

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Lose Control"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

1

Another hotel, another town, and as JULIE sips from a cup of coffee, she grimaces - stone cold. With a sigh, she puts it back down on the desk she's sitting at, her attention returning to the laptop open before her.

The glow of its screen reflects off her glasses, which she lifts to rub her tired eyes - seems she's been hard at work for some time.

She glances over to the drawn curtains, and blinks in surprise when she realises it's light outside - just how long has she been at work?

She hears a sound from behind her, and turns to see SYREN curled up asleep on the bed. Her knees are close to her chest and her arms folded behind them, wrapped up like a child in a blanket.

Julie grins as she turns back to her laptop.

JULIE

Yeah, point taken, Syren. Time to stop for the night.

(beat)

Day.

(sighs)

Whatever.

She reaches forward and closes the laptop, taking off her glasses and giving her eyes another rub. Stifling a yawn, she gets to her feet and paces up and down, stretching out her muscles and bones, when:

SYREN

(murmurs)

No... no, Yvette, we can't...

Julie frowns - who's 'Yvette'? As she watches, Syren seems to grow more agitated, shifting restlessly on the bed.

SYREN (cont'd)

Police... they'll try to stop us...
always do...

JULIE

Syren?

Syren doesn't answer - she's still asleep, and Julie decides to move in to listen more closely.

(CONTINUED)

SYREN

Have to be strong...

Julie sits down next to Syren, gently laying a hand over her.

JULIE

Syren, honey, can you hear me? It's Julie.

Syren clamps her eyes shut, shaking her head - whatever dream she's having, it's a vivid one.

SYREN

Bit me... it bit me...

JULIE

Come on, Syren, it's okay. It's just a dream.

SYREN

(louder)

It bit me! Daddy! Help me! Daddy!

JULIE

(concerned)

Syren, come on, try to wa-

SYREN

No!!

Syren suddenly sits bolt upright and SCREAMS!

Julie leaps back, hands to her ears, as Syren's SCREAM gets louder and louder, RATTLING everything in the room!

JULIE

(shouting)

Syren, it's me! Hey! Syren!

But Syren's not listening - she starts shaking her head from side to side, hands pressed to her head, still SCREAMING at the top of her lungs!

Julie hears a loud CRACK and turns to the windows - just as they EXPLODE out of their frames!

Julie ducks for cover as glass sprays back into the room, Syren's screaming now starting to SHAKE everything more violently, like an earth tremor just hit the hotel!

JULIE (cont'd)

(yelling)

Syren! Syren, stop! Stop!

Syren's voice starts to break, the intensity of her scream finally starting to tell, and as the volume fades away, so does the heavy RUMBLING that went with it.

As her scream dies away at last, Julie gingerly pokes her head up to find Syren huddled up on the bed, hugging her knees and SOBBING to herself.

Julie gets to her feet, wincing as she finds a few cuts from wayward shards of glass and brushing more off her.

Through the now open windows, she can hear raised voices, CAR ALARMS and other signals that Syren's scream was heard for some distance.

Syren continues to cry, and Julie gently lays a hand on her arm, trying to move into Syren's eyeline.

JULIE (cont'd)

Hey... Syren? Are you in there?

Syren blinks, tears rolling down her face.

SYREN

What... what happened? I don't... I don't remember anything, I was just... screaming...

JULIE

Yeah, I kind of noticed that.

Syren looks up and hears the alarms and noise outside, frowning in confusion.

SYREN

What did I do? How did I-

JULIE

You let off one of your full force Mariah Careys, that's what happened.

SYREN

(blinks)
Mariah what?

JULIE

Never mind. Come on, let's get you cleaned up. Something tells me we're about to get evicted from this place.

Julie helps Syren to her feet, leading her slowly towards the bathroom before we cut to:

2 INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER 2

Julie is just finishing a conversation with a sour-faced MAINTENANCE GUY as she pushes the door closed.

JULIE

Okay, well... thanks. And if you find out what caused all that noise, just try to give us some warning next time!

Maintenance Guy scowls, sure there's something funny going on here, but Julie keeps her smile in place as she closes and locks the door.

As she heads to the bathroom, we see that the empty window frames have been boarded up with makeshift planks.

3 INT. HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NEXT 3

Julie steps into the bathroom to find Syren sitting in the tub, cold water from the shower cascading onto her. Syren's still fully clothed, and Julie quirks an eyebrow.

JULIE

Comfy?

SYREN

I was hot.

JULIE

Most people take their clothes off before getting in the tub.

SYREN

Most people can't break windows just by screaming.

Beat. Good point. Julie kneels down by the tub, reaching up to shut the water off.

JULIE

So...

SYREN

What?

JULIE

This is where you try to tell me what kind of a nightmare you were having before you woke up.

SYREN

(looks away)
The same one.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Same one as what?

SYREN

Same one I always have. Since before Chris saved me. Flashes, sounds... pictures, memories of something, but... but I don't know what. Or who.

JULIE

Do you think they're your memories?

Syren shrugs, leaning dejectedly against the wall.

JULIE (cont'd)

Well... I think I may have found someone who can help.

Syren whips round, immediately intrigued.

SYREN

Who? Who?

JULIE

Let's just say I did a little research, and I think I've found a guy who can help you start finding out what's up here...

She taps Syren on the forehead.

JULIE (cont'd)

... and help you figure out who you are at last.

Syren beams - then jumps forward to HUG Julie! Julie manages a grin as Syren squeezes tight, trying not to notice that Syren's still dripping wet, and as she pats her on the back, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. VAN - EVENING

4

The gang's all here now - Julie drives with Syren up front, while in the back are DANYAEL, TWIST and DIEGO. The van's bouncing its way up a dirt road, heading into a range of grassy hillsides.

DANYAEL

I still don't get why this guy lives so damn far away.

JULIE

We're only about ten miles out of the city, Danny. Believe me, I've had to go further for people like Senor Sueno.

TWIST

What's a 'demonologist,' anyway?
(off Julie's look)
Humour me.

JULIE

Senor Gilberto Sueno is one of the world's leading experts on the study of non-human organisms. Basically, he's the go-to guy if you need questions answering about anything inhuman.

TWIST

Such as 'how can boy vampires get turned on when, by rights, blood shouldn't be flowing to their-'

DIEGO

(quickly)
What else can we expect from him?

JULIE

Going from the e-mails we've exchanged, he's very interested in Syren's case and has pledged a few days of his time to see if he can help restore her memories.

Syren turns and beams back into the van - she's clearly bouncing off the walls with excitement about this.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

Okay, yeah, so we unlock the diva's noggin and then she remembers who she is. Yay you. But why do we have to be here?

DANYAEL

(scolding)

Twist...

TWIST

What? No offence, but what are we supposed to do while Syren gets the anal probe in there?

SYREN

The what?

JULIE

(quickly)

Never mind.

(sharp; to Twist)

We're here because one of our team members could be about to experience something very traumatic, and we should all be here to help her through it.

TWIST

I ate a jalapeno and cajun chicken pizza last week that put me through a traumatic experience, and yet somehow I can't recall everybody rushing to my aid.

Much shaking of heads and rolling of eyes.

DIEGO

I do not see why you are complaining, Twist. Don't you want to see if this man can help Syren?

(beat)

Aren't you even a tiny bit curious as to what happened to her? How she ended up on that island?

Twist pouts - yes, she is curious, but she's trying not to show it. Danyael nudges her.

DANYAEL

Besides, makes a change from festivals burning down and freaky dream monsters trying to kill us, right?

