

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Sanctuary"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DARK HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR - NIGHT 1

Many pairs of FEET scamper back and forth, stamping DUST up from the creaky floorboards and filthy carpets.

About two dozen men, women and children, their features cloaked in shadows, scurry around the large, sparsely furnished house.

FLASHLIGHT BEAMS sweep left and right from several angles as the scattered individuals struggle to find one another.

MAN'S VOICE

This way! Quickly!

One tall MAN waves several CHILDREN his way, counting them off as they duck through a small hatch in the wall.

GUNFIRE echoes through the house, freezing everyone in their tracks.

The Man exchanges concerned looks with several of his fellows, before he hurries towards a rickety staircase as they continue the evacuation.

2 INT. DARK HOUSE - ROOMS - NEXT 2

SWEEP PAST a line of bedrooms, each holding a bed, cabinet and little else, but each one has a family packing their meagre belongings away.

Scooping up children as they join the flow of people leaving the building, we follow one family of three:

3 INT. DARK HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NEXT 3

They hurry down the corridor amidst a sea of bodies, everyone pushing and squirming as they fight towards a waiting door:

WHAM! The doors FLY OPEN and a group of TROOPERS barge through, jet black body armour and gleaming MACHINE GUNS.

With a chorus of SHOUTS of alarm, the evacuating crowd spins on its heels and runs the other way.

Undeterred, the Troopers march into the house, leaving two by the door as others split off and into the rest of the building.

4 INT. DARK HOUSE - STAIRCASE - NEXT 4

Two Troopers clomp up the wooden stairs, guns raised and LASER SIGHTS active.

5 INT. DARK HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR - NEXT 5

As more Troopers join these two, they KICK OPEN every door in their path as they work through the house.

6 INT. DARK HOUSE - ROOM - NEXT 6

BATTERING DOWN another door, the Troopers find a huddled family, cowering in fear by the side of the bed.

A half-packed suitcase lies on the bed, which one Trooper overturns and tips onto the floor.

TROOPER
(to colleague)
Watch them. They move, tag 'em.

He exits, leaving another faceless soldier to watch the terrified family as we CUT TO:

7 INT. DARK HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT 7

It's the same scene downstairs - a group of five people are surging towards the house's back door when it's BLASTED open by more Troopers.

They try to retreat, but are cut off as fresh soldiers enter the room behind them.

TROOPER
Get down! Down on the ground, now!

Keeping their weapons trained on the captives, the Troopers push them down to their knees and yank their hands behind their waists.

Another Trooper wraps plastic ties round their wrists to keep them from moving as we CUT TO:

8 INT. DARK HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - NEXT 8

Several Troopers appear in the doorway, laser sights and flashlights focused on the centre of the room.

PULL BACK to reveal the Man from earlier, sitting in a chair with his back to the door.

He lets out a slow SIGH, not turning round as a SILHOUETTE appears in the doorway, framed by the lights.

MAN
I know why you're here.

ON THE MAN as the new arrival paces slowly round to face him.

MAN (cont'd)

I know you've probably captured a lot of us already, so... so I want to make a deal.

The other man comes to a stop in front of our speaker, who slowly lifts his head to look at:

PARKER, dressed in the same black fatigues as his Troopers, hands behind his back. He raises an eyebrow.

PARKER

A 'deal,' you say?

The Man SWALLOWS. He's scared but trying not to show it.

MAN

You need samples, right? Blood, tissue, DNA... all of that.

PARKER

That's correct.

MAN

So take me. Take me, and do whatever you have to do, just... let the others go.

PARKER

And why would I want to do that?

MAN

Because! Because... there are children here. Children. Would you really rather have them over me?

Parker nods, looking behind him.

PARKER

I can see your point, lad. May I?

He motions to another chair. The Man hesitates, then nods. Parker pulls up the chair and sits.

PARKER (cont'd)

However, I'm afraid I have a better 'deal' that I'm going to make you.

MAN

What's that?

PARKER

I'm going to take every one of you that I can find, but I'll save you until last.

He GRINS, and the Man tenses up as two Troopers march up to either side of him.

MAN

No... no! You can't do this!

He starts to rise, but the soldiers hold him down.

MAN (cont'd)

Please... don't! We haven't put up a fight, we're not hurting anybody... why can't you just leave us alone?

Parker nods to one Trooper, extending his hand. The Trooper places a FLASHLIGHT in his hand.

PARKER

Because, my boy...

Parker leans forward, shining the flashlight in the Man's face and giving us a good look at last:

And he's NOT HUMAN. Grey skin, large, exaggerated eye sockets and crooked, yellowing teeth.

PARKER (cont'd)

... you simply don't have the same rights as us humans do.

(to Trooper)

Put him with the others.

The man sags helplessly as he's hauled out of the chair and dragged away, leaving Parker to gloat as we CUT TO:

Several BLACK VANS are parked up outside the house, the last of the nonhumans being loaded inside.

PAN DOWN to street level and a MANHOLE COVER - which CREAKS as it's lifted up a fraction.

A pair of EYES peers out from underneath - one of the escaped nonhumans.

They can only watch as the Man is the last straggler to be SHOVED into a waiting van, before the doors are SLAMMED SHUT, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

10

The BLACK VAN that Chris' team stole from Parker is parked down a narrow, empty side street, its side doors open.

VIVIAN emerges from within, turning over a bizarre-looking piece of equipment in one hands as she pulls on a jet black top with the other.

VIVIAN

Any ideas what this thing is?

She looks over to CHRIS, who peers at the object before scribbling something down on a sheet of paper.

CHRIS

We'll mark that as 'miscellaneous'
and put it with the rest.

Vivian glances back into the van - there's a large pile of similarly outlandish devices. Vivian looks back to Chris and quirks an eyebrow.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Point taken.

He sits down on the edge of the open bay as Vivian tosses the object to one side.

VIVIAN

This is going to take us forever.
We don't even have any clue what
half this stuff is!

CHRIS

And we're not going to find out if
we don't try to catalogue it.

Vivian sits down next to him, taking the paper and scanning down it.

VIVIAN

So far, then, we've got... a multi-
band radio unit, medical supplies,
weapons and ammo and some assorted
basic laboratory equipment.

Chris nods towards the pile behind them.

CHRIS

Plus 'miscellaneous' items.

(CONTINUED)

She HUFFS, handing back the sheet of paper and leaning against the door.

VIVIAN

You'd think I'd know more about this stuff by now, huh?

CHRIS

Your mandate wasn't exactly to run a careful inventory of supplies, was it?

VIVIAN

Guess not. I used to tell myself it was 'seek and destroy' to make it sound cooler and less boneheaded.

Chris hops down and peers up and down the street.

CHRIS

The others should be back by now.

VIVIAN

I saw a 7-11 a few blocks back on our way here. Twist'll be in there buying candy.

CHRIS

Yes, I imagine she will.

VIVIAN

Danyael'll be saying 'no' but eyeing up the booze, while Lyra... well, I guess she'll just wander around smiling at everything until it's time to go.

Chris shoots her a half-stern look, and she raises a hand.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Sorry.

CHRIS

Differences of opinion aside, I think you're making a good effort to fit in so far.

VIVIAN

Aside from the fact that Twist hates me and Danyael does whatever she says, then yeah. Me and the team are like that.

She interlaces her fingers.

CHRIS

Twist doesn't 'hate' you. She'll just take longer to win over thanks to your... history.

VIVIAN

Tell me about it. I have a hard enough time forgiving myself for that crap.

She reaches up for something up on a shelf, WINCING as she pulls at her wounded arm.

CHRIS

Are you alright?

He steps over, but she quickly retrieves the object and sits.

VIVIAN

Yeah, yeah. I'm good. Just a little sore from the whole hurricane thing, you know?

CHRIS

You're sure?

VIVIAN

Chris. Come on. When do people like us have a problem with long-term injuries?

Chris walks over to her as she starts examining the new piece of equipment.

CHRIS

You're not planning on leaving us again any time soon, are you?

VIVIAN

Wasn't planning on it. Why'd you ask?

CHRIS

I ask because the way this team works is a little... slow, compared to what you must have been used to.

VIVIAN

And you don't think I wanted a change?

CHRIS

Is that what this is?

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

This is more me realising that five people can do a hell of a lot more damage than one. Even if that one happens to be me.

CHRIS

Still, we have a habit of getting sidetracked. We always have our mission, but there's always something between us and it to keep us busy.

VIVIAN

Are you asking me to go?

CHRIS

Not at all. If it wasn't for you, we'd all still be lab rats in Parker's latest maze.

VIVIAN

So what are you saying?

CHRIS

I suppose I just want to be straight with you. We do things our way, and if there's ever a conflict...

VIVIAN

(nods)

Then you won't stop what you're doing for whatever I'm doing. Got it. Not gonna be a problem.

CHRIS

Do I have your word on that?

VIVIAN

You trust my word now?

She smirks, teasing. He extends his hand, and they shake.

TWIST (O.S.)

Please tell me that was one of those 'golden handshakes' I keep hearing about...

Vivian quickly withdraws her hand as TWIST, DANYAEL and LYRA walk into frame, each one loaded with grocery bags.

CHRIS

Did you get what we needed?

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

I got what I needed, yeah.

CHRIS

(sighs)

Danyaël?

DANYAEL

(holds up bags)

Food, water, hardware supplies...
the usual.

LYRA

I've got the blood.

(beat)

It's a little heavy.

Chris quickly takes her bags from her, checking the contents - several jars of thick red BLOOD.

CHRIS

Thank you.

Twist steps up into the van, KICKING AWAY all the piles of clutter to clear a space to sit.

VIVIAN

Hey!

Twist shoots her a look - and then keeps sweeping the 'miscellaneous' pile out of the way.

Vivian GRUNTS and heads for the driver's cabin, as Danyaël joins Twist and Lyra steps up to Chris.

LYRA

Are we ready to go?

CHRIS

Just about. Vivian and I've been sorting through the contents of the van since you left, but we haven't found much we didn't already know about.

Something CRACKLES from inside the van, gaining the group's attention.

TWIST

What was that?

DANYAEL

What was what?

She NUDGES him to be quiet and listens - and the CRACKLE sounds again, followed by a long static HISS.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (5)

10

CHRIS
Sounds like a radio...

He clambers into the van:

11 INT. VAN - REAR - NEXT

11

He approaches the RADIO TRANSMITTER fixed to one wall, but it's still off and silent.

The CRACKLE sounds again, and Chris turns, following the noise as he starts to rifle through several SUPPLY BOXES up on one cargo-webbed shelf.

He brings down a HANDHELD RADIO, fiddling with the volume until the team hears:

MALE VOICE
(filtered)
Mike Hotel One-Fiver, reporting in.

FEMALE VOICE
(filtered)
Go ahead.

MALE VOICE
Nonhuman subjects subdued and
retrieved without any resistance.
Currently en route to base Jade-FX
with new test subjects in
captivity. ETA one hour.

FEMALE VOICE
Copy that, Mike Hotel One-Fiver.
See you in an hour.

The radio goes silent, but Chris looks up to find Vivian is already rooting through the various discarded items.

CHRIS
What is it?

VIVIAN
I recognise that call sign...

She produces a thick DIRECTORY from the pile, laying it on a counter and quickly leafing through it.

TWIST
Should we all be looking this
urgent, or just her?

VIVIAN
There.

She stabs a finger on a page as Chris and the others look.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 Mike Hotel One-Fiver is a specialised unit. Their MO is the capture and recovery of nonhumans.

DANYAEL
 That's what the guy on the radio said. What else can you tell us?

VIVIAN
 That these 'subjects' they've got? They're on a one-way trip to the nearest genetics lab, so Parker's boys in white can cut 'em open while they're still alive to see what makes them go tick-tock.

LYRA
 That's awful!

TWIST
 Yeah, awfully convenient.

CHRIS
 Twist...

TWIST
 I mean it! I'm still not a hundred per cent on trusting this wannabe goth idol, remember?

LYRA
 Even though she's helped us all several times now?

TWIST
 Exactly. What better way to win our trust than by actually winning it?

Chris throws Danyael a weary look, then turns to Vivian.

CHRIS
 Is there any way of tracking this convoy? Perhaps we can intercept them?

VIVIAN
 (shakes head)
 I don't think so. At least, I haven't found the controls for anything like that.

She steps past him, opening a PANEL on the wall to reveal a small screen and keypad beneath.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

What we can do is bounce a signal back to show us where they came from. If we start where they did, maybe we can figure out where they headed.

CHRIS

Alright, let's go.

Vivian gets to work, booting up the small screen as Chris heads back into the driver's compartment, clambering over the backs of the chairs.

Twist leans in close, glancing back at Vivian as she speaks:

TWIST

I don't like this, chief.

CHRIS

No-one's asking you to.

TWIST

Why are you being so damn quick to defend her?

CHRIS

She's given me no reason not to.

TWIST

Aside from being, oh, I don't know, one of the fricken bad guys?

CHRIS

People change, Twist. I'm sure you can appreciate that.

She pouts, turning away from him and taking her seat with a scowl.

CHRIS (cont'd)

(calls back)

Anything yet?

VIVIAN

Just start driving. It'll take a minute to get a bounce back from the GPS, so we need to be moving first.

Chris starts the van up, Lyra slipping into the passenger seat as Danyael slides the door shut, and we CUT TO:

12 EXT. DARK HOUSE - NIGHT

12

The van rolls to a halt outside the nonhumans' home - but it's no longer in the state it was.

The house has been TORCHED, nothing but a blackened, smoking shell of its former self.

The team disembark, weapons to hand although they're not expecting a fight.

DANYAEL

Looks like somebody covered their tracks.

VIVIAN

Now I know this was something major. They don't go to this much effort for anyone.

The team start to head indoors - but Lyra pauses, looking back across the street.

TWIST

What?

LYRA

I thought I heard something.

Twist joins her, scanning the darkness.

TWIST

Nothing there. Come on.

She takes Lyra's arm and leads her away - as we PAN DOWN to the street, where the manhole cover SLIDES a few inches back into place.

13 INT. DARK HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

13

Treading carefully across the scorched, fragile floorboards, the team spread out to survey the house's remains.

CHRIS

Be careful, everyone. Parker's men may have laid traps to discourage people like us.

TWIST

Clearly, they don't know us that well. We're undiscourageable.

(off Danyael's look)

It's a word if I say it's a word.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

Twist and Danyael veer off into the kitchen, while Vivian steps into the front room. Chris and Lyra edge towards the staircase.

Chris peers up towards the next floor, SMOKE still rising from the walls.

14 INT. DARK HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR - NEXT

14

Climbing the staircase and supporting Lyra with one hand, the duo reach the next floor to look around.

Chris pushes open the first door with his sword, but finds it empty.

LYRA (O.S.)

In here.

He looks up - Lyra is outside the last door on the corridor.

LYRA (cont'd)

There's a funny kind of energy in here.

Chris joins her, peering inside.

LYRA (cont'd)

It's like the kind of vibrations I get off normal people, only... not.

CHRIS

Can you get a specific kind of 'not'?

He spots the SUITCASE, turning it over with his sword. Chris frowns, scanning over the half-packed clothes.

CHRIS (cont'd)

These people were trying to leave when they were taken.

VIVIAN (O.S.)

Uh... guys?

Chris quickly rises, exiting the room as we CUT TO:

15 INT. DARK HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - NEXT

15

Chris and the others step through the charred doorway to find Vivian staring at something off screen - and the team all draw their WEAPONS.

Facing them is a pack of six of the NONHUMANS, bodies tensed and ready for a fight.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

(frowns)

You're akercocke. What are you doing this far South?

WOMAN

How do you know what we are?

MAN

Who cares? Get out of here!

TWIST

Hey, friesacher, we're here to help!

MAN

Oh, like those soldiers were here to 'help'?

The suspicious AKERCOCKE notice the Parker-regulation outfit Vivian is wearing, baring their teeth and SNARLING.

WOMAN

You did come back for us!

LYRA

No! We -

Vivian looks down at herself and realises, quickly raising a hand and lowering her sword.

VIVIAN

No, look, you've got it all wrong, we're not -

But with a GROWL, the group SURGE FORWARD and ATTACK the team!

Vivian DUCKS a punch, twisting and SHOVING her opponent towards the chair.

They trip across it and STUMBLE, as two more LEAP across the room and pounce on Twist and Danyael!

TWIST

Ack! Damn it - get off me!

She CRACKS her elbow across one's chin - and YELPS in pain as she hops back.

TWIST (cont'd)

Son of a... watch out, guys! They're made of concrete or something!

POW! Danyael FLIES backwards as one lands a punch right in the kisser.

Chris gets his katana up as another attacks him with a length of RUSTY PIPE, the weapons CLANGING together.

Lyra is left alone, urgently looking left and right as she tries to identify friend from foe.

Twist lands a heavy THWACK with her baseball bat - and is immediately TACKLED by another attacker.

Vivian tries to pin one woman down - and is GRAPPLED from behind by another, her first target rising to land several heavy BLOWS to her gut!

Lyra backs up to the doorway, forgotten in the melee as the team try to battle the akercocke without harming them:

LYRA
(screams; louder)
Stop it!!

Her voice rises to a shrill, piercing SHRIEK that sends everyone staggering, hands clamped over their ears.

She releases the note, giving the two sides a moment to regroup.

CHRIS
We're not here to fight you! We
want to help find the others!

MALE AKERCOCKE
How can we trust you?

TWIST
Because we coulda used a lot more
lethal force just then.

The two sides remain on high alert, but it's Vivian who steps forward, offering her sword to one of the females.

VIVIAN
If you think we're lying, go ahead.

She waits, calm, as the woman looks to her comrades, then the sword in her hands, and then Vivian.

Finally, she lowers the weapon, the room's mood easing several degrees as the two sides step down, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16

INT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

16

A light rain is falling. The akercocke and team have gathered under shelter in an alleyway near the ruin of their home.

The van is parked across the entrance to block it off, while Danyael hands round food and drinks from the team's supplies.

TWIST

(sulky)

Those were meant to be for us.

CHRIS

Hush up. You know very well only you and Lyra actually eat.

Chris sits down before the woman who seems to be the group's leader as she gulps down a bottle of water.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Perhaps we should start again. My name's Chris.

MEGAN

Megan.

CHRIS

Nice to meet you, Megan. My colleagues here are Twist, Danyael, Vivian and Lyra.

DANYAEL

Hey.

Megan motions towards her fellow nonhumans:

MEGAN

Ade, Tracy, Ruben, Tristan and Kit.

Nods and mumbled greetings come back from them.

MEGAN (cont'd)

So you know about the soldiers who attacked us?

VIVIAN

Plenty.

MEGAN

What do they want us for?

VIVIAN

Probably -

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

(over her)

That's less important than finding your friends and bringing them back safely.

ADE

Yeah, but to where? Did you miss the fact that our home is gone?

TRACY

Ade, that shack wasn't 'home.' It was just a place we were staying at before we moved on.

MEGAN

(to Chris)

This isn't the first time this has happened to us.

LYRA

Parker's come after you before?

TRISTAN

Is that his name? The guy behind all this?

RUBEN

Plenty of times. Not just our clan either - he's gone after clans across the country.

KIT

And anything goes as far as he's concerned.

TWIST

So there are different... varieties of you guys?

ADE

If you mean other nonhumans, then yeah. Lots.

TWIST

How come?

ADE

(to Megan)

We don't have time for this...

MEGAN

Adrian, please.

(to Twist)

(MORE)

MEGAN (cont'd)

Generations ago, our ancestors' village was poisoned by something magical. It got into the food, the water, even the air. For a long time, nobody noticed anything had changed, until our children started being born looking more and more like...

She indicates herself.

KIT

We couldn't stay where we were, so our families just packed up and moved on...

TRISTAN

... and that's the story so far. Until about a year ago, when this Parker guy's soldiers started dragging us out of every hiding place we tried to find.

DANYAEL

Is there anything you guys can, you know... do?

RUBEN

Such as?

CHRIS

He means, do you have any abilities that might make you valuable to Parker.

(off looks)

He's into genetic research. If your DNA has something useful to him, then he'd want to investigate it.

MEGAN

Nothing we know of. What you see is what you get.

ADE

Yeah, well, obviously this Parker guy doesn't think that.

Vivian taps Chris on the shoulder, drawing him away from the conversation.

VIVIAN

I've got the stuff I need here to run some basic blood tests, see if there's anything unusual.

CHRIS
(surprised)
You know what to do?

VIVIAN
(shrugs)
Quick study. I've got the scanner
in there triangulating which known
bases are in range, given the ETA
we heard and the direction of the
tire tracks we found, so -

Something starts BEEPING inside the van.

TWIST
(blinks)
Is that my phone?

Vivian looks to Chris, who nods. She steps back into the van
as Chris rejoins the others.

CHRIS
Alright, here's what we'll do.
Vivian here thinks she's located
the place where they're keeping
your friends, so some of us are
going to head out and scout it out.

ADE
Do we get to be a part of your
'some'?

CHRIS
Makes sense for a couple of you to
come. You may be able to help us
sneak inside.
(beat)
I'd also like to get some blood
samples so we can do a quick
analysis, perhaps work out what it
is Parker's looking for.

KIT
I'll stay.

RUBEN
Yeah, and me. Tristan?

TRACY
Me and Tristan'll stay too.

ADE
Suits me.
(nudges Megan)
You up for this?

MEGAN

We have to get Duncan and the others back.

(to Chris)

I'm in.

DANYAEL

We've got weapons and things if you guys need them...

ADE

No need.

He grins, CRACKING his knuckles. Danyael involuntarily puts a hand to his bruised jaw.

Vivian exits the van with two cases of medical equipment.

VIVIAN

Got it. There's only one base in this region they could have gotten to in that time. I've circled it on the map on the dashboard.

She looks around, then walks over and leans against the fire door of another empty building making up the alley, opening it and stepping inside.

MEGAN

(rising)

Alright, all of you staying put...

She motions towards the open doorway. Kit and the others troop through.

CHRIS

(to Lyra)

Stay here with them. Keep an eye on things for me.

She nods, giving his arm a quick squeeze as Chris turns to Megan and Ade.

CHRIS (cont'd)

(off van)

Shall we?

They climb inside the van as Danyael follows, sliding the door shut behind them.

TWIST

So we're leaving Vivian behind?

CHRIS

She's given us the base's location. I think she's done her part.

16 CONTINUED: (5)

16

Twist doesn't look like she likes this plan, but climbs up into the passenger seat without another word.

With a last look round the alley, Chris walks round the cabin and enters the van, as we DISSOLVE TO:

17 EXT. LAB FACILITY/INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - NIGHT

17

PAN DOWN from a road leading up to a cluster of small, flat buildings, SEARCHLIGHTS and WIRE FENCING surrounding them.

There's plenty of activity - WORKERS load crates on and off trucks as ARMED GUARDS patrol the grounds.

The base is nestled within an otherwise dark industrial estate, isolated from the nearby city limits.

PULL BACK to find the van parked behind one of the other buildings on the lot, the team observing round the corner.

CHRIS

Looks like a pretty standard set-up to me.

TWIST

Are you sure? There doesn't seem to be much there.

CHRIS

This is just the entrance. The main complex will be underneath us, like they always are.

TWIST

Oh. Right. I knew that.

MEGAN

This is what we're up against?

DANYAEL

You've never seen one of these bases before?

ADE

Hey, when the guys with guns turn up we start running. We don't stop to ask them what colour their wallpaper is, you know?

CHRIS

(beat)
Let's go.

The group scamper forward, using the long shadows and wide buildings for cover as they approach the access road.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

They watch as another CARGO TRUCK arrives at the gates, which roll slowly open to let the truck pass.

CHRIS (cont'd)

And now, for our next trick... we work out how to get past all that lot.

DANYAEL

I got an idea.

He looks round - more TRUCKS are approaching, and as he steps out of frame we CUT TO:

18 EXT. LAB FACILITY/ROAD - NEXT

18

OVERHEAD as one of the trucks rolls into frame, waiting in line as several others queue up ahead of it.

Emerging from the cover of darkness, Danyael crawls quickly across the road and ROLLS underneath the truck.

Twist and Chris follow his lead, rolling under a second truck whilst Megan and Ade clamber underneath a third.

The trucks start to pull away, leaving an empty stretch of road behind.

19 EXT. LAB FACILITY - NEXT

19

The truck reach the gates, waiting as the barriers slide across to allow them in.

PAN DOWN to the underside of the truck as it enters the base - and Danyael, clinging to its undercarriage!

The trucks manoeuvre their way over to a loading bay, reversing until their rear hatches face a set of dock doors.

As the trucks come to a stop, the team silently drop down, roll aside and scurry for cover before more WORKERS show up to unload the truck's contents.

20 INT. LAB FACILITY - CORRIDOR - NEXT

20

A hatch door swings open as Chris carefully leans inside, checking that the coast is clear.

Twist and Danyael follow, then Megan and Ade, before Chris carefully shuts and seals the door behind them all.

ADE

(to Danyael)

Pretty slick, for a vampire.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL

Thanks.

(blinks)

Wait, what?

CHRIS

Now. They'll probably have security cameras and tracking spells in place before we find a way down to the base proper, so I made up a few of these.

He digs into his jacket pocket and produces several small POUCHES stuffed with herbs, each the size of a locket and mounted on a length of cord.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Slip them round your neck and they should create just enough interference to stop anything on the system picking us up, magical or otherwise.

Twist gingerly SNIFFS her pouch with distaste as Danyael loops his over his head.

TWIST

Jeez, Chris, these things smell like ass!

CHRIS

(terse)

Oh, I'm sorry, shall I go back and make you one that smells a bit more pleasant?

TWIST

(holds out pouch)

Yes, please.

He glares, and she gets the point. With a scowl, she puts her amulet on. The protected team finally get moving.

MEGAN

Alright, which way do we go?

CHRIS

According to Vivian, all these little annexes over the main lab entrances follow a standard layout, so we just need to go down...

He trails off, taking several corners and junctions in the labyrinthine layout as the others follow close behind, and we CUT TO:

21 INT. OLD BUILDING - NIGHT

21

Back with Vivian, Lyra and the other akercocke, as Vivian checks over her small setup of lab equipment taken from the van.

KIT

So how long should we wait before we start getting worried?

LYRA

There's nothing to be worried about. Chris will make sure everyone is alright.

Vivian stands, holding a SYRINGE in one hand.

VIVIAN

We've got other things to think about. Roll up your sleeve.

Kit shoots a look at the others, who just shrug. With a roll of her eyes, she pulls up her sleeve as Vivian moves in.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

You'll feel a little pinch.

She jabs the syringe into a vein, Kit wincing as she draws back a sample of thick, dark blood.

Vivian rises, examining the contents of the syringe as she absently passes a swab of cotton wool to Kit.

TRISTAN

What are you hoping to prove?

VIVIAN

That you guys are more special than you realise.

(beat)

You next.

Tristan GULPS, looking away as Vivian takes a fresh syringe and draws a sample of his blood.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

See, my theory is that Parker's game is moving up a few gears, and that he'd only be after species he could get some kind of tactical advantage out of.

TRACY

Such as? We're just us. We're not soldiers or anything.

(CONTINUED)

Lyra COUGHS as Vivian heads over to the lab equipment, placing one tube of blood into a machine and setting it off, while she opens another, draws out a sample and drips it onto a slide, pushing it under a microscope.

The akercocke can't help but stare as the machines RATTLE and WHIRR noisily in the background.

Lyra tries to distract them, wiping a hand across her brow.

LYRA

Maybe it's your strength? Danyael told me one of you hit him pretty hard.

RUBEN

Always thought it's cause our bones are a little tougher.

VIVIAN

Then maybe that's all this is.

She peers at a LAPTOP as results starts to scroll down it. She follows down several lines - and then stops.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Or maybe not...

The others swap nervous looks as we CUT TO:

22 INT. LAB FACILITY - TUNNELS ENTRANCE - NIGHT

22

Chris steps into a circular chamber, a large ELEVATOR in the middle of the room, descending into the floor.

CHRIS

This is it.

He heads for the control panel as Twist looks around - and freezes as she spots a SECURITY CAMERA pointed right at her!

TWIST

(hisses)

Chris!

She nods towards the camera, but as Chris looks up it scrolls past them, sweeping the room and giving no signal that it's seen them.

CHRIS

(grins)

As if you could ever doubt me.

TWIST

Yeah, whatever. Let's just get out of here. That thing's making me nervous.

The team hear VOICES from nearby as Chris activates the elevator platform with a BUZZ.

CHRIS

All aboard!

He ushers the others onto the platform, hitting the 'Down' arrow.

A HATCH beneath them opens up, revealing a lift shaft that drops into darkness.

DANYAEL

That looks like kind of a long way down...

Megan grips the platform's railings nervously as the rattling elevator starts to descend slowly, and we CUT TO:

Kit, Ruben, Tristan and Tracy crowd round Vivian as she reads the test results off the screen.

KIT

What is it? What'd you see?

VIVIAN

Not sure yet...

She moves to a centrifuge, slotting a blood sample into it and switching it on.

She steps back to the laptop, the akercoccke glued to her side, and after a few moments more results scroll down the screen.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Oh, God...

TRACY

What? What?

RUBEN

Are we dangerous? Is that it?

VIVIAN

I don't -

LYRA (O.S.)
(weakly)
Vivian?

She turns - and sees Lyra is sagging, slumped half against one wall, pale and sweating.

VIVIAN
Lyra?

She starts to walk over - and Lyra suddenly VOMITS BLOOD onto the floor, collapsing into a heap and RETCHING!

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Lyra!

She dives to her side, turning Lyra over. Lyra's face is blotchy, the rash spreading down her arms.

KIT
Is... is she okay?

Vivian looks back to the akercocke as they back away, scared, and sternly answers:

VIVIAN
It's your blood. Your blood is
toxic to the living.

Lyra COUGHS again, Vivian trying to keep her head supported as the shocked akercocke cling to one another and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

24 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - NIGHT

24

The elevator lowers itself into frame, coming to a halt under a beam of light.

The team cautiously disembark, faced with an atrium chamber and three doors.

DANYAEL
Should we split up?

TWIST
Yeah, 'cause that always ends so well.

CHRIS
Danyael's right. We have a lot of ground to cover, and I can't say for certain how long these charms will stop us being noticed.
(to others)
Megan, go with Danyael. Twist, you take Ade. We'll take a door each.

MEGAN
How will we stay in touch?

Danyael takes out his cell phone - which starts BUZZING.

DANYAEL
(checks caller ID)
It's Vivian.
(answers)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

25 INT. OLD BUILDING - NIGHT

25

Vivian and Lyra are alone in the room now, with Lyra wrapped up in blankets and resting, COUGHING weakly.

VIVIAN
(into phone)
Danyael, put Chris on.

CHRIS
(takes phone)
What is it? Did you get your results back?

VIVIAN
I did, and...

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

(sighs)

I'm not going to like this, am I?

VIVIAN

The akercoccke's blood contains some kind of toxic element. I only exposed a little of it to the air when I took the samples, but it was enough to almost knock Lyra out.

CHRIS

(concerned)

Is she alright? What happened?

VIVIAN

She had some kind of severe allergic reaction. I think I've got her stabilised, but I can't say for sure.

(beat)

You figured out what this means yet?

Chris turns to Megan and Ade.

CHRIS

Parker's making a biological weapon.

VIVIAN

(nods)

And if he's rounded up enough of these people, then he's got all the raw material he needs to make as many damn bombs as he wants.

CHRIS

Then we'll make sure we shut his operation down. Keep me posted.

He hangs up, passing the phone back to Danyael.

DANYAEL

Everything alright back on the ranch?

TWIST

Yeah, you look kinda pale.

(beat)

Paler.

ADE

I'm sorry - what was that about a 'biological weapon'? Couldn't help but notice that!

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

CHRIS

Let's just say we have a much shorter time frame here than I anticipated.

With that, he turns and marches over to the first door, pushing a button to open it and slipping through.

MEGAN

He doesn't give much away, does he?

DANYAEL

You get used to it.

The other two teams take a door each as we CUT TO:

26 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - CORRIDOR - NEXT

26

With Chris first, padding stealthily down one of the long, circular corridors that interlock the various segments of the base.

He reaches an access door and peers inside - there's a WEAPONS RANGE set up, with white-coated TECHNICIANS firing weapons big and small across a target range.

Chris moves on, pausing at a T-junction and looking both ways for a clue where to head next.

He ducks back as he sees two female LAB ASSISTANTS emerge from a doorway down the hall to his left.

Waiting for them to turn a corner, he jogs up to the door they exited, peering in through the small windows to see:

A large, white room with several huge VATS fixed to the rear wall.

Chris draws his KATANA as he pushes the door open and steps inside, and we CUT TO:

27 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - WALKWAY - NEXT

27

Twist and Ade are standing out of sight on a walkway that runs over a hangar of sorts, a replica ALLEYWAY set up below them.

They watch as three black-clad TROOPERS pad down the alleyway, fitted up with laser-sighted weapons and night-vision goggles.

TARGETS suddenly pop up from doorways and windows, and the trio of soldiers OPEN FIRE.

Their high-calibre weapons SHRED the targets in seconds, the smoking remains clicking back out of sight.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

ADE

Suddenly I'm starting to think maybe we should have brought some weapons.

Twist throws him a look, then starts to move on. Ade pauses to watch the troopers as they OPEN FIRE again, before following Twist as we CUT TO:

28 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - CELL BLOCK - NEXT

28

Danyael peeks round a corner into a long corridor lined with CELLS, the clear plastic partitions identical to the ones Vivian rescued him from.

He scans for activity - a handful of GUARDS and a few PRISONERS pacing back and forth inside their cells.

He leans back to Megan, who waits for him to bring her the good news.

DANYAEL

They've got a bunch of people locked up down here, but I can't tell if any of them are your guys or not.

MEGAN

Can't we just release them all? I mean, they're all going to end up being used in more experiments, aren't they?

DANYAEL

Doesn't work like that, I'm afraid. We can't guarantee that anyone extra we set free will be either friendly or that pleased to see us.

MEGAN

So... we just leave everyone else here?

Danyael thinks, peeking back out down the corridor.

DANYAEL

Maybe not.

He ducks out of cover, hiding in an alcove containing a PC terminal and checking down the cell block again.

The nearest pair of guards are strolling away from him, giving Danyael time to step out of the alcove.

He paces carefully up behind them, his eyes on the KEYCARDS hanging from the first guard's belt.

(CONTINUED)

Danyaël reaches down and SWIPES them, causing the alerted guards to spin round:

GUARD #1

Hey! What -

WHAM! Danyaël FLOORS the first guard with a punch, swinging to face the next - and getting hit with a THWACK by the guard's nightstick!

Danyaël stumbles backwards, the guard raining several more BLOWS down on him.

MEGAN (O.S.)

Hey!

The guard looks up - POW! Megan's fist SMASHES into his face, sending the guard hurtling backwards.

He hits the floor in a ragged heap, and Megan helps the woozy Danyaël back up.

DANYAEL

(clutches head)

Ow.

MEGAN

Are you alright?

DANYAEL

Yeah, but I'm clearly not as fast as I think I am.

MEGAN

Come on. Before somebody finds us.

The duo head for the BOOTH up ahead as we CUT TO:

Chris slowly approaches the vats, which are about ten feet tall floor to ceiling, filled with bubbling GREEN FLUID.

There are figures inside, and as he wipes a hand over the condensation he sees a HUMAN, floating naked in the liquid. A breathing mask is fixed round their head.

Several TUBES run from various points on the man's body to the sides of the vat, where Chris finds IV drips and pouches of other fluids set into place.

Chris looks round and finds a computer, trying to access it but finding the workstation locked.

He scowls and steps towards the door, pausing at something he spots off screen.

(CONTINUED)

Chris approaches a clear glass case with a SKULL inside - but this is halfway between a human and animal with a small cranium giving way to an elongated jaw and fangs.

CHRIS
(to himself)
It can't be...

He hears FOOTSTEPS outside and snaps away, tucking himself into a nook by the door - just as it opens and the two LAB ASSISTANTS return.

Chris swings neatly round the closing doors and is outside before the girls notice him, and we CUT TO:

Vivian kneels by Lyra as she COUGHS, her pale form SHIVERING as Vivian offers her a mug of hot coffee.

Lyra slurps it down quickly, trying to hold back the shuddering coughs wracking her body.

LYRA
Thank you.

VIVIAN
How are you doing?

LYRA
I feel... it's like my body's hot and cold at the same time. My head's pounding, and all my muscles are aching.
(beat)
What's causing this?

VIVIAN
Something in the akercocke blood. It makes contact with the air even for a second, and it's like somebody let off a virus bomb right in front of you.

LYRA
Are you alright?

VIVIAN
I'll live.
(beat; grins)
Technically.

Lyra smiles, settling down to lie on her side. Vivian carefully wraps the blankets round her.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Get some rest. You only had a small exposure so you should be okay, but if you get any worse just tell me straight away, alright?

Lyra nods, closing her eyes and pulling the blankets tight as Vivian heads outside:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Kit and the others are huddled outside, waiting anxiously as Vivian approaches.

TRISTAN

How is she?

VIVIAN

Sick, but stable. She's tougher than she looks.

KIT

I... I just don't understand it, how could we not have known? Have we always been like this?

VIVIAN

Probably. But I'm betting you also keep away from regular humans so you've never had chance to find out you were contagious.

RUBEN

(huffs)

You have a way with words.

VIVIAN

Get over it. There are more important things at stake here.

TRISTAN

Like Parker having so many of us in his labs, you mean?

VIVIAN

I've got programs running in there that might give us a cure, or at least something, but for now I want you guys to stay close by.

She turns and re-enters the old building.

TRACY

What should we do?

KIT

You heard her! We stay here.

RUBEN

Until when? Until she and her friends decide we're too big a risk and have us all put down?

KIT

Ruben...

RUBEN

I mean it! You think those of us who were taken are sitting in bed watching TV and eating Oreos? Wake up, guys. They're being turned into weapons in some other sucker's war.

TRISTAN

We don't know that.

Ruben takes a few steps back.

RUBEN

Whatever. I ain't waiting round until that vampire chick gets the call to put us down like rabid dogs.

KIT

Ruben, don't! Come back!

But he's already off, running down the alley and disappearing into the street.

TRISTAN

Damn it...

And he's off too, chasing after his friend as the girls call for him to stop.

32 INT. OLD BUILDING - NEXT

32

Vivian looks up from her lab equipment, hearing the raised voices outside, and hurries to the door:

33 EXT. ALLEYWAY - NEXT

33

But by the time she arrives, they're all gone.

VIVIAN

Crap!

She looks back towards the building, then the end of the alleyway, at a loss what to do next as we CUT TO:

34

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING - NIGHT

34

Twist nudges open a door into a large, ship's engine room-like chamber, Ade close by as they duo walk up to the edge of a balcony overlooking:

Several huge TURBINES whirr away along one side of the room, while several large VATS line up against the other, each one already mostly full with a dark red fluid.

Before each vat is a plain OPERATING TABLE with RESTRAINTS, various SCIENTISTS and ASSISTANTS making checks.

Double doors at the far end of the hall open, and a line of weary looking AKERCOCKE are frogmarched into the room, troopers on both sides.

ON THE BALCONY, Ade starts to rise but Twist pulls him back down out of sight.

ADE

That's them! That's who we're here to save!

TWIST

I get that, but you may as well set off a flare and wave a flag saying 'we're up here!' if you wanna go diving in all gung-ho.

ADE

So what do you suggest?

Ade watches, growing more agitated as his kin below are strapped down to the operating tables, CABLES and TUBES from the vats dragged towards them.

He looks to Twist, who is quickly sending a text, tongue to one side of her mouth in concentration.

ADE (cont'd)

A text message?

TWIST

No, 'calling for backup.'

She finishes, packing her phone away and grabbing Duggan.

TWIST (cont'd)

We need to get downstairs and wait for the old cavalry to show up.

She heads back into the corridor outside, Ade tearing himself away from the scene below as we CUT TO:

35 INT. UNDERGROUND BASE - CELL BLOCK/BOOTH - NEXT 35

Danyaël is scanning the CONSOLE before him, trying to find the buttons to release the cells as Megan enters.

MEGAN
They're not here.

DANYAEL
What?

MEGAN
None of them. They must not be keeping them here.

DANYAEL
Shoot.
(beat)
Alright, we -

His phone BUZZES, and he takes it out to read:

DANYAEL (cont'd)
It's Twist. She's found them, but she needs some backup.

MEGAN
What are we waiting for?

They start to exit when the phone BUZZES again, and Danyaël presses it to his ear.

DANYAEL
Vivian? What's up?

INTERCUT WITH:

36 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 36

Vivian is running frantically down a deserted, rainswept street, looking everywhere for the missing akercocke.

VIVIAN
I lost 'em, Danny!

DANYAEL
Lost who? The others?

VIVIAN
They must've gotten spooked and taken off... damn it! Where are you guys?

37 INT. UNDERGROUND BASE - CELL BLOCK - NEXT 37

Danyaël and Megan exit the booth, hurrying along.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL

About to rescue the hostages. I think.

VIVIAN

Hurry back. I can't be out here and keep an eye on Lyra.

DANYAEL

Wait - Lyra? What's she -

CLICK. Vivian hangs up, and Danyael stares at his phone for a beat before:

MEGAN (O.S.)

Danyael, hurry up!

He shoves the phone away and runs off frame as we CUT TO:

38 INT. UNDERGROUND BASE - PROCESSING - NEXT

38

Down on the main level, Twist and Ade watch from behind some bulky generators as several IVs and needles are stuck into the protesting akercockes' arms.

ADE

(hisses)

We can't wait any longer!

TWIST

Just give it a sec, will ya? We've done this before.

ADE

What, exactly this?

TWIST

Probably. You lose track after a while.

Ade waits a literal second longer, then:

ADE

Screw this.

He springs up from cover and rushes into the open, even as Twist calls him back.

TROOPERS turn as they hear him approach - WHAM! His rock-solid fists SHATTER the first guard's visor, knocking him back in a spray of BLOOD.

Twist CHARGES out of hiding, TACKLING a soldier before he can bring his gun to bear on Ade, who is already moving onto the next soldier as we CUT TO:

39 INT. UNDERGROUND BASE - CORRIDOR - NEXT 39

Danyael and Megan hurry round a corner - and see Chris heading towards them.

DANYAEL

Chris! Dude. Did'ya get Twist's message?

They hear GUNSHOTS and SHOUTS from beyond the doors marked 'Processing' between them.

CHRIS

Actually, no. I followed my instincts.

The trio push through the doors, into:

40 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING - NEXT 40

They join the fight in full swing - the scientists hurry to complete their work as GUNFIRE ricochets around them.

Ade takes another BULLET, his face twisted with rage as he HAMMERS his fists down onto another soldier.

Twist CRACKS her bat across one's legs, dropping him so she can ROLL over his back and SCISSOR-KICK another.

The scientists, meanwhile, activate their equipment, the restrained akercocke SCREAMING in pain as blood pumps from their bodies back into the vats!

Twist spots the inbound Chris, Danyael and Megan, gesturing quickly to the vats.

TWIST

What the hell are they doing?

CHRIS

Stand back!

He conjures up a ball of FLAME in his hand, HURLING it over Twist's head and into two more troopers.

Ade grabs another soldier, swinging him round and THROWING him backwards - straight towards one of the vats!

CHRIS (cont'd)

(jaw drops)

Oh, no...

The trooper hits the vat - which BUCKLES and then SHATTERS under the impact, spraying dark BLOOD out across the room!

(CONTINUED)

ALARM BELLS instantly go off, the scientists fleeing in terror from the spillage.

They only manage a few steps before they start COUGHING, falling to their knees and stumbling to the floor.

One VOMITS BLOOD in an ugly stream across the ground, and as the shocked team regroup, a tannoy voice sounds:

TANNOY

Attention. Biohazard alert level
ten in main processing lab.
Attention...

The voice continues - as thick steel SHUTTERS start to descend over every exit from the room, SLAMMING into place and sealing them off!

TWIST

Oh, crap!

MEGAN

(shoves Ade)
You idiot!

ADE

What did I do? What did I do?

CHRIS

(darkly)
I think you may have just doomed a
lot of innocent people...

Every human in the room is soon writhing on the floor, VOMITING and HOWLING in pain as the pool of blood spreads from the broken vat, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING - NIGHT 41

The ALARM KLAXONS are still wailing, the tannoy voice repeating its looped message and RED LIGHTS flash urgently.

Chris and Ade are straining against the shutters over the main doors, trying to push them up.

Twist and Danyael are searching for another way out as Megan checks the akercocke strapped to the tables.

Danyael steps over to her - and finds she's WEEPING. He lays a hand on her shoulder and she turns.

MEGAN

They're... they're all dead!

Danyael looks down - the shock of the rapid blood loss was too much for the frail akercocke, each one limp and lifeless.

DANYAEL

I'm so sorry.

He pulls her close, Megan squeezing him and SOBBING before Twist marches past:

TWIST

There's no way out. Well, no way that doesn't have several inches of steel over it, anyway.

With a loud GRUNT, Chris and Ade admit defeat and step away from the shuttered doorway.

Twist joins them, stepping over the twisted body of one scientist with a grimace.

TWIST (cont'd)

Alright, chief, time for some friggin' answers. What's up with everybody literally puking their guts up in here?

Chris glances at Ade before he replies:

CHRIS

It's their blood. It's highly toxic to humans.

ADE

What?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Vivian found out from her tests.
Lyra was exposed to a small amount
and was also taken ill.

TWIST

But if this room is sealed, then so
is anything in the air... right?

CHRIS

Correct. Except that leaves us one
big problem - how do we get out
without the virus also escaping?

Danyaël joins them, leaving Megan to solemnly untie her
deceased kindred.

DANYAEL

This base is bound to have
something that'll neutralise the
toxins, right? I mean, Parker
thinks of most things, and if he
knew what this blood did, stands to
reason he'd have a way to counter
it.

CHRIS

Good thinking.

TWIST

Yeah, for you that was pretty
spectacular.

DANYAEL

(points over shoulder)
There's a whole stack of computer
terminals in a booth back there,
must've been used for observing
what was going on in here. I'll
check those.

CHRIS

Alright. Twist, go with him.

The two vamps hurry towards the glass-panelled CONTROL BOOTH
at the back of the room as Chris turns to Ade.

ADE

I... I'm sorry, I didn't -

CHRIS

It's alright. No-one's blaming you.
(beat)
Yet.

Ade bows his head and trudged over to Megan.

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

Chris looks up towards the flashing alarm lights overhead, frowning.

He raises his hand - and a haze of BLUE ENERGY forms around his fist, which he SNAPS back and launches towards the ceiling.

The energy strikes the alarms - which fall silent, the tannoy and klaxons both cutting off.

CHRIS (cont'd)
That's better.

He rejoins Megan and Ade as we CUT TO:

42 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

42

Back with Vivian, still searching for her runaways.

VIVIAN
Tracy? Kit? Ruben? Tristan?

She WINCES, slowing to a stop and clutching her injured arm. She waits a few beats, letting the pain subside.

Vivian calls their names a few times more, finally turning and heading back to her base:

43 INT. OLD BUILDING - NEXT

43

She re-enters the musty room to find Lyra sitting up, running a hand through her hair.

LYRA
Vivian?

VIVIAN
It's me. Are you...

LYRA
Much better, yes. I suppose this is one of those times where not being a hundred per cent human is actually a good thing.

VIVIAN
Guess so.

LYRA
The others ave gone, haven't they?

VIVIAN
Yeah, they took off. Must've thought I was going to kill them or something.

(CONTINUED)

LYRA
 (appalled)
 You weren't... were you?

VIVIAN
 Of course not! But... they're still
 out there and I've got no way of
 finding them.

LYRA
 (smiles)
 I wouldn't say that.

She extends her hand and Vivian pulls her to her feet.

LYRA (cont'd)
 Get me to the roof.

Bemused, Vivian leads her towards a rickety staircase in the
 corridor outside as we CUT TO:

Danyael is rattling away at the computer terminals, while
 Twist hauls the dead body of another blood-spattered
 scientist off the console.

DANYAEL
 Lucky for us they were all logged
 in, or we'd have no chance... okay,
 here we go.

Twist looks over his shoulder as he brings up several files.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 (points)
 Says here that the toxins are
 destroyed by extremes of heat, so
 Parker fitted plasma charges all
 around this room.

TWIST
 So he could blow the place sky high
 if anything went wrong?

DANYAEL
 Exactly.

TWIST
 What about if any of his goons were
 still in here?

DANYAEL
 I guess that wasn't high up on his
 list of concerns.

TWIST

Alright, so we can blow the room
and burn up all the nasty. Great.
Where's the switch?

Danyaël scours the console, finding a locked pair of
switches.

Twist pads the pockets of the dead scientists until she turns
up a pair of keys, and she uses them to open the panels over
the two big red buttons.

TWIST (cont'd)

Wait... that's it? We're supposed
to blow these things while we're
still in here?

Danyaël shoots her a troubled look as we CUT TO:

45 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING - NEXT

45

Twist and Danyaël hurry back over to Chris and the others.

DANYAEL

We've got a solution...

TWIST

... and a problem. We can blow the
base up to stop the toxins...

DANYAEL

... but we can only do it from in
here.

Chris closes his eyes, tilting his head back and thinking.

MEGAN

How are we supposed to get out of
here?

ADE

We don't.

CHRIS

Yes, we do.

He opens his eyes, everyone's attention on him.

CHRIS (cont'd)

This base is sealed underground. We
need to get out of here first, then
detonate the charges, and make sure
that the blast neutralises the
toxins before we leave.

TWIST

Okay, except...

She indicates the doors, but Chris shakes his head and points to the ceiling.

The others follow his finger - and see a HATCH built into the ceiling.

CHRIS

I saw it when I shut the alarms off. It's for maintenance only, but we should be able to get up there with a little magic. If I create an airtight barrier around that hatch first, then we can just pass straight up and get safely out without any of the toxins following us.

DANYAEL

So who stays to set the charges off?

Everyone falls silent - until Ade steps forward.

ADE

I'll do it.

MEGAN

Adrian, no! You can't -

ADE

This mess is my fault. I should take care of it.

He turns to Megan, taking her by the hands.

ADE (cont'd)

Look after the kids, alright?

TWIST

(blinks)

'Kids'?

She hugs him tight, both of them in tears as Chris pulls Twist and Danyael away.

Megan KISSES him, pulling him close to her, and she whispers into his ear:

MEGAN

I love you.

ADE
 I love you too.
 (beat)
 Now go.

He gently pushes her back, and Danyael pulls her close as Ade takes a few more steps back.

They keep their eyes on each other as Chris starts to quietly recite an incantation, a SWIRL of light forming around them.

Ade watches, shielding his eyes as the light builds to a brilliant haze, enveloping the foursome.

They start to rise slowly into the air, heading straight for the panel in the roof.

A bubble of light POPS into existence around the hatch, its contents swimming darkly for a few beats before becoming crystal clear.

It's a good thirty feet straight up, but once there it takes only moments for Chris to open the hatch and climb through, Twist and Danyael following.

Megan is the last to climb through, Chris dispelling the aura around her as she's pulled up into the access tunnel.

Ade smiles, turning to the control booth and heading towards it as Megan finally disappears, the hatch pulled shut.

46 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING/BOOTH - NEXT 46

Ade walks up to the console, the two red buttons just before him as he stops and looks back out across the room.

All other sounds fade away as he stares down at the buttons, his hand hovering over them.

47 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - ACCESS TUNNEL - NEXT 47

Chris and the team quickly scurry along the narrow tunnel, heading for the light up ahead.

48 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING/BOOTH - NEXT 48

Ade closes his eyes - and then STAMPS his hand down on the buttons.

49 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - PROCESSING - NEXT 49

Several bright BURSTS of flame spurt from the floor and ceiling, quickly growing to huge, raging pillars of FIRE.

Dozens more smaller charges DETONATE, quickly filling the room with a blinding melee of light and heat.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

The scattered bodies are disintegrated in a FLASH, the blood inside the vats BOILING OVER as the vats themselves CRACK under the heat.

50 INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - CORRIDOR - NEXT

50

Chris helps Twist, Danyael and then Megan out into another corridor, starting to push the hatch closed:

And down the tunnel they left, he sees a torrent of FLAMES rushing towards them!

He quickly SLAMS the hatch shut and seals it - and a ROAR from the other side sends him leaping back.

The noise dies down, Megan still SOBBING softly as we DISSOLVE TO:

51 EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

51

Up on a roof overlooking this block with Vivian and Lyra. Lyra has her eyes closed and is HUMMING a melody.

Vivian paces up and down, not sure what she's meant to be doing as Lyra continues her tune.

VIVIAN

Look, is this supposed to -

Without missing a note, Lyra raises a hand for silence. Vivian resumes her pacing.

Lyra's tune dies down, and she points out across the city:

LYRA

There.

Sure enough, Vivian sees a smoky trail of PURPLE LIGHT spiralling up from the street.

VIVIAN

That's... can everyone see that?

LYRA

Just us.

Vivian EXHALES, not sure what to make of it.

VIVIAN

(shrugs)

Works for me. Let's go.

She takes Lyra's hand, and the duo hurry off screen as we CUT TO:

52 EXT. STREETS - NEXT

52

Kit and the others are sitting under the awning of a closed cafe, waiting for the rain to pass.

TRACY
(shivers; to Ruben)
You dumbass.

RUBEN
What?

KIT
Mom would never have let you take
off like that.

RUBEN
Yeah, well, mom and dad didn't
stay, did they?

Kit scowls at him, pulling her thin, soaked clothing tighter - and a VAN rolls to a stop before them.

The akercocke look up as the van's door slides open - and Megan smiles out at them.

MEGAN
It's a little cold to be out
running around, don't you think?

Tracy beams and takes a step forward, but Ruben holds her back.

RUBEN
Is it... are you okay?

MEGAN
I'm fine, Ruben. Come on in out of
the cold.

The others all hurry gratefully into the warmth of the van, Ruben hesitating until last.

RUBEN
But what about those things the
vampire girl told us? About our
blood?

MEGAN
We won't have to worry about that
ever again.

She extends a hand to him.

MEGAN (cont'd)
Now come inside.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

Slowly, he takes a step forward, then finally climbs up into the van. Megan pulls the doors shut and the van pulls away as we DISSOLVE TO:

53 INT. VAN - DAWN

53

The team are resting as Danyael drives the van, the first rays of morning sun in the background.

Lyra is sleeping, Chris pressing a hand to her brow before sitting down by Vivian.

VIVIAN

She's fine. Got the toxins out of her system in no time. Which leads into my next question...

CHRIS

No, we're not exactly sure what she is. None of us are. But that doesn't make her any less a part of the team.

VIVIAN

So I see.

Chris tries to settle down, not able to take his eyes off Lyra - and Vivian raises an eyebrow as she notices this.

Up front, Twist shifts over in the passenger seat, where's she trying unsuccessfully to nap, and nudges Danyael.

TWIST

Where do you think they'll go?

DANYAEL

Megan didn't say. Said it was best nobody else knew, so they'd be safe.

TWIST

But won't they be all alone up... wherever they are?

DANYAEL

(grins)

She said she put the word out before she left. If there are any more of her kind out there, she's told them where to meet up.

TWIST

I hope they're okay. I liked them. Any guy that floors you with one punch can't be all bad.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

Danyael chuckles, and Twist smiles before turning onto her other side, and we CUT TO:

54 EXT. ALASKAN HILLS - DAWN

54

And here, hiking up into the snow-capped mountains of distant Alaska, are Megan and the others.

There's not a living soul around, just the forest and the animals living within. Isolated but together - and safe.

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW