

WINK

by

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WINK

FADE IN:

EXT. IN THE BACK OF A VAN KIRUM GLANCES AT A FILE. - DAY  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

The year is 2016. Some of the cars look futuristic but not all of them. The van has a modern look but not too modern. It's black and has an upside down "Star of David" painted in gold on both side panels. There's a man wearing a black lab-coat in the back of the van. He glances at a file and closes it. The outer jacket of the file reads "Charles Edward Plackard: Possible suicide case number 49592037 USA.

KIRUM

(Voice over while  
looking out the  
window.)

When I first went out on my own  
I'd read every word of these  
people's files. I guess I felt  
obligated.

That was nearly twelve years ago.  
Back when a car did over thirty  
five miles per hour. But too many  
people crashed head on into other  
drivers so governors were  
installed on all non-emergency  
vehicles. Carakazees is what they  
were called. Type C investigations  
for me where there's both a crime  
and a suicide. I don't do many of  
them any more because the limits  
do work and there's less traffic  
now. Many of the larger cities  
have new subways completed or  
nearly completed. The GAT or Great  
American Tunnel, that sends high  
speed trains across the heart of  
America, is sixty percent  
complete.

Small airports are everywhere  
because flying's the only way to  
get somewhere fast even on short  
trips. The big auto makers build  
planes and trains now to stay  
afloat. Pilots have to wear a  
wristband that injects them to  
sleep the first sign of unusual

(MORE)

KIRUM (cont'd)  
behavior. The plane then flies  
itself to the nearest safe-zone  
where it lands perfectly every  
time.  
We'll be at a type A investigation  
soon to decide if there was a  
murder or if the man took his own  
life?

Elicia is sitting across from Kirum typing on her laptop.  
She interrupts herself and blurts out.

ELICIA  
Doctor there are four more after  
this. I can brief you on all of  
them so you don't have to read the  
files.

KIRUM  
(Very stern.)  
For the last time don't call me  
doctor.

ELICIA  
Sorry I keep forgetting. Kirum, I  
just hope you're not relying on me  
to make the final judgement on  
this one? I'm prepared but I don't  
think I'm ready to pronounce an  
"Absolute".

KIRUM  
You were ready a week ago. I  
disagree with the one year  
training policy but for once I'm  
going to take advantage of it.  
Just make me aware of your  
decision before you act so I don't  
have to correct you in front of  
anyone.

ELICIA  
I just got sick to my stomach.

KIRUM  
Welcome to my world Elicia.

Their van pulls beside two police cars and parks. The light  
mood of two officers changes as they watch Kirum and Elicia  
exit the van and walk past them and into a nice antebellum  
home.

A man approaches them as Elicia takes pictures of the potential crime scene. Some ritualistic symbols are on the walls and a man is hanging from the ceiling. His body looks like the centerpiece of a picture of a cross with a pointed end and blood dripping from it.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Hello folks I'm in charge of this case, Detective Christianson. I assume you're the ATC agents sent to verify this as a crime scene?

ELICIA

Detective I need everyone out of here now. As you're fully aware when we're called you don't have a crime scene until we say you do. I won't waste time by citing numerous infractions in procedure unless it becomes necessary. We'll let you know when we're finished.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Ma'am I'll advise you that when this becomes a crime scene, which I'm certain it will, I'd best not have to deal with your tracks and prints while I try to find out who murdered this man.

Kirum ignores their conversation and stares at the figure on the ceiling. We see a brief flashback of a young girl on a plane with that same figure tattooed on her neck.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Alright everyone out, take a lunch break and meet back here at noon.

Elicia approaches Kirum.

ELICIA

Have you ever seen that before?

KIRUM

Maybe. Don't let this stuff distract you. Have you let anything in the report or what you've seen here invade your instinct?

ELICIA

(Looking at the  
ceiling.)

No. I have no preconceived notion  
as to what has happened here.

KIRUM

Good. Now examine him and record  
his readings.

They place a ladder next to the man and she climbs up to  
inspect the body.

She examines the man's eyes with a an object similar to a  
silver pen that emits a laser light. After holding the light  
in his right eye for five seconds she reads an LED screen on  
the side of the pen.

ELICIA

Kirum this line isn't flat. In  
fact it's going crazy.

KIRUM

That's not possible. Maybe you're  
not ready. Come down.

ELICIA

This may be my first recording but  
I've been reading for years. I'm  
telling you this man's...

Her leg slips and she has to grab the body to keep from  
falling. Just as she gasps a sigh of relief she sees the  
man's right eye staring at her and it blinks. She falls off  
of the ladder and Kirum catches her. She's hyperventilating.

KIRUM

Why'd you let go?

She tries to speak but she can't catch her breath.

KIRUM

Calm down and tell me what  
happened?

ELICIA

He. He. He winked at me.

Kirum helps her to her feet and squeezes his forehead.

He deliberately climbs up and takes another reading.

KIRUM

It's flat now. You're not to leave my sight until this is over. Not even for a second, do you hear?

ELICIA

Until what's over?

KIRUM

First things first. You still have a job to do. Have you made a decision?

ELICIA

(She looks at the body.)

I guess I have...

KIRUM

Have you made a decision or not?

ELICIA

Yes. I'm positive this man took his own life.

KIRUM

OK. Now tell the Cleaners to get in here and work quickly. Hopefully we won't have to listen to the abuse from the local "know it alls."

We see a large van, with the same Star of David on it's side, and eight cleaners, along with two heavily armed men, emerge with a stretcher and various tools. Elicia watches as they take the body down and put it in the back of the van and into an incinerator. The house is restored to a normal appearance and there's nothing left to suggest someone had just died there.

She approaches Kirum who appears to be talking to himself but he's talking to a miniature phone that's inside his mouth.

KIRUM

I'm sorry but we have several more cases in this area and something has come up that has to be dealt with and I don't know how long it'll take.

He pauses and listens as he turns away from an onlooking Elicia.

KIRUM

I miss you too. But you know you don't need my help with the final plans. Between you and Charlotte it'll all get handled. Is Charles still complaining?

Another pause.

KIRUM

Well he's been waiting a long time to give away his only daughter. I have to go, I'll call you when I can. Goodbye

He uses a tiny remote to hang up and Elicia watches him put it in his lab coat.

ELICIA

(Confused.)

Kirum where's the phone?

KIRUM

(Smiling.)

I had it put in a right molar. I can talk and hear out of it and the remote does the rest.

ELICIA

What are you 007? Where's mine?

KIRUM

I had it done in Japan two months ago. It won't be in the States for a while.

ELICIA

You're like a big kid with your gadgets.

KIRUM

Looks like the party is about to liven up a bit.

She looks over her shoulder and sees the detective and two squad cars pull up.

KIRUM

Do you feel up to this?

ELICIA

No. But I have to learn some time. Besides I'm more concerned about

(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)  
this wink thing. What's that all  
about?

Detective Christianson interrupts with a loud voice as he  
walks towards them very fast.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
You just couldn't handle losing  
control could you?

ELICIA  
I won't even dignify that with a  
response detective.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
I've seen a lot of things but this  
beats all. Did you even read my  
report? Why'd you even bother  
showing up? You could've just  
phoned it in and saved the tax  
payers lots of money. My God who  
do you think you are?

ELICIA  
I understand you're being upset  
but if you'll calm down I'll try  
and answer your questions; which  
is more than I'm obligated to do.

He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes for a few seconds  
as the armed men make their presence more obvious.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
You're damn right I'm upset but  
I'll remain calm cause otherwise  
I'll never get any answers. Back  
to my first question, did you read  
my report?

ELICIA  
If you're interested in the truth  
I'll tell you honestly that my  
decision was not and could not be  
impacted by your report. Now  
before you react you should know I  
did read every word.

He shakes his head.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
You people amaze me. I realize  
you're not trained in law  
enforcement but any layman can  
(MORE)

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON (cont'd)  
look at that report and deduce the  
fact that Reverend Plackard  
couldn't have does this alone.

ELICIA  
That may be the case but that  
doesn't change the fact that he  
took his own life.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
But that makes no sense. I'm very  
familiar with you people's work  
and I don't even want to debate  
with you how your innate intuition  
has been honed to perfection  
causing you to be able to  
determine the difference between a  
suicide and a murder. Personally I  
don't care what the numbers say  
it's a bunch of hogwash to me but  
as I said that's not my point.

ELICIA  
What is your point detective? Is  
your point that because the maid  
saw a boy running away from the  
house this has to be a murder?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
My point is, ma'am, that because  
you've destroyed a crime scene  
this case will never be solved. My  
point is in a few minutes you're  
going to hand me an urn with the  
ashes of a man of God and I'll  
have to tell his family that he  
and he alone was responsible for  
his death. And they, along with  
his congregation, will have to  
live with the thought that their  
spiritual leader and a cornerstone  
of their faith lost all hope and,  
out of the blue, took his own  
life.

ELICIA  
I hate that's your job Detective  
but I'll remind you of the numbers  
of cases you have to deal with  
now. And that the only reason the  
ATC was created was because Police  
departments could no longer handle  
the workload created by the fact

(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)  
that over ten percent of the population over nine years old now takes their own lives. A percentage that has increased every year for the last decade and shows no sign of slowing down. I get the impression you have a personal interest in this case but that doesn't change the fact that this was a suicide. And the numbers don't lie detective, ATC was the most scrutinized company in the history of the world for three years and the instincts of those agents were shown to be flawless. I'm not saying you're wrong I'm just trying to help you do your job which is to focus on actual murder cases.

KIRUM

Detective I would like to know one thing. Why did the maid think the boy came from inside the house?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Does it even matter? Don't answer that. She thought someone looked out the window when she pulled up but she wasn't positive. But when we arrived he hadn't been dead more than ten to fifteen minutes. I can almost swear someone else put that stuff on the walls and ceiling.

KIRUM

As you said we'll probably never know but if it helps I have no doubt he took his own life.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

You know that's the first time one of you guys has ever sounded like a human being.

A Cleaner walks up and hands Kirum an Urn. He hands it to Elicia and she uses a bracelet to stamp Absolute on the bottom of it. The detective walks up and takes it from her.

KIRUM

Don't let that get around or I could lose my job.

The detective feigns a grin and walks away. He turns back around and asks Kirum.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
What exactly does ATC stand for?

KIRUM  
I guess that depends on who you're asking. I know most of you guys say it stands for Accessory to Crime but officially it stands for Absolute Technology Corporation.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Just checking.

Elicia rolls her eyes at Kirum.

Elicia and Kirum walk back to the van.

ELICIA  
Just how long am I not supposed to be out of your site?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Kirum sits in a chair and Elicia is in the bathroom. He's holding an unlit cigar.

Switch to her face in the mirror and she winks at herself. Hurriedly she walks out and we see her approach Kirum.

ELICIA  
Look I know you're practically a married man and all but this is more than a bit awkward. Do you really plan on sleeping in here tonight?

KIRUM  
This is very important. Has anything strange happened since this morning?

ELICIA  
I guess that means yes? You know there's a perfectly good explanation for what happened and I'd appreciate it if you'd stop freaking me out.

KIRUM

Has anything happened?

ELICIA

Yes. I can't stop thinking about something that happened in college and just a minute ago I winked at myself in the mirror.

Kirum sits with a blank stare on his face.

ELICIA

Look I know I have this rough exterior but I can't even watch a scary movie by myself so if you know something then out with it?

KIRUM

That's just it, I don't know anything. Because we're not allowed to fraternize with other Absolutionists all I can go by is my own experience. In training you learned that our suicide rate is less than ten percent of the international average didn't you?

ELICIA

Of course but what does that have to do with anything?

KIRUM

I'm not saying it does I'm just curious what makes us so special?

ELICIA

What personal experience have you had with this Kirum?

KIRUM

None. At least none directly. Occasionally people commit suicide while we're still in the area investigating. Instead of letting the "Program" pick the Absolutionist Central assigns the agent nearby the case. On three different occasions when I was assigned the new victims were people who'd been at the scene of a previous call.

ELICIA

People from the local police department?

KIRUM

Two of them were the first to find the body and the other one was a local detective. Out of curiosity I actually read the files of the witnesses and both had stated the dead person winked at them. Now don't get upset.

ELICIA

Don't get upset! Why would that upset me? Why didn't you report this to ATC.

KIRUM

Oh I did. The first time it was ignored and the second time I was put on a one month leave due to mental fatigue.