Twist shrugs, conceding the point as we cut to:

5

EXT. SUENO'S HOME - NEXT

5

Parked up at the end of a long, gravel driveway, the van stands before a large, modern-looking house. It's very European in its architecture and design, with plenty of curves and pale colours.

Twist stretches her back out, glancing up at the cloudy sky as she looks round - the house sits in a dip in the many hillsides, well off the beaten path.

TWIST

This guy likes his privacy, huh?

DANYAEL

(walking past)

He studies monsters for a living.
Do you think he'd advertise that?

TWIST

Well, yeah! Think of the cool
slogans he could use!

Danyael gives her a wry look as they join the others at the house's main entrance.

JULIE

I'll do the talking. I set this up
a few days ago, but I'm the only
one Sueno's been in contact with.

TWIST

You could have 'Got Demons?'
(crickets)
That's just off the top of my head,
you understand...

Julie reaches forward and pushes the door buzzer. A soft melody chimes out, and after several moments there's a BUZZ from the small intercom by the door.

VOICE

(filtered)

Si?

Julie leans over and pushes the 'Reply' button.

JULIE

It's Dr. Julie Kingston, Senor
Sueno. I've brought my friend.

VOICE

Ah... *bueno!* Come in, come in.

There's a CLICK as the door unlocks, and Julie nods to Diego to open it.

6

INT. SUENO'S HOME - FOYER - NEXT

6

Diego carefully steps inside, eyes scanning the interior before him. It's spacious and minimalist in its design, not much furniture and plenty of light colours.

He motions for the others to follow, keeping his senses sharp as they fan out behind him. Twist wrinkles her nose.

TWIST

(disapproving)

Europeans. No sense of decor.

VOICE (O.S.)

(Spanish lilt)

Ah, Miss Kingston! *Buenos noches.*

The team turn to see a Hispanic man in his fifties start to descend a staircase that curves down into the lobby - this is SUENO. Grey-haired but still light on his feet, he's handsome enough for you to wonder why he's such a recluse.

He crosses the foyer and extends a hand to Julie, and after shaking it firmly he turns and grins at the others.

SUENO

So! This is them, eh?

JULIE

That's them.

DANYAEL

Hmm?

SUENO

Let's see, let's see...

He starts to pace up and down, inspecting the others as though they were in an identity parade.

SUENO (cont'd)

Two vampires, one...

(peers at Diego)

... human, I think, only...

(shakes head)

Never mind.

He stops before Syren, who self-consciously plays with a strand of her hair as he looks her up and down.

SUENO (cont'd)

And what do we have here?

SYREN

Hello. I'm Syren.

(CONTINUED)

SUENO
 (to Julie)
 This is the one?

JULIE
 That's her.

Julie steps forward and takes Syren's hand, guiding it into Sueno's. He leans down and gently kisses her hand, and she blushes.

SUENO
 Julie did not tell me you were so beautiful.

Twist COUGHS loudly, but Sueno doesn't react - he's just realised that Syren is blind.

SUENO (cont'd)
 Have your eyes always been this way?

SYREN
 As long as I can remember. Which isn't that long.

Sueno nods, stroking his chin thoughtfully before he turns to address the group.

SUENO
 My apologies for making you all travel so far to see me. I know that Colorado is far from the easiest place to get around in a hurry.

JULIE
 It's fine. Anything you can do to help Syren will be worth the trip.

SUENO
 So! This way. Let us get settled in before we start.

He motions for them to go on ahead, steering them through an archway and into the next room.

Julie passes a MIRROR mounted on the wall as she follows the others - but as she looks at her reflection, she sees a FLASH of something!

A haze of BLUE MIST seems to be hanging over Julie's head, but when she looks up there's nothing there, and then back in the mirror the mist is gone.

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

Confused, Julie looks around, trying to figure out what she saw, but when Syren's voice calls her in from the next room she follows into:

7 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LOUNGE - NEXT

7

Julie double takes at the room she walks into - a thick assortment of plants and vegetation fill the entirety of one side of the room, creating an almost jungle-like atmosphere.

The plants aren't ordinary flora and fauna, however - they're all in a variety of outlandish colours and shapes, a bizarre display unlike anything on this earth.

Julie looks round to find the others just as struck by the unusual display, while Syren has her eyes closed, soaking up the thick scents filling the air.

SUENO

I see you find my collection... interesting.

DANYAEL

'Collection'?

SUENO

These are all plant forms that I have either collected from various hiding places around the world and brought back here to study, or cross-breeds between those species and more... standard types.

Twist heads forward, sniffing from one large, red-petaled flower.

TWIST

Smells like... ham.

SUENO

There's a little bit of everything in there, I think.

He motions to a set of chairs, recliners and sofas, and the team take their seats.

SUENO (cont'd)

I come here when I need to relax, be away from my laboratories for a while. Leave the scientific and surround myself with nature.

TWIST

Yeah, 'cause nature is all about the eight-foot tall, blue and white stripey plants.

(CONTINUED)

Sueno chuckles, and Julie shoots Twist a sharp look.

SYREN

Excuse me for asking...

SUENO

Yes?

SYREN

... but what exactly are you going to do to help me?

DANYAEL

Actually, I have a question first, if that's okay.

(off their looks)

It's a quick one.

SUENO

Go ahead.

DANYAEL

Just... you don't exactly strike me as, you know... a recluse.

DIEGO

He means, your manner is not that of a man who shies away from human contact.

SUENO

(grins)

It's not through choice. The nature of my work brings me into contact with all manner of creatures, from vampires to every sub-species of half-human you can name... even werewolves.

JULIE

I thought they'd pretty much all died out?

SUENO

Oh, you'd be surprised. They can be very good at hiding.

(to Danyael)

So, I stay hidden because my work is much easier that way. No angry locals or disapproving officials to monitor me.

Danyael nods, satisfied, and Sueno turns back to Syren.

SUENO (cont'd)
I'll need to run some preliminary tests first, just so I know how your body works as a starting point. After that, it's a matter of taking the findings and going from there. It all depends on what needs to be done!

SYREN
Will it... will any of it hurt?

SUENO
I can't say.

Sueno notices Twist giving him a dark look, and adds:

SUENO (cont'd)
I won't put you through any discomfort. You have my word.

He looks round the room, then nods and CLAPS his hands.

SUENO (cont'd)
So! Shall we get started?

He stands and offers his hand to Syren, then realises he needs to gently take it himself, raising her to her feet.

SUENO (cont'd)
We will get started right away.

He starts to leave, leading Syren after him, and with some exchanged glances the others start to get up.

SUENO (cont'd)
Oh, no... *arrepentido*, but we must do these tests alone.

Diego narrows his eyes, and Julie steps up.

JULIE
I'm not sure that's-

SYREN
Julie... I'm alright.

She offers a hopeful smile, and Sueno nods.

SUENO
I understand your concerns, but I prefer to do my work alone. Just myself and the subject. I hope you can understand.

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

Julie looks round the others - they don't like it, but they back down this time.

JULIE
We understand.

SUENO
Good. I'll be back shortly with my findings. Until then, can I get any of you something to eat or drink?

Twist opens her mouth to reply, but Danyael answers first:

DANYAEL
We're fine, thanks.

Sueno nods and exits, leaving Twist to elbow Danyael sharply in the ribs.

TWIST
And what if some of us had wanted food? Who died and made you spokesperson?

A beat. That didn't come out right. Twist curses inwardly.

TWIST (cont'd)
Danyael, I didn't-

DANYAEL
It's alright. Let's just... let's just take a seat. Chill out.

He's the first to sit back down.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
God knows we've earned a night off.

The others don't look so sure, but as Danyael reaches into his leather jacket and fishes out a packet of cigarettes, he's settling down nicely as we cut to:

8 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NEXT

8

Sueno unlocks and opens a heavy steel door, carefully leading Syren through into a wide, darkened room.

SYREN
Where are we?

SUENO
My second home.

He reaches for a light switch and flicks it on, and as neon strips click to life and flood the room with light, we get our first look at the lab.

(CONTINUED)

Several heavy CHAIRS stand at various points round the room, bulky heaps of monitoring equipment piled up all around them. A bank of computer terminals and printers stands against one wall, with glass display cabinets full of neatly labelled jars over them.

Sueno leads Syren to the nearest chair and helps her up into it, Syren reclining back on what looks like an oversized optician's chair.

She takes a few breaths as he starts switching various machines on, to a chorus of HUMS and HISSES.

SUENO (cont'd)

What we shall do first is what I call an 'anchor measurement.' I have had much experience with repressed memories and how to bring them back to the surface of one's subconscious.

He starts applying small electrode pads to Syren's neck and forearms, watching a bank of screens as the steady BLIPS of a heart rate monitor fades up.

SYREN

What's an 'anchor measurement'?

SUENO

I ask a subject to focus on their earliest memory, the first and strongest thing they can ever remember. I use the data that gives me about your brainwave patterns to see where I need to look next, using that initial memory as my 'anchor.'

He carefully pulls Syren's hair to one side, setting a few more electrodes onto her scalp. Wires from these pads run back into a bulky machine connected to a printer - an EEG.

SYREN

So all I need to do is think of the first thing I can remember?

SUENO

That's right. Take your time, relax, whatever you do to calm yourself.

Syren takes a deep breath, settling back and closing her eyes. She's silent for a beat, then:

SYREN

Can I hear some music?

SUENO

Of course. What would you like?

SYREN

Something peaceful. Classical. Slow strings. A little sad.

Sueno nods, knowing just the thing - he heads for his bank of computers and connects up an mp3 player on his desk to the speakers, and within moments soft, lilting CLASSICAL MUSIC is piping into the room.

SUENO

Better?

SYREN

(nods)

Yes.

SUENO

I always have plenty of music to hand. It's a good way to fool the everyday parts of my brain into listening to it, so I can use the rest to concentrate.

Sueno continues to speak, but his voice starts to FADE OUT as we begin to PUSH IN on Syren.

The slow, mournful strings of the music start to be replaced by another sound - waves, gently lapping at a shoreline.

Continue to PUSH IN on Syren, before we WHITE OUT to:

SYREN'S P.O.V:

Fade back to see a stretch of golden sand, blue skies with a hint of fluffy clouds, turquoise, sparkling water and a thick forest of palm trees, gently swaying in the breeze.

Only, everything is still WHITE - we can just see OUTLINES of the things around us, and only then when they move. Shapes shift from one form to the next, like a living canvas trying to decide what it wants to look like.

The MUSIC and Sueno's VOICE can be heard far in the distance, but the RUSTLE of the wind through the trees and the waves pushing up and down the beach are much louder.

Hold on this tranquil scene for a beat, the soothing sounds of motion matching the movements of the outlines of the trees and the waves, before a SMASH CUT to:

10 EXT. STREET - DAY

10

Suddenly, we're in the middle of a city street, hemmed in by a crowd of yelling people! Still looking through Syren's eyes, we're JOSTLED by the swell of people from either side, raised, angry voices all around.

The crowd suddenly parts as a surge of black-uniformed RIOT POLICE charge forward, and there are SHRIEKS and SHOUTS of alarm as the police raise BATONS and start hitting back!

Syren sees her hands go up in defence, but she's powerless as one riot policeman bears down on her, raising his club to strike:

11 INT. SUENO'S LAB - NEXT

11

Syren snaps awake with a GASP, lurching forward on the chair - and all the equipment around her is going haywire!

Sueno dashes around in a panic, eyes boggling as printers spew out reams of paper, computer screens fill up with lines of information at dizzying speeds and ALARMS beep out from a multitude of pieces of equipment.

Alarmed, Syren starts pulling the electrode pads from her body - then realises her nose is BLEEDING!

She dabs at her nose as Sueno hurriedly switches everything off, the clamour dying down as the lab returns to its former state of serenity.

SYREN

What... how did I.. I...

SUENO

Syren, are you alright? You've been under for almost an hour!

SYREN

An hour?!? But- but, I was only...

She reaches out, hands finding his shirt as she pulls him closer:

SYREN (cont'd)

I saw something.

She lets that comment sink in, and as Sueno's face creases in bewilderment, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. ISLAND - DAY 12

Back on the island, everything dark once again with just shifting, shimmering outlines of the trees, beach and waves. The wind rustles through the trees, the waves lap at the shore, and all is calm.

Until the scene starts to bleed into COLOUR, outlines gradually forming into actual shapes, with the blues of the sky and sea matched by the golden sands and green trees.

The colours become more vivid and over-saturated, building up an intense blanket of colour that continues to burn, colours starting to bleed into one before everything finally pours into one and we:

WHITE OUT:

13 INT. LABORATORY - DAY 13

We fade to the inside of some kind of chamber, looking out through a sea of clear green fluid into a high-tech laboratory, the outside world curved and distorted by the glass. People wearing hazmat suits move around, and as one approaches the chamber, we:

WHITE OUT:

14 EXT. ISLAND - DAY 14

Back to the island, still in colour, but the images around us now flicker from one scene to the next, and we:

WHITE OUT:

15 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 15

Next, we're inside what looks like a private school classroom, with several neat rows of teenage GIRLS all in a smart, blue uniform sitting all around.

A TEACHER has his back to us, scribbling something on the blackboard, and our view leans forward to look down at the desk, where a pair of neatly-manicured hands rest on an exercise book.

We get a quick look at the name on the cover but can't quite read it, before another:

WHITE OUT:

16 EXT. ISLAND - DAY 16

Back to the island, and as the colours fade rapidly up from pale to vivid, we:

WHITE OUT:

17 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 17

Suddenly, we're in a young girl's bedroom, everything in pastel pink colours. Rows of stuffed toys sit on shelves over a small dressing table, the mirror crammed with photographs, as morning sunlight streams in through the windows.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Come on, sleepy head, time to get up! Your father won't wait forever!

Our view flashes towards the door, and as we hear FOOTSTEPS approaching the room, we:

WHITE OUT:

18 EXT. ISLAND - DAY 18

Back to the island, although now everything is blurring into one mass, and as we start to hear a loud, terrifying SHRIEKING sound, with the SCREAM of a woman just audible beneath it, we:

WHITE OUT:

19 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NIGHT 19

Syren wakes up, frantically thrashing from side to side as she gasps desperately for air. Once again, Sueno's equipment is wailing and beeping urgently, and Sueno has to step into frame to try and hold Syren down.

SUENO

It's alright, it's alright! You're awake now!

Syren's pale eyes roll around in their sockets, her hands gripping the arm rests of the chair tight enough to turn her knuckles white. Sweat drips from her chin, her hair soaked through.

Sueno quickly removes all the electrodes, letting Syren lean forward to gulp down more air as he holds her close, his embrace giving her something to hang on to.

ANGLE ON: FLOOR

By Syren's feet, a drop of BLOOD splashes to the ground, followed by a couple more.

(CONTINUED)

ON SCENE:

Syren leans back, blinks and realises her nose is bleeding again, but Sueno is quickly on hand with a wad of tissue for her.

SUENO (cont'd)
Tilt your head back, *chica*. That's right.

Syren starts to get her breath back, as Sueno paces round to examine his monitors, shaking his head at the results.

SYREN
I saw more this time. Things...
things I don't remember ever seeing
before.

Sueno is silent. Alarmed, Syren looks round, trying to hear where he is.

SYREN (cont'd)
Senor Sueno?

SUENO
(darkly)
It's what I was afraid of.

SYREN
What is? What's wrong?

He TEARS OFF a sheet of printout and walks back over to her, his eyes fixed on the information in his hands.

SUENO
There are powerful enchantments at
work here, Syren. It's a *cadeado*.

Syren dabs at her nose, brow creasing in puzzlement.

SYREN
What's that?

SUENO
Literally translated, it means
'lock.'

He sighs, lowering the printout and pressing a soothing hand to her forehead.

SUENO (cont'd)
Somebody has layered several types
of barrier spell over your mind,
stopping anything from getting too
far in and shutting off everything
past a certain point.

SYREN

But what does that mean?
Somebody... somebody made me forget
who I am?

SUENO

That I cannot say for sure, but it
seems to be the most likely
explanation.

SYREN

But... why? Why would anyone... do
you think it was those people in
the lab?

SUENO

(frowns)
What 'lab'?

SYREN

Perhaps I should tell you exactly
what I saw.

Sueno nods gravely, and we cut to:

INT. SUENO'S HOME - LOUNGE - NIGHT

As Sueno steps back into the lounge, the others are all
asleep - except for Diego, who looks up as the Spaniard
enters.

He nudges Twist, asleep on his shoulder, who wakes Danyael up
as she stirs.

DIEGO

Julie?

She awakes with a SNORT, blinking a few times as she comes
round.

JULIE

(groggy)
What time is it?

SUENO

I'm afraid it is quite late, so my
apologies for not coming back to
you sooner.

TWIST

Where's Syren?

SUENO

She's still in my lab. She needed
some time to recover, she-

Diego is on his feet in an instant.

DIEGO

'Recover' from what?

Sueno blinks, registering Diego's defensiveness as he raises his hands reassuringly.

SUENO

She is alright, I promise you. The tests I ran to make my initial observations proved to be a little... dramatic.

JULIE

'Dramatic'? I'm not liking the words you're coming out with here, Senor Sueno.

SUENO

And I repeat, she is fine. There is no need for alarm.

DANYAEL

Maybe you oughtta explain to us exactly what's happened so far, then we'll decide if there's cause for 'alarm' or not.

SUENO

I will need more time with her.

(beat)

Alone.

DIEGO

I do not think we can agree to that.

SUENO

Please, understand me, I want to help your friend unlock her memories, but there are outside forces here that will take time to break down.

TWIST

'Outside forces'? Can we cut the vague and get to the facts, please?

SUENO

Your friend has many, many spells placed on her mind to stop her from remembering who she is.

DANYAEL

Why would anyone do that?

JULIE

Probably the same people who left her on that island.

SUENO

I know I can dispel some of them, others will take longer. If you'll permit me, I'd like to spend the evening working with her.

TWIST

What does Syren have to say about all of this?

Sueno heads for an intercom unit, hidden from view by a wall of foliage.

SUENO

Ask her yourself.

Twist glances at Julie, then heads for the intercom and hits the button marked 'Lab #1.'

TWIST

Syren? You there?

A beat, and Twist glances suspiciously at Sueno before:

SYREN

(filtered; through
intercom)

I'm here. Sorry, I couldn't find the intercom at first.

TWIST

That's okay. How's he treating you?

SYREN

Oh, just fine. It's been a little rough, but I'm not in any pain. Senor Sueno is taking good care of me.

TWIST

Yeah, see, if you were being brainwashed, that's exactly what I'd expect you to say.

JULIE

(wearily)
Twist...

TWIST

What? It's a fair point!

DANAYEL
 (into intercom)
 You're sure you're alright?

SYREN
 Hello, Danyael. Yes, I am.

DANYAEL
 Sueno wants us to leave you here
 for the night. Are you okay with
 that?

SYREN
 I am. I know I'm in safe hands
 here.

Danyael looks to Sueno, who nods.

DANYAEL
 Well... alright. We'll come back
 first thing and see how you are,
 alright? Any problems, just call
 me.

SYREN
 I will. Thank you, Danyael.

He steps back, looking to the others.

DANYAEL
 You heard her. Let's go.

He turns to Sueno and offers his hand, which Sueno shakes
 with a warm smile. The others follow, with Twist hanging back
 to speak to Sueno.

TWIST
 We come back and she's got one hair
 out of place, I'm turning that hair
 of yours into a pillowcase.

SUENO
 You have nothing to worry about,
 Miss McFadden. You have my word.

Still frowning, Twist passes his offered hand and heads out,
 and as Sueno watches her go, we return to:

21 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NIGHT

21

Syren is sitting in a more standard chair now, sipping from a
 glass of water as Sueno enters.

SUENO
 How are you feeling now?

(CONTINUED)

SYREN

Better, thank you.

(beat)

I'd like to try again.

SUENO

It hasn't been that long. Are you sure? I'd rather you spent more time recovering before we-

SYREN

Senor, I...

He stops, and she looks away for a beat before replying:

SYREN (cont'd)

I want to know what's there. What someone tried to stop me from knowing. Maybe then I can understand why.

Sueno pauses, then nods, heading for a large supply cabinet and sliding out one of the drawers.

Syren finishes her water and stands as Sueno takes out a small packet, tearing open the shrink wrapping and removing a phial of purple fluid.

SYREN (cont'd)

So what are we going to do next?

Sueno steps over and helps her back into the chair, and she settles down as he picks up an AIR HYPO, a syringe powered by compressed air.

SUENO

I'm going to try a stronger sedative, to see if I can keep your body from reacting too drastically as I try to dispel some of the locks.

SYREN

Will it hurt?

SUENO

It shouldn't, but if you do start to experience any pain you can let me know with this.

He slips something into her hand - a small BUZZER.

SUENO (cont'd)

It responds to the lightest touch, so whenever you want me to stop, just press it.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

Syren tries it a few times, the buzzer letting out a sharp BUZZ. Satisfied, she nods.

Sueno begins fastening electrode pads to her temples, neck and forearms again, readying the air hypo.

SUENO (cont'd)

Now. You may feel a little pinch as I apply the sedative, but after that its effects should be instantaneous.

(beat)

Are you ready?

She nods, closing her eyes and taking a deep breath. Sueno presses the air hypo's trigger, and there's a quick HISS as the purple fluid is blasted into Syren's bloodstream.

She takes a short breath, surprised by the sensation, but soon visibly starts to relax, her body going limp as she goes under.

We stay on Syren and start to go OUT OF FOCUS, the soft beeps of the heart rate monitors the only sound as we DISSOLVE TO:

22 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

22

Twist is restlessly flipping through TV channels, finally giving up as she flicks the TV off and tosses the remote away with a SIGH.

She hears Danyael's voice outside and tries to listen in, deciding to get up and creep over to the door, opening it a crack as we cut to:

23 EXT. MOTEL ROOM - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT

23

Out on the open-air passageway that connects all the rooms on this floor, Danyael leans against the railing as he overlooks the car park and the black van down below. He's talking into his cell phone, and hasn't spotted Twist eavesdropping.

DANYAEL

(into phone)

Yeah, yeah, we'll be here another day at least. Syren's seeing some guy to help her get her memories back, all very emotional stuff.

(listens; chuckles)

Ha! No, I think stuff like that should stay hidden. Even I don't like to remember that story.

Twist frowns - who is he talking to? Danyael laughs again.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL (cont'd)

So, anyway, I was just calling...

(listens; grins)

No, not to say I love you, just to say, you know... hey. I mean, yeah, took me eight years to do this last time, so I figured I'd start early.

(listens; laughs)

No, Naomi, I don't plan on leaving it another eight years.

Twist's face registers the name - and she actually looks a little upset as she leans back into her room:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NEXT

Twist carefully shuts her door again, obviously disgruntled.

DIEGO (O.S.)

Is everything alright?

She jumps, turning to see Diego standing in the bathroom doorway.

TWIST

(scowls)

How do you manage to sneak up on someone in a hotel room?

DIEGO

I'm very quiet. Who was Danyael talking to?

TWIST

How did you-

DIEGO

I have excellent hearing.

TWIST

(sighs)

Nobody, just... just some old girlfriend. You know, that Naomi chick who almost got us all burned alive last week.

DIEGO

And that bothers you?

TWIST

(evasive)

What? No! Why would it- what?

DIEGO

Twist, I can tell that you're a little... upset.

TWIST

Am not.

He lowers his head as he approaches her.

DIEGO

Is there... do you still have feelings for Danyael?

TWIST

Okay, not having this conversation.

She pushes past him, but he calls back:

DIEGO

You need to resolve your feelings, Twist. They will slow you down otherwise.

TWIST

I get about just fine, thanks.

DIEGO

And if you and Danyael still have things you need to discuss, then... then where does that leave you and me?

Twist pauses, turning back to face him before she glances down at the bed.

TWIST

About to have some hot sex so you'll hopefully stop asking me questions like that.

She raises an eyebrow, but Diego just shakes his head, stepping to the door and opening it.

TWIST (cont'd)

Hey, wait! Where are you going?

DIEGO

I need a little air. I'll be back.

He exits before Twist can reply, and she puts her hands on her hips and pouts.

She looks round the room - then suddenly grabs the lamp and HURLS it at the wall, where it SMASHES! She's literally shaking with anger, and as she seethes, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25

INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NIGHT

25

Sueno is asleep at his desk, his head resting on his arms as he catches a few snoozes.

That is, until he's rudely awoken by Syren reaching into frame to gently shake him awake.

SYREN

Senor Sueno?

He SNORTS and wakes, a sheet of paper stuck to his cheek. He blinks a few times as he comes round, then pulls the paper away and rubs his eyes.

SYREN (cont'd)

Were you asleep?

SUENO

Asleep and dreaming, *chica*. Sorry.

SYREN

Oh, no, that's alright, I was just-

SUENO

You were just wondering when we can get onto the next stage of the tests, *si*?

SYREN

(smiles)

Twist keeps telling me I'm very easy to read.

SUENO

She would be right! But still. Your enthusiasm is good, even after all we have done already tonight.

Sueno stretches out and stands, waiting as Syren makes her way back into the chair.

He takes a pair of reading glasses from his pocket and uses them to peer at the various monitors and printouts.

SYREN

Is it working? The spells, I mean?

SUENO

(still looking at screens)

It appears so, yes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUENO (cont'd)
Your brainwave activity is still very unusual, but I am noticing very definite changes.

SYREN
For the better?

SUENO
(nods; smiles)
For the better.

He pulls up a chair and sits down, tracing his fingers across one screen which shows a 3-D graphic of Syren's brain.

SUENO (cont'd)
It is a shame you cannot see this, because even to someone unfamiliar with the science, this is truly fascinating.

SYREN
I'm sure it is, but a friend told me once to make sure I only learn the things that I need to know in my life. He said it'd keep more room in my brain for important things.

SUENO
'He,' eh? What was his name?

SYREN
(smiles)
Chris.

SUENO
This Chris, is he part of your team?

SYREN
Yes. Well... not at the moment. He's... he's somewhere else. But he's coming back.

SUENO
I hope he does. From the look on your face when you spoke his name, I can tell you care for him very much.

SYREN
Like I said... easy to read.

Sueno grins and reaches for the air hypo again, filling it up with another shot of the purple fluid.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

SUENO
Are you ready to try again?

SYREN
(exhales)
I am.

She relaxes, and as Sueno injects her with another dose to the sound of a short, sharp HISS, we cut to:

26 EXT. MOTEL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT 26

Danyael walks back towards the motel, a plastic bag in one hand as he smokes with his other. He's HUMMING some tune or other to himself, the BOTTLES in his bag clinking together.

27 EXT. MOTEL - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT 27

He trots up the stairs to the first floor corridor again, to be confronted by Diego.

DANYAEL
Oh, hey. I just needed to pop out for some supplies.

He holds up the bag, the contents CLINKING again.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
That should be it for the night now.

DIEGO
(raises eyebrow)
Are you... reporting in to me, Danyael?

DANYAEL
What? Uh, no, I'm just-

DIEGO
Danyael...

DANYAEL
Uh-oh.

DIEGO
(blinks)
What?

DANYAEL
I know that tone of voice.

He sets the bag down, takes a final drag from his cigarette and flicks the butt away before joining Diego in leaning against the railing.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL (cont'd)

What did she say?

DIEGO

What did who say?

DANYAEL

Twist.

(off his look)

Come on, you used the 'Twist yelled at me' voice. Believe me, I've heard it before. I've used it before, point of fact.

Diego exhales, staring out across the city lights in the distance.

DIEGO

I asked her if there was something still unresolved between the two of you.

DANYAEL

(reacts)

You... you said what?

DIEGO

I found her listening in on your phone conversation earlier, and when I asked her why, she became very defensive about it.

Danyael doesn't know where to look.

DIEGO (cont'd)

Danyael, if you still... if you still have feelings for her, then I can-

DANYAEL

Trust me, that ship has sailed. It's sailed right round the Cape of Good Hope and gotten wrecked on the Barrier Reef.

(off his look)

That means 'no.'

DIEGO

All the same, there is still some tension between the two of you, and I can't help but feel I am the cause of it.

DANYAEL

Well... don't. Because you're not. Twist and I, we just...

Danyaël takes a deep breath, choosing his words carefully.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

There was a time when yeah, I did have 'feelings,' or something like that. God knows, I never got a handle on it. But when she... when you and Twist got together, that kinda told me what the deal was.

(beat)

I can't blame you for her choice. That's not me, man.

Diego straightens, hands still on the railing.

DIEGO

This part of life was never something I was good at.

DANYAEL

Staying in motels?

DIEGO

Being in love.

DANYAEL

Oh.

(beat)

Oh...

Diego lowers his head, and now Danyaël really doesn't know what to say next.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Are you... are you sure?

DIEGO

I don't know. As I said, this isn't the kind of thing I'm best at. Being a warrior, fighting for a cause, protecting the innocent, those are things I know. Women?

He glances towards his and Twist's room.

DIEGO (cont'd)

Still a mystery.

A long beat. Danyaël shifts awkwardly.

DANYAEL

Look, Diego... hey, I don't hate you, alright? So don't think that. And me and Twist, we...

(MORE)

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 we still have some stuff to work
 out, yeah, but we're dealing with
 that in our own time. We don't want
 to drag other people into it,
 especially not you.

Diego looks up, and Danyael offers his hand.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 Let's shake on it.

A beat, then with a grin Diego shakes his hand.

DIEGO
 Thank you.

DANYAEL
 No problem.

Diego nods, turns and heads back into his room, but as he
 exits Danyael's friendly smile drops, and as soon as Diego's
 door shuts he lets out a heavy, weary SIGH.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 (to himself)
Definitely need more booze now.

He picks his bag back up, but then pauses, frowning as he
 turns his attention toward one of the other rooms.

We PUSH IN on one of the doors, before a cut to:

Julie lies in the bed, curled up into a tight little ball and
 with the pillow wrapped around her head, pressing it as tight
 as she can.

All around her, dozens of WHISPERING VOICES can be heard,
 echoing through the silence of the room.

VOICES
 No-one trusts you... never be as
 good... just going to get them all
 killed... he'll never come back...
 they think you're weak... he'll
 never love you...

JULIE
 (yells)
 Shut up!!

She squeezes her eyes shut, but when there's a KNOCK at her
 door, the voices instantly stop.

DANYAEL (O.S.)
 (through door)
 Julie? Are you okay?

Julie blinks, looking round, then turns on the bedside lamp and quickly wipes her eyes dry.

29 EXT. MOTEL - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT

29

Julie opens the door to Danyael, still rubbing her eyes.

DANYAEL
 Man, you look rough.

JULIE
 Thanks.

DANYAEL
 You okay in there? Sounded like you were having a bad dream or something.

JULIE
 I was. Now I'm not, thank God.

DANYAEL
 Want me to sit in with you for a minute? Help chase the bad vibes away?

He holds up his bag and gives it a little shake.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 My buddy Jack can come along too, if you like...

She grins, but shakes her head.

JULIE
 Thanks, but no. I just want to get some rest.

DANYAEL
 Okay, cool.

He turns to go, but she reaches out and lays a hand on his arm to stop him.

JULIE
 Danyael...

DANYAEL
 Yeah?

A beat. Julie looks ready to say something - but then waves her hand dismissively.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

JULIE

Never mind. I'll see you in the morning.

He nods and heads off, and Julie pushes the door closed:

30 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NEXT

30

Julie turns and leans against the door, sliding down to sit on the floor, her hands pushing through her hair.

She sighs heavily, not looking like she's going to be getting any sleep tonight as we return to:

31 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NIGHT

31

Syren is dozing peacefully, Sueno watching the readouts as he flips through a large, bulky SPELLBOOK open before him.

He turns to Syren, adjusting some of the electrode pads, then pauses to gently stroke her hair.

SUENO

You are tough, little on, so I hope you are tough enough for this.

We PUSH IN on Syren as Sueno returns to his machines, and:

WHITE OUT:

32 INT. LARGE BALLROOM - DAY

32

We're looking down at a PIANO, a grand old thing indeed, as our hands flow over the keys with practised ease. We're playing a classical piece with flawless accuracy - until a wrong note rings out like somebody just dropped an anvil.

We look up - and into the disapproving face of a MUSIC TEACHER, a haughty-looking man with greying hair and small *pince nez* glasses.

TEACHER

(shaking head)

No, no, no. That is not how the fifth movement is supposed to end at all! Here. Let me show you.

He motions for us to move up the seat, and we shift a little, looking up and around the room - we're in an obviously affluent house, the trappings of wealth evident in the furniture and decor all around.

The music teacher starts to play the piece again, hardly glancing at the sheet music as his fingers dance nimbly over the keys, before we hear:

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Lyra?

We whip round, following the sound of the voice, but just as a woman starts to come into view, we cut to:

33 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NIGHT

33

Sueno looks up - several of his machines are BEEPING urgently, and he peers over his glasses at their displays. He frowns, surprised by what he's seeing.

SUENO

That shouldn't be happening...

(shakes head)

Not so soon.

He turns to look at Syren, who is starting to shift a little in her seat, still sedated, as we:

WHITE OUT:

34 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

34

Back with the mob of people, bodies pushing in on us from all sides as we join in with the crowd as they CHANT something, over and over again.

What they're saying can't be made out, but now we can see home-made flags, banners and placards raised into the air - this is some kind of protest.

There's a series of WHISTLES, followed by SHOUTS of alarm as the riot police surge forward again, scything through the crowd of protestors with ease, but before they reach us, we:

WHITE OUT:

35 INT. LAB - DAY

35

Suddenly, we're inside some kind of lab, hiding round a corner as a lab-coated orderly walks by. The sounds of various ANIMALS in distress can be heard - a cacophony of BARKS, WAILS, SQUEAKS and other noises.

We turn to our left - and there stands three more PEOPLE, each one dressed all in black and looking for all the world like an amateur commando squad. Minus the weapons.

MAN IN BLACK

(whispers)

Come on, Lyra! Are we gonna do this, or what? We've got about thirty seconds before security finds that hole we cut in the perimeter fence!

(CONTINUED)

We turn back round, peeking out carefully round the corner, and row upon row of CAGES start to come into view - this is where all the noise is coming from.

Within the cages are dozens of ANIMALS, large and small, every species you can think of, and all of them making a tremendous racket in protest against their captivity.

We dart forward, ducking behind metal operating tables and pasts vats of bubbling chemicals, our eyes lingering on a tray of polished SURGICAL TOOLS as we pass.

As our hands reach out we see they're holding a LOCK PICK, and with a few deft twists of our wrist we've popped open the first cage, letting the door swing open as we move on to the next.

Glancing over our shoulder, the rest of the team are doing the same, freeing the animals and letting them find their own way out of the cages.

Our attention is drawn to a stack of cages standing away from the others, covered in thick DRAPES.

With another glance back at the others, nobody is paying us any heed as we head for the next set of cages.

The locks are exposed, and so we get to work again, this time finding the lock will need a little more than some bent pieces of metal to open it.

We look round and see a FIRE EXTINGUISHER against the wall, so we grab it, raise it up and SMASH IT against the lock!

The lock pops free, and we reach forward and swing the door open, reaching for the drapes to pull them back.

At first, nothing can be seen within the cage...

... until something makes an inhuman SHRIEK, and a blur of movement darts straight for us!

We hear ourselves SCREAM as we fall back to the floor, and as whatever just attacked us SHRIEKS again, we hear:

MAN IN BLACK (cont'd)

Lyra? Lyra! Where are you? Yvette!
Can you see Lyra?

WOMAN IN BLACK

Lyra!

Two of the team come dashing into frame, but something FLIES in front of us - some kind of huge, jet black INSECT, its wings BUZZING at terrific volume!

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Our hands lash out, trying to beat it away, but the insect shrugs off the blows, its long, needle-like head ZAPPING forward, and as we SCREAM again the creature lets out a SHRIEK to match us, and we SMASH CUT to:

36 INT. SUENO'S HOME - LABORATORY - NIGHT

36

Sueno's monitoring equipment is going bonkers, with error messages and warning alarms ringing out all round the room. Sueno desperately rushes from one to the next, trying to keep up with the escalating chaos.

He looks to Syren - who is the only thing not infected by the panic, still only turning restlessly from side to side - before grabbing the nearest printout, his eyes bulging at what he reads.

SUENO

No... it can't be...

He lets the paper fall from his hands - and suddenly, several machines close by EXPLODE!

He shields his face, ducking back as a shower of SPARKS flies into the air - and then more machines DETONATE, thousands of dollars of equipment self-destructing in an inferno of chunks of plastic, raining sparks and small spurts of FLAME.

Sueno dashes over to Syren, checking her pulse, then reaching for another air hypo, fumbling with a clear liquid as he tries to load it in...

... and Syren's HAND lashes into frame, GRABBING him by the throat!

He drops the air hypo, which CLATTERS to the floor, and as Sueno's bulging eyes follow the hand back to its owner, Syren slowly rises from the chair.

Things are still blowing up all around her, blazing flashes of light filling the room as Syren seems to stare right at Sueno, her face expressionless...

... and then she starts to SQUEEZE! Sueno struggles, choking in her grip, but there isn't a flicker of emotion on Syren's face as we:

BLACK OUT:**END OF ACT THREE**

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

37 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 37

Julie lies in bed, her back to us, the lights out. She shifts and turns round - and she's still wide awake.

Her cell phone starts to BUZZ, and she reaches up to switch her lamp on, glad of the distraction.

JULIE
(into phone)
Hello?

SUENO
(filtered; weak)
Miss... Miss Kingston, I'm... I'm
afraid there's been... a terrible
accident...

CLICK. The line goes dead. An alarmed Julie hesitates for a beat, before we cut to:

38 EXT. MOTEL - PARKING LOT - NEXT 38

The van is ready to go, engine running as Danyaël clatters down the steps, still pulling on his jacket.

The van's side door is open, and the others are all waiting inside for him. He stumbles and almost falls flat, but manages to clamber into the van which promptly SCREECHES away.

39 INT. VAN - NEXT 39

Danyaël looks like he's had a little too much to drink, shaking his head to clear the cobwebs as Julie drives up front, flooring the accelerator.

DANYAEL
So, what went wrong?

JULIE
We don't know yet.

TWIST
Point is, something did, hence the
all hands on deck.

Danyaël exhales, still trying to sort his head out.

40 EXT. DIRT ROAD - NEXT 40

The van bounces up the dirt track that leads to Sueno's, headlights bobbing up and down in the gloom.

41 INT. VAN - NEXT

41

Julie squints into the darkness, trying to see her way along the bumpy road.

TWIST

Can you remember where you're going?

JULIE

Just about. Hang on.

She CRUNCHES the van into a lower gear, and the vehicle BUCKS as it hits another pothole.

JULIE (cont'd)

If I'm right, it should be right around this...

She trails off, her jaw hanging in shock:

42 EXT. SUENO'S HOME - NEXT

42

The van has rounded a corner and is on the final approach to Sueno's home - which has been DESTROYED!

Looking like something exploded out from the inside, there's a huge smoking HOLE bored out through the front of the building, with SMOKE and FIRES all around, along with piles of stray DEBRIS.

The van swerves round several of these hazards before SKIDDING to a halt as close to the mansion as it can get.

The side door slides open as the team hurriedly disembark, weapons ready but stopping to gaze in awe at the destruction before them.

Danyael, however, wastes no time in staring and is already running into the mansion as the others stop and stare.

DANYAEL

Come on! We can stand and watch later!

He jumps through the jagged opening in the house's face and heads inside, and the others follow as we cut to:

43 INT. SUENO'S LABORATORY - NEXT

43

The interior of the laboratory is just as wrecked, looking like a tornado struck dead centre. Machinery is thrown to the four walls, cables ripped from the ceiling and dozens of small FIRES burning all around.

(CONTINUED)

There are several CLANGS from the steel door at the entrance, before it's RAMMED open by Danyaël and Diego, carrying a heavy (and now broken) statue between them.

They toss the makeshift battering ram aside as Julie clatters down the steps and into the lab, searching the wreckage for any sign of Sueno.

JULIE

Senor Sueno? Senor! Can you hear me?

TWIST

Over here!

With a GRUNT, she hefts up a chunk of fallen equipment to reveal Sueno, his battered body BLOODY and BRUISED.

Julie rushes to his side, checking his pulse and breathing before quickly examining his body. Sueno GROANS and tries to rise, but Julie keeps him still.

JULIE

You have several broken bones, Senor. Maybe some internal bleeding. You need to lie still.

SUENO

She... I couldn't stop her...

TWIST

Stop who? Where's Syren?
(beat; awful realisation)
Did... did she do this?

Sueno COUGHS, blood bubbling on his lips, and Julie looks around for anything she can use to help.

SUENO

When the spells... did their work, she... she remembered more than she could comprehend, and... she just...
(coughs)
You have to find her!

Diego steps into frame, laying a hand on Sueno's arm.

DIEGO

We will, *senor*. Rest easy now.
(to Julie)
Can you help him?

JULIE

I'll do what I can. Why? Are you three-

DIEGO

We are going to find Syren.

Diego stands, motioning for Danyael and Twist to follow.

DANYAEL

Wait, shouldn't we just-

JULIE

Go, Danny. I'm alright.

With a last look around, Danyael follows Twist and Diego as they race back up the stairs, leaving Julie to try and make Sueno comfortable, supporting his neck.

JULIE (cont'd)

Can you remember anything else?

SUENO

She woke up... something was different, she... she attacked me, and before I knew it, she was gone...

Sueno grabs Julie's arm urgently.

SUENO (cont'd)

Don't let them hurt her! She doesn't know what she's doing!

JULIE

They won't.
(grim)
Not unless they have to.

Sueno coughs again, and as Julie casts a worried look back towards the door, we cut to:

Out in the woods, all is quiet. The nearest town is some way off, and with the Rockies rising high in the background, all we can hear are faint sounds from the local animal life.

An OWL lets out a HOOT into the night, its head swivelling to survey its domain below...

... until with an almighty CRACK, the tree next to it is BLOWN IN TWO!

The owl takes flight, quickly swooping up and away as the two severed halves of the tree come CRASHING to the ground.

The woods are suddenly filled with noise, as panicked animals run for cover, but there's a loud, deep RUMBLING sound that stops everything in its tracks.

More trees suddenly start to WARP, bending unnaturally out of shape as though something were pushing through them...

... and Syren strides into frame, her entire body coursing with trails of RED ENERGY, her hair billowing out behind her like one of the Furies themselves!

She raises her hands - and more trees are BLASTED out of her path, to a chorus of SCREECHES from the animals nearby.

As she walks on, the flora around her starts to writhe and distort, her very presence seeming to bend the rules of physics as she forges a path through the woodland.

A small flock of BIRDS take flight in fear from one of the trees in her path, and Syren's head snaps round to follow them - and they burst into FLAMES!

The scorched birds crash back to the ground, but Syren's face still shows no sign of emotion as she marches remorselessly on, and we cut to:

Twist and Danyael are running as fast as they can, but the more agile Diego is ducking and leaping through the undergrowth much quicker than they are.

DANYAEL

Diego, wait!

TWIST

Yeah, we didn't all go to Ninja School, you know?

Diego's focus is only on the path ahead, the evidence of Syren's warpath all around in the bulldozed trees and twisted plantlife.

TWIST (cont'd)

(off devastation)

How the hell is she doing this?

DANYAEL

It's like her powers have overloaded or something. Chris told me once that she can bend and shape things around her, but this...

He grimaces as he passes a cluster of animals, grotesquely turned INSIDE OUT.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

... this is just wrong.

Diego suddenly comes to a halt, raising his hand to stop the two vamps in their tracks.

TWIST
(whispers)
What is it? Is she here?

Diego points to the left and to the right, sending Twist and Danyael circling round as he slowly draws his sword, stepping forward into:

He steps through the trees and Syren comes into view, facing away from us as she stands at the lip of a hillside overlooking the town below.

Diego paces forward very carefully, not making a sound. He glances to either side and sees Twist and Danyael moving up as well.

Syren's hair still flows out behind her and smoky wisps of light still drift from her skin, but she hasn't registered Diego's presence yet.

He takes a chance, stepping fully out into the open and glancing down at the city lights below.

DIEGO
Syren?

No response. He creeps a few paces closer.

DIEGO (cont'd)
Syren, it's me. Diego.

SYREN
Lyra.

DIEGO
Que?

Syren slowly turns to face him, and Diego reacts to the BLOOD dripping from her nose and ears.

SYREN
My name... is Lyra.

She quickly raises her hand, and before Diego can react she SCREAMS, blasting him with a concussive wave that hurls him off his feet!

He SMACKS back into the trees, crashing painfully to the ground as his sword flies from his hand.

Syren turns back to the view before her, as Twist and Danyael step out of cover with alarmed glances at each other.

DANYAEL

Syren? We don't-

She whips round and SCREAMS again, and Danyael CARTWHEELS backwards, landing face down in the dirt.

Dropping her voice to an inhumanly low DRONE, Danyael is pushed back along the ground by an unseen force, BUMPING off rocks and tree stumps on the way.

Once he's out of range, Syren turns away again, leaving a now very tense Twist to stand alone.

Her mind races as she tries to think of something, her eyes flicking round for anything she can use to help.

SYREN

Why... why do they try?

TWIST

Why do who try?

SYREN

The people.

She waves her hand to indicate the town below.

SYREN (cont'd)

They can't see it. Can't imagine the darkness all around them. The evil. The monsters.

(beat)

Like me.

TWIST

You're not a monster, Sy-

(catches herself)

Lyra. You're just a girl. A girl who appears to have swallowed half the X-Men, but still...

Syren slowly turns, and Twist reacts to the sight of her blood-streaked face.

SYREN

What happened to me?

TWIST

Wish I could tell ya. I wasn't there. You were.

SYREN

I-I... I was in the animal testing lab, and this... this thing attacked me, and then...

She buries her face in her hands, and Twist is surprised to hear her start to SOB. She edges a step closer.

TWIST

We can help you. You just need to drop the Carrie act and let us-

SYREN

No!

She SCREAMS her defiance, and Twist is THROWN backwards.

SYREN (cont'd)

That's what they said! That's what they told me! They said they could 'help'!

Syren starts to advance on Twist, the energy trailing from her body becoming more intense, the RUMBLING DRONE returning as Twist writhes on the floor - she's struggling as though something heavy is pressing down on her!

SYREN (cont'd)

And this is their 'help'? Turning me into this, this... monster?

TWIST

(gritted teeth)
You're... not...

SYREN

I don't even know who you are! Or where I am! Or any of this! What am I supposed to do? One minute I'm Lyra Morley, next thing I'm some kind of...

She struggles to find the word, but all the while she advances on twist, who looks like she's losing her battle against the pressure crushing down on her.

SYREN (cont'd)

So don't tell me you can 'help' me, nobody can! Nobody even knows wha-

DANYAEL

Chris knew...

Syren stops, turning to see Danyael limping towards her, clutching his chest.

SYREN

What did you say?

DANYAEL

I said Chris knew what you were.
You remember Chris, don't you?

SYREN

I... I don't...

Syren's focus drops, and Twist GASPS as the pressure on her disappears. She rolls onto her belly, doubling up in pain.

DANYAEL

He's the guy who saved you. He
found you on that desert island
when you woke up, and he helped you
escape.

Danyael closes in, managing to keep Syren's attention.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

He didn't think you were evil. He
wouldn't have helped you if he
didn't think you were worth it.

Syren backs up a few steps, frowning as Danyael's words start to join up the dots in her frazzled mind.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

You remember how you felt about
him? How he made you feel whenever
you looked at him?

Syren shakes her head firmly, clamping her hands to the side of her head and dropping to her knees.

Danyael collapses before her, braving the pain to place his hands on hers.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

That's who you are. You're that
girl, the one Chris wanted to save.
The one who fell in love with him.
(beat; softer)
Remember...

Syren clamps her eyes shut, letting out little GASPS as she shakes her head...

... and then she slowly looks up, recognition starting to cross her features before she reaches forward with one hand, gently touching Danyael's face.

SYREN

D... Danyael?

He smiles - and then WHAP! Diego surges into frame, clamping one hand on Syren's neck and PINCHING a nerve with the other.

DANYAEL

(jumps up)

Diego, no! What are you-

But as he watches, Syren crumples peacefully to the floor, and Diego catches her so he can gently lay her down.

DIEGO

She is unhurt. I have just put her to sleep for a few hours.

Danyael cocks his head, dusting himself down as Diego goes over to Twist and helps her to her feet.

TWIST

(wincing)

Thanks.

DANYAEL

What do we do with her now?

DIEGO

Restrain her and take her back to Senor Sueno's home. Perhaps there is something he can do for her.

TWIST

Yeah, if he's still alive.

Diego and Danyael shoot her a look - not helping. She rolls her eyes as we return to:

Julie has Sueno in one of his chairs - he's heavily bandaged but is still alive and kicking, letting out a SIGH as Julie injects him with a sedative.

SUENO

(woozy)

You know, there's a reason I stopped using needles...

She grins as she carefully disposes of the syringe.

JULIE

I stick to the classics.

DANYAEL (O.S.)

Julie?

JULIE
 (calls out)
 Down here!

She looks up as Twist appears in the doorway, followed by Danyael and Diego - who carry the securely gagged and bound Syren between them.

Julie hurries to clear a space for her, and they set her down into one of the scorched chairs.

JULIE (cont'd)
 What happened? How did you stop her?

TWIST
 Diego here used the old Vulcan nerve pinch on her. Who'd have thought he was a closet Trekkie?

Julie checks Syren's pulse, checking her all over.

DANYAEL
 I think I got through to her, just before Diego put her down, but I'm not sure if it'll stick when she wakes up.

SUENO
 There's one way to be sure...

They turn to Sueno, and we cut to:

With a few of the machines partially restored to duty, their cracked screens once again display 3-D scans of Syren's brainwaves, as she dozes in the chair.

Sueno taps the screen, comparing one image to another, the second a mess of vibrant colours.

SUENO
 This image represents her brainwave activity before she went *loco*, and this one is her activity now.

TWIST
 So... no colours equals good, right?

SUENO
 Correct. It means the parts of her brain that were most active have now returned to normal levels.

JULIE

How long for?

SUENO

I'm afraid I cannot say, but there's no signs at present that they'll spike again.

(dry)

I suggest you try not to use invasive memory restoration spells for a while.

DANYAEL

Yeah, I think we got that.

Syren STIRS, and the team tense up as her head lolls to the side, her eyelids fluttering as she comes round.

Diego's hand goes to his sword, but Twist stays him with one hand as she keeps her eyes on Syren.

She gingerly reaches forward and pulls Syren's gag down, and after taking a few breaths, Syren speaks:

SYREN

Did it work?

TWIST

(relieved; exhales)

She's back.

The team breathe a collective sigh of relief as we DISSOLVE TO:

With a team of builders already hard at work trying to put Sueno's home back together, the man himself comes to join the team as they wait by the van.

JULIE

(off construction)

I hope we're not getting invoiced for any of this...

SUENO

(chuckles)

I'm a rich man, Miss Kingston. A rich, well-insured man who knows exactly what kinds of clauses to include in his contracts to cover this kind of situation.

TWIST

What, 'Acts Of Diva'?

Danyaël NUDGES her, as Syren steps forward to address Sueno.

SYREN

Thank you, for everything. And...
and I'm sorry.

SUENO

It's alright, *chica*. I'm only sorry
we had more in the way of concrete
results to show for all of this
mess! How much can you remember?

SYREN

Not much. I remember talking to you
in your lab, then I was in the
forest with Danyaël. Everything in
between... it's just a blur.

SUENO

Not even your dreams?

SYREN

I remember a few things. Flashes of
images, places I've been, but...

TWIST

Well, we did get something.

(to Syren)

A name. You said it just before you
blasted me.

(beat)

Lyra Morley.

SYREN

Lyra? That... I said that?

Syren's expression lights up, and Sueno pats her on the
shoulder with his good arm.

SUENO

Vaya con Dios, Syren. I hope you
find the answers you seek in time.

He turns and heads back to his house, and the others troop
back to the van as we PUSH IN on Syren, lost in thought.

SYREN

Lyra... Morley.

A beat - and then she SMILES, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW