back.

Rhine SCREAMS INTO THE NIGHT.

RHINE

LET ME OUT!

As if the heavens have heard her, the TREES PART. The holograms disappear. They are standing on the drive only a few feet from the gate.

RHINE (CONT'D)

(realizing)

Linden.

LAB

EXTREME CLOSE ON VAUGHN. His eyes blink, but his face does not move.

PULL BACK TO SEE - The monster toppled over his desk. The empty syringe sits next to him.

Linden watches Rhine on the monitors. She walks for the gate.

He presses his hand to the wall panel. The controls for the house and grounds LIGHT UP.

GATE

Rhine stands at the gate with Gabriel. Waiting.

GABRIEL

What's happening?

RHINE

He's setting us free.

The gate SWINGS OPEN.

As Rhine and Gabriel step out onto the road, CAMERA FLIES UP INTO AN AERIAL SHOT OF THE ENTIRE PROPERTY.

THE MANSION IS A DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE IN A RUN-DOWN WASTELAND. ONLY THE ORANGE GROVE LOOKS THE SAME.

HARBOR - LATER

Rhine stands on the deck of a small sailboat, untying its sail.

BELOW DECK: Gabriel pulls on wires - sparking the engine to life. He finds a blanket, and takes it above deck.

Rhine is at the boat's helm - in control for the first time since she was taken. She motors them out of the harbor.

GABRIEL

Look.

Behind them, the lighthouse beacon shrinks in the distance.

RHINE (V.O.)

I don't know the options from here. Is this freedom..?

Rhine reaches into her pocket. She pulls out the data chip. Looks from it to the water.

RHINE (V.O.)

Or salvation?

She closes her fist around the chip. Pockets it.

RHINE (V.O.)

Only one thing is certain. And that's all that matters.

The wind hits the sails, filling them with purpose.

GABRIEL

Where are we going?

RHINE

Home.

The lights from the city sparkle along the shoreline - a glittering compass that shows her the way North.

FADE OUT.