ELICIA

Are you telling me I've caught some kind of suicide bug that is passed on by a wink? This is crazy. I'm the last person in the world who would want to die. A wink's not going to change that.

KIRUM

I'm not saying it will I just don't think it's a good idea to leave you alone for now.

ELICIA

Why just two reports? What about the third person?

KIRUM

The detective was investigating a suicide by fire and the woman had no eyes left. Fire's make for a tough Absolution.

ELICIA

So why mention that case?

KIRUM

There were two odd things about that case. By the time I saw the detective he'd been brought back from four hundred miles away. He'd taken his life outside a small town in Kansas. Lyon I think?

ELICIA

You never got to see the crime scene?

KIRUM

No. But technically that shouldn't matter and I was certain it was suicide.

ELICIA

What was the other odd thing?

KIRUM

Apparently he was following up on a lead on his own time. It didn't mean anything at the time but he was tracking a boy who was said to have been seen by firefighters when they arrived at the suicide.

ELICIA

Are you saying the preacher may not have killed himself?

KIRUM

Oh No. Don't ever doubt your final decision. I was as certain as you were. I'm also as convinced as the detective that there's something suspicious about that man's death but that's out of our hands.

ELICIA

And you're also worried I've caught some suicide bug?

KIRUM

Of course not. This is just my MO for getting new agents into bed.

She smiles.

ELICIA

I thought as much. What do think the reading meant on the Pastor?

KIRUM

I don't know any more about those things than you do. I just take the reading and send it in.

ELICIA

Just my luck to get a reading my first time. Do you think that has anything to do with this?

KIRUM

I really don't know.

ELICIA

And to think they all said I'd be working with the best.

Smiles.

KIRUM

What made you want to this?

ELICIA

My parents divorced when I was three and I never saw or heard from my father until I graduated from college. He sent me a check for fifty thousand dollars and an ap for ATC medical school. I didn't think I had a chance of making it through the screening process but six years later here I am. I thought my roommate would have been perfect but now she's working at an ER in Atlanta.

She falls back on her bed and covers her eyes with her hands.

ELICIA

So do we hang a curtain between us?

KIRUM

No. I don't sleep much anyway. You go ahead and get some rest, I'm sure everything will be fine.

ELICIA

But what about your Cleanser? It won't work unless you're sleeping.

KIRUM

I'll get in a nap on the van in the morning and I'll wear it then.

ELICIA

I feel bad for putting you through this but I have to get some sleep so I can stop thinking about the same thing over and over.

KIRUM

I don't suppose you want to share what that is?

ELICIA

I don't know you that well. Maybe the last day of my training since I'll never see you again after that.

KIRUM

I'll hold you to it.

ELICIA

It won't bother me if you want to smoke that. My dad smoked cigars.

KIRUM

Thanks but Helen asked me to quit and this is my method.

He picks up a game sleeve.

KIRUM

I'm on the last level of Creation. I'll kill time by trying to Kill the Serpent.

ELICIA

Ok. Have fun.

He takes the small remote out of his pocket. He then puts on a pair of visors and starts his video game using the remote. We watch him play for a minute and then see her put on a small headset and fall asleep.

INT. HOTEL ROOM EIGHT HOURS LATER. - NIGHT

We see a shot of the window as the first hint of sunlight sneaks through a closed curtain.

Move to Kirum who is heavy into his game.

Move to the face of a sleeping Elicia who looks in distress.

We see glimpses of her in bed with an older man and his wife walks in on them.

JEALOUS WIFE

I knew you'd be here. I hope she  
deserves you you bastard.

We see Elicia and the professor getting dressed and then she wakes up. She's crying and walks over to a leather bag. She pulls out a gun and puts it to her head. Kirum hears a click and jumps out of his chair.

KIRUM

Elicia no. Give me the gun.

He struggles to get the gun.

ELICIA

You don't understand. I don't  
deserve to live. Where's my clip?  
I'll just find another way.

KIRUM

Just calm down. I removed the clip  
while you were sleeping.

She tries to run but he tackles her and after a scuffle he ties her hands behind her back with a phone chord. She gets in a fetal position and lays on the bed crying.

KIRUM

I'll be back in two minutes. Don't  
keep fighting or you'll cut  
yourself.

Kirum runs out of the room and we see her struggling to get free. We see some blood on her wrists. After a few minutes she gets her hands in front of her and tries to open the window. She gets it open and looks down at the ground eight stories below. She closes her eyes and falls forward but Kirum catches her arm. He's holding on to her by the chord wrapped around her wrists. She's bleeding as he pulls her back inside. The driver comes running into the room and they carry her to the elevator. They get her into the van.

KIRUM

Robert let's go to the hospital.

DRIVER

Sir you know I can't do that. The nearest safe-house is eighty miles north.

Kirum is flustered and takes time to think.

KIRUM

Alright wait here while I get our things. Keep an eye on her.

Kirum approaches a bellhop and they go inside the hotel. The driver nervously punches in a code to open a console between the front seats of the van. Inside is a phone and it dials automatically.

COMPUTER VOICE

Your location has been determined. Help is on the way. Please remain calm and don't move unless you have to.

As the driver listens a young girl approaches the van and opens the back door. Elicia looks up and sees the little girl smile. She snaps a picture of Elicia and then winks. Elicia then passes out.

Kirum walks up to the van and sees her limp body.

KIRUM

What happened to her?

DRIVER

I don't know sir but help is on the way.

KIRUM

Help? What are you talking about?

The driver points to the phone and Kirum listens as the message keeps repeating itself.

KIRUM

I didn't even know we had an emergency phone or a safe-house for that matter.

DRIVER

Just following protocol sir.

Kirum uses bandages from the first aid kit to wrap around her bleeding wrists. Then he waits in the back of the van as we hear a siren approaching. Soon a white van pulls up with the initials AC on the side.

KIRUM

You're going to be fine Elicia.

A crew gets out of the van and takes her away.

INT. KIRUM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kirum wakes up and sees his Cleanser on the side of the bed.

His fiance Helen opens the shade and walks over to the side of the bed. She picks up the Cleanser.

HELEN

You told me you had to wear this while you sleep. When did you stop using it?

KIRUM

Good morning sunshine. If I answer that you'll be left with only four questions until tommorrow.

HELEN

Hold up I didn't agree to just five daily questions on a permanent basis. Can I help it that you fascinate me and I always want to know your opinion and how you feel and what your thinking?

KIRUM

You should learn to read my mind. What am I thinking right now?

He puts his arms around her waist and pulls her to him.

HELEN

Sorry but I have to go with mum to pick out a cake. Since you don't want to participate you can go over there and take care of that dead tree in the back yard. Ever since you said it should be cut down mom says she can't sleep for worrying about it falling on the house. If you don't dad will and he's in no shape to be handling a chain saw.

KIRUM

I've already told you hard labor interferes with my instinct.

HELEN

OK well let's just see how being cut off affects your instinct.

KIRUM

Does your dad have a chain saw?

She squeezes his face and gives him a soft kiss.

HELEN

Yes but you should buy a new one. You never know when it might come in handy.

KIRUM

I was hoping to hold out and see if we get one as a wedding gift?

HELEN

Oops I forgot to register at John Deere.

KIRUM

No worries I'll handle it while I'm there.

KIRUM

And I thought you weren't going to help with our wedding.

She puts a purse over her shoulder and starts out the door.

HELEN

Dad will try to run the show if he helps you but don't let him. He has two herniated discs and it

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HELEN (cont'd)  
would kill him not to be able to  
walk down the Isle with me.

He picks up his Cleanser and looks at a light pad that's  
blinking "Urgent! Critical cleansing needed." He opens a  
drawer and throws it in.

KIRUM  
(Voice over.)  
It's been two weeks since I last  
used it and my head feels clearer  
than ever. Sometimes I think the  
thing is just a placebo. I haven't  
heard from Elicia and I don't  
expect to. The company's funny  
about Abs communicating with one  
another. I just hope she's fine  
after whatever that was.

EXT. IN-LAWS BACKYARD - DAY

Kirum is making a final preparations to fall a very tall  
tree when his phone rings. He takes his remote out of his  
pocket.

KIRUM  
Hello.

ELICIA  
(In a hurry.)  
Kirum it's Elicia and we have less  
than a minute so there's no time  
for greetings. The small town you  
mentioned. Don't say it but do you  
remember yes or no?

KIRUM  
Yes.

ELICIA  
Meet me there tonight and don't  
leave a trail to follow.

KIRUM  
Elicia I'm getting married  
Sunday...

ELICIA  
You've got to trust me. There's  
more at stake here than you can  
know. There's only one restaurant  
and I'll be waiting. Bye.

KIRUM  
Elicia wait. Hello.

Helen and her mom drive up and approach Kirum.

CHARLOTTE  
Hello Kirum. Has Charles stayed  
out of your way?

KIRUM  
Hello Charlotte. He's actually  
been a great helper. He's gone  
after some outdoor trash bags.

HELEN  
So that's where your truck went?

CHARLOTTE  
Let's get out of his way dear.  
It'll be dark in a few hours.

KIRUM  
Can I have a word?

HELEN  
Uh oh mother. A word is never  
good. I'll be right in.

She walks away and Helen gives him a look.

HELEN  
I think I already know? You've  
been called on assignment haven't  
you?

KIRUM  
You can read my mind.

HELEN  
I was just talking to mother about  
how long you've had off and I just  
felt like you were about to be  
called back to work.

KIRUM  
Well I have to leave right away so  
I can be back here by Sunday.

HELEN  
But the tree?

KIRUM

I'm not going to have time. I'm going to call a tree service to come finish the job. I was dreading the cleanup anyway. Just make sure they slice the tree in firewood length and I'll chop it after it dries.

HELEN

So the next time I see you will be at the Chapel? But what about rehearsal?

KIRUM

I might be back much sooner but if I miss it I'll just have to wing it.

Charles comes from the front of the house and walks up on them kissing.

CHARLES

Did a boy walk back here?

HELEN

We didn't see anyone. Kirum's been called to work and we're going to have a tree service come and cut the tree down.

CHARLES

That's nonsense. I'll have it done in an hour.

He smiles and winks at Kirum who winks back. Charlotte walks up.

CHARLOTTE

If you touch that saw I'm filing for divorce.

Charles takes her hand and gives her a kiss.

KIRUM

I need to get cleaned up and pack. I'll call when I can.

They kiss and he leaves.

EXT. LYON KANSAS - NIGHT

Kirum gets out of a Shuttle Taxi and walks into a Diner.

He sees no one and waits at the counter. A waitress comes out of the kitchen.

WAITRESS

Howdy hun. You must be the man that pretty young woman's been waiting for? We close in ten minutes and she said to meet her at Henry's. That's the bar over on Central. If you hurry you can catch the end of happy hour.

KIRUM

Thanks.

WAITRESS

Sure thing hun. I can make you a quick sandwich if you're hungry?

KIRUM

No thank you I ate on the plane.

WAITRESS

Alrighty then. I'll be over there soon enough. Maybe I'll let you buy me a drink?

He smiles and walks out the door. We pick up at the bar.

HENRY'S BAR

He enters and sees a man at the bar and some young people playing darts. Elicia isn't there and he walks up to the bartender.

BARTENDER

Sorry pal but you just missed happy hour.

KIRUM

Figures. How bout a draft?

He hands him a beer. The man at the bar looks at Kirum.

MAN AT BAR

Sorry you missed happy hour son.

Kirum holds his beer up for a toast and the old man obliges.

KIRUM

Here's to another twenty three  
hours of unhappiness.

The old man grins big.

MAN AT BAR

Now I'll drink to that.

Elicia walks in and up to Kirum. It catches him off guard as she kisses him.

Pan to the bartender who looks at Harold.

BARTENDER

So much for unhappiness.

MAN AT BAR

I'll drink to that.

She takes Kirum by the hand and they sit at a table in the back.

ELICIA

Sorry about that but it's better  
if people think we're here on a  
lover's fling. Everyone knows  
everyone around here and we stick  
out like a bear at a wedding.

KIRUM

(Facetiously.)

You're right. Maybe we should keep  
making out just to put on a good  
show.

ELICIA

(Facetiously.)

Maybe later. I'm sorry for  
dragging you deeper into this  
but...

He raises his voice.

KIRUM

Into what?

She shhhhshes him.

KIRUM

Into what? All this time I've been  
wondering what happened to you and  
suddenly you call and give me

(MORE)

KIRUM (cont'd)  
secret orders for an espionage.  
In case you've forgotten the last  
time I saw you you were dead set  
on taking your own life and for  
all I know you're still off your  
rocker. So please tell me what it  
is you're hoping to accomplish by  
us meeting here?

ELICIA  
Just stay calm for a minute while  
I gather my thoughts. Would you  
like to know what happened after I  
was hauled away?

KIRUM  
Sure I want to know. I was sure  
you were being well taken care of  
but it concerned me to think I'd  
probably never know for sure that  
you were ok.

ELICIA  
Well thanks for the concern and  
thank you for saving my life.  
Twice. When I woke up I was in an  
isolated area of the ATC  
headquarters in Washington. There  
was a private duty nurse there and  
she was the only person I saw for  
a week.

Switch to Headquarters.

INT. ISOLATED ROOM HDQRS - DAY

Elicia is reading a book in a white room with no windows.  
She has clean bandages on her wrists. A man walks in and  
introduces himself.

DR. TODD  
Please stay seated Dr. Mangum. I'm  
Dr. Todd and I'm very sorry it's  
taken me so long to meet with you.  
I understand you went through  
quite an ordeal last week. We're  
all very glad to hear that you're  
recovering nicely and there  
doesn't seem to be any lasting  
effects from the virus.

ELICIA

It's quite an honor to meet you Dr. Todd but I wasn't aware I'd contracted a virus.

DR. TODD

No of course not it's extremely rare but some agent's immune systems develop a very powerful reaction to the mixture of inoculations you're all forced to endure. The symptoms vary but the most common one is a sudden onslaught of deep depression accompanied with some hysteria and even hallucinations.

She pauses.

DR. TODD

Doctor I realize this may come as a shock to you but I assure you there'll be no lasting effects. In fact the worst is over and you'll be out of here very soon.

ELICIA

Please call me Elicia if you don't mind?

He smiles.

DR. TODD

I can see Dr. Lambert's affect on you already. He's somewhat eccentric but one of our best agents.

KIRUM

Yes he says that if someone hears him called doctor they always want to know of what? He then has to lie or risk telling the truth and hope they haven't had a bad experience with one of us.

DR. TODD

Yes I think he's what one would call crazy like a fox.

DR. TODD

Listen Elicia you don't have to be bashful because of my position. I

(MORE)

DR. TODD (cont'd)  
happen to be a Psychologist and  
one of the reasons I'm here is to  
help you sort through this.

ELICIA  
Sort through what doctor? As you  
said I was a victim of my own  
immune system and the worst is  
over.

DR. TODD  
Right you are young lady. Everyone  
will be pleased to hear that you  
are doing well. I'm sure that I  
would at least be stir crazy by  
now if it were me in your  
position. But not to worry you'll  
be back in the real world soon  
enough.

ELICIA  
And then what?

DR. TODD  
After an undetermined time of paid  
leave you'll be placed with  
another trainer and on your way to  
a wonderful career.

ELICIA  
Is there any reason why I can't  
finish my training with Kirum?

DR. TODD  
None other than the fact that  
he'll be training someone else by  
the time you're ready to work  
again. We can't let your little  
setback bring everything else to a  
halt and Dr. Lambert's too  
valuable to leave in limbo.

ELICIA  
I see. Well I do feel privileged  
to have had one of the ten most  
powerful persons in the company  
come and check on me.

DR. TODD  
This Company's entire worth is  
based on it's Absolutionists  
Elicia. As you learned by our  
screening process your talent is  
(MORE)

DR. TODD (cont'd)  
extremely rare and we take every  
precaution and spare no expense  
when it comes to each of you.

ELICIA  
Well thank you very much. I hope  
to make you all proud.

DR. TODD  
We have every bit of confidence  
you'll do just that my dear. Is  
there anything else I can do for  
you?

ELICIA  
Just get me out of here ASAP.

DR. TODD  
We'll do. I'll have a phone  
brought in and you can make travel  
plans for Friday. Your travel  
expenses are on us so don't waste  
time looking for bargains.

ELICIA  
Thank you again. It'll be nice to  
spend some time at home. Goodbye  
Dr. Todd.

DR. TODD  
(Trying to flirt.)  
Goodbye Elicia. I'm going to leave  
a number with the nurse. If you  
need anything, and I do mean  
anything, you can reach me at any  
time through my service.

He walks out the door and she has a quizzical look on her  
face.

INT. OKLAHOMA CITY AIRPORT - DAY

Elicia's getting her bags when a man bumps into her and  
keeps on walking without an apology.

ELICIA  
Jerk.

She carries her luggage out and her mother is waiting for  
her in an old Volvo. Most people are leaving and arriving in  
shuttles and a few modern looking taxis. She gets in the car  
after putting her luggage in the trunk.

JANICE

Hello darling. I thought I was going to be late. I had to take Sampson to the vet.

ELICIA

Hello Mother. You look casual. What's wrong with old Fathead?

JANICE

I'm finally having him fixed. The neighbor's dog is in heat again and he's nearly chewed the fence down trying to get to her.

Elicia feels something in her pocket and pulls out an envelope.

JANICE

What's that dear?

Reading the note inside.

ELICIA

That must have been who bumped into me at the airport. Mother take me back to the terminal and drop me off. I'll get a ride home later.

JANICE

Is everything alright?

ELICIA

Everything's fine but I'm curious to see what this man has to say.

They drive back and she goes to the duty free shop.

THE SHOP.

ELICIA

Excuse me but did a man leave something here for Elicia Mangum?

CASHIER

Yes. Here's the key your husband left for you.

She takes the key and finds locker 1271. She opens it and finds a lock box inside. In it is a picture, a note and a car key. She looks at the picture and flashes back to the

girl who winked at her in the van.

Note: Hello Dr. Mangum, If you've ever seen this girl go to parking space 317 A and drive the car there to 5167 Carmichael in Lyon, Ks. I'll meet you there at eight PM. If you're being followed don't come.

ELICIA

(Voice over.)

If you go you're crazy. If you don't go it'll drive you crazy.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Elicia arrives at the address and parks in front of the house. A man walks out and they approach each other on the front lawn.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Surprized to see me again?

ELICIA

Hello Detective Christianson. A little.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

I thought you'd want to know who the girl was that took your picture.

ELICIA

Well you were right but how do you know anything about that?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

I was kind of hoping I could show you. But that would mean you staying here tonight. Don't worry I have a room close by. This is one of our officer's sister's house. She's been a great help and she says she'd love for you to stay.

ELICIA

Look I'm too tired to say no so I'll stay in town until morning but I'll get a room for the night as well.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

I understand. Say we meet back here at eight?

ELICIA

Fine. Please make sure she isn't offended.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

I'll do.

NEXT MORNING SAME LOCATION.

Elicia knocks on the front door.

KAREN

Hello Dr. Mangum.

ELICIA

Please call me Elicia.

KAREN

Elicia I'm Karen Mayhew . Can I offer you some breakfast and coffee?

ELICIA

Coffee sounds great. Just plain if you will.

There's a knock and Karen let's the Detective in.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Good morning ladies. I hope you haven't been waiting long doctor?

KAREN

She just got here and she prefers Elicia.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Karen has been a God-send. Right after Reverend Plackard died her brother spotted a kid from his home town near the bus station and stopped to chat with him. The kid acted real nervous and didn't want to answer any questions. Alertly John radioed me from his car and kept the boy busy long enough for me to drive by with the maid. She was positive he was the kid who ran away when she drove up.

ELICIA

Detective I hope you haven't brought me out here because you

(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)  
still think that man was murdered?  
I've already told you it was a  
suicide and...

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Hold up just a minute. I don't  
know why but between the two of  
you I got convinced it was a  
suicide and I haven't changed my  
mind about that. But I also knew  
the Rev didn't put that stuff on  
his walls and now I know who did.  
What I still don't know is why he  
did it and what he saw.

ELICIA  
What did he say he was doing  
there?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Now we're getting somewhere. John  
had another brainstorm and  
convinced me to let the boy go  
without taking him to the station.  
Reluctantly I agreed and that's  
what led us here.

ELICIA  
As you've pointed out before  
Detective I'm not trained in law  
enforcement but even to a layman  
that seems a bit strange.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Being that we're on a first name  
basis please call me James.  
Officer Mayhew began his career  
right here where he worked for two  
years. In those two years he heard  
many rumors about the "Catchum  
Conservatory" just outside of  
town.

ELICIA  
I didn't know there was a music  
school around here?

KAREN  
There's not. At least it's not a  
music school any more. Catchum was  
closed down in October of 1930  
after it's founder Anglund Catchum  
took his own life in front of many  
(MORE)

KAREN (cont'd)  
of the students. The facility and  
about five hundred acres was  
bought at auction by Anglund's  
twin brother Zephyr Catchum.

ELICIA  
You seem to know a lot about it's  
history?

KAREN  
You don't grow up around here  
without hearing all about Catchum.  
As a little girl I lived in fear  
that I'd be taken in as an  
Innocent.

ELICIA  
A what?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Elicia we're expected somewhere  
shortly. Karen I think I've  
learned enough to fill her in on  
the way. I can also explain why we  
let the boy go.

KAREN  
Of course. Well it was nice  
meeting you Elicia. You both be  
careful, there's a lot of truth to  
the Catchum legends.

ELICIA  
Nice to meet you as well Karen.  
Thanks for the coffee.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
You can give Karen her car key  
back now.

She hands her the key and James leads her to his car and  
opens the door. He drives away and makes a call.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
We'll be there in a few minutes.  
Is the grandmother awake? Good.  
See you shortly.

ELICIA  
What's an Innocent?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
I didn't want you to associate why  
you're here with some local legend  
that's why I interrupted.

ELICIA  
And?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
I'm not saying I believe it but  
people here believe kidnapped  
children are taken to Catchum and  
used as some kind of spiritual  
transports.

ELICIA  
By spiritual you mean from the  
spirit world?

He looks at her and scratches his head. He has a half grin  
half frown.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
It's not my legend. You said you  
wanted to know.

ELICIA  
Please tell me we're not off to  
see the Wizard?

They share a good laugh.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
As far as I know we're still in  
Kansas.

ELICIA  
Let me guess. The boy is,  
supposedly, an Innocent?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
You are a sharp one but he's not  
anything anymore. That's where  
we're going. In fact we're there  
now.

They pull up to a run down home along-side a county road.  
Officer John Mayhew is there in street clothes.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Elicia this is John Mayhew.

ELICIA

I saw you once before but you look different out of uniform.

OFFICER MAYHEW

Yes ma'am. This is far from my jurisdiction and if the Sheriff here thought I was practicing law in his county he'd put me behind bars.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Officer Mayhew is helping me on his own time. Have you been inside yet?

OFFICER MAYHEW

No but Miss Crandle says we can look all we want. She was my Sunday school teacher when I was a boy but she's not able to get out any more.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

While we have a look could you ask if we can see the boy's remains?

OFFICER MAYHEW

Certainly.

James and Elicia walk down into a cellar that was the boys hideout. On the walls are the same kinds of drawings that were on the Reverend's wall. They look around and he shows her several pictures and then they find a picture of her.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

This is also where we found the picture of the little girl. The boy's name was Joseph Crandle and he took his own life shortly after he returned.

ELICIA

He was quite an artist and creative with the names of his monsters. Heriel, Haliab, Shabrich and Malcatha.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

What makes you think he made them up?

ELICIA

I've never heard of any of them.  
He didn't do it here did he?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

No he killed himself down at the  
Quarry. And because of Miss  
Crandle's disdain for the local  
authorities they haven't been  
allowed down here.

John arrives with an urn and hands it to Elicia. She checks  
the bottom and sees "Absolute" stamped on it.

OFFICER MAYHEW

I feel sorry for his grandmother  
but she's a religious woman and  
has a deep inner strength; much  
tougher than you might think.

ELICIA

This was ruled a suicide anyway so  
why would the local authorities be  
investigating?

OFFICER MAYHEW

Henry Glaze is the sheriff. He  
runs this county and likes to know  
everything that goes on around  
here.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

There may be another reason as  
well.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out an object wrapped up  
in cloth and hands it to Elicia. She opens it and looks at a  
Kirian blade.

ELICIA

Is this what the boy painted on  
the ceiling?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

We believe so. He gave it to his  
grandmother to hide the night he  
died. Two years ago her grandson  
stopped going to church and  
school. Then he was always gone  
and wouldn't tell her where. We've  
found bus tickets to about a  
hundred different cities in the  
US. He was also out of the States

(MORE)

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON (cont'd)  
on several occasions. The most recent trips were taken with someone else and we now know who that was. It's the girl who took your picture.

ELICIA  
How do you know that?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Because she told us. Her mother's a single parent and says she had no idea where her daughter had been going because she had to work. She claims that she reported Lisa missing a few times but Sheriff Glaze would never do anything about it. We can go see them if you'd like?

ELICIA  
I would like to see Lisa. Where do they live?

OFFICER MAYHEW  
We've had to take some extra precautions and they're at a safe place.

ELICIA  
Why does this feel like snipe hunting to me?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
Come again?

ELICIA  
I just don't like being in the dark alone.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
You'll know everything soon enough.

EXT. CABIN IN THE WOODS - DAY

Elicia and James get out of the car and see Samantha Parker sitting on a porch swing. She doesn't bother getting up.

SAMANTHA  
Lisa's on the tire swing down by the pond.

ELICIA

I'd like to talk to Lisa alone for a few minutes.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

If you say so but it took us two days to get anything out of her.

ELICIA

I want to try.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

(Pointing South)

It's about a hundred yards that way.

Elicia walks up to Lisa who is sitting on the swing but not swinging.

ELICIA

Hello Lisa. I'm Elicia. You took my picture a couple weeks ago. Do you remember?

She smiles but doesn't answer.

ELICIA

Lisa it's very important that I know what you were doing there?

Still smiling but nothing.

ELICIA

Were you there to heal me? Because that's what you did. Don't worry I won't tell anyone because they'll think I'm crazy but I felt instant relief. Do you remember what you did to make that happen?

LISA

(Very innocent.)

I took him away.

ELICIA

That's right you took something away. Can I know what that was?

LISA

Not a what. A who.

ELICIA  
(Confused. Gets  
close.)  
Alright who did you take away?

LISA  
I can't say his name.

ELICIA  
(Looks her in the  
eyes.)  
Can you tell me where he is now?

Lisa smiles and suddenly her eyes enlarge and start to glow.  
In a low demon voice she says.

LISA  
Right here Elicia.

Elicia screams and falls backwards.

LISA  
(Demon voice.)  
I miss you. Do you miss me?

James and Lisa come running up. He goes to Elicia and  
Samantha goes to Lisa.

SAMANTHA  
What happened?

Lisa's eyes and voice are back to normal.

LISA  
Mom I'm hungry.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON  
(Helping her up.)  
Why'd you scream?

ELICIA  
I need to make a phone call.

INT. BACK TO BAR - NIGHT

Kirum's running both hands through his hair and looking down  
at the table.

KIRUM  
That's when you called me?

ELICIA

Yes but before I did James opened up to me about some things.

KIRUM

Oh please give me something interesting because up to now I've been bored stiff.

ELICIA

Reverend Plackard's suicide was staged. The boy was there because he wanted to destroy Heliab while he was inside Plackard who was very sick and had just a few weeks to live. That's what the cross knife was for.

KIRUM

What are you talking about? I understand you've been through a great deal but I think I see where this is going and I'm just not prepared to believe any of it.

ELICIA

You didn't hear and see what I did in that little girl Kirum. And that stuff about a bad reaction to shots is a bunch of horse crap.

KIRUM

Oh no you're not. If you're going to sit there and try and convince me that Raymond Todd has something to do with this I might as well leave now.

ELICIA

Not just him but the whole staff of Administrative Generals. Just listen for a minute. Who else has more to gain by rampant suicides than the ATC? International budgets have been greatly impacted just to pay for our program because they don't have the space for bodies nor the manpower to investigate their deaths. Those AGs are ten of the richest people in the world after just ten years.

KIRUM

Stop. Stop right there. Elicia this truly has been fascinating and I can't say for sure that there's not some supernatural stuff involved but I'm not about to get mixed up in some conspiracy theory about our Company using children to transport demons to different people marked for suicide. I feel like a lunatic just saying that out loud.

ELICIA

Do you know why they're called Innocents Kirum?

He starts to get up but she grabs his arm and pulls him down.

ELICIA

They're called Innocents because they don't have enough guilt for the demons to attack. You know what it was that I kept thinking about? I kept remembering an affair I had with a married man and how it tore his family apart. When I put that gun to my head I couldn't stand the thought of living with that sin any more. That's why happy people suddenly take their own lives.

He runs out of the bar and she follows him until he stops and looks at a few cars outside.

KIRUM

(Screaming)

Damn it! I don't have a ride. I listened to you and now I'm stuck here.

She walks up to him but he backs away.

ELICIA

I'm so scared right now I can hardly breathe. My paranoia is making me delusional and I'm asking you for help. We need to know the name of the man who started ATC. Now I can see why he's always been anonymous but

(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)  
finding him is the first step  
towards ending this.

KIRUM  
You're asking for more than I have  
to give. I've waited thirty seven  
years to find someone who loves me  
for who I am. You're young and  
this thing will pass and you'll  
fall in love perhaps a few times.  
But this is it for me and I can't  
do anything to screw it up. The  
best that could come out of this  
is I lose my career and the worst  
is unimaginable.

She's crying and turns away from him. After a minute he  
walks up to her and they hug.

ELICIA  
You're absolutely right. I have no  
right to ask this from you but I  
don't have a choice. I can't run  
from this.

KIRUM  
What can you do? Nothing! You're  
not in your right mind right now.  
Let's drive to your mother's house  
in Oklahoma and I'll catch the  
first flight home tomorrow. Then  
you can spend some time with your  
mom until your head clears.

ELICIA  
That's tempting but it won't work  
because I'll have too many  
unanswered questions. I appreciate  
you coming here the way you did  
and I can drive you to the  
commuter airport.

KIRUM  
I wish I could talk you out of  
this. Do you, at least, have a  
plan?

She pulls a film recorder out of one pocket and a heavy  
transmitter out of the other and shows them to him.

ELICIA  
If I'm going to report this to the  
CIA or FBI or whoever handles this  
(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)

kind of thing I'm going to need something more substantial than a crazy story. Will you take this receiver and hide it for me? James says it instantly records everything I film.

KIRUM

That old thing's only good up to forty or fifty yards and the sound quality is bad. Not to mention the fact the transmitter weighs a ton. I have one at home that's only a few ounces and records up to a hundred yards clearly. Listen to me. I sorry but I can't get involved. I'll take the receiver but that's as much as I can offer.

ELICIA

I understand. My car's over here.

They walk away.

EXT. IN-LAWS BACKYARD EARLY AFTERNOON. - DAY

Kirum pulls up and Helen runs up to his truck.

HELEN

(Sobbing.)

I'm so glad you're here. It's horrible. They said they couldn't cut him out until the Absolutionist has made a decision. What does that mean Kirum? Please get that tree off my father. I don't care if he died instantly I can't stand knowing he's under there.

KIRUM

There's an Ab agent here now?

HELEN

Yes he arrived a few minutes ago. I told them you were coming but they said it didn't work that way. I don't know what that means but Mom is devastated. She had to be sedated. Just see what you can do.

KIRUM

I'll find out what's going on but you have to calm down. Right now we need to keep our heads about us. Now go check on Charlotte.

HELEN

Ok. I'm just so happy you're here.

He hugs her tight and kisses her the top of her head.

Kirum walks up on a man in a black lab-coat who is reading the eyes of Charles Waynebridge. He's lying on his back and the tree has fallen right down the center of him.

KIRUM

What are his readings?

The man glances up but doesn't acknowledge Kirum. He picks up a clipboard and makes a note. Kirum walks closer and stares up at the huge man as he stands up.

KIRUM

I know the rule about fraternizing Dr. Pei but I'm going to ask you to break it for me. I assume this is a Type B investigation and you're here to decide between an accident or suicide. I know you need to get it right for the sake of statistics but I'm asking you to let me tell the family what they want to hear irregardless of what you determine.

SR. ABSOLUTIONIST

I'm going to act like I didn't hear that.

The man signals for the team to come in and the clean up begins. Kirum is distraught. He watches in a daze. He watches the Sr. take out a remote just like his and start talking to somebody. The agent's clipboard is sitting on a table and Kirum walks by slow enough to get a peak. He notices two things, Flat-line and "Wrong Man".

Inside the house Helen is washing her face. Kirum walks up to her.

HELEN

I hear the chainsaws. Thank you so much.

KIRUM

Helen do you remember yesterday when your father said something about a boy?

HELEN

Yes he asked if a boy had been by but what does that matter now?

KIRUM

You said that you and Charlotte were out and Charles decided to cut the tree down on his own. When you found him did either of you look into his eyes? I know the question seems strange but I need to know.

HELEN

We came back early because he'd been acting strange and mom was worried. She walked straight to him and screamed. I saw him and came inside to call nine one one. Mom was out there the whole time but she fell down and started praying and I think she stayed that way until the police arrived.

KIRUM

Helen I have to prepare you for something horrible that's about to happen. I wish I could stop it but I can't.

HELEN

How could it get any worse?

KIRUM

Remember you asked what they meant about the agent having to decide?

HELEN

Oh my God. I know what that means when there might have been a suicide but this was an accident. What decision could there be?

KIRUM

It's called a type B investigation done for statistical purposes and because if it's a suicide ATC has to do the cleanup and handle the body.

She screams and tries to run out to her father but he grabs her. She hits his chest with her fists and screams.

HELEN

You know that's impossible. He wouldn't do that; especially right now. It's a mistake. Don't let them cremate my father. Please don't let them cremate my father.

She sits down and cries and Kirum tries to hold her but she won't let him.

INT. KAREN MANGUM'S HOUSE - DAY

Karen and Elicia are in the front room talking. The camera starts in the back room and we see pictures of the Mangum family as the camera moves into the hallway and into the front room. The pictures of John stop at a young age but there are pictures of Karen up until adulthood. Their voices are barely audible until we can see them and we hear Karen.

KAREN

My husband left me because I wouldn't have a child. We tried moving away but I still couldn't bring a child into this world.

ELICIA

How long was John away?

KAREN

Mom accepted the money August twenty ninth on my brother's twelfth birthday. We were told he could be back right away but it might be a year or more. The next time my brother set foot in this house he had just finished the police academy.

ELICIA

So your mother never saw him again?

KAREN

Oh we saw him coming and going a few times. But he wasn't the same. It was like he'd resigned himself to a tour of duty and was determined to be a good soldier. He still won't talk about any of it.

ELICIA

I don't understand why he can't just go under a witness protection plan and testify against these people?

KAREN

There's no such thing as hiding from them. You don't know who you can trust and you're not allowed a second chance.

The front door comes flying open and John walks in. Both women jump.

OFFICER MAYHEW

James and Lisa are missing.

INT. KIRUM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kirum is making a call and the phone rings several times until voice mail picks up. He doesn't leave a message. He sits in a leather chair and rolls a cigar between his thumb and index finger.

KIRUM

(Voice over.)

I've developed a hard shell over the years. At first it really bothered me when religious people had to deal with what they considered an eternally damning act. What was once an occasionally difficult service for clergy became an everyday thing and new rules had to be put into place regarding suicides by many organized religions. In many of them everything to do with the burial is left to the family of someone who takes their own life. Because they're always cremated the services are usually minimal

(MORE)

KIRUM (cont'd)  
at best and with no participation  
from the church. Charles  
Waynebridge was Catholic and Helen  
is talking to her priest today.  
She wouldn't let me go with her.  
What I don't understand is why a  
Senior-agent was given her  
father's case. They're responsible  
for agent suicides and I've never  
heard of one handling a civilian  
case before now.

His phone rings.

KIRUM  
Hey I've been trying all day to  
reach you. How'd it go with your  
priest?

HELEN  
As bad as I expected. Mother is in  
denial. She's trying to pretend  
everything's alright but any  
minute now she's going to break  
down I know it.

She cries.

He picks up the receiver Elicia gave him and stares at it.

KIRUM  
I don't want to get your hopes up  
but I'm going to Washington  
tonight to try and reverse the  
Absolution. I know you need some  
time but if you can just see me  
off?

HELEN  
OK. My aunt is here so I can leave  
for a little bit.

KIRUM  
Great. My flight leaves at eight.

HELEN  
I'll pick you up at six. Goodbye.

INT. KAREN'S CAR ON A GRAVEL ROAD. - DAY

It's just Karen and Elicia and the car pulls over and stops. We see Elicia's hand shaking and the camera moves to Karen. She takes her hand.

KAREN

Thanks for not letting my brother do this.

ELICIA

I never thought I'd be doing this by myself but he's done his duty.

KAREN

No one will blame you if you decide it's too much.

ELICIA

I'm more scared not to. I feel like my life's led up to this and this is what I'm here for.

KAREN

Be that as it may don't take any unnecessary chances. I'll be waiting for you.

She takes a deep breath and gets out of the car. She looks at the setting Sun and starts walking towards a twenty foot high mesh fence. She uses a knife to cut a hole just big enough to squeeze through. When she gets on the other side she turns the camera on and points it at herself.

ELICIA

I don't know where I'll be when you see this Kirum but right now I'm inside the Catchum compound. No matter what happens I'm going to leave the camera on.

She turns the camera around and looks up an incline. She starts into the woods and up the small hill.

INT. KIRUM'S HOTEL ROOM. - NIGHT

IT'S JUST AFTER DARK IN WASHINGTON, DC.

The camera's on a letter head that says "Yorkshire Hotel" and then pans out where we see Kirum.

Kirum's on top of the covers of a king-size bed and holds an unlit cigar. We see a flashback to the airport terminal where he and Helen are saying goodbye.

KIRUM

I can do anything as long as I know we'll be together when it's over.

HELEN

Don't ask me to promise anything right now. I can't see beyond tomorrow right now much less a lifetime.

KIRUM

Do you still love me?

HELEN

Yes. I love you.

Back to his room.

He takes the receiver out of his bag and hooks it up to his laptop. It's fuzzy at first but then he sees a fire in the distance.

ELICIA

I can see James but I think I'm too far away. I wish I had your camera right now. I'm going to have to crawl so the you might see nothing but earth for a few minutes.

We see the ground and then our camera points at Kirum's face. He's glued to what's happening.

KIRUM

I hope you're not where I think you are?

We look at the computer screen and hear Elicia's voice. She's looking into the camera again.

ELICIA

(Whispering.)

That's James tied to some kind of harness. I'm going to try and focus in on him.

The camera turns to James and she focuses on his face. His

eyelids have been forced open by a device and a man in a police uniform is holding him still. The camera pulls back and we see several people in hooded robes. One of them stands up and walks in front of James. James is trying to turn away but the officer points his head down to a hooded person in front of him. We hear Elicia.

ELICIA

Oh no. Please no.

The hooded figure looks over their right shoulder in Elicia's direction. She takes a deep breath and holds it. Suddenly large eyes light up from under the mask and it points a finger at Elicia.

The camera doesn't move and we hear Kirum's voice.

KIRUM

Run! Run!

From the computer we hear James.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Run. Run Elicia.

The camera starts moving up and down and we can tell she's running away. We hear her crying and breathing heavily. We see Kirum staring at the screen. After a minute the camera is pointing forward again and Elicia talks as she runs.

ELICIA

I'm almost to the fence. Please be there Karen.

We look at the screen and as she goes over the hill we see Karen's car. The lights come on and we can see that Elicia's closing in on the fence. She reaches the fence and realizes she's at the wrong spot.

ELICIA

Oh no. Where's the hole? Where's the hole?

The camera looks along the bottom of the fence as Elicia panics.

ELICIA

I've lost the knife. I hear them.  
Oh God please help me find the hole.

We can hear voices behind her. She runs along the fence and stops as she sees the hole. She drops down and starts under the fence and we hear a man's voice.

SHERIFF GLAZE

Oh no you don't. I've got cha now.

The camera swings around and we see his face as she smashes the transmitter into his forehead. The camera hits the ground but we can still see Elicia running to the car. She gets in and the car drives away.

We can just see the Sheriff trying to fit through the fence. Then we hear him grunting as he gets stuck.

SHERIFF GLAZE

Help. Over here. I'm stuck.

We pull away from the screen and watch Kirum wash his face in the bathroom. He looks up and we focus in on his face. He pauses like he remembers something. He goes back and looks at something on the disc he just made. When Elicia focuses in on James we see the name on the old school house. Anglund E. Chatham.

KIRUM

(Voice over.)

That's it. The name must have changed over the years. You know what you have to do.

INT. CABIN IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Elicia's in shock as she sits in the TV area of the cabin and Samantha is laying down on a couch next to her. Karen and John are in the background and we can't make out what they're saying but they're not in agreement about something.

Elicia looks out the window and sees several cars approaching.

ELICIA

Oh no they've found us. We have to run.

John looks out the window.

OFFICER MAYHEW

Hold on don't panic. Help has arrived.

He walks outside and greets a half-dozen men who are strapping on handguns and loading shotguns.

Elicia has a smile on her face as John walks up.

OFFICER MAYHEW

Karen and Samantha get your things together. Elicia come with me please.

They walk away from the house in the direction of the swing.

OFFICER MAYHEW

I don't know what my sister's told you up to this point but I know what she hasn't told you because she doesn't know. When I left Abrahin, he's the Dean of demon students you might say, he gave me two options. One was to leave my past behind totally and permanently without any leeway if I didn't comply. The second option was to become what's now known as an Ab agent.

ELICIA

Is that the norm?

OFFICER MAYHEW

To the ATC it's just a business Elicia. They do things in a businesslike way. At first agents came from all walks of life. Now it's an opportunity for advancement for those who are willing to transition from the business of murder to the business of being an accessory to murder.

ELICIA

But my instinct is real.

OFFICER MAYHEW

Your instinct is being fed to you by a machine you call a Cleanser. Of course you're always right because you've been given the answer ahead of time.

ELICIA

So I wasn't going to school to be trained I was going to school to get brainwashed.

He doesn't answer her rhetorical question as he watches her think.

ELICIA

So for those of us who don't start as Innocents what is the agent screening process for?

OFFICER MAYHEW

Have you ever heard that being hypnotized depends on the person?

ELICIA

So I was one of the gullible ones ready to believe I had some special power. But how did it all begin?

OFFICER MAYHEW

That's the trillion dollar question. Abrahin doesn't care about the money he just likes dealing with spirits. I don't know who approached whom about possession being a good way to make money? But it's like which came first the chicken or the egg? It doesn't matter you can't have one without the other.

ELICIA

And you wanted Kirum to go after the chicken while you guys go after the egg?

OFFICER MAYHEW

Not Kirum. You.

ELICIA

Me? I thought you were using me to get to him?

OFFICER MAYHEW

Some things I don't know myself but James and I were told to get you on our side somehow. You'll have to figure out what to do next because from where I stand the ATC is untouchable. The best we can do is win a few battles but if you can infiltrate the top who knows what will happen?

OFFICER MAYHEW

We need to go. You and my sister take care of each other.

She hugs him.

ELICIA

We will. You be careful and make sure you bring James back in one piece.

OFFICER MAYHEW

Will do.

INT. ATC HEADQUARTERS. MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM. - DAY

KIRUM SITS IN A CHAIR INSIDE A SEMI-CIRCLE TABLE.

Dr. Todd is talking to the other nine Admin. Generals who are sitting slightly higher than Kirum.

DR. TODD

Dr. Lambert has a reputation as one of the best Ab-agents we have and he was Dr. Mangum's instructor until she had the viral reaction that is obviously still affecting her. Dr. Lambert to you is there anything about this film you just showed us that gives credibility to Dr. Mangum's outrageous claims?

KIRUM

I agree with your assessment that she's still suffering ill affects and needs immediate psychiatric help.

DR. TODD

Is there anything more you'd like to address to this panel doctor?

KIRUM

I think I've gone over everything. I just want to say how grateful I am not to be found guilty by association. I know it would be easy to be suspicious and that's why I'm being as candid as I can.

DR. TODD

We thank you for that candor and if there's anything else that comes to mind please let us know right away. As I said earlier, for your protection, we'll need you to

(MORE)

DR. TODD (cont'd)  
remain in Washington under the  
watch of our Security until this  
unfortunate incident is dealt  
with.

KIRUM  
Of course. You know there's one  
more thing I just remembered. I'm  
sure it's nothing but before she  
realized I wasn't going along with  
her she mentioned someone named  
Chatham.

Attention is heightened and there's some mumbling until Todd  
clears his throat.

DR. TODD  
The name doesn't ring a bell  
doctor. In what context was the  
name mentioned?

KIRUM  
I'm not certain but she said  
something about waiting for the  
right moment to reveal who he is.  
As I say I'm not real clear about  
it.

DR. TODD  
Of course Dr. Lambert. You've been  
a big help. Do enjoy your stay as  
much as possible. Security has  
been instructed to give you your  
space.

KIRUM  
Thank you all for seeing me so  
quickly.

Kirum walks out escorted by a guard to an elevator going up.  
They get in and the guard punches the Main Floor button.  
Kirum calmly walks out and the guard goes back down. Kirum  
walks out of the building.

The guard walks back into the room and stops as he notices  
that Kirum has left the camera there. The conversation stops  
as Dr. Todd notices a solid green light. The guard picks the  
camera up and sees that it's on record. He shows it to Dr.  
Todd.

DR. TODD  
Stop Dr. Lambert.

GUARD ONE.

Station three this is station one.  
Detain doctor Lambert.

Kirum is quite a distance from the building when he sees two guards come running out. He takes off running and they chase him so he gets in a cab. An extremely low speed chase scene takes place. Kirum finally gets out of the cab and runs on foot. He reaches a spot where he thinks he's safe to hide but they catch up to him. One of the guards radios their location.

GUARD TWO.

Station one we have the doctor at  
5157 Central.

GUARD ONE.

I'm right behind you.

Kirum sits and catches his breath. After a minute he looks at the guards.

KIRUM

It doesn't matter that I'm caught  
the information is in the right  
hands now.

Guard one approaches Kirum and hands him his camera.

GUARD ONE.

You left this behind Dr. Lambert.  
If we're going to keep you safe  
you're going to have to cooperate.

The guards walk away and Kirum stands there scratching his head.

INT. HOTEL ROOM OUTSIDE LYONS - DAY

Samantha, Karen and Elicia are sitting in the room and Samantha has lost her lethargy. She stands up and paces for a few seconds.

KAREN

I'm sorry Samantha but we can't  
wait any longer. We have to get  
further away from here it's just  
not safe.

SAMANTHA

I told you last night I'm not  
leaving without my daughter. You  
(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)  
two can go without me but I'm  
going back for her.

KAREN  
I'm not going anywhere near that  
place again.

ELICIA  
I'll go. I know we haven't heard  
anything from John but I can't  
leave here without knowing what  
happened last night. Besides it's  
not just Lisa but who knows how  
many other kids that need to be  
taken out of there.

KAREN  
But that wasn't the plan. We  
should be long gone by now and  
with or without either of you I'm  
going.

ELICIA  
There's an airfield close by. If  
we take you there can we use your  
car?

KAREN  
I really wish you wouldn't do this  
but that's fine with me.

INT. KIRUM'S HOTEL ROOM. - DAY

Kirum's at his computer. We watch and listen to what the  
panel discussed after he left.

ADMIN. GENERAL ONE.  
Andre Chatham has held this  
company hostage long enough. His  
ultimatums and Iron Fist ways have  
to stop.

ADMIN. GENERAL TWO.  
There's no point in discussing  
this issue again. We've voted him  
out before but it was a useless  
vote. The man provides us with all  
of our agents and his company is  
the only one that knows how to  
train them. We may not like it but  
without his services we are just a  
name.

DR. TODD

We're more than a name Mr. Guillander. We're the only reason ATC was granted a thirty year contract by most of the world's industrialized Nations. But be that as it may you are correct. This is all a moot point and there's no reason to rehash it because of a loose cannon and some fanatical conspiracy theorists.

ADMIN. GENERAL TWO.

Right you are. This is just another Johnny come lately with a crazy idea about murder suicides. Whatever this group has planned I'm sure Mr. Chatham can handle himself.

The camera gets picked up and we see the guards face as he turns it off.

KIRUM

(Voice over.)

They're just a group of figureheads; a means to an end for Chatham. He had to have legitimate business owners to legitimize ATC. They actually believe we're providing a service. At least you were right about the initials on the van that picked Elicia up. Wait a minute!

Kirum makes a call on the hotel phone.

DRIVER

Hello.

KIRUM

Robert it's Dr. Lambert.

DRIVER

Hello doctor are we finally going back to work?

KIRUM

Sort of. In fact that's why I'm calling. Remember when you mentioned a safe-house? What exactly is that?

DRIVER

Funny you don't know that sir.  
It's the only place we can go if  
something happens.

KIRUM

Do you have a list?

DRIVER

Only in the van. A map pops up  
automatically when the E-code is  
punched in.

KIRUM

That's too bad. I'm in Washington  
and I need to know the nearest  
safe-house?

DRIVER

You really don't know much do you  
sir? You're right next door to the  
biggest safe-house of them all.

KIRUM

You're referring to ATC  
headquarters I take it?

A slight laugh.

DRIVER

Of course not sir I'm referring to  
the AC mansion. It's ten miles  
east of DC at 1100 Wilmington Ln.  
I know that because it's where I  
was trained after I retired from  
the bus station.

KIRUM

Trained doing what?

DRIVER

Mostly pick ups and deliveries but  
on occasion I had to take "you  
know who" to the airport and I  
picked him up of course.

KIRUM

Of course. How do you think Mr.  
Chatham would feel if I dropped  
in?

There's a silent pause.

DRIVER

I really don't feel comfortable  
with you using his name sir. I  
value my employment too much.

Kirum is looking at his computer screen while he's talking.  
We see the screen and Kirum rewinds to the beginning of the  
Admin. Generals conversation after he left. He notices Dr.  
Todd staring at the camera and then give a signal to someone  
on the panel but we can't see who it is.

KIRUM

Sure I understand. You've been a  
big help. Goodbye.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL FENCE. - DAY

Elicia and Samantha both crawl under the fence and walk over  
the ridge.

We move to them watching from a hiding spot.

SAMANTHA

There's something funny going on.  
Doesn't look like there's been any  
shootout around here to me.

ELICIA

I was just thinking the same thing  
and why does that say Chatham? I  
thought it was Catchum?

SAMANTHA

I don't know but we can wait until  
it gets dark or we can have a  
closer look in the daylight.

ELICIA

Daylight sounds good to me.

They walk up to the old schoolhouse and sneak around to the  
front of the building. The door is unlocked and they walk in  
very slowly. After peeking into a few rooms they hear a  
voice and jump.

ABRAHIN

Hello Elicia and Samantha. It's  
not nice to pop in on somebody  
uninvited.

SAMANTHA

Where's my daughter?

ABRAHIN

Your friends took her why don't you ask them?

ELICIA

John left with her? Is James with them?

ABRAHIN

How long have you known the two of them Elicia?

ELICIA

Long enough to know I don't need to be talking to you. Let's go Lisa.

The door opens at the end of the hallway and the sheriff and one of his deputies walks in.

SHERIFF GLAZE

We meet again. Hello Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Hello Sheriff.

Elicia stares at Samantha.

ABRAHIN

What are you're instincts telling you now Elicia? That things may not be as they seem?

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry Elicia but I couldn't have gotten you here any other way.

ELICIA

What do you people want with me?

ABRAHIN

The question is what does he want with you? What has John told you about his childhood?

ELICIA

Enough.

ABRAHIN

He told you he lived here with me?

ELICIA

Yes until he was eighteen and was offered a chance to become like me.

ABRAHIN

Oh no. Not like you.

ELICIA

What is your point?

ABRAHIN

Most children at this school are brought here because they show great promise for good but have had a hard time showing it. John Mayhew was put here by his mother after he killed his own father.

ELICIA

You liar.

SAMANTHA

He's not lying. John Mayhew watched his father poor gas on himself and then set himself on fire. He did that after John released Shabrich on him. One of the deadliest of all demons.

Elicia shakes her head no.

ABRAHIN

When he turned eighteen John was being recruited for a special assignment to help start a new company. He was always very interested in money and someone offered him a chance to make more than he ever dreamed of.

ELICIA

But John is a police officer.

SHERIFF GLAZE

James and John work in a special jurisdiction out of a small town that they own. I guess you've never seen their homes? Mansions really. The team of men who came here last night all came from nothing and are very wealthy men today.

Looking at the sheriff.

ELICIA

I thought he worked for you at first?

SHERIFF GLAZE

Yes our town was paid a hefty sum to put each of those men through police training. The money was hard to refuse but our primary job has always been to protect this sanctuary and those men were dead set on destroying it so I told them all to leave.

ELICIA

Sanctuary! They train little kids how to give and receive suicide spirits. What kind of sanctuary is that?

SAMANTHA

Wrong again. I've seen the spirits inside these children and they are beautiful. It's the ones inside people like John and James that are killing people.

ELICIA

James. But that's impossible he can't be an Innocent.

ABRAHIN

They're not Innocents Elicia they're Carriers. Like someone with a dormant virus who doesn't get sick but can pass it on to others who do.

ELICIA

Lisa took Heliab from me is she a Carrier?

SAMANTHA

No she's an Innocent just as I was as a child. The children that have come through here have saved many lives.

ABRAHIN

We sent an Innocent to save Kirum but the Carrier had gotten the

(MORE)

ABRAHIN (cont'd)  
wrong man. When Michael saw Kirum  
he could tell he was a Carrier so  
he came back not knowing it was  
the father-in-law that was  
infected.

ELICIA  
What happened to his  
father-in-law?

ABRAHIN  
He took his own life.

Elicia closes her eyes and shakes her head no.

ELICIA  
I don't understand? If Kirum is  
one of them why would they go  
after him?

ABRAHIN  
I only said he's a Carrier.  
Thousands of people are unwitting  
Carriers. They don't realize how  
their innocent winks are killing  
their loved ones.

ELICIA  
So let me get this straight.  
Suicides have always been  
"assisted" by evil spirits but the  
ATC became a catalyst for  
tremendous growth in suicide  
deaths?

ABRAHIN  
Not all suicides are "assisted" as  
you put it. But yes the ATC is in  
the business of aiding evil in  
it's acts of torture and murder.

ELICIA  
So what are you doing with these  
children?

ABRAHIN  
Until suicide became big business  
children like the ones here were  
able to intervene most of the time  
before people took their own  
lives. That's why Anglund Chatham  
started this school to help more  
children use their gifts. His  
(MORE)

ABRAHIN (cont'd)

brother Zephyr was planning on using the students for murder but Anglund Chatham wouldn't allow it. That's when Zephyr "assisted" him to his death. The Innocents were able to stop him for a while but the number of suicides became too much after ATC was established. All we can do now is provide a cathartic refuge for weary spirits until they're ready for battle again. And occasionally the children here and other parts of the world are called upon to interevene.

ELICIA

By the children intervening you mean they could take the bad spirits away before people take their own lives?

SAMANTHA

Not just that Elicia. There's a spiritual battle going on all of the time. Some children here have wonderful spirits which are able to defeat any evil spirit: even those as powerful as Shabrich and Heliab.

ELICIA

How can something like this be kept secret? Why don't you report this sheriff?

SHERIFF GLAZE

I'm just a small town sheriff. When I first took office I had a wife and two kids. Now I have one child. We're dealing with a man who shows no mercy and has unlimited resources. Remember the boy Joseph Crandle?

ELICIA

Yes I've been to his grandmother's house?

SHERIFF GLAZE

We know. She's dead now. John Mayhew stabbed her in the eye with a Kirian blade.

Elicia remembers the Cross knife and hears John's voice.  
"She's a religious woman and has a deep inner strength;  
she's much tougher than you might think."

ELICIA

So where did James come from?  
Another school like this one?

SHERIFF GLAZE

We don't know but we were trying  
to figure out if he was a Carrier  
when you showed up. The demon in  
him nearly killed Abrahin so we  
know he must be a Carrier or else  
he'd be dead.

ELICIA

So that demon is in you now?

ABRAHIN

No I merely took a look inside  
him. I didn't let him inside me  
because I wasn't ready for that  
kind of battle to take place in  
me.

ELICIA

I still can't believe this. So  
why'd you take James and Lisa?

ABRAHIN

He came here looking for the staff  
for the Kirian Blade. We asked him  
to leave but he wouldn't without  
Lisa. My brethren are away and so  
when John came we had to let Lisa  
go with them but they didn't get  
the staff.

ELICIA

So why was John scared to come  
here with me?

SHERIFF GLAZE

He wasn't scared. They're setting  
you up for something.

ELICIA

What could they want from me?

ABRAHIN

Not they. Him. He has something in  
store for you.

ELICIA

Who is this man you're talking about?

SHERIFF GLAZE

Andre Chatham.

ELICIA

You can't be serious? Is he related to the family who started this school?

ABRAHIN

Walk with me. We have more to talk about.

INT. SECURITY DESK AT ATC HEADQUARTERS. - NIGHT

Kirum stands at the desk while the guard listens on his headset.

GUARD FOUR

General Todd will see you. Take the the security elevator to the fourth level basement. There's only one room on that level.

On the fourth level he sees one door and goes inside. Dr. Todd is sitting at a desk overlooking the room below where they had Elicia.

DR. TODD

This is quite unexpected Dr. Lambert. Have you thought of something that's so urgent it couldn't wait until the morning?

KIRUM

Yes I've thought of a few things actually.

DR. TODD

I'm listening.

KIRUM

Who came up with the idea of a Cleanser?

DR. TODD

A Cleanser is an integral part of an agent's existence. Dealing with death and having to make such

(MORE)

DR. TODD (cont'd)  
important decisions on a daily  
basis causes a great deal of  
stress and the purpose of the  
Cleanser is to alleviate some of  
that stress.

KIRUM  
I see. And would you say that it  
works?

DR. TODD  
Is there a point to this doctor?  
It's very late and I'd like to  
spend some time with my wife  
tonight.

KIRUM  
Does the Cleanser work?

DR. TODD  
If you studied your literature  
you'd be aware that our agent's  
suicide rate is less than one  
tenth of the International  
average.

KIRUM  
Now I see why everybody can't have  
one.

DR. TODD  
I beg your pardon?

KIRUM  
Well if the Cleanser can greatly  
reduce the suicide rate why  
doesn't everyone have one?

DR. TODD  
It isn't that simple. There are  
other factors involved.

KIRUM  
Such as?

DR. TODD  
Such as higher pay and less  
stress.

KIRUM  
But you just said our jobs are  
very stressful. Which is it? Are  
we stressed? Are we not stressed?

DR. TODD

Well there are other purposes for the Cleanser. It's used as...

He catches himself and stops speaking.

KIRUM

As? Were you about to say as a controller? A manipulator? A way for ATC to make sure we don't screw up it's contract by missing an Absolute?

DR. TODD

Doctor this conversation is over. You've obviously been able to dupe us into believing you innocent but I see now that's not true. I didn't mention your previous bout with delusion to the other members today but now I see that was a mistake.

KIRUM

Finally you've said something true good doctor. No I'm not innocent. In fact I'm guilty a thousand times over. Guilty of being a fool and guilty of being a spoke in the wheel of this great Empire of murder. And yes I'm guilty of being used by this company to destroy people's lives. You know why?

Dr. Todd tries to walk past Kirum but he stops him from leaving.

KIRUM

Yes you know perfectly well why. For the good old fashioned dollar and yen and mark and Euro. Suicide for a profit that's why. And ohhh what a profit it is.

DR. TODD

I have no idea what you're talking about but I know you've just committed career suicide. You'll never work for this company again in any capacity.

KIRUM

Oh yeah that reminds me of your other little fetish. Power. You like to sit up here and look down on the world and make decisions that impact millions of lives. Well guess what doctor you're just a peon like me. A foot soldier for the devil himself and like all bad things this is coming to an end.

DR. TODD

What could you possibly do to touch me you impudent little puppet? Show me see your recorder and I'll tell you what you came to hear.

Kirum takes out his recorder and hands it to him. Dr. Todd removes the disc inside and smashes the recorder against the wall. Kirum's jaw drops open.

DR. TODD

You think you're going to receive some kind of absolution for coming in here now and pointing the finger? You've drawn a damn good paycheck from this company for as long as anybody and don't pretend you didn't realize what you were doing. Did it really take twelve years to figure out what the Cleanser was for? I know better. You might not have allowed yourself to think it out loud but you knew. Now because you've had a change of heart after something bad happened to your fiance's family you come in here and judge me? I was a wealthy man long before this company started and I don't have any problems looking in the mirror at the end of the day. So go back to your little group of hypocrites and remember one thing. If it ever hits the fan the only difference in you and me is I can afford to buy my way out of it.

Kirum sits down and Dr. Todd straightens his clothes and walks away.

KIRUM

You're right. I didn't let myself admit it but I knew there was no such thing as some kind of omniscient instinct. There is one big difference in you and I. Now that I've admitted it to myself I won't be able to look in the mirror without shame. And I'm not going to keep lying to myself just so I can keep my job.

DR. TODD

Yeah well I hear they're hiring "Instinct Doctors" at McDonald's. For future reference I don't like pickles on my hamburgers.

He walks out the door and it closes behind him.

INT. JANICE MANGUM'S HOUSE. - NIGHT

Elicia walks in the front door and an English Mastiff barks and jumps on top of her. She laughs and plays with the dog until her mother walks up.

JANICE

Get off Sampson you're going to rip your stitches out. That's the first time he's gotten off his bed since he came home from the vet. Don't you think you could've called? I've been worried sick.

ELICIA

Hello mother.

JANICE

You keep me worried all this time and then show up with that tone of voice there has to be something wrong. What'd I do now?

ELICIA

Why did you leave my father when I was three years old?

JANICE

Honey I've told you a hundred...

ELICIA

I know what you've told me but I'm a grown woman and this time you're going to tell me.

JANICE

Elicia your father loved you and I've never told you any different. But he was an awful person and a cruel husband. Maybe you think you have a right to know more but that isn't going to make me relive those times by talking about them.

ELICIA

You've never told me anything about that side of my family. And what about my brother?

Janice turns to walk away.

ELICIA

You can't run from this any more mother.

JANICE

You couldn't possibly remember anything about that.

ELICIA

But I do remember. I remember you telling me I was going to have to be a big girl because I was going to have a baby brother I had to help you with. I remember the smell of father's cigars and how he'd laugh so loud it filled the whole house with sound. What happened?

JANICE

Darling if you blame me for this it's going to crush me. I did it for your own good.

ELICIA

Did what? What did you do mother?

JANICE

I traded your brother for you.

Long silence. Janice is crying.

JANICE

If I hadn't promised I'd keep my mouth shut and stay out of your brother's life he would have drawn you into that world and I wasn't going to have it.

ELICIA

What world are you talking about?

JANICE

That family. The greed and violence and disregard for human life and for dignity. Don't you see I couldn't let you be exposed to that? There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of Thomas and pray to God that he makes it out of that alright.

ELICIA

Well I'm sorry to break it to you mother but he's not alright he's dead. That's right he died in a car crash on his birthday over eight years ago. How could you not have checked on him in all this time?

JANICE

I just told you why I couldn't.

ELICIA

Well father made the same deal with you and he checked on me. He even paid for my Med-school?

Janice sits down hard.

JANICE

Darling no! Don't you see he wants you to feel obligated so he can use you. He's a manipulator. How do you think he got me to marry him? Please you have to listen to your mother. Don't let him bring you into his life.

ELICIA

Thomas. My brother was named Thomas and I never met him.

JANICE

Actually he was named after your father. Andre Thomas Chatham the second.

ELICIA

I'm going to see him tomorrow.

JANICE

If you're ever going to listen to your mother listen to me now. You may think you can handle him but you don't know what he's capable of.

ELICIA

Mother if he wanted to hurt me or you he could have done so long ago.

JANICE

That's not his style. He wants to gain your trust and make you need him. You don't know what temptation is until you're tempted by Andre Chatham. Once you have a taste you want more and that's when he'll crush you. Please don't go.

ELICIA

That's a chance I'm going to have to take. I've hardly slept in days. I need to get up early so I'm going to bed. I was dropped off so I need a ride to the airport. If you won't take me I'll have to call a cab.

JANICE

Of course I'll take you. Just try and reconsider before morning. Believe me it's a mistake to go and see him.

Elicia makes a phone call.

KIRUM'S HOTEL ROOM IN WASHINGTON.

KIRUM

Hello.

ELICIA  
Kirum where are you?

KIRUM  
Washington.

ELICIA  
I heard about your father-in-law.  
I'm so sorry. Are his wife and  
daughter ok?

KIRUM  
No. Actually they're not ok and  
that's why I'm here. How are you?

ELICIA  
I'm fine but you're not going to  
believe where this thing leads?

KIRUM  
Andre T. Chathum.

ELICIA  
That's right Andre Chathum but how  
do you know that?

KIRUM  
Long story short he was at my ten  
year achievement banquet and I  
remembered seeing his initials on  
the side of his car while I was  
leaving. I saw the exact same  
lettering on the side of the van  
that was used to pick you up and I  
thought it looked familiar. Then I  
saw Anglund E. Chathum, not  
Catchum, on your little home-made  
movie and it clicked. I have his  
address near here and I'm going  
there tomorrow.

ELICIA  
Alright but wait for me. I have to  
make a stop along the way but I'm  
going with you and there are some  
things you need to know before we  
go.

KIRUM

You must have been scared to death  
to go to that school by yourself.  
I'm sorry I wasn't there for you.

ELICIA

Don't even think about it. We'll  
talk when I get there in the  
morning.

KIRUM

I'm in suite 1139 at the Yorkshire  
Hotel. See you then.

ELICIA

OK. Goodnight.

KIRUM

Goodnight.

INT. JANICE MANGUM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

Elicia's sleeping and a noise wakes her. She gets up and goes into the kitchen for some water. She starts back to bed and sees a shadow outside. She looks at the door knob and it's unlocked. Very slowly she walks over to the door and reaches for the handle. As she touches the lock the door comes flying open and a man grabs her. She screams for a split second but he covers her mouth and forces her to the floor face down. With his hand on her mouth he turns her head around and she sees John Mayhew holding a gun to her head.

OFFICER MAYHEW

(Whispering.)

You don't follow directions very  
well do you? If you don't follow  
these directions it's your life.  
You're going to stand up very  
slowly and walk out that door.  
First I'm going to take my hand  
off of your mouth and you're not  
going to scream. Do you hear me?

She shakes her head yes. Very softly she says.

ELICIA

John?

OFFICER MAYHEW

What?

ELICIA

Meet Fathead.

He looks up and the enormous animal is inches from his head. Sampson growls and John points his gun at him. Elicia knocks the gun out of his hand and the dog clamps down on his throat and knocks him to the floor. Elicia finds the gun but when she gets the dog off of John she sees that he's dead. She looks out the window and sees James standing by the car smoking a cigarette. She walks around the house and surprises James from behind.

ELICIA

No sudden moves. Let me see both hands.

He drops his cane and raises his hands after flicking his cigarette on the ground.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

We're just here to give you a ride.

ELICIA

Well John's riding days are over. Slowly put your cuffs on your right hand and lay face down.

He does and she cuffs his hands behind his back. They hear sirens in the distance and her mother walks outside. She's very calm.

JANICE

The police are on the way. This is what Andre Chatham's world is like Elicia. Hello James.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Janice. I'd shake your hand but...

ELICIA

How do you know each other?

JANICE

James was one of the original Carriers for your father. Like many of the best ones he came from a nice Christian home. It seems developing one's spirituality can have a downside if your heart is evil.

ELICIA

What else do you know?

JANICE

I know most everything but like I told you keeping my mouth shut was part of the bargain. I can save you a lot of time if you'll listen to me. After the police arrive it will take a while but James'll go free. My advice is to let him take his friend with him and get out of here before they arrive. If you don't you'll surely miss your flight.

Elicia looks at James who smirks.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Mother knows best.

Elicia thinks about it for a second and then takes the cuffs off.

ELICIA

Come on I'll help you bring him out.

They put John in the trunk and Elicia sees Lisa in the back seat asleep. She opens the back door and picks her up and says something to James before closing the back door.

ELICIA

Why did you want me to go to the school? Just to see the ritual?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

You have no idea how powerful Abrahin can be. John knew he wouldn't hurt you and he had to know how many of them were there before going in after the staff.

ELICIA

How many what were there?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Dabliques. Native Americans with a penchant for the underworld. They're mediums who can communicate with both worlds and conjure up things you can't imagine.

ELICIA

Where's the Kirian blade now?

He drives away and she kicks the car. She looks at her mother.

ELICIA

How did they know Abrahin wouldn't hurt me?

JANICE

He wouldn't harm the best chance he has to destroy Andre Chatham. Right now neither side knows which way you'll turn. Which one will you take after? Anglund or Zephyr?

ELICIA

I'm still going. Please get rid of the police so I can get some rest.

JANICE

I know you've never been a religious girl but I hope you'll pray for the strength you'll need to get through this.

Elicia walks away as the police car arrives and Janice approaches their car.

INT. KIRUM'S HOTEL ROOM. - DAY

Kirum is using his remote to check his voice-mail when he hears a knock. He opens the door and sees Elicia and Lisa.

KIRUM

Good morning. I didn't know you were bringing a guest.

Elicia gives him a hug.

ELICIA

I didn't either but she insisted.  
Kirum this is Lisa.

He reaches out to shake her hand but she withdraws and gives him a coarse stare.

ELICIA

I had a feeling she might have a hard time trusting you. That's one of the things I want to talk to you about. Have you ever heard the term Carrier applied to an agent?

KIRUM

Not that I recall. What's a Carrier?

ELICIA

According to one Innocent you are.

LISA

He's a Carrier. You're not in any danger right now though Elicia.

KIRUM

OK then. Not long ago I'd have had a different reaction to that but as things stand now I'd like to know why I might be a danger at another time?

ELICIA

A Carrier can have a spirit inside them without being affected. Like a dormant virus that can be passed on to someone else that might get sick. When ATC first started it used Innocents to do the dirty work until Carriers could be found.

KIRUM

The obvious benefit being the age of the person. An adult can move around much more freely and less noticeably.

ELICIA

That's correct. Also because as an Innocent becomes older their more susceptible to having their consciences attacked.

KIRUM

So Carriers have a longer career.  
I get it.

ELICIA

Well who's in the best position to  
handle the job?

Kirum stops to think for a second.

KIRUM

Us. We're already in the field and  
handling the Absolute from a  
previous agent's doing. So why not  
keep things rolling along? But how  
does that happen without us  
knowing about it?

ELICIA

With some agents it doesn't. I  
don't know the percentages but  
some Abs are aware of what they're  
doing. But with you the  
Cleanser...

KIRUM

You don't have to explain about  
the Cleanser. I already know it  
tells us what we're dealing with  
before we arrive and it's not used  
for cleansing.

ELICIA

Do you know that it tells you who  
the next victim is? And it does  
some brainwashing as well. When  
the Rev. winked at me I wasn't  
supposed to be there. It was meant  
for you and like many times before  
you never would have noticed. You  
also wouldn't have realized when  
you winked at the next person.

KIRUM

So who chooses the victims and  
what if I winked at someone just  
to be winking?

ELICIA

Sometimes there are specific  
targets but usually a computer  
program picks them. For the ATC  
programmers it doesn't matter when

(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)  
there are residual suicides. In fact that's just less work for the agents. But it's not just the agents doing the dirty work. Detective Christianson and Officer Mayhew and who knows how many more people are involved. They've been using me for information to see what kinds of rumors have been floating around and what the Ab-agents actually know and don't know.

KIRUM  
But a young boy caused my father-in-law's suicide.

LISA  
No. Michael was there to protect you.

KIRUM  
I'm confused.

ELICIA  
Innocents are able to take the evil spirits away and Michael was there because you were supposed to be infected. But he saw that you were clean and also a Carrier. He left without realizing you had inadvertently passed the spirit on to Mr. Waynebridge.

He's stunned. He sits down and none of them say anything for a minute.

KIRUM  
But I didn't get infected you did.

ELICIA  
You did the ABs after that and you must have picked it up from another victim. Or else...

KIRUM  
Or else what?

ELICIA  
Maybe you had become a liability and it wasn't random?

KIRUM

But you said I'm immune.

LISA

Not all spirits work the same and some are powerful enough to control any mind.

KIRUM

That would explain the Senior-agent. Mr. Waynebridge would still be alive if it wasn't for me.

ELICIA

You mean the ATC.

KIRUM

(In another world.)

Here I've been thinking I was being used as an accessory but Raymond Todd was right I am as guilty as him. I'm a murderer.

ELICIA

That's not true Kirum.

KIRUM

(Snapping out of it.)

I'm turning myself in to the police.

ELICIA

Kirum that's not the answer. You probably won't even be taken seriously and even if you manage to get anyone indicted it'll never reach the top. We have to get to my father somehow.

KIRUM

Your father?

ELICIA

Yes. My father is Andre Thomas Chatham and he's the reason I'm involved in this.

KIRUM

That's right you said your father paid for you to go to school.

ELICIA

He did more than that. I'm not a Carrier and I never would've made it through the screening process if he hadn't made sure I would.

KIRUM

But your name's Mangum.

ELICIA

My mother's maiden name. Maybe I should go and see him alone.

Kirum and Lisa react immediately.

KIRUM

(Along with Lisa.)

No.

LISA

I must be with you.

