

ALIEN AGENDA

by

Lonnie Joseph Nichols

A Sci-fi Feature

Clearwater, FL
520-282-1294
Ljenterprises77@gmail.com

FADE IN...

INT. SENATOR'S OFFICE - U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

THREE MALE SENATORS (all 60ish, typical coat and tie attire) sit and face the large desk of a middle-aged, stressed but confident female senator, CLAIRE FRASER.

Behind the three Senators sit TWO 20-SOMETHING JOURNALISTS, one male, one female, with recorders.

Claire abruptly stands up, loads her laptop into her case.

JOURNALIST #1

Senator Fraser, could you clarify your stance on the Southwest border issue? Yesterday you stated--

CLAIRE

You guys weren't listening. We've got funding approved for increased security and enhanced surveillance.

JOURNALIST #2

But Senator, your conservative friends are saying--

CLAIRE

I thought you guys would be much more interested in our budget increase from Homeland Security for upgrading our State, FBI, and CIA communication sites.

She picks up her purse and laptop.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

We need more public safety you know, and those sites need more security. If we lose our tower sites, we lose communications, and, you might lose your precious internet as well.

Claire nods to the three Senators.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Gentlemen.

Journalists look at each other despondently.

Claire heads toward the door, turns to journalists.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'm taking a wild ass guess that you didn't read the briefing from the DHS Sub-committee? We're done here. Gotta flight to catch.

JOURNALIST #1

How much funding did the DHS provide for this security?

Senator Fraser scurries out.

JOURNALIST #2

Did the Democrats put up--

The journalist are quickly escorted out of the office by TWO LARGE STAFF DUDES in black suits. The remaining three Senators shake hands, garble a few words, then head out.

INT. HALLWAY OF U.S .CAPITOL - DAY

Flurry of activity in the main hallway.

Claire races around a cluster of people, arrives in front of an elevator, hits button, nervously checks her watch.

Elevator arrives.

INT. ELEVATOR

Alone, she lets her laptop slide to the floor.

She hits "First Floor Button". Doors close.

The elevator glides down, stops at First Floor, but doors do not open. She hits "Open Door Button". Nothing.

Elevator suddenly drops one floor. Stops at Basement.

Shocked, she immediately pounds on the buttons--nothing! She looks around, then quickly grabs the elevator phone. DEAD.

CLAIRE

What the hell?

The elevator suddenly accelerates down, near free fall! Claire drops her purse, looks around in terror.

She pounds and pounds on "First Floor" button.

Horrified, she panics and screams.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Help! Help! Somebody help me!

Elevator continues accelerating down.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 (screams)
 Anybody there? Hello! Hello!
 Anybody! Please help!

She fumbles with her purse, pulls out her cell phone. "NO SIGNAL". She looks at the elevator sign over the door -- all floors are flashing red.

She goes to the corner, braces herself, holds both handrails, terrified.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 (screams)
 Dear God! Stop this thing!
 Somebody! Help Me!

She falls to her hands and knees, whispers a prayer.

The elevator eventually slows down, then comes to an abrupt stop. The doors open.

The shaken Senator cautiously peeks out and sees a long, semi-circular tunnel for a hallway with thousands of wires in the ceiling. Well lit with amber hue.

The hallway's ceiling, walls, and floor are made of white tile, very sterile, extending as long as the eye can see.

Now shaking, Claire picks up her purse and laptop bag and tentatively steps out, looks both ways.

OUTSIDE ELEVATOR - UNDERGROUND HALLWAY - WELL LIT

She pulls out her cell phone again. "NO SERVICE".

INSIDE ELEVATOR

She darts back in the elevator and slams all the buttons with her fist.

BEEP BEEP. Blinking light over the door reads: "ENTER CODE".

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 (screams)
 What code for Christ's sake!

UNDERGROUND HALLWAY

Terrified, she slowly steps out of the elevator, looks both directions. Heads right. Hallway is silent. Doors slam shut.

Suddenly, a deep, haunting voice comes from behind her.

DEEP VOICE (O.C.)
(non-human)
Welcome, Senator Fraser.

The Senator turns, then SCREAMS. Horrified, she instantly drops her bags. She covers her mouth at what she sees. Speechless. Frozen.

She slowly walks backwards, trips and falls. She gasps for air, pushes herself backwards.

DEEP VOICE (CONT'D)
Take this slave to her cell. In one hour, prep for cloning.

2ND VOICE (O.C.)
(human tone)
Yes, Master.

Claire covers her mouth again in terror, instinctively scoots backwards again across the hard, tile floor.

INT. AIRPORT GATE - ENGLAND - DAY

The SHAEFFERS, a middle class family of four, stand near a gate window, ready to board their flight home.

A 777 airliner sits at the end of the jetway below, gets fueled. Suitcases loaded.

SUPER: Heathrow International Airport - London

Nine-year-old BEN, pale, with scruffy hair, scans the flurry of people at the gate through binoculars.

His mother, JESSICA, 30-something, long hair, very sexy attire and always edgy, turns to Ben.

JESSICA
Ben, give those back to your Dad.
They're expensive. We're boarding
in five minutes.

BEN
These are so cool!

JESSICA
You've got one minute!

POV of binoculars: Ben tracks an attractive TEENAGE GIRL as she transits the gate area. He then scans 180 degrees, now to the tarmac.

He focuses down, finding the active cockpit of the 777.

Ben's father, SAM (40-something), easy going, conservative and always under-reacting, turns to Jessica, as she pops a pill.

SAM

Hon, he can't hurt those. Let him--

Jessica quickly pulls away from Sam, grabs seven-year old FAITH'S (6) hand and leads her to a seat. Faith, slightly cross-eyed, wears thick glasses and clings to her doll.

Sam walks to the seating area, approaches Jessica. They squabble a bit, but the ambient noise drowns them out.

SAM (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Did you take all your meds today?

JESSICA

(flippant)

Of course...did you take yours?

Sam sits back nonchalantly, watches Ben.

POV (Ben) of binoculars; He is totally fixated on the cockpit below. The outline of TWO MEN in pilot attire appear from near the back of the cockpit, stand behind the PILOT, CO-PILOT, and ENGINEER.

As the pilots turn around to look, the uniformed men have guns. Suddenly all three pilots drop to floor.

The two uniformed men shove the men's bodies in front of the cockpit door to secure it. One locks it.

Panicked, Ben tugs hard on his mom's blouse, points to plane.

BEN

Mom, look! Look at that!

JESSICA

What is it?

Ben sticks the binoculars in her waist.

BEN

Those men! Those men killed the pilots on our plane!

Jessica fumbles with the binoculars, then glances at the plane.

POV (Jessica) from binoculars; Cockpit with two pilots looks normal, they run through their checks.

JESSICA

Looks normal to me. Go over and sit with your sister. We're boarding in a few minutes.

She pulls out a mirror, refreshes her lipstick.

BEN

But I saw it! Those aren't the real pilots! You guys never believe me!

Jessica ignores him. Ben's breathing is strained.

BEN (CONT'D)

Dad, did you see those men kill those guys? Look!

Ben pulls him to window. Hands him the binoculars. Sam puts them to his eyes and adjusts as he looks toward the cockpit.

SAM

Looks okay. Sometimes they change staff at the last minute. Nothin' to worry about.

BEN

But I saw it! I saw two men die!

JESSICA

Time to board. Let's pull this gig together. Sam. Ben.

She grabs Faith's hand. Ben, dejected, grabs his inhaler from his book bag. PUFF.

The four of them gather their carry-ons, head down jetway.

INT. JETWAY

Ben lags behind.

BEN

I don't want to get on that plane! Those pilots are killers!

JESSICA

Ben, get up here. And get over it already! You always over react.

BEN

You guys never listen to me...we
might die...you neve listen--

INT. AIRPLANE - COCKPIT - DAY

The two uniformed men now at the controls of the 777 calmly check all gauges, go through the checklist.

The pilot's hands are very large and scaly.

The pilot's face slowly transforms from a human face to one of a scaly, ominous reptoid: half human, half reptilian.

The co-pilot has transformed to a reptoid as well.

MOMENTS LATER...

INT. AIRPLANE

Plane is fully loaded. The Shaeffer family sleeps, except for Ben who watches the cockpit door intently. A tall female FLIGHT ATTENDANT, with thick auburn hair brings him a coke.

She is "over-the-edge" nice to him. Ben is not fooled.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Hi young man, what is your name?

Ben watches cockpit door as he speaks to her.

BEN

Benjamin, but everyone calls me
Ben. You can call me Ben.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

So, Ben where's your home?

Ben's eyes still glued to the door.

BEN

Near...near Atlanta. Atlanta,
Georgia. Where's yours?

The flight attendant is taken back a bit by Ben's quick response, nearly spills the drinks on the tray in her hand.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

I'm from, uh, New York. That's
right, New York City.

She clears her throat.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
Need anything else, Ben?

Ben shakes his head, peeks around her.

Moments later...

PILOT (V.O.)
Ladies and gentlemen, we have a re-
route directed to us. Due to a
massive computer crash at the
Hartsfield-Jackson International
Airport, we have been re-directed
to Reagan International Airport in
Washington.

LOUD MURMUR among the passengers.

Ben shakes his mom.

BEN
Mom! Wake up! What did I tell you!
These men are stealing the plane!
They're taking us somewhere else!

He puffs his inhaler.

INT. COCKPIT

Pilot turns on his headset microphone, then speaks:

PILOT
We will make this transition as
easy for you as possible, with a
connecting flight to Atlanta as
soon as possible. We apologize for
any inconvenience this may have
caused.

The pilot and co-pilot nod to each other with subtle smiles.
The pilot then makes a hard right turn.

INT. AIRPLANE

JESSICA
It's gonna be okay, Ben. We'll be
fine. Just chill.

Jessica reaches across the aisle, wakes up Sam.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Sam, wake up! Did you hear that?

SAM
 (sleepily)
 What?

JESSICA
 We're not going to Atlanta, we're
 going to Washington.

SAM
 Washington? That makes no sense.

JESSICA
 Something about a computer crash at
 the Atlanta airport. They said
 they'd connect us as soon as
 possible...what a mess! This is why
 I hate flying!

Confused, Sam sits up, shakes out the mind cobwebs.

BEN
 I tried to tell you guys! I tried--

JESSICA
 Okay, Ben, okay...jeez. It's just a
 safety precaution, I'm sure.

SAM
 There goes my meeting tomorrow with
 my biggest client. Damn!

Ben quietly shakes his head in disgust.

JESSICA
 Enough already, Benjamin Shaeffer.
 Don't wake your sister. Try and get
 a nap.

Ben, now hyper-sensitive, looks all around the plane.

INT. REAGAN INT'L AIRPORT TERMINAL - NIGHT

The Shaeffers walk up the jetway from the plane, Ben with
 small book bag, continues to nervously look around.

Same flight attendant attentively trails the Shaeffers.

Sam turns to Ben.

SAM
 See, everything turned out fine.
 Just a delay, that's all.

Ben continues his surveillance.

SAM (CONT'D)
I've gotta hit the men's room.

They arrive at the packed terminal. Sam finds a restroom.

SAM (CONT'D)
Gotta go?

Ben shakes his head.

SAM (CONT'D)
(to Jessica)
Hon, I'm stepping in here.

JESSICA
I'll take Faith to the ladies' room
with me. See you guys in a sec.

They race to their respective restrooms.

SAM
Ben, stay with me, just inside the
door so I can see you.

Ben nods reluctantly, fishes for his phone in his book bag.

INT - COCKPIT - NIGHT

The two reptoid pilots get out of their seats. The pilot nudges the original pilot on the floor with his foot. Pilot on floor groans.

PILOT
They'll be up shortly.

CO-PILOT
Let's get out of here.

They both shape-shift to look exactly like the original pilot and co-pilot and casually walk out.

INT. HALLWAY - UNDERGROUND REPTOID BASE

Holding her mouth, Senator Fraser looks nervously down the hallway in both directions.

BRIEF REPRISE...

DEEP VOICE (O.C.)
Welcome, Senator Fraser.

Claire covers her mouth again, instinctively scoots backwards across the hard, tile floor.

CLAIRE

You!...you...what? How do you even know my name, you beast!

The seven-foot tall reptoid, PANDRONIS, towers over her. He is completely human-shaped, dressed in black, military-style uniforms. Very masculine with scaly skin. Ugly, piercing red eyes and intimidating.

The reptoid stands motionless, stares down at her.

Two soldier-type, shorter uniformed SOLDIER REPTOIDS storm from the other direction.

SOLDIER #1

You called, Master?

PANDRONIS

Take this slave to her cell. In one hour, prep for cloning.

SOLDIER #1

Yes, Master.

CLAIRE

What kind of freak show is this?
This is a joke, right?

One of the soldiers picks up Claire's laptop and purse, then the two soldier reptoids get her on her feet and escort her down the long, stark hallway.

She struggles hard to free herself, but quickly realizes the strength of these creatures.

She looks back at Pandronis, yelling in terror:

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

You'll never keep me here!

She fights to escape their hold, her make-up now smeared, sweat all over her, eyes red with fear, she screams:

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'm being tracked!...You bastard creeps! You have no idea!

She squirms and kicks again unsuccessfully as the two soldiers throw her into a barely-furnished holding cell with only one window, high on the door.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Give me my laptop and purse you
slumbags! What is this shitshow?

Soldiers say nothing, keep her bags, slam the door shut.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
They'll be looking for me! You'll
all be dead!

INT. REAGAN INT'L AIRPORT - NIGHT

Ben has wandered outside the restroom, now down a few feet from the door. He leans against the wall and plays a game on his phone.

The same flight attendant who served him on the flight walks up to him--stands between him and bathroom door. She looks around nervously, then speaks.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Hi...Ben, is it?

Ben just stares at her, starts to slide toward restroom door. She casually blocks him.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Sorry about this diversion--

She again looks around suspiciously. Ben just stares.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
The crew really likes you and your
family. Such nice people.

Ben attempts to get around her.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
(probing)
Did you see the stuff that happened
in that cockpit?

Ben suddenly comes to life.

BEN
Yeah! My mom and dad won't listen
to me! What happened? Did those men
die? I saw--

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Well, I'm not sure of the whole
story. But I can tell you this, if
you promise not to tell anyone.

Ben nods, breathes hard. Flight attendant motions for him to walk away from the restroom, and around the corner. A private elevator is nearby.

BEN

Promise. I totally promise, cause my mom and dad don't believe me.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Well--

Just then TWO SHORT MEN, dressed in service uniforms, pop out of the nearby elevator and snatch Ben. They pull him into the elevator, immediately cover his mouth with a cloth. Both men have scaly hands and cheeks.

Ben passes out.

The flight attendant looks around, then follows them. She peeks out of the elevator to see if anyone saw them.

The Flight Attendant' hand has now turned very scaly.

Elevator door shuts.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Reptilian Man #1 holds the unconscious Ben.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Did you get the prime directives from London?

REPTILIAN MAN #1

Of course. Our cargo contact will personally deliver it to Pandronis, along with the meta-materials.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

And the alloy samples, fused in zero gravity?

REPTILIAN MAN #1

Of course...alloys ready for next clone.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

You might want to get rid of the cargo man after the delivery.

REPTILIAN MAN #1

That's all been worked out. No trail. All good.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Nice work. We need those directives--haven't heard from the London Pod in weeks. All other communications are too risky.

INT. GATE AREA - RESTROOM EXIT

Sam comes out of restroom, looks in both directions, then spots Jessica across the aisle.

SAM

Ben with you?

JESSICA

No--he was with you!

SAM

Well, he's somewhere.

Jessica rolls her eyes.

JESSICA

No joke! We're in a totally different city, and you don't know where our son is. Oh my God.

Sam races toward the signs: "baggage claim", frantically looks all around.

SAM

Honey, look for Ben up here. I'm going down to baggage claim. Keep your cell turned up.

Without hesitation, Jessica races to gates.

JESSICA

Ben! Ben! Honey where are you?

FAITH

Where's Ben, Mom?

She looks down at Faith, clutches her hand.

JESSICA

We'll find him, he's gotta be here somewhere.

Scared, little Faith grabs her mom's hands with both of hers. Jessica holds her stomach with one hand as she marches to one gate, then another.

FAITH
Mommy, my head hurts.

JESSICA
Okay, Sweetie, give me a minute.
I'll get your medicine out.

INT. REAGAN INT'L AIRPORT - SECURITY AREA

Sam stands at the security counter, and is forced to fill out a form. Quickly we hear over the airport intercom:

AIRPORT INTERCOM
Attention. Will Ben Shaeffer please come down to the lower level baggage claim. Again, Ben Shaeffer, please come to baggage claim in the lower level. Follow signs to baggage claim. Your parents are here.

Sam, now beside himself, looks around.

INT. GATE AREA

Now hysterical, Jessica nearly drags Faith around through the mob of people. Her hair in a mess, mascara runs down her disheveled face.

JESSICA
Ben! Ben! Where are you?

She walks up to a number of people, asks if they have seen Ben, describes him.

AIRPORT INTERCOM
Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a lost child. He's a nine-year-old boy, brown hair, brown eyes, wearing a GhostBusters sweatshirt. His name is Ben. If anyone has seen him or someone like this, please report to security on the lower level immediately. Again a nine-year-old boy who goes by "Ben"...Thank You for your cooperation.

INT. CHIEF STEVEN'S OFFICE - D.C. POLICE DEPT - DAY

Jessica and Sam Shaeffer are in an office at the Washington D.C. Police Department. The uniformed Chief of Police, SHAUN STEVENS, a 50-something Afro-American is all business.

P.D. Detective, PAUL BRADELY (60's), sits to the side of Steven's desk. Bradely is "old school", suit and tie, slightly over weight, scroungy hair. He's a seasoned detective, but often obtuse in his responses.

The Shaeffers, especially young Faith, are now restless. Bradely turns to Jessica.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Would you like one of our female officers to take your little girl...maybe get some hot chocolate or something.

JESSICA
(sharply)
She's stayin' with us, thank you very much.

Jessica holds tight to Faith.

Chief Stevens leans back in his chair, eyes the Shaeffers.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Do either of you know of anyone...anyone who would want to take Ben?

SAM
No one. No one at all.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Any fights or school issues?

JESSICA
We're not even in Atlanta, you guys are off track!

Jessica strokes Faith's hair.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
How are things at home? Any fighting...anger issues?

JESSICA
(frowning)
You mean, like, abuse?

She frowns at Sam, like, WTF?

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Anything...anything at all?

SAM

Absolutely not. Jessica and I have had some typical issues, but it doesn't involve the kids.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Understood. What about Ben's teachers--

JESSICA

(pissed)

Hey, why is this about me, or Sam, or Ben's school! You're supposed to be looking for him, not analyzing him for Christ's sake!

Sam puts his arm around Jessica, as she weeps hard.

INT. CHIEF OF POLICE OFFICE - DAY

FAITH

I wanta go home, Mommy.

SOMEWHERE IN HERE INSERT THE NEXT UG SCENE

JESSICA

We won't be too long, Hon. They're tryin' to find your brother for us...I think.

KNOCK ON DOOR

PROBABLY HERE

CHIEF STEVENS

Come in.

A FEMALE POLICE OFFICER surges in and lays a paper on the Chief's desk.

FEMALE POLICE OFFICER

Under the circumstances, I thought you'd like to see this.

CHIEF STEVENS

Thanks, Officer. Appreciate it.

The female officer scurries out. Chief Stevens puts on his seriously-thick black glasses, scans the paper.

Chief Stevens abruptly stands up and interrupts--

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry Sam and Jessica, I need
 to step out with the detective for
 just a moment. Please excuse us.

The chief motions for Bradely to come to the hallway. They
 walk out. Impatient, Jessica stands up, walks around.

FAITH
 Mommy, my eyes hurt...

JESSICA
 Okay, Sweetie, I'll get your
 medicine.

Sam grabs a bottle of water from a small refrigerator, as
 Jessica hands Faith a pill.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Here, Sweetie, this will help.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OFFICE

CHIEF STEVENS
 Paul, you gotta read this. It's
 from the Head of Security at Reagan
 to FBI, Langely office.

Stevens hands it to Bradely, looks around.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
 Can you believe it? That's the same
 flight the Shaeffers were on, the
 one that got diverted for no known
 reason.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 Says here all three pilots woke up
 laying on the floor, not
 remembering anything.

CHIEF STEVENS
 Right, so how did they fly that
 plane?

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 The next thing they remember is
 being on the floor, feeling like
 they were drugged. This is much
 bigger than we thought--

Chief takes another look around.

CHIEF STEVENS

No joke. Read on. The flight attendants all swear they saw two of the pilots leave the plane. But later, all three were on the cockpit floor.

Bradely cocks his head.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)

Let' wrap up the questioning. These people are clean.

INT. POLICE OFFICE

The Chief and Bradely slip back in, shut door behind them.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)

Thank you for your patience. We'll try and wrap this up quickly. We understand your flight got diverted from Atlanta to here.

SAM

That's right.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

What was the explanation the airlines gave?

SAM

Something--

JESSICA

(sarcastic)

Sam was sleepin' as usual. Something about a computer crash.

Detective Bradely writes notes furiously.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Okay, anything else you can think of that was unusual? People...timing...anything at all?

SAM

Oh, there was one thing.

Chief sharpens his eye on Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)

While waiting our flight at the gate, Ben told us that there were other men in the cockpit--it was our plane, immediately below us.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

And?

SAM

He said two men killed the pilots, but when we looked we didn't see anything unusual.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Did you see anyone in the cockpit besides the pilots.

SAM

No. It was hard to see into the cockpit, but nothing looked unusual as far as we could tell.

CHIEF STEVENS

How is it that Ben could see details, but you could not?

SAM

He was using my binoculars.

CHIEF STEVENS

I see.

Looks at Bradely.

SAM

We didn't see anything unusual, so we dismissed it. Probably should have listened to him.

CHIEF STEVENS

I think we've covered enough for today, you've been a big help.

The Chief stands up.

JESSICA

Thank God! Would you guys please find my son!

She walks up to the Chief's desk.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(angry)

He's a good kid! He didn't do anything wrong. Anyone who knows him would never lay a hand on him.

CHIEF STEVENS

I'm sure Mrs. Shaeffer.

Sam walks up behind her and holds her and Faith. Looks at the Chief. Jessica breaks down.

SAM

(calm)

What's the next step?

CHIEF STEVENS

We'll be in touch the second we get anything. Try and get some rest.

JESSICA

(sarcastic)

Now that's a good one! We're living out of a damn hotel, our son is missing, and we're supposed to get some rest. Jesus!

SAM

It's okay, Honey, they're doing the best they can for now.

CHIEF STEVENS

Thanks everyone. Bradely, I need you to stay for a few minutes.

The Shaeffers head out of the office. Bradely shuts door behind them and sits back down. Stevens checks his text.

Chief puts on his glasses and scans the letter again.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Maybe that kid was right. Maybe there was some shit that went down in that cockpit before the flight. If the pilots' stories are true, the kid saw something, and that's why he's gone.

Chief Stevens looks at text.

CHIEF STEVENS

And probably for good. I had my people contact the FAA: there was no computer outage of any type at Hartfield that day. No other diverted flights.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Strange. A diverted flight from London because of what a kid might have seen--

CHIEF STEVENS

We just need to find the boy. He's the key. We find him, all the pieces will come together.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

The shit in the cockpit went down before Ben ever got on that plane.

CHIEF STEVENS

Understood. Why don't you sniff around with the FAA, and I'll follow up with Langley.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Got it.

INT. HALLWAY - UNDERGROUND REPTOID BASE

Pandronis and his female partner, AURORA, walk casually down the long, underground hallway. She has scaly hands and face, and long, ratty hair. Wears a myriad of small earrings.

They peek in each of the many small, but high windows of the prisoner cells along the long hallway.

All are asleep, except one.

As they approach one window, PRISONER DEERFIELD (50's), an executive-looking man in whites, pushes his face to the glass.

PRISONER

(faintly through glass)

When are you going to let me out of this hell hole!

PANDRONIS

You've served us well, Ambassador. Your replicant is doing some good work at the Pentagon.

PRISONER

You monsters! You'll not get away with this much longer. Where the hell are you gonna hide? Underground? You--

PANDRONIS

Good night, Ambassador. You will have relief soon. I've got you scheduled for the Bio-Evap Processor in two days.

PRISONER

Oh God! Let me see my family. I'll retire...I'll never say anything, I'll do anything--

Aurora continues down the hallway. Pandronis stares at the Ambassador for a moment with his large reptilian eyes.

SCREAMS radiate from the Ambassador's cell.

They come to the last cell window before the hallway comes to a "T". Pandronis peeks in, moves over so Aurora can peek.

PANDRONIS

He's of no use to us. No need to replicate a human of that age.

AURORA

I'll find some purpose for him, perhaps his DNA will be useful in future projects.

PANDRONIS

We have plenty of DNA samples from humans. Our lab is full. Get rid of him.

AURORA

Yes, Pandronis, I will.

Pandronis looks inside again, then at Aurora. They march down the hallway alone.

PANDRONIS

We'll need him out of here soon. I've got more slaves coming in for replication. Our mission will be complete soon, but we need all the space we can get.

Aurora grabs his arm, grovels. They stop for a moment.

AURORA

I've got this, Pandronis. Your plan is perfect, I would never put a ripple in it. We've got leaders all over the world now.

Pandronis has a slight smile.

PANDRONIS

Now that we have the directive from London, we need two more slaves.

AURORA

Excellent.

PANDRONIS

Soon, we can surface and take over.

AURORA

It's been a long, but successful journey, Pandronis.

PANDRONIS

Yes...yes, it has. Failure has never been an option.

AURORA

I'm so proud of you, Pandronis. Our ancestors from Kryyton would be so proud.

PANDRONIS

Our overlords just left London, heading back to Kryyton. They are the real directors.

AURORA

They will honor you someday. I'll accompany you back to our home star. I will be glorious.

He stands tall, then they walk on.

Meanwhile, the cell they just looked in...

INT. PRISONER CELL - UNDERGROUND REPTOID BASE

A little boy is curled up on a small bed, rubbing his eyes.

The room has the bare minimum: bed, dresser, and table and chair. Separate bathroom. Cell is located next to Comm Room.

FOOTSTEPS from the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - JUST OUTSIDE CELL DOOR

Aurora slowly walks up to the cell door. She looks around cautiously, then places her palm over the palm pad to unlock the door, enters.

INT. PRISONER CELL

Young Ben Shaeffer, half awake, eyes red, hair mussed up, rolls over. He is pale, tired, and scared.

Aurora closes the door slowly, then pulls up the chair near his bed. Ben rubs his eyes in disbelief. He stares at her large, hi-tech pistol on her waist.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Don't be alarmed. I won't harm you.

Ben sits up and slides back to the wall as far as he can.

AURORA (CONT'D)
(gentle voice)
Tell me about your family. I understand you have a sister.

Ben just stares at her reptilian, scaly face.

AURORA (CONT'D)
What kind of work does your father do? I understand he's in sales.

Aurora slowly reaches toward Ben, palm up.

AURORA (CONT'D)
I'm really not going to harm you.

Ben slowly touches her scaly arm, then suddenly pulls back.

AURORA (CONT'D)
We're actually very nice beings. I know we look different--

BEN
Where's my mom and dad and sister?
Is that a costume?

AURORA
Your family is fine.

Ben anxiously looks around the room.

BEN
Where are they? Where am I? What is this place?

AURORA
It's our home, Ben. You'll learn to like it here, we--

BEN
(wheezing)
I hate it here and I want to talk to my mom and dad.

Ben coughs, struggles breathing.

AURORA
Would you like something to eat?

BEN
It was you! You killed those pilots on the plane!

AURORA
They are fine. What else did you witness on the plan?

KNOCK ON DOOR.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Come in.

Another REPTOID, a smaller version of Pandronis, enters in military fashion with a tray of food for Ben. Sets it on the bedside table.

AURORA (CONT'D)
(all business)
You need some nutrition. Surviving down here is not easy for humans.

Ben ignores her and the food.

BEN
I saw three pilots fall over. Looked dead to me.

He glances at the food.

BEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
When...when am I'm getting out of here? Why did you bring me here?

AURORA
All in its right time, just eat up.

She gets up and heads toward the door. Ben stands up, slams his hand across the food, scattering it all over the floor. He steps toward her, looks at the door.

Aurora calmly watches. In an instant she transforms herself to look exactly like the flight attendant who served, then captured Ben--face, figure, clothes.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 (Flight Attendant's voice)
 Surprised? Don't be. Your youthful
 mind can adapt.

Ben is stunned, frozen.

Aurora points her palm at him, and in a flash her eyes turn an evil red, and he is flown through the air.

He lands on the bed shaken, but unharmed.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 (calm)
 You're living under our rules now,
 Benjamin Shaeffer. You'll get used
 to it. They all do. Sleep well.

She turns and touches the palm pad, transforms back to reptoid. The Door opens. Ben is left curled up. He shakes and struggles with breathing.

INT. WASHINGTON P.D. - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Detective Bradely pours coffee into a massive mug. Chief Stevens walks in and throws a newspaper on break room table.

CHIEF STEVENS
 Did you see the headlines?

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 Naw. I don't look at the paper. All
 the good stuff is online.

Stevens points to the headlines.

CHIEF STEVENS
 Oh yeah? Well, check that out.

Bradely pulls out a cigarette. Doesn't light. Stares at the front page headlines:

NEW JERSEY SENATOR GOES MISSING

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
 Yesterday, Senator Fraser was
 spotted getting on the elevator at
 the Capitol, but no one's seen her
 or heard from her since.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Don't tell me...an elevator got
diverted.

CHIEF STEVENS
Missing for 24 hours.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
I uh...I don't see any connection
with the boy.

CHIEF STEVENS
Maybe, maybe not. But two people
missing in two days--one from the
airport and one from the U.S.
Capitol Building--both in broad
daylight? That doesn't happen. We
don't live on coincidences.

The Chief grabs the last donut from a box.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
Anything on the boy?

Bradely looks in the donut box---it's empty. His large
stomach protrudes from his coat.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Everything I've found shows a clean
record for the parents, no issues
with the boy. Even checked with
some neighbors. Nothing.

They both head toward the door.

DETECTIVE BRADELY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Oh yeah, I got some intel that one
of the flight attendants on that
flight is now MIA.

CHIEF STEVENS
Get with parents again, they'll
talk more away from here. They
might remember something else.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
What about the flight attendant?

CHIEF STEVENS
I'll check into that...Oh yeah,
start reading the paper, you might
learn something.

INT. REPTOID BASE - COMM ROOM

Large room filled with hi-tech radio equipment, meters, controllers, with large monitors covering three walls. THREE REPTOIDS, medium height, dressed in black, skin tight jumpsuits, are work diligently on their computers.

They do not use keyboards, but simply point fingers at their screen and data moves and changes.

In front of the leader of the three, KALEB, is a clear glass plate, revealing certain images of the Earth's surface: traffic, buildings, terrain, and weather patterns.

Kaleb points his finger, draws circle in air, and the glass plate zooms in on Washington D.C. Cars, limos, circling the Capitol Building, hussle of people in daily routine. Energetic images of people walking around inside Capitol.

Aurora enters the room, looks over Kaleb's shoulder.

AURORA

Can you break the Feds' encryption on their radio sites?

KALEB

It's a very good firewall, gotta hand it to them, not easy to get into their system. I've got Nauster on it. He's the best.

AURORA

We have another slave. Once she's replicated, we can infiltrate the radio data easily. We can get access to the FBI, CIA, and even the military's radios and routers.

KALEB

Excellent!

AURORA

We'll download the slave's data bank tomorrow and prep her for the bio-replication chamber.

KALEB

Looks like they're checking our radio signals again.

AURORA

How do you know that?

KALEB

Our spectrum analyzer is actually detecting their signals. Probably CIA. No one else seems interested.

AURORA

Hmmm....a Spectrum Analyzer? Archaic, but useful.

KALEB

We can block them any time. For now, it's harmless. I've got Kelkmund tracking that.

AURORA

Makes sense. By the way, the latest slave is a Senator. She's sassy. Don't hold back on the wash down.

KALEB

(smirk)

No problem with that. I always like the wash downs. My fav.

Pandronis barges in.

PANDRONIS

Encryption?

AURORA

Not yet, but we've got into the banking systems. No police, FBI, CIA, or military codes yet.

PANDRONIS

Not good. Read the directives again from London--

AURORA

We're getting close. Our feisty Senator will provide all we need. She just doesn't know it yet. We will schedule--

PANDRONIS

Just do it!

Aurora turns her head away from him, unconcerned, then walks around the tech room. She examines all of the equipment and monitors closely.

She sits down at a vacant computer and logs in, scrolls through endless data files by just pointing her finger.

KELKMUND, quiet-type reptoid, gets up and walks over to a cabinet, pulls out a small book bag--it's little Ben's. Hands it to Aurora.

KELKMUND

This was the young slave's. Should I destroy?

Aurora explores the contents of Ben's bag. A belt, some change, a folded one dollar bill, his inhaler, a cell phone, and a wrinkled picture of him with his family.

The picture shows Ben holding his baby sister, smiling.

Aurora holds the picture up and stares, turns it at angles, then slowly places it back in the bag.

AURORA

I'll take care of this.

Pandronis watches Aurora leave the Comm Room, bag in hand. Walks up to Kaleb.

PANDRONIS

We need full control of the government communications up there, and we've made little progress.

KALEB

We're tracking their weather reports all over the country.

PANDRONIS

Weather is meaningless. I want into their police channels, FBI, CIA! I want access into all cell sites, fire departments. Everything!

KALEB

Yes, Master.

PANDRONIS

I'll be back in here tomorrow, and I want a schedule of when you'll have that access.

Kaleb nods.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

Doesn't look like you and Aurora know how to get things done. London does not have the patience I have.

Pandronis storms out of the room.

INT. BEN'S CELL

Ben walks around the room, examines all the walls and ceiling for a way out, looks closely the door lock.

He kneels and studies the small "pass through" at the bottom of the door.

He spots a vent in the bathroom near the top of the wall adjacent to the comm room. UNTELLIGIBLE VOICES drift through.

He climbs up the toilet and listens.

Breathing hard and very pale, he steps off the toilet, goes over to the bed and lays down exhausted.

The door opens and Aurora walks in. Ben slowly sits up, less afraid than before.

AURORA
Did you sleep well, Ben?

Ben stares at her reptilian skin.

AURORA (CONT'D)
I hope so. Young ones need rest.

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out the picture of him with his family. She gently extends the picture.

AURORA (CONT'D)
(softly)
I thought you would like this.

Ben hesitates, then reaches out and snatches the picture. He stares long and hard at it, then puts it under his pillow.

AURORA (CONT'D)
You have feelings for your family?

BEN
Where are they?

AURORA
They are safe, I can assure you.

BEN
When will I get out?

AURORA
We're working on that. Is there anything I can bring you?

Ben looks down and around, coughs.

BEN

Why...why do you look like that?
Are there snakes down here?

AURORA

There's a lot of things you don't
understand about our world, or,
even your world. Can I bring you
anything, Ben?

Ben looks at her again, scans her whole body.

BEN

I need my inhaler...is that a mask
you're wearing?

AURORA

Are you sure that's all you need?

BEN

Do you have peanut butter and jelly
sandwiches here?

Ben stares at her reptilian face.

BEN (CONT'D)

Are we in a cave?

AURORA

We're safely underground--

BEN

Underground, like where?

AURORA

It's safe here. Some things you
will just have to trust me on.

BEN

Can I have some paper and a pencil?
My teacher will be upset that I'm
missing class. So will Dad.

Aurora looks around the room, then turns toward the door.

BEN (CONT'D)

Why are you so ugly? Is everyone
down here ugly like you?

AURORA

I like that picture very much.

She looks down as if to be self-reflecting, then leaves.

BEN

Wait! Do you have my inhaler?

Ben pulls out the picture, sits on the edge of bed, and stares. He sets it on the side table facing the pillow.

MOMENTS LATER...

His inhaler slides through "pass through" at the bottom of the door. Ben crawls to pick it up. He inhales, then again.

A sandwich under a glass case slides in.

He stares at first then opens up the wrapped sandwich. Turns out to be peanut butter and jelly.

A metal plate with milk slides in.

He dives into the sandwich.

Moments later a pad of paper and pencil slide in.

INT. COMM ROOM

Aurora walks in, faces Kaleb.

AURORA

I need to know where the young human's parents are. Their name is Shaeffer, and they're in a hotel above. Probably in Washington.

Kaleb points one finger at his screen. The screen scrambles for a moment...goes blank, then:

Registered: Sam and Jessica Shaeffer_Hilton Hotel_NE_Room #422. 2 Adults, 1 Child. \$289 rate + tax.

Aurora looks it over.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Now I need the provider, the IP address, and the frequency of the TV provider's link to that room.

KALEB

That will take just a few minutes.

AURORA

Cable or Satellite?

Kaleb continues the search.

AURORA (CONT'D)
I'll wait.

Kaleb's screen shows a massive series of numbers and symbols.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Send that data to me.

KALEB
Satellite. Data sent.

AURORA
One more thing, the female slave we
just received--I need her home
phone number. Claire Fraser.

KALEB
That should be easy.

Aurora heads over to her computer, logs in. Looks over Kaleb's data. She pulls over a desk microphone and speaks.

INT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Room is a mess. Sam is coming out of the shower, drying hair. Jessica sits on bed, holds Faith, asleep in her arms.

JESSICA
(whispers)
Here, lay her on the other bed.
Careful not to wake her.

Sam picks her up slowly, lays her on the adjacent bed, puts blanket over her. Adores her.

Jessica flips on TV, turns volume down low. It's Dr. Phil. A couple argues over an affair.

She looks for a moment, rolls her eyes, picks up remote and channel surfs.

Jessica scrambles to find a clean change of clothes.

Suddenly the TV screen goes black. There's an INTERMITTENT, LOUD TEST SIGNAL coming through.

Sam grabs the remote, tries to turn down the volume, but clicker does not work.

SAM
Crap, this remote's broke.

JESSICA

No big surprise, the way our life is going. I need a shower. See if you can get that fixed.

Jessica heads in bathroom.

SAM

Look at that! Holy Shit!

JESSICA

What now?

Jessica races out, covers her breasts with towel. He points to the TV. It's a message scrolling down. White letters over an all-black screen.

Jessica walks over and stares.

They are stunned. They look at each other.

ON TV SCREEN:

"Mr. and Mrs. Shaeffer, we hope your accommodations are suitable. The inconvenient diversion to Washington was necessary for our agenda. I welcome the three of you to your nation's Capitol."

TV scrolls, keeps repeating same message.

Jessica holds her mouth. Sam is transfixed.

He nervously pulls out his phone takes several pictures of the screen. Message continues to repeat.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Are you shitting me? Who?...What?
The three of us? How--

Jessica sits on bed, head in hands in confusion.

JESSICA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

This must stop, Sam!

SAM

I've never seen anything like this. This is crazy! I've got to call the detective, now!

JESSICA

Who in the hell would do that? Who knows we are here? And, TV?...
Shit! We're all screwed.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Wait! Do you think the police are
in on this?

SAM
I didn't get that vibe from them.

JESSICA
I don't trust anyone right now
after what the airlines did.

Suddenly, news returns. Clicker works.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I don't want Faith to go through
anymore.

SAM
Take your shower, and we'll figure
this out. I'm thinking maybe a
private detective would be best.

JESSICA
I can't handle much more of this,
Sam! Think of something or I'm
taking a train with Faith back to
Atlanta--They got one of my babies.
They're not getting another!

Sam goes to Faith, watches her sleep. Jessica sits on the
bed, arms folded and bent over, she nervously rocks herself.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Just do something!

INT. BEN'S CELL

Ben is stands on a side chair at the door, peers up and down
hallway, as best as possible.

He jumps down, goes to his bed, and diagrams in great detail
the floor plan of the hallway and his room on the note pad.

INT. COMM ROOM

Aurora stands near her tall desk, dials an older, cordless
phone. Phone has local area code: 202.

She listens to voicemail:

V.M. (V.O.)
 (male voice)
 You've reached the Fraser's,
 Richard and Claire. Please leave a
 message. Thank You.

AURORA
 (in Claire's voice)
 Hi Hon, I'm at the cabin. I dropped
 my cell phone, but used the phone
 up the road to call. Sorry if I
 scared you. All is good, be home in
 a day. Getting lots of work done up
 here, but power has been
 intermittent.

She hangs up.

EXT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL BALCONY - DAY

Sam stands outside hotel room on balcony, talks on mobile.

SAM
 I need to talk to Chief Stevens.
 ...
 Chief! Sam Shaeffer here. Listen,
 we need to talk.
 ...
 Sure, we'll wait. You won't believe
 what just happened.

Looks at watch.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Jessica breaks down emotionally. Heavy Sobbing.

JESSICA
 They got my son! Some bastard has
 my son! Why? Who the hell?

She cries hard on Sam's shoulder, as he holds her tight.

SAM
 We'll find him...somehow, Honey,
 we'll find him.

He looks down, lost in thought.

INT. REPTOID BASE - SHOWER ROOM

LOUD SHOWER SPRAY

Claire is naked and coiled in the corner of a large metallic shower stall, gets a high pressure hose down. She fights off the intense water stream.

CLAIRE
Enough! What the hell are you
doing? You're taking my skin off!

Her whole body is beet red.

Kaleb and Nauster stand nearby, Nauster with hose, as Kaleb creepily observes. Nauster turns off the large nozzle. Claire remains coiled in the corner. Kaleb throws her a towel. Shivering, she stands and covers herself.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
(yells)
What do you want from me for
Christ's sake? You beasts will pay
a price. I'm a United States
Senator, don't you understand that!

The two reptoids look at each other stoically, then leave the shower room showing no emotion. Pandronis walks in.

PANDRONIS
We'll make this as comfortable as
possible. Follow me.

CLAIRE
What do you want, you slimy freak?

Pandronis grabs her with his mighty strength at the back of her neck, and practically drags her across the metal floor to an adjacent room.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
You really are reptiles! Your hands
are cold as ice...slimy creep!

She eventually stands up and walks with him. He maintains his tight grip. His claws cut into her shoulder.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
All right! All right!

INT. BEN'S CELL

Ben stands on the back of the toilet, listens intently to the conversation spilling in from the comm room. He jumps down, goes to his note pad and writes furiously.

INT. BIO-REPLICANT ROOM - UNDERGROUND REPTOID BASE

This is the room where the reptoids clone the humans. Has massive number of hi-tech gauges, digital imagery screens, and computers. Near the center is a large test-tube-like chamber of glass. A duplicate tube stands within six feet.

Nearby is also a large horizontal, metal tube, with opening large enough for a human. Looks like a massive MRI scanner.

Kaleb, Nauster, and Kelkmund scurry about. They turn on and adjust the equipment. Two large monitors cover one wall.

Pandronis walks Claire in, shoves her onto a hard back chair.

PANDRONIS

We're about finished with you. Do as we say and your life will be saved, along with Richard's.

Claire stares in disgust at the reptoids.

CLAIRE

What's this all about? Richard? You're creepier than I thought! How did you know--

PANDRONIS

Your ability to legislate on your Homeland Security Committee is invaluable to us.

CLAIRE

What are you talking about? How do you even know what I do?

PANDRONIS

Your knowledge of law enforcement and military communications is the missing link in our plan.

CLAIRE

I'm no good to you down here. Let me go, I won't--

PANDRONIS

Once we control law enforcement communications, our mission will be nearly complete.

Pandronis looks to Kaleb, who stands in "attention".

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

Get her brain scanned.

He looks at Claire.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

This will be much easier on you if
you just follow our directions.

She SCREAMS as Nauster and Kelkmund tie her on a narrow,
legless stretcher. They place her on a conveyor table that
slowly slides in the large metal tube---MRI-like.

Kaleb stands at a computer, monitors her as she rolls in.
Claire struggles to free herself.

A live scan of her brain can be seen on many monitors.

Her heart pulsates as her nervous circuits light up. On
another screen is her entire body, with pulsating nerve
synapsis, breathing, heart pounding--all are vivid, real
time, and in color.

CLAIRE

Let me out of this thing!

Pandronis turns to Kaleb.

PANDRONIS

How does it look, can we download
her memory, childhood,
relationships, work data?

KALEB

Looks good. Download has started.

On another screen, massive amounts of data are downloaded to
a separate computer.

Pandronis watches the data come in, all in code.

PANDRONIS

Call me immediately when she's
ready for the replicator.

KALEB

Yes, master.

INT. UNDERGROUND HIGH SPEED TRAIN

Aurora is alone, travelling 350 mph, in an underground,
magnetically-powered shuttle. WHOOSH.

She's watches several small TV screens, mostly with U.S.
news, but also news from Japan, Taiwan, and London.

On one screen, a NEWS ANCHOR speaks about a missing boy.

NEWS ANCHOR

...and the search continues for little Ben Shaeffer. The young boy was last seen at Reagan Int'l Airport in Terminal B. That flight was originally headed to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport from Heathrow in London. Anyone who has any information on the whereabouts of young Ben...

Aurora looks at other monitors, which reveal battles in the Mideast, shootings in Chicago, and fires in U.S. Southwest.

The hi-tech shuttle slows down, stops. Automatic doors open to the side. Second set of doors open. She steps out and into a hallway of her own underground complex. She quickly heads to the Comm and Bio-Replicant Rooms.

INT. BIO-REPLICANT ROOM

Kaleb and Padronis watch monitors. Claire still in scanner. Aurora enters room.

AURORA

Is she ready?

PANDRONIS

Not quite. Was your trip to the Philadelphia Pod successful?

AURORA

Uneventful, but yes, it's one of our better teams. They have an excellent replicant Senator, nearing completion.

PANDRONIS

Did you deliver the directives?

AURORA

Of course. My Philly courier will run a copy and send to DIA at Denver. All on schedule.

PANDRONIS

Very good. I finally see our path to NORAD. We've needed access to the computers at Cheyenne Mountain for a long time.

Scanner for Claire slows down, all quiet.

KALEB

The scan is complete. I'll double check the files, then back them up.

PANDRONIS

Good, then get her in the tube.

Claire is rolled back out of the Scanner. She is cold, continues to shiver. Mild shock has taken over.

Nauster gets her up and sits her back on the chair.

AURORA

(To Claire)

Oh, just in case you were concerned, I left a voicemail at your home, letting Richard know you went to the cabin for a day.

CLAIRE

You...you what? How do you know all this stuff? You are all sick! He knows my voice you fool.

Aurora speaks back to Claire in Claire's own voice.

AURORA

(Claire's voice)

Hi Honey, I'm at the cabin for a day. Please don't worry. I should have called first--

Clair puts her hand over her mouth and begins to weep.

CLAIRE

Oh my God! Oh my God...

AURORA

You and your fake leaders think you have power.

CLAIRE

You slimy son-of-a-bitches.

AURORA

We've allowed you to lead for long enough... call yourself leaders--

CLAIRE

And you pretend to be a female? You're a disgrace to the entire female gender, of what species I have no idea!

Aurora stares at Claire, then looks away in self-reflection.

Pandronis walks up, as Aurora walks through doorway to Communications Room and goes onto her computer.

PANDRONIS

(to Claire)

Enough. Stand up straight. We need your replicant now, I've got a schedule to hit! Now stand still.

CLAIRE

Why would you need me cloned for God's sake!

PANDRONIS

You're not a very listener. I already explained to you--

He drags her to the main glass tube. Pushes her in.

CLAIRE

You assholes are worse than I could have imagined, you--

The naked Claire SCREAMS with weak voice.

PANDRONIS

We now have 5G through the cell phone companies, thanks to our CEO clones, now we'll have access to public safety radio systems.

CLAIRE

You'll never succeed--

PANDRONIS

Stand up straight. Don't move.

Pandronis slams the clear chamber door of the tube. Claire yells, but her shouting is undetectable. The tube is small enough in diameter that Claire is forced to stand up.

Kaleb is now at the controls in the Bio-Replicant Chamber. A semi-circular blade, pivots from the top and the bottom, spins slowly, then rapidly around the chamber.

The same type blade spins around the empty tube--their version of 3-D printing.

On the computer screen and large monitor are detailed points in Claire's body that show as millions of dots.

In the empty chamber next to this one, a skeleton of a human begins to form, same size as Claire's, but metallic. Then slowly muscles begin to form with strands of nerves and the brain, heart and other organs manifest. They are holographic.

In Claire's chamber, she is immobile, eyes open wide.

Kaleb looks closely at her previous picture, the type of clothes she had on, her hairstyle, her make-up. He puts the picture into a type of advanced scanner.

Pandronis walks over to Kelkmund, who is on another computer.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

Did you verify all the downloads were stable?

KELKMUND

As far as I can tell it was complete. Motory functions downloaded, all habits in place, memory good from age 15 forward.

PANDRONIS

Where's the chip?

Kelkmund points to a small cylindrical piece of metal in a glass box on his desk.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

Insert as soon as she's complete.

KELKMUND

Yes, master.

PANDRONIS

Back-up?

KELKMUND

Yes, all her data is backed up, secured in two locations.

The semi-circular blade continues its spin around Claire. A face is forming in the bio-replicant chamber over the skull. It is identical to Claire.

The human Claire is now "unfrozen" in her position, and looks frantically all around in her "tube" for a latch, a way out. She SCREAMS, but she cannot be heard.

INT. COMM ROOM

In the adjacent room, Aurora watches her several monitors.

One monitor shows a satellite image of the Shaeffers move about in their hotel room.

She makes some changes in the parameters by pointing finger, and she sees the three of them by way of a camera in the TV.

She sits back, listens and watches the Shaeffers move about.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - DAY

A windowless panel truck, marked "LJ's Plumbing", sits in the parking lot with one side door open. A tiny satellite dish sits atop the truck.

EXT/INT PANEL TRUCK

Detective Bradely stands near the open door.

JAMES (20-something), the geeky tech, chomps gum, works on his laptop. He's in tennis shoes, baggy jeans, and a T-shirt marked, "Stones Tour 2021", does not notice Bradely.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

What do you have?

JAMES

Oh, hey, nothing yet. I don't see any signals coming into this region that are unusual. The dish is picking up the local satellite TV and cell freqs...pretty normal.

James checks his cell phone.

JAMES (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Normal cell coverage for this area, but not much else, typical background noise.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

I'm going up to see the Shaeffers, I'll be right back.

JAMES

We need to get this spectrum analyzer up there, then I need to bolt. Got more important stuff to do in the office.

Bradely starts to walk away.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Wait!

Bradely walks back to truck.

JAMES (CONT'D)

There's a strange frequency coming from somewhere. Just now registered. It's not in the usual 800 or 900 Megahertz range.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Where's it coming from?

JAMES

Not sure. It's intermittent...very sporadic. Will take a minute.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Ok, keep after it. When can you bring that hunk of techno-stuff up to their room?

JAMES

Let me sort this cluster out first...looks like some fun stuff.

James checks his cell phone again. A video game pops up.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Meet me at Room #422. And James, put that damn cell phone away, we got work to do here. We got a missing kid!

Bradely straightens his outdated, wrinkled tie.

JAMES

(nodding)

Okay, I'm cool with that.

INT. BEN'S CELL

Ben sits on bed, back to wall, scribbles fast on his pad.

Door opens, Aurora walks in carrying Ben's book bag and hands it over. He briskly looks through it.

BEN

Where's my phone?

He pulls out his phone charger and searches the bag.

BEN (CONT'D)

I know you're not going to kill me.

Aurora stands over Ben at his bed.

AURORA
What makes you so sure?

BEN
Where's my phone? I have lots of
pictures on it and some games.

Aurora does not answer, and grabs Ben's writing pad.

INSERT NOTE PAD: Detailed sketch of Aurora.

She turns the page and it's rough sketch of Pandronis.

AURORA
(gently)
You have a talent, Ben. Do you like
school?

BEN
It's okay. I get tired a lot.

It's a calm moment between them, a connection.

Aurora lays down the sketch pad, reaches over to the bedside
stand and picks up the picture of Ben with his family.

Ben's breathing is stressed. He reaches for his inhaler.

Aurora intercedes and grabs the inhaler. Ben is frozen as she
lays it back on the bed side stand. Ben is very pale.

BEN (CONT'D)
Why are you so mean?

Aurora slowly lifts her arms toward Ben and places her right
palm toward him, about a foot in front of his chest. Ben sits
still, confused.

Immediately, his breathing eases, his coloring comes back.

AURORA
You won't need that device anymore.

Aurora drops the inhaler in a small waste basket nearby.

Ben holds his chest, looks around then at Aurora.

BEN
What did you do? I can breath! No
burning. That was neat.

AURORA
You can learn a lot from us, Ben.

BEN
How'd you do that?

AURORA
What other interests do you have,
Ben?

BEN
Can I get my phone...please?

Aurora presses buttons on her wrist computer. Ben stands up, takes a deep breath.

BEN (CONT'D)
I like baseball and video games.
Can you heal anybody?

Aurora looks away briefly.

AURORA
Keep up the good artwork. I really
like it.

Then she turns and promptly exits the room.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE BEN'S CELL

Aurora shuts Ben's door. Looks both ways. Stares at the wall. Puts a clinched fist on the wall, closes eyes in anguish. Takes a deep breath, stands up straight and marches off.

MOMENTS LATER...

INT. BEN'S CELL

Ben's cell phone slides through the bottom-of-door opening.

He races over and picks it up, but the battery is dead. He puts it on the charger and lays down, pillowing his head in his hands stares at ceiling.

SOUND OF ROLLERS ON HARD FLOOR.

Ben slides the straight chair up to the high door window and peeks out. He jumps down and scribbles something on his pad. He jumps back on the chair with his pad facing the window.

INT. HALLWAY

Claire, strapped down on a gurney, is rolled down the hallway by Nauster and Kelkmund. She sees Ben's window, filled with a note pad. **HELP ME**. She then sees Ben's face.

INT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sam checks his laptop, Jessica lays on the bed, holds Faith tight. Cartoons on TV.

KNOCK on Door.

Sam opens, Detective Bradely stands outside, out of breath from the climb.

SAM

Hi Detective, come in.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

(nods)

Sam...Mrs. Shaeffer.

Jessica, eyes red and puffy, half nods back.

DETECTIVE BRADELY (CONT'D)

(to Sam)

I got a tech working outside,
looking for any unusual signal. Can
I see that picture?

Sam pulls out his phone and shows Bradely the screen shot of the strange message from the TV.

Bradely just stares, cocks his head at the TV.

DETECTIVE BRADELY (CONT'D)

Can you text me this?

SAM

Sure. I got a couple shots.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Anything else unusual since we last
talked?

JESSICA

Anything else? This is enough crap
for a lifetime.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

We got some leads from the Capitol,
can't really go into it now, but
the Chief has put the entire
department on notice about Ben.

JESSICA

Did you see the TV screen?

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Yes, I...I know...that's very
disturbing for sure. We're adding
some security for all of you here.

KNOCK on door. Sam checks through peephole. It's James.

JAMES
Is Detective Bradely here?

SAM
Sure, come on in.

James brings in his laptop and a small piece of equipment.

Jessica sits up on the bed, puts on a long-sleeve shirt,
covers her skimpy pajamas.

JAMES
Those strange frequencies look like
they are being transmitted from the
Capitol.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
The U.S. Capitol?

JAMES
Yup. Uncle Sam's place.

JESSICA
How many frickin' Capitols are
there here anyway? Jesus.

James cocks his head at Jessica, like "no joke".

SAM
You mean there's some kind of weird
stuff coming to this hotel from the
U.S. Capitol building?

JAMES
Just need to verify the target. Not
sure if there's a focused beam, or--

JESSICA
It's us, kid. Someone sent us here
on a jet, took our son, then they
sent us a message on the TV...maybe
I should get some pay for figurin'
this out for you guys--

SAM
Okay, Jess, okay--

DETECTIVE BRADELY
James, what do you need to do here?

JAMES
I need to tap into the cable box
and see what kind of signals are
coming in--

DETECTIVE BRADELY
That's it?

JAMES
I'll need to check one or two other
rooms and see if the signal is
duplicated anywhere else.

Bradely looks at Sam, then Jessica.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
Is it ok if we work in here for a
little while, shouldn't take long?

SAM
Sure.

JESSICA
It's not like we're on a tight
schedule here. Sam, I 'm gonna call
in for some food--Faith's hungry.

Sam hands her a credit card.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
I would really appreciate it if you
all stayed inside for now. Clearly
someone is tracking you. Safer here
than out there...sorry.

James hooks up his equipment, plugs into the cable box. On
his laptop he starts scanning various screens with graphs and
waves, much like an advanced oscilloscope.

Faith comes up and looks over his shoulder.

FAITH
Cool.

JESSICA
Don't get in his way, Honey.

JAMES
(chomping gum)
She's fine. That's how they learn.

JESSICA

She doesn't need to learn that weird shit right now.

JAMES

See, this is a spectrum analyzer, and this is a media--

JESSICA

Come over here, Faith, give the boy some breathing room.

A red, flashing light suddenly shows up on his laptop screen.

BEEP BEEP

Faith backs up, then races over to Jessica.

JAMES

Wow, never have seen that before! There's that weird freq again.

He stands back from the screen.

James, Sam, and Bradely all stare at the laptop screen as it flashes codes, graphs, symbols, etc.

The laptop suddenly crashes! Screen is black.

James checks power cord. He puts hands in air in despair.

JAMES (CONT'D)

For God's sake, what is going on around here?

They all stare at each other.

JAMES (CONT'D)

The laptop crashed and it's got the screen for read-outs. We're done until I get another one. Can't read nothin'. The spectrum analyzer is going crazy...geez--

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Let's pack it in, we need to let the Shaeffers have some space for a while.

JAMES

Everything should still be on the hard drive, hopefully I can recover it in the shop.

FAITH

That was cool! Are you coming back?

JESSICA

Hon, they'll be back. I just can't wait. Question is, can they locate your brother? Hear me detective?

As James and Bradely mull around. Sam sits on the edge of the bed, rubs his chin nervously.

LOUD, INTERMITTENT ALARM BEEPS come from TV.

They all stop, stare.

ON TV SCREEN:

"Detective Bradely, it is futile for you to attempt to identify us. We are in full control. It is best if you and your "technician" depart the premises immediately."

The message continuously scrolls.

Jessica covers her mouth and pulls Faith in tightly.

After he's read the message, Bradely nervously struggles to pull out his phone. Snaps a pic of the screen.

They all stare at the revolving message.

Room is eerily silent.

In utter dismay, James drops his back pack on the floor.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

I'll...I'll set up more.. I mean extra security around the premises.

JESSICA

There went my appetite.

FAITH

I'm still hungry, and my head hurts, Mommy.

Jessica looks at Bradely.

JESSICA

I'm thinking the best thing is for you and the genius techy dude--

SAM

Jess! Please. Detective, we just want our son back.

James picks up the laptop case, then puts away the rest of the equipment and cables.

JAMES

I'm done. Whoever is behind this...they have technology our equipment won't figure out. I'm outta here.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

You need to verify if this signal is coming into any other room. I'll set it up at the front desk.

James storms out.

DETECTIVE BRADELY (CONT'D)

I'll give you folks a call, but if *anything*, I mean *anything* else happens call me.

SAM

Got it.

JESSICA

(to Bradely)

Next time bring an army for God's sake and someone who doesn't still live with their mom.

SAM

Jess...

Bradely rubs his face, suppressing his frustration with Jessica, the situation.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Please stay here if at all possible. You can always get food catered. Oh, you might want to consider leaving your TV on. We might get some valuable intel--

JESSICA

Now there's an idea.

INT. REPTOID BASE - COMM ROOM - SAME

Aurora, with desk microphone in front of her, watches a monitor, as James and Detective Bradely leave the room. She listens to Jessica and Sam.

INT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

The ever-edgy Jessica peeks out of the hotel window, then makes sure the curtains are tightly closed.

SAM

Faith, Hon, are you still hungry?

JESSICA

Of course she is, we haven't had lunch and it's after three!

FAITH

Can I get a hot dog with fries?

JESSICA

Sure, Baby...Sam? How are you gonna make that happen?

SAM

I'll run out now.

Jessica looks hard at him.

JESSICA

And leave us here, alone? I don't think so.

Sam pulls up his laptop.

SAM

I'll find something close, so I won't be gone long. The detective is putting security around us.

He searches on the laptop.

SAM (CONT'D)

Got something just around the corner. I can walk.

He grabs his billfold, kisses Jessica on the forehead, along with little Faith. Heads out the door.

Jessica gets up slowly, starts to straighten the room. Moments later, the TV turns itself back on. Local weather.

Suddenly, INTERMITTENT, LOUD BEEPS, come from TV again.

Jessica backs up, stares at it. Black screen.

ON TV SCREEN:

"Jessica - the three of you are in no danger at this time. It is in your best interest to cease all contact with law enforcement."

Jessica grabs her mouth in fear. Pulls Faith closes to her.

There is space under this last message, then:

ON TV SCREEN:

"Ben loves you all very much."

Screen goes blank. TV shuts itself off.

Jessica SCREAMS at the TV: WHO ARE YOU!

JESSICA

(yells)

Who are you bastards? Why are you
doing this? Ben is just a kid!

She falls on the bed weeping.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(crying with joy)

Ben is alive, Faith! Ben is alive!

FAITH

Where is he, Mommy?

JESSICA

I don't know, Hon, I don't know,
but we're gonna find him.

INT. REPTOID BASE - COMM ROOM

Aurora remains at her high desk. She slowly pushes her desk mic away, then continues watching the monitor.

Jessica is on the bed weeping.

Aurora hears:

FAITH

We can find him, Mommy, we always
find Ben.

Aurora sees on monitor:

Jessica just nods with tears in her eyes. Young Faith lays down beside her.

Aurora points finger at her monitor and it turns off. She reaches over and picks up a standard cordless phone.

INT. RICHARD AND CLAIRE'S SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

RICHARD, the 50-something attorney husband of Claire, enters front door with brief case. Wears 3-piece suit. All business.

He drops brief case and heads upstairs to bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He pulls off jacket, undoes his tie. PHONE RINGS

He races to bedroom landline, looks at the caller I.D.

RICHARD

Hello.

AURORA (V.O.)

(In Claire's voice)

Hon, did you get my voicemail?

RICHARD

Yeah, you okay?

AURORA (V.O.)

All is good, we lost power up here. I'll be back this evening. Just needed to complete some things done, you know how hectic--

RICHARD

Wish you would've let me know...glad you're okay.

AURORA (V.O.)

We lost all power up here for five hours--my cell went dead.

Richard looks at the caller I.D. again and sees it's a 202 number he does not recognize.

RICHARD

Where are you calling from? I don't recognize this number.

AURORA (V.O.)

Oh, it's just up the road a bit.

RICHARD

Up the road? There's nothing up there for miles.

AURORA (V.O.)

I stopped a car and ask to borrow this guy's cell phone.

RICHARD

Well...be safe. See you tonight.
Love you.

AURORA (V.O.)

Love you too.

Richard sets the phone down slowly, stares at the unknown number on caller I.D. He pulls off his business attire.

INT. REPTOID BASE - BIO-REPLICANT ROOM

Claire's clone stands in the glass tube--an exact replica of Claire. Kaleb steps up and opens the glass tube door.

KALEB

Claire, you can step out now.

He covers the nude clone with a robe.

KALEB (CONT'D)

Please sit over here.

Clone sits on a nearby stool.

KALEB (CONT'D)

Do you know who you are?

CLAIRE'S CLONE

(in Claire's voice)

My name is Claire Shaeffer, I'm a
U.S. Senator from New York.

KALEB

Are you married?

CLAIRE'S CLONE

I married Ricard Fraser on June
28th, 1985, near the Finger Lakes
upstate New York. He is an attorney
at Fraser-Pike & Associates--

KALEB

Okay, now we'll need to give you
just a little more information
before you go back to Richard and
your work.

CLAIRE'S CLONE

No problem at all, Kaleb.

Pandronis storms in.

PANDRONIS

What's the status?

KALEB

All good, just need to download the specifics of its mission, what she is tasked to obtain: the 911 centers, encryption codes, router codes, IP addresses, commands for FBI and CIA, all that.

PANDRONIS

Let me know when it's ready. I need to be here when you send it up.

KALEB

Yes, Master.

A metallic box sits on a table near Kaleb's computer.

INSERT METALLIC BOX: **KRYITON Prime Directives ~ London POD**

Next to the manual are large control buttons. The largest one says: "ELEVATOR DOWN".

Pandronis walks over to the controls and opens the book-like box. On the left side are a series of "1's" and "0's". On the right are six stick drives embedded in a shiny, metallic base. He glances, then looks at Claire's clone.

Aurora walks in, passes him. She peeks at the clone. Pandronis stops and turns:

PANDRONIS

Have you dispensed of the young slave?

AURORA

It's all worked out.

PANDRONIS

We have another slave arrival in two days. Again, I need that cell.

AURORA

The cell will be available, you can count on it, Pandronis.

PANDRONIS

What about the Moscow and Rome directives?

AURORA

London informed me they sent those updates directly. We will also forward copies to Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and the Phoenix Pods.

Pandronis simply nods, then spins and exits the room. Aurora stays and watches Kaleb as he works on the clone.

Kaleb puts some probes on the clone's head. There's a small slot in the back, just above the hairline. He places a small cylinder into the slot, snapping it in place.

Claire's clone looks straight ahead, no emotion or movement. As Kaleb is working on it, one of its fingernails falls off.

Kaleb quickly picks it up and puts it back in place. He quickly checks all of its fingernails and toenails.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Has it had the prime mission downloaded?

KALEB

That download is next, then it's ready to go up.

AURORA

What's the issues with the weak body?

KALEB

We detected some soft tissue cells that are not developing as quickly as others. We inserted the new meta-material alloy into the bony structure. It doesn't bond quickly with soft tissue, but should be fine by the time we send it up.

AURORA

Let me know when it's ready. I'll assist in the clone's ascent, but there can be no anomalies.

KALEB

Yes, Aurora. Will be soon. I've got the programming ready for the cell sites, 911 centers, and making sure it gets all the data we discussed.

AURORA

How about--

KALEB

Oh yes, and pictures of the transmission sites, including all media converters.

AURORA

Good job, Kaleb. You'll soon have your own pod, perhaps Europe.

KALEB

That would be good, Aurora.

AURORA

Keep me posted.

She points to a device on her wrist with a small screen, then turns and walks out. Kaleb completes the programming through the probes on the clone's head.

INT. CHIEF STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective Bradely sits to the side of Chief Steven's desk, with two empty chairs just in front of the Chief. The Chief sits back in his chair, fidgety, stressed.

CHIEF STEVENS

It's ten after nine, where's James?

DETECTIVE BRADELY

He'll be here. He's a techie.

Chief Stevens looks at his watch. His desk phone rings.

CHIEF STEVENS

Yes?
(listens)
Send him in.

James walks in, looks around. Stevens nods at a front chair.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)

Have a seat.

James checks out Stevens' awards on back wall.

CHIEF OF POLICE

James, what do you have for us?

JAMES

Well, there were no other rooms at the hotel receiving any signal similar to the ones we detected yesterday, at the, you know--

CHIEF OF POLICE
Hilton, that was the Hilton, James.

JAMES
So, yeah, so I circled the Capitol
several times for the source.

James, chomps on his gum, turns to Bradely.

JAMES (CONT'D)
The signals coming from there match
what we got at the hotel parking
lot. Perplexing freqs and a more
powerful signal.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
And, this means?

JAMES
Not sure just yet. We need to get
in the Capital building and find
the transmitter. We know the freqs
change, they are intermittent, and
we know it's powerful. That's it.

CHIEF STEVENS
I can arrange that. Chief Thompson
at the Capitol PD...I had his back
a number of times.

INT. BEN'S CELL - DAY

Ben yanks his cell phone off the charger, then jumps on a
chair at the high door window. He takes many pictures.

The pics are of two small, armed slave-type reptoids pushing
carts down the hallway. Ben races back down and scribbles on
his pad.

INT. CHIEF STEVEN'S OFFICE

The Chief sits straight up, stares at James.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
So, what's the next step?

JAMES
There's no way that signal could
have got to the TV without a media
converter. The digital--

CHIEF STEVENS

Whoa...whoa...RF? Freqs? Slow down, Spock, please break this down for us first graders. Media converter?

JAMES

RF is radio frequency. Freq is frequency. Media converter just means going from a signal in the air or a fiber run to copper wire. You know, convert one to the other?

The Chief and Bradely look at each, slight nod, like, "OKAY?"

CHIEF STEVENS

And?

JAMES

I don't think the transmitting antenna is visible. It's hidden somewhere in the Capitol. Just need to get inside, maybe the elevator or pipe shaft.

CHIEF STEVENS

Okay. I'll see what I can do on that. I'll get back to you soon, but plan on getting yourself over there tomorrow.

JAMES

Got it.

CHIEF STEVENS

Do you have all the clearances for the Capitol?

JAMES

Yup.

CHIEF STEVENS

Okay. I'll be in touch, thanks.

James strolls out. Bradely stays.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Do we need to contact any of the Feds on this?

CHIEF STEVENS

Absolutely not, they'll get involved the second we find something, then they'll take the credit.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 Makes sense. This is still the
 weirdest thing I've ever seen.

CHIEF STEVENS
 No argument there. I'll call
 Thompson and set up a visit for you
 and James tomorrow.

Bradely grabs his notebook, heads out. Chief Stevens dials his desk phone.

INT. BEN'S CELL - NIGHT

The comm and replicant rooms are adjacent to Ben's room. He hears voices coming through the high air vent in the bathroom.

He climbs on the toilet, stands on the tank to get closer. He presses "record" on his phone, and holds it near the vent.

He listens:

AURORA (V.O.)
 ...London directive...pod at
 DIA...Phoenix pod...Rome...

He walks over to the palm reader by the door and examines closely, then takes a picture of it. Then goes back to his bed and works on his note pad again.

Aurora barges in, startling Ben.

AURORA
 I need to see your phone.

Ben hesitates, then slowly hands it over. Aurora tries to call out until she gets the "No Service" message.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 I wanted to let you know your
 family is doing fine.

Ben perks up.

BEN
 Where are they?

AURORA
 In a nice hotel.

BEN
 When do I get out?

AURORA
Does Faith always where glasses?

BEN
How do you know my sister's name?
Is she okay?

AURORA
She's fine, Ben.

BEN
Are you gonna keep me here 'til I
get old?

AURORA
No...no we wouldn't do that.

She then hands him the phone.

BEN
Can I take a picture of you? You're
so different.

AURORA
(taken back)
I suppose so.

He quickly takes pics of Aurora, includes pistol at her side.

BEN
I was thinking, could you do that
thing with your hands again, you
know, that made me breathe good
again?

She steps closer to the bed, Ben slides back, phone still in his hand. Aurora puts her right palm facing him, about ten inches away and closes her eyes.

Ben sneaks in a picture of her palm close up, then closes his eyes, fakes feeling something.

BEN (CONT'D)
That feels good. You have powers.
Could you heal my sister?

AURORA
Make sure you keep eating. You have
everything you need, right? Phone,
pad, charger?

BEN
I just wanta go home.

AURORA
I'll be back to check on you.

He sighs, spots the open door.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Looks tempting, I know. You're safe
in here, there's nothing out there
for you.

Ben ignores her and peeks out the door, looks both ways down the hallway. Aurora nonchalantly pushes him aside, then walks out. Shuts door behind her.

INT. CLAIRE'S CELL

Claire is fast asleep in prisoner-like pajamas. The door flies open and Aurora walks in. Claire slowly sits up, pulls herself together, then slides back on her bed.

AURORA (V.O.)
(abrasive)
How is your stay so far, Senator?

Claire again covers her mouth, slowly shakes head.

CLAIRE
You freaks of nature will be found
soon. You have no idea.

AURORA
(sarcastic)
No idea of what? Of your corrupt
politicians, getting millions from
the lobbyists? Of the special
interest groups that buy your vote?

(beat)

AURORA (CONT'D)
You think we just started this?
Where do you think the mandates
come from when Rome comes out with
a statement? Why do you think the
Royal Palace is so secretive? Ever
see inside it?

Claire's face gets somber...turns pale.

AURORA (CONT'D)
We have pods everywhere. You think
you have control with your petty
bank accounts, stocks, and a
meaningless vote in Congress.

Aurora pulls up the side chair, slides it toward the bed.

CLAIRE

You still wont' get away with this!
Our military is far superior to
what you have down here.

Aurora looks away then shape shifts into Claire, same voice,
and mocks her.

AURORA

(in Claire's voice)

"...far superior to what you have
down here..." I don't believe you
understand what power is, Senator.

Aurora points to Claire and Claire levitates off the bed for
about a foot. Claire is startled and looks all around,
squirms in fear.

CLAIRE

What the hell! Stop!

AURORA

Very well.

Claire drops to the bed, falling over.

AURORA (CONT'D)

We know you voted to invade Iraq
and Afghanistan. We know you fund a
CIA that causes problems all around
the world, faking riots, setting up
fake democracies. You fool only the
fools who vote for you.

Claire looks down, humbled.

CLAIRE

What about the young boy next door?

AURORA

Not your concern, Senator. You
should be asking about your
husband, or did you forget about
him?

Aurora gets up, puts chair back, shape shifts back to Aurora.

CLAIRE

What *about* Richard? Is he down here
too?

AURORA

Oh no, we just left him a few messages. Your clone will arrive at your house any time now.

CLAIRE

Clone? What evil minds think of this shit?

Aurora shape shifts into Richard and speaks in his voice.

AURORA

(in Richard's voice)

Claire, so glad you're home, how was the cottage?

Claire looks mortified. Buckles over in despair.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, your clone is going to set up another sub-committee to get all the radio and router codes, you know, IP addresses and the like...the FBI and CIA will be following our directions now--

CLAIRE

My team doesn't have those details.

AURORA

Of course not, but they have the power to hire them. Remember when all that funding went missing? You knew it was for developing your space military. You were in on it.

CLAIRE

You know little, you creep.

AURORA

Your mind is little, and your evangelical followers believe all of your lies.

CLAIRE

Get me my phone, or at least my computer for God's sake.

AURORA

Little things please little minds, as they say. God's sake? You can do better than that.

Claire gets up and lunges toward Aurora.

CLAIRE

You scaly freak! You're going to hell!

Aurora calmly puts up her palm, her eyes turn a devilish red, and sends Claire sailing through the air, back to her bed.

Shaken, Claire curls up in a fetal position, cries.

Aurora turns and storms out, slamming door.

EXT. HALLWAY

Aurora presses button on her wrist computer/phone.

AURORA

Kaleb, get the human Senator on the schedule for the Bio-Evap Processor...asap!

INT. COMM ROOM

Pandronis walks in, as the three main reptoids work at their stations. Nauster and Kelkmund argue (always contentious).

KALEB

Enough you two!

Pandronis gives the two the dark "stare".

PANDRONIS

We have lots of work at other pods, you know. Some off-planet, I'd be glad to put in a request--

NAUSTER

We're good, Master, we're good.

Nauster goes back to his computer. Kelkmund storms out. Pandronis turns to Kaleb.

PANDRONIS

Update?

KALEB

All ready.

PANDRONIS

Mission downloaded, brain transmitter installed?

KALEB

Yes, we can transmit to the unit,
and hear all conversations up
there, from the unit, Master.

Pandronis nods.

PANDRONIS

Let's send it up--no more delays.

Kaleb turns to Claire's clone.

KALEB

Let's get up and get ready.

Claire's clone stands up. Behind the clone, stands in the replicant tube, is another identical clone.

KALEB (CONT'D)

We also have the back-up ready as a mitigation plan. The primary clone has some minor connective tissue issues--should be fine within a day or so.

PANDRONIS

Issues?

KALEB

Nothing to be concerned with, all brain functions are now at peak performance.

Kaleb walks over to the computer table, presses "Elevator Down" button. Then he and Pandronis walk into hallway with the clone, go to elevator.

Kaleb goes in the elevator with the clone and punches in a code on the panel, holds door open.

He walks out, elevator door closes and the clone goes up.

INT. FIRST FLOOR U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

Claire's clone arrives on first floor of capitol, elevator door opens, it confidently walks out to the lobby, looks around, then heads out the main lobby door.

EXT. U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

Claire's clone exits and walks confidently to a waiting limo.

INT. BEN'S CELL - DAY

Ben sketches Aurora's palm from the picture. It's the size that will fit over the palm readers.

A HOODED REPTOID, shorter than Pandronis and Aurora knocks then enters with a food tray. Leaves door open. He sets food tray down, then provides new toilet paper in bathroom and takes out garbage can.

Ben looks around then walks toward open door. Reptoid comes out of bathroom. Ben starts to walk into hallway.

REPTOID #3

No use, young slave.

The reptoid points his finger at the doorway and an invisible shield goes up. Ben runs into it. Hits it with his hand.

Discouraged, Ben sits back on his Bed. He looks at the food tray, then picks up a glass of milk and downs it. As he finishes he notices a number at the bottom of the glass: 1121. He writes this number down on the pad.

He sets the glass down slowly and eats the sandwich provided. The reptoid leaves without incident.

INT. BASEMENT OF CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

Detective Bradely stands with a CAPITOL BUILDING TECHNICAL REP, mid-40's, Congressional-looking, just outside the elevator door.

James squats nearby, gets his tools and laptop in order.

He looks to his assistant, TONY (25), Afro-American, short with tats.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Who's this?

JAMES

This is Tony. He's contract. Got all the clearances. Knows his shit.

Bradely looks closely at Tony's temporary badge.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Alrighty, let's do it.

TONY

How far up do you gotta go?

JAMES

Not far, couple floors.

James hits a few keys on his laptop and the elevator door opens. Hits a few more and elevator drops, just so the top is at the basement floor level.

James throws his cell in his laptop bag, throws it on his shoulder, and wraps a small tool belt around his waist.

Tony does the same. They slowly look inside shaft, then walk on top of elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT

They both look up.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Let's get going, I got people on the clock.

There are a number of cables and pipes running up the shaft wall, behind a ladder.

JAMES

I see five radio coax lines, so we should find five antennas up there.

He pulls out a powerful flashlight, as he climbs up.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Tony, fire up your laptop and keep an eye on the spectrum analyzer. Keep your cell on just in case we lose voice contact.

TONY

No problemo.

MOMENTS LATER...

James, now at the top, looks at the bottom of the antennae.

JAMES

Got something up here. No surprise it's some weird shit. The five cables go to five antennas, but there's one not hooked to anything.

He pulls out his a small receiver, the size of his phone.

TONY

Probably just an old one.

James looks at his receiver, it's flashing red.

JAMES
No, it's got a powerful output.

James puts the receiver closer to the antenna. BEEP.

TONY
Not possible. No input, no output.

JAMES
We got no input, yet amazing
output.

TONY
What are you smokin', man?

INT. BASEMENT - OUTSIDE ELEVATOR SHAFT

Detective Bradely looks at Capitol rep, shrugs shoulders.
Capitol rep walks up to, stands behind Tony.

INT. SHAFT

JAMES
(yelling)
Tony, see if you can find the
source of what is being transmitted
to this antenna.

TONY
Got it.

Tony moves around a small antenna with wire to his laptop.

TONY (CONT'D)
(loud)
Even weirder. There seems to be a
signal coming from the floor below
the elevator.

Tony scratches his bald head.

TONY (CONT'D)
(to Capital Rep)
Is there anything below this
basement?

CAPITOL REP
Of course not.

TONY
Well, we got radio signals coming
out of concrete.

JAMES
 (loud)
 Not possible.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 (yells into shaft)
 What's the next step?

Tony drops his phone off the side of the elevator, as James comes down ladder.

TONY
 Crap!

JAMES
 What?

Silence. Tony waits, cocks head and listens.

Seconds later, CRASH. It hits a floor far below. He races out of the shaft, then turns back and yells up to James.

TONY
 James, get the hell out of there!
 That shaft is a hundred feet deep!

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 What?

CAPITOL REP
 Not possible.

Tony turns to Bradely and Capitol rep.

TONY
 I just dropped my phone...took a long time to hit bottom. It's getting weirder all the time in this place.

Bradely and the Capitol rep rush to elevator door opening and peek into the shaft.

They see the concrete floor just below the elevator that is sitting there, then look at each other, shrugging shoulders.

James arrives from the top and walks out, joins the others.

TONY (CONT'D)
 Okay, everyone, check this out.

He takes out a quarter from his pocket and drops it along side the sitting elevator. They all peek in the shaft, watch and listen.

The quarter sparks as it transits the false floor.

TONY (CONT'D)
1..2..3..4..5..6..7

BANG. Quarter hits and bounces on the real concrete.

CAPITOL REP
Is this some kind of joke?...cause
I've got a lot going on today.

All four stare down. Indeed there's a concrete floor just below the elevator, but it is a *hologram--a fake floor*.

They're all speechless. Bradely looks at the stunned men.

DETECTIVE BRADELY
James, pull the elevator up.

He pulls out his laptop, hits some keys, elevator goes up. Once again, they all look down and see a concrete floor.

Bradely pulls out some coins.

JAMES
Wait a sec. I want get a video of
this...okay, go ahead.

James pulls out his mobile phone, records the event.

Bradely extends his arm with three coins and drops them all. Amazingly they go through the holographic floor with a flash, hitting far below.

TONY
I see it, but I don't believe it.

Bradely rubs his chin, thinks of something to say. They all stare at each other.

TONY (CONT'D)
There's transmissions coming from
down there. Would be nice--

DETECTIVE BRADELY
This...this can't be shared with
anyone, I mean anyone--

CAPITOL REP
I need everyone's word on that.

They all slowly nod.

JAMES

Weren't we looking for some kid?

They all bend forward, stare into empty shaft.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Son, we've got even bigger problems than that right now. We got a bottomless pit in the middle of the Capitol Building that you say has radio transmissions radiating from.

TONY

Getting down there won't be easy. Doesn't look like there's--

James, Capitol rep, and Tony are frozen, looking down shaft.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Let's pack it up.

TONY

But my cell--

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Pack it up!

EXT. CLAIRE'S HOME - SUBURBAN WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

A Mercedes Benz pulls into circular driveway of classic 2-story home in gorgeous suburban D.C. Claire's clone exits, walks up steps to front door.

INT. CLAIRE'S HOME

Richard rushes downstairs to greet Claire.

RICHARD

Hon, so glad you're home.

CLAIRE'S CLONE

Hmmmm, so glad to be home!

They kiss each other on the cheek in business-like fashion. He subtly looks to the side with concerned glance. He picks up her small suitcase, they up stairs.

RICHARD

Did you get done what you needed to?

CLAIRE'S CLONE

Yes, sorry about the late update.
It was a mess up there without the
power.

RICHARD

Well, all is good here now.

CLAIRE'S CLONE

Work has been crazy...special
interest groups, journalists,
lobbyists. You know the drill.

RICHARD

What would you like to do for
dinner?

Claire's clone takes off clothes, shuffles shoes by the bed.
In bra and underwear, it searches the closet.

CLAIRE'S CLONE

Anything is fine with me, dear.

In the closet, the clone seems lost at first, then focuses on
some clothes.

RICHARD

I'll order something in.

Richard sits on the bed. As he reaches for the phone, he
looks down at the shoes she wears all of the time -- they
appear brand new. They are shiny, no scuff marks whatsoever.

He picks one up to examine.

Looking closer, he discovers a large, complete toenail inside
the shoe. He looks at it, then slowly sets shoe down.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

What about Chinese?

CLAIRE'S CLONE

Sounds excellent.

RICHARD

The usual? Chicken Chow Mein?

CLAIRE CLONE

My favorite!

RICHARD

I know you usually get Chicken
fried rice--

CLAIRE'S CLONE

Oh, either is fine, Sweetie. You're the best. The usual always works.

Richard again frowns and pauses in thought.

Clone walks out of closet in bright red jumpsuit, totally inappropriate for the evening. Socks on. Richard jumps on phone and places order. Clone comes in and picks up shoes.

Clone notices the toenail as it puts its shoes in the closet. It looks to make sure Richard is not watching, and pulls off a sock, then jams toenail back in place.

Clone puts the sock back on and heads downstairs. Richard places phone down slowly, his eyes follow it...

Concerned, he makes sure it is not watching, then goes to closet and finds the shoes it wore. The toenail is gone.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

Meeting in session at a large conference table, including: Detective Bradely, Police Chief Stevens (in full uniform, hat), the Capitol Rep and James.

Also present: the FIRE CHIEF (50's), old school professional, full uniform, and SWAT TEAM LEADER (30's) buffed, coat and tie, ready for any conflict.

On a large white board is a diagram, a cross-section of the of the U. S. Capitol Building. Shows elevator shaft.

CHIEF STEVENS

We've checked twice. The visible floor in the basement is a hologram. We don't know the exact depth of the actual basement.

A collective sigh fills room, they all look at each other.

FIRE CHIEF

That's preposterous!

SWAT TEAM LEADER

(sarcastic)

Just how did you come to that conclusion?

Chief looks to Bradely.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

There were four of us there yesterday, including James and the Rep. We dropped some items down the shaft--took six or seven seconds to hit the actual floor below the basement. I would imagine--

FIRE CHIEF

You mean there's a floor below the floor?

DETECTIVE BRADELY

That's exactly what I mean, Chief.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Well that's easy enough to verify. What's our role? Why bring me in? I've not heard any crime yet.

CHIEF STEVENS

James, you're on.

INT. REPTOID BASE - COMM ROOM - NIGHT

In a back office of the Communications Room, Aurora sits at a computer, facing four monitors. The monitors are of the hallway, the Comm Room next door, the elevator, etc.

The screens show no activity. But, just as she gets ready to turn off the computer by pointing her finger at some controls, she spots someone racing up and down the hallway.

It's Ben!

Aurora watches intently. Pandronis comes up from behind, watches over her shoulder.

PANDRONIS

Is that the young slave wandering about?

Aurora continues watching. Ben checks out many doors.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

You need to get him now! This is unacceptable!

AURORA

He's harmless. He doesn't know how to get out. Today's his last day. Let him roam.

PANDRONIS

Now! And figure out how he got out
of his containment. Who failed?

AURORA

He's gone after tonight, Pandronis.

He stares at her, then storms out.

Aurora watches as Ben puts something on the palm reader, then enters elevator. He is out of sight momentarily.

She points finger to the computer and monitors and they silently turn off.

INT. ELEVATOR - SAME

Ben touches palm pad with his drawing of Aurora's palm, walks in elevator and hits the button for first floor.

Nothing. He hits several times.

Ben is confounded. He looks outside the elevator, then steps back in and hits second floor button several times.

ALARM SOUNDS.

Ben looks up at flashing light: ENTER CODE NOW. He races out.

He checks the door adjacent to elevator. Opens the door the same way. Quick glance. It's the utility room.

High tech panels/read-outs cover one wall: "440V reactor source", "back-up power", both are flashing. Races out, putting a card in his pocket.

Pandronis intercepts Ben in the hallway. Ben retracts. Pandronis grabs him by the shoulder and drags him back to his cell. Ben is thrown on floor.

PANDRONIS

I see Aurora has given you some
privileges.

BEN

She--

PANDRONIS

Doesn't matter. You are unable to
follow our rules. You are of no use
to us now.

BEN

But, she said--

PANDRONIS
I'm scheduling you for the bio-evap
processor--tomorrow!

Ben is shaken, terrified. Shakes head.

BEN
But--

Pandronis slams the door as he exits.

INT. HALLWAY

Pandronis presses button on watch/phone.

PANDRONIS
Kaleb, schedule the young slave for
the *bio-evap processor* tomorrow --
no more delays

KALEB (V.O.)
Yes, Master.

INT. COMM ROOM

Pandronis stands over Kaleb's shoulder.

PANDRONIS
Any feedback from the clone?

KALEB
No, Sir, but she's in the house.
Contact made with human partner.

Aurora walks by. Pandronis turns to her.

PANDRONIS
Tonight! He's gone. Take care of
him.

AURORA
As good as done, Pandronis.

She places her palm on his scaly face.

AURORA (CONT'D)
We're nearly there, the agenda is
manifesting, dear one. We have
London, Rome, and now Washington.

Pandronis arrogantly stands in adoration of himself.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 You will be king, just as we saw it
 many millennia ago. We've got the
 banks, and now we'll have the
 internet...the military will be
 ours.

Pandronis stands up straight, a proud being, then turns and
 walks out.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - U.S. CAPITOL(CONT'D)

CHIEF STEVENS
 (agitated)
 James...James??

JAMES
 Oh, yeah, well the wireless antenna
 in the elevator shaft is
 transmitting for at least 10 miles
 in all directions. Using a spectrum
 analyzer and sensitive receivers,
 we found the source signal is from
 below that "holographic" floor.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
 OK, weird stuff, I'll give you
 that, but Chief, I'm still looking
 for the crime here?

CHIEF STEVENS
 I'll tell you the crime: there's a
 false floor in the U.S. Capitol
 under the elevator, and it's been
 hid for God knows how long.
 Bradely?

DETECTIVE BRADELY
 And we have a missing child who was
 last scene at an elevator at
 Reagan.

Chief Stevens stands up and points to the diagram again.

CHIEF STEVENS
 And we have a missing Senator who
 took this elevator and hasn't been
 seen since.

FIRE CHIEF
 Look, I'm all about finding missing
 kids--

SWAT TEAM LEADER
I'm stuck on this "holographic floor" issue. I gotta see this to believe it. Let's go--

CHIEF STEVENS
James, show him.

James pulls up the video on his phone. Reaches over and shows the Swat Team Lead.

Swat Team Lead slowly shakes head in disbelief.

(beat)

SWAT TEAM LEADER
Well, why are we waiting? Let's check that shaft out right now!

DETECTIVE BRADELY
We think someone or something is transmitting signals from the bottom of that shaft--

FIRE CHIEF
Scaling the shaft won't be such a big deal. We can handle a couple hundred feet--

CHIEF OF POLICE
We have a bigger plan than that...much bigger.

FIRE CHIEF
Count the fire department in--

SWAT TEAM LEADER
I'm in. I can have my team ready in an hour.

CHIEF STEVENS
Good. Fasten your seatbelts.

Chief Stevens pulls out a roll of blueprints and commences to unroll on the table.

INT. REPTOID BASE - BEN'S CELL

Ben scribbles away on his pad when Aurora comes in.

AURORA
And how is Ben today?

BEN
I thought I was leaving. Your
husband, or whoever, says I'm
done....some "evap" something.

She gently picks up the family picture on his bedside stand,
and again admires it.

AURORA
Do your mom and dad ever fight?

BEN
Not much, mostly over money. Dad
never hits Mom, but Mom likes to
argue. Is it day or night now?

AURORA
(gentle)
It's late, Ben. You will not have
to endure this much longer.

BEN
You're nicer than that tall guy.
Your husband is mean. He hates me.
Is he going to kill me tomorrow?

Aurora stares at the pic again, then sets it down softly.

AURORA
May I see your drawings?

Ben flips back to the top page, where there is sketch of her,
and hands it over. Aurora flips through the top two pages.

AURORA (CONT'D)
(endearing)
I've never had anyone draw me
before.

She looks to the side, solemnly.

AURORA (CONT'D)
You are very talented.

She looks again at the sketch.

BEN
I'm scared again.

Tears stream down his face.

AURORA
You and I...we...we have a secret.

Ben looks up.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Can I see your pencil?

He hands it over. Aurora doodles something on it and hands the pad back.

Ben looks at her excellent sketch of him, with the number "1121" below it.

BEN
What's this number for?

AURORA
That's our little secret.

BEN
I saw it on a glass. That's weird.

He stares at her.

BEN (CONT'D)
You people are weird.

AURORA
Weird?

BEN
Are you *people*? Why do you live here?

AURORA
Keep the number in mind. Do you need anything else at this time?

BEN
Why is everyone so cold? Do you have families down here?

AURORA
Yes, we have families, but not like yours. We have families to help with our work.

Ben frowns.

Aurora gets up, hesitates, then swiftly leaves. Ben looks again at her doodle and #1121.

INT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sam is on his laptop. Jessica is giving Faith a bath. Football game in background on TV.

LOUD TEST SIGNAL COMES ON TV.

Sam walks over to check it out. Screen turns black. Silent.

ON TV SCREEN:

"Ben has been well-behaved during his brief tenure with us. We believe we could help Faith as well."

The message keeps scrolling, repeating. Sam just stares, looks in bathroom toward Jessica, then looks at TV.

BACK TO SCENE

He walks over to unplug the TV, then changes his mind and sits back down on the bed.

INT/EXT. CONFERENCE ROOM - U.S. CAPITOL (CONT'D)

All the players focus on the large blueprint of the U.S. Capitol building. Chief Stevens points to the basement:

CHIEF STEVENS

We can stage our equipment here.
Chief, what about this area for
your pumps?

FIRE CHIEF

We can work with that, but--

LOUD KNOCK ON DOOR.

CHIEF STEVENS

(loud)
I said no interruptions!

ADMIN VOICE (V.O.)

Chief, you might need to take the
call, it's Sam Shaeffer.

Chief Stevens heads quickly to door. A FEMALE ADMIN (40ish) hands him a cordless phone. Holds hand over phone.

ADMIN

We got a message for Detective
Bradely too, but I didn't want to
interrupt.

CHIEF STEVENS

Who was *that* one from?

ADMIN

A Richard Fraser. He said--

CHIEF STEVENS

Fraser...Fraser...ah, that's the Senator's husband. I'll let Bradely know. Appreciate it.

Chief shuts door.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)

Bradely, go ahead and check your voicemail, that Senator who went missing...her husband's trying to get a hold of you--make it quick.

DETECTIVE BRADELY

Got it.

Chief Stevens walks out of the conference room, heads down hallway to his office. Answers phone call from Sam.

CHIEF STEVENS

Yes? ... Yes, Bradely informed me of the messages... We have security blanketing that hotel, many eyes on your room. You are all safe... I'll let the detective know. We're tied up this minute. I'll have him call you when we're done here.

Chief takes phone back to admin, storms in conference room.

Detective Bradely stands outside conference room on phone.

INT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM

Jessica walks out of bathroom, toweling Faith.

Sam looks around, avoiding eye contact.

JESSICA

Sam, what's up? Did something come up again?

Sam puts head in hands.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Sam? Sam! You walked outside with your phone, who'd you call?

SAM

Everything's gonna be okay, trust me. Whoever has Ben, well, they don't seem mean.

Jessica sits beside Sam on the bed, then leans on him.

JESSICA
Then why do they have him? Why did
they take our son?

Sam slowly shakes his head.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I'm scared...I want Ben back!
Where's my Adderall?

She scrambles through her purse.

SAM
We're gonna get him, Hon. Ben will
find a way out...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - U.S. CAPITOL (CONT'D)

As the team reviews the blueprints on the table, Bradely
walks back in.

CHIEF STEVENS
Anything new?

DETECTIVE BRADELY
More TV messages. This is bazaar
stuff, no doubt.

Chief looks hard at Bradely.

All sit back down at the large table. James plays a video
game, everyone else is getting settled.

CHIEF STEVENS
Okay, fellas, let's concentrate
here--no more interruptions!

INT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM

Sam sits in corner chair of hotel room in deep thought,
rubbing chin, appears immobilized. He gets up and pulls
curtains back just enough to sneak a peek.

JESSICA
I want out of this shit hole of a
city, Sam! You need to have a plan
today, or I'm booking a train!

SAM
I got it...I got it!

JESSICA

Hear me? We're leaving in morning,
with or without you. I'll hire a
private investigator to find Ben.

INT. RICHARD'S OFFICE - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

Richard Fraser sits at a large desk. He opens a file, looks
it over for a moment, then slams shut.

Picks up phone and dials.

RICHARD

Yes, put me through to Senator
Fraser, please. Tell her it's
Richard, thank you...
Hi, Sweetie, just making sure you
got settled back in...
Homeland Security sub-committee?
What's going on with that?...
Didn't know you were the chair, and
why all the fuss over codes and
I.P. addresses and that stuff?

Richard leans back in his chair, confounded, shakes his head.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Okay then, see you tonight.

He sets phone down slowly. Rubs his eyes...combs hair
stressfully with his fingers.

EXT. SAM AND JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Just outside the door, we hear Jessica wailing. We hear a
lamp crash to the wall.

JESSICA (V.O.)

(yells)

Do something, Sam! Just, for once,
get plugged in!

As sun sets, the skyline of the U.S. Capitol becomes the
backdrop for the hotel.

INT. REPTOID BASE - HALLWAY - LATE NIGHT

Elevator doors fly open. TWO MEN dressed in black SWAT gear,
heavily armed, peek out, then step into the all-quiet, dimly-
lit hallway.

SWAT MAN #1

(on megaphone)

Surrender now, you are surrounded!

(MORE)

SWAT MAN #1 (CONT'D)
You have no way out. I repeat, you
are surrounded!

No response. All remains dead silent in the complex.

INT. COMM ROOM

Kaleb, drowsy, sees the two men on his monitor.

He, Nauster, and Kelkmund quickly and quietly put on their
battle gear, vests, including laser rifles.

Kaleb motions to wait inside.

INT. HALLWAY - ELEVATOR AREA

Swat man #2 pulls out a spray can and paints hallway camera.

INT. COMM ROOM

Kaleb sees monitor of hallway go black.

INT. HALLWAY

SWAT MAN #1 (CONT'D)
(on megaphone)
This is your last opportunity! You
cannot get out alive.

Silence.

The two men look in both directions, up and down hallway.
Nothing. They jump back on elevator. Doors close.

Kaleb peeks out of Comm Room, looks both ways. Nothing.

Suddenly elevator doors open again, SIX SWAT MEN step into
hallway in full armor with AR-15's ready. Four of them race
into the adjacent utility room next to elevator.

INT. HIGH-TECH UTILITY ROOM

Swat man #1 turns off all main power disconnects, including
back-up power. All lights and all power in complex goes out.

All four remain in the room, donning infrared goggles.

LOUD ALARM BEEPS THROUGHOUT COMPLEX

INT. COMM ROOM

Kaleb finds and presses a few buttons near the door.

INT. HALLWAY - NEAR COMM ROOM

A large, metallic shield rises from the middle of the floor.

Kaleb, Nauster, and Kelkmund, their eyes radiate laser-beam brightness, rush into the hallway, get into position behind the shield.

They open fire on the two SWAT men.

The two SWAT members return fire. Their weapons are equal to the reptoids, but the reptoids shape shift to smaller bodies.

FLURRY OF GUN FIRE. RINGING LASER SHOTS. BULLETS RICOCHET OFF WALLS AND METAL SHIELD.

The only light is from the devilish-red eyes of the reptoids.

The two SWAT men jump back in elevator for protection.

INT. FAR END OF HALLWAY - AROUND A CORNER

Pandronis storms out of his room into the hallway. Aurora follows him.

Pandronis turns to Aurora.

PANDRONIS

(enraged)

You caused this! This is yours!
You've destroyed our mission here!

Bullets hit near them.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

You will pay for this!

INT. HALLWAY - ELEVATOR AREA

The two SWAT men fire from the elevator opening. Through the darkness, red-laser beams from the reptoids' eyes focus on the chests of one of the two SWAT men.

He goes down.

The second SWAT man returns fire, but gets hit as well. Their bodies hit the floor, smolder from the attack.

One lies motionless. The other shakes, fingers trembling, fist clinching. No blood.

Kaleb rushes into the utility room next to elevator.

INT. UTILITY ROOM

Kaleb flips on the power. Alarms stop.

Just as he does, the four SWAT men hidden in the room put their guns to the back of Kaleb's head. He drops his weapon.

INT. HALLWAY - ELEVATOR AREA

Nauster and Kelkmund slowly approach the two fallen SWAT men. Nauster kicks one, appears dead. Same with second one.

He bends over and pulls off one mask--it is Claire's clone!

Pulls off second mask--it is the smoldering clone of Ambassador Deerfield!

INT. UTILITY ROOM

SWAT man #1 watches the hallway action with his phone. Camera mounted on the clones shows the two reptoids.

He clicks a button. A bomb on each clone blows up Nauster and Kelkmund. BAM...BAM.

SWAT man #1 pulls off his mask. It's the SWAT team leader from the meetings with police.

INT. HALLWAY - AROUND THE CORNER

Padronis and Aurora stand toe-to-toe.

PANDRONIS (CONT'D)

I should have known...you and the young slave--

AURORA

This was all wrong. I see it now. We were wrong. We were *very* wrong.

Pandronis stares, then starts to hit her. She does not budge. Her power is equal to his as she raises her hand.

PANDRONIS

You're doomed now! You're now the slave! The humans will torture you for information, then kill you...you fool!

AURORA

No, Pandronis, I've found peace. The humans know peace. They don't deserve what we had planned for them.

PANDRONIS

You're soft now, vulnerable. You disgust me.

She stands calmly, unwavering.

AURORA

I've discovered a peace within my being. Something you will never know...it requires self-reflection.

PANDRONIS

Self-reflection, ha! Peace never controlled anything--not on this planet, not anywhere.

He arrogantly stands upright, then turns and races away, toward the shuttle door opening nearby. He stops.

Aurora watches him, expressionless. Pandronis places his hand on a round box on the wall, waits for green light.

He opens the lid, then presses a button inside.

INT. COMM ROOM

All the main computers start to smolder, then melt slowly. The manual from London catches fire. Monitors melt. The clone in the tube is frozen like wax, then starts to melt.

INT. UTILITY ROOM

Kaleb remains with three guns to his head. Swat team leader stands face-to-face with him, another swat man handcuffs him.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Tell the rest of your cult to surrender. You have no choice.

Kaleb shape shifts into an attractive, seductive lady.

KALEB

(female voice)

You have no power down here. Go ahead take me up. I'll be released immediately. I'm just a poor admin assistant under their control.

Swat team leader hesitates, then shoots Kaleb in the foot, nearly blowing it off. Kaleb falls screaming, shape shifts back to his reptoid self.

He bends over and is able to heal the foot back to normal.

KALEB (CONT'D)

Okay! Okay!

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Here's the megaphone. Now call 'em
or you're dead...I doubt your head
would grow back.

He places the gun to Kaleb's head. Kaleb steps into hallway.

INT. HALLWAY (CONTINUOUS)

KALEB

All personnel, this is Kaleb.
Nauster and Kelkmund are dead.
Surrender now, hands in the air. We
have no choice. We have no Comms.

Swat team stands, guns to Kaleb's head.

A voice can be heard a few feet away near elevator. The head
of Claire's clone has rolled away from the blast.

CLAIRE CLONE

(computer voice)

I am Claire Fraser, U.S. Senator.
I'm married to Richard Fraser...

The Swat Team leader walks to the clone and reaches down and
pulls out the cylinder from behind its head. It is silenced.

From further down the hallway, march FOUR SMALLER REPTOIDS
hands in the air.

All five reptoids are handcuffed facing wall near elevator.

INT. HALLWAY - AROUND THE CORNER

Aurora stands and stoically watches Pandronis at the shuttle.

Pandronis places his palm on the palm reader, shuttle door
opens. He jumps in quickly, door shuts behind him. WHOOSH.

INT. HALLWAY - ELEVATOR AREA

SWAT TEAM LEADER

I think we have them all but
two...the two leaders.

Just then, little Ben comes around the corner from Aurora's
area. Swat team all raise their rifles, point, guns cocked.

BEN

Don't shoot! Don't shoot! It's me,
Ben.

The swat team all look at each other, shocked, lower guns.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
Isn't Ben up on top?

SWAT MAN #2
That's what I thought.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
(yells)
Stop! How do we know you're Ben?

Ben slows his walk.

BEN
My mom is Jessica. My dad is Sam.
These people captured me because I
saw what happened to those pilots.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
What are you doing down here?

Ben hesitates. Swat team leader suspiciously stares.

SWAT TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
What's your middle name?

Ben, hesitant, rolls eyes. Swat leader raises gun.

SWAT TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
It's not Ben! Guns ready! Stop or
we'll shoot!

Three swat members surround Ben, guns at his head.

BEN
Ok! Ok! Just back up a bit.

The image of Ben slowly shape shifts back to Aurora.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
Another stunt like that and you're
a dead reptile. You Got that, Queen
Freak? My orders are dead or alive.

Aurora nods.

SWAT TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
Where' your scaly half?

AURORA
He's gone.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
Gone? Where could he possibly go?

AURORA

To Denver.

Swat leader turns to his team.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Two of you, clear all the rooms,
take pics of any equipment you
find. Bring me any files or
drives...and find that beast! He's
got to be down here somewhere.

INT. HIGH-SPEED UNDERGROUND SHUTTLE

On a black pad, Padronis points finger, monitors go on.
Computer voice comes on.

COMPUTER VOICE

(female/monotone)

What is your destination today,
Pandronis.

PANDRONIS

Denver, DIA--Airport Pod

COMPUTER VOICE

Very well, Sir. Your ETA today is
three hours, fifteen minutes.

Pandronis points to the black pad in front of him, high-speed
shuttle takes off, accelerates quickly.

He sits back in leather seat. Six or eight monitors come on--
all news channels from around the world.

INT. HALLWAY NEAR ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)

Aurora is thrown against the wall, handcuffed, facing wall
with the others.

Two swat team members go in and out of the comm room and all
the cells. While in the comm room, they notice the second
clone, melted in a large tube, with mechanical bones. All
equipment is melted.

They go to far end of hallway and discover the doors to the
shuttle. They see the tracks/rails.

MOMENTS LATER...

SWAT MAN #2

No one, Sir, just a weird mannikin,
or whatever. I got a manual of some
sort, partially burned.

(MORE)

SWAT MAN #2 (CONT'D)

All equipment destroyed. Nothing to recover, Sir. There is, however, at the end of that hallway, some type of underground train.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Good job, but we're still missing the leader--

AURORA

You'll never find him! He's too smart. No need to waste your time.

Swat leader puts gun to Aurora's throat.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Where is he?

AURORA

I already told you. Are your ears not functional?

Swat man #2 puts gun to her head, cocks.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

The choice is yours...dead or alive. Matters not to us. If you're dead, that frees up just that much more oxygen.

Swat team leader turns to his team, pulls out his radio.

SWAT TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)

Okay, drop the elevator. We're coming up. If there's anyone left, we'll flood 'em out.

One by one, the reptoids are taken up.

Moments later, four massive fire hoses drop down elevator shaft. Water surges out...the floors fill with water; all equipment floods. All rooms fill completely. The underground base is destroyed.

No Pandronis.

INT. BASEMENT - U.S. CAPITOL - MORNING

One by one the handcuffed reptoids are escorted from the elevator to a secret hallway protected by armed guards.

The hallway comes to a secluded stairway going up.

EXT. SECLUDED PARKING LOT - U.S. CAPITOL - EARLY MORNING

One by one the now-hooded reptoids are escorted into a couple black SUV's. They race off into a morning fog.

INT. BASEMENT - U.S. CAPITOL - MORNING

Two swat team members escort a handcuffed Aurora through a door in the basement that leads to a hidden pair of jail cells. She's pushed into one by the swat team leader.

She shows no resistance.

SWAT MAN #1
You freak! Who are you, or, rather
what are you anyway?

Aurora sits down quietly on a small bed. Swat man #1 SLAMS the barred jail door.

SWAT MAN #1 (CONT'D)
You're in for a real treat. I know
people who will get the intel from
you. You have no power here--

Aurora looks up at him calmly, then shape-shifts into him, speaking just like him.

AURORA
(in swat man's voice)
...I know people who will get it
out of you. You have no power here.

The two swat team member just stare in shock, then look at each other as Aurora shape-shifts back to herself. She quietly stares at the wall.

She suddenly stands up, faces them pointing her fingers, and sends a bolt of invisible energy toward them that shatters and jars all of the bars of the cell, shaking the floor.

The two are knocked to the ground.

In fear, they pull out their weapons, point at her, then back away slowly.

SWAT MAN #1
I don't believe it. I saw it, but I
don't believe it.

Aurora walks to bars.

AURORA
(strong)
Bring me the boy!

The men stop and turn around.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 (softer)
 Bring me Ben. I will not harm him.

They leave.

AURORA (V.O.)
 Bring me the boy!

They exit the jail area, enter open basement area.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CAPITOL P.D. - DAY

Chief Stevens, Detective Bradely, and the Shaeffer family sit at the conference table. Ben sits next to his mom, leaning on her, while Faith is in Sam's lap.

A much lighter mood. Jovial atmosphere.

Claire and Richard sit on the side, holding hands.

SAM
 We don't know how to thank you and
 Detective Bradely enough--

CHIEF STEVENS
 Well, we had quite a team,
 including Ben himself.

SAM
 Ben?

Chief Stevens pulls out Ben's book bag, lays it on the table. He reaches in and pulls out Ben's phone.

CHIEF STEVENS
 You see, Ben did most of the
 investigation for us.

Sam and Jessica look at Ben, who simply shrugs his shoulders.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
 You see, Ben sent this up the
 elevator. An aide found it.

He hits a button:

BEN (V.O.)

My name is Ben Shaeffer...I'm 9 years old and I'm below ground somewhere with these weird, snake people...they took me from my mom and dad at the airport...her Name is Jessica and Dad's name is Sam Shaeffer. It was a long ride down here...one scaly lady comes in all the time and asks me questions ...she says I'm leaving soon...but I don't believe her...she put her hand up one time and threw me across the room...

Jessica stares at Sam in terror.

BEN (V.O.)

... then one time she healed my breathing...and now I can breathe okay...I miss my mom and dad and my sister...and I want to come home...

Sam and Jessica just stare at each other, then Ben. Jessica puts her arm around Ben, holds him tight, sniffles a bit.

BEN (V.O.)

...I tried to come up the elevator once, but it didn't work, so I'm leaving my phone in here...there's lots of pictures in it. Maybe someone can come and get me.... there's more people down here...

Chief Stevens stops the recording.

JESSICA

So, Honey, how did you get up the elevator? How did you even get out of your cell.

BEN

I had time to think about things. I figured out the box by the doors, it was not hard to draw her palm---

MONTAGE OF IMAGES:

- Ben taking pictures of Aurora's palm
- Ben sees the 1121 that Aurora gave him
- Sends phone up elevator

- draws palm in back of notebook, puts in back pack
- uses palm drawing to exit cell/access elevator
- sends backpack up with notes, drawings of complex
- watches Nauster sleep at 4 a.m. on many occasions
- Ben races around opening all cell doors
- Ben jumps in elevator with three other prisoners.

END OF MONTAGE

All in the conference room are quiet.

CLAIRE

Your son...your son... what a young man. I owe my life to him.

Claire squeezes Richard's hand tighter. KNOCK on door.

CHIEF STEVENS

Come in.

Swat man #1 hustles over and whispers something in Chief's ear. The chief looks at Ben, then Jessica.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll let them know.

SAM

You say, the "cult down there"... they're all captured?

CHIEF STEVENS

Right.

Chief Stevens pulls out the large note pad from Ben's book bag. He skips to back pages and lays it down for all to see.

In great detail Ben had drawn the layout of the underground facility, the hallways, the comm room, and even the open utility room next to elevator. .

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)

Ben gave us everything we needed. We had discovered the depth of the elevator shaft a few days ago, but nothing more than that. Ben's phone arrived with the missing pieces.

The Chief pulls out a folded up, pencil drawing of Aurora's palm print that Ben had used to get out.

CHIEF STEVENS (CONT'D)
This was the "key".

Sam and Jessica just stare.

The Chief picks up the phone again, and plays more messages.

We see a reprise of Ben holding his phone in the bathroom near the high vent:

PANDRONIS (V.O.)
...we have London and Rome, now
we'll have Washington...once we get
this clone up there, we'll have the
codes to control....the military.

Jessica covers her mouth, Claire shakes her head, while Sam stares at Ben, who is making faces at Faith.

Continue recording on phone:

PANDRONIS (V.O.)
When will the clone be ready to
send up? Is it programmed to get
the IP addresses and router
codes?...

The Chief stops the recording.

CHIEF STEVENS
We had no idea of this cult or
their power. I can't say enough
about your son.

From Ben's phone, the Chief pulls up pictures of Aurora, the comm room, the hallway, and other reptoids.

Jessica covers her face.

FAITH
Cool. Can we see that thing?

Jessica puts her finger to her lips.

CHIEF STEVENS
Of course all of this is top
secret. You'll need to sign some
paperwork--

SAM
No problem, no problem at all.

The room is eerily quiet. The Chief clears his throat. Looks at Jessica, then Sam.

CHIEF STEVENS

(hesitating)

There's one more thing... Aurora,
the female leader, she...she wants
to see Ben. I--

JESSICA

Well, that ain't happenin'! You
mean she's in this building?

CHIEF STEVENS

She's locked up in a jail cell.

Chief looks at her.

JESSICA

For Gods' sake, Sam, tell him no
dice, we're outta here--

BEN

Mommy, she healed me, she won't
hurt me. Please? You can go with
me. Trust me...this time.

Jessica glares at him, then stares at the quiet Sam.

BEN (CONT'D)

She can heal Faith. She can heal
anything, if you're nice to her.

CHIEF STEVENS

Just so you know, she's in a cell
downstairs. Not pretty--

JESSICA

No joke! For God's sake, I saw the
pics! She's a demon from hell,
that's what she is!

Sam puts his arm around the shaken Jessica.

INT. JAIL AREA - BASEMENT U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

The basement door to the two jail cell area opens. Two armed
guards with rifles drawn, accompany Jessica through door.

Sam with kids, along with Chief Stevens and Detective Bradely
wait just outside the jail area door, watching on a monitor.

Jessica walks slowly up to jail cell where Aurora sits on the
small bed. Aurora stands slowly, walks to bars and faces
Jessica. Jessica fearfully covers her mouth.

She slowly backs up to the wall.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 (subdued)
 You...you took my son.

Aurora looks deeply into Jessica's eyes.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 (solemn)
 You took Ben from me...but...but
 you healed him...you healed his
 lungs. He is well now...

Aurora looks away in deep thought.

Jessica nervously takes a step toward Aurora's cell.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Can you heal my daughter, she--

Aurora simply stares at the wall.

AURORA
 (gently)
 I lost a son once.

Jessica looks inquisitively.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 I had feelings for him that I did
 not understand at the time...

She turns, steps to the bars, looks into Jessica's eyes.

AURORA (CONT'D)
 And now I do.

JESSICA
 My daughter, she--

AURORA
 (loud)
 Bring him to me!

JESSICA
 But, my--

AURORA
 Bring Ben to me! Now!

Jessica steps back in shock, again walks backwards. Guards step up to her, guns raised, and quickly escort her back through the door.

INT. BASEMENT - U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

Guards bring Jessica back to Sam. She lunges at him, holds him tight.

JESSICA

(sobbing)

She's a freak, Sam, a freak. She wants to see Ben... Oh, God.

BEN

It's okay, Mom. She likes me. She won't kill me, trust me.

JESSICA

I lost you once. I don't trust that...that thing in there--

SAM

Jess, what can she do? The guards will be with him.

Jessica looks at Sam then at Ben.

JESSICA

You stay away from those bars, do you hear me, Benjamin Shaeffer?

BEN

I will, Mom.

INT. JAIL AREA

Ben walks slowly up to Aurora's jail cell, stands back a few feet.

Guards watch intently, guns pointed at Aurora.

AURORA

(lovingly)

Hello, Ben.

BEN

Hi. I'm with my family now, just like you said. You kept your promise.

AURORA

You did really well. You're such a fine young boy.

She walks to the bars reaches her hand out.

BEN

Can you heal my sister now?

Aurora looks around, then peeks toward the closed door and the two armed guards, guns still pointed at her.

AURORA
Can I tell you a secret?

BEN
Okay.

AURORA
Come here, come closer to me.

Ben edges toward her. Aurora puts her chin between the bars, both hands reach through bars, touching Ben's shoulders. He is unshaken.

Guards cock their guns.

AURORA (CONT'D)
(whispers)
You, Ben, you have the power to
heal Faith.

Ben stands firm, a bit confused, innocently looking into Aurora's eyes.

BEN
Me?

AURORA
Come a little closer.

She pulls her hands back a bit, palms facing him.

The two armed guards move forward.

Suddenly, a glowing, multi-colored light emanates from her palms to Ben. His "aura", the field around him, lights up all around him.

AURORA (CONT'D)
I give my powers to you, only you.

Eyes closed, Ben is frozen. He steps back...smiles at her with renewed confidence and maturity.

AURORA (CONT'D)
I'll be going away soon, Ben. You
have been a good teacher for me. I
am much wiser because of you.

Tears well up in Ben's eyes.

BEN

(sad)

Where are you going?

AURORA

Go now ...you take good care of
your family.

Ben continues to stare for a moment, then rushes to the jail bars. Aurora puts her arms around him. They hug briefly.

Ben quickly pulls back and rushes through the door, races to Jessica, holds her tight.

Aurora watches intently, then sinks into herself, sits back on the bed. Ben races back to her jail cell.

He pulls out the family picture that Aurora liked so well.

BEN

This is for you...if you want it.

Aurora takes the picture and slowly nods. Ben races back out.

Aurora focuses on the picture.

Her eyes are dark red with sadness. She transforms into an old, wrinkled being -- her powers have vanished. She lies down on the bed, clutching the picture.

Her breathing slows down, a few gasps, then it stops.

The picture remains clinched in her fist.

EXT. SUBURBAN BACKYARD - DAY

Sam, over-dressed as a cook-wanta-be, stands over a hot grill, flipping burgers, turning chicken.

Faith jumps on her small swing set.

Ben sits at the picnic table, plays games on his phone.

Jessica scuttles out sliding door to patio with silverware.

JESSICA

(unusually jovial)

Are we about ready to get this show
on the road?

SAM

Five minutes, Hon, and we've got
chicken and burgers.

JESSICA
Sounds great!

Jessica sets the plates, cups, etc., on the picnic table. Ben puts his phone down and helps. She spreads out a salad and some chips.

Sam brings over the food. Faith sits down next to Ben.

Sam says a short prayer.

SAM
Jess, I saw your bottle of Adderall
in the trash, so I fished it out
for you.

Confident/calm, Jessica cuts up a sandwich for Faith.

JESSICA
I threw it out. I don't need it
anymore. I haven't felt this good
since our wedding day.

SAM
And, Faith, where are your glasses?
Did you lose them.

FAITH
I think they're in my room, but
when I woke up this morning, my
eyes were good without them. I see
really good now.

BEN
Would someone please pass the
potato salad?

He grabs some food from the bowls. Eats heartily.

Jessica and Sam share a quick glance at each other.

(beat)

Ben plays a game on his phone as he eats.

Jessica looks to Ben:

JESSICA
Ben, did you have anything to do
with Faith's eyes?

BEN

This hamburger is great. Those snake people never gave me a hamburger, or even a coke.

Jessica looks at Sam with a contented smile.

JESSICA

Ben?

SAM

Mommy's PTSD?

BEN

Dad, can we play catch later? I need to practice for my little league team.

SAM

Sure, Buddy, you got it.

FAITH

I had a weird dream where Ben and I were on an airplane and Ben was the pilot. He had a suit and everything. But we had bad, bad weather. Ben pulled the plane up higher and saved lots of people, then I could see good with no glasses. Isn't that weird?

Jessica sheds tears of joy. Sam is stunned, then puts his arm around Jessica. Ben and Faith are giggling as Ben makes a face at her.

JESSICA

This family is the best. I love you all so much.

As they eat, Ben still hits a few buttons on his phone.

Pictures come up.

He enlarges one particular picture. It is of Aurora facing him in his underground cell.

He sets his phone down revealing Aurora's mighty palms.

Ben gets up and walks through the yard and picks up his baseball mit from the ground. He hits the mit hard with his free hand.

BEN

Let's go Dad.

Ben looks up. He sees the billowing, fast-moving clouds race across the blue sky.

Suddenly, his brown eyes turn green, with vertically-slit pupils. The sky reflected in his eyes.

Small scales manifest on his neck and the back of his hands.

He slaps a baseball in the mit repeatedly, then shapeshifts back to his human self, scales disappear.

He throws a baseball straight up...it goes hundreds of feet, then he catches it

SAM

OK...let's play ball! Throw me some fast ones...

THE END