

LAST WOMAN

by

Sandi Jerome

sandi.jerome@gmail.com
772-203-4468
SandiJerome.com
V3112023c

INT. OLD BARN -- NIGHT

The old barn is decorated for a Halloween party and alive with CHILDREN(9-12) who move from one game to another, laughing and teasing each other. Based on their attire, it appears to be in the late 1600s, about the time of the Salem Witch Trials.

Behind the apple bobbing table, a cloaked woman in the shadows, watches a YOUNG GIRL (10) dressed like a witch. The little girl is all alone as she moves from game to game.

Both frail and pale, the child seems frightened by the other children who occasionally taunt her. Finally, the little girl stops at the apple tub.

The cloaked woman, DANIELLE (19), steps out of the shadows as the little girl dunks into the tub, bites into an apple and takes it from the water. She takes a few more bites and shows a slight smile of pleasure.

The little girl stops chewing and collapses to the floor, gasping for air. Terror spreads across her young face.

Danielle throws back her hood and kneels beside the girl. Her flowing hair frames the look of concern on her face.

She reaches into a pouch, takes out some herbs, and coaxes the girl to chew on them. In a few moments, the girl calms and breathes normally.

Danielle backs toward the shadows, but before she can escape, the WOMEN watching from the other side of the room run after her, shouting.

WOMEN

Witch! Witch!

A MAN (20s) grabs a rope from the lasso game and tackles Danielle before she can retreat.

MAN

We hang witches in God's country.

He pins her down and loops the rope around her neck. Danielle struggles, but the man is too large. She grabs the rope and tries to stop the tightening as he drags her across the floor toward a large beam.

The women tear her hands away, and the rope tightens around her neck.

DANIELLE

Leave me alone.

Various lights on the stage and above click on as a thundering voice booms from the darkness.

CARSON (O.S.)
Stop, stop, stop.

Now illuminated, we can see an empty but modern-day theater as a tyrant of a director, CARSON MACKAY (30s), runs up the stage steps. He stands towering over Danielle.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Leave me alone? Did you read my play?

Danielle gets up, removes the rope and rubs her neck.

DANIELLE
That's the line. Leave me alone.

CARSON
She begs them to leave her alone. Begs. She begs.

DANIELLE
I didn't read it that way. She watches the frail little girl. All the hurt and frustration from twenty years of being scorned and teased boils to the surface. She is angry.

CARSON
Wrong, wrong, wrong. She is terrified. She begs them to leave her alone. She has been alone her whole life.

DANIELLE
Exactly. She is angry. She never wanted to be alone.

Carson throws down his copy of the play.

CARSON
I wrote this. You will either say the line the right way, or I'll pick one of the other six girls who begged for this part.

He turns to the actors.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Dinner. Back again in costume at eight.

He glares at Danielle.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Practice your terror, or don't come
back.

INT. OLD BARN -- LATER

Danielle lays on the floor with the rope around her neck. Each time she says her lines, she emphasizes a different word. Now we can tell she is a young college coed, full of eagerness and innocence.

DANIELLE
Leave me alone. Leave me alone.
Leave me alone.

Now she switches into different voices and accents.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Leave me alone, thou art to leave
me alone. I say, my good fellow,
could you please leave me alone?

Her exhaustion turns into childish giggles as she pulls the rope over her head and rubs her neck. She hears footsteps and turns toward the now darkened theater seats.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Who's there?

The footsteps continue.

CARSON
You laugh at my work?

The footsteps get nearer as Carson comes up the steps of the stage.

CARSON (CONT'D)
How hard is it to act terrified?
Does nothing scare you?

Danielle looks around.

CARSON (CONT'D)
We are alone. The doors are locked.

Carson picks up the rope and strokes it. Danielle starts to get up, but he pushes her down. He grabs her throat with both his hands.

CARSON (CONT'D)
That's it. Terror in your eyes.
Terror in your lips. Look at your
quivering lips.

He kisses her roughly. He bites her lip until it bleeds. She struggles.

DANIELLE
Leave me alone.

CARSON
Better.

He reaches into her cloak.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Your skin quivers. Sweat begins to
form. Terror.

He moves on top of her. He tries to kiss her again, but she jerks her head back and forth.

DANIELLE
Leave me alone.

CARSON
That's it. Terror. That's what I
want from you.

He chokes her.

CARSON (CONT'D)
I want you to beg.

She coughs and gasps for air. He mimics her voice.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Leave me alone. Leave me alone.
Leave me alone.

He tightens his grip, and she goes limp. He puts the rope around her neck and drags her off the stage.

INT. STAGE RAFTERS -- NIGHT

Danielle regains consciousness. She sits naked on a catwalk with the rope around her neck. Her hands are tied behind her back, and a scarf stuffed in her mouth mutes her screams.

Carson roughly grabs her and throws her off the catwalk. She drops to another step below.

She swings and dangles until her toes make contact with the grated stairs, preventing the rope from choking her.

Carson jumps down to her level and strokes her naked leg.

CARSON

Now you know terror. Now I know
you. Your soft young body fuels me.
I tasted your youth; I tasted your
love...

He continues up her leg, then circles her stomach. Onward.

CARSON (CONT'D)

...I tasted your heart, your
breath. I tasted your blood.

He leans over and licks a speck of blood from her bottom lip.

CARSON (CONT'D)

You gave me such a gift tonight. I
regret that we do not have the time
for me to repay you now that you
are awake and can enjoy my lessons.

He puts the cloak around her, tightens the rope around her neck and pulls the scarf out of her mouth. He muffles her scream with a brutal kiss before stuffing the scarf back into her mouth.

CARSON (CONT'D)

But alas, you are thankful. I can
see it in your eyes. Anger turns to
fear. I have taught you, terror.

He roughly pushes her off the step.

CARSON (CONT'D)

I will leave you alone.

Danielle hangs.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- DAY

An older Danielle slowly wakes up. She stretches, and we can see that time has passed. There are a few wrinkles around her eyes and she no longer has the youthful eagerness of a college coed. She is a woman now in her thirties.

As Danielle turns her head toward the closet, we see dark scars around her neck. She focuses her sleep-filled eyes and spots Carson standing just inside the walk-in closet.

She SCREAMS and jumps out of bed.

DANIELLE

Bryan!

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

She runs into the hallway and toward the stairs.

DANIELLE

Bryan, Bryan, Bryan!

The sound of footsteps coming up the stairs, and a rugged yet handsome man, BRYAN FRANKLIN (30s,) catches Danielle as she tumbles toward him. He holds her for a brief moment, then dashes toward the bedroom.

She grabs the handrail, terrified. In a few moments, he returns.

BRYAN

Nobody there. You're okay.

Danielle lets go of the handrail, collapses into his arms and SOBS. He gently strokes her hair as he helps her get up and then guides her back to the bedroom.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

The coffee is almost done.

Danielle stumbles back toward her bedroom, SOBBING. Standing in another doorway is a young girl, CHANDRA (8,) a tiny miniature of Danielle. Bryan looks at the little girl, who pivots, returns to her room, then SLAMS the door.

For a moment, he looks toward their bedroom, where he can faintly hear Danielle's diminishing SOBS and then back at the closed door of his daughter.

Bryan appears conflicted, but shakes it off and heads down the stairs.

INT. DANIELLE'S BATHROOM -- DAY

It's a whole different Danielle, who is freshly showered, dressed and puts on her makeup. A beautiful scarf lies on the counter. Chandra comes up behind her mother and hands it to her mother.

CHANDRA

Your bad dreams woke me up again.

Danielle nods and takes the scarf from Chandra. She ties it around her neck, then adjusts it to hide the horrible scars.

Looking at herself in the mirror, Danielle dabs a little makeup on the tiny portion of the scar that isn't hidden by the scarf.

CHANDRA (CONT'D)
You look pretty, Momma.

She spins around and swoops the girl into her arms.

DANIELLE
You are the pretty one.

CHANDRA AND DANIELLE
No, you, you, you...

They break into a "you" battle and giggle together until they are out of breath. Recovering, Danielle strokes Chandra's hair. Danielle kisses her before putting her down.

DANIELLE
Ready for school?

Chandra's pants slide down.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Where is your belt?

CHANDRA
I left it at school.

Danielle unties the scarf from around her neck.

CHANDRA (CONT'D)
No, Momma, your scars. You need to
hide your scars.

Danielle shakes her head and threads the scarf through Chandra's belt loops. She kisses Chandra on the head and gives her a little pat sending Chandra out of the room.

After Chandra leaves, Danielle opens a custom built-in drawer that contains hundreds of scarves. She selects one and ties it around her neck.

DANIELLE
(to herself)
Some you can't hide.

INT. DANIELLE'S KITCHEN -- DAY

Danielle sips her coffee while she clears the dishes from the table. Bryan stuffs a laptop into his computer case and grabs the car keys from a peg.

BRYAN
Everybody ready?

Chandra comes into the kitchen carrying a hamster cage. Danielle takes one look at it, and her smile disappears.

DANIELLE
This week?

CHANDRA
Didn't you buy one?

Danielle looks to Bryan for help. Bryan takes the cage from Chandra.

BRYAN
Mommy and I were running late last night. We couldn't stop. Let's take him in next week, okay?

Chandra bites her lip. She fights off tears.

CHANDRA
This is my week. You promised.

It's a standoff. Chandra still has a hand on the cage, and Danielle's and Bryan's heads hang down. Danielle looks at the cage again and plays with the door a little.

DANIELLE
Go ahead and take Mr. Ping to school.

Danielle takes the cage, then grabs a tie twist from a loaf of bread and twists the door shut on the cage.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
You'll make sure his cage shuts every time? And put the tie back on the door?

Chandra nods. Danielle grabs another set of keys from the peg.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I'll get the new cage today. Tell Miss Angie that I'll bring it in tomorrow.

Bryan grabs her hand.

BRYAN
You sure? I could cancel...

Danielle cuts him off.

DANIELLE
I'm fine. After we snag the UniBank account this morning, I'll take off early and go while it is still daylight.

Danielle grabs her laptop purse and hands the cage to Bryan.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Last one out is a poopy diaper.

Chandra knows the routine and starts chasing her mother toward the kitchen door to the garage. Danielle fakes to the left and then back around the kitchen island.

In the meantime, Bryan opens the door to the garage and turns on the garage light. He nods an "okay" to Danielle, who now runs toward the door with Chandra trying to catch her.

Chandra is the first one in the car, and she shuts her car door. Bryan grabs Danielle's arm and pulls her back to talk.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I'm okay. I'm dealing with it.

BRYAN
No, you're not. It's getting worse.

They both look over at Chandra, who puts on her seat belt.

BRYAN (CONT'D)
You need to start up your sessions with Megan again.

Danielle shakes her head.

DANIELLE
Work is madness. I don't have the time.

Bryan hugs her, then while holding onto her looks deeply into her eyes.

BRYAN
I'm worried. Make the time. We need you.

He gestures to Chandra and then heads to his car. Danielle notices that Chandra is waving like a queen and sticking out her tongue. Danielle laughs and mirrors the wave and Chandra's face.

As she watches Bryan drive away, she SIGHS and smiles. Then she looks around the empty garage. Her cell phone PINGS and she reads the text. Her smile turns to a frown as she glances back at the door back into the house.

She clicks to unlock her EV car, rushes toward it, jumps in and clicks again to lock the doors and pulls out.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING SECURITY DOOR -- DAY

Danielle approaches a thick security door. Out of habit, she rubs her hand down her tailored slacks before she places it on the glowing hand scanner.

Danielle stares at the watch on her other wrist. The door opens with a click.

DANIELLE

Six seconds.

A few feet ahead is another door with a chin rest. It's an effort, but Danielle watches her watch as the optical scanner inspects her right eye. The door opens with a click.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Nine seconds.

She sprints to a third door and spits at it. It clicks open.

She turns to her right and looks back at the three doors. They are actually mock-ups positioned at the front of a tastefully decorated conference room.

Several bank EXECUTIVES sit around the table break out into laughter. One of the bankers, FRANK PRUETT (50s,) stands up and examines the door.

FRANK

You want our employees to spit?
What about Covid?

Danielle has lost control of the room as the group makes jokes between themselves and pretend to spit at the floor, the table and each other. Danielle doesn't seem too concerned as she slowly pours herself a glass of water.

DANIELLE

These doors constantly spray a non-toxic disinfecting mist. Fourteen thousand employees -- five to eight seconds savings each and with the reduced transmission of viruses...

The laughter turns into the kind of thoughtful nods that you get whenever you talk to bankers about making more money. Frank starts to make some frantic calculations on a notepad but stops when his pen runs dry.

He shakes it -- no luck. Danielle takes the pen from him, licks it and then makes doodling circles on the page. Danielle loses the group to laughter again.

Danielle shakes her head and takes slow and measured steps to her laptop computer purse. She pulls out a plastic bag and tosses it down the long mahogany table and the giggling turns to GASPS as the bag slides by each shocked executive.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

In the past five years, three bankers lost their hands, a security guard had his left eye pulled out, and I won't even tell you what happened in Sweden with our competitor's voice recognition system.

Danielle sensually licks the side of her water glass and holds it up for the group.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

That little bit of DNA tells a company that the employee isn't drunk, doped up, and most importantly...

One of the bankers opens the bag containing a thumb and two eyeballs. Another set of GASPS from the executives as the eyeballs roll across the table and into the lap of Frank.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

...that the head is still attached to a live body.

MALCOLM (60s,) a tall, imposing man stands up. He pats Danielle on the shoulder.

MALCOLM

Thank you, Dr. Franklin. Danielle not only developed this technology but is one of our founding partners.

Frank gets up to shake her hand and the eyeballs drop to the floor and roll over to her shoes. Danielle looks down and sees Carson's eyes, the man who raped her in college.

Then she sees Carson's face, his head. Danielle SCREAMS and then flees the room. Thinking it is part of the demonstration, the executives CLAP.

INT. OUTSIDE OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Danielle stands outside the room and hugs herself and breathes heavily. She can hear the lively discussion continue until her cell phone PINGS. She takes one more big breath and heads down the hall.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle raps on the open door. A security guard, SAM(60s,) gets up from his desk and approaches Danielle.

DANIELLE

What's up?

Sam shakes his head and starts to reach out to her, but stops. She adjusts her scarf.

SAM

Bad news. I called the prison and that asshole was released two months ago. They should have notified the victims, but there was a computer glitch.

Danielle looks back down the hall where she came, terrified.

DANIELLE

Carson is out of prison?

Sam nods. She GASPS and sucks in a big breath of air.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Out of prison. Carson is out of prison.

It is almost like she is trying to process it by repeating the truth repeatedly.

SAM

He can't leave the state, so you're okay. He's thousands of miles away. I'm working on some increased security measures and...

Danielle lets out a little bit of air.

SAM (CONT'D)

We can talk about...

She holds up her hand.

DANIELLE

No. Thousands of miles. Can't leave the state. I can deal with this alone.

She adjusts her scarf and leaves.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

It is now a composed Danielle who reaches over and clicks her coffee cup against the coffee cup of her seasoned administrative assistant, EMILY (60s.)

With her plump exterior and kind eyes, Emily is half surrogate mother and half fierce defender.

DANIELLE

Here's to a three-hundred-million dollar contract for spit.

EMILY

The bloody thumb. You used that bloody thumb again, didn't you?

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE

I had Maya get me some eyeballs too.

Emily chokes on her coffee.

EMILY

Where the heck did Maya get eyeballs?

MAYA (30s,) is a beautiful Native American woman with dark black thick hair tied back in a ponytail. She pops up from behind a photocopier. She has smudges of toner on her face and down her white lab coat. Emily jumps.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I swear I'm going to put a bell on you.

Maya stretches her back and GROANS. She looks up towards the ceiling.

MAYA

"Give me strength for a straight back and clear eyes, so when life fades, as the setting sun, my spirit may come to you without shame."

DANIELLE

A Cherokee proverb?

Maya nods.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Speaking of clear eyes...

Danielle reaches into her laptop purse and tosses the bag containing the eyeballs and thumb on Emily's desk toward Maya.

EMILY

Shame on you, Maya. All Danielle ever wanted is for people to be safe. This is terrifying.

Maya reaches into her pocket and pulls out a device.

MAYA

If you want safe, how about fifty thousand volts of energy in a lipstick tube?

Danielle grabs the object. She turns it over and over again, studying it.

DANIELLE

For me? A taser? This small?

Maya nods.

MAYA

Small and it doesn't need contact. No wires. It is similar to a simple laser pointer. Instead of light, it shoots energy.

Danielle rolls the lipstick tube in her hand, then she begins to stroke it - as if it were her "precious." Maya notices and comes closer and points to it.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Yup, that little thing is Justin's latest project. He's looking for volunteers for the next stage.

DANIELLE

It is so...

Danielle puts it into her pocket and then takes it out. She repeats this a few times, each time trying to be faster to the draw.

MAYA

I was going to give it to you at the party tonight, but I figured you'd want to have it in your purse on the way there.

DANIELLE

Party? Tonight?

Emily nods.

EMILY

Drinks at the Black Orchid. Malcolm wants to congratulate the amazing Dr. Franklin who developed a three-hundred-million dollar spit thingy.

DANIELLE

No, no, no. Bryan has to work late tonight. He's doing a server upgrade. I need to leave early and pick up a hamster cage for Chandra.

EMILY

I can see if my sister can watch Chandra.

Danielle throws the taser across the room, causing Maya to duck.

DANIELLE

Didn't you hear me? I said no. I don't go out alone at night.

Emily gets up to comfort Danielle but pauses when she sees Danielle's face. Something makes her back away and sit back down at her desk.

EMILY

Okay. Okay. Settle down. Let me see what I can do.

Emily picks up the phone.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I'll order Malcolm his favorite pepperoni pizza. But all I can say is that the big guy doesn't like to toast from paper cups in the conference room.

Maya picks up the taser, inspects it and hands it back to Danielle. This time Danielle holds it tightly, and Maya steps back then nods and returns to her photocopier repair work.

Danielle closes her eyes, hugs herself, and breathes in and out a few times while holding the taser.

DANIELLE

(to herself)
Safe...feel safe. I'm safe.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

A dozen chimps relax in various places around the large lab. One sits at a desk, tapping on the computer keyboard, while others sit on the window sills basking in the sun.

Danielle slowly opens the door and tries to quietly cross the room, but it is too late. The chimps see her and start screaming and jumping up and down.

From a file cabinet behind her, one of the chimps jumps on her shoulders, knocking her to the floor.

Danielle screams, then GIGGLES as the chimp starts to groom her.

DANIELLE

Howdy, Sadie, lady.

She nuzzles the chimp, and Sadie returns the affection.

The one human in the lab is JUSTIN (20s) -- a young man who could be a male model, but his lab coat tells us he's a scientist. He stares at a dry-erase board filled with equations.

Justin spins around, looking for the source of the interruption. Danielle waves from the floor at Justin's line of sight.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Just me.

She pulls herself up and turns her attention back to Sadie.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Kiss, kiss.

The chimp goes crazy, looking in each of Danielle's pockets until she finds two Hershey's Kisses. The chimp pops them in her mouth without unwrapping them.

Danielle gets up, picks up Sadie and crosses the room holding the chimp. She opens a file drawer lined with a baby blanket and tucks little Sadie in. She kisses the chimp on the head.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You know how the big guy hates them being out of their cages?

JUSTIN

Almost as much as he hates you feeding them chocolate.

A pop comes from the file cabinet drawer, and two balls of foil fly across the room. Justin SIGHS and picks up the foil while shaking his head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Of course, as of this morning, you can do no wrong.

He studies her like a lab animal while walking around her. He stops and looks deeply into her eyes.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Bad night? You saw him again?

Danielle nods. She adjusts her scarf and brushes aside some stray strands of hair.

DANIELLE

What about a hologram?

Justin leads her back to the dry-erase board. It is like an extension of his brain. He draws a Venn diagram. On the left, he writes, "what we know" and "Carson."

JUSTIN

Possible, but remember Occam's Razor -- all events being equally likely, it is the simplest that has occurred.

In the right circle, he writes, "what we think."

DANIELLE

The simplest is now that he's out of prison, he's living in my closet. That can't be; we have a security system, and Bryan always looks at night and in the morning.

In the middle, he writes, "the truth."

JUSTIN

The simplest is that you're dreaming.

He writes "dreaming" in the right circle and then adds "Danielle."

DANIELLE

Or crazy?

He starts to write that on that right but stops. He looks at her like she is a little chimp. He looks back at the dry-erase board, moves to the equations, and points to them.

JUSTIN

I have a new project that I'm working on that might be what you need. After I run a few more tests, I'll show you.

Danielle heads for the door but pauses at the board.

DANIELLE

If it can help me get that animal, Carson, out of my mind, then count me in.

Danielle erases Carson's name. She pauses and then erases the whole diagram. Justin's cell phone PINGS and he glances at the display. He looks at Danielle.

JUSTIN

Speaking of animals. Malcolm wants to see me. We good?

Danielle nods as she erases the diagram, ensuring everything is gone.

INT. MALCOLM'S OFFICE -- DAY

Malcolm sits at his desk looking out a large window while Justin paces back and forth, shaking his head and staring at the floor.

JUSTIN

Too soon. I need more primate testing. Way too soon.

MALCOLM

We can bring this to market in six months with the funds from Danielle's spit analyzer today.

JUSTIN

It takes me three months to recruit human volunteers.

Malcolm shakes his head.

MALCOLM

I want this contained. Bio-Sec employees only. No outsiders. In fact, level six and above.

JUSTIN

That's only five or six people, not including you.

Justin walks over to the large window, takes out his dry-erase pen, and writes, "Maya, Danielle," before pausing and looking out the window.

Malcolm gets up from his desk with a tissue and starts erasing.

MALCOLM

I want new security statements signed and physicals by Friday. Make it happen.

Justin stares at the smeared names, then turns and walks toward the door, writing instead on his hand. Malcolm calls after him.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Contained. I don't want any leaks. Tell them only what they need to know.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle pokes her head into the lab. Justin writes furiously at his dry-erase board, almost in a trance.

DANIELLE

I got your text. What's up?

Justin looks around and then pulls her into his office.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Justin closes the door as Danielle sits down and looks back at the chimps.

DANIELLE

They can understand you?

He unlocks a cabinet, takes out a device the size of a tube of lipstick and shows it to Danielle.

JUSTIN

I close the door to protect my lunch and keep Sadie from eating more chocolate.

He takes her hand, turns it over and places the device into her palm.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I brought you in here to show you this.

Danielle studies it.

DANIELLE

You're too late, Maya already gave me one.

Danielle reaches into her pocket and shows him the lipstick tube taser.

JUSTIN

She shouldn't have done that. It's not ready yet. No, not ready.

He takes it from her and sets it on the desk.

DANIELLE

Tasers have been used for years. Sure, it's the first time I've seen one this small, but I'll be careful.

She takes it back and puts it into her pocket. He reaches for it, but she slaps his hand. He shakes his head, then stares at the floor.

JUSTIN

It is much, much, more than a taser. I call it a fazer device. When in taser mode, it delivers fifty-thousand volts, wirelessly and directly to your attacker only.

He holds up another fazer device and looks at it adorningly.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

But when it is in fazer mode, it does so much more. It is the ultimate personal security device.

Justin opens the office door.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Want to see it in action? I'm about to test it again.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Sadie sits on the lab counter with a stopwatch around her neck. Justin places the fazer device in her hand and sets the watch. Sadie spots Danielle behind him and jumps into her arms.

JUSTIN

Sadie! Back!

Sadie ignores him and looks for treats in Danielle's pockets. The stopwatch buzzes, Sadie presses the lipstick device in Danielle's pocket, and with a FLASH of light, Justin is gone.

Danielle holds Sadie tightly as she walks around the lab. It's empty. Danielle pats the chimp's back and the chimp returns the comfort.

DANIELLE

Where did he go, Sadie? It's been too long. He should be back.

Danielle spins around.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Unless something went wrong.

Danielle puts Sadie into a cage and then moves to a computer terminal. Sadie SCREAMS and pulls on the cage door.

Danielle ignores her and logs onto the computer. She reads through computer logs. She gets to a particular page and leans in close.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Nothing. Not one file, log, or
report about this. Do we wait? How
long?

She looks over at Sadie who continues to pull at the cage door and screams.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Hush or you'll upset the others...

Danielle turns around and notices that the other cages are empty. She runs to the door to the offices and opens it. Silence. Danielle runs out of the lab.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

The offices are empty. There is no Emily, no Maya - nobody anywhere.

DANIELLE
Hello. Can you hear me? I'm here.

Danielle jumps up and down, shouting.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Justin! Justin!

She runs over and picks up a computer monitor and slams it down hard on the desk.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Here! Here! Here! Do you see me?

Danielle goes back to the open lab door and looks in. Sadie SCREAMS and shakes the cage.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Quiet, Sadie. I have to think.

Danielle goes over to Emily's chair and waves her hand over it. Satisfied that it's unoccupied, she slumps down into the chair. She opens one of the desk drawers and takes out a legal pad of paper. She writes in bold letters.

"JUSTIN -- IT'S DANIELLE. EVERYONE IS GONE. WHAT HAPPENED???"

She holds up the pad and walks around the office. At the lab door, she holds it up. Nothing. She throws the pad into the lab in anger. She turns around and walks over to a window, and looks down.

DANIELLE
Where is everyone?

She SCREAMS as she moves from window to window, pounding on the glass. Exhausted, Danielle slumps to the floor.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I am alone. Nobody. Alone and...

She jumps up and runs toward the elevator.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Chandra!

She presses her ID on a scanner and presses the down button on an elevator.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
No, no. No. It can't be.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle runs out of the building and down the empty street. She runs faster until she arrives at a school. She runs along the chain link fence. The play area is empty.

Danielle runs up to one of the windows and peers in. Empty. Sobbing, she drops to the ground.

DANIELLE
What did you do, Justin? How did
you make everyone disappear?

She pulls herself up and paces back and forth, gaining control over her emotions.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
All events being equally likely, it
is the simplest that has occurred.

She looks around.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Justin. I never saw him disappear.
I never saw the other chimps
disappear. Sadie and I disappeared.

Danielle runs back toward the office building.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Justin runs into his office and presses a button on the phone. A few minutes later Maya arrives.

MAYA

This better be good, I've got sixty samples of spit waiting for me. Six years of post-graduate work for spit.

JUSTIN

Danielle fazer pulsed!

MAYA

How could you let her do this? I haven't given her a physical, she hasn't signed any forms, hell, nobody is supposed to know about this until Malcolm makes the final approval of each volunteer.

JUSTIN

You. You are the one who gave her a fazer device. Why?

He paces back and forth.

MAYA

In taser mode. It wasn't activated for fazer pulse.

He runs up to his dry-erase board.

JUSTIN

You're wrong. It must have been a live device. That is the only explanation for why she is gone.

He is frozen at the board. Maya joins him and takes the marker from his hand and draws the Venn diagram for him.

MAYA

How did she change it from taser to fazer mode?

JUSTIN

Sadie is trained to switch it on and then fazer pulse.

Justin runs his hand through his hair, pulls out another pen and writes "pulsed" in the middle.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
It's worse -- I didn't tell
Danielle anything. She has no idea
how the pulse works.

MAYA
How could you do this? What were
you thinking? She's terrified of
being alone.

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN
It was Sadie. I wanted Sadie to
disappear right in front of her --
big impact and quickly shows
Danielle how it works without me
explaining it.

MAYA
Sadie is with her? Why didn't you
say that? The alarm will go off and
Sadie will bring her back.

JUSTIN
I didn't set the second alarm. It
all happened so quickly. So quick.

Justin puts a stopwatch around his neck.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
I'm going after her.

Maya grabs his arm.

MAYA
You can't do that. Another pulse
could kill her. We haven't tested
for that.

JUSTIN
If one of them doesn't push the
device in time, the batteries will
wear out and...

Justin stares at the dry-erase board. Maya forces him toward her.

MAYA
What? What will happen?

He pulls away from her and smashes the tip of the marker again and again into the board.

JUSTIN
She'll be gone forever.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

Danielle runs across the empty offices toward the lab door. She grabs the handle and pushes it open, but it's as if someone on the other side is opening it at the same time. Caught off balance, Danielle tumbles into the lab.

Sadie runs toward her.

DANIELLE
You got your cage open, again.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle looks into the concerned face of Sadie leaning over her. Sadie searches Danielle's pockets.

DANIELLE
No kiss, kiss.

Sadie continues going through each pocket as Danielle struggles to sit up.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I said, no kiss, kiss.

Sadie sits back disappointed.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
That is how this whole thing started.

Danielle reaches into her pocket and holds the fazer device.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
You activated this? Didn't you?

Sadie nods and holds out a single finger toward the device. It is a rather ET or Baby Groot moment. Danielle hands it to Sadie.

There is a FLASH and Danielle looks around and the other chimps and Justin are there. Justin runs over to her and helps her up.

JUSTIN
You figured it out!

Danielle takes the device from Sadie and gives it to Justin.

DANIELLE
No, she did. Get me some chocolate.

JUSTIN
She was trained to activate and
press it again, but I didn't have
time to set the second alarm.

Justin hugs Sadie, but it is an awkward moment for both. He slowly pats her back.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Good girl.

He looks carefully at Danielle as he opens up a drawer and gives Sadie a whole bar of chocolate before putting her in a cage. He turns toward Danielle.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
You okay?

Danielle drops the fazer device to the floor. She is too exhausted to throw it, but her face tightens, and her eyes begin to water.

DANIELLE
Okay? You ask me if I'm okay? What
happened? Why didn't you help me?
Where the hell were you? Where the
hell was I?

Justin picks up the fazer and guides her to his office.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

He tries to hand the device to her. She shakes her head as she collapses into a chair. He sets it on the desk.

JUSTIN
It was the electromagnetic pulse.

DANIELLE
An electromagnetic pulse can take
out computers and other electronic
equipment, but not this.

She hugs herself.

JUSTIN

Until now. I was working on concentrating a short-duration pulse, so the military could disable the enemy's electronics.

DANIELLE

I knew about that project. Grenade size, right?

Justin stares at his shoes and takes the cap on and off his dry-erase marker.

JUSTIN

In my efforts to concentrate the pulse, I created a stronger more sustained pulse that affects matter at the sub-particle level. This pulse suspends energy. It's almost like you're a radio broadcasting at another frequency.

DANIELLE

That's impossible. We're matter, not radio waves.

JUSTIN

Matter that I can see because you have the same energy as me - unless the pulse alters that energy wave.

Danielle carefully picks up the fazer device from the desk but holds it at a safe distance.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Don't worry, it is spent. It can only be in taser mode now.

She rolls it around in her hand, then sets it on the desk again.

DANIELLE

Just a taser.

JUSTIN

But when it is in fazer mode the big electromagnetic pulse is only good for one trip there, and one trip back. Click it once, and you are there. Click it again, and you're back.

Justin clicks it over and over to prove his point. Then he slides a button to put it into taser mode.

DANIELLE
Where is there?

JUSTIN
Nowhere. Just not here.

Danielle looks around at all the electronics.

DANIELLE
Why doesn't it destroy computers
and other things like strong
electromagnetic pulses?

JUSTIN
Same as the taser. It is extremely
focused on the person touching it.

Danielle picks it up again. She puts it into her purse and
then takes it out again and sets it on the desk.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
What do you think every time you
read in the paper that someone got
robbed at a convenience store at
three A.M. or mugged while jogging
through the park before dawn or
raped when they left the club alone
at midnight?

DANIELLE
What the hell were they doing there
at that time of night?

JUSTIN
There. Not being there.

Justin picks it up again and clicks it many times.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
The fazer is the ultimate personal
security device - not being there.

Justin's cell phone PINGS.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Your party is starting. You okay?

He helps her up and leads her to the door. He slips the spent
fazer device into her pocket.

DANIELLE
You tell me. Am I okay? Do I look
okay?

Justin takes the cap off of the marker. He is frozen in thought, as he wanders out of his office toward his dry-erase board. Danielle SIGHS and heads the other way out of his office.

INT. BIO-SEC CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The conference room is packed with celebrating employees, eating pizza and drinking beer. Malcolm makes a toast to a still-stunned Danielle.

MALCOLM

Here's to a woman who knows how to be fearless.

The employees raise their cups up and drink. Danielle walks over to a table where Emily hands out pizza. Danielle searches for something in the open boxes and then turns to Emily.

DANIELLE

Can I steal a couple of slices of Malcolm's favorite -- pepperoni pizza?

EMILY

Pepperoni? Malcolm? I didn't know he liked that.

Emily fusses around and finds some pepperoni slices and puts them on a plate for Danielle. Danielle takes the pizza and finds Justin at an empty table.

DANIELLE

Poor Emily. She just had a senior moment.

JUSTIN

Not a chance. That lady's mind is like a steel trap and she writes everything down in that book by her phone. If we had a security breach I'd ignore the computers and logs and grab Emily's appointment book instead.

DANIELLE

Logs. Why wasn't there any information in your computer logs?

Justin drops his head.

JUSTIN

Malcolm's idea. He wants this contained. He also wants level six and above in the first test group.

DANIELLE

Six? Is he crazy? That's only Michael, Jim, Daniel, Maya -- wait, Maya has that steel plate in her head -- so that's only five or so.

JUSTIN

Only three as far as I'm concerned -
- Jim, Daniel and you.

Danielle jumps up and spills her pizza.

DANIELLE

No way. I will never be alone like that again.

Justin grabs her hand and gently guides her back into her seat.

JUSTIN

I know how you feel about being alone, but aren't you really afraid of being alone around others?

Danielle pulls her hand back and gets up.

DANIELLE

You have no idea how I feel.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle paces back and forth in the bedroom as Bryan sits at a desk in the corner, working on a laptop.

BRYAN

It's unbelievable.

DANIELLE

But not impossible. The pulse causes every molecule in your body to be set at a different frequency. If anybody is there, they can't see you -- can't feel you. Same with the pulsed person - they can't see or feel the other people.

Bryan turns around and faces her, but keeps a careful eye on the laptop. He's conflicted - he wants to comfort her, but something on the laptop vies for his attention.

BRYAN

It's outrageous they would even think of asking you to test it.

Danielle has finished her pacing and sits in a chair next to the laptop, in his line of vision.

DANIELLE

Not just me, but the other partners too. It's the best way to protect our discovery. Edison, Bell, Whitney -- they all tested their inventions themselves.

Bryan frowns and shakes his head.

BRYAN

I didn't hear Malcolm offering to go for a ride.

DANIELLE

With the device, if I got scared, I could pulse away.

He grabs her by both arms.

BRYAN

Pulse to where? Alone? You? You would have to be crazy to test this thing.

His laptop beeps and he turns his attention back to the work he was doing.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

My upload is starting. I need about fifty more minutes...

Danielle knows her cue to leave and gets up. She heads to the bedroom door, shaking her head and hugging herself.

DANIELLE

(to herself)

Crazy, crazy, crazy.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle comes up behind Chandra who huddles over her small desk.

DANIELLE
Your letters? Is that a "T?"

Chandra nods.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
That looks like a lot of homework
for a second-grader.

CHANDRA
Miss Angie was mad at me. Mr. Ping
got loose three times.

Danielle freezes.

CHANDRA (CONT'D)
Tomorrow will be much better with
the new cage.

Danielle comes around and sits partially on the desk next to
Chandra.

DANIELLE
I'm sorry, Sweetie. I had a tough
day at work.

CHANDRA
I'll go ask Daddy. He'll take me to
the pet store.

Danielle shakes her head.

DANIELLE
He is upgrading a computer system
right now. I'll write a note to
Miss Angie.

Chandra tosses her pencil. Danielle retrieves it and gently
sets it down on the desk. Chandra crosses her arms.

CHANDRA
Why can't you go get it?

Danielle's head drops.

DANIELLE
You know I can't go out at night.

CHANDRA
Or in the morning, or at lunch,
or...

Danielle turns toward the door, thrusting her hands into her pockets. She discovers the taser/fazer device that Justin slipped in there, and holds it for a moment.

EXT. PET STORE -- NIGHT

Danielle pulls up to a pet store. The night lights haven't come on, and the parking lot is full of shadows. She quickly points her keyless remote at the car, and it clicks locked.

She pulls out the lipstick taser/fazer and holds it in the other hand.

INT. PET STORE -- CONTINUOUS

The door buzzes as Danielle enters the store. The animals in various cages get excited and screech.

Danielle spots a new hamster cage, and grabs it. She tests the door and it opens and clicks shut nicely.

DANIELLE

Hello?

The animals get louder. There is nobody around. Danielle walks toward the back of the store where there is a curtain. She pushes it aside.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Excuse me?

The door buzzes and Danielle jumps.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Hello?

Danielle swings around. There is nobody there. She moves down one of the aisles toward the front door. A lizard runs across the floor in front of her.

Danielle SCREAMS. As she spins around she hits a stack of pet food with the hamster cage, and the stack crashes to the floor. She runs up the aisle toward the front counter.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Is there anyone here?

As she reaches the counter, she puts her keys and taser in her purse as she pulls out some cash and lays it on the counter. She heads toward the front door. As she reaches to open it, she hears footsteps. She backs up against the wall next to the door and into the alarm keypad.

The pad alarms as her elbow hits the red panic button. She grabs the cage tightly, yanks the door open and runs out of the store.

EXT. PET STORE -- CONTINUOUS

As she runs to her car, she digs into her purse and pulls out her keys and the taser/fazer device. She fumbles with the keys and drops them. An elderly man comes up behind her and touches her arm.

ELDERLY MAN

You okay?

Danielle SCREAMS, spins around and points the taser at him.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT -- NIGHT

Danielle sits in an office across from a police DETECTIVE. He sets down the phone.

DETECTIVE

The store owner isn't going to press charges -- you can go.

Danielle gets up and collects her purse and keys from the desk. The detective holds onto the taser/fazer.

DANIELLE

He scared me.

DETECTIVE

You tore up his store, set off the door alarm and then almost killed him when you hit his pacemaker with this. If the fire department hadn't arrived in time, I'd be booking you for manslaughter.

She reaches for her taser.

DANIELLE

I have a right to carry that -- for protection.

DETECTIVE

You were at a pet store. That guy is in his eighties. He was trying to give you a receipt and your change. Get some help, lady.

He tosses the device on the desk. She takes it and hurries out.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bryan and Danielle peek in at a sleeping girl. Danielle tiptoes over and places the new cage on Chandra's desk.

They back out of the room and slowly close the door. Bryan puts his arm around Danielle and guides her toward the bedroom.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bryan returns to his laptop, taps a few keys, and Danielle drops into the chair next to him.

BRYAN

I should have been there with you.

Danielle bites her lip. She looks up.

DANIELLE

Do you think she'll know that I got the new cage all by myself?

Bryan turns toward her and takes her hands into his.

BRYAN

The police were right. You need to get some help. We don't need hamster cages...we need you.

DANIELLE

But this is me. This is my life.

He shakes his head.

BRYAN

No, this is a whole new game. Tasers, fazers, Carson out of jail. You need help. We need you.

He turns back to the laptop just as the tears start streaming down Danielle's face. She slowly unties her scarf and dabs the tears as she heads toward the bathroom.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE -- DAY

A striking woman, MEGAN (30s,) lies on a couch. She holds her head in her hands.

MEGAN

I don't know what is wrong with me.

Danielle sits in a chair next to the couch rubbing Megan's feet.

DANIELLE

Four-inch heels. That's your problem. We're not in college anymore.

Megan sits up as Danielle lets go of Megan's feet. Megan slips on her heels and grabs a cane.

MEGAN

Exactly. I was stupid enough to get drunk and jump off a roof, but it's not going to stop me from wearing heels. What about you?

She struggles to move over to her desk with her cane. Danielle adjusts her scarf. Megan grabs her iPad and starts tapping in some notes.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Maybe it's not being alone that frightens you. It is living in a world with Carson. It is a valid fear, kiddo.

Danielle gets up and hugs Megan.

DANIELLE

To be left alone. I need to be alone. I need to not be there.

MEGAN

The police wanted a form signed?

Danielle pulls a form out of her purse and sets it on Megan's desk.

DANIELLE

Was this a session? Do I pay you?

Megan LAUGHS.

MEGAN

Seriously? At your security firm's hourly rate, that was a fifty-thousand-dollar foot massage.

Megan signs the form and hands it to Danielle.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

This should keep you out of prison and make Bryan happy. You're not crazy.

DANIELLE

Crazy? Seriously...you're saying that word...crazy?

MEGAN

His word, not mine. You have PTSD. It is valid. Your fears are valid. You need to use the tools I taught you whenever you get a flashback or dream.

DANIELLE

Hug myself, breathe, tell myself that I'm safe. Take steps to be safe. Be alone.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle sits across from Justin in his office. He places another form in front of her.

DANIELLE

This one?

JUSTIN

Non-disclosure.

DANIELLE

I have an N-D-A on file.

JUSTIN

You have a non-disclosure for what happens when you're here non-pulsed.

Danielle sinks back into her chair.

DANIELLE

There. Here. Where? I can't seem to get my arms around it, and I have a Ph.D. in physics.

JUSTIN

Sign this stuff, and then I'll show you.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Sadie sits in Danielle's arms, smacking her lips.

DANIELLE
Kiss, kiss.

Sadie finds the Hershey's kisses in Danielle's pocket and then runs to her open cage to eat them.

Justin comes out of his office with a plastic tray. Danielle looks at the items with interest.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
A stopwatch?

JUSTIN
The pulse device has a battery, but you need to press it again within an hour to be sure you have a full charge to return to this energy state.

Danielle GASPS.

DANIELLE
How long was I gone?

JUSTIN
Long enough to scare me to death.

Danielle picks up a small item.

DANIELLE
A camera?

JUSTIN
The first time the pulse made Sadie disappear, I kept wondering -- where did she go? The camera is how I discovered that Sadie goes nowhere. I saw on the camera the same desks, cages, elevators -- everything except the people.

DANIELLE
They can't see you, and you can't see them.

Justin goes over to Sadie's cage and picks her up.

JUSTIN
Spit it out.

Sadie shakes her head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Look what you've done to her.
Addicted to chocolate and foil.

Danielle glances at the clock.

DANIELLE
Let's start this after the meeting.

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN
I don't want to get off schedule.

Justin adjusts the camera and sets the stopwatch on Sadie and hands her the device.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Pulse.

Sadie pushes the device and disappears with a FLASH.

INT. BIO-SEC CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Danielle and Justin walk into the conference room. Malcolm sits at the head of the table, along with Frank Pruitt, the banker who bought the spitting security system.

Danielle cocks her head when she spots Frank, then takes a seat next to Malcolm. Justin follows her.

MALCOLM
Do you have the latest tolerance
tests?

Danielle nods as she pulls out an iPad and reads from it, scrolling down.

DANIELLE
We're at plus thirty in the control
group. Maya processed twenty more
today, and they are a perfect DNA
match. We have three demonstrations
next week, thanks to Mr. Pruett.

Malcolm turns to Justin.

MALCOLM
Where's the updated schedule today
on the device?

JUSTIN
Could be six instead of eight
months thanks to Danielle.

DANIELLE
Device?

She freezes and then looks over at Frank.

MALCOLM
He knows. That's why he's here.

JUSTIN
Right on track. Medical devices
require a ten-year equivalent or
four-million cycle test. That would
mean twenty months of trials.

Malcolm gets up and pats Justin on the back.

MALCOLM
Legal has determined that we don't
need FDA approval --- if it is a
weapon.

Justin jumps up and starts pacing.

JUSTIN
A weapon? No, no. It is a personal
security device. Safety.

They've lost him as Justin goes to the window and pulls out a
marker. Frank turns toward Danielle.

FRANK
Fewer months. I like it.

DANIELLE
Months? That's all we're going to
test it?

Malcolm nods, but Justin writes numbers and equations on the
window.

JUSTIN
Twenty pulses a week, three people -
- that along with the pulses that
Sadie and I have done.

MALCOLM
We already know it is safe from
those pulses, we need your testing
for the government.

DANIELLE
Military?

She turns to Justin, but he is lost in calculations. Frank gets up and smiles.

FRANK
That's where I come in. I now have a healthy chunk of your stock...

Frank winks at Malcolm.

FRANK (CONT'D)
... and the right contacts in the defense industry.

DANIELLE
The cost would be enormous to arm each soldier with a device.

FRANK
How can we think of cost when we have the chance to reduce fatalities? Our soldiers would no longer be at the mercy of terrorists. Invisible and out of harm's way.

DANIELLE
What about public safety? The public needs this; joggers, security guards, late-night clerks.

MALCOLM
The average person or employer isn't going to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for a personal security device. The military will.

FRANK
In a few weeks, we have a meeting with a group of people who can make all of us extremely rich.

Danielle looks to Justin for help, but Justin continues writing on the window.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Justin catches Danielle as she leaves the conference room.

JUSTIN

I'm sorry. I know this means a lot to you. You want this. You need this.

DANIELLE

It is not about me. The military? We all agreed never to make a weapon. We develop protection for the police and security for the public.

She pulls her arm away.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I need to talk to Maya. She'll agree with me.

Justin stares at his feet and takes out a marker.

JUSTIN

First of all, it's not a weapon. It harms no one. Second, we've been at this for five years, and what is our stock worth?

DANIELLE

What is it worth to you to sell out? We didn't form Bio-Sec to make a fortune.

JUSTIN

You want to make the world safer -- for yourself. What about the bigger picture?

DANIELLE

The best for mankind? Putting the pulse into the hands of the government which is always lying to us isn't an improvement.

She pivots and leaves without giving Justin a chance to respond.

INT. MAYA'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Maya's laboratory looks similar to Justin's except there are no chimps. Danielle sits on an examining bench while Maya looks into her ears.

DANIELLE

It isn't fair to keep it top secret. I've worked my whole life for something like this.

Maya stands back and looks at Danielle and nods.

MAYA

You've already made the world a safer place and we'll all cry someday.

DANIELLE

Cry?

MAYA

A Cherokee proverb says, "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

Danielle pulls the device out of her pocket.

DANIELLE

This device could change the world. But there are some ethical questions. Could it be a weapon?

Maya shrugs.

MAYA

I had my ethics surgically removed years ago when they put this steel plate in my head after Afghanistan.

Maya enters some information into a tablet.

MAYA (CONT'D)

You, on the other hand, are in perfect condition.

DANIELLE

Risks?

MAYA

I've been monitoring Sadie for the past month, and she's perfect -- in fact, she seems to be getting healthier after each pulse.

DANIELLE

Healthier?

Maya nods.

MAYA

She's gained a total of ten ounces.
Not a big deal for a chimp in her
growing years, but I can't see any
harm being done.

Maya looks at her watch.

MAYA (CONT'D)

She should be back, go see for
yourself.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle enters the lab. The chimps are screaming and rattling their cages. Justin runs from chimp to chimp trying to settle them down.

DANIELLE

What's happening?

JUSTIN

It started when Sadie came back.

Danielle looks around.

DANIELLE

Sadie?

JUSTIN

In there.

Danielle spots Sadie sitting on the file cabinet in Justin's office. Danielle runs toward Justin's office.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle freezes when she spots Sadie. Her teeth are bared and she hisses when she sees Danielle.

DANIELLE

Kiss, kiss, sweet Sadie.

Danielle holds out her arms. Justin runs into the office. Sadie flies across the room and bites Justin on the neck. He SCREAMS in pain as Sadie runs into the lab.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

The other chimps yell as Danielle chases after Sadie. As she passes a glass cabinet, she jerks it open and grabs a gun. She fires it at Sadie who screams before she turns around and lunges at Danielle.

Danielle aims again, but Sadie stumbles and falls to the ground. Justin runs to the chimp and pushes her.

JUSTIN
She's out. Good hit.

Danielle struggles to pick up the sleeping chimp, but manages to get her back into her cage. She gently repositions the chimp's head for comfort and places a Hershey's kiss next to her head.

DANIELLE
This ever happen before?

Justin shakes his head and presses a cloth to his neck.

JUSTIN
Not Sadie. Some of the males, sure.
Not Sadie.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- LATER

Maya has the cage door open and studies Sadie who starts to wake up. Danielle looks around the floor.

MAYA
What are you looking for?

DANIELLE
Foil from the Hershey's kiss. I forgot to get it back from her.

MAYA
There was no foil in her mouth when I checked her. I don't think she'd swallow that. Chimps are very particular about swallowing only organic material. Now baboons will swallow anything shiny, and monkeys -- well don't get me started.

DANIELLE
When she pulsed she still had some foil in her mouth. I checked Justin's office and there was no foil.

MAYA

She probably spit it out while in the altered energy state. Oh no -- the whole world is out of balance by one tiny piece of foil. Think of all civilization as we know it imploding -- all caused by a tiny piece of foil.

DANIELLE

Not a good thing to say to a woman getting ready to pulse to another energy state.

Maya hands Sadie a banana. She quickly peels it and gobbles it down and then eats the banana peel. Maya smiles.

MAYA

I think I know the reason for the weight gain.

Maya closes the cage door.

MAYA (CONT'D)

She's in perfect shape. Chimps bite. It's normal. She's getting older and more territorial. Justin should have never come between you two -- especially when there was chocolate involved.

DANIELLE

It wasn't a bite -- it was an attack.

MAYA

Look at her.

Danielle looks at Sadie who makes a kiss, kiss pucker. She relents and hands the cute chimp a Hershey's kiss.

DANIELLE

Should I do it? Is it safe for me to pulse?

MAYA

I wouldn't, but I'm not you. The only way you're going to get this thing approved for general use is to get the military to buy it, test it on soldiers and get the price down so the rest of the world can have it.

Danielle paces back and forth.

DANIELLE
The rest of the world. Carson. Me.
Safe.

Maya nods.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Then the answer is...yes.

Danielle turns to Justin.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Wire me up. I'm ready.

He leads her to his office.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle sits on the desk. He places a stopwatch around her neck. Justin inspects the stopwatch, then gets a device from the file cabinet.

DANIELLE
You did all this? You've been
pulsing?

He hands the device to her and nods.

JUSTIN
Of course. Dozens of times. It's
easy to get caught up in the wonder
of emptiness. The stopwatch is a
reminder to pulse. Whenever you're
ready...click the button.

He points to the device and she presses the button and with a
FLASH, Justin is gone.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

She crosses the laboratory and looks in the cages. All the
chimps are gone.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle comes out of the laboratory and stands in the empty
office.

DANIELLE
Not so bad this time. I'm alone.
I'm safe.

She looks at the stopwatch.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
What to do?

Danielle sits down at Emily's desk.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Let's see what Malcolm has on his
agenda for today.

Danielle flips through an appointment book.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
What about yesterday? That's weird.
I saw Emily write down pepperoni.
Order pepperoni.

She flips back and forth, puzzled. She picks up an empty Starbucks cup and looks at her stopwatch.

INT. STARBUCKS -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle walks into an empty Starbucks.

DANIELLE
Cool. No line.

She goes up to the front counter and realizes that there is nobody to take her order either. She looks again at her stopwatch and then hops over the counter. She looks closer at the machine.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I swear these instructions are in
French. Continue to apply steam
until the milk completely foams.

She squints and moves closer.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Steam can cause severe burns. Open
the valve on the machine's steam
tube slowly. What valve?

Steam rises as Danielle jumps back.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Damn. Even a degree in Physics
doesn't help.

She releases a handle. Her cup fills. A smile comes across her face as she takes a tiny sip. She reaches into her pocket and pulls out some cash. She lays the cash on the counter, sits and enjoys the cup alone. It is bliss.

She closes her eyes and breathes in and out.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

Justin paces back and forth holding Sadie.

JUSTIN
She's late.

He sets Sadie down, but the chimp jumps back in his arms.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
I should have never talked her into
going.

There is a FLASH and Danielle stands there looking at her hands. The cup of coffee is gone.

DANIELLE
Piece of cake. Hmm...maybe next
time.

Justin walks around her, inspecting and making mental notes. Danielle pats Sadie on the head before leaving the lab.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle sits down across from Emily and turns the appointment book toward herself.

DANIELLE
I was looking through this earlier.
I'm sorry.

EMILY
I don't mind -- I keep it out in
the open for people to see.

DANIELLE
Do you always write in pen?

Emily nods.

EMILY
What were you looking for?

DANIELLE
The UniBank pizza party...

Danielle flips the book back to another page.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I saw you write down to order
pepperoni pizza for the party.

Emily turns it around and studies it.

EMILY
Pizza. Yup, order ten. I don't see
pepperoni. Did you want pepperoni?
You like that?

DANIELLE
It's stupid. It's nothing.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Chandra sits at her desk as Danielle watches from the door.

CHANDRA
I see you, Momma.

Danielle comes in and ruffles Chandra's hair.

DANIELLE
You have eyes in the back of your
head now?

Chandra points to the computer monitor.

CHANDRA
Your reflection. Your image
reflects in the screen.

Danielle kisses her on the top of her head.

DANIELLE
You are my child.

Danielle SNIFFS the top of her head.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Coconut?

Chandra nods.

CHANDRA
I love the shampoo they use.

DANIELLE
You got a haircut today?

CHANDRA
Daddy took me after school.

DANIELLE
I wanted you to wait two weeks so
we could still put it up in a
ponytail at your dance recital.

Chandra shrugs.

CHANDRA
What do you care? You're not coming
anyway.

Danielle turns Chandra around.

DANIELLE
Why do you say that?

Chandra crosses her arms.

CHANDRA
It's at night. Daddy probably has
to work on some computer thing and
you...

Chandra turns back to her homework.

CHANDRA (CONT'D)
Nevermind. Petra's mom said she'd
take me.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle finds Bryan working on the back of the television,
trying to get a cable into one of the connections. She stands
close beside him.

DANIELLE
How come you took her for a
haircut?

Bryan doesn't face her, he's busy with the cable.

BRYAN
It was in my Outlook calendar.

Danielle grabs his arm.

DANIELLE
No it wasn't. I canceled it and
sent you an update.

Bryan comes out from behind the television and studies
Danielle.

BRYAN
What is this all about?

Danielle sinks down on the bed.

DANIELLE
I did the pulse test today.

He pulls her up and grabs her by the arms.

BRYAN
What were you thinking?

DANIELLE
I want to be normal. I want to go
out at night without being worried
about every shadow. I want to be
like the other mothers for Chandra.

BRYAN
No, no, no. I can't let you do
this.

Danielle pulls away from him.

DANIELLE
Let?

BRYAN
You know what I mean.

DANIELLE
You mean that you want me to remain
a frightened freak who can't even
go shopping alone?

Bryan tries to reach out to her.

BRYAN
Talk to Megan in the morning.

DANIELLE
Megan?

BRYAN

You agreed to see her every morning before work. You are supposed to talk about the nightmares.

DANIELLE

I'm not seeing her.

BRYAN

Seriously? You agreed. You promised.

Bryan storms out of the room. Danielle looks at her cell phone.

DANIELLE

He's right, seven AM.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle paces back and forth while Megan lies on the couch. It is sunrise, and Megan doesn't seem like a morning person. The early hour doesn't slow Danielle down.

MEGAN

You can't expect a guy that has taken you everywhere for the past ten years to let go.

DANIELLE

The way he talked to me last night...

MEGAN

You two might need some sessions together to work through this healing phase.

DANIELLE

For the first time, I could go into a Starbucks or walk down the street alone. Nobody likes the new Danielle.

MEGAN

I certainly don't like all these early mornings.

Danielle stops.

DANIELLE

We've never had morning sessions before now.

MEGAN

You okay?

Danielle starts pacing faster, shaking her head.

DANIELLE

I'm forgetting things.

Megan reaches up during one of Danielle's passes.

MEGAN

That is your PTSD. Everything is worse if you're not getting enough sleep, not eating right - the stress of being alone during these tests.

DANIELLE

Alone. Tests?

MEGAN

But you were alone that first day when you accidentally used the pulse. Tell me, what was important?

Danielle stops her pacing and drops down into the chair next to the couch.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Think....you ran to Chandra's school. Are you forgetting that?

DANIELLE

The thought of losing her forced me to overcome my fears.

Danielle drops her head into her hands. Megan sits up and comes reaches out for Danielle's hands.

MEGAN

Exactly. You can't let this device become another crutch.

Danielle looks over at Megan's cane. Danielle gets up and gathers her purse.

DANIELLE

The fazer is not a crutch, it is the first shot I've had at freedom in ten years.

As she heads for the door, Megan shakes her head - realizing the session is over.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
You and Bryan resent me using it -
you both resent that I'm starting
to need you less.

Megan grabs her cane and starts to go after Danielle, but
pauses and limps back to her desk.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle jumps on the lab table.

DANIELLE
Let's go. I need some "me" time.
Maybe some of that lemon cake.

Justin shakes his head as he clips Sadie's toenails. Danielle
comes closer.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
How come you keep clipping her
toenails?

Justin drops the clippers.

JUSTIN
Scratches.

Danielle moves closer.

DANIELLE
Are you okay? You don't seem
yourself today.

Justin runs his fingers through his hair. He turns to say
something, then grabs his iPad and brings up a blank page. He
writes with a stylus pen. Danielle looks over at the dry-
erase board. It is blank.

JUSTIN
A quarter of an inch yesterday,
then half an inch, back to an
eighth...

Danielle puts on the stopwatch and grabs a device from the
counter.

DANIELLE
Is this mine?

She looks at the device.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Forty-three?

Justin doesn't look up from the iPad.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Hello? Forty-three? Is that my next
device?

Justin nods and continues entering calculations into the iPad. Danielle pulses with a FLASH.

INT. STARBUCKS -- DAY

Danielle sits enjoying her cup of Starbucks and a piece of lemon cake while glazing at the empty street. She looks at her stopwatch, but then as she looks up, she spots him.

It is Carson, the man who raped her in college. His reflection is in the window. He is right behind her.

She runs out the door.

INT. ELEVATOR -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle runs into the building looks at the elevator panel. No floors are lit. The doors close. She presses the open door button. Nothing. Next she presses the number five and the elevator moves.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR -- CONTINUOUS

The doors open, and a frantic Danielle steps out. As she does, the elevator doors close, and the elevator hums as it moves to another floor.

She presses the elevator up button. As she waits, Danielle looks around the fifth floor. It's empty. She looks back at the elevator and at her stopwatch.

She presses the up button repeatedly.

DANIELLE
Come on.

She leans into the door and presses her ear on the metal. Nothing. As her head is turned, she spots the stairway door. She walks over to it and grabs the knob.

She looks back toward the elevator.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Finally.

She runs back and presses the up button again repeatedly. The doors open. Standing in the elevator is Carson.

She SCREAMS as the doors close. She runs to the stairwell door and throws it open.

INT. BIO-SEC STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle grips the handrail tightly with one hand and starts up the stairs. The alarm on the stopwatch goes off. She drops the device.

As she leans down to pick it up the stairwell door opens behind her. She screams and grabs the handrail.

DANIELLE

Leave me alone.

INT. BIO-SEC STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

The stopwatch beeps again. She runs up the stairs, taking two at a time. She stops at the 6th-floor door. It's locked. She stops at the 7th floor, again, locked.

When she gets to the 8th floor, there is a finger recognition system on the door. She presses it with her thumb and the door clicks open.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle runs to the cabinet that contains the tranquilizer guns. She grabs a gun and runs into Justin's office. Finding the keys in his drawer, she unlocks the cabinet and takes out a device. She presses it. Another FLASH.

INT. MAYA'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Maya examines Danielle as Justin paces back and forth.

DANIELLE

Don't tell me what I didn't see.

Maya steps back.

MAYA

She's fine.

DANIELLE
I told you, I didn't hit my head. I
know what I saw.

JUSTIN
It's impossible. You can't see
anyone. They can't see you.

DANIELLE
This wasn't just anybody.

Danielle jumps down from the table.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
This was the man who almost killed
me. A man who is now out of prison.
A man who I saw and who saw me.

JUSTIN
The man you've been seeing in your
closet and in your nightmares?
Carson? He's still in jail.

DANIELLE
No, he isn't. Sam told me...

JUSTIN
Sam? Who is Sam?

Danielle grabs Justin's arm.

DANIELLE
If Carson wasn't there and I'm
crazy, then how did the elevator
get to our floor?

JUSTIN
The elevators are programmed to
return to the eighth floor after a
few minutes. Malcolm doesn't like
waiting for an elevator. Come, I'll
show you.

He guides her out of Maya's lab.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

They move over toward the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR -- CONTINUOUS

Justin guides her into the elevator.

JUSTIN

When you entered the elevator, that motion detector closes the door after a few seconds of nobody else entering.

The door closes.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

See?

DANIELLE

Why did it take me to the fifth floor?

JUSTIN

You pressed the fifth-floor button. Occam's Razor. Simplest explanation.

Justin presses the 5th floor button.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

On the fifth floor, you got off and the elevator doors closed automatically and returned to the eighth floor. If you had pressed the first floor and gone down, you could have used the finger recognition system on the outside of the elevators, and then pressed eight.

Justin reaches over and presses the 1 button.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Go home. Get some rest. We'll talk in the morning.

Danielle gets in the elevator and then hugs herself.

DANIELLE

Breathe. Safe. Alone.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle undresses while Bryan watches her from the bed.

BRYAN

I should have stopped you.

DANIELLE

The pulse?

BRYAN

Stopped you from undressing, but I like watching.

He comes up behind her, but she pushes him away.

DANIELLE

Haven't you heard a thing I've said?

BRYAN

... you're tired, it's late. I know today was bad, but if you don't want to go on the cruise next month...

DANIELLE

Cruise? What is going on? Cruise. Carson. It is all wrong.

She walks over to the computer in to corner of the room and starts working. Bryan shrugs and leaves the room.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle sits across from Justin, as he looks at a thick stack of papers.

JUSTIN

You were up all night? Doing this research?

He flips through some of the pages.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You certainly killed a few trees in the process.

Danielle points to a page.

DANIELLE

This. Look at this.

JUSTIN

Quantum physics has never proven the existence of a parallel universe.

DANIELLE

Let's just suppose for a moment that I'm not crazy and a parallel universe does exist.

JUSTIN

Your theory would mean that a former college theater professor broke into a security company. He then stole a device and at the exact moment that you pulsed, he also pulsed.

DANIELLE

No, you don't get it. According to quantum physics, another exact universe exists. You decide to take the day off, but in the parallel universe, the other Justin goes to work.

Justin rubs his chin, but then looks deeply into her eyes, concerned.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

What else could explain Carson? In another universe, he never went to prison and is coming after me. Somehow he found out about the device, stole one...

JUSTIN

From a bio-security firm that requires us to spit to get in?

DANIELLE

I don't know how, but he is out there. The Carson that I saw in the elevator was not the one I see in my nightmares or in eyeballs. This one was real.

Justin leans back in his chair and puts his hands behind his head.

JUSTIN

The pulse might be altering your brain waves and causing you to hallucinate and see your worst fears. We need to monitor your brain waves on the next trip and...

Danielle shakes her head as she gets up to leave.

DANIELLE

There's not going to be another trip. Quantum physics. Two objects cannot occupy the same space.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I can't believe how lucky we've been when we pushed the other Sadies, Justins, and Danielles out of her universe to make room for us.

Justin looks down at his feet and hangs his head.

JUSTIN

Parallel Universe.

He gets up and starts pacing and MUTTERING. Danielle gets up.

DANIELLE

I'll be in my office...

INT. DANIELLE'S OFFICE -- LATER

Danielle grabs her iPad as Justin comes in and drops down into a chair.

JUSTIN

You're right. It's entirely possible. You might have been in a parallel universe. The pulse might have surged and thrown you for a moment into a universe where he exists.

Danielle pushes iPad over to Justin.

DANIELLE

At least he's not here. Not in this world.

Justin scans iPad.

JUSTIN

He currently directs a prison theatrical group?

DANIELLE

Sam must have been wrong. Carson was never released. He's still serving twenty-five years for attempted murder, rape, assault...

Danielle points to the next page after she scrolls.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

... look at his picture.

JUSTIN

Most people don't age well in prison.

DANIELLE

Exactly. I saw a different Carson -- older, not the one of my nightmares, but certainly not this old man.

JUSTIN

I'll find out a way to test your parallel universe theory.

Danielle opens a desk drawer and brings out a legal pad.

DANIELLE

I don't need any proof. This legal pad is the one I wrote the frantic note to you on the first day. I remembered Emily's doodling on the top binding. If I had been in an altered state of energy, the note I wrote would have existed. I can't believe you didn't test for that.

Justin sets a device on the desk.

JUSTIN

Keep this. You've earned it. I've eliminated the possibility for surges, but I understand if you don't want to test anymore.

Danielle studies the iPad article about Carson being in prison, but takes the device.

DANIELLE

Maybe it's a crutch, maybe I'm crazy, but for now, I'm sticking to this world and taser mode - not fazer.

She drops the device into her purse.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- AFTERNOON

Danielle sits on the edge of Chandra's bed brushing her hair.

CHANDRA

I love you, Momma.

DANIELLE
I love you too.

Danielle kisses her on the top of her head and throws a kiss toward the table next to the nightstand.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Love you too, Mr. Ping.

CHANDRA
Who?

DANIELLE
Mr. Ping. His name?

CHANDRA
First of all, he is a she. Remember you didn't want me to get a girl and then the man at the store said that if we don't get a boy and a girl...

Danielle runs out of the room.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Bryan works at his computer. Danielle runs in and grabs him.

DANIELLE
Mr. Ping? The name. What is the name?

Bryan gets up concerned and holds her.

BRYAN
Who?

DANIELLE
The stupid hamster. Mr. Ping? We named him that because our cell phones always ping?

BRYAN
Her name is Snowball. Remember how she rolled up into a little ball?

Danielle turns and grabs the side of the dresser.

DANIELLE
No, no, no.

She spots a flyer on the dresser. After scanning it, she grabs it and turns.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
 What the hell is this?

Bryan turns back to his computer.

BRYAN
 (softly)
 Drama queen.

She walks over to him and spins him around.

DANIELLE
 What did you say?

BRYAN
 You're being a drama queen. You're
 the one that wanted her to do this.

He holds up one hand and makes a wave of dismissal.

BRYAN (CONT'D)
 I have to get this upgrade loaded
 by dinner. Save your paranoia shit
 for Megan this afternoon.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

It is close to sunset and Danielle paces back and forth.
 Megan holds her head in her hands.

MEGAN
 This whole parallel universe is a
 lot to digest.

DANIELLE
 Skip over the technical garbage and
 grab onto the concept of multiple
 worlds.

MEGAN
 What do you think I am in the other
 world? A man?

DANIELLE
 You're the same. The other world is
 the same world, this one is
 different. I'm in the wrong place.
 Look.

Danielle pulls out a flyer and hands it to Megan.

MEGAN
 Children's Theater?

DANIELLE

Bryan says they had auditions last week at Chandra's school. She's in their next production. I never would have let her try out for a play. Or at least I would have known about it.

MEGAN

You've been under a lot of stress.

DANIELLE

I volunteered to make set decorations tonight. Me? In a theater again. What is going on? I haven't been in one since it happened. I think I would have remembered that.

Danielle sits down and puts her head in her hands.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I need help.

MEGAN

I'll help you. I think you're...

DANIELLE

Going crazy? Even Justin can't figure it out. Is it my mind, or is there another world where another Danielle is kissing Chandra? Can you help me figure out if I'm going crazy?

Megan gets up and puts a gentle hand on Danielle's shoulder.

MEGAN

Nobody thinks you're crazy. Sure, you've been a little weird. That thing with Justin...

DANIELLE

Justin? What are you talking about? Can you help me figure this out? You said you'd help.

MEGAN

I meant that I can help you make the sets -- you're two quarts low on artistic skills.

(MORE)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Right now you need to cope, get through tonight, and then talk to your science geek guy tomorrow. I'll be your crutch until then.

Danielle hugs Megan.

DANIELLE

Get through the night. It will all be better tomorrow. Breathe.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER HOUSE -- NIGHT

PARENTS have gathered on the stage while more come in the door. Megan and Danielle study each person as they arrive.

MEGAN

You okay?

Danielle nods as she glances up to the catwalk. From across the stage comes a stern woman, KIMBERLY (50s,) who appears to be in charge.

KIMBERLY

Good, good, good. Great to see so much help. We have lots to do before opening night. For those parents that are new to making sets, welcome. We'll all have time to get to know each other later.

Kimberly digs into the satchel she carries.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

This season is special for me.

She starts handing out some color drawings.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

We're doing a short play called "Cats, Kittens, and Carrots." It was written by my college mentor, although I wish he could be here to see it.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Danielle and Megan walk out to Megan's car.

MEGAN

I was wrong.

DANIELLE

Did you notice something? Am I different than the other Danielle that was here yesterday? Did I say something? My hair?

MEGAN

I meant I was wrong to think this would be fun. My back is killing me.

Danielle freezes.

DANIELLE

Did you hear something?

Danielle reaches into her purse and pulls out the device. Megan notices it.

MEGAN

That's it?

Danielle nods.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

We would both go?

DANIELLE

If I grab you before I press the button.

MEGAN

Way cool.

Danielle looks around, frightened.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

That would be the plan, right? You'd grab onto me?

DANIELLE

Sure.

She studies her friend.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You're not afraid, you're excited. Seriously?

MEGAN

You have a pulse in your hand. I have never been to the parallel universe. That's exciting.

DANIELLE

Shhh -- you're not supposed to know.

MEGAN

I'm a licensed therapist. I can't repeat anything you tell me, no matter how many millions it would make me.

Danielle looks around and calms down. She puts the device back in her purse.

From the corner of the theater building Carson steps from the shadows. After Megan unlocks the car, Danielle opens the door. She doesn't see him.

Megan starts the car, and Danielle gets in and SCREAMS.

INT. MEGAN'S CAR -- NIGHT

A small black object YELPS and jumps into the back seat.

MEGAN

Puff.

Megan turns around.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You okay, Puffy Puff?

The little black nuisance dog jumps back between the seats and into Megan's arms. Megan nuzzles him.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

I told you to stay in the back seat.

Danielle is doubled over holding herself and trembling. Megan pats her.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

He's okay. No harm done. You didn't sit on him -- well not completely.

Danielle looks out the windshield. The parking lot is now empty. Danielle recovers and puts out her arms.

DANIELLE

Here, Puff. I'm sorry.

The dog takes one look at Danielle and jumps back into the back seat. He circles a few times, whines, and then sits down.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Sorry. I thought I...

Megan puts the car in gear.

MEGAN
No harm done. Black dog, black seats. I thought it would hide the hair not the dog. It's so hard to see something we don't expect.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle stands at the door watching Chandra sleep. Bryan comes up behind her.

BRYAN
You okay? We okay? I'm really sorry - the upgrade had to be done quickly.

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE
Megan and I talked it out.

BRYAN
Good, good, good.

DANIELLE
First time Chandra has gone to bed before I got home.

He shakes his head.

BRYAN
She does it all the time. Lately, you've been...

Danielle pulls Chandra's door shut. She spins around, grabs him, and pulls him down the hall.

DANIELLE
No, no, no. You have to listen to me. There is another Chandra, I know it. She has a hamster named Mr. Ping. I have a car with leather seats. There is no play or rehearsals.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

But what I don't know is if Carson is still in prison or not.

BRYAN

I don't know what is going on in that little head...

He gently strokes the side of her face.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

But this is our life. Carson is not in our closet. He is still in prison and you have a husband who loves you and a daughter who is safe and sound. Isn't it enough?

Danielle pulls away and hugs herself.

DANIELLE

Safe. Breathe.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

It is a new morning, and Danielle looks refreshed and much better as she knocks lightly on a lab table. Justin madly types into the computer.

DANIELLE

What is the big news?

JUSTIN

This. The log. It proves that you're right.

DANIELLE

I didn't think you kept a log. Malcolm forbids it for security.

JUSTIN

That is ridiculous. I have to have a log for each project. I enter things into the computer to help me think. Here, look.

Danielle looks over his shoulder.

DANIELLE

It is there. Three days ago in your logs.

JUSTIN

Right. I tested for a parallel universe. It does exist.

Danielle spins him toward her.

DANIELLE

You have to go there. I have to know. Is he in prison in the other world? Go now. Please. There and back in five minutes. I have to know. Ask Sam.

JUSTIN

I can't, I have a meeting that I'm late for. You were right about the device numbers being off. Maya has all the devices and she's testing and taking an inventory. Either the logs are off or we're missing a few.

DANIELLE

No, no, no. You have to do this. Find out for me and pulse back.

He turns back to the computer and logs off.

JUSTIN

Meet me back here after lunch and we'll talk.

DANIELLE

No talk! I'll do it. Let me start testing again. I need to know that the other Chandra is okay. I can't handle that he might be out of prison and looking for me and what if he finds her instead? I've seen him.

She grabs a stopwatch and puts it around her neck.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Let me test, I can do one right now.

Justin shakes his head and leaves. Danielle paces back and forward. She looks at the computer screen.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Still in prison here. But there, where Chandra has a Mr. Ping - Sam says he's out.

She takes the device out of her purse. She clicks it. A FLASH.

Danielle looks around at the laboratory. Justin and the chimps are gone, but Carson sits at one of the computers with a rope in his hand.

CARSON
That file reads like a piece of science fiction. Parallel universes, web threads, electromagnetic pulses.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a device.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Recognize this?

Danielle's eyes widen in horror.

CARSON (CONT'D)
You should thank me.

He points to the computer.

CARSON (CONT'D)
According to your file, it was a horrible rape years ago that had you pester that geek to work on the ultimate personal safety device.

DANIELLE
You raped me.

Danielle reaches for her neck. No scars.

CARSON
Not yet. Not in this world. I wanted to. I remember you in college. I wanted to have you. I wanted to control you.

He comes closer to her. She tries to take a step back, but her back is on the wall. He pins her to the wall.

CARSON (CONT'D)
One of those stupid students came back and talked you into going to dinner with them. A decision that obviously split the universe. You transferred colleges, but my desire for you never subsided. I think about you every day.

He roughly kisses her. She tries to push him away, but he manages to get the rope around her neck and throws it up over an exposed beam. She tries to get away, but he slams her hard against the wall.

CARSON (CONT'D)

According to your file, I didn't tie your hands tight enough. You grabbed the rope and swung back and forth. You lived, testified against me and put me in prison. That won't happen this time.

Danielle feels in her pocket and finds the device. She presses it and FLASH.

She jumps as she turns around and sees Justin sitting at his computer. He jumps too.

JUSTIN

What are you doing here? I thought you were at the meeting.

Danielle looks closely at Justin.

DANIELLE

Meeting? Where are we? When was the last time you saw me? What device did I last test? What did we last talk about?

Justin turns gets up and holds onto her arm.

JUSTIN

You okay? You need to stay out of that Starbucks. Way too much caffiene. You're on device number thirty-seven. We last talked about what to have for dinner tonight.

Danielle pulls the device from her pocket.

DANIELLE

No, no, no. It was forty-three. This is forty-five.

Justin looks at it and then hands it back.

JUSTIN

I think you need glasses. Thirty-seven.

Danielle looks at the device and then drops it.

DANIELLE

Four more pulses? Something is wrong. I'm not in the parallel universe. Where am I? Carson? Have you seen him?

JUSTIN

What do you mean?

DANIELLE

I've gone further back or sideways. Something is wrong.

JUSTIN

You spent a lot of time and effort convincing me and the rest of the group that there is a parallel universe and that's where the pulse takes us -- which means that when you come back it's to the same world. Now, let's get you into that meeting.

Her ushers her out of the lab.

INT. BIO-SEC CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Malcolm and Frank sit across from Danielle.

DANIELLE

CIA? Spies? What happened to the military? Saving our troops?

MALCOLM

Change of plans. The CIA is very interested. The defense department didn't get it.

FRANK

Think of it - being able to be in the enemy's war room. Studying their plans, reading confidential documents.

DANIELLE

How do you get in there? The other universe still has operating security systems.

MALCOLM

Bio-Sec is the top maker of those systems. Things can be rigged or disabled.

Danielle pushes back from the table.

DANIELLE
The pulse is not ready.

MALCOLM
You said it was. You said it was ready to show to the military and the only change of plans is the audience.

DANIELLE
No, I didn't.

MALCOLM
You sent an e-mail. Go check.

INT. DANIELLE'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle sits at her computer, frustrated. Justin comes into the doorway and runs his hand through his hair.

JUSTIN
Can we talk?

Danielle keeps on typing.

DANIELLE
I don't get it. I can't log on to my computer, now I can't log on to the victims' website. I can't find out anything about Carson.

JUSTIN
About tonight. We should talk. With all new security and the CIA coming in...

Danielle spins around.

DANIELLE
How did this happen? How did the ultimate security device end up as the next greatest spy gadget?

JUSTIN
If only we hadn't lost the UniBank contract. If only we hadn't gone out drinking that night.

Justin comes around to Danielle and rubs her shoulders.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
I'm not going to say that I'm sorry
that it happened.

He grabs Danielle, pulls her out of her chair and kisses her.
She pulls away in shock and runs out of her office.

INT. MAYA'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle runs into Maya's office.

DANIELLE
UniBank.

MAYA
Last week, they increased the
tolerance level. I told you that. I
told you two days ago that the last
samples failed. If we don't jump
for the CIA, we're going under.
Look, I know you guys are having
trouble at home, but you've got to
pull it together.

DANIELLE
Trouble?

Maya shakes her head.

MAYA
You and Bryan. Counseling? You said
Bryan was going to leave you --
it's almost like you didn't care.

DANIELLE
I have to fix things.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle goes into the bedroom and finds Bryan coming out of
the closet.

DANIELLE
We need to talk.

He pushes past her.

BRYAN
Haven't we said enough?

DANIELLE
What is going on?

BRYAN

You've made it clear how you feel. You refuse to go to counseling. I got over what happened between you and that geek, but now you won't quit and I can't handle this.

DANIELLE

Quit? Counseling?

Danielle sits on the bed and puts her head in her hands.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I'm going crazy. I want my life back.

BRYAN

You have your own life now. Justin, working on Chandra's play, the big government contract, and now you don't need me.

DANIELLE

What are you talking about?

A horn honks. Bryan goes over to the window.

BRYAN

There's Megan.

DANIELLE

Megan?

BRYAN

You two are going down to work on the sets for Chandra's dress rehearsal for the big director? Look, I know you said it was okay to drop her off so I could finish this job, but that guy gives me the creeps. The sooner you get there, the better I'll feel.

The horn honks again, and Danielle slowly gets up.

DANIELLE

I don't know what is happening, you have to believe me. It's the pulse.

Two more honks.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Megan. Megan will know where we are.

Danielle runs out of the bedroom.

INT. MEGAN'S CAR -- NIGHT

Danielle gets into the car. Megan immediately puts it in gear and drives away.

MEGAN
It's about time. Let's go, we don't
want to make Carson angry.

DANIELLE
Carson?

MEGAN
The director? The playwright? Our
set changes?

Danielle grabs the dash.

DANIELLE
No, no, no!

Megan slams on the brakes.

MEGAN
What is it? Another panic attack?

Megan grabs Danielle's purse.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Take your pills.

DANIELLE
Chandra is with Carson? Drive. We
have to get there now. Go. Go!

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Danielle jumps out of the car before it comes to a stop. Megan runs after her and catches up with her.

MEGAN
What is wrong?

Danielle looks over at Megan as she continues running.

DANIELLE
Your cane.

MEGAN

I'm so gorgeous that I have to beat them off with a stick...

DANIELLE

Your leg. Your cane. You don't have a limp. You're keeping up with me.

Megan turns and looks at Danielle.

MEGAN

How many of those pills did you take?

DANIELLE

College. You jumped off a roof. Hurt your leg.

MEGAN

Jumped? Sure, I was drunk and almost did, but you talked me out of it, remember?

Danielle runs faster toward the theater.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle runs into the theater.

DANIELLE

Chandra! Chandra!

She spins around and there is Carson. She SCREAMS.

CARSON

Good. Now if I can just get your daughter to do that during the play --- we'll be a hit. I've been working with her, but her screams need work. Hard to get little ones to know terror, isn't it?

DANIELLE

You. Where is Chandra?

She grabs him by the neck and starts choking Carson. Megan comes up behind her.

CARSON

(choking)
Get... her ... off me.

Megan pulls Danielle off of him and he reaches up and grabs his red neck.

CARSON (CONT'D)
All the children are over at
Mickey's, eating dinner.

CARSON (CONT'D)
I'll probably have bruises, you
crazy bitch. I'm already late for
joining the children at dinner.

She reaches up to her neck and feels for the scars. She runs over to a mirror on the set. She looks for the scars -- there are none.

DANIELLE
No, no, no!

Danielle grabs Megan's purse and takes her keys. She grabs her own purse and runs toward the door.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle runs to Megan's car and clicks open the door. She pulls it shut, but it's immediately open again. Carson grabs her by the shoulder.

CARSON
I said I was late. Least you can do
is drive me over there.

She fumbles in her purse.

CARSON (CONT'D)
All is forgiven. I'm sure you're
just nervous about Chandra's big
night. I have big plans for that
beautiful little girl of yours.

DANIELLE
No.

She gets her hand on the pulse, pushes it and with a FLASH, she is alone and in the "between world."

EXT. DANIELLE'S EV - NIGHT

Megan's car is now hers. She opens the car door. On the seat next to her is a bunch of flowers. Danielle pulls out the card from an open envelope. She reads it.

DANIELLE
"I love you, Carson."

She bangs her head on car roof and SOBS.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

The next day, Danielle walks into Justin's office and sets a device on his desk. She looks like she hasn't slept much and her eyes are still red from crying.

JUSTIN
You know.

DANIELLE
How long have you known?

JUSTIN
Sit down.

DANIELLE
I'm okay.

JUSTIN
No, sit.

DANIELLE
You should have told me.

JUSTIN
I wasn't sure. It started slowly. Things were different but the same. I couldn't tell the small changes in my own life, but watching Sadie and my log gave me a perspective.

He gets up and starts pacing.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Remember the time she bit me? Then she seemed to see the Hershey's kisses for the first time. Now, it's her toenails. I had clipped them -- right before a pulse. They either grew during the last pulse -- or she came from a universe where I hadn't clipped them. The only thing that hadn't changed was my computer log. I've always kept my log. I started reading them every time anyone pulsed. Sadie was the control. I measured everything by her.

DANIELLE

Fuck Sadie. What has happened to me? Bryan and Chandra are gone. You and me? Together? Look at my neck? I was never raped in college? What the hell has happened to me? Why in the world are you so concerned with Sadie?

JUSTIN

Come look.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

Sitting on the counter is another chimp, obviously larger and a male.

JUSTIN

It's Peter. He came back yesterday instead of Sadie.

Danielle GASPS.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I can remember the day I was trying to decide if I should use Sadie or Peter. Malcolm called me into his office and pressured me to tell him if it was safe or not. I went back and picked Sadie since she was more trained.

Danielle looks at the male chimp, Peter, who is wearing the stopwatch and then back at Sadie who is napping in her cage.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I was right here, it was Peter who came back this time. I turned around and Sadie was still in her cage -- like she never went anywhere. It's worse.

He gets Sadie from her cage. He puts a stopwatch around her neck and gives her a device. Sadie sticks the device in her mouth and chews on it.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

This is a different Sadie - she came in from another universe. Her toenails, anger, the missing foil. Each time another universe's Sadie - or Peter. It's in my logs. That same day, another file.

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You came in and fed Sadie a Hershey's kiss. She wouldn't spit out the foil, so I picked Peter. Another parallel universe was created.

Danielle holds her head and paces around the room.

DANIELLE

My scars? Why are they gone, but I still remember the rape?

JUSTIN

The pulse alters matter at the sub-particle level. Brain waves are not particles of matter. They stay the same in each world.

DANIELLE

How many worlds are there? Which one is this one? Where is my Chandra? Where is Bryan?

She grabs him and starts shaking him.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

The parallel universe is not a train track like we thought -- it's more like a spider's web, there could be an infinite number of them out there.

He moves over to a dry-erase board and draws the web for her.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Your thinking board? It is back.

Justin ignores her and continues drawing.

JUSTIN

Each time you pulse, you're between the threads of the web. You pulse again and you move to another universe.

DANIELLE

I have to go back. I can't live without them. Find my world. Find any world that has Bryan and Chandra.

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN

There is no way to tell. Each decision you make creates another universe. There is no way to track or predict them. The pulse cannot be controlled. Maybe you go back, maybe you go forward. Each world is different by one decision.

DANIELLE

All I know is that each world is worse than the last.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle walks down the hallway in shock. Carson comes around the corner. Danielle freezes.

DANIELLE

You?

CARSON

We still on for lunch?

She looks around.

DANIELLE

How did you get in here?

CARSON

Are you okay? Last-minute jitters?
I'm the one who should be nervous.

She turns and goes back down the hallway. He follows her.

CARSON (CONT'D)

Darling.

She's terrified. She runs.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle turns into Justin's office and pushes Justin aside as she grabs a key. She opens the cabinet.

JUSTIN

What is wrong?

Danielle grabs more devices.

DANIELLE

Carson is here. He's in the building. I have to get out of here.

She runs to the laboratory and pushes a device just as Justin grabs her arm. There is a FLASH.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- CONTINUOUS

Danielle and Justin stand in the middle of the laboratory. They are alone.

DANIELLE

Why did you come with me?

JUSTIN

I had more to tell you. It's all on the computer.

Justin pulls her over to the computer.

DANIELLE

Let go of me. I'm going to pulse until I get to a world where Bryan and Chandra are back.

JUSTIN

The computer, it's the one stable variable. I wrote an AI routine that might predict the next world. When we're here in the nothing world, we're already in the next world. It is like a doorstep to your next pulse.

He types into the computer.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

When you disappeared yesterday, I looked in the computer. You and Bryan. You never met. You're involved in community theater. That guy, Carson, that was in prison? He runs the theater group. In that universe, the rape didn't happen. Someone must have interrupted him. Each pulse sends you somewhere else on the web.

She tries to see the computer screen, but Justin grabs her by the shoulders.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

There is no longer a Chandra. No Bryan. Any more pulses and you might go further away or closer - we don't know. There might not be a "you and me." I don't want to lose you. We can stay here. I'll kill Carson. We'll be together. I love you.

She pushes him away.

DANIELLE

I love Bryan. I want my family back.

She takes over the computer and types a few words. She turns toward Justin.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

My daughter exists. Chandra is in the next world. The very next world. Bryan must be there too. I can be back with them.

She looks toward his office and runs to it.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

After Danielle enters the office, she grabs the key and opens the cabinet. She takes another device, but Justin runs in and grabs Danielle's arm.

JUSTIN

Don't. Don't press it.

DANIELLE

Why not? What do I have in this nothing world? A world without Bryan, a world without Chandra. I can't suffer like this.

JUSTIN

Is that what you call it? Suffering? You'd be safe. You'd be alone with me. I love you.

DANIELLE

It isn't living -- not when he is out there somewhere, maybe going after Chandra.

Justin hangs his head.

JUSTIN

You love Bryan. I had to make sure.
Look at this first. You didn't read
everything about the next world.

He logs onto his computer at his desk. She looks over at
Justin, he is crying. She looks at the screen.

DANIELLE

(Reading from the screen)
*"Missing for three days, Dr.
Danielle Franklin is presumed dead.
According to her ex-husband, Bryan
Franklin, she would never go that
long without contacting her
daughter."*

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Her daughter. See, Chandra exists.

She continues reading the screen.

JUSTIN

Read all of it. That rapist has
you. The police aren't sure, but
fragments of rope were found in
here in this lab. You were last
seen here, late at night.

DANIELLE

Rope. He did it again. I was there.
He has me in the next world.

JUSTIN

Not again. The first rape in
college never happened. Maybe we
can stop it. Maybe you're alive.
I'm going with you. I will kill
him.

He turns to the computer.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

First I'll send an e-mail to the
police and I don't care about the
risks -- we're going together.

DANIELLE

Three days of his torture. I might
be dead. You might be dead.

She pulls open a drawer and takes out a rubber band and
another device. Justin spots her.

JUSTIN

That is a half-used device.

DANIELLE

This is my choice. I'm going back.
If it is too horrible, I'll use
this pulse one last time into the
nothing world.

JUSTIN

The world after that might not have
the devices. You could be alone
forever. No Bryan, No Chandra. I
might not be there.

Danielle wraps the rubber band around the device and tosses
it to Justin. He catches it just as it FLASHES.

DANIELLE

I have to go alone.

She pulls another device from her pocket and clicks it.
Another FLASH.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- NIGHT

Danielle SCREAMS. She is hanging from the support beam with
a rope around her neck.

Now she must use both hands to ease the tightening rope. As
he pulls back on the rope, a trickle of blood falls down from
her lip.

CARSON

I will teach you to obey me. You
will be mine forever.

He reaches up inside her blouse and caresses her.

CARSON (CONT'D)

When you disappeared from the last
time, I knew you'd be back. You
want this.

He pulls out a device from his pocket.

CARSON (CONT'D)

You see, a few days ago, I found
this device in your purse. You held
onto it during Chandra's
rehearsals.

DANIELLE

Chandra.

CARSON

Yes, that beautiful child. She looks so much like her mother. You had another in your pocket. I took one. Imagine my delight to find the empty world between parallel universes. I went to your work to find out what this device does. I've been having some fun, but now it's your turn.

Danielle stares in horror as he rolls the device around in his hand.

DANIELLE

How did you get in tonight? How did you get past security, Sam?

CARSON

Sam was old.

DANIELLE

You killed him?

Carson nods.

CARSON

He's gone on to a better world. But you're right, my time is running out. Our time is running out -- but we will soon be alone where no one can bother us.

He comes close to her again and kisses her.

CARSON (CONT'D)

Forever. Alone. Nobody will ever interrupt us again. You will be mine forever. When you get old and I tire of you, I'll use another device in the drawer to return to your sweet child and she will be mine.

Danielle pulls her hands away from the rope, and swings toward him. She presses his device and swings back. There is a FLASH and he is gone.

She starts to choke, but manages to get a hand on the rope and reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small knife.

She cuts the rope and drops to the floor. She pulls out a device and FLASH.

After gasping for a few minutes, she struggles to get up as Bryan and Justin run into the lab.

Bryan runs to her and pulls her into his arms. Justin inspects her neck. It is swollen, bleeding and bruises are forming.

JUSTIN

Why? Why did you go alone?

DANIELLE

I couldn't have you go with me -- I knew I could pulse him and send him to the between world, but what if I sent you along with him? He could get you to develop another device. I remember that I had the cracked one in my pocket. He must have taken it. It was a one-way ticket. I saw it in his hands.

BRYAN

Where is he?

DANIELLE

Gone. The CIA has taken all the devices and he'll spend the rest of his nothing life trying to figure that out. He's alone.

INT. MAYA'S LABORATORY -- DAY

A few days later, Maya walks around Danielle, performing a little inspection.

MAYA

Same. Same. Same.

Maya checks the bandages on Danielle's neck.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Healing nicely. You can take these off in a few...

Danielle removes them. Maya smiles and makes some notes on her iPad.

MAYA (CONT'D)

But you're also telling me that this isn't you?

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE

It was all true. A parallel universe...no I mean...parallel universes. Thousands of them.

MAYA

How did you return to this specific one?

DANIELLE

I studied the logs. I made extensive notes about the nothing - or between-world; how I was feeling when I pulsed, where I was standing, and who was with me before I pulsed.

Maya nods.

MAYA

If all things are exact, then...

DANIELLE

Yes, then I returned to the previous world. That was how Justin's new AI software could predict the next world. Funny thing - Malcolm had originally refused to allow us to keep logs, but I violated that because Megan taught me to journal as a way to help control my PTSD.

MAYA

But if the project is over and it will be a weapon instead, how will you cope with your PTSD? What about Carson?

Danielle hugs herself and breathes deeply.

DANIELLE

Carson was never my enemy.

Danielle closes her eyes.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

"Give me strength, not to be better than my enemies, but to defeat my greatest enemy, the doubts within myself."

MAYA

I know that Cherokee proverb.

Danielle smiles and winks.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Any doubts?

Danielle shakes her head.

DANIELLE

I can defeat anything now.

MAYA

What about our next project? Justin says...

Danielle shakes her head.

DANIELLE

I sold my stock and resigned. I'm out of the security business.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM

Bryan sits on the bed while Danielle paces back and forth.

DANIELLE

One more time.

BRYAN

Snowball, cruise in May, Carson in prison.

Danielle stops and hugs him.

DANIELLE

I'll take it. This world is good. I'm safe. You make me feel like I'm never alone. I love you so much.

BRYAN

What about the Danielle with the other Chandra and Mr. Ping?

She pulls back and stares into his eyes.

DANIELLE

That Danielle is strong. She is working on her PTSD. She knows what is happening. Justin and her will figure it out. Justin was about to...

He frowns.

BRYAN
And the other Danielle that is in
love with that geek?

Danielle shakes her head and takes his chin in her hand.

DANIELLE
That Danielle was never raped. She
was never afraid. That Danielle is
not me.

She pulls him closer and kisses him, deeply. He comes up for
air.

BRYAN
I'll take this Danielle any day.
But this Chandra will disown both
of us if we're late.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER -- NIGHT

Danielle and Bryan stand behind the curtain, helping Chandra
get ready. Chandra frantically looks through a box of
accessories.

CHANDRA
I can't find my mittens, my scarf.

Danielle reaches in and pulls out a pair of mittens. She
slowly unties the scarf from her neck and ties it around
Chandra's head. Chandra looks at her mother.

CHANDRA (CONT'D)
You're so pretty, Momma.

Danielle scoops Chandra into her arms.

DANIELLE
You are the pretty one.

CHANDRA AND DANIELLE
No you, you, you.

They break into "yous" and giggle together until they are out
of breath. She sets her down as Bryan continues to dig
through the box of mittens.

Danielle steps toward the back of the stage and spots Justin
watching her from the shadows. She walks over to him. Justin
tosses her a device.

JUSTIN

Your little rubber band trick helped create this. Brilliant. Don't worry, it's a dud. We use it for training.

Danielle rolls the device over in her hand.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

A pulse grenade. I adapted it to a trigger and now thousands of troops will be saved by sending their enemy into an empty parallel universe.

DANIELLE

A weapon.

JUSTIN

No, protection. We'll save lives.

DANIELLE

Maybe they'll use Carson for target practice. The vision of him pressing that used device over and over gave me the strength to let go of the rope and swing toward him.

JUSTIN

How could you be sure that he had a half-used device?

DANIELLE

Occam's Razor -- all events being equally likely, it is the simplest that has occurred. Now, he'll only exist in my nightmares.

JUSTIN

Somehow I think your nightmares are over. A theater company? Talk about a leap to another universe.

DANIELLE

But are there twenty or twenty thousand universes where Bryan and Chandra are without me? Where is Carson in each one? Which Justin are you?

He shrugs, then looks down at his shoes.

JUSTIN

I'm like you, I've traveled through many universes, and read the logs. We know. We know too much.

He reaches out for her, but she moves back.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

What if I develop a navigational system? You could make sure you're not doing something horrible like working for the government...or worse - loving me.

Again, he looks down at his shoes. She looks past him at Bryan and Chandra who try on another pair of mittens. Danielle shakes her head as she hands him the device.

DANIELLE

Leave me alone. You need to leave me alone.

She walks away leaving him in the shadows and rejoins her family.

FADE OUT: