

PROGRESSION

Written by

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FADE IN:

**EXT. UNIVERSE PETANOMA - PLANET ELGIN - CONTINENTS DOMINION
AND PEREGRINE - DAY (2017)**

A panorama of clouds swirl around haphazardly; showing the vastness of Petanoma: a universe far beyond the earth's cosmos. The view displays the essence of Planet Elgin, and the massive continents of Dominion and Peregrine.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When humanity seems unaware that truth lies somewhere between fact and fiction; it creates a silent chaos. We live our lives in an eternal fog and view our existence as though we only live once. We have no knowledge of the greater power that transcends earthly being. We are at the mercy of unknown forces that can propel us forward into a higher worldliness and another realm of consciousness. It only becomes real when it happens to you.

INT. DARK PANELED STUDY - DAY

Books fill shelves on dark oak book cases, a large desk looms near the front of the study, and there are paintings of exquisite landscapes on the walls.

A young lady, recently departed, sits in a large leather chair in the middle of the room. She seems confused, aimlessly glancing around and pinching herself while tears well up in her eyes.

Suddenly, a man walks in and sits at the desk. THE CURATOR, an older man of distinction, is dressed in a dark grey suit with a bright yellow tie. He opens a bulky folder and looks up at ELIZA DUPREE.

ELIZA

Where am I?

THE CURATOR

(defined grin)

How do you feel?

ELIZA

I don't know where I am. I think I was in an accident. The last thing I remember is bright lights coming right at me.

Eliza frantically looks around the room.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

What happened to me? What is this place?

(leans forward)

Please tell me.

THE CURATOR

You died a day ago, and you are now here with us.

Eliza's face contorts. She pinches herself several times.

ELIZA

It doesn't feel like I'm dead. How did I get here?

(shakes her head)

I can't be dead.

The Curator adjusts his tie, opens the folder, pulls out several papers and randomly places them on his desk.

THE CURATOR

I assure you, Eliza Dupree, you are dead but you mustn't worry. You have your wits about you and seem to be very inquisitive. You seem to have retained all your faculties.

ELIZA

Who are you?

THE CURATOR

Who I am is not important. You have progressed; progressed like millions of others. Life on earth was a trial run, but, of course, you never realized it.

ELIZA

(confused)

Is this heaven?

THE CURATOR

We don't use that term here, but you are in a place we call Dominion.

ELIZA

Where is Dominion?

THE CURATOR

You are in Petanoma; a universe far removed from earth. Dominion is a very prominent landscape on Planet Elgin.

ELIZA

Why am I here?

THE CURATOR

You come highly recommended.

ELIZA

By who?

THE CURATOR

It doesn't really matter. I know quite a bit about you. I know you grew up in a dysfunctional family, I know your mother was murdered by a mad man 20 years ago, and I know you were engaged to be married.

Eliza squirms in her seat and looks like she could explode.

ELIZA

Please tell me this is just a big joke.

THE CURATOR

I think it will take some time to adjust, but you will do fine.

ELIZA

I just want to wake up.

THE CURATOR

I know there are things that bothered you in your life; maybe more than others. It is perfectly okay to think back and relive them. I can't change the fact you were killed in a terrible accident. You must learn to relax here. Your former life is at your disposal.

Eliza sits back in the chair and closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. GREENSVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER - JARRATT VIRGINIA - NIGHT

Four months earlier, a crowd begins to gather at the death house for the pending execution. Eliza and her father, BINGHAM DUPREE, and her fiancé, JASON BILLINGS, stand waiting to get in to witness it.

ELIZA

I don't know whether I can go through with this.

BINGHAM

I realize it will be difficult, but he murdered your mother in cold blood.

ELIZA

I know, I just don't think I want to watch a man die.

JASON

That asshole needs to die. He's been on death row for 20 years. You shouldn't shed a tear.

ELIZA

I'll go in, but I can't promise I'll stay.

Eliza glares at Jason.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

But justice must always be served.

They enter in single file.

INT. DEATH CHAMBER VIEWING ROOM - NIGHT

They sit down in the first row and wait for the execution to begin. There is total silence. Suddenly the door in the death chamber opens and the guards bring in FLOYD BARLOW. They restrain him on the electrocution chair. The WARDEN speaks.

WARDEN

Do you have any last words before we begin?

Barlow turns to the crowd and looks directly at Eliza.

BARLOW

I did not kill your mother. I'm innocent. Do you hear me?

(MORE)

BARLOW (CONT'D)

I didn't kill your mother. You will have to live with this for the rest of your life.

Eliza jumps up and rushes out of the viewing room with tears in her eyes.

RETURN TO PRESENT

Eliza leaps out of her chair, then abruptly sits and looks around.

THE CURATOR

Memories can appear like nightmares sometimes.

ELIZA

I was only six when she was killed.

THE CURATOR

It is difficult to lose a parent under those conditions.

ELIZA

I hope he burns in hell.

THE CURATOR

I can assure you evilness bears consequences.

ELIZA

Please just tell me this is a bad dream.

THE CURATOR

When someone on earth dies, there are often things unsaid or undone. That is the case with you. It is more common than you think.

Eliza rests her head back on the chair and closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DAVIS REALTY COMPANY - DAY

Eliza sits in her office looking at escrow reports when a coworker, LISA CROW, walks in and shuts the door.

LISA

Are you all right?

ELIZA
I feel better now.

LISA
Did you and Jason have a fight?

Eliza picks up her coffee cup, embraces it, and then takes a long sip.

ELIZA
Not really.

LISA
Then what's the matter?

ELIZA
I found drugs hidden in the bathroom.

LISA
Did you confront Jason?

ELIZA
No, not yet.

LISA
You don't think he's using, do you?

ELIZA
I don't know what to think. I'm worried, Lisa, I mean we're engaged to be married.

LISA
It doesn't hurt to find a good time to talk about it.

ELIZA
I suppose you're right.

Lisa smiles and departs. Eliza opens her top drawer and pulls out a large folder. She begins to study the data. Breaking her concentration, the owners, DONNA and BRADLEY DAVIS walk in and take a seat.

DONNA
We must talk.

ELIZA
About what?

BRADLEY

We've had some complaints about your handling of prospective clients.

ELIZA

What complaints?

DONNA

That you've been rude and unhelpful in some situations.

ELIZA

I've never been rude to anyone. Who told you that?

DONNA

I'm not at liberty to say, but you need to change your attitude if you want to keep working here.

ELIZA

I try to treat my clients with respect. I don't know where you're getting this information from.

BRADLEY

We're going to let this go for now, but if this continues; you will need to find another job.

They get up and walk out. Eliza sits back in disbelief.

INT. ELIZA DUPREE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In the late evening, Eliza is on her third glass of wine when she hears Jason come in the front door. He walks into the living room and can see she's not happy.

JASON

I see you started early.

ELIZA

I got a lot on my mind.

JASON

Something going wrong at work?

Eliza gulps down some wine.

ELIZA

Just a bunch of paperwork. Where have you been?

JASON
I had a late meeting.

ELIZA
I thought you were coming home for dinner.

JASON
Sorry.

ELIZA
This is not the first dinner you missed.

Eliza gulps more wine.

JASON
You need to slow down.

ELIZA
I want you to tell me what's going on?

JASON
What are you talking about?

ELIZA
Jason, I found drugs and paraphernalia in our bathroom. What are you doing?

JASON
It's not what you think.

ELIZA
You're using. Aren't you?

JASON
No, I'm not. You need to calm down.

ELIZA
Get them the hell out of here.

She puts her glass on the coffee table down after gulping the rest down.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
I'm going over to Lisa's house. I don't know when I'll be back.

She walks over to get her purse. Jason tries to grab it.

JASON

You're drunk. You need to stay here.

EXT. OUTSIDE ELIZA DUPREE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eliza storms out the door and gets into her car. Jason runs after her, but she manages to back up the car and get on the road. She races down the street and abruptly turns into oncoming traffic. She sees large headlights coming right for her.

RETURN TO PRESENT

INT. WHITE ROOM - BASE CAMP - DAY

Eliza opens her eyes and instantly realizes she's not where she was moments earlier. She is now sitting on a white chair in a large room with white walls, floor, and ceiling. A door is opened and in comes an imposing figure of a man who is THE ADMINISTRATOR. He slowly approaches Eliza.

ELIZA

Where is the man I was talking to?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

He's now busy with someone else.

The Administrator walks around the chair as he speaks.

THE ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)

My job is to introduce you to your new existence in Dominion.

ELIZA

I'm so confused.

Eliza glances around the room.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

I still feel like I'm alive, but here I am.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Everyone goes through this. When you died, your soul was transported here. Your body was then reconstructed to provide you with a sense of wholeness. You are here with countless others and when it's time and you are deemed worthy, you will progress to the next level.

ELIZA

What does that mean?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

You will find out in due time.
Please follow me.

INT. CORRIDOR - BASE CAMP - DAY

The Administrator escorts Eliza down a long corridor that appears clinical.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Base Camp is where all issues are resolved.

He points to several doors.

THE ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)

These are counseling rooms. They are used extensively.

ELIZA

Counseling for what?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Various issues. We are at your disposal.

ELIZA

(nervous laugh)
That's good to know.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

I realize this is all new to you, but over time you will understand.

Eliza doesn't respond. They arrive at the end of the corridor.

THE ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)

We live in small communities here. We call them Pods. You have been assigned to one and will be transported there shortly.

ELIZA

What will I do there?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Roscoe will explain when you arrive. He's your Pod's guardian.

EXT. GARDEN AREA LEADING TO POD #943 - DAY

Eliza stands in a plush area surrounded by a beautiful flower garden. She sees a man approach her. He is the guardian, ROSCOE BALLENTINE, wearing a cowboy hat.

ROSCOE

We've been waiting for you. Please follow me.

Eliza follows Roscoe up a narrow hill to the entrance to the Pod. They sit at a small table in what looks like a courtyard.

ROSCOE (CONT'D)

I know you must still be in shock, but you will get used to it.

ELIZA

I hope so. How long have you been here?

ROSCOE

A long time.

ELIZA

Aren't people supposed to progress?

ROSCOE

There is a lot to learn about that.

Roscoe looks away for a moment and then begins to regress.

ROSCOE (CONT'D)

I was the sheriff of a small town called Sawgrass in southern New Mexico. I was shot and killed in 1862.

ELIZA

You've been here for 155 years?

ROSCOE

Time is relative here.

ELIZA

If you don't mind me asking, how did you die?

Roscoe squints his eyes and stares at Eliza.

ROSCOE

It was an unfortunate.

Roscoe looks past her as he explains.

FLASHBACK:

INT. THE SAWGRASS SALOON - DAY

Roscoe walks into the saloon full of Union soldiers. He walks up to the bar and talks to the bartender, AMOS TOWBAR.

ROSCOE
Any trouble yet?

AMOS
No, they're just blowing off steam.

ROSCOE
Have you seen Julio Sanchez around lately?

AMOS
A few days ago.

ROSCOE
The Sanchez gang will only cause problems if they come in here.

AMOS
Hopefully, they're gone by now.

A UNION SOLDIER approaches the bar. Amos pours another round of whiskey and pushes it toward the front of the bar. The soldier steps closer to Roscoe.

UNION SOLDIER
Are you the sheriff?

ROSCOE
(nods head)
I haven't seen you in here before.

UNION SOLDIER
We're just passing through.
Sawgrass seems to be a quiet little town.

ROSCOE
Most of the time. Where are you headed?

UNION SOLDIER
Texas. We're getting ready for the long trek.

ROSCOE
I think you'll be heading into some
dangerous territory.

UNION SOLDIER
Nothing we can't handle.

Suddenly, SANCHEZ and four of his men enter the saloon. They immediately approach the bar. Sanchez motions to Amos for a whisky and turns toward Roscoe.

ROSCOE
I thought I told you to get out of
town.

SANCHEZ
We have done nothing wrong, señor.

ROSCOE
You killed two men in a bar fight.

SANCHEZ
They deserved it.

The Union soldier walks over to Sanchez.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)
Who are you?

UNION SOLDIER
I can see you don't belong here.

SANCHEZ
That's between me and the sheriff.

UNION SOLDIER
You and your men need to leave now.

SANCHEZ
Not until I finish my whiskey.

The commotion makes Sanchez turn around. He sees a dozen guns trained at him. His men stand meekly in the background.

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)
We're not finished, señor.

He motions for his men to leave.

EXT. PORCH - THE SAWGRASS SALOON - DAY

Some time later, Roscoe bids farewell to the Union soldiers out in front of the saloon.

As he walks off the porch onto the dirt road, a man standing on an adjacent building fires his rifle; hitting Roscoe in the chest.

RETURN TO PRESENT

ROSCOE
I guess it was my time.

ELIZA
I'm so sorry.

ROSCOE
I need to show you your living quarters.

EXT. LARGE GLEN WITH FOLIAGE AND TREES - DAY

In a beautiful morning blessed with a purplish sky, Eliza sits under a huge tree looking at the view. Her solitude is interrupted by an older man named FREDERICK.

FREDERICK
You must be new here.

ELIZA
I'm Eliza.

FREDERICK
My name is Frederick.

ELIZA
How long have you been here?

FREDERICK
Not very long. Have you met many of the inhabitants?

ELIZA
Not yet, but I intend to.

FREDERICK
Don't waste time. Everyone wants to meet you.

ELIZA
You knew I was coming?

FREDERICK
We're apprised of new arrivals.

ELIZA

I'm having a hard time with this. I didn't think heaven was going to be like this.

FREDERICK

You mustn't say heaven. It's frowned upon here.

ELIZA

It was what I was taught.

FREDERICK

You have to understand, there are rules here just like there was on earth. You must obey them. If not you will have to answer to The Administrator.

Eliza has a look of discomfort on her face.

FREDERICK (CONT'D)

Look, I didn't mean to scare you. That wasn't my intention. You'll learn in time there aren't many rules anyway, so you should be fine.

ELIZA

I want to do the right thing.

FREDERICK

The thing is: living here is nothing like we envisioned on earth.

ELIZA

It certainly appears that way.

FREDERICK

We weren't supposed to be aware of the real afterlife. Everyone here is amazed of where we are. You'll get used to it.

Frederick nods his head, smiles, and walks away. Eliza sees an older women walking past Frederick toward her. She is dressed to kill and her name is GIDDY and she approaches Eliza.

GIDDY

Who are you?

ELIZA

Eliza. Nice to meet you.

GIDDY

I'm Giddy. You must have just arrived.

ELIZA

Yes.

GIDDY

I see you were talking to Frederick.

Eliza smiles and nods her head.

GIDDY (CONT'D)

I warn you; you must be careful. He thinks he runs the Pod.

ELIZA

I will keep that in mind. You must have been here awhile.

GIDDY

My death was untimely. I once lived a lavish lifestyle. My father owned a universal construction company.

ELIZA

What happened?

GIDDY

My brother decided he wanted my father's inheritance for himself.

ELIZA

He killed you?

Giddy hesitates for a moment.

GIDDY

Yes.

ELIZA

Is he still alive?

GIDDY

The best of my knowledge.

Giddy paces in front of Eliza.

ELIZA

The idea here is apparently to progress to a higher level.

GIDDY

I would be careful if I were you. All this talk about progressing is probably just talk. It's just as well. I like the way I look here; no need to change into something you rather not be.

ELIZA

What would that be?

Giddy gives Eliza a sarcastic smile and walks away.

Seconds later, a middle-aged man approaches her from behind. He goes by the name THE HIPPY.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

You scared me.

THE HIPPY

Sorry man. My name is Joe, but around here they call me The Hippy.

ELIZA

(smiles)

How'd you get that name?

THE HIPPY

I lived in the sixties, man. That was the time to be alive.

ELIZA

(laughs)

So, you were a hippy.

THE HIPPY

Yeah, it was great until I overdosed on LSD.

(gazes at the sky)

So, how do you like it here?

ELIZA

I haven't been here that long.

THE HIPPY

I think you can find yourself here. On earth I didn't know how I belonged there. My soul was restless. Do you believe in God?

ELIZA

Yes.

THE HIPPIY

No proof of that here. You know it would have been nice on earth to know where we were going when we died. We could have planned.

ELIZA

I'm not so sure.

Eliza gets up and turns toward The Hippy.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

I need to go rest. I'm sure we'll meet again.

EXT. POD #943 COURTYARD - DAY

Eliza is relaxing sitting at the small wooden table in the courtyard when she sees an individual she thinks she recognizes.

ELIZA

Amanda, Amanda Brekke, is that you?

The woman turns around and stares at Eliza. AMANDA BREKKE then abruptly sits next to her.

AMANDA

Frederick told me you were here.

ELIZA

It's so good to see you. I can still remember the day you were murdered. It was right after our high school prom.

AMANDA

(sarcastic grin)

I try not to think about it. What happened to you?

ELIZA

A car accident. I hit a pick-up truck head on.

AMANDA

Oh my, that must have hurt.

ELIZA

I don't know, I didn't feel anything.

AMANDA

I'm glad you're here.

ELIZA

What is it with this place? I mean, I didn't expect to be living a second life. I thought our souls would live in exaltation.

AMANDA

It's hard to get used to, but over time; you'll feel right at home.

ELIZA

(whispers)

Is all this real?

AMANDA

(laughs)

Do we look real?

There is silence while Eliza glances around the area.

ELIZA

I guess. Let me ask you a question. The Curator told me when I first arrived that we progressed from earth to get here and that we would progress further. I don't understand.

AMANDA

It's hard to explain.

ELIZA

Try me.

AMANDA

It's all part of a grandiose plan. Earth was the place all of us started. We had the opportunity to be good or evil. Living a good life meant you would be sent here to Dominion. Living a bad life meant you would be sent to Peregrine.

ELIZA

Where is Peregrine?

AMANDA
They didn't tell you. Did they?

ELIZA
Tell me what?

AMANDA
Peregrine is the other continent
here on Planet Elgin.

ELIZA
What's it like?

Amanda leans toward Eliza.

AMANDA
You don't want to go there.

ELIZA
Why?

AMANDA
(whispers)
Because it's like hell. It's pure
evil. A few have gone to visit and
not many have come back.

ELIZA
So murderers, rapists, and ordinary
criminals are in Peregrine.

AMANDA
Yes, bad people go there and they
don't progress and are wasted away
to dust eventually.

ELIZA
So the person who murdered you is
there.

AMANDA
He could be, but I'm not going
there to find out.

Eliza seems elated with what she just heard and it shows in
her voice.

ELIZA
My mother was murdered. Her killer
was just executed. He must be
there.

AMANDA

I'm sure he is, but I would forget about it.

ELIZA

How do I get there?

AMANDA

Please just forget what I said. It's not worth it.

ELIZA

Tell me.

AMANDA

You must talk to Roscoe. He'll take you to see The Administrator. Please don't do this.

Eliza stands and goes to find Roscoe.

INT. WHITE ROOM - BASE CAMP - DAY

Eliza and Roscoe sit waiting for The Administrator to arrive.

ROSCOE

You realize going to Peregrine is mistake.

ELIZA

I want to find my mother's killer.

ROSCOE

He won't be easy to find, and you're putting yourself at considerable risk.

ELIZA

I'm willing to take that chance.

The Administrator comes in the room and quickly approaches them.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

I understand you wish to go to Peregrine. What do you hope to accomplish?

ELIZA

My mother was brutally murdered by Floyd Barlow. I want the answers I didn't get before he was executed.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

I appreciate your determination,
but it's a waste of time. I'm not
sure he can be found. Even if you
find him, he won't want to talk to
you.

ELIZA

He said he didn't do it.

ROSCOE

(laughs)
They all say that.

ELIZA

I want to know the truth.

Eliza pauses for a moment.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

Is my mother here in Dominion? I
want to talk to her.

The Administrator hesitates.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

She progressed years ago. I'm
sorry.

ELIZA

She knows the truth.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

You can't go to Peregrine alone.
Perhaps Roscoe will accompany you.

ROSCOE

I don't know, Eliza, I'm not sure
you're up to it.

ELIZA

I guess I can't blame you since you
don't know me very well, but I'm
ready.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Follow me.

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - DOMINION BASE CAMP - DAY

They walk inside the chamber. There in the middle are giant
teleportation gurneys affixed with glass coverings.

The room itself is painted in a bright green color and the floor is highly polished.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

This is how you will get to Peregrine. Once inside the portal you will lose self-awareness while you are transported.

ROSCOE

Are you sure you want to do this?

ELIZA

Yes.

They both climb into the portals. The Administrator secures them, goes over to a large computer apparatus on the wall and pushes a button. They vanish quickly.

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - PEREGRINE BASE CAMP - DAY

In the evening, in a dark, damp, room appearing like it belongs in a Frankenstein movie, Drummond Krensky, THE CUSTODIAN, waits for his guests to materialize. The portals are worn with cracked glass coverings and in disrepair. A large sign at the opening of the room reads Evil Never Dies.

The Custodian can hear movement in the portals and goes over and lets them out.

THE CUSTODIAN

What the hell are you doing here?
(cynical laugh)
Are you on vacation?

ROSCOE

We have business to conduct.

The Custodian moves closer to Roscoe.

THE CUSTODIAN

You've been here before.

ROSCOE

Yeah, I have.

ELIZA

I need to find Floyd Barlow.

THE CUSTODIAN

Why? What has he done to you?

ELIZA

He murdered my mother.

THE CUSTODIAN

That's too bad. I guess your friend didn't tell you this is a dangerous place.

ELIZA

Where is he?

THE CUSTODIAN

I don't know.

ROSCOE

You know how to find out. She won't be turned away.

The Custodian goes over to a huge screen in the corner. He punches in Barlow's name on the large keyboard. Within a few seconds, Barlow's location is revealed. The Custodian localizes the data and reviews it.

THE CUSTODIAN

You're in luck. He doesn't live too far away from here. Why do you want to talk to him?

ELIZA

He said he didn't do it.

THE CUSTODIAN

They all say that.

Eliza looks over at Roscoe and he sports a slight smile.

ROSCOE

What's the best way to get there?

THE CUSTODIAN

There is no best way.

The Custodian goes over and pushes a button on what looks like a printer and out pops a set of directions.

THE CUSTODIAN (CONT'D)

Here, follow these directions.
Don't blame me if things go wrong.
I don't give a damn.

ELIZA

Don't worry; I just want to talk to Barlow.

THE CUSTODIAN
(points)
Leave through that door.

They walk over to the door; both take a deep breath and depart.

EXT. PEREGRINE WASTELAND - NIGHT

They walk out into scary terrain. Dusk is starting to become darker. There appears to be dead trees and foliage as far as the eyes can see. They make their way along a dirt trail. Roscoe stops and looks at the directions.

ELIZA
What's wrong?

ROSCOE
Looks like we could be a fair distance from Barlow's location.

ELIZA
It doesn't matter. We need to get there.

Eliza glances over at Roscoe with a confused look on her face.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
You were here before?

ROSCOE
I was looking for somebody just like you, but it's a long story.

They continue along the path. It begins to get darker out and it makes it difficult to see. It's also foggy.

As they round a corner, they hear a noise, but they're not sure what it is or where it came from. They stop to get their bearings.

ROSCOE (CONT'D)
It's easy to lose your way here.

ELIZA
We can't stay in one place too long.

ROSCOE
(points)
I think that's the way to go.

Suddenly, they are confronted by a figure coming out of the fog. The blue robot-type figure comes closer to them.

They try to run in the opposite direction, but a silver robot-type blocks them.

Roscoe, not entirely sure they can communicate, tries to reason with them.

ROSCOE (CONT'D)

What do you want? We mean no harm.

The BLUE ROBOT-TYPE steps closer to Roscoe.

BLUE ROBOT-TYPE

You do not belong here.

ROSCOE

You're right, but we are looking for someone. Once we do, we are leaving.

BLUE ROBOT-TYPE

You do not understand. This is a place where you are not welcomed.

ELIZA

Please, we won't start any trouble.

BLUE ROBOT-TYPE

There are others. They will not take your presence lightly. You are warned.

The robots disappear into the fog.

ELIZA

What the hell was that?

ROSCOE

(sarcastic smile)

I'm not sure, but it was nice of them to give us a warning.

They continue on their way.

EXT. DENSE FOREST - NIGHT

Much later, they are now traversing through a dense forest. They are getting tired. As they walk, once again they hear noises.

This time it's different. They realize as the noises get louder, they are being chased by something. They stand still for a moment in order to ascertain where the noises are actually coming from.

They begin to run, through bushes and around trees. They look behind them and it appears they are being chased by some sort of animal with a horrid scream.

EXT. SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

Now in a small clearing, Eliza trips over something on the ground. Roscoe helps her to her feet. They look behind them and see nothing. The chase has apparently ended. They see what looks like a large tent in front of them. Close by is a campfire. The next thing they see is someone standing there. He steps closer to them. His name is MARX.

MARX

You must be in a hurry.

Eliza studies the man before she speaks. He has long grey hair and an equally long beard.

ELIZA

We didn't mean to disturb you.

MARX

I don't get many visitors. You must not be from around here.

ROSCOE

We're from Dominion.

MARX

What are you doing here?

ELIZA

I'm looking Floyd Barlow. Do you know him?

MARX

Never heard of him. Please join me over at the campfire.

They walk over and sit across from Marx.

ROSCOE

Why do you have a fire? It's not really cold here.

MARX

It keeps the critters away. They don't like fire.

ELIZA

Why do you live in the middle of nowhere? Does everyone here live like this?

MARX

I don't think so. I can't be bothered with these wayward souls. That's why I remain out here.

ELIZA

If you don't mind me asking; what did you do to get here?

Marx smiles and leans toward the fire and whispers; his face shining from the glare.

MARX

I don't belong here.

ELIZA

Why not?

MARX

I never killed, raped, robbed, or cheated anyone. The only thing I did was try to convince people to rise up against capitalism.

ELIZA

Then why are you here?

MARX

I don't know.

ELIZA

From what I've been told, only bad people are sent here.

MARX

Perhaps it is because of my lack of reverence while on earth.

ELIZA

What do you mean?

MARX

I never believed in God or the devil for that matter.

(MORE)

MARX (CONT'D)

I always thought religion merely diminished worshipers' immediate suffering and provided them with falsehoods about life and death.

ELIZA

You didn't believe in God? Maybe that's why you're here.

Marx appears perplexed.

ROSCOE

It seems strange considering this place looks like it could be hell.

MARX

You think I belong in hell?

ROSCOE

I didn't say that.

ELIZA

We really don't know you.

MARX

What matters is how you viewed life and death when you were on earth.

ELIZA

I didn't expect any of this.

ROSCOE

We need to get going.

MARX

If you're going into the interior; I would be careful.

ELIZA

We have no choice.

They get up and shake Marx's hand. He remains silent. They disappear into the wilderness.

EXT. LARGE CLEARING SURROUNDED BY TREES - NIGHT

They walk out of the forest into an immense clearing with tall grass. They find an area on a small hill with yellow moss and sit to relax. Eliza appears tired. Roscoe pulls out the set of directions.

ROSCOE

It looks like we still have a ways
to go.

ELIZA

Maybe this was a bad idea.

Roscoe gives Eliza a bit of a stare.

ROSCOE

Tuning back now is not an option.

They get up and begin to walk when they hear noises behind them. They see two men in the distance running toward them. Roscoe grabs Eliza's hand and they begin to run as fast as they can. They try to escape into the tree line, but for them it's too late, as they are attacked. They see nothing but darkness.

INT. LARGE CAVE - NIGHT

Eliza opens her eyes. The cave is damp and mysterious looking. She notices Roscoe by her side and nudges him. He slowly opens his eyes. They look around and see strange pictorials on the cave walls. It's extremely hard to see with the lack of light, but it's obvious the pictorials are there.

Roscoe gets up and goes over to examine some of the annotations. He's not sure what he's looking at. Eliza joins him.

ELIZA

These appear like pictures of
soldiers from the Crusades.

ROSCOE

I don't know much about the
Crusades.

ELIZA

They were religious wars many
centuries ago.

ROSCOE

But certainly not here.

Eliza begins to examine the layout of the cave.

ELIZA

We need to find a way out of here.

ROSCOE

Why is this place so cold?

ELIZA
(tries to smile)
Well it is a cave.

As they start to move to find an exit, they are encountered by a figure that seems to come out of nowhere. He approaches wearing a tunic symbolizing the Crusades. His name is GODFREY.

GODFREY
You two need to sit back down.
Edmund will be here briefly.

ELIZA
We mean no harm. Now, let us go.

GODFREY
Why have you come?

ROSCOE
(upset)
We didn't come to see you.

As they talk, EDMUND enters. He addresses Godfrey, as he takes him to one side.

EDMUND
What have you found out?

GODFREY
I think they were sent here to
uncover the artifacts.

EDMUND
No different than the others.

They walk over to their captives.

EDMUND (CONT'D)
Have you lost your way or are you
here for a reason?

ROSCOE
We're trying to find someone.

GODFREY
I think you knew where this cave
was.

ELIZA
We knew nothing about this place.
You brought us here.

EDMUND

Others have said the same.

ELIZA

Please just let us go.

The two crusaders smile and walk away and eventually out of sight.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

(determined)

Follow me.

She leads Roscoe around a corner and down a narrow path of circular rock that appears to open up to a larger area.

When they arrive at the massive space, they notice silver and gold relics positioned throughout.

ROSCOE

Where did they get all this stuff?

ELIZA

I don't know considering the fact
it all belonged on earth.

ROSCOE

We need to keep going. There has to
be a way out of here.

They begin walk out of the room, and are suddenly stopped by Godfrey.

GODFREY

You must follow me.

Godfrey takes them into a smaller area that has a large wooden table sitting in the middle. He motions for them to take a seat. Edmund arrives and joins them.

EDMUND

Why have you come to this sacred
ground?

ELIZA

We told you; we're looking for
someone.

EDMUND

We don't like intrusions.

ROSCOE

Who are you?

EDMUND
 Crusaders. Assassins for the cause.

ELIZA
 That was centuries ago. Where are
 your compatriots?

EDMUND
 They are no longer here.

Edmund appears to be in thought.

EDMUND (CONT'D)
 If we let you go; you must never
 come back. Others have and they
 were punished.

ELIZA
 Please. We must be on our way.

Edmund motions for them to follow him. They walk along a
 small corridor until they reach an opening. Edmund stands in
 front of them.

EDMUND
 (resounding voice)
 Never return.

Eliza and Roscoe run as fast as they can away from the cave.

EXT. LARGE CLEARING SURROUNDED BY TREES - NIGHT

Eliza and Roscoe stop running and stop to take a break. They
 sit on a small patch of grass.

ELIZA
 Thank God we got out of there.

ROSCOE
 I think we're very lucky.

He fidgets a bit and gets a concerned look on his face.

ROSCOE (CONT'D)
 What do you think you're going to
 accomplish by talking to Barlow?

ELIZA
 I told you; want to know the truth.

ROSCOE
 But he was executed for his crime.

ELIZA

I just want to talk to him.

Roscoe lays back and props himself up with one arm.

ROSCOE

So what do you think about the crusaders?

ELIZA

I'm beginning to think nothing should surprise us here.

ROSCOE

What do you think about Marx?

ELIZA

There's something about him. I can't put my finger on it.

ROSCOE

He didn't seem like a criminal to me.

ELIZA

I know.

Eliza lays back to relax.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DUPREE RESIDENCE - NIGHT (1997)

Six year-old Eliza sits at the kitchen table coloring. Her mother, ANNETTE, is finishing cleaning up after dinner. They hear the front door open and shut and in comes BINGHAM, her father. He doesn't appear to be in a good mood.

ANNETTE

You missed dinner again.

BINGHAM

I told you I would be busy.

ANNETTE

I'm really tired of hearing that.

BINGHAM

Yeah, I get it.

ELIZA

Daddy, look at what I did.

She picks up the coloring book and shows her father.

BINGHAM
Yeah, I see it.

ANNETTE
That's all you can say?

BINGHAM
Give me a break, will you?

There is a knock at the front door. BINGHAM goes to answer it. Annette goes over and puts her arm around Eliza who has tears in her eyes.

ANNETTE
Your father didn't mean it. Your artwork is beautiful.

RETURN TO PRESENT

Eliza awakens and looks around the area. She notices Roscoe isn't anywhere to be seen. She gets up and tries to get her bearings.

ELIZA
(yells)
Roscoe, where are you?

There is no response.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
I'm ready to go. Where are you?

Again, no response. Not sure what to do, she begins walking toward what she thinks is the interior. Scared, she moves slowly.

EXT. DENSE FOREST - NIGHT

Having traversed the clearing; she now is another dense forest. She follows a dirt trail. She hears a noise. Looking around, she doesn't see anyone or anything. She walks on, but now hears footsteps. When she turns she sees a YOUNG MAN approaching her.

ELIZA
Please, don't hurt me.

YOUNG MAN
What the hell are you doing here?

ELIZA
Looking for someone.

He walks closer to her.

YOUNG MAN
You told you to come here?

ELIZA
I came here with somebody else, but
he disappeared.

YOUNG MAN
You're from Dominion.

ELIZA
Yes.

YOUNG MAN
You really shouldn't be here. How
did you get by the sentries?

ELIZA
What?

He glances around the area with a funny look on his face.

YOUNG MAN
The robots

ELIZA
I don't know. They let us pass.

YOUNG MAN
Where are you going?

ELIZA
I'm not sure now. My escort has the
instructions.

YOUNG MAN
I'm headed back to the village. I
can take you there if you want.

ELIZA
I'm looking for Floyd Barlow. Do
you know him?

YOUNG MAN
The name sounds familiar, but I'm
not sure.

Reluctant to say anything more, Eliza follows the young man
through the forest.

EXT. THE VILLAGE - DAY

Darkness has now faded and a fog seems to linger over an immense village that appears as if it could be in a third-world country. The young man motions for them to sit on an old wooden bench.

YOUNG MAN

Look, I have to go see some people. I don't know where this Barlow lives, but there are always people you can ask.

ELIZA

Are you sure?

YOUNG MAN

Yeah, but you should know this is one of many villages in Peregrine. So, good luck.

The young man gets up and walks off; disappearing around the corner of a building.

Eliza, confused and scared, begins to walk along the dirt street; hoping to find someone who can help her.

As she walks along the street, she hears someone coming up behind her. Unnerved, she turns around.

ELIZA

Where have you been?

ROSCOE

I got lost somehow. I tried to take a walk while you rested and got into some kind of forest area and I couldn't find my way back.

ELIZA

I thought you met with foul play.

ROSCOE

How did you get here?

ELIZA

A young guy I met guided me to this place.

ROSCOE

According to the directions, Barlow lives somewhere in this village.

ELIZA
Somebody has to know where he
lives.

They begin walking down the road. At a corner of the street,
they notice an OLD LADY sitting on a bench. They slowly
approach her.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
Excuse me, I'm looking for Floyd
Barlow. Do you know him?

OLD LADY
What do you want to see him about?

ELIZA
You know him?

OLD LADY
Yeah, why do you want see him?

ELIZA
He murdered my mother.

OLD LADY
So you're the one.

ELIZA
What?

OLD LADY
He told me about his arrest,
conviction, and his execution.

ELIZA
Where is he?

OLD LADY
You really don't want to talk to
him. He can be nasty at times.

ELIZA
No, I do.

ROSCOE
We've come a long way and need to
get back, so please tell us where
he is.

The old lady squints and gives Roscoe a dirty look. She
points to the right.

OLD LADY

Two streets down on the right. He
has his name plastered on the door.

ELIZA

Thanks.

EXT. FLOYD BARLOW'S BUNGALOW - DAY

They stand in front of Barlow's bungalow. Eliza appears nervous. Roscoe motions for her to knock on the door. JENKINS answers it. He is tall, imposing, and disheveled.

JENKINS

What do you want?

ELIZA

Is Floyd Barlow here?

JENKINS

No, he'll be back later.

ELIZA

I need to talk to him.

JENKINS

Who in the hell are you?

ELIZA

My name is Eliza.

ROSCOE

Can we come in and wait?

JENKINS

(reluctant)

Yeah, I guess so.

INT. BARLOW'S DARK LIVING ROOM - DAY

The inside of the bungalow is filthy with clutter. They sit down while Jenkins stands over them.

JENKINS

What the hell is this all about?

ELIZA

I just want to ask Barlow a few
questions?

JENKINS

Yeah, what about?

ELIZA

I'd rather wait for him.

Jenkins walks over and takes seat.

JENKINS

Whatever you want.

Jenkins stares at Eliza with his ice-cold blue eyes.

JENKINS (CONT'D)

You're obviously not a resident here.

ELIZA

No.

JENKINS

We don't get many visitors from Dominion.

ELIZA

I know.

JENKINS

(looks at Roscoe)

What about you? Why are you here?

ROSCOE

I didn't want her to come alone.

JENKINS

(smirks)

That's pretty noble of you.

The front opens and in comes Barlow. He comes in the living area and immediately addresses the visitors.

BARLOW

Who are you?

Eliza looks up at him with a frown on her face.

BARLOW (CONT'D)

Wait a minute, I know who you are. You're the daughter of the woman I was accused of killing.

ELIZA

Yeah, I am.

BARLOW

What did you do wrong to get here?

ELIZA
Nothing, I died in a traffic
accident.

BARLOW
So you came all the way over from
Dominion just to talk to me?

Barlow looks at Roscoe.

BARLOW (CONT'D)
Who are you?

ROSCOE
I just escorted her here.

BARLOW
Fine.

ELIZA
Why did you kill my mother?

Barlow goes over and sits on a large wooden container. He
stares at Eliza for a moment.

BARLOW
I didn't kill her. I told you that
when they executed an innocent man.

ELIZA
Then who did?

BARLOW
I tried to tell the police when
they arrested me, but no one
listened.

ELIZA
Then who did it?

BARLOW
Your father.

Eliza appears shaken.

ELIZA
What? How dare you say that?

BARLOW
I'm sure he did it. He was having
an affair.

ELIZA
He wasn't having an affair.

Barlow's face shows his anger and Roscoe feels like he needs to intercede.

ROSCOE

Eliza's just trying to get to the truth.

BARLOW

(glares at Eliza)

How do you know? You were, what, six or seven years old.

Eliza doesn't respond.

BARLOW (CONT'D)

We worked together. I'm sure you don't know that.

ELIZA

So what?

BARLOW

He was having an affair with my wife.

ELIZA

That would have made you a prime suspect.

BARLOW

They didn't investigate anyone else. Your father wanted your mother out of the way and that's why he killed her.

ELIZA

A jury convicted you.

BARLOW

They didn't hear all the evidence. Jenkins and I are going out. You can stay and get some rest, but you shouldn't be here when we get back.

They walk out of the bungalow.

ROSCOE

Is it possible he didn't kill your mother?

Eliza seemed to be in thought.

ELIZA

We need to go.

But out of exhaustion, Eliza sits back and closes her eyes for a few moments.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DUPREE RESIDENSE - NIGHT (1997)

Young Eliza is sitting on the living room floor, trying to put a puzzle together. Her father comes in and startles her. He's not very happy.

BINGHAM

Where's your mother?

ELIZA

She's upstairs.

Bingham walks aggressively up the stairs. Eliza continues to put her puzzle together. As she places pieces on the puzzle, she hears a loud noise like something being dropped. She continues to put the puzzle together.

Minutes later, her father comes down the stairs.

BINGHAM

I'm taking your mother to her friend's house. I'll be right back.

Eliza gets up and goes to the foyer, but only sees the door partially shut, but it appears like her father is carrying something large. She goes back to the living room.

RETURN TO PRESENT

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - PEREGRINE BASE CAMP - DAY

The Custodian is reading a comic book and hears a knock at the door and goes over to see who it is.

THE CUSTODIAN

Back so soon?

ROSCOE

Yeah, we need to get back.

THE CUSTODIAN

Did you get what you came for?

ELIZA

So far.

THE CUSTODIAN

(laughs)

I'm surprised you made it all the way to see Barlow.

ELIZA

(smirks)

We're ready to go.

The Custodian takes them over and straps them in.

THE CUSTODIAN

I wouldn't come back again. Next time you might not be so lucky.

He goes over and pushes a button. In an instant, they're gone.

INT. BARLOW'S DARK LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barlow sits with a confused look on his face and talks with Jenkins.

BARLOW

What do make of that visit?

JENKINS

It's kind of a mystery.

BARLOW

I mean I know she's angry, but we live in a different world now.

JENKINS

I'm surprised they let her come over here.

BARLOW

She appears to have an aggressive personality to me.

JENKINS

Yeah, I just hope she got everything off her chest.

BARLOW

With any luck; we won't see her again.

Barlow gets up and goes into the other room.

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - DOMINION BASE CAMP - NIGHT

Knowing they arrived, The Administrator walks into the chamber and releases them from the transportation devises.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

I trust your mission was successful.

ELIZA

I don't think I have all the answers.

ROSCOE

We're just glad to be back.

INT. CORRIDOR - BASE CAMP - NIGHT

They begin walking down a long corridor. As they walk, Eliza stops and looks at something she hadn't seen before. On the wall are pictures of what looks to be alien creatures. They appear to be in various poses, and their appearance evokes a certain sense of uneasiness.

ELIZA

Who are these creatures?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The next step in progression.

ELIZA

That's what we become?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

If or when you progress, you will take on this kind of physical persona. Your soul remains the same.

ELIZA

I had no idea.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

(smiles)

Your sense of awareness will become almighty.

ROSCOE

We should get back to our Pod.

The Administrator escorts them down a busy corridor full of people.

EXT. POD #943 COURTYARD - DAY

Eliza sits at the small wooden table reading a book on what appears to be a large digital device. Abruptly, she is joined by The Hippy.

THE HIPPY

Hey, haven't seen you in a while.

ELIZA

I've been busy.

THE HIPPY

What are you reading?

ELIZA

A history book.

The Hippy laughs out loud.

THE HIPPY

Have you figured it out yet?

ELIZA

Figured what out?

THE HIPPY

Why we're here.

ELIZA

Does it really matter?

THE HIPPY

You know we were never going to find ourselves on earth. There was too much crap going on. I'm not sure we even had a purpose there, but here; that's a different matter.

ELIZA

Are you saying this is like a second chance?

THE HIPPY

Yeah.

He seems to be in thought.

THE HIPPY (CONT'D)

When I was alive, I struggled to find the meaning of life.

(MORE)

THE HIPPY (CONT'D)

Apart from living day to day, I
couldn't understand my real
essence. What about you?

ELIZA

I don't think I thought much about
it.

THE HIPPY

It was like a dress rehearsal, man.
Here, we can explore what we never
understood on earth.

He hesitates.

THE HIPPY (CONT'D)

I mean we agonized over what life
was all about; we tried to
understand if God really existed,
but I guess we didn't know any
better.

Eliza looks at him with a blank smile.

THE HIPPY (CONT'D)

I gotta go. See you later.

He disappears around the corner of the building. Just as
Eliza is about to get up, Amanda joins her.

AMANDA

I see you were talking to our
resident hippy.

ELIZA

I wish you would have come out
sooner. He's pretty confused and
very annoying.

AMANDA

(laughs)
What was Peregrine like?

ELIZA

It was awful.

AMANDA

Did you sort everything out?

ELIZA

I'm not sure.

AMANDA

Why?

Tears well up in Eliza's eyes; an emotion that now has taken over her soul.

ELIZA

I'm not sure Barlow did it.

Amanda hugs Eliza.

AMANDA

A jury must have thought so.

ELIZA

Yeah, I know.

AMANDA

It doesn't matter now.

ELIZA

But what if he didn't do it?

AMANDA

You gotta let it go.

Amanda hesitates for a moment.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

We're all dead. Remember?

Eliza doesn't say anything; rather gets up and walks away.

INT. WHITE ROOM - BASE CAMP - DAY

Eliza sits in a chair in the white room. She patiently waits for The Administrator to arrive. When he does, she tries to stay focused, but has to vent about her revelations.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

I understand you wanted to see me.

ELIZA

I met with Floyd Barlow. I don't know whether he's guilty of killing my mother.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

You must understand; that judgement was made on earth. We should honor it.

ELIZA

I don't know what to say. He claims my father killed her.

The Administrator paces around the room.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
It's easy for him to say that now.
He has no proof to substantiate his
accusation.

ELIZA
I want to go back and confront him
again.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
That's not wise. It's too
dangerous.

ELIZA
I need to go.

The Administrator stands in front of Eliza and observes her
for a moment.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
Let me think about it.

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - PEREGRINE BASE CAMP - NIGHT

Several days later, The Custodian hears movement in the
portals and goes over and lets Eliza and Roscoe out.

THE CUSTODIAN
You guys just couldn't stay away.

ROSCOE
We missed your winning personality.

The Custodian laughs out loud and punches Roscoe in the arm.

ELIZA
I want to see Barlow again.

THE CUSTODIAN
What the hell for?

ELIZA
Just let us go. We know where he
lives.

THE CUSTODIAN
You sure?

ROSCOE
Yeah, I brought your map.

THE CUSTODIAN
(sarcastic laugh)
You know; we can make provisions
for you guys to stay here if you
want.

Roscoe and Eliza move toward the exit.

ELIZA
We'll be back.

EXT. PEREGRINE WASTELAND - NIGHT

Once again, they move through the horrible landscape of wasteland. Roscoe studies the map to make sure they're going in the right direction.

ROSCOE
I must be crazy escorting you here
again. I mean; you can't change
what happened to your mother.

ELIZA
Do you believe in the truth?

ROSCOE
Of course.

ELIZA
So do I. I want to get to the
bottom of it.

They hear noises behind them.

ROSCOE
Let's get out of here. It could be
those damn robots.

They move quickly toward the forest.

EXT. DENSE FOREST - NIGHT

They move along the same trail as before. This time there are eerie sounds all around them. Eliza holds on to Roscoe for dear life.

Without much warning, two figures looking like some sort of animals start running toward them. They begin to jog as fast as they can. They see a small building with a light on. They rush to the door as the animals chase them. Roscoe knocks on the door but decides he can't wait so he breaks in.

INT. SMALL WOODEN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Roscoe slams the door shut and they embrace. They hear a noise and turn around and look scared to death.

The figure moves closer.

MARX

You look out of breath.

ROSCOE

We were being chased by something.

MARX

Probably wild dogs.

ELIZA

What are you doing here? I thought you lived in some kind of tent.

MARX

I was restless. This place was abandoned so I moved in.

Eliza glances around the room. The walls are cracked, only a few pieces of dilapidated furniture are against one wall, and what appears to be a small bed is in the corner.

ELIZA

Do you feel better protected in this place?

MARX

No, not really.

Marx sits on an old chair.

MARX (CONT'D)

Did you ever find the man you were looking for?

ELIZA

Barlow lives in a village not far from here.

MARX

I think you two should return to Dominion where you belong.

ROSCOE

We needed to come back.

MARX

Why would you do that?

ELIZA

I need to talk to Barlow again.

Marx sits back and stares at Eliza for a moment.

MARX

You seem to be bothered by something.

ELIZA

He was executed for killing my mother, but I'm not sure he's guilty.

MARX

You're not on earth anymore.

ELIZA

I just want to know.

MARX

Would it make any difference now?

ELIZA

I suppose not, but I still have to find out.

ROSCOE

She's very determined.

Marx tries to hide his sarcastic smile.

MARX

You look tired. You should stay here until it gets light out.

Eliza glances over at Roscoe. He smiles and nods his head.

ELIZA

We'll take you up on it.

Eliza and Roscoe sit down on the floor. Eliza closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DUPREE RESIDENSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (1997)

Young Eliza sits on the couch with a Teddy Bear. She has been crying; not knowing why her father isn't home yet.

Suddenly, she hears the front door shut. Her father comes in the living room.

ELIZA
Where's mommy?

BINGHAM
She's staying at her friend's
house.

ELIZA
But why? We were going to play a
game.

BINGHAM
Don't worry about it. You need to
get ready for bed.

Eliza hugs her Teddy Bear tightly and cries.

RETURN TO PRESENT

Eliza opens her eyes. No one else is in the bungalow. She
hears voices outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF BUNGALOW - DAY

Daylight is overcast and a fog seems to linger around the
area.

ELIZA
We probably need to get going.

MARX
Don't take anything for granted.
You've been lucky so far.

ROSCOE
We'll be careful.

They shake hands and the two travelers depart.

EXT. DENSE FOREST - DAY

They move quickly along a tiny path. It is obvious they are
feeling fatigued and stressed. Without warning, Roscoe stops
and grabs Eliza's arm.

ROSCOE
If you think Barlow's innocent, you
need to make it right.

ELIZA
How exactly do I do that?

ROSCOE

I'm not sure, but the Administrator
needs to know.

Suddenly, a strange looking creature jumps in front of them. Roscoe grabs Eliza to protect her. The creature snarls at them. He snatches Roscoe away from Eliza and takes off. She falls backwards. She hears Roscoe's cry's.

ROSCOE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Help me. Help me. Please help me.

But now there is silence. It is eerie. Eliza, scared beyond belief, gets up and slowly goes to where the creature took Roscoe. The creature is nowhere to be found. She looks down on the ground and sees a pile of dust. Next to it is Roscoe's map. She looks around; not knowing what to do. Common sense takes over and she picks up the map and begins to go in the direction the map depicts.

EXT. BARLOW'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Eliza, spent and disheveled, knocks on Barlow's door. No answer at first so she knocks again. Suddenly, the door is slowly opened.

BARLOW

What do you want now?

ELIZA

Please, can I come in?

INT. BARLOW'S DARK LIVING ROOM - DAY

Barlow escorts her to the living area and motions for to take a seat.

BARLOW

I told you everything. What else do
you want to know?

Eliza seems to be collecting her thoughts.

BARLOW (CONT'D)

Where is your escort?

ELIZA

(shaking)

We were attacked. He's dead. I mean
he was already dead, but now he's a
pile of dust. Why? He was a good
friend.

BARLOW
Were you attacked by a spiny
looking creature?

ELIZA
Yes.

BARLOW
We call them Bogeymen. They are the
most evil of all evil. They take
delight in turning us into dust.

ELIZA
Will I ever see him again?

BARLOW
No, Roscoe's gone forever.

Barlow studies Eliza for a few moments.

BARLOW (CONT'D)
Why did you come back?

ELIZA
I don't know; I think you may be
innocent.

BARLOW
Innocent? You think I could be
innocent?

ELIZA
Yes.

Barlow starts to smile and laughs to himself.

BARLOW
I guess I should feel exonerated,
but you were too young at the time
to know.

ELIZA
My father took my mother to her
friend's house for the night and
even though my father said she
would be back the next day; I never
saw her again.

BARLOW
That's because your father killed
her.

ELIZA
Why were you accused?

BARLOW

I came to your house one night. Your father and I argued outside until it got physical. He went back in the house and I sat in my car on the street. As I was about to leave, he came out carrying something bulky and put it in the trunk.

ELIZA

What did you do?

BARLOW

I tried to follow him, but he lost me. Your father told the police I stopped his car, assaulted him and killed your mother. Your father had several bruises, and they found my finger prints in his car. The jury bought the whole story and here I am.

He gets up and pounds his fist on the wall.

BARLOW (CONT'D)

What does it matter now? It can't be fixed.

Eliza seems somewhat embarrassed.

ELIZA

I'm so sorry. You shouldn't be here.

BARLOW

You should go back to Dominion. I'll take you to the departure camp.

Eliza tries to smile.

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - PEREGRINE BASE CAMP - NIGHT

After hearing a loud knock on the door, The Custodian lets Eliza and Barlow in.

BARLOW

Eliza needs to get back to Dominion.

THE CUSTODIAN

Where's her escort?

ELIZA
(angry)
He's a pile of dust.

BARLOW
He had an unfortunate encounter
with a Bogeyman.

THE CUSTODIAN
That's too bad.
(looks at Eliza)
Are you ready?

ELIZA
Yes.

Barlow walks over to Eliza and stands directly in front of her.

BARLOW
Look, I appreciate you believing
me, but you don't need to come back
here. It's too dangerous. Besides,
knowing the truth now doesn't
change a thing.

Eliza smiles and hugs Barlow. The Custodian takes her and straps her in. Within seconds, she's gone.

INT. ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT - DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective Jason Billings sits at his desk looking at a report on the death of Annette Dupree. A colleague, Detective BILLY ASTON, walks in the room and sits next to Jason.

BILLY
Has the DNA report come back yet?

JASON
No.

BILLY
What are you reading?

JASON
Just reviewing the original report
citing Barlow as the killer.

BILLY
As I recall, all leads pointed to
him.

JASON

Yeah, but according to this report; a few investigators believed Bingham Dupree did it, but apparently there was more evidence against Barlow.

BILLY

Wasn't Dupree your future father-in-law?

JASON

Yeah, Eliza was really young when it happened, and really had no idea who killed her mother.

A fellow colleague comes in the room and throws a manila folder on Jason's desk and walks out of the room. Jason picks up the folder and reads the label.

BILLY

What's it say?

JASON

This is the DNA report.

Jason opens the folder and pulls out the paperwork. The first sentence says it all. The DNA on the body of the deceased recovered at the scene of the crime clearly belongs to Bingham Dupree.

JASON (CONT'D)

Looks like we need to put a warrant out for Bingham.

BILLY

Wow, it's too bad an innocent man was executed. But as Eliza once said, justice must always be served.

EXT. LARGE GLEN WITH FOLIAGE AND TREES - DAY

Eliza sits under a large tree on a patch of beautiful green grass. She stares into space thinking of her visit with Barlow. She hears someone approaching from behind and turns around.

AMANDA

Where have you been?

ELIZA

I went back.

AMANDA

Why?

ELIZA

I know Barlow's innocent and I wanted him to know that.

AMANDA

I'm sure he's grateful, but he still lives in hell.

ELIZA

You're right; I guess I'll have to forget about it. The justice system failed.

AMANDA

It fails more than you know.

Eliza stays silent for a moment.

ELIZA

Roscoe went with me and now he's gone.

AMANDA

What happened?

ELIZA

He got reduced to dust by some horrible creature. I miss him.

AMANDA

I'm sure there's nothing you could have done.

They can see someone approaching. He appears out of breath when he arrives. He walks over to Eliza.

FREDERICK

Someone told me The Administrator wants to see you.

ELIZA

What for?

FREDERICK

I don't know.

INT. WHITE ROOM - BASE CAMP - DAY

Eliza walks into the White Room. Bright lights turn on initially, but as she gets near the chair, the lighting gets dimmer. She sits and assumes The Administrator will arrive shortly. Tired, she closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DUPREE RESIDENSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT (1999)

Young Eliza, now nine years old, sits down at the dinner table. ALICE, her new stepmother who is Barlow's former wife, brings in several dishes of food and sits them on the table. Bingham walks in and sits, looking hungry. Alice brings in more food and takes a seat.

BINGHAM

(sneers at Eliza)

When are we going to see your report card?

ELIZA

I didn't get it yet.

BINGHAM

It better be good.

ALICE

I'm sure it will be fine.

BINGHAM

It better be.

ELIZA

My friend is having a sleep over Friday night. Can I go?

BINGHAM

Not until I see that report card.

ALICE

It doesn't come out until next week, I think.

(looks at Eliza)

Can you go fix dessert? I want to talk to your father about something.

Eliza gets up and goes into the kitchen, but hears everything.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I got a call yesterday from Floyd.

BINGHAM
What the hell does he want?

ALICE
They're allowing prison visits now.
He wants to talk to me.

BINGHAM
He wants to turn you against me.
He's on death row for Christ's
sake. He never did you any good.
Just forget about him.

ALICE
If you say so.

RETURN TO PRESENT

Eliza opens her eyes and watches as The Administrator walks
in the room.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
I see you got the word.

ELIZA
I came as soon as I could.

He walks around the chair as he speaks.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
We are no different than anywhere
else. We have rules. They are to be
obeyed. Against my better
judgement, I allowed you to go back
to Peregrine. You must not go back
again.

ELIZA
I understand.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
I don't think you do. You couldn't
protect Roscoe from the evil
practice of dusting. It only
happens there and to anyone in
their way.

ELIZA
What was I going to do?

THE ADMINISTRATOR

We have a great tradition and success of progressing souls who deserve it. This obsession of yours is not consistent with our values.

ELIZA

I'm sorry. I just believe Barlow could be innocent and probably belongs here in Dominion.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

We've been through this before. It was an earthly decision we must respect.

The Administrator points his finger at Eliza.

THE ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)

Go back to your Pod and become what I believe you can become: a soul ready and willing to do what it takes to progress.

The Administrator walks out of the room.

EXT. LARGE CLEARING SURROUNDED BY TREES - DAY

After what seems like a month later, Eliza is relaxing under a large tree. Amanda approaches and sits next to her.

AMANDA

I guess you're finally getting used to this place.

ELIZA

You know how I feel, but this will have to do.

AMANDA

You want to progress to the next level? Right?

Eliza appears distressed.

ELIZA

What's wrong with staying here?

AMANDA

Our goal is to rise to another world of higher understanding. I can't imagine what we could learn.

ELIZA

I just can't shake the idea Barlow was wrongly convicted and now lives a life of misery.

AMANDA

He can't progress, but you can.

The Hippy joins them, appearing out of nowhere. He sits right next to Eliza.

THE HIPPY

I was thinking about starting a meditation group. You guys should join.

AMANDA

Why?

THE HIPPY

We can feel our full potential. We can bridge the gap between earthly revelations and our understanding now. We can unleash the meaning of the afterlife.

ELIZA

I think we already know that. We just need to accept it.

AMANDA

You're not in the sixties anymore.

THE HIPPY

You guys are no fun.

He gets up and walks away.

AMANDA

I need to go. My uncle just arrived.

Eliza watches Amanda stroll around a series of trees until she's out of sight. She gets up to take a walk. She senses someone standing there behind her. She turns around and is stunned as the figure comes closer.

BINGHAM

They told me you were out here.

ELIZA

(in shock)

Father? What are you doing here?

BINGHAM
That's a silly question.

ELIZA
I guess you didn't expect this.

BINGHAM
I never had any preconceived notions.

He motions for them to sit down.

ELIZA
How's your wife?

BINGHAM
Your stepmother?

ELIZA
Yeah.

BINGHAM
She's fine.

He hesitates; gazing around the area.

BINGHAM (CONT'D)
How do you like this place?

ELIZA
It's okay.

BINGHAM
What do they do around here?

ELIZA
(reluctant)
I saw Barlow.

BINGHAM
What?

ELIZA
I talked to him.

BINGHAM
Where the hell is he?

ELIZA
He's in a place called Peregrine.

BINGHAM
Yeah, I bet it's like hell.

ELIZA
You can say that.

She stands and walks away, thinks for a moment and turns around.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
He says you murdered my mother.

BINGHAM
Of course he said that. He won't take responsibility.

ELIZA
He said you two argued the night mother was murdered.

BINGHAM
(annoyed)
So what?

ELIZA
I've had visions, dreams, that you could have done it.

BINGHAM
What the hell is this all about?
Are you trying to put me on trial?

Bingham abruptly stands and walks closer to Eliza.

BINGHAM (CONT'D)
You know even if I did do it; it wouldn't matter now.

ELIZA
Did you?

BINGHAM
Take me to Barlow. I'll set him straight.

With tears in her eyes, she quickly walks away.

INT. DARK PANELED STUDY - BASE CAMP - DAY

The Administrator sits in a small chair by a large desk; waiting for The Curator to arrive. Without much fanfare, The Curator walks in the room and takes a seat.

THE CURATOR
I understand we have a problem.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
 Eliza Dupree is adamant her father
 murdered her mother. Not Floyd
 Barlow.

THE CURATOR
 And her father recently arrived.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
 She has already spoken with him.

THE CURATOR
 I'm sure he denied it.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
 We've made mistakes in the past.

The Administrator hesitates.

THE ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)
 This is unusual. Barlow was
 convicted and executed for this
 crime. She's convinced he didn't do
 it.

THE CURATOR
 Sometimes we misinterpret events on
 earth; it's happened before. What
 does she propose we do?

THE ADMINISTRATOR
 I don't know.

THE CURATOR
 We must keep in mind; however,
 wanting to find the truth is an
 excellent qualifier to progress.

They sit back and stare at one another.

EXT. POD #943 COURTYARD - DAY

Eliza paces the length of the courtyard. It's obvious she's
 distressed over the situation with her father. Amanda walks
 up to her; hugs her and takes her over to the table and they
 sit and talk.

AMANDA
 I know this is a terrible time for
 you.

ELIZA

I know what you're going to say next; that I should be at peace, but I just can't get this out of my mind.

AMANDA

I think you must.

ELIZA

I don't think I can.

Eliza looks away as if in thought.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

I'm still trying to adjust to this place; let alone figure out my mother's murder.

AMANDA

Take a deep breath.

ELIZA

I'm only glad I can.

AMANDA

You need to chill out. What's done is done.

ELIZA

Weren't you the voice of reason in High School?

(laughs)

I think you were.

Bingham walks out into the courtyard. As soon as Amanda sees him, she enters the Pod. Bingham sits across from Eliza.

BINGHAM

Are you still bothered by your mother's death?

ELIZA

What do you think?

BINGHAM

You need to forget about it. It happened a long time ago.

ELIZA

I miss her. You don't seem to care.

BINGHAM

You don't know what you're talking about.

He gets up and begins to walk away.

BINGHAM (CONT'D)

Where is she, anyway?

ELIZA

She's not here.

He smirks and walks into the Pod.

INT. WHITE ROOM - BASE CAMP - DAY

The Administrator paces back and forth; waiting for Eliza to arrive. The look on his face reveals a sense of awkward anticipation.

Eliza enters the White Room and immediately takes a seat.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Why you continue to dwell on your mother's death?

ELIZA

She deserves justice.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

It's not up to us to judge what already has been decided on earth.

ELIZA

That's just the way it is.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

What?

ELIZA

That's what people say when they don't want change.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

We don't live in the past here. We live for the future.

ELIZA

I want to see The Curator.

The Administrator paces a little more.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

He's rather busy, but I'll see what
I can do.

He slowly ambles out of the room; looking back to give Eliza a contrived smile. Completely spent; she sits back and thinks of Roscoe.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. BEAUTIFUL GLEN - DAY

Eliza and Roscoe walk along a small path amidst flower gardens.

ROSCOE

I still can't believe how
captivating it is here.

(laughs)

It's almost worth dying for.

ELIZA

I don't know about that.

ROSCOE

So what was the world like when you
were alive?

ELIZA

Maybe too complicated for you to
understand. Let's just say it was a
lot different.

ROSCOE

I guess we had no choice of when we
were born.

Eliza stops and looks at Roscoe with a sense of inquisitiveness.

ELIZA

Do you believe in God?

ROSCOE

Yes, but it wasn't always that way.
I doubted for many years.

They notice a bench partially surrounded by trees and sit to relax.

ELIZA

Now that I'm here, I wonder where
He could be.

ROSCOE

From what I understand, the being we consider as God will be revealed as we progress.

ELIZA

Not all of us do.

(smiles)

I imagine you can relate to that.

ROSCOE

There is no rhyme or reason why anyone progresses. Good deeds and kindness to others is of course essential, but even then; it's up to The Curator.

ELIZA

I don't think I want to turn into an alien life form.

Roscoe laughs and puts his arm around his friend.

ROSCOE

I know. They do look scary.

RETURN TO PRESENT

Eliza opens her eyes and looks around. Still in the White Room, she decides to walk down the corridor adjacent to it.

INT. CORRIDOR - BASE CAMP - DAY

She wanders down the corridor among other inhabitants. She hears a voice in back of her.

GIDDY (O.S.)

There you are.

Eliza turns around and Giddy approaches her.

GIDDY (CONT'D)

Someone told me you would be here.

ELIZA

I had to see The Administrator.

GIDDY

In the White Room?

ELIZA

Yeah.

GIDDY
That's a strange place.

ELIZA
It's not too bad. I asked to see
The Curator.

GIDDY
What did The Administrator say?

ELIZA
He said he would look into it.

GIDDY
Don't hold your breath.

ELIZA
Why?

GIDDY
They don't always do what they say
around here.

As they walk down the corridor, Giddy begins to guide Eliza to an area toward the end.

ELIZA
What is this place?

GIDDY
You've never been here?

Giddy moves forward and tries to open the door that is normally locked. When she opens it, she motions for them to go in.

INT. PROGRESSION TELEPORTATION CHAMBER ROOM - DAY

Lights automatically go on as they enter.

GIDDY
I'm surprised the door was
unlocked.

Eliza sees a large teleportation gurney sitting in the middle of the room.

ELIZA
This looks like a teleportation
center.

GIDDY

When we progress; this is where it
will happen.

Eliza looks over and sees pictures of alien creatures on the
walls.

ELIZA

How often do they use this place?

GIDDY

I don't know.

Without warning, the door is opened and in comes THE
ATTENDANT. He immediately approaches them.

THE ATTENDANT

What are you doing here? How did
you get in?

GIDDY

The door was unlocked.

THE ATTENDANT

(terrible stare)

That doesn't answer my question.
This place is off limits.

ELIZA

We didn't mean to come in here. We
were just curious.

THE ATTENDANT

You must leave. Follow me.

They follow him to the door. He stands directly in front of
them.

THE ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Never come here again.
(laughs loudly)
Unless you are progressing.

The Attendant shoves them out and closes the door.

INT. CORRIDOR - BASE CAMP - DAY

As they begin to wander down the corridor, they see
Frederick.

FREDERICK

Did you go to the seminar?

ELIZA

What seminar?

FREDERICK

The Administrator discussed the virtues of progressing to the next level.

GIDDY

I didn't hear about it.
(looks at Eliza)
Did you?

ELIZA

No, but I think I understand.

FREDERICK

I gotta go. See you back at the Pod.

They watch as Frederick maneuvers down the corridor; in-between other inhabitants.

INT. DARK PANELED STUDY - BASE CAMP - DAY

The Administrator and Eliza enter the study. He motions for her to sit in the leather chair she occupied when she first arrived. He sits in a chair next to The Curator's desk. Silence ensues for a few moments before The Curator enters. He sits and directs his attention to Eliza.

THE CURATOR

Do you really think your father murdered your mother?

ELIZA

Yes.

THE CURATOR

Our charter here is not to question what transpired on earth. Rather we choose to rise above it. The real reason for your presence here is to understand and appreciate your journey on earth.

ELIZA

I just want justice for my mother.

THE CURATOR

That has already been served.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
We understand you're upset.

ELIZA
Where's God in all this?

THE CURATOR
That's not the issue. We speak for
God here.

ELIZA
Why couldn't you get this right?

She hesitates; looks away for a moment.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
I mean if Barlow didn't really do
it; then why is he in Peregrine and
my father is here?

THE CURATOR
We don't claim to get it right all
the time.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
What do you want us to do?

ELIZA
I want Barlow brought here so we
can get to the bottom of this.

THE CURATOR
That is not normal procedure, but I
will consider it.

Eliza sits back in her chair with tears in her eyes.

INT. FLOYD BARLOW'S BUNGALOW - DARK LIVING ROOM - DAY

Barlow walks in the living room after having been outside
talking to a messenger from Peregrine Base Camp. He sits down
and looks over at Jenkins who is reading a book.

JENKINS
What's the matter?

BARLOW
A messenger from base camp just
told me I'm supposed to go there to
meet with Eliza.

JENKINS
What for?

BARLOW
He didn't say.

JENKINS
Are you going?

BARLOW
It wouldn't hurt. I have nothing to lose.

They smile at each other.

INT. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CHAMBER - PEREGRINE BASE CAMP - NIGHT

The Custodian is playing some sort of game projected on a big screen. There is a knock at the door. He goes over and lets Barlow in.

THE CUSTODIAN
I didn't think you'd show.

BARLOW
Where is she?

THE CUSTODIAN
I suspect she'll be here shortly.
I'll tell you; she's one determined woman.

BARLOW
More like obsessed, but I actually appreciate her concern.

Barlow takes a seat.

BARLOW (CONT'D)
Is this all you do all day?

THE CUSTODIAN
Not really. What does she want this time?

BARLOW
I haven't a clue.

THE CUSTODIAN
I can't wait to find out.

As they patiently wait, Eliza materializes in the arrival chamber. The Custodian helps her out. Eliza seems disoriented at first, but gets her bearings. She walks over to Barlow.

ELIZA

I'm glad you came.

BARLOW

I guess no one volunteered to escort you over to my place.

ELIZA

Roscoe was the only one brave enough and he's gone.

BARLOW

What do you want?

ELIZA

I want you to come to Dominion with me.

THE CUSTODIAN

That's impossible. It's never been done before.

BARLOW

Why would I do that?

ELIZA

I think you would like to clear your name.

BARLOW

What for? The damage is done.

The Custodian stands directly in front of Eliza.

THE CUSTODIAN

Nobody from Peregrine has ever stepped foot in Dominion.

ELIZA

(looks at Barlow)
Please come with me.

BARLOW

I don't belong there.

ELIZA

You must trust me.

There is silence as they stare at each other.

INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - DOMINION BASE CAMP - DAY

The Curator walks in the room with Bingham. They take a seat at a large conference table. The walls, dark gray, are covered with posters of alien creatures.

Moments later, The Administrator walks in with Eliza and Barlow. Immediately, Bingham starts to get up to confront Barlow and is given the sign to take a seat by The Curator.

THE CURATOR

Today's forum is unprecedented. We do so at Eliza Dupree's request.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Floyd Barlow has volunteered to be here.

BINGHAM

(angry face)

I don't understand the meaning of this. Barlow killed my wife.

ELIZA

You need to tell the truth.

BINGHAM

This is not a trial.

Barlow leans forward; looking at Bingham.

BARLOW

Yeah, that already happened. It didn't go so well.

ELIZA

We're not on earth anymore. The truth matters here.

THE CURATOR

What you must understand is that on earth truth is normally invisible. It always comes down to simple perception.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Knowing the truth even if it's too late will free your soul.

BINGHAM

None of this makes any sense.

BARLOW

Of course you would say that.

ELIZA
My mother didn't deserve to die.

BINGHAM
(angry)
She was having an affair with
Barlow.

ELIZA
So you killed her.

Bingham frowns and seems distraught. He glances around the room.

BINGHAM
I had no choice.

ELIZA
Of course you did.

BARLOW
It's convenient for you to confess
now.

Eliza stands and points her finger at her father.

ELIZA
You had no right.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
This is not unusual. Sins are often
exposed after death. We will take
this into account.

BINGHAM
What does that mean?

THE ADMINISTRATOR
I'm not at liberty to say.

Barlow looks at Bingham and yells.

BARLOW
You're the one who should be in
hell.

EXT. LARGE GLEN WITH FOLIAGE AND TREES - DAY

Days later, Eliza is meditating in the glen when she is approached by Amanda. She quietly sits next to Eliza.

AMANDA
How are you doing?

Eliza reaches out and holds Amanda's hand, as she looks away.

ELIZA

I have a hard time believing my father murdered my mother, but I can't change what happened.

AMANDA

It's a shame someone else paid for his crime.

ELIZA

I don't think my father has any remorse.

AMANDA

What happens now?

Eliza looks at Amanda with a sad face.

ELIZA

I don't know.

INT. DARK PANELED STUDY - BASE CAMP - DAY

Eliza again sits in the large leather chair in the middle of the room. She is all alone, but awaits a visit with The Curator. Still upset by her father's confession; she begins to fidget in her chair.

The Curator enters and ritualistically takes a seat. He opens a folder on his desk and browses through it for a moment. He then addresses Eliza.

THE CURATOR

Do you know why I've summoned you here today?

Eliza shakes her no and tries to smile.

THE CURATOR (CONT'D)

Your valiant attempt to get to the truth is commendable.

ELIZA

I hated proving my father was a murderer, but at least now we know.

THE CURATOR

What are your wishes?

ELIZA

I don't understand.

THE CURATOR

By decree, I will approve Barlow to reside in Dominion while your father goes to Peregrine in his place.

Eliza seems confused.

ELIZA

You would do that?

THE CURATOR

If you desire.

ELIZA

I must think it over.

THE CURATOR

Very well.

The Curator stands and approaches Eliza.

THE CURATOR (CONT'D)

You have earned the right to progress. We have made the proper provisions. You must prepare yourself.

The Curator pats Eliza on the shoulder, turns around and departs the room.

EXT. POD #943 - DAY

Eliza sits at the small wooden table in the courtyard. She appears nervous about something and is joined by Frederick.

FREDERICK

You seem out of sorts.

ELIZA

Just thinking.

FREDERICK

What about?

ELIZA

I've been chosen to progress.

FREDERICK

That's a good thing.

ELIZA
 (smiles)
 I know.

Giddy, lurking in the background, takes a seat at the table.

GIDDY
 I heard what you said. I'm happy
 for you.

ELIZA
 I should be thrilled. I just don't
 know what to expect.

FREDERICK
 Greater understanding and wisdom.
 That's what you should expect.

GIDDY
 We all hope to get there someday.

ELIZA
 Have you guys seen Amanda?

GIDDY
 (looks at Frederick)
 No, not today.

ELIZA
 You guys have been good friends.
 I'll miss you.

FREDERICK
 Good luck.

They get up from the table, hug Eliza and walk away. Before Eliza can stand, The Hippy confronts her.

THE HIPPY
 Is it true? Are you going to
 progress?

ELIZA
 Yes.

THE HIPPY
 That's far out.

The Hippy hugs Eliza and begins to walk away; then turns around.

THE HIPPIE (CONT'D)
Just remember; the secrets of every
universe will be revealed when you
progress. You'll be a real badass.

INT. PROGRESSION TELEPORTATION CHAMBER - DAY

The Administrator escorts Eliza into the room. She is surprised to see Amanda standing next to The Attendant and walks over and hugs her.

ELIZA
Thank you.

AMANDA
This is an honor.

The Administrator stands directly in front of Eliza.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
I must ask you. What is your desire
concerning your father?

Eliza hesitates.

ELIZA
He doesn't deserve to be in
Dominion.

The Administrator nods his head.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
It is with great pride we send you
off to the next universe.

The Attendant motions for her to enter the teleportation gurney. She fits neatly inside. She looks around; taking it all in.

THE ATTENDANT
Any words of wisdom before you
progress?

ELIZA
(takes a deep breath)
I'm ready.

**INT. VIRGINIA HOSPITAL CENTER - ARLINGTON VIRGINIA - ROOM IN
THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY**

Eliza Dupree lies in a coma in a large hospital bed. A NURSE is checking her vitals and her body for signs of bed sores as she has been there for some time.

Her employers, Donna and Bradley Davis, along with her co-worker, Lisa, walk into the room. They go over to look at Eliza before sitting. The nurse finishes her wellness check. She goes over to a clip board on a small table and makes a few annotations and puts it back down.

LISA

Will she ever gain consciousness?

NURSE

It's possible. She could go in and out of consciousness, but her vitals are fine. She doesn't appear to have brain damage.

LISA

So she could come out of it.

NURSE

Yes, I would say so. Stay as long as you like.

The nurse smiles and leaves the room.

DONNA

All I can say is she's lucky to be alive.

LISA

The police now say it wasn't her fault. The truck driver swerved into her lane.

BRADLEY

That's good to know. She's going to have a long recovery period once she wakes up.

DONNA

Remember when we first came here, the doctor said he wasn't sure she would ever recover.

BRADLEY

With any luck, she could wake up at any time and be fully aware.

LISA
I wonder if she'll remember
anything.

DONNA
Let's hope so.

Eliza's fiancé, Jason Billings, casually walks in the room. He goes over to Eliza and bends down; giving her a kiss. He then sits down with the others.

LISA
Haven't seen you in awhile.

JASON
I've been pretty busy.

Jason seems distressed.

JASON (CONT'D)
You know; I wish I would have told
Eliza that I'm an undercover cop.
It would have made things a lot
easier.

LISA
Yeah, you should have told her.

JASON
You know we cracked her mother's
murder. It was her father who did
it. Floyd Barlow was executed an
innocent man.

LISA
Did you arrest Bingham?

JASON
Yes, but he escaped and was
unfortunately killed by deputies
during a gun battle when they found
him.

LISA
What are you going to tell Eliza?

JASON
The truth.

The nurse enters the room.

NURSE
Visiting hours are over. Any change
in her status; we'll let you know.

They all gather around Eliza before they file out of the room.

**INT. VIRGINIA HOSPITAL CENTER - ARLINGTON VIRGINIA - ROOM IN
THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - NIGHT**

Several hours later, the nurse is doing a wellness check. She concludes and departs the room; seeing the DOCTOR on call. He lets her pass and goes into the room. He stands there for a moment. Suddenly, Eliza's eyes open, she blinks for a moment, raises her head and looks at the doctor.

ELIZA

Where am I?

The doctor, who suspiciously looks like The Curator, looks at her with a defined grin.

DOCTOR

How do you feel?

FADE OUT.

THE END