

CHIMERA

Written by

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FADE IN.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - VILLAGE ROAD - EVENING

A US Marine armament-reconnaissance vehicle, a LAV-25, bumps along the rocky road under holographic camouflage. Dust peels up from the flat brush lands and covers everything.

Inside is the Chimera squad--a group of super-soldiers--with tan camouflage-patterned tactical gear.

Among the members is AKELA BARRETT, mid-20s, tenacious, funny, and blunt.

Also:

JEROME CHAVEZ, 30s, cynical jokester, scans the hills.

ALICIA RAMIREZ, late 20s, a tough survivor, stares out at the horizon.

TARA WALTERS, early 20s, a former surfing champion and the rookie, rides in the back with Akela. Tara monitors their comms on an earpiece.

Chavez stares at her in the rear-view mirror.

RAMIREZ  
Eyes on the road.

Chavez blushes.

CHAVEZ  
How about surfing Sunday? Tara can show us her trophy moves.

Ramirez is the only one who isn't laughing at his joke.

RAMIREZ  
Chavez, we're in a desert.

Akela smirks.

AKELA  
That wouldn't stop him.

TARA  
Sand-surfing... huh? Better make that an Olympic sport.

They laugh. Chavez keeps staring at Tara in the mirror. They hit a bump in the road. Ramirez grabs the wheel and steers around the next one.

RAMIREZ

Are you making eyes at Tara?

Chavez shushes her.

CHAVEZ

What? No.

Ramirez smirks as she crosses her arms. Akela looks around the war-worn vehicle.

AKELA

Even ten years of decommissioning wouldn't get rid of this stench.

RAMIREZ

Better than our last assignment.

CHAVEZ

Hey, lighten up. You've been on edge since we dropped last night.

TARA

Intel has a tip regarding an agent. It's an extraction.

EXT. VILLAGE - EVENING

Early evening. Shadows like long, inky tendrils reach for the village as if trying to overtake it. The squad arrives and sets up camp behind an abandoned mud house.

Akela scouts ahead to the main dirt road between rows of similar houses. Ramirez and Chavez follow at a distance while Tara finishes unloading gear.

The villagers are wary and inhospitable. Most are emaciated. Akela keeps a hand on her weapon.

Akela sees a young BOY, 7, with torn clothes, and offers him her canteen. He looks at them as he takes it.

BOY

(in Pashto)

The eagle sees the hunter but cannot avoid a well-placed shot.

He takes her hand and guides her down the road.

RAMIREZ

Akela...

AKELA

Cover me.

They hurry through the darkening village, growing warier as they reach the outskirts of town.

AKELA  
(in Pashto)  
Can't the eagle fly away to safety?

BOY  
(in Pashto)  
The eagle is too proud to flee. So  
it is shot down and killed.

AKELA  
(in Pashto)  
If the hunter kills the eagle, then  
what happens to the hatchlings?

He drops the canteen in the dirt at her feet.

She slowly picks it up and sees:

25 yards away is what appears to be a crucified MONSTER. They approach cautiously and notice multiple stab wounds. There are bowls under the body filled with orange-tinted blood.

Its features are lupine, a full wolf head on a furry hulking body, and a tail.

Akela flicks her flashlight beam in its eyes. Even in death, they reflect back and pierce hers.

AKELA  
(under her breath)  
Chimera.

The boy's expression darkens.

BOY  
(in Pashto)  
The hatchlings peck him to death.

AKELA  
(comms)  
We need to go now. They killed--

GUNFIRE!

Akela looks around. The boy is gone. The squad and a few locals scramble to safety among the buildings.

Akela and company fight the hostile intruders as night falls. Enemy reinforcements swarm the streets, burning buildings to flush anyone out.

The squad enters and clears a mosque.

INT. MOSQUE

Akela snipes through shattered windows. Chavez and Ramirez barricade the door and return fire. Tara hides behind the stairs near the Mihrab, holding a pistol as she frantically calls on comms.

TARA

This is LAV-25-K. Squad F-I-S-H--  
mosque--under attack!

A crackling voice comes through on comms.

HANDLER (O.S)

CSMO. Evac when possible.

The rest is static.

Ramirez scowls. In the moonlight, THE BOY blocks Akela's scope. She jumps and double-checks it. Nobody.

RAMIREZ

What?

AKELA

Just a shadow.

Akela grits her teeth and shoots a few rounds. More soldiers appear and pin them down, throwing cocktails into the mosque. The whole village is burning.

TARA

This way! They're leaving the  
animals alone!

Tara runs out the back and into the animal pens. Akela, Chavez, and Ramirez start the evacuation and follow.

As the enemy overtakes the mosque, they hide amongst the herd, keeping their weapons close.

EXT. VILLAGE

Flashes of Chimeras emerge from mud houses, rimmed with an orange glow, and the ambushers become the ambushed.

They spread out, entering different buildings. The hostiles are slaughtered as Akela, Ramirez, Tara, and Chavez remain still. The Chimeras pass the animal pens.

The enemy's screams fade one by one as the Chimeras rip them apart.

RAMIREZ  
Chavez, who are they?

He doesn't respond.

RAMIREZ  
Chavez...?

She shakes him.

CHAVEZ  
(weakly)  
I don't know. Locals. It must be  
the blood they collected from the  
agent they killed.

Silence. Akela and Ramirez watch the Chimeras run after a straggler combatant. Many of the Chimeras go down, but the hostile is quickly overtaken by more of them.

Akela watches the Chimeras leave the animals alone. She tries to calm Tara, who hyperventilates and starts morphing into a Chimera.

AKELA  
Tara. Tara, listen to me. You've  
never been in combat before. It's  
just like a rip current. You'll be  
out before you know it.

An enemy Chimera comes very close to Akela. It stands 10 feet tall. As Akela's fear response takes over, she morphs into her Chimera form.

Her height is increased by 4 feet and her musculature is increased by a factor of 2. Her clothes rip at the seams but don't entirely rip off--her armor is designed to expand as her body does.

She holds her breath and motions to Tara to stay silent. Ramirez runs out, drawing the enemy Chimera away from Akela and Tara.

RAMIREZ  
Hey ugly!

Chavez shoots toward the Chimera, drawing its attention. It chases him into a burnt building. Ramirez comes up behind it. Akela watches, pulling a flash-bang from her belt.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
Stay hidden here, Tara.

Tara nods, WHIMPERING.

Ramirez stabs the Chimera in the back. It turns on her and grabs her, throwing her against a wall. She begins to morph into her Chimera form as she struggles to get up.

Akela enters and throws the flash-bang toward the back wall of the smoldering building, covering her ears.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Fetch!

The Chimera chases after it, but wises up before the flash-bang explodes and makes the Chimeras wince. Akela and Chavez help Ramirez up and into an adjacent building.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Alicia?

RAMIREZ-CHIMERA

Give me a second! He knocked the wind out of me.

Akela and Chavez huddle around Ramirez. YELLS and HOWLS fill the air. Akela pulls out her knife. Gunfire. A SCREAM pierces the night.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Tara!

The three run to the pen, where Akela confronts a Chimera with her knife. It holds a human Tara with one arm and lunges at Akela. They fight and it sinks its jaws into Akela's shoulder.

Akela's knife falls. Chavez scrambles for it. The Chimera knocks him away, dropping Tara.

Chavez begins to morph into his Chimera form. Tara grabs her fallen gun and shoots the Chimera in the face. The Chimera shakes off the bullet, grabs Tara's ankles, and drags her backward.

Akela grabs the knife and takes a wild stab at its throat. Blood spurts from its wound as it gasps for breath. Its blood has an orange tinge to it.

It falls forward on Akela, letting go of Tara as it dies. Akela pushes it off to the side and gets up. She helps Chavez and Ramirez fight off two Chimeras as they attempt to enter the pen.

Ramirez throws a flash-bang at the entrance of the pen. Goats scatter as the squad runs into a nearby concrete house, ascending to the roof.

They watch Chimeras massacre the remaining enemies.

INT. IHW FIELD HOSPITAL - MORNING

Everything's foggy as if looking through a smeared windshield. White beds, lights, doctors, nurses.

Akela tries to clear her vision. Ramirez, Chavez, and Tara are sleeping in the beds next to her.

The four of them are human, wearing thin restraint collars.

Akela grabs at her neck, feels the collar, and panics. Two nurses are quick to subdue her. As she falls asleep, she glimpses the BOY in the doorway, staring at her.

Then a doctor passes in front of him, and he's gone.

EXT. THE ISLANDS - MAGIC HOUR

CAPTION: NEW HAWAII. ONE MONTH LATER.

A drone shot of the islands. Their natural beauty coexists with sleek industrial cities.

Zoom in on Honolulu, dotted with arched elevators connected to vertical terrariums and office buildings high above parks and trails.

One arch rises above the rest. A neon sign labeled IHW HEALTH AND WELLNESS is displayed on the side.

A plane flies over.

EXT. HONOLULU AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Akela descends the steps of a government plane along with the others. They're surprised to see:

Flashes of crowds heckling her and her squad as they disembark. Cops holding the lines back.

Akela adjusts her collar under her tan fatigues. They are hustled into a long white van and driven through the protestors.

PROTESTORS

You're not human! Go back to the  
zoo! We don't want you! You're  
monsters!



INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

The shadow of the arch of IHW covers part of the western side of Akela's apartment. She growls and struggles with her restraint collar.

Her phone DINGS. She sees a hologram showing a check for \$125,000, deposited in her bank account.

She's on the phone with a secretary at IHW.

The TV's on in the background, showing in quick succession leaked, blurry footage of:

Chimeras massacring enemy soldiers and intermingled civilians alike.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry. We'll get back to you after--

AKELA

I'm sorry? That's all you have to tell us? I'm sorry? After throwing us under the bus, fitting us with these dog collars, and trying to pay us off--

The secretary drops the call.

She feels for the collar and slams herself back against the wall. The plaster cracks, but the collar does not break.

She slides down the wall, slumping to the floor. Her phone RINGS. She sees the caller's number and answers.

AKELA

Yes?

She hurries to her closet and tries to frantically decide what to wear.

AKELA

Uh, no, I-I didn't forget! I'm just... running a bit late.

I/E. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - LATER

Akela arrives in an old Jeep stripped of roof and doors. She gets out, dusts herself off, and walks in, wearing casual clothing. Soft, romantic music plays from the speakers.

Inside, an engagement party is in full swing.

It's just the four of them and MOE, late 40s, an ex-Marine, the owner and bartender.

While hesitant, she smiles and waves as she sees Tara and Chavez together at the center of it.

She goes over and they embrace her.

TARA  
Glad you could make it!

AKELA  
Where else would I be? You look beautiful.

She watches Chavez walk over to the hot sauce bar.

AKELA  
And Jerome looks...

TARA  
Nervous, I know. We both are. Just think, next time you see us, we'll be married.

Tara shows off her ring.

Ramirez sits at the bar, looking rather dour behind her topped-off mug. Tara tugs at her collar.

TARA  
They made excuses, but... at least they'll be at City Hall tomorrow with us.

Chavez spots Akela and comes between them, hugging them both.

CHAVEZ  
Hey! We've got each other! That's enough, right?

TARA  
Right.

AKELA  
Uh-huh.

Tara kisses Chavez on the cheek, and Akela hesitates, then does so. The three laugh.

CHAVEZ  
Drinks are on me tonight!

Akela forces a smile and sits down next to Ramirez. Ramirez gulps down half of her mug.

RAMIREZ  
So, how's your dad?

AKELA  
We really haven't talked.

She looks at Ramirez's expression and stops herself from inquiring. Moe checks on her. She raises two fingers. Moe brings over a martini and a beer.

RAMIREZ  
Heh, wouldn't have pegged you for a  
sissy drink.

AKELA  
It's not a sissy drink. It's  
sophisticated.

RAMIREZ  
Sophisticated is sissy.

Akela balks.

AKELA  
Then it's a "sophissy," you know, a  
sophisticated sissy drink.

RAMIREZ  
You're a "sophissy."

They laugh.

RAMIREZ  
How'd your detective's exam go?

AKELA  
Just trying to get my mind off it.

RAMIREZ  
Eh, you did good, I'm sure.

AKELA  
Well, they gave me this, so...

Akela takes the badge out of her pocket and holds it up, grinning. Ramirez perks up, genuinely shocked.

RAMIREZ  
Hey, way to go!  
(to Chavez and Tara)  
Hey guys, Akela's a full-fledged  
detective now!

Everyone else cheers for her and comes over to see the badge. Chavez claps her on the back.

CHAVEZ  
This calls for the hot sauce  
challenge.

TARA  
Oh, no, not again.

Chavez gets two cups of the spiciest hot sauce from the taco bar and sets them down next to Akela.

Chavez and Akela face off through multiple rounds. Neither yields.

CHAVEZ  
You'll need that poker face for  
your new job.

AKELA  
Are you trying to make me choke?  
Won't happen.

Ramirez smirks and tries to psyche Akela out by taunting her with water. It doesn't work.

Tara stifles a laugh and looks at Ramirez.

TARA  
Nothing like watching two soldiers  
try to keep their cool under fire.

Akela wins. Chavez motions for water. Moe holds out a hand. Ramirez pays him.

CHAVEZ  
(coughing)  
You're not human.

They get rowdy with the drinks, their laughter sounding like wolf barks. Akela turns to watch Tara and Chavez dance.

AKELA  
Who would've thought?

Ramirez smirks.

RAMIREZ  
I'm going out for a smoke.

She leaves towards the deck. Akela sighs. Moe comes over, leans on the counter opposite her, and clears his throat.

MOE

What's on your mind?

AKELA

What's your take on all of this...  
this mess we're in?

MOE

When I came home from the war,  
protests were going on all over the  
country. My mom joined one of them.

Akela quietly passes her untouched beer to Moe.

MOE

I'll never forget the look in her  
eyes when I came home wearing the  
uniform. That's the day this bar  
became part of my life.

AKELA

So, what happened?

MOE

I made this my new home. Got dead  
drunk every night.

AKELA

So how'd you turn it around? I  
mean, now you own this place.

MOE

The owner didn't much care for his  
family, either. He took me under  
his wing, got me... *more* sober, and  
the rest you know.

I/E. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Akela walks out on the deck. Ramirez is there, smoking.

AKELA

Aren't you on the patches?

RAMIREZ

Like they work on me. Besides,  
smoking's like alcohol to us--no  
long-term effects.

Ramirez gets a coughing fit.

AKELA

Supposedly.

Akela slaps her on the back as she passes.

AKELA

(joking)

Am I going to have to breathe you back to life? Cause I'm not into that. Besides, you've got dog breath.

RAMIREZ

(smirks)

Hey, at least we don't need designated drivers anymore! And so do you!

AKELA

I'm beat. Gonna call it a night.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Akela's driving back to her apartment.

Her phone rings, interfacing with a HUD projected above the dashboard. It's POLICE CHIEF BARRETT, late 50's, tough and uncomfortable with emotion--her father.

She sighs and answers the call.

AKELA

Hey, Dad.

CHIEF

Hey. We missed you at dinner.

Akela grimaces.

AKELA

You mean you and... Jerry Lee... missed me?

There's an uncomfortable silence.

CHIEF

Can you come to dinner tomorrow night? There are a couple of things I'd like to talk about. If you're free.

Akela sighs.

AKELA

Uh, yeah... I think I can.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

The lights are off. Moonlight shines through a window, illuminating a piece of bone on a string hanging on Akela's lamp.

She enters, worn out and a bit drunk from all the partying. Her hand brushes against it as she fumbles to turn the light on.

HOLLOW, 50's, calculated, hides in the shadows. Akela examines the bone charm, trying to place it in her mind. While she's distracted, Hollow grabs her and pushes a knife up against her neck.

Her breaths are short, panicked. Her gun's sitting on her nightstand, while her badge and handcuffs are on the small dinette.

Hollow holds her tight and fingers the bone charm.

HOLLOW

Did you like my gift? It perfectly encapsulates my feelings toward you.

They struggle, but her collar restrains her. With it, she's unable to voluntarily morph. His strength overpowers hers as he drags her over to the kitchenette.

HOLLOW

If only you were in a state to relish the challenge.

She tries to knock a glass off the counter. He slams her against the counter and holds her tighter, assuming his prior stance.

Her breathing quickens and her eyes dart, settling on the gun atop her nightstand.

Hollow pulls out a chair from the dinette.

HOLLOW

Sit!

He guides her, snatching up the handcuffs. He smirks at her badge. The badge reads: New 'Aina Police Department-- Homicide Detective.

HOLLOW

I will avenge Catherine's death with yours.

Akela doesn't know who he's talking about. Hollow forces her to sit at the table. She keeps her neck as far away from his knife as she can. He handcuffs her wrist to the chair.

Akela's eyes rest on the badge. She grabs it with her free hand and stabs his knife hand with the open pin. He drops the knife and recoils.

With the chair in tow, she lunges for her gun on the nightstand, but he grabs the back of the chair and slams her into the wall.

Hollow regains control, picking up the knife, pulling her back, and pressing the knife against her neck.

HOLLOW

Not so fast. I want you good and desperate.

Blood trickles down Akela's neck. She begins to tremble. Hollow shoves her down in the chair and handcuffs her other hand to it. Akela's eyes dart everywhere.

This is it. She's going to die. She begins to panic, attempting to induce a morph. The collar prevents it. Hollow smirks.

AKELA

Who is Catherine?

His smirk dissolves into anger.

HOLLOW

You know who she is!

Akela tries to de-escalate the situation. Blood streams down her neck from his blade.

AKELA

You're right, I should know. I should know who she is. I'm a bit drunk right now. Could you maybe tell me about her?

Hollow presses her into the chair, digging the blade in deeper against her throat.

HOLLOW

I like to see her murderers beg. Especially the one equated with justice.

Akela's eyes widen. He digs one side of the blade into her neck, slowly arcing across her throat. She can't breathe.



She breaks her thumbs to slip out of the cuffs, then drives her fingernails into his calves. He drops the knife and staggers backward.

She whirls and bites into his shoulder, drawing blood--healing herself. He recovers and stabs her in the chest, lurching towards the window.

Akela grabs for the knife, recoiling as he throws down a hybrid smoke-flash-bang, obscuring his escape.

Akela recovers and pulls her gun from the nightstand. She takes shallow breaths as she drunkenly steps toward the window. He's long gone.

She uses a plastic bag to pull out the knife as she sniffs for him, but can't find his scent trail.

She sneers at her reflection and smashes the mirror.

AKELA  
Monster hunting monsters. Poetic.

INT. IHW HEAD OFFICE - DAY

ANDREW MYLES, mid-30s, rich kid type, sits behind a large desk in an opulent office. A slightly transparent flat-screen displays the news over a large section of the wall.

An android secretary enters. Myles mutes the TV.

SECRETARY  
Excuse me, sir, General Westbrook  
from the DOD is on the phone.

Myles picks up the phone and motions for the secretary to leave.

MYLES  
General, how are you?

GENERAL (O.S)  
Cut the pleasantries. The President  
has seen the footage and wants you  
to get your beasts out.

MYLES  
Now, now, what makes you think--

GENERAL  
It is an election year. He wants  
the program stopped. No more money!

MYLES

Look, look. They're laying low until this all blows over. They're harmless with those restraining collars. Short of euthanizing the things, what do you want me to do?

GENERAL

Deep six the program. Round them up and we'll bring them to Langley.

Myles is silent.

GENERAL

This isn't over.

He hangs up.

I/E. ABANDONED CABIN - MORNING

CAPTION: ONE WEEK LATER.

An abandoned cabin in Kāne-ohe Forest Reserve.

Akela strides up to LT TOM KEKOA, 30s, of Old Hawaiian descent.

AKELA

What's the sit-rep?

KEKOA

ME just arrived.

He looks at her badge.

KEKOA

Congratulations on your promotion. Where's Chu? Tell me you didn't... you sent him on a wild goose chase?

Akela waves dismissively.

AKELA

Don't need him.

Kekoa hands her a report. Akela walks through the cops scanning the grounds and enters the cabin, reading the report.

AKELA

Hiker found pool of blood on an off-trail near the cabin. Remote locale. Footprints.

(MORE)

AKELA (CONT'D)

Blood smear across threshold leads  
to fireplace.

Akela grimaces at the smell. She sees DR. KATE BAINES, 30s,  
Medical Examiner--ME, examining blood. Akela squats down to  
look at blood spots trailing to the fireplace.

KATE

No sign of a body.  
(turning her head to look  
at Akela)  
Where's your par...?

At the sound of STOMPING, they turn to see CHU, 20s, covered  
in goose feathers and worse. Akela stands to face him.

AKELA

(snickering)  
Try not to contaminate the crime  
scene with your feathers.

He saunters angrily up to Akela, glowering, making a slit  
throat motion and stomps away. LAUGHTER comes from CSU  
outside.

Chu YELLS angrily in Chinese.

KATE

You could at least try to get  
along.

Akela looks around, sniffing everything, then huffs.

AKELA

Have you gotten anything back on  
the knife from the creep who tried  
to kill me?

KATE

He's the former head of research at  
IHW. That explains how he knew  
about you.

Akela lets out a frustrated sigh.

AKELA

Did anything good come of that  
program?

KATE

You know you won't have anyone if  
you keep doing this.

AKELA  
Doing what?

KATE  
Obsessing over work to the  
detriment of your social life and  
coworker relations.

AKELA  
Sometimes I want to look inside  
that brain of yours and see if  
you're not a robot.

KATE  
Ha.

AKELA  
Anyway, I think I have a pretty  
decent relationship with you.

KATE  
I'm hardly a cop.

AKELA  
You don't babysit me. That's a  
start.

Kate chuckles. Akela sees a dried blood puddle on the hearth  
and looks up.

KATE  
A blood trail seems to begin there.  
Looks several days old, but until  
we get CSU in here, we can't remove  
that head.

Akela sniffs and grimaces. She stares at the mounted head  
above the mantle. It's a stuffed moose head. She looks  
uneasy, like something's off, and lets out a low GROWL.

Kate looks up at her, concerned.

KATE  
Akela... you really should've taken  
more than a couple of days off.

Akela snaps.

AKELA  
I'm fine!

Kate winces. Akela bites her lip, apologetic, and follows  
the blood trail. She pulls a stool over to the head.

KATE

Don't even think about touching it.

Akela sniffs and a look of terror rises on her face.

AKELA

Get everyone out of here. Now.

KATE

What? Why?

AKELA

I smell a Chimera.

Kate gets the others out immediately. Akela pulls at the base, straining.

AKELA

Did you photograph it?

KATE

Yes, but...

AKELA

That's good enough for me. You can video me while I'm doing this.

KATE

But--

AKELA

I'll field things with Dad.

Kate gets her camera and begins to video Akela dismounting the head. Akela braces against the mantle. She pulls, hard. The head comes off, revealing:

Stuffed inside is a bloody Chimera head.

It's Chavez, with a bone charm hung on what's left of his neck along with the collar.

The head falls on Akela, who goes pale, stumbling off the stool backwards and throwing off the head. She runs outside, vomits, and rushes to her car.

Kate stares. Kekoa runs into the cabin.

KATE

It's him.

KEKOA

Who?

KATE

Go check on her, please.

Kekoa leaves to find Akela. Kate calls Chief.

Akela recovers in the drivers' seat, but freezes upon seeing a bone charm hanging on the rear-view mirror. Kekoa meets up with her and hands her a bottle of water.

KEKOA

Here.

Akela doesn't respond.

KEKOA

Detective...?

She shakes her head, taking the bottle.

AKELA

Thanks... can you bag that?

Shaken, she returns to the cabin. Kate compares the charm with the one Kekoa bagged. They're identical.

KATE

Still think you don't need a partner?

AKELA

He was my partner.

EXT. MEMORIAL - MAGIC HOUR

A memorial park, set in the mountains, overlooking the city. Akela's sitting on the capital of one of four columns leading to a large memorial statue.

The statue depicts a woman holding out her hand. There are other graves below and off to the side of it. Akela fiddles with a lei she brought.

AKELA

Keep coming here, trying to understand...

Akela hops down and sets the lei on a grave: LEONA BARRETT. The wind picks up and grabs a loose petal. Her eyes begin to well with tears.

AKELA

Chavez... you were morphed. But how? Why did he change you? For sport? Why you?

Chief arrives.

CHIEF  
You didn't come in today. Thought  
this was where you would be.

Akela's crying.

AKELA  
Dad? Why?

CHIEF  
"Why"...?

AKELA  
Why him? Why me? Why this?

She tugs at her collar.

CHIEF  
I wish I knew but, I don't have  
answers.

Akela's frustrated.

AKELA  
(curtly)  
Well, what do you have?

Chief pulls Akela closer and wraps his arms around her. He  
stares at the grave-site.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Outside her apartment.

CHIEF  
Do you want me to stay?

Her voice is numb.

AKELA  
No, I... I gotta work through this.

CHIEF  
I'm here if you need me. I'm  
keeping a guard on your apartment  
until I feel you don't need one.

AKELA  
(facetious)  
Thanks.

She sniffs and trudges inside. Chief watches her and sighs, then drives off.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Akela walks up to her door, surprised to see Kekoa.

KEKOA  
Evening, Detective.

Amused, Akela grabs a soda from her fridge and offers it to him. He takes it.

AKELA  
Thought you were too good for guard duty.

KEKOA  
Gotta keep an eye out for the Chief's daughter. And I can't complain about the perks.

Akela smiles and enters her apartment.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT

She grabs a seltzer out of the fridge and changes clothes, glaring at her reflection in the broken mirror.

She sits on her bed, leaning over to pull a shoebox out from under it. She opens the box and looks at some photos of her childhood--all of them with her clinging to a stuffed giraffe.

One of the photos is of her, Chief, and Leona at the beach. They look happy.

There are police academy photos showing a proud father as well as her first partner, Rodney.

There are two photos of Akela and her squad (Chavez, Walters, and Ramirez). One in the desert and the second one at Moe's Bar and Grill.

She lingers looking at them, then puts them all back in the shoebox and pushes it under the bed.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

Akela's in a restless sleep; clutching the old, now-patched-up stuffed giraffe.

A helicopter passes by outside. She wakes up in a cold sweat, examining her human hands.



She hugs the stuffed giraffe, breathing its scent deeply as she looks at a photo of her mother on her nightstand.

She sighs and turns on the TV. The news reports riots about the Chimeras and ongoing genetic experiments by IHW Laboratories, headquartered in the giant arch from before.

NEWS ANCHOR

...leaked footage of what appear to be canine super-soldiers in the independence war against the United States. This footage dates back to three years ago, when IHW sealed contracts with the DOD and other intelligence agencies.

Myles comes in view. He's dressed in casual clothing and he smiles.

MYLES

Those are not our creations. However, we will do everything in our power to aide the authorities in apprehending and eliminating these monsters in order to protect...

AKELA

(disdainful)

...the rich armchair activists funding our paycheck while collaring our hated, disowned attack beasts. No rehabilitation, no effort.

Akela looks out the window and throttles her collar. She shuts off the TV and glares at her reflection.

She falls back into bed, defeated, and tosses a tennis ball up and down.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS - CEO OFFICE - DAY

Myles tosses a tennis ball at the screen on the wall showing the same newscast that Akela was watching.

An android secretary enters.

SECRETARY

The Governor is calling.

MYLES

Patch him through.

The GOVERNOR, early 60's, male, nervous, appears on the big screen. Myles turns his head to look at him.

GOVERNOR

People are still rioting. My programs are being boycotted. Can't you do something?

MYLES

Science is a risky business. You should expect that not everyone will be on board with your enhancements.

GOVERNOR

What are you going to do? I've given you more than enough "volunteers" and pension funds to--

MYLES

You should just relax. I will ensure your upcoming reelection goes smoothly.

GOVERNOR

The people hate the Chimeras. They're harassing me for a stance.

MYLES

They won't be a problem for long. Give the press something, anything else to chew on. I'll even have my tech people mock something up for you. Circulate it on social media. Turn it into a political issue. *Just do something.*

He drops the call and clicks his tongue, looking in the direction of the secretary in the hall.

INT. POLICE STATION - LAB - DAY

Akela enters, pacing.

AKELA

How's the subpoena for the records going? Can I have his address yet?

Kate grimaces at her expression.

KATE

Actually, you're meeting your partner today.

AKELA

What?!

KATE

Just check him out. Doesn't have to be long-term.

INT. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

Akela enters and looks around. She's fidgety. Moe shrugs and tilts his head in the direction of JOHN KUNNING, 30s, impeccably dressed.

He's wearing a full suit and tie, sweating in the heat. He strips his jacket off and sips a beer. Akela slips onto the seat next to his and orders.

There's a sign listing the specials. On the top is: "Sophissy". Akela smiles at that, then at Moe.

JOHN

Forgot how hot it is here.

AKELA

Might want to lose the tie.

They examine each other.

JOHN

Detective Barrett, right?

AKELA

Call me Akela.

Moe gives them both another beer.

JOHN

Then I'm John. Chief Barrett said I might find you here. Customs took ages. Traffic was crazy. What is all the protesting about?

AKELA

The public's not pleased at some kind of leaked super-soldier program.

JOHN

I can't even recognize this place anymore. Left before the war.

AKELA

Your accent. California?

He's impressed, but regards her with some suspicion.

JOHN  
You've got a good ear. You been a  
detective long?

AKELA  
Long enough.

Akela begins to relax somewhat.

AKELA  
What did you do in California?

JOHN  
Vice. Couple of odd jobs here and  
there.

She raises an eyebrow at Moe, who returns the gesture.

JOHN  
I guess you know the Chief wants me  
to tag along with you and learn the  
ropes here.

Akela stares at her beer.

AKELA  
I work better alone.

He shrugs.

JOHN  
Well, I met Chu at the station. He  
won't even mention your name. So, I  
can only imagine what kind of  
gauntlet you have in mind for me.

They both laugh.

JOHN  
But, you're stuck with me for now.

Akela finishes her beer.

AKELA  
Maybe.

Akela hops off the stool and leaves. He watches her with  
slight suspicion.

EXT. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

She walks to the side deck of the bar.

As she steps off, she is immediately assaulted by RODNEY FAULKNER, 40s, her former partner and current stalker. He's drunk. Everything he says has a suggestive undertone.

RODNEY

Heard you got a new partner.

Akela's nervous and submissive around him, like he has assaulted her many times before. She's silent as she tries to walk quickly past him.

RODNEY

Oh, now, is that any way to treat your old partner?

He grabs for her arm. She dodges. FLASHES of him assaulting her previously.

AKELA

Leave me alone.

He grabs her and chuckles.

RODNEY

That's right, you're one of those things now. Bet you're even better than you were before.

He grabs her and pushes her into the metal handicap railing on the side of the bar. Akela bares her teeth at him.

AKELA

If you don't let go of me--

JOHN (O.C.)

Hey!

John interrupts them, rolling up his sleeves. Akela shoves Rodney off her and walks to the doorway, angry and embarrassed.

Rodney sees that John's taller than him, shakes his head, and walks away.

RODNEY

Freak.

John glowers at him until he leaves.

JOHN

Ex-boyfriend?

AKELA

Ex-partner.

John watches her for a moment. At her wet glare, he heads back inside.

Akela squeezes the rail, watching it groan and bend under her strength. She glowers at her hands.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER

Akela relaxes on the couch and turns the TV on. Another Chimera's been confirmed dead, one from a different squad.

She goes to her small closet and takes down a plastic bin. Setting it on the bed, she opens the lid and pulls out her Chimera Squad uniform. She smells it and notices a bulge in the pocket.

An acceptance letter, dated three years ago.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

CAPTION: THREE YEARS AGO.

Flashes of Rodney putting something in Akela's beer.

Akela, a much less muscular and shorter beat cop, sits in the passenger seat, fidgeting like an abused puppy. She's holding takeout menus on her lap. Her lip's bleeding and she sports defensive bruises. She seems to be drugged.

Rodney returns, entering the driver's side with a different takeout bag. She recoils from his touch.

RODNEY

Got you pot stickers.

Akela's watching him like she's a hostage.

He plops the bag on her lap. The juices leak out, staining the takeout menus and her uniform. She tries to clean it up and he grabs her arm.

RODNEY

Here. Let me get that for you.

He cleans it up, obviously getting off by it. She resists as his hand crawls down the outside of her crotch.

He slams her against the window.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

In the morgue, Akela's on an exam table, staring at the floor. Kate gives her ointment and tends to her wounds. She sees Akela's pants have blood on them down the inseam.

KATE  
Talk to me, Akela.

Akela fumes but doesn't respond.

KATE  
You need to file an assault report.

BACK TO PRESENT.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

There's a quiet THUMP outside. Akela checks the hallway. Kekoa is gone. Couldn't have been more than 30 seconds since the noise.

Akela barricades her door with a chair and looks down at her phone, fingering the call button. She shakes her head and barricades the windows with furniture, swigging alcohol from a bottle.

She takes out her gun and grips it in her hand as she sits, alert, waiting.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

Akela wakes up in her bed amid a few bottles of wine. She's hungover. The alarm buzzes in her bedroom and she groans. She fumbles for it and knocks it off the nightstand.

AKELA  
Ugh...

Then, she realizes she's been carried into her bedroom. She withdraws her hand and checks for zip ties or handcuffs.

AKELA  
Couldn't be him... no restraints.  
I'm not injured... Then who...?

Sounds and smells frighten her. Something POPPING on the stove, SIZZLING...

She frantically reaches for her gun--it's not there. She grabs her lamp, looks at it, and takes it anyway. Then, she quietly moves towards the kitchen.

Chief's at the stove, wearing casual clothes.

AKELA  
What the he—

She frowns and relaxes.

AKELA  
Dad? What are you--

CHIEF  
I came to check on you. Kekoa's...  
missing. I found you sleeping and  
by the look of the bottles, a  
little hungover.

Chief turns and hands her a plate of bacon, sitting down at  
the table. She hesitates and then sits.

CHIEF  
I'm concerned, Akela. I need to  
know what is going on with you.

Akela grimaces as she eats the bacon. He's conflicted.

CHIEF  
Akela, I want you to take some time  
off... Go to the mainland... A few  
days vacation.

Silence. Akela wilts.

CHIEF  
I know you're... I can't even begin  
to imagine what you're going  
through.

He gets up, turns off the stove and puts eggs on her plate.

CHIEF  
Look, honey, I'm, uh, I'm sorry  
about your friend. Think about it,  
just 'til all this protesting stuff  
dies down and we catch whoever...

He places an envelope on the counter.

CHIEF  
Whenever you feel like talking...

He sighs, turns, and leaves. Akela stares at the door. Her  
phone DINGS.

Myles' summons to the IHW. Less an invitation, more a  
threat.



EXT. KANEOHE NATURE RESERVE - DAY

The nature trail snakes around waterfalls and cuts right through a grove of Banyan trees. Five high school students are playing hooky.

HIGHSCHOOLER #1  
Isn't this where they filmed  
Jurassic Park?

Others heckle, shove each other, smoke, and drink. They throw the empty cans on the ground.

HIGHSCHOOLER #2  
Yeah, I think so.

He takes a cell phone video of the fun.

HIGHSCHOOLER #3  
Hey, put that away! We're not  
supposed to be here.

Higschooler #2 grins and sallies up to him.

HIGHSCHOOLER #2  
Oh yeah? Why don't you make me?

They get into a shoving match on the slick cliff. Higschooler #1 tries to intervene when suddenly, Higschooler #2 slips off the edge.

He survives but is severely injured. His WHIMPERS of pain are drowned out by the falls. All gather around with their cell phones videoing. Higschooler #1 calls 911.

HIGHSCHOOLER #4  
Oh my gosh, Rich! That's gotta be  
50 feet down!

She points the cell phone camera at him, then at her face, then at the others, and finally rests it back on him.

As Higschooler #1 is rattling off the situation...

Akela jogs nearby. She's wearing casual athletic wear with a jacket tied around her waist.

She has a cap that shades her face and has sunglasses on. She stops when she sees the commotion. The higschoolers catch her on camera. Facial recognition can't ID her.

AKELA  
What's going on?

Voice recognition does.

HIGHSCHOOLER #1  
We called 911. We were shoving each  
other and--

Akela immediately goes to the cliff edge. Everyone sees the collar and WHISPERS, backing up.

AKELA  
All right, everyone stay put. We  
don't need anyone else going to the  
emergency room today.

She grimaces as their WHISPERS become audible. They're fearful and uncertain.

HIGHSCHOOLER #1  
Isn't that some kind of super-  
soldier?

HIGHSCHOOLER #4  
I heard they're not human.

Akela sticks a couple of branches in the jacket. She searches for a foothold, finds one, but hesitates. The highschoolers video the whole thing.

Akela descends. Closer to the bottom, she gets drenched by the waterfall. She slips and falls, hitting a shallow outcropping near the bottom.

Her collar breaks.

Akela recovers, wincing, and watches her raw hands swell, growing fur, claws, and paw pads. The scrapes on her skin grow fur. She laps up her own blood. Her broken bones realign themselves.

Akela finds another foothold and keeps descending. She grits her teeth, which are sharper than before. Her hair, matted with sweat, grows wilder and longer.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
(repeating)  
Keep it together, don't scare the  
kid. Don't scare the kid.

Finally, she gets more traction from her claws. She's fully morphed. She prepares herself, then jumps. She slips and lands in the water, clutching the rock the student lays on. The torrent threatens to pull her under.

She struggles onto the rock. Her feet--now paws--have broken through the toes of her shoes, and she sits unnaturally on them as she checks the student. She attempts to YELL over the ROAR of the falls.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Hey! Can you hear me?!

The student doesn't respond. He's passed out. She removes her jacket and splints him using a broken branch she carried down.

To help shelter him, she pulls him from the downpour of water--they're right below at the front of the waterfall. It batters her--hard. She nearly loses her grip.

A helicopter arrives and hovers over their location. Akela winces at the noise, GROWLING. The searchlights hit her.

PARAMEDIC

What is that?!

Akela hides in a small alcove behind the waterfall as the helicopter lowers a couple of paramedics and a gurney.

She trips on something, a leg, attached to a body.

The decomposing body of TARA WALTERS, with a collar. Her throat's slit. Her face is half-gone, showing the truncated hound skull underneath.

Akela sees the dog tags, recognizes her and panics.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Tara...

Akela scrambles closer to her body. There's a four-pronged stab wound in her chest. She's wearing a bone charm.

The paramedics finish loading the boy up and look around.

Akela pulls her Sat Phone out of the inside pocket of her jacket. She sobs as she holds Tara's head on her lap.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Kate! Kate! It's Tara!

The ROAR of the falls drowns out most of the conversation.

KATE (O.C.)

Akela! Where are you? Take a deep breath, where are you?

AKELA-CHIMERA  
She's dead, Kate, she's dead.

KATE (O.C.)  
Tell me where you are.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
At Kaneohe Falls!

Akela sees the bone charm around Tara's neck and clenches her fist around it.

EXT. KANEOHE NATURE RESERVE - NIGHT

Most of the roped-off crime scene has been moved to the riverbank. Cops canvas the area. Kate squats over the BODY.

Akela, human again, leans on a tree, pale, barely keeping it together.

KATE  
Tara Walters. She's been dead for about a week, I would guess.

AKELA  
What was she doing out here?

KATE  
The waterfall's washed away all evidence, but with her wounds, I doubt she was killed here.

AKELA  
So she was dumped here.

Silence. Akela looks out over the water.

AKELA  
Can you take that collar off her?

KATE  
You know I can't. I'll have to call IHW...

Akela bristles.

KATE  
I'm sorry, Akela. I know she was your friend.

Silence. Akela broods.

KATE  
Where's that new partner of yours?

AKELA

The news caught me on camera. I haven't told him yet.

KATE

Akela, I know you. You act all tough, but I think it would be nice to have him around. I think you could use some backup.

AKELA

I do not need a partner!

KATE

Whatever Tara was doing, she certainly was not sightseeing. Didn't find a camera or her smart-phone.

A moment passes.

KATE

Wait... a minute. Are you the one on the falls with that kid? I heard it over the radio. You are! That's one scene I'm glad I didn't have to process.

Akela MUTTERS something as she examines footprints in a cast of the cavern's mud. There's just one set, larger than Tara's.

AKELA

What about Kekoa?

KATE

(grim)

They haven't found him yet.

Akela checks Tara's broken smartwatch. 2.1 miles run. A rough map of her run. She downloads the map to her cell phone.

Chief arrives and walks over to the bank near them. He frowns when he sees Akela, then softens when he sees Tara.

He takes Akela aside. They stare out over the river.

CHIEF

Another one of your mates?

Akela nods.

CHIEF

We'll find the monster that did this. IHW let him go and don't know where he is. We're looking everywhere. Nothing's turned up yet in the area, but we'll keep looking.

AKELA

What about the subpoena? Can we stop this guy, or is the law going to keep getting in the way?!

CHIEF

Red tape's something you'll have to deal with a lot. IHW's got some pull, too. If we had more concrete evidence, the courts might move faster. But there's no guarantee.

Akela leans back, realizing something.

AKELA

It's what we are, isn't it?

CHIEF

It's not my call.

He stiffens.

CHIEF

It's not safe for you, Akela. Please. I've sent two tickets to your phone. For Saturday. You and your friend. Different planes.

He frowns at Akela's scowl.

AKELA

I just need to find him.

She makes a fist and glares at the ground.

CHIEF

Let me handle this. Please.

EXT. KANEOHE NATURE RESERVE - NIGHT

The falls. Akela's retracing Tara's path, guided by her nose and the map. She finds a piece of fabric snagged on a tree limb and sniffs it.

AKELA

Smells like Tara.

A noise in the bushes. She stiffens, drawing her gun and turning to see:

THE BOY. She's unnerved.

AKELA

Hey!

He runs. She chases after him.

AKELA

(in Pashto)

Wait!

He leads her to the edge of a FARM.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

He disappears. She looks around, confused.

AKELA

(in Pashto)

Wait...

She searches frantically for any sign of his presence. Not even footprints are left.

Her phone BUZZES. She looks at Chief's message:

Please.

Virtual tickets are attached. She's startled by another text:

Rami: Can't sleep. Moe's?

Akela looks through the high chain-link fence that encompasses a locked gate. She hears dogs barking.

AKELA

Lotta security for a farm.

Akela checks her GPS and calls Kate.

AKELA

Think I know where this guy lives.

KATE (O.S)

Alright. Go grab a drink while I get the guys on this.

INT. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Akela sits at the bar, sipping a mojito with a haunted look in her eyes. Next to her sits Ramirez. There are several people scattered throughout the bar.

RAMIREZ

What's with you?

Akela snaps out of it and pulls the fabric from her pocket, handing it to Ramirez.

RAMIREZ

It's some sort of polycarbonate.

(grinning)

I swear, Akela, you'd show me a rat carcass if you dug it up. Where'd you get this again?

AKELA

Rami, there's something you should know.

Silence. They finger their drinks.

RAMIREZ

(somber)

It's Tara, isn't it? She didn't show last night. I thought... I don't know what I thought.

AKELA

(hollowly)

Yeah.

They both look uncomfortable.

RAMIREZ

I thought, finally things were...

AKELA

They're still working on getting enough evidence to investigate. TV makes it exciting. Instead, we're stuck waiting for red tape. Sitting ducks. Unless...

She gestures to the fabric, which Ramirez inspects.

RAMIREZ

You need enough evidence to go after him. Looks like it's from our jackets. Smells like it too.



AKELA  
Smells don't hold up in court.

Ramirez swishes her drink.

RAMIREZ  
Ugh, it's like tap water. Gimme  
time to check this out, alright?

Moe grimaces.

MOE  
Darn rioters are disrupting my  
imports. I told you to go domestic,  
Ramirez.

RAMIREZ  
Business has been slow.

Akela puts on a brave face and smiles. Moe smiles and goes  
to help other customers.

She frowns.

RAMIREZ  
Hopefully, it'll blow over soon.  
Speaking of... you get that notice  
from IHW?

AKELA  
Yeah. They'll have to tranq and  
drag me back there.

Ramirez leans back and grins.

RAMIREZ  
You saved that kid, didn't you?

AKELA  
I was in the area.

Ramirez gives her a nudge.

RAMIREZ  
Always gotta be the hero.

Akela grimaces as she pulls out her cell phone, showing  
Ramirez the tickets.

RAMIREZ  
Your dad, huh?

AKELA

He just wants me safe. And you.  
This guy's trained. US government  
maneuvers. Some higher up at IHW.  
He was toying with me.

RAMIREZ

You got an address on him?

AKELA

You know I can't do that. I'm  
risking my badge telling you  
anything.

RAMIREZ

Don't worry about me. I can handle  
myself. You, on the other hand...  
you're a sniper, not a close-  
quarters combatant.

AKELA

I've been practicing.

RAMIREZ

This guy's for real, Akela. I know  
if it were me, I'd leave for the  
mainland right away. But if I had  
your dad...

She sighs.

RAMIREZ

I'd be worried, too. But he's a  
police chief. Threats are nothing  
new for him, I'm sure.

AKELA

What if he goes after Kate? Or  
my... supposed new partner?

RAMIREZ

There's just too many variables,  
Akela. You can't worry about them  
all. Leave the... hunt to me. I may  
not be a cop, but I've got  
connections.

AKELA

Alright. Speaking of connections...

She pulls out a bag with a ripped shoe.

RAMIREZ

Again?

Akela gives her a pleading look.

AKELA  
Please?

RAMIREZ  
Fine. I'll reinforce the next  
batch. And thanks for the ticket.  
Doesn't hurt to have a backup plan.

Akela smiles, then darkens. John enters and sits at the bar.  
Ramirez nods toward him.

RAMIREZ  
That's your partner? He looks kinda  
scrawny.

Akela laughs, then frowns.

RAMIREZ  
You haven't told him?

AKELA  
Why should I?

RAMIREZ  
It could cause some issues later--

She sniffs Ramirez's face. Lots of make-up.

AKELA  
Are you going to tell your date  
tonight you're a Chimera?

RAMIREZ  
Well... Checkmate.

Akela rolls her eyes.

AKELA  
Watch your six.

Ramirez sighs.

RAMIREZ  
Back at you. Gotta run.

Ramirez leaves. Akela walks over to John and sits next to  
him, shushing Moe as he raises his eyebrows at her.

JOHN  
So, what do you make those things  
on TV? It's the first I've heard of  
it.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

They keeping it under wraps out of country?

Akela nearly spits her drink but manages to keep it together.

AKELA

Yeah. Guess the government's doing a good job of that. Chimeras are--

Moe slips in.

MOE

Chimeras are beasts on steroids.  
Big, furry...  
(to Akela)  
...bad breath.

Akela picks at her teeth and pops a mint. Her tough façade is shattered. Moe enjoys this.

JOHN

What kind of beast? I'd like to know exactly what we're dealing with. They're dogs, right?

Akela winces.

MOE

Remember that military super-dog project?

He glances at Akela, who mildly glares at him.

JOHN

So they're being handled by someone.

He turns to Akela.

JOHN

You've seen them in combat, right? Is there a way to disable them non-lethally?

Akela's surprised.

AKELA

Yeah. They really don't like loud noises.

EXT. KANEOHE CRIME SCENE - MORNING

The entire section of the park is roped off. Akela's in her detective wear, sniffing the area for clues.

She's putting gloves on when John comes up.

JOHN

What do we have?

Akela holds up an orange-tinged feather with a gloved hand protected by a plastic evidence bag.

AKELA

Not much. Looks like...

She can't finish and darkens.

AKELA

Why don't you take this feather and check out that farm nearby? I'll sniff out some more clues here.

JOHN

(amused)

Trying to get rid of me already?

She's silent. He shrugs and takes the evidence bag.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Akela enters, wearing a leather jacket over a different tank top and jeans. A couple of officers gathered around the video of her saving the kid cheer when they see her.

One throws a tennis ball past her. She's not amused but struggles to take her eyes off it. On her desk is a gift basket of dog toys and treats. She grimaces and feigns happiness.

AKELA

Aww! Thanks... guys. The office pet, I get it.

She hesitates and waves as she ducks into the crime lab.

Tara's body lies on the exam table. Kate's prepping her for autopsy. Akela can't stop looking at Tara's face.

AKELA

Chief's on the warpath again...

Akela bites off the sentence and searches one of the drawers. She pulls out a dog treat and eats it.

AKELA

How's the news reporting the incident? Still calling me an "it"?

KATE

Well, they're just not that used to the idea.

AKELA

Guess it's fair. I don't even like me when I...

(mutters)

At least they didn't see my face.

Kate continues working. The convergence of human and animal anatomy continues down the interior of Tara's body. Akela's uncomfortable seeing it.

KATE

I've always been curious about the process that allows Chimeras such as yourself to "morph". Given your relationship with Tara... I'll wait until you leave to begin.

Akela sighs.

KATE

I'm sorry, Akela.

AKELA

When they first started looking for volunteers for Chimera, I thought, what the heck, can't be worse than my first year on the force.

KATE

Is it?

AKELA

(sarcastic)

What do you think?

On the wall monitor, a news anchor shows the video of the rescue.

AKELA

Crud.

## TV ANCHOR

And a heartwarming story to top off your afternoon: After slipping off the waterfall in Kaneohe trail, one highschooler was rescued by what at first appeared to be an ordinary jogger--

The video expands to fill the screen.

## HIGHSCHOOLER

A Chimera's saving Rich!

Akela blows air through her teeth, snatches a report, and crisscrosses on an empty lab table.

Akela reads the report aloud.

## AKELA

Defensive wounds on her forearms and neck. She fought back. Slit...

She chokes on the word.

## KATE

Four-pronged stab wound. It seems like a pitchfork, but I'll have to analyze the metal particulates in the wounds more. It sounds like that farm is a good lead.

Kate notices Akela's collar's gone.

## KATE

What happened to--

## AKELA

It broke when I fell.

Kate nods for her to leave.

## KATE

I need to finish the autopsy, and you're contaminating my body.

## AKELA

(smartly)

I'm not even touching your... body.

Akela freezes and looks at the doors. The sound of multiple FOOTSTEPS grows louder.

The doors burst open. IHW officers enter, accompanied by nervous cops. Akela hops down and stands back, holding the report behind her.

Ramirez heads them, looking embarrassed when she sees Akela. They stare at each other.

AKELA

What the heck are you doing with them?

Ramirez doesn't answer. She turns to Kate.

RAMIREZ

IHW's taking command of the body.  
(to Akela)  
They also want you to come in.

Kate moves to block them.

KATE

I didn't get a memo or a call, so until the paperwork is done--

Ramirez sends her the request on a hologram. Kate reads it and frowns, backing down. Akela doesn't.

AKELA

I said, what are you doing with them? It's Tara, Alicia. Tara.

RAMIREZ

Akela... don't make this harder than it has to be. Trust me--

AKELA

Why should I? You're the one doing this.

KATE

Akela...?

Akela and Ramirez get in each other's faces. Ramirez slips a piece of paper into Akela's jacket pocket.

Finally, Akela backs off. The IHW officers wheel Tara's body and personal effects out. Ramirez looks defeated and leaves. Akela fumes.

AKELA

How much did you get?



KATE  
Dental files, a couple of  
pictures... not enough.

AKELA  
We never recovered a phone.

Kate's confused.

KATE  
You mean a smartphone?

Akela frowns.

AKELA  
No, a Sat phone.

KATE  
People still use those?

AKELA  
My squad did. To communicate off  
the grid. We all had Sat phones.

KATE  
I didn't have time to grab her  
smartwatch before they entered.

AKELA  
Don't worry, I downloaded the info  
from it at the scene.

KATE  
Akela, you're not supposed to touch  
the body.

AKELA  
It was Tara, Kate. I had to know.

Akela shows Kate the data. Kate saves it to Tara's file.  
They hug.

KATE  
Stay safe, alright?

AKELA  
I will. Send me any info you get.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

Akela's packing. A photo falls out of a stack of graphic novels, two of which she puts into her suitcase. She picks the photo up.

She and Ramirez, both looking less muscular and shorter, stand outside IHW. She's giving a thumbs-up to the camera. She turns the photo over.

The inscription reads, "Our before pic".

CUT TO:

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - NIGHT - PAST

Akela and Ramirez wait behind a glass partition next to two machines, which contain hoops similar to the collars that wrap loosely around the neck, torso, and limbs.

Four scientists hook them into the machines. They're given IVs, serum delivery tubes, and oxygen tubes through their nostrils.

Akela nervously watches the scientists. Ramirez gives her a smile, which allows her to relax somewhat.

The scientists finish and exit, entering the control room on the other side of the partition. A computer terminal displays information on the serum, dosage, heart rates, blood pressure, etc.

A loud SIREN startles both patients. The glass partitions and exits are reinforced with steel cages.

The LEAD SCIENTIST, SAMUEL ROSS (Hollow), smiles grimly and speaks over the intercom.

HOLLOW

All right, ladies. It's showtime.  
You still have a chance to back out  
of this if you want.

Both take deep breaths.

AKELA

No, I... I want this.

RAMIREZ

Bring it on.

Hollow smiles, this time genuinely.

HOLLOW

All right, then. Releasing serum in  
3... 2... 1...

The orange fluid flows through the tubes connected to their IVs. At first, both simply grit their teeth. Then, their veins begin to bulge.

Tears stream down Akela's eyes as her muscles tighten, then expand.

Akela's body begins to reshape itself as the restraints press in on her taller, thicker frame. Her skin ruptures and heals rapidly as she grows.

A similar process is happening to Ramirez.

Her SCREAMS broaden into a HOWL as her bones CRACK and GRIND. Her spinal column extends into a tail. Her jaw pushes outward and forms a snout. New teeth line her jaw. Her tongue lengthens. Fur covers her body.

The machines begin powering down. Ramirez faints. Akela glances over at Ramirez but can't get a good look before she passes out. Silence is punctuated by their heavy BREATHING and the BEEPING from the heart monitors.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - MORNING

Both Chimeras are still in the restraints as they wake up. The scientists in the control room watch them.

HOLLOW  
Ladies...?

Both are disoriented, but when they see each other, they jerk backward in fear and are restrained by the machines.

HOLLOW  
How do you feel?

Two mirrors are lowered for them. They stare at their reflections and are horrified.

BACK TO PRESENT.

INT. AKELA'S STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

Akela's morphed in response to the memory. She sneers at her reflection in the broken mirror.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
Still hideous. I never thought that  
I could haunt my nightmares. At  
least I had you to bear it with  
me... now I don't know what to  
think.

She holds the photo in her palm, curls her fingers around it, and then relaxes them. She places the photo carefully in her suitcase and shuts it.

She sniffs, her nose leading her to her jacket, where she finds the paper.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
 (distrusting)  
 His file? Is it to save your skin  
 or mine?

She sends a picture of it to Kate and looks closer at the address. Then, she grabs Tara's smartwatch and compares the two. They match.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
 You can't hide behind the courts  
 now.

INT. AIRPORT - SATURDAY NIGHT

Flight's running late. Akela, now human, paces back and forth in front of the gate, staring at the ticket. Her phone rings.

KATE (O.C.)  
 Hey. You busy? You're not leaving  
 just yet, right?

Akela looks back at the gate. They're boarding first-class passengers.

AKELA  
 Uh... right. What is it?

KATE  
 The tests on the metal particulates  
 came back.

Akela sees something. A glimpse of the Boy. She searches for him.

AKELA  
 And?

KATE  
 They were pitchfork stab wounds,  
 all right. Chu and his partner are  
 already interviewing the couple  
 that live at the address from the  
 report.

A pause. She sees the Boy in the crowd and chases him.

AKELA  
 What else?

KATE

They found another body near that farm. A jogger. Same MO. Chimeric, but they looked different. It was less uniform--the changes were concentrated around an injection site. Looks like they were drugged, too. I've got a bad feeling about this, Akela.

AKELA

No, no, that's not good. I've got to get over there...

Last call rings over the intercom. She loses him.

Akela stares at the spot where he stood as disgruntled passengers swarm around her. A Sat phone lies on the floor, and when she bends to pick it up, it disappears into smoke.

KATE

Akela? You okay? You're breathing kind of heavy.

AKELA

Yeah. Listen, I'm going to find that phone. I think it's the key to a lot of this.

KATE

I can get the others on this-- Akela? Akela!

I/E. FARM - EVENING

Akela parks her Jeep down the road from the crime scene. She's wearing reinforced shoes.

She grabs and puts on an oversized hoodie from her backpack, then walks to the high chain-link fence and climbs over. Dogs begin BARKING.

A grumpy, hostile man, the FARMER, 70's, opens the door and lets the dogs out. They find her but retreat with whimpers and whines as they get closer to her.

She grabs a half-eaten jerky stick from her pocket and drops it on the ground, continuing to the barn entrance. Akela ducks inside just as the Farmer leaves his house. The dogs fight over the jerky by the fence.

Meanwhile, John pulls up in his car, gets out, and goes to the gate. He rings the buzzer.

He notices the dogs fighting each other over something in the distance--about 20 feet--near the barn and glimpses a shadow slip into the door.

Just as he raises his flashlight to the barn, the Farmer appears on the other side of the fence and interrupts him. The Farmer's carrying a shotgun.

FARMER

What do you want?!

John flashes his badge.

JOHN

I just want to ask you a couple of questions.

The Farmer opens it.

FARMER

Make it quick. We have to be up early in the morning. I have enough trouble with the mangy mutts barking at the air.

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Farmer introduces John to his wife, BERNADETTE, 80's, with a walker near her side. She's polite and quiet, the opposite of the Farmer. Even his compliments sound harsh. John sees that both have what appear to be hearing aids.

FARMER

This here's Bernadette, my beautiful flower.

The décor is old-fashioned, like that of the 1990s.

FARMER

We don't get many visitors, 'specially not coppers.

BERNADETTE

Oh, now, why don't we get you some tea?

FARMER

Detta, he's here on business.

John shifts uncomfortably.

JOHN

(hesitating)

Some tea would be nice. Thank you.

The Farmer sneers. Bernadette gets up and goes into the kitchen using her walker.

FARMER

All right, let's get to it. I already told those two cops I didn't know anything.

JOHN

For someone who hasn't had a lot of police visiting their home, you seem to know what I'm going to ask...

FARMER

I know you'll be needing my wife. Bernadette, how's it coming?

The CLATTER of dishes startles John.

JOHN

Everything all right in there?

No response. He starts to walk toward the kitchen, but the Farmer moves to block him. His voice now sounds like that of a GROWL. A SIZZLING sound comes from the kitchen.

FARMER

She's fine!

John's taken aback. He looks around. Old photos, one of the couple and a young boy.

JOHN

Is that your son?

FARMER

Yep.

JOHN

What's his name?

The Farmer's expression darkens.

FARMER

(knowing)

Samuel.

John looks past the Farmer as Bernadette struggles with the tea cup and her walker at the kitchen entrance.

John goes to help her and glimpses a glass vial with orange spillage on the floor behind her, lightly smoking on the tile.

John eyes it and the tea warily. There's an orange film on the tea.

Setting the tea on the coffee table, he pulls out two photos.

JOHN

Uh, yes. Um, anyway... Have you seen either of these women around here recently?

He shows them both photos of the two women while they were still alive.

FARMER

No.

BERNADETTE

No.

John clears his throat and shows them the death shots.

BERNADETTE

Those poor dears.

FARMER

I'm afraid you're wasting your time here. We already told the others everything we know.

JOHN

Yes, I suppose I am. Standard protocol, you see.

He lifts the cup and sniffs the tea.

JOHN

What kind of tea is this?

BERNADETTE

My own specialty. A bit of orange...

He stands and walks to the kitchen, where the two try to block his path.

JOHN

You need some help there? What kind of tea sizzles?

BERNADETTE

Just a little mess in the kitchen.



As John turns to them, he hears the RIPPING of fabric. He turns, hand on his gun.

Bernadette stands up without her walker. Her body grows fur, matted, mangy, and tangled. The Farmer morphs into a Chimera.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Akela enters, sniffing the air, which is thick with dust and excrement. Her hoodie is covered with an orange dust.

Several animals, also covered in the dust, become restless at her approach. They appear mutated, which Akela notes with a perturbed stare.

A trail of dried blood droplets leads from one of the two empty stalls to a pile of fresh hay with a pitchfork stuck in it.

Akela pulls the pitchfork out. There's orange-tinged blood on the prongs. She takes pictures and places the pitchfork to the side.

Something else in the pile catches her eye. She pulls the hay away to reveal a black Sat phone with a blood-smearred thumbprint on the cracked screen. It's dead.

AKELA

Tara's.

She quickly bags and pockets the phone. There's a trail of drag marks leading to a hay bale. She moves the bale to the side, then wipes off the top of a metal hatch barred by a large padlock.

There are bloody hand-prints on the surface, but they're strange, half human, half Chimera, as if someone was in the middle of morphing.

I/E. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A YELL from the Farmhouse. Akela runs toward it. John backs away, gun aimed, at two Chimeras. She barges in the front door.

It swings wide open, knocking the Farmer off his feet. Bernadette charges toward John. He shoots her while Akela blindsides her, knocking her to the ground,

JOHN

Akela? I thought you were going on leave!

AKELA

What, and leave you to get eaten?  
I'll admit I was tempted.

John throws the tea in the Farmer's face. He claws at his face as the acid burns his eyes.

Akela grabs John's arm, and they run out to the car, with the Farmer and Bernadette in pursuit. John guns it as Akela watches the mirrors.

The Chimeras nearly grab the back of the car but are quickly left in the dust.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Both catch their breath.

AKELA

I think Tara was killed there.  
There's evidence in the barn and  
some kind of tunnel under the hay.  
I was interrupted before I could  
investigate it. However, I did find  
this.

She pulls out Tara's phone.

JOHN

You think it's Tara's?

AKELA

I'll charge it when I get home to  
make sure, but yeah.

JOHN

Is that proto--  
(sighs)  
How'd you get here?

Akela gestures to her Jeep, 100 feet behind them now.

JOHN

Oh, we are not going back for it.

The Chimeras chase them but eventually give up as the bumpy country road leads onto a highway.

Akela breathes a sigh of relief.

JOHN

So, those were...

AKELA  
Chimeras. Mangiest ones I've ever  
seen.

They're driving alongside the beach now. Akela brushes her fingers along her neck, shifting in her seat.

JOHN  
I heard that they wear thin  
collars, similar to the one I've  
seen on you.

An uncomfortable silence.

JOHN  
Are you a Chimera?

Her reluctance answers his question. She doesn't look at him.

He pulls off into the sand, far enough away from the crowds, and parks, getting out. He draws his pistol and aims it at her head. She barely flinches.

AKELA  
You'd be doing me a favor.

Akela gets out.

AKELA  
You want to see the monster?

Silence. Just the two of them, in an indirect face-off.

She forces a morph, clinging to the car for balance. As she morphs, her claws dig into the car. John stares, unable to take his eyes away from her.

The only sound is her heavy BREATHING.

She steps forward, and he backs up, keeping the gun aimed at her head. She drops to all fours, glaring dourly at him.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
Most of the station likes me better  
on all fours. Do you?

JOHN  
No. Why didn't you tell me?

She pulls herself up and leans on his car, staring at the sunset.

AKELA-CHIMERA

When you arrived... Finally, there was someone on the island who didn't treat me differently. Who didn't look at me and see a monster. I didn't want... I couldn't take...

She sighs.

AKELA-CHIMERA

I guess it's over.

John hesitates. He stows the gun, then leans next to her on the car.

JOHN

Well, I like dogs. And despite your efforts to the contrary, I like you.

They watch the sunset together.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS - DAY

Kate and Akela, now human, stand outside the IHW. Akela's sulking.

AKELA

I can do this myself, you know.

KATE

Yeah, but you wouldn't have.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS - DAY

The elevator lets them off. They walk into Myles' office. Akela shivers as they pass guards armed with stun batons. Myles grins when he sees them.

MYLES

Ah, finally, you deign to come in. You do realize that we could have you legally imprisoned according to--

AKELA

--According to the one hundred and forty-page document you made me read before getting the procedures and serum, I know.

He motions for a couple of guards. They escort Akela to the lab to replace her collar.

MYLES  
I've heard so much about your exploits.

KATE  
Your point?

MYLES  
I want the culprit found just as much as you and your pet detective.

He extends a hand.

MYLES  
Why not work together?

KATE  
If you're quite finished--

The room is empty save for Myles and Kate. He struts around her, circling her like a shark.

MYLES  
It's hereditary, you know. The Chimera serum.

KATE  
Your point?

He smiles at her.

MYLES  
Are you still keeping those treats in your desk?

She begins to walk out.

MYLES  
How's your daughter? She's seven now, isn't she?

She stops at the door.

KATE  
Stay away from her.

She leaves. Myles rubs his arm.

MYLES  
Oh, how I wish you would make me.

His secretary calls on the intercom.

SECRETARY

The Governor is here.

MYLES

Good. Have Akela brought up to my office after she's fitted with the restraint.

EXT. IHW HEAD OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The balcony. Myles entertains the Governor. He brings out Akela, miserable but kept in check with the collar, a leash tied to it, and his stun remote.

The Governor is horrified.

GOVERNOR

Isn't that Chief Barrett's kid?

AKELA

(protesting)

Yes, I--

She barely gets the words out before Myles presses the button, shocking her.

MYLES

She made her choices. Now, onto business.

He remotely brings up the collar's holo-interface.

MYLES

Governor, do you understand what we're doing here? Coyotes. Well, a mix, anyway.

GOVERNOR

Excuse me?

He slowly walks around Akela and tugs on her leash for kicks, to the Governor's disturbance.

MYLES

Do you know what makes them special? Coyotes are scavengers. They adjust their population to fit the landscape, not the other way around as humans do.

Myles grins, relishing every word.

MYLES

And wolves have absolutely  
horrifying bite strength. Combine  
them with a human, and you get...

He activates the collar, causing her to morph. The Governor  
backs up, stunned.

GOVERNOR

W-what have you--?

He slowly, carefully reaches out a hand to tap Akela's  
snout, to ensure it's not a holographic illusion.

She GROWLS and Myles shocks her again.

MYLES

Now, now. Play nice and you might  
get a treat later.

AKELA-CHIMERA

You--

Myles reaches for the remote and she takes a step back,  
shaking with rage as she clutches the collar. Myles turns  
back to the horrified Governor, sipping his mimosa.

MYLES

It's hypothesized they, along with  
cockroaches, would be the only  
survivors of nuclear fallout. That  
is why I work with them, sir.

The Governor is speechless. His countenance falls and he  
begins to tremble.

GOVERNOR

How many?

Myles casually sips on his mimosa.

MYLES

Well, you have to prepare for the  
worst.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS - DAY

Akela leans against the building, glowering at the guards  
near the entrance. She tugs at her collar. Kate exits the  
building, a similar grimace on her face. They walk to Kate's  
car, an old, beat-up, sky-blue Pinto.

Behind them, the Governor exits the building, and Hollow discreetly emerges behind him and injects him with a syringe. Before the Governor can recover, Hollow disappears.

AKELA  
What did you two talk about?

KATE  
Old history, mainly.

Sensing her reluctance, Akela changes the subject.

AKELA  
How come you brought your Pinto?  
Where's your Mustang?

KATE  
I'm having it detailed. You should see the back seat. I took Melodie and two of her friends to a birthday party yesterday, and I'm still finding chips between the seats.

Akela laughs.

AKELA  
Do you ever get some time to yourself?

KATE  
You trying to get me to go surfing again?

AKELA  
(wryly)  
I just think we need a distraction.

Akela investigates a photo taped to the dashboard. There's a picture of a younger couple in lab coats. The woman, CATHERINE ROSS, 30's, looks very similar to Kate.

Hollow is the man in the photo. Akela recognizes him but doesn't let on. Kate sighs.

KATE  
They're my inspiration.

Akela's disdainful.

AKELA  
The founders of the IHW?



KATE

They started out as a pharmaceutical company. Made a lot of innovations in the field of medicine.

KATE (CONT'D)

They started the Chimera project as a way to end the organ donor shortage.

AKELA

If only they stayed with that.

KATE

I know just what you mean.

A thought comes to Akela's mind. She grins and reclines in the seat. Kate glances over as she drives.

AKELA

So, you ever going to upgrade to a minivan, become a soccer mom?

KATE

(calmly)

When New Hawaii is buried in a volcanic eruption, everyone either burns alive or dies from smoke inhalation due to the wrath of the ancient gods.

Akela raises her eyebrows.

KATE

It was my mom's car.

AKELA

Like what happened twenty years ago?

KATE

Those ten years... stuck on the mainland while they rebuilt... ugh. I never want to go back. You're lucky you weren't born yet.

AKELA

(joking)

You, a snobby teenager? No.

Kate laughs.

KATE

On an entirely unrelated note, did you take your meds today?

Akela rolls her eyes.

AKELA

Did you?

KATE

You'd better. Chief wants to see you. He's not happy about you staying here.

Akela frowns.

AKELA

You couldn't have told me that earlier? Going to the IHW was bad enough.

Akela grimaces and pops a couple of pills from her pocket.

INT. CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Chief reclines at his desk. He frowns when Akela walks into the room. She smiles weakly.

CHIEF

You're not on the mainland.

AKELA

Uh, I know, Dad. They found another body.

CHIEF

I heard what you did. I appreciate that you came to your partner's aid. But you still went out there on your own.

There's an uncomfortable silence. His expression flickers between a proud grin and a grimace, settling for a thin smile.

Chief frowns and holds up the evidence bag with the bone charm.

CHIEF

I won't have you personally pursuing this. You will either follow John's lead or take a month's leave off the island.

Akela's lip twitches.

CHIEF

You need to learn not to do things  
on your own and to follow police  
procedures!

He leans back and blows air through his lips, wringing his  
hands.

CHIEF

I've given you a partner who has  
asked to remain with you. Why, I  
don't know. If you cooperate with  
him...

Akela looks at the door, sulking.

CHIEF

You've got two choices: Partner or  
leave. Take the former.

She huffs and grabs the door handle.

CHIEF

And Akela...

She turns to look at him, seething.

CHIEF

Play nice.

EXT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Akela leaves the building and walks over to John, who is  
standing by a row of police motorcycles. She crosses her  
arms and glares at the air.

JOHN

Chief told you, huh?

AKELA

This is my fight. Not yours. This  
guy's got a vendetta against me,  
and I don't want you caught up in  
it.

JOHN

I appreciate the thought, but I can  
take care of myself. And if you're  
worried about me, well, I think  
with what's up here.

John points to his head.

JOHN  
(offhandedly)  
And you could probably rip me in  
half.

Akela opens her mouth to respond. Dispatch calls on their  
comms, interrupting her.

DISPATCH  
All units! All units! A Chimera  
destroying property has been  
spotted near City Hall!

EXT. TERRARIUM HIGHWAY - EVENING

A set of interconnected highways above traffic jams on the  
ground, sheathed in glass.

A police cruiser weaves through stopped cars, wrecked  
vehicles, and confused, frightened drivers.

The rising smoke obscures the sun.

Akela drives the squad car like a maniac. John holds on for  
dear life.

RADIO  
Attention: A Chimera is rampaging  
through Terrarium Highway 9F. All  
commuters are advised to detour.

Finally they see:

A Chimera--formerly the Governor--twice the size of a sedan  
running on all fours, causing oncoming cars to swerve out of  
the way or be crushed. Blood spatters as the carnage  
increases.

She guns it and gets closer. The Governor glances back at  
them and smirks, running ahead of them.

A pile-up ahead stops them.

JOHN  
This place is insane. Why did I  
ever come back?

AKELA  
Welcome to paradise.

Akela looks for a way around. There's a couple on a  
motorcycle among the frustrated drivers. Media and civilian  
drones pass by outside, videoing the event.

Akela hops out and runs over to a couple, flashing her badge. John follows her.

AKELA (CONT'D)

Police!

The couple get off and watch as Akela gets on and John barely makes it before she takes off. Akela swerves around the pileup and skirts the glass wall.

Crushed cars stretch out in front of them. At the end of the destruction kneels the Governor, holding a body. Piles of stacked, smashed police and civilian cars block the other side.

AKELA (CONT'D)

According to Kate, this new cocktail's cut with uppers.

John's in disbelief.

JOHN

A highly aggressive Superman drug on a super-soldier? You think he was dosed?

AKELA

I do. But you can't reason with a Chimera in the best of situations.

He looks at her, mildly amused.

JOHN

Shoot to kill?

Akela swallows hard.

AKELA

Yeah. Shoot to kill. Throat's the best target, but he'll be guarding it.

Sirens and flashing police lights play off the glass ceiling. Corpses, glass shards, and blood are everywhere. The former Governor has a glassy, drugged look in his eyes.

GOVERNOR-CHIMERA

Oh, officers... you really must try this!

He throws the bodies at them, followed by metal debris. Akela dodges them all, except for a car door hurtling towards them.

JOHN

Duck!

He jerks her to the right and the motorcycle slams into a car, knocking Akela off as she's thrust through the broken window of a sedan.

The impact sends John over the roof. He recovers, draws his gun, and opens the opposite car door, checking Akela's pulse.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Akela! Come on, get up! I don't know how to kill a--

The Governor grabs and sniffs him, ignoring Akela.

GOVERNOR-CHIMERA

You... you smell like a...

He grins at John with a mouth full of teeth. John shoots him.

GOVERNOR-CHIMERA (CONT'D)

...useless human.

Akela wakes up and sees her gun on the asphalt. She crawls toward it, bleeding profusely from her head.

The Governor drops John and sneers as he watches him back up. John doesn't give away Akela's position as he dives for cover.

The Governor throws glass at him and watches him cower, chuckling.

GOVERNOR-CHIMERA (CONT'D)

All these years, I never could fight back. They said I didn't have the spine for it.

Akela falters, struggling to keep her vision steady. She touches her collar, then drags herself closer to the gun and reaches for it.

John finds cover behind a smashed car and shoots the Governor in the throat twice, but the Governor ducks, so the bullets hit his face. The Governor feeds off a corpse, healing. John's gun CLICKS.

GOVERNOR-CHIMERA (CONT'D)

Well, I've got plenty now!

He grins at John and grabs the car, lifting it above his head to smash him. Akela finally shoots the Governor in the ear.

He whirls and smashes her with the car, breaking her collar. He turns to John and laughs as he saunters towards him.

Akela's fingers twitch.

The Governor backs John against a pile of crushed cars and grabs the motorcycle. He lifts it above his head and slams it down at John.

John falls backwards in horror as:

Akela, as a bloodied Chimera, rams the Governor into the cars, narrowly missing John. John scrambles toward the middle of the road, stunned.

The Governor crashes to the asphalt, breaking the glass wall. They fight like animals.

John finds a police car and opens the trunk, reloading his gun.

The Governor slams Akela's bleeding head into the glass wall and pins her to the ground.

#### GOVERNOR-CHIMERA (CONT'D)

So the gnat has teeth.

He crushes her arm between his jaws. She kicks and scratches at him, but he's stronger. Two flash-bangs stun him. The Governor turns to GROWL at John.

Akela blindsides the Governor, flipping and pinning him to the asphalt. Akela struggles to keep the Governor pinned. She snaps at his head, but he keeps moving out of her reach.

He gets free and slams Akela against the broken glass, attempting to push her out of the tunnel.

John shoots him until his gun CLICKS, then dives for Akela's gun. It jams. The Governor overpowers Akela. John stabs him with a broken piece of glass, distracting him.

Akela flips the Governor over her, throwing him out of the tunnel to the ground hundreds of feet below.

A few moments pass as they catch their breath. Akela reluctantly laps up blood from the ground, watching her wounds heal.

JOHN  
I get it now.

She breathes heavily.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
It's... it's just do more damage  
than they... we... can heal.

JOHN  
Nice to know... What was that about  
not screwing up in front of your  
dad?

She glares at him.

INT. KATE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's clean, a perfect model luxury apartment. Akela's pulling her suitcase. She's bruised and has healing scratches across her skin. She rolls her shoulder as she waits, grimacing as the bone cracks.

Kate and a husky mix, BUSTER, greet her at the door. Buster's particularly curious about her. The TV's on in the background.

KATE  
At least you were already packed.

Akela sighs and greets Buster.

AKELA  
Thanks for letting me bunk here.

KATE  
Not trying to offend you, but...  
why aren't you at your dad's?

AKELA  
Me and his dog don't get along.

Kate rolls her eyes. Akela walks in. Kate's daughter, MELODIE, 7, whip-smart, stares up at her.

MELODIE  
Who are you?

KATE  
She's a coworker of mine who's  
staying here for a bit.

MELODIE  
Oh.



Buster sniffs Akela from behind.

MELODIE

What is Buster doing, mom? Do you have a tail?

KATE

Go wash up for dinner, sweetheart.

Akela waves her off.

AKELA

She's fine.

Akela kneels down on the floor in front of Melodie, smiling wearily.

AKELA

I'm part wolf.

She grimaces.

AKELA

Or dog.

MELODIE

Like Buster?

Akela looks up at Kate, who nods to Buster. Akela follows her gaze and forces a smile.

AKELA

Yeah. Like Buster.

MELODIE

Mom, can we keep her?

Akela and Kate burst out laughing. Kate fixes the guest room and then makes dinner. Melodie plays as Akela puts up her stuff, biting on a dog treat. Buster tries to steal one. Akela chuckles and lets him eat one out of her hand.

Akela walks into the kitchen and helps Kate with the dinner.

AKELA

How'd you get a dog approved here anyway?

KATE

You know the terrarium attached to this apartment complex? My parents left me it. Just enough square footage and containment measures for Buster to enjoy legal custody.

AKELA

You've got a nice kid. How come you never bring her around the office?

KATE

I just... I don't want her to see what I do. Stuff like that can scare a kid.

AKELA

Eh, Dad used to take me to horror movies when I was young. Mom used to fight with him all the time about that.

KATE

(joking)

And look how you turned out!

AKELA

Yeah, I'm my own horror story.

Kate throws flour at her. Akela retaliates. They both laugh.

NEWSANCHOR

Breaking news: The Governor, who was confirmed missing during yesterday's riots, was allegedly the Chimera killed in a fight with another after rampaging through the streets. The second Chimera appears to be working with the police.

AKELA

The Governor, huh? I wouldn't have guessed.

KATE

That's one less politician in the world. Take that as you will.

AKELA

...That Farmer and his wife... they became Chimeras, too. They were all acting like they were on Superman. Is there some kind of black-market drug on the streets doing this?

Kate stops, serious.

KATE

Wait... I found a drug in Tara's system.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

It matched the one in Chavez's, but the tox screens haven't returned yet. You think that's our killer's MO?

AKELA

He made a point of rubbing my badge in my face. The report said he was fired for aggravated assault. On whom? I mean, the CEO's a good bet, but our guy's not stupid.

KATE

I think I might have an idea.

She washes her hands and grabs her purse.

KATE

Take over for me, will you? The recipe's right on the fridge. I've got to check into something.

AKELA

Yeah, uh, sure.

She kisses Melodie and walks out. Akela smiles after her.

AKELA

You are one heck of a detective, Kate. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - NIGHT

Kate walks in. The interior is a lavish monument to personal wellness. She's aloof as she rides the glass elevator to the top floor. Two guards block the CEO's office. She flashes her ID and they part to let her through.

Inside, Myles is annoyed but not surprised at her arrival. Kate brings up a holographic news feed of the Governor as a Chimera.

KATE

Care to explain?

MYLES

Our history does not entitle you to barge in here without an appointment. However, since I am a gentleman...

He offers her a seat, but she ignores him. He scoffs and pours himself a drink.

MYLES  
Care for one?

KATE  
No, thank you.

MYLES  
There was a theft two weeks ago.  
They hit our labs. A volatile  
compound still in testing.

KATE  
Chimera serum 2.0? Maybe mixed  
with... Superman?

MYLES  
(smiles)  
I want the culprit found just as  
much as you and your ineffectual  
militia do. If you think I'm  
responsible for this mess, your  
little detective is...  
(chuckles)  
...barking up the wrong tree.

Kate turns to leave and stops.

KATE  
As you are well aware, the shares  
my parents left me still entitle me  
to a seat on the board.

Kate walks out.

MYLES  
(mutters)  
We'll see about that.

INT. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Chief takes John out for a beer.

JOHN  
(uncomfortable)  
Chief, I know about...

CHIEF  
Akela's been through a lot that you  
don't know. Cut her some slack.

JOHN

She's a--

CHIEF

--I know. She's spirited. She had to be to earn her place here.

John examines him.

JOHN

She's your... daughter.

Chief winces and takes a big swig.

JOHN

The others don't know?

CHIEF

Pretend not to. They think I'm soft on her. Maybe I'm the reason she tries so hard.

JOHN

She doesn't really talk to me. I feel like a sidekick.

CHIEF

Maybe there's something more going on.

Chief shakes his head and gets John another beer. They drink.

CHIEF

Partnerships aren't forged in a week. You're new, both here and at this job. Homicide's a different beast.

He sighs. They drink.

CHIEF

You know she's the youngest detective in HPD history? Fought my superiors up and down.

John stares at him.

CHIEF

She's been through so much. I wouldn't partner my daughter with you if I didn't trust you.

JOHN  
If only she did.

INT. KATE'S APARTMENT - EVENING

As Kate enters the apartment, she hears the bass notes of "Who Let the Dogs Out" playing from Melodie's room. She enters and sees Akela knelt down, singing with Melodie and Buster.

Kate smiles and joins in the Bark chorus.

INT. KATE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Akela sneaks out of her room. She checks to see if Kate and Melodie are asleep, then examines the photos of Kate's father. They match Hollow. Her breath catches.

Buster interrupts her with a squeak toy. She shushes him and gives him some leftover meat from the refrigerator.

Kate walks in, sleepy.

KATE  
Akela?

AKELA  
Oh, Kate. Just grabbing a midnight snack.

KATE  
Hm.

Kate walks back to her room. Akela sneaks out.

AKELA  
I'm sorry, Kate.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Akela sneaks back to the farm. She sees her Jeep. It's completely trashed.

AKELA  
Great.

She opens John's contact screen on her phone. Her finger wavers over, then hits the Send button. Voice-mail.

AKELA  
Uh, I'm... back at the farm.  
Listen, I... might need backup.

She sighs.

AKELA

I'm not sure I can take on two  
juiced ones at the same time.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

She ends the call and gets out. She sneaks up to the  
farmhouse. The lights are on.

FARMER (O.S)

Yeah, she was here earlier.

He's silhouetted, chatting with Hollow.

HOLLOW

And you let her snoop around?

FARMER

She snuck in. Must've bribed the  
dogs.

HOLLOW

You fool. Can't you recognize a  
Chimera when you smell one?

The dogs BARK. Hollow BANGS on the window. The BARKING  
stops. A chair SCRAPES the floor as the Farmer rises. Hollow  
stabs him with a syringe filled with orange liquid. The  
Farmer GRUNTS and grasps at Hollow's hand.

He convulses and transforms into a Chimera, with much more  
farm animal-like features than before.

He's aloof, in a fugue state, looking to Hollow for  
direction, who instead speaks a trigger word and points  
directly at the window where Akela is listening.

She runs towards the barn. The Chimera smashes through the  
house and chases down the dogs. Their lives end with a YIP.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Akela enters the barn and bars the doors shut. Heavy BANGING  
on the doors accompanies GROWLING from the other side. Akela  
searches for another way of escape. The windows have been  
barred.

AKELA

That was one... where's the other?

As a Chimera, Bernadette steps out of the shadows and  
prepares to pounce on her. She climbs up to the rafters,  
which CREAK under her weight.

Akela whirls and jumps out of the way as Bernadette pounces at her. Bernadette's claws scrape the dust as Akela pulls out her gun and aims. The barn doors crack as the Farmer slams his body against them, and they buckle inwards.

Bernadette slashes at Akela, forcing her backward against a wall. Bernadette's claws connect with Akela's arm, tossing her gun to the dirt. It goes off, spooking the animals.

Akela's cornered. She takes a deep breath and morphs.

Bernadette advances, licking Akela's blood off her claws. They fight. Bernadette's high gives her a decisive advantage. They grapple each other and snap at each other's throats.

Akela grabs a handful of straw and throws it at her eyes. Bernadette retaliates by raking her claws across Akela's snout. Akela falters, and Bernadette rips into her chest.

Akela kicks Bernadette away, catching herself in a stall. She notices a pitchfork behind her. Cracks in the barn doors reveal the Farmer's snarling visage.

Bernadette lunges for her. Akela grabs the pitchfork behind her and holds it, impaling her on it.

The barn doors finally give way. The Farmer advances, grinning at her. Bernadette pulls the pitchfork out and throws it to the side.

Then... Bernadette and the Farmer bicker, GROWLING and snapping at each other. Akela uses this distraction to escape--

The Farmer slams her against the wall, opening his mouth wide and baring his teeth. Bernadette blocks her escape.

A GUNSHOT. The Farmer's throat spurts orange blood as he falls backward, dead. Bernadette turns to the intruder and HOWLS. A bullet in the neck pitches her backward against the stall.

Akela catches her breath. It's John.

AKELA-CHIMERA

Who... said I didn't... need you?

She rips into Bernadette, forcing herself to eat from the corpse. John looks away, choking back a gag.

He steadies her as she reverts, healing.



JOHN  
Where have you been? Kate says you  
left her apartment!

AKELA  
It's her father!

JOHN  
What?

AKELA  
Her father's the one. I know it for  
sure.

JOHN  
Isn't her father dead?

AKELA  
I know the face of the man who held  
me at knife-point!

JOHN  
Why--?

AKELA  
He's at the farmhouse. I'd  
recognize that voice anywhere.

JOHN  
Let's go get him.

I/E. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

They run to the house. The door's ajar. As they enter, they  
see Hollow in a chair, with his back to the door. John aims  
his gun at Hollow's head. Akela takes out her handcuffs.

JOHN  
NAPD. Put your hands--

Hollow whirls, sweeping John's feet from under him, then  
shoots Akela in the chest where Bernadette eviscerated her.

HOLLOW  
Pitiful. You know, this is where I  
brought that mongrel.

Akela rushes toward him and puts her gun to his head.

AKELA  
Her name was Tara! Say it! Say her  
name!

Hollow spits. John picks himself up.

JOHN  
Akela. I know he killed your  
friends. This isn't the way to  
honor them.

Akela's hand shakes. Her finger's still on the trigger.

JOHN  
You're not a monster.

AKELA  
You don't know that.

JOHN  
Yeah, I do.

Akela finally lowers the gun. John staggers forward and  
grabs the handcuffs, locking one of Hollow's hands.

HOLLOW  
Imagine if I had stayed a farmer.  
My parents, which you met, have  
outlived their usefulness. I have  
John to thank for that.

John winces.

HOLLOW  
I've done my homework. Pity you  
haven't done yours.

He escapes the cuffs and slams his elbow into John's face,  
causing him to stagger backwards.

Akela slams Hollow against the wall, but he turns her gun on  
her, shooting her again in the chest. He injects her with  
his serum and uses his wristband to trigger her morph.

Hollow runs out, leaving on a motorcycle.

John struggles to get up. Akela GASPS, morphing against her  
will.

AKELA  
Think he's dosed me--He--He can  
control--

Her words turn to GROWLING as she runs after Hollow.

JOHN  
No, Akela, wait!

On his comm, he calls Dispatch.

JOHN

There's been a 187 in self-defense at the farm. Akela ran after the suspect into the Reserve. She's been dosed. I'm in pursuit.

EXT. KANEOHE NATURE RESERVE - NIGHT

John catches up to her on his motorcycle.

JOHN

Akela!

She GROWLS at him.

JOHN

Akela?

She dashes past him, acting like a wounded animal. He tries to follow, but she's too fast.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

John calls Kate. She's live on a holographic feed as John rides.

KATE

We've got to get her back. According to the feed, she was in flight-or-fight mode for a few minutes.

JOHN

Yeah, she's been... more than shot. He injected something into her and forced her into that... form.

KATE

Must be an implant. If he can do that to her, what about the others? It has to be short-range.

Akela runs onto the highway through early morning traffic. John swerves through cars to catch up.

JOHN

She said it's your father.

KATE

What? My father's dead.

JOHN

She insisted it was him. Wasn't he a farmer before he founded IHW?

Kate's silent.

KATE

Yeah. I don't even remember him.  
Could he really...?

Akela loses Hollow as loud HORN BLASTS distract her. John gets close and reaches out to grab her.

Akela attempts to slam him off his motorcycle. John quickly avoids her body and slows to follow her.

EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

They reach the wharf and pass warehouses. There's a fishing trawler hooking up to port. Akela leaps to it, sending the fishermen scrambling.

JOHN

I don't know what's gotten into  
you...

EXT. FISHING TRAWLER - NIGHT

He aims the motorbike and lands it on the boat after her.

JOHN

But we're going to settle this now.

Akela digs into the day's catch.

JOHN

She's redirecting her prey drive  
into food. She doesn't want to hurt  
anyone!

(comms)

Do not pursue, I repeat, do not  
pursue. Target is not hostile.

Akela GROWLS at him, the drugged look in her eyes stronger. He rides toward her. She lunges for him.

He jumps off the motorcycle, letting it zoom forward and pin her to the crates behind her. She HOWLS in pain and struggles to get the bike off her.

John pulls out his shock baton.

She throws the bike off, SNARLING at him. She's in fight-or-flight mode, leaning toward flight.

A fisherman shoots a harpoon into her side, spearing her. She SHRIEKS and yanks the rope, tossing the fisherman into the water. She flails, trying in vain to get the spear out of her.

Her eyes dart wildly to the pier. John moves to block her. She tries to run around him, but he stuns her with the baton, then she SNARLS at him and backs away.

JOHN

Akela...

Nervously, cops line up around the trawler. Their guns are trained on her.

JOHN

Don't shoot! She's not going to hurt me!

One cop shoots at her and misses.

Akela HOWLS, grabs John's baton, and pulls it out of his hands. The momentum slams him into the crates.

Akela runs, dragging the harpoon gun and rope. The cops, fishermen, and dockworkers part to let her through. John grabs the bike and guns it, chasing her.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

They race through downtown. Cops begin chasing them. The IHW vans try to head her off. John is on the comms with Kate.

JOHN

They've got a tracking device in that thing, too?

KATE

I'm working on disabling it. IHW's animal control for Chimeras. From what I hear, they won't mind getting in your way.

JOHN

Do you have any commands to get her to stop?

Kate's disturbed.

KATE

No. She didn't mention them. No wonder she...

Akela's too smart for the IHW, avoiding the nets and tranquilizers they shoot at her.

KATE

And... disabled. I can't fully disengage it without the admin--

JOHN

--That's ok. Thanks, Kate. I'm going to slow her down.

John aims his gun.

JOHN

Akela, please don't be mad at me for this.

He aims, then has to swerve as a truck swings around a corner, swerving to avoid Akela. John re-aims and keeps on her tail. He shoots. The bullet hits her left leg.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

They run straight through a group of protesters crowding City Hall. The protesters scatter and YELL.

Akela darts out of downtown, heading for the beach. She begins limping as she starts to bleed out and looks around wildly for an escape.

Suddenly, John sees an IHW officer down the road. It's Ramirez. She spots them, calling in on comms as she pursues. Their eyes meet.

RAMIREZ

No, she's not this way. I saw her heading downtown.

INT. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Akela runs into Moe's Bar and Grill. Ramirez makes it there before John. John hops off the motorcycle and enters.

SNAPPING, SNUFFLING, and the SCRATCHING of nails on wood comes from the kitchen.

John bursts in to see Moe brandishing a butcher knife at Akela, who is ignoring his threats and scarfing down raw meat in the refrigerator.

Ramirez is between them.

JOHN

Let me handle her.

Moe and Ramirez step back, out of the way. Moe's relieved.

JOHN  
 (quietly)  
 I've been reading up on dogs.  
 Hopefully, that's more or less what  
 you are...

John lowers himself to the floor. Akela glances at him and continues eating.

He waits for a few minutes. She begins to relax, drops the food, and limps to him, WHINING. He hugs her and scratches her fur.

JOHN  
 Who's a good girl?

Akela GROWLS.

JOHN  
 Right.

He closes his eyes and steels himself. He grabs a bone and puts it in her mouth.

JOHN  
 This is going to hurt. I'm sorry.

He rips the harpoon out. Her SCREAM causes everyone to flinch. Her teeth flash a centimeter from his face before she collapses on him.

INT. JOHN'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Akela, passed out and human, lies on the couch, which is covered with bloody towels. John's sewing up her side wound.

It's red and swollen. He lingers, watching, then cleans up the blood with a wet washcloth.

Akela COUGHS and wakes up. A few moments of silence. She watches him tenderly stitch her up.

AKELA  
 (sarcastic)  
 Thought you were supposed to be  
 different.

Akela tries to sit up and GRUNTS.

AKELA  
 How did you know I wouldn't kill  
 you for that?

JOHN

Why do you think I gave you the  
bone to bite on?

He dabs alcohol on her wounds. She winces and GROWLS.

AKELA

Owww! I don't think I need any more  
stitches.

JOHN

I don't think you would need  
stitches if he shot you a little  
higher.

She grimaces, too exhausted to argue.

AKELA

I don't think we'd be having this  
conversation if he had. Why didn't  
you take me to the hospital...  
or...?

He smiles at her.

JOHN

I thought you would maul the  
nurses.

Akela winces as he cleans up the cuts on her head. She  
motions for a towel, and when he gives it to her, she clamps  
down on it with her teeth.

JOHN

I guess you really did need me.

Akela starts to respond but stops herself. She sighs and  
notices the gashes on his arm.

AKELA

I'm sorry.

JOHN

Never a dull moment with you, huh?

She struggles to prop herself up.

AKELA

Why'd you want to stay with a  
monster like me, anyway?

John leans back.



JOHN

Do you still want that drink? I promise I'll go easy on the questions.

AKELA

Yeah, that would be nice. Do you think Moe will let me back in?

They laugh.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Kate finds an envelope on her desk addressed to her. It's from Hollow. She puts it in her bag, finishes the paperwork, and starts to leave until she sees Chief's light still on.

She knocks on his door, and he beckons her in. He's admiring a ten-year-old photo of his family: Him, Akela, in her late teens, and Leona, 40s, all smiling at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado.

KATE

You miss her, don't you?

CHIEF

I miss both of them. Akela just hasn't been the same since--we haven't been the same.

Kate sits down on the corner of his desk.

KATE

Maybe you should invite her over for dinner at your place. Make it a weekly thing.

CHIEF

Yeah, I think you're right.

Silence for a few moments.

CHIEF

How have you been holding up?

KATE

They told me it'd take a while, but... I still miss him like crazy. Christmas is right around the corner. Melodie and I just...

She sighs.

KATE  
I don't know if I can handle taking care of all her needs without him.

CHIEF  
Why don't you both come over to my place? I'll invite a couple of the boys, Akela will be there, and hopefully, so will John.

KATE  
If she hasn't chased him off the island.

Kate wipes away tears while laughing.

KATE  
I think I might just take you up on that.

A few moments pass.

KATE  
Akela thinks it was Dad who...

CHIEF  
Who what?

KATE  
Akela thinks he's the killer. She saw his face.

Silence.

CHIEF  
And you're wondering if that makes you guilty.

Silence. He holds her.

CHIEF  
No, it doesn't. You've been a good friend. You're like family to both of us.

CHIEF  
Let's get a guard detail on your apartment, just in case.

INT. MOE'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Akela and John sit at the bar. They've been there a while. Her leg and side are bandaged. She slips a generous tip to Moe, who pockets it.

AKELA

So, you grew up here, then moved to California?

JOHN

I was a wreck and had to get away.

AKELA

I know that feeling. I couldn't help but notice the picture in your wallet. Your daughter?

JOHN

Yeah.

He quickly changes the subject.

JOHN

My captain back in California wasn't all that different from your dad, either. He told me, "Son, go home."

AKELA

That's funny. When I was in the Middle East, my dad said, "Son, come home." He always wanted a boy.

They both laugh. He watches Moe bring them another round. He picks up her beer and drinks it.

JOHN

You've had a lot of those. Someone's got to drive us back.

She does the same with his, matching his smile.

AKELA

I can hold my liquor well enough.

Her head drops. John takes her outside. She tries to get out of his grasp.

AKELA

Maybe I should go on all fours...

John quickly stops her.

JOHN

No!

INT. CHIEF'S OFFICE - MORNING

Akela and John walk in. Akela's still a little bruised and limping, but her weary smile is only eclipsed by the donut she's munching on.

There's an open box of them on her desk in the bullpen, with a signature-filled card. Multiple cops look relieved to see her safe. Chief himself sighs in relief when he sees her.

CHIEF

Glad you're alright.

AKELA

Who, me? You can't keep me down.

CHIEF

That was a very dangerous stunt you pulled.

AKELA

You can yell at me after we catch him.

JOHN

Chief?

He clears his throat. Akela munches, quiet.

CHIEF

This joker calling himself Hollow has hijacked the news feeds.

He shows them. Hollow's holographically-masked, hooded face fills the screen.

HOLLOW

You think you're safe from the Chimeras. You think the collars will protect you. You think IHW has your best interests at heart.

(laughs)

Ignorant fools! He has lied to you. This is the narrative he wants you to believe.

He switches to a feed of:

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - NIGHT

A doctored video with a time-stamp of three years ago. A Chimera kills Catherine while scientists try to intervene.

INT. POLICE STATION

The feed cuts off, resuming the news. Akela and John stare at the monitor, thinking hard.

AKELA  
So, he's taking revenge against  
IHW?

Her almost happy tone surprises both of them.

CHIEF  
Akela!

His bark surprises her.

CHIEF  
Akela! John! Find him. Kate's going  
to dig through the video.

AKELA  
Yes, sir!

JOHN  
Yes, sir!

CHIEF  
And Akela...

She pauses. John's already out of the room.

CHIEF  
Try to hang on to this one.

She rolls her eyes.

I/E. WAREHOUSE ON THE DOCKS - DAY

They pull up to a warehouse. Cops surround it, and Animal Control is there, as well as the IHW. Akela looks a bit nervous when she sees IHW.

They get out of the car. John opens the trunk and pulls out two Kevlar vests, offering one to her. She doesn't take it.

JOHN  
Aren't you wearing one? You aren't  
Superman, you know.

AKELA  
If I morph, it gets too tight, and  
I have trouble breathing.

JOHN  
Need to lay off the donuts.

She shoots a death glare at him.

JOHN  
Do you think he'll try to get you  
killed again?

AKELA  
Probably, if it's poetic justice he  
wants.

Akela waves her hand dismissively and pats her injured leg.

AKELA  
I might be able to take a bullet,  
but I'm not invincible. You've got  
the flak vest, you go in first.

John's not amused.

JOHN  
Really? The super-soldier wants me  
to--fine.

Akela smirks as they walk to the Lead Officer.

AKELA  
What's the sit-rep?

LEAD OFFICER  
We've got a Chimera in there we  
haven't been able to identify.

JOHN  
Anyone else?

LEAD OFFICER  
That's what's so strange. Witnesses  
reported a man in black leaving the  
scene before everything hit the  
fan. It looked like the guy on the  
news.

The Lead Officer grimaces.

AKELA  
What happened in there?

LEAD OFFICER

We don't know. We got a distress call from one of our officers, but as you can see, IHW ordered us to wait for them to subdue it.

AKELA

(snarls)

Him! Not it, him!

IHW looks her way. The Lead Officer recoils.

LEAD OFFICER

(stammers)

S-s-sorry. He--he's, uh...

AKELA

Did the man say anything?

LEAD OFFICER

Something in a foreign language.

Akela stiffens and walks to the entrance. The policemen let her through the barricaded door, until an IHW officer pulls her back.

IHW OFFICER

Where do you think you're going?

Akela glares at her.

AKELA

I may be able to subdue him.

IHW OFFICER

That won't be necessary. We have the situation under control.

AKELA

Do you know the trigger words for Chimeras?

John steps in.

JOHN

Maybe we should let them--

She takes him aside and tugs on her shirt collar.

AKELA

(seething)

Do you know what they do to "defective" Chimeras?

John turns to the IHW officer.

JOHN

Let us go in there. If he mauls us,  
you can have all the glory.

The officer begrudgingly obliges.

IHW OFFICER

Take Ramirez with you, then.

AKELA

Ramirez?

Ramirez looks sheepish as she enters, holding an advanced, reusable Taser with three charges--cartridges expelled like bullet casings.

AKELA

How could you join them?

RAMIREZ

Look, Akela, this isn't personal.  
Times have been tough, alright?

Akela and John enter the warehouse with Ramirez.

No answer. It's dark. A GROWL comes from the shadowed corner. Akela and John both aim their guns. Ramirez shines a tactical light around. Akela returns the GROWL with one of her own. Ramirez breathes deeply as they advance.

JOHN

I don't think that's helping.

AKELA

Sorry, it's a reflex.

The creature lurks in the darkness, handcuffed to a chair. It's either a gigantic dog or a hideously mutated human. Any semblance of sapience is long gone. Its entire front is covered in blood.

It struggles to break free of the handcuffs.

A corpse lies on the floor, mutilated and half-eaten. Akela winces at the Feral's SHRIEK.

JOHN

I don't think he's in there  
anymore.



Akela glimpses a fur-covered badge on the floor. She picks it up. It has a thin film of some kind of orange moisture on it. Kekoa's phone is on a video call with Hollow.

AKELA  
Kekoa. He was a good man.  
(comms)  
Kate, can you trace--

HOLLOW  
Well done, bitch.

Akela glares toward the phone. The Feral pounces toward John.

AKELA  
(in Pashto)  
Heel!

HOLLOW  
Do you think I would program beasts  
with the same words and flaws as  
your master?

Akela's ears catch some of the words. They're in Pashto. They cause both Akela and Ramirez to double over, straining.

The Feral pounces on John and bites into his arm.

HOLLOW  
You think you're virtuous. You're  
not.

He remotely forces Akela to morph. Ramirez can only watch in agonized horror.

Akela tears the Feral off John and wrestles with it.

John shoots the Feral. It doesn't wince. Ramirez's curled up on the ground, clutching her head.

RAMIREZ  
The phone!

John reluctantly shoots it. The feed cuts.

Ramirez regains her composure and trains her Taser on the Feral. It begins to weaken. Akela rips its throat out and turns on Ramirez, GROWLING.

John tackles Akela to the ground.

JOHN  
Akela! Akela!

She rolls him on his back and puts her jaws around his throat. Ramirez subdues her with her Taser.

Ramirez pushes Akela off John and helps him up. He's shook.

JOHN  
...Why did she...?

RAMIREZ  
Trigger words. Psycho-programmed.  
She couldn't help it. It would've  
got me if it weren't for my collar.  
We're lucky he wanted to make a  
point.

JOHN  
Is she...?

RAMIREZ  
Going to kill you when she wakes  
up? No. Was she? Yes.

Ramirez puts Akela into the back of John's car.

RAMIREZ  
It's a risk to work with a Chimera.  
If I were you...

She shuts the door.

RAMIREZ  
I'd find another partner.

IHW takes the dead Feral to the waiting van. John waits for Kate to take what's left of the human body.

KATE  
I'm glad I didn't have anything to  
eat today.

John hands Kate a plastic bag with the badge.

JOHN  
Has she ever tried to kill you?

KATE  
Who, Akela?

Silence.

KATE  
...Only when I've sneaked a fry  
from her plate.

Kate's disbelieving.

KATE  
Akela tried to kill you?

Kate looks over to Akela, who's fast asleep.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

John and Kate pore over the evidence from the warehouse as a recording of the earlier video broadcast by Hollow plays in the background.

JOHN  
Have you ever been afraid of her?

KATE  
Not in the physical sense. She's like a cactus. Acts tough and prickly, but she's got a soft center.

Something catches Kate's eye, and she stops the video and rewinds it. The movement of Catherine in the video is stilted, artificial.

KATE  
Some distortion around her stomach and neck... like it was manipulated.

Her face flushes. John walks over.

JOHN  
What's wrong?

KATE  
Nothing. Hey, you look awful. Go get some rest.

JOHN  
What about you?

KATE  
I'll keep plugging away at this.

John leaves. Kate plays back the video again.

KATE  
...Mom?

INT. KATE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kate checks Akela's door. It's closed. Kate goes into her bedroom and digs out the envelope addressed to her. Melodie comes up to her.

KATE

Go play with Buster, honey.

MELODIE

Akela went to her room. Is she in time-out?

Kate chuckles.

KATE

Yeah. Don't disturb her, honey. Just go play, alright?

Melodie complies. Kate shuts the door and opens the envelope. Inside is a universal flash drive. She runs a virtual machine and disconnects the wifi before she plugs it into her laptop.

A video feed pops up and plays. Her face drains of all color.

CUT TO:

INT. EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY - SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE

A pregnant Catherine is wearing a telltale restraint collar as she works alongside Hollow.

She goes into labor and morphs despite the collar. The lab techs run to help her. She unintentionally bites, claws at, and kills one of them as they try to help her.

Lab security holds Hollow back as she delivers and they kill her.

Kate watches in horror.

Akela knocks at the door. Kate stands up and answers it, blocking the monitor from view. Akela's half-asleep and apologetic.

AKELA

Kate...

KATE

Akela, you don't have to...

Akela stares at her feet.

AKELA

I shouldn't have left so suddenly.  
I should've trusted you.

KATE

Akela...

Kate hugs her, staring at her own hands.

EXT. JOHN'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

John's beach house is actually an old two-bedroom, solitary house on a beach cliff.

He's alone, kneeling before a memorial marker. He drapes a lei over it. A loose petal lays below the marker on the grave. He watches while the trade wind picks it up and it blows out toward the sea. He reminisces.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOHN'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Six years ago. SIDA, 6, cute half-islander and John's daughter, sits on the roof, looking at the waves. She has the same flower as the one from the lei in her hair. John walks out and looks up.

JOHN

Sida, what are you doing?

SIDA

Looking at the waves. It's cooler from up here.

He climbs up and sits next to her.

JOHN

Cooler? Re-  
(stops himself)  
Really. Yeah, it is.

SIDA

Is Mommy okay?

JOHN

Mommy's...

He grimaces but hides it from her.

JOHN

Mommy's not coming home.

BACK TO PRESENT.

EXT. JOHN'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

FLASHES of a wild boar charging Sida.

Tears roll down John's cheeks as he breaks into sobs.

EXT. KATE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The tears drip to Akela's feet as she exits Kate's apartment and walks toward the beach. She passes an open bar, and hearing the TV, she stops briefly.

The news reports two more Chimera rampages and deaths.

NEWSANCHOR

...identities confirmed to be Kamea Iona, 49, and Luke Giani, 32, both members of the Beta Chimera Squad. Witnesses stated that their IHW-issued restraints appeared to disengage before the Chimeras went berserk--

Neon-drenched protesters riot. Rowdy tourists are all in bars and on the beaches.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Hollow appears from an alley.

He follows her discreetly. Finally, rounding a corner draped in shadow, he prepares to strike with a knife. He reaches for Akela's collar.

She whirls, recognizing his hand. He pushes her against the wall of an alley, holding the knife to her neck.

Ramirez arrives on a motorbike, panicked.

RAMIREZ

Akela!

Ramirez sees Hollow and slams the bike into him. They both go flying. Akela rushes over. Hollow and Ramirez fight.

Hollow slits Ramirez's throat and whispers to Akela.

HOLLOW

(in Pashto)

Feast.

The trigger word causes her to fall to her knees, clutching her head, distracting her just long enough for Hollow to pick up the bike and escape.

Akela recovers, grabs Ramirez, and applies pressure around her trachea. She jams her arm in Ramirez's mouth.

AKELA  
Bite down!

Ramirez shakes her head.

AKELA  
Bite down and heal!

Ramirez pulls her mouth away and shakes her head. She mouths, *I'm done.*

AKELA  
(sobbing)  
Why won't you--

Akela calls Dispatch, breaking down the more she talks.

AKELA  
Need a bus at the corner of Lorelei  
and Ha'au! Slit throat--applying  
pressure, but I'm no medic.  
Suspect's heading down Lorelei.  
Black... motorcycle. Local...  
plates...

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

John's moping with beer. Dispatch crackles over his gear.

JOHN  
Akela?

He runs to his motorcycle and guns it in their direction.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

He dodges pileups, traffic, and cop cars. He makes it there.

John gets off his motorcycle and rushes over to Akela. Ramirez weakens. She mouths something else to Akela, who searches her eyes for the meaning.

Ramirez dies. Akela tries desperately to revive her.

An ambulance arrives. John holds Akela as she sobs.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

Tourists fill the spa below the arch. One WOMAN and her husband, HAROLD, lounge while Hollow hands her a mai tai in a glass. The liquid leaves an orange rim around its sides.

HAROLD

Still think we could've gotten a better deal at the Waikiki.

WOMAN

Harold, come on. We're here to relax. Can you quit thinking about business for five minutes?

Harold huffs. The woman is just about to take a sip when-- Screams break out as tourists morph into Chimeras and rampage. Many escape the complex before IHW's task force can respond.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

Hollow enters Myles's chamber. Myles puts on an aloof air but fidgets.

MYLES

What do you want?

HOLLOW

You know very well.

MYLES

This little tantrum of yours isn't going to bring her back. How can you blame me for what happened on your watch?

Hollow lunges forward and grabs Myles by the throat, choking him.

HOLLOW

It was your design that killed her! Your lack of safeguards! You killed her!

MYLES

(lying)

How do you... know... she's not... still alive?

He pulls up a holographic feed via voice control. It's of Kate. Hollow stares at it, lets him go, and runs out.

EXT. MEMORIAL - DAY

Kate eats lunch at the picnic tables and watches Melodie run around. They look happy.

Melodie disappears. Kate looks around, worried.



KATE  
Melodie? Melodie?

She frantically begins to search the park. Finally--

Hollow comes up behind her. He's holding Melodie with a hand over her mouth. She squirms but can't get out of his grip. His voice is soft and loving.

HOLLOW  
Catherine.

Kate whirls.

KATE  
You're the--Melodie! Give me back  
my baby!

Hollow stares and throws back his hood. She doesn't recognize him.

HOLLOW  
You don't... recognize... me?

He clenches his arm, cracking one of Melodie's ribs, then loosens it immediately.

HOLLOW  
You would have been...

Kate tries to grab Melodie. Hollow pushes her off him--softly.

HOLLOW  
Life's been hell without you.

KATE  
You've got me confused for someone  
else.

She's recording it all on her comms.

HOLLOW  
Why can't you remember?!

In a fit of rage, Hollow shoots Kate in the chest.

HOLLOW  
No. You... You're the only one who  
could keep up with me.

He sobs. Melodie's afraid and in pain.

MELODIE

Mommy...

Kate tries to grab Melodie from him. He again pushes her back and pulls Melodie toward the Monument. He points to it.

HOLLOW

I tried for so long. Tried to fill the void. It consumed me. Don't you see, Catherine? It wasn't my fault.

Akela and John arrive, along with other cops. He puts Melodie down, with a hand remaining on her shoulder.

HOLLOW

I guess... there really isn't anything left... We'll be together again soon. All of us.

With the other hand, he stabs Melodie with the serum-filled syringe. While she begins to morph, he disappears behind the statue and memorial bushes.

Kate stumbles toward Melodie, calling for an ambulance. She looks down at her hands. Orange-tinged blood.

By the time everyone reacts, he's gone. Multiple cops chase after Hollow, with four remaining behind to keep an eye on Akela, Kate, and Melodie.

Kate holds Melodie, who coughs out reddish-orange blood. She's dying.

MELODIE

Mommy, my chest hurts...

KATE

You stay still, honey. You're going to be fine.

The ambulance arrives, and Kate rides with Melodie to the hospital. Akela seethes.

AKELA

You... you...

Akela leaps onto a police motorcycle and guns it, chasing Hollow.

JOHN

Akela!

John gets in his car and chases after her.

I/E. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

Feral Chimeras run amok. IHW officers struggle to subdue them.

Meanwhile:

Akela, geared-up with a sniper rifle, reaches a service entrance. She enters the hatch.

John arrives at the site but stops before the security checks and Chimeras stalking the grounds.

JOHN

(comms)

Alright, I'm here. Talk me through it.

Kate's on the other end at the hospital. She's bandaged and fighting nurses as they try to get her on a gurney.

JOHN

How's Melodie?

KATE

Doctors say she has internal bleeding. That she's losing too much blood for the serum to affect her. I-I don't know how to handle this. I don't know what's going to happen. I don't know--

JOHN

Hey! Hey. Deep breaths, okay? We've got to focus on what's in front of us, alright? She's got the best doctors on the island working on her.

KATE

O-okay. Okay.

She takes deep, sobbing breaths.

JOHN

How do I get in the back door?

KATE

There's a service entrance dug into the drainage grate. It's from the original building, which was renovated three years ago. It hasn't been used since then, so be careful.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

My feed's going to cut out when you go in.

JOHN

Kate... go be with your daughter. I've got this.

John shuts off the video feed and reaches the service hatch. It looks like the plants and the deteriorating metal have been disturbed. There are footprints and wheel marks.

He slips on gloves, pulls the grate open, and then shuts it behind him. He switches on his flashlight. The sewer is exactly as grimy as the exterior of the IHW is clean. A couple of extra-large rats squeak and scamper away.

Loud SNUFFLING and SQUEAKING echoes through the sewer. John covers his nose with his collar.

He rounds the corner to see:

A pair of titanic rats glaring at him through cages. The locks look like they could come off at any moment. He jolts as they ram their cage doors.

John breathes heavily and turns to see a very tall exit ladder. He climbs up to a small platform. Through the small, filtered grate, he hears two IHW scientists CHATTING just outside the door.

JOHN

No dice.

He climbs down and looks at the rats again.

John wrenches the loose pipe free. Thick liquid spills out. He uses the pipe to bash the cage locks and runs, climbing the ladder and opening the door.

The two scientists are surprised.

SCIENTIST #1

Who are you?!

JOHN

You've got a rat problem down there.

He pulls the first down the ladder, then the second tries to push John back down. He dodges and pulls him down the ladder, too. SQUEALING and horrifying NOISES echo and are cut off when John pulls himself up and slams the door.

John rolls his shoulders and looks around. Security cameras patrol everywhere.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - DAY

Akela climbs the cable and hitches a ride on the bottom of one of the carriages. She waits until the scientists inside get off, then slips in via the hatch and presses the button for the roof. It won't light up. She looks at it, confused.

There's a keyhole underneath. She tries to pick the lock and gets jolted.

Frustrated, she slips out the door and runs to the stairs.

The ALARM sounds and a reinforced barricade begins to lower over the stairwell door. She dashes for it, slides, and--

Makes it.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

John runs down the hall and reaches a barricaded door. A stairway sign is next to it. He can't access the control. A HOWL reverberates through the structure, accompanied by SCREAMS.

Chimeras pour through the halls, fought by IHW security, who are losing. They're encroaching on John's position. Several scientists flee to the Sewer door, only to get pulled down by the rats.

The door to the stairs starts to open, then shuts. The fight gets too close. He runs down a side hallway.

John takes a detour to Gene Testing. He notices two vials of the orange liquid and stuffs them in his coat pocket. He continues on, avoiding Ferals and guards alike.

He enters the inner chamber and passes penned Ferals. They SCREECH and GROWL at him. Scientists work at their monitors. One BANGS on the glass. The alarm's inaudible here. The scientists appear entirely unconcerned with the intruders.

SCIENTIST #3

Shut up! Can't work with all this racket.

Some of the Ferals appear more human than others. Those track him with their eyes, nearly alerting the scientists to his presence.

SCIENTIST #4

Ignes, get me more coffee, will ya?

SCIENTIST #5

Yeah, yeah.  
(mutters)  
With a bit of cyanide.

John slips past and enters a hallway more akin to a maze.

The door is much stronger than the others, with a highly-advanced lock. He sneaks back through the containment sector, but now the doors have been reinforced.

JOHN

They're cutting their losses and running.

The containment pens open. Multiple scientists try to override and fail. A couple SCREAM "heel" in Pashto, but only a few Ferals stop in their tracks. The others get them.

John dashes out of there. SCREAMS and SCREECHES echo down the halls. Several Ferals chase him. He hides around the corner.

Two Ferals drop out and chase easier prey. The third, a Rhinoceros-looking Feral, searches for him. John jumps out right in front of the barricaded door.

JOHN

Hey, ugly! Over here.

He dodges as the Rhino charges and slams into the door, busting it and burying its horns. The door has bent towards John at the top. He boosts himself off the Rhino and slips in, pressing a keypad.

He stares at the metal rail on the floor and doorway in expectation, but the metal wall drops on the other side, crushing the Rhino. John winces at its DYING CRIES as he runs up the stairs.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

The rooftop Observation Deck. Smoke billows from the lower and middle sections of the IHW. A rotor-less helicopter hovers over the side, with Myles inside.

He's placed a bomb with a timer, 8 minutes, on the deck. Hollow and Myles eye each other.

MYLES

You... what do you want?

HOLLOW

You will pay for Catherine. You knew what that serum would do to her!

MYLES

That was my father.

Hollow thrusts his face at a video feed. It's being broadcast all over the island. It's the unedited one dated 30 years ago, not 3.

HOLLOW

Everyone on the island knows what you did. But your punishment isn't over. You will pay for my wife. For our daughter.

Myles has a thin smile on his face. Hollow roars and slams into him. Myles stumbles onto a seat in the helicopter. The helicopter pulls away, knocking Hollow off his feet.

MYLES

You just had a family reunion.

Hollow stares up at him. His eyes widen in horror.

HOLLOW

No! That doctor, she was...

He stares down at his hands.

MYLES

Brilliant girl. Like her mother. She'll be riding good and silent with me in about five minutes, if I get a decent tailwind.

Hollow starts to get up.

MYLES

Not like you can call the police on me. And this bad publicity? Nothing a few well-placed calls won't disp-

-

A bullet hole in the metal appears on the side door to his left. He groans as blood spurts from a bullet hole in his side. Akela's on the roof with her sniper rifle.

AKELA

You still won't shut up.

She runs up to the helicopter hovering a few inches above the deck. Hollow jumps out to attack. Akela dodges him and pulls her pistol on him.

AKELA

Tch. You're not the only one who wants revenge.

HOLLOW

Go ahead, shoot me?

AKELA

I'm not a monster.

Myles struggles to put down on the roof of the parking garage. He stares in confusion.

She smirks at him. An explosion under them unsteadies her. Hollow slams his palm into her throat and gets out of her grasp, turning the pistol on her.

HOLLOW

You're the last thing on my agenda.  
If it weren't for IHW's  
incompetence, you'd already be in  
the ground.

They struggle.

INT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

The structure groans and reels. John's running up the stairs. He dodges debris, the scientists, and Ferals running the other way.

John makes it to the top.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - DAY

Hollow lunges to inject Akela with the serum. She dodges him. John reaches the roof of the arch. Akela sees him.

AKELA

Stop Myles!

JOHN

Akela!

Hollow smiles.

HOLLOW

Come to join the party. Oh, I do  
have some left for you!



He smiles and lunges for John with the syringe.

HOLLOW

How would you like to turn the  
tables?

Akela intercepts him and pins him to the metal. In doing so, she accidentally knocks John off his feet. He hangs by his fingers off the edge of the IHW.

Hollow smiles at Akela, who SNARLS at him. The look in her eyes as she morphs is pure animalistic rage.

HOLLOW

(smug)

I was waiting for this.

AKELA-CHIMERA

You killed my friends. You  
threatened my family. You've caused  
so much death on this island. I'm  
done holding back for the sake of  
my badge.

Her saliva drips to his face.

HOLLOW

Ah... now you show your true  
colors.

She flinches. Her attention shifts between Hollow and John, who's straining to keep from falling.

JOHN

Akela!

She looks at him and sees Ramirez as a human. The words she spoke without a voice finally find theirs.

RAMIREZ

Don't let it take you.

Finally...

Akela GROWLS and knocks Hollow out. She reverts back to a human and grabs John, straining to pull him up. Just as she does...

The bomb explodes, and metal buckles under them. The section they're on breaks off and sends them both tumbling down the structure.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB

Meanwhile:

Myles limps to a barricaded door and opens it with a retina scan. Inside, there are three chambers.

He goes to the middle chamber. This one is much more elaborate than the rest. Amid a mess of tentacles, he glimpses an eye glaring at him.

Orange ink shoots from its center, clouding the chamber.

The monitor lists: MOTHER.

He catches himself on the chamber as he begins to cough out blood. He presses a button on the keypad and watches as a small window in the chamber opens.

The creature inside tentatively pokes an orange-tinged tentacle out. Myles presses the button again, and before the creature can retract its tentacle, the glass slides shut, severing it.

Myles grabs the severed limb and thrusts it into his wound, which closes. His muscles convulse as the tentacle shrivels up inside the wound.

There is a row of MOTHER embryos in tiny jars against the wall. He straightens, invigorated, grabs several of them, and stuffs them into his coat. He heads back to the chopper.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - EVENING

The midsection of the flayed structure.

Smoke wafts up from below. The fires have nearly reached their location. It's blazing hot and hard to breathe.

John wakes up, coughing.

He's on his back, with Akela's morphed, bloodstained hand under his spine. Her fingers are broken. He follows the limb up to:

Akela, impaled through her chest on a piece of twisted metal. Blood leaks out of her mouth and chest. She's not breathing. John scrambles over to her and tries to revive her.

She finally responds, GASPING and COUGHING. Her hands go to the piece of metal impaling her, but she's too weak to do more than look at him.

John tries to call Dispatch. On the third try he gets a crackling, weak response.

JOHN  
Need a chopper, sending you our  
exact location.

DISPATCH  
10-4.

The helicopter arrives, but Hollow, twisted and mutated into a half-Chimera, leaps upward and grabs onto the helicopter's landing rail. His weight sends it crashing towards the side of the building.

Myles' helicopter is hit by the debris from the explosion, causing ALARMS to go off. The helicopter smokes as it heads south.

John stares as a figure emerges from the fiery hole in the structure. Akela follows his gaze.

AKELA  
Not... possible...

Hollow walks out from the explosion, even more hideously and unevenly mutated.

One human arm hangs limply as his powerful, fur-covered Chimera hand propels him forward. John reaches for the serum-filled syringes in his pocket.

Both are missing. Akela holds one loosely in her unbroken hand and takes the cap off with her teeth.

AKELA  
John... If I don't turn back...

JOHN  
No--

AKELA  
Don't let me hurt you, John.

Akela stabs it into her heart, SCREAMING as she convulses. Her form becomes more svelte as she morphs violently, surpassing her previous height.

She pulls herself off the metal and HOWLS as the wound begins to close. There's a dim flicker of humanity in her eyes. She gently sweeps John back, her eyes lingering on him for a second.

There's no humanity left within the frame of Hollow.

Akela and Hollow fight. John tracks Hollow with his gun, trying to get a good shot.

The IHW breaks and collapses. SIRENS blare and flashes of blue and red illuminate the collapsing structure.

The media and crowds run for cover as the leaning structure hits the ground with a loud BOOM. Debris falls on a news helicopter, causing it to explode.

A shock-wave, ground tremor, and cloud of dust as small explosions occur and smoke rises, covering the area.

INT. HELICOPTER - EVENING

Meanwhile, Myles switches to auto-pilot and puts on a parachute. His helicopter loses altitude fast.

I/E. GOVERNOR'S HOUSE - EVENING

A gathering of politicians, from the Deputy Governor on down to all the councilmen of the city, are paying their respects to the deceased Governor's widow.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
(on the phone)  
Tell them I can't do anything until  
I know the situation.

SECRETARY  
I've got 50 people wanting to talk  
to you RIGHT NOW!

DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
Later!

He ends the call and walks outside, lighting a cigarette, pacing until he sees the burning helicopter heading straight for--

DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
Oh my go--

The helicopter slams into the house and explodes. Far away, a solitary parachute opens.

EXT. ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS LAB - NIGHT

Chief arrives with a squad of cops and K9s. They're wearing protective gear and masks. Firefighters are putting out the last of the fires.

Rescuers pull injured people from the rubble and lay them on gurneys. Several ambulances are loaded up and sent off.

Chief, a K9 officer, and his dog check the dead and injured for Akela and John.

K9 OFFICER  
They're not here.

CHIEF  
We might still find them in the rubble.

They search the rubble. There are a lot of dead bodies under the metal and concrete debris, Chimera and human. They unearth a ghastly-looking dead Chimera.

Hollow, with his throat ripped out.

The K9 officer with Chief vomits at the sight.

K9 OFFICER  
(coughing)  
My god, what are these things?

CHIEF  
(grim)  
One of them's my daughter.

The K9 Officer shuts up. Chief gives the dog a whiff of the stuffed giraffe. The dog leads them to a raised section of the debris. They dig and find:

Akela, unconscious, still a Chimera. She's holding John in an embrace. Rubble surrounds them, but her frame protects him. They're both breathing.

K9 OFFICER  
Is this...?

Chief nods.

They dig around her, but the structure's unstable. Dust and rubble falls on John's head, waking him up.

JOHN  
Akela...?

She slowly comes around. He feels for her and touches her cheek. Her breathing is weak as her eyes follow him.

JOHN  
You protected me.

Just when it seems she's incapable of speech--

AKELA-CHIMERA

Guess you can keep... treating me  
as subhuman... after all.

John shakes his head.

JOHN

Can you forgive me?

She licks his face. He grimaces.

JOHN

There are less disgusting ways to  
say yes!

Akela weakly chuckles. The rescue workers break through.

She stands, unsteady, and pushes the final piece of rubble  
out of the way. She helps John up first and gets help  
climbing out, then shakes off the dust.

Tears roll down Chief's face. He hugs her big frame, dry-  
sobbing. Akela's surprised and confused.

CHIEF

I love you.

Akela smiles a little. Her tail wags.

JOHN

I could go for some pizza and a  
beer.

CHIEF

Yes, I think we all could.

EXT. JOHN'S BEACH HOUSE - EVENING

CAPTION: TWO DAYS LATER.

Akela, still a Chimera, John, Chief, and Kate stand at the  
grave site next to Sida's. The gravestone reads:

MELODIE JOY BAINES

BELOVED DAUGHTER

2037-2044

JOHN

She is always here for you.

Kate embraces him, sobbing.

KATE

Thank you, John. Thank you.

Akela and Chief turn to leave. Akela turns back and sees THE BOY standing between the graves. He waves and fades away.

EXT. BEACH - MAGIC HOUR

Akela, John, Chief, Kate, and a procession of cops attend a funeral for Ramirez, Tara, and Chavez. Moe arrives with a group of old soldiers and three folded Hawaiian flags, which they drape over the caskets.

I/E. CHIEF'S HOUSE - EVENING

It's a nice water's edge property. Chief and Moe barbecue ribs. Akela sits on the shore by the water, away from the festivities. John, Kate, and a squad of cops are celebrating on the deck.

The five cast worried glances at Akela.

Chief frowns as he watches her, but smiles a little as John walks down to sit beside her. They stare out at the water.

JOHN

You know, if you really wanted a new partner, there are more subtle ways to get one.

Akela smiles. John pulls out a goose feather from the farm.

AKELA-CHIMERA

(joking)

I'm not sorry.

They laugh.

JOHN

The sacrifice you made for me...

AKELA-CHIMERA

John, please--

JOHN

...After all we've been through...  
do you still want a new partner?

She stares at him.

AKELA-CHIMERA

I didn't eat you.

Both grin. John sticks out his hand.

JOHN  
Partners?

Akela takes it.

AKELA-CHIMERA  
Partners.

FADE OUT.