KIRUM

Any other revelations before we go?

ELICIA

Nothing we can't discuss on the way.

They leave and Kirum double checks to see that he has his remote.

EXT. AC MANSION. - DAY

Elicia, Lisa and Kirum arrive in a taxi and have to pass through a security gate. The ATC security guards that have been following them park outside the gate.

The taxi drives to the front door and James walks up and pays the driver as they get out.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

We've been expecting you. The butler will take you to the study.

Inside the study is just Kirum, Elicia and Lisa.

KIRUM

So explain to me again what the boy was doing at Reverend Plackard's when he died?

BACK TO REVEREND PLACKARD'S HOUSE JUST BEFORE HIS SUICIDE.

Joseph Crandle is holding the Kirian blade as the Rev. climbs up on the ladder.

BOY

Please listen to me Reverend. It won't work if you just take your own life. Heliab will live and go on killing unless you die by the Kirian blade.

The Reverend puts the rope around his neck.

REVEREND PLACKARD.

(Crying.)

I can't do it my boy. I don't know what's wrong but I can't. God forgive me for what I'm about to do.

He jumps off of the ladder and hangs himself. The boy tries to use the ladder to get to him before he dies but he hears a car coming. He takes a quick peak out of the window and sees a car coming. He then grabs the blade and runs out the back door.

KIRUM

So the detective was really only interested in finding the blade?

ELICIA

That's right but I guess after they told my father I handled the Absolution he told them to learn more about me and that's how this all started.

The Study door opens and in walks Andre Chatham.

MR. CHATHUM

Elicia my child you are stunning. You're every bit as beautiful as your mother the day I met her.

He walks up to hug Elicia but she reaches out her hand. He shakes it but then pulls her to him and hugs her.

MR. CHATHUM

Sorry but I could not resist a hug from my daughter. I take it this is Lisa?

Lisa keeps her distance and watches every move Andre makes.

MR. CHATHUM

And of course the renowned Dr. Kirum Lambert. I heard your acceptance speech for a ten years of outstanding service award at an ATC awards dinner a while back. I remember thinking how blessed I was to have such exceptional people working for me.

They shake hands but Kirum doesn't say anything.

MR. CHATHUM

Well we must have someone chase down those cats who've gone and stolen all of your tongues.

Andre laughs very loudly at his own joke but no one else does.

MR. CHATHUM

I do apologize for keeping you but I had business to tend to. I must be gone again this afternoon but Manuel has prepared a wonderful lunch for the three of you. I'll be back this evening and we can discuss what has gone on up to this point and any pressing issues on your minds.

He starts to walk out but Kirum interrupts him.

KIRUM

Mr. Chathum I realize we came here uninvited but what we have to talk about should take precedence over any other business you have.

MR. CHATHUM

I'll decide what takes precedence with my business, both personal and professional, doctor Lambert.

Andre walks out of the room. Kirum and Elicia look at each other.

KIRUM

We really have him scared. Well do you think we should stay?

ELICIA

I'm sorry I didn't back you up Kirum that was just a surreal moment for me and I feel like I'm being pulled down a whirlpool and nothing can save me. Yes we're going to eat this man's food and take full advantage of the privileges of wealth until he comes home. Then we're going to go put our plan into action.

KIRUM

I am starving what about you Lisa?

Lisa doesn't acknowledge his question and she looks at Elicia.

LISA

He's more powerful than I thought he would be. I can't promise I can help.

ELICIA

Don't worry things will be fine. Let's go see what's for lunch?

INT. AC MANSION LIBRARY - NIGHT

Andre is sitting behind an old desk smoking a cigar and talking to Kirum.

MR. CHATHUM

I know you thought you were being clever with your recorder doctor but the fact is you were doing just what I expected. This afternoon I played it back for the Generals just before replacing all but three of them. They were necessary at first but the time has come to go to the next level and now the people are being put into place to see that that happens.

KIRUM

What do you mean by the next level?

Andre smiles and gives a quick laugh.

MR. CHATHUM

For a smart man you really don't think things through doctor. With the current rate of increased suicides half the population will be eliminated in less than eight years. It's time for ATC to focus on eliminating the weaklings of this world. Soon power and pleasure will become the seeds of a stronger and more prosperous world. When the purification process is complete we'll rebuild his kingdom the way it was meant to be.

KIRUM

So how many deaths will it take to satisfy your thirst for blood Andre?

MR. CHATHUM

I should take care of you personally doctor but I think Raymond has a much better plan for you. Now leave my presence you useless little minion.

The door opens and a guard takes Kirum by the arm and leads him out of the room. We focus on Andre's face and see his eyes glow a little and then we hear Elicia's voice.

ELICIA

You asked to see me alone?

He walks up and tries to kiss her but she turns away. He kisses her on the cheek and she pulls away.

MR. CHATHUM

Yes my child come and have a seat.

He sits back in his chair and she sits across from him. Neither of them say anything for a while.

ELICIA

Why did you send me that money when you did?

MR. CHATHUM

Aha that's wonderful. You've come here with so many things on your mind and I was hoping that is what you wanted to know the most.

ELICIA

It's not most significant it's just the beginning of understanding why I was dragged into this? What do you want from me?

MR. CHATHUM

To the point again. I see so much of me in you Elicia. Did you know that I named you. You're named after an angel who is extremely powerful and feared.

ELICIA

Why would an angel be feared?

MR. CHATHUM

You have so much to learn my child. I wish that I could skip all of these steps but I'm willing to be patient for you my Elicia.

ELICIA

If you're going to talk in riddles we're wasting our time. Are you going to answer me or not?

MR. CHATHUM

I sent you the money because it was time for you to have it. That and so much more. You're from Royalty and yet your mother has had you living like a pauper.

ELICIA

We were far from poor and what Royalty?

MR. CHATHUM

Don't be frustrated but you're not ready to understand.

ELICIA

Try me.

MR. CHATHUM

Your bloodline can be traced back to the beginning of the Earth. And in a world that's as plain to me as this one is to you this family is revered like no other. You are here now because it is your

(MORE)

MR. CHATHUM (cont'd)  
birthright to rule this world  
after I move on to the next.

ELICIA  
And what about Thomas? Is it a  
coincidence that you contacted me  
right after his death?

He smiles and then laughs very loud.

MR. CHATHUM  
You are much smarter than your  
brother young lady and besides he  
had too much of his great  
grandfather Anglund in him. But  
you should know that your mother  
made the choice not I. I wanted  
you to come and live with me but  
she threatened me with everything  
if I didn't give you up.

ELICIA  
What did she threaten that she  
would expose your plan to kill  
millions of people each year for  
profit?

MR. CHATHUM  
Elicia. You're so naive. I had no  
plan I was chosen. I was given a  
responsibility like no human being  
before me. This isn't about money  
it's about doing what has to be  
done. What has been ordained from  
the beginning.

ELICIA  
(Sarcastic Laugh.)  
Please don't sit there and tell me  
you're doing the Lord's work? Are  
you trying to tell me that God's  
responsible for this?

MR. CHATHUM  
God? What God are you talking  
about? The one who has left this  
world behind for people to suffer  
hunger and disease? No my child  
I'm talking about the one true  
god. The god of this world who is  
doing something about our problems  
instead of pointing his finger at  
us.

ELICIA

You're actually convinced that what you're doing is right? Please explain how killing innocent people is the right thing to do?

MR. CHATHUM

First of all let me make it clear that I don't have to justify my motives to anyone. But let me ask you why you think I would question the authority and judgement from which this edict has come?

ELICIA

So that's your story? The Devil made you do it?

He slams his fist on the desk.

MR. CHATHUM

How dare you use such blasphemous sarcasm?

He calms himself.

MR. CHATHUM

Forgive me child. I'm irresponsible for not considering the systematic brainwashing you've been exposed to all of your life. I'm not angry with you.

ELICIA

(Sarcastic.)

That's a relief. For a minute there I was afraid you were going to take away my allowance.

He leans back into his chair and puffs his cigar. He studies her for a minute.

MR. CHATHUM

So tell me. What is it that I can do for you?

ELICIA

Something tells me that dissolving ATC and getting back on the straight and narrow is out of the question?

MR. CHATHUM

Are you deliberately trying to make me angry?

ELICIA

No I guess it just hit me that it really isn't about the money with you. What is driving you goes much deeper than that and nothing I do or say is going to change your position.

MR. CHATHUM

Now that's my girl. You have no idea what's before you Elicia. We have people in the highest positions of all walks of life. Church and State, Military and Business, young and old in all parts of the world. The best thing is it's all going to be yours. Join me Elicia and you'll have more than your wildest imagination can dream up.

ELICIA

So what are you proposing? That I become the Princess of a new World religion?

MR. CHATHUM

Would that be so bad? I know you've probably been told that God is good and He takes care of us but do you ever ask yourself where sin would be without blame?

ELICIA

So what are you saying to each his own and it's every man for himself?

MR. CHATHUM

You do have a gift for being sardonic child. What I'm saying is why be a hypocrite and preach forgiveness then in the same breath condemn people for doing what comes naturally?

ELICIA

And what if it comes naturally for some to commit murder or to steal

(MORE)

ELICIA (cont'd)  
 from their neighbor? Where do we  
 draw the line between tolerance  
 and ignorance? And what greater  
 hypocrisy is there than to kill  
 someone who doesn't meet your low  
 standard of morality?

MR. CHATHUM  
 (Flustered.)  
 Enough. Obviously we can't agree  
 and as far as I'm concerned we  
 don't have to.

He sits back in his chair and tries to be nonchalant. She  
 stands up and walks around the room. She finds the blade  
 that James showed her.

ELICIA  
 So now you have the Kirian blade.  
 What's it for?

MR. CHATHUM  
 Don't be coy Elicia. I'm sure you  
 know that Joseph stole it from  
 Abrahin to kill warriors.

ELICIA  
 Don't assume I know very much  
 because I feel like I'm still in  
 the dark. What warriors?

MR. CHATHUM  
 Those powerful spirits sent by  
 "him" to feed off of the sins of  
 simple people.

ELICIA  
 Oh you mean like Heriel, Haliab,  
 Shabrich and Malcatha?

MR. CHATHUM  
 You don't know what it does to me  
 hearing you say those names  
 Elicia.

She approaches him with the knife and stands close to him.

ELICIA  
 How does it work?

He looks at the blade and gives her a hard stare.

MR. CHATHUM

You'll learn soon enough. Let's go  
and see how your friends are  
doing.

He reaches for the blade and James comes into the room on cue. She holds onto the blade for a few seconds and turns to look at James. Then she looks at Andre and gives him a slight grin as she lets go.

MR. CHATHUM

Take Elicia downstairs to be with  
her friends. I'll be there  
shortly.

James tries to show her out but she doesn't let him touch her. They leave the room and Andre walks over to an altar and bows down holding the Kirian blade.

MR. CHATHUM

I know now what has to be done.  
Take her and mold her alongside  
Thomas. Soon their young brothers  
will be born and I'll prepare one  
of them for a life of servitude.

INT. UNDERGROUND ALTAR. - NIGHT

Elicia watches James open a the door to a room that looks like a Cell with a huge stone bowl in the middle of it. Kirum and Lisa are inside and James closes the door behind Elicia when she walks in.

KIRUM

Are you alright?

ELICIA

Yes but what is this place?

KIRUM

We were waiting upstairs when  
Raymond Todd showed up and had us  
put down here.

ELICIA

I've way underestimated Andre Chatham's resolve. He believes he's some kind of ordained Anti-Pope hell bent on doing the Devil's handy-work on earth. Lisa you were right. I hate to ask you to do this but I don't know of any other way.

LISA

(Calmly.)

I'm not scared Elicia.

Elicia hugs her.

KIRUM

Can I be let in on this?

The door opens and in walks Andre, James, Dr. Todd and an armed man. Andre has the Kirian blade and smiles at Lisa when he walks in.

DR. TODD

Don't bother trying to take on Mr. Chatham young lady. He's not only a Carrier he has Gravhala.

For the first time Lisa has a look of fear.

ELICIA

Who is Gravhala?

DR. TODD

The High Priest of all spirits. One whom you will gain full knowledge of shortly.

LISA

(Crying.)

No you can't do that.

DETECTIVE CHRISTIANSON

Quiet child. You'll be dealt with soon enough.

Andre walks up to Elicia.

MR. CHATHUM

You only thought you went through hell before. Because you're my daughter I'm going to leave you something.

He places the Kirian blade on top of the alter.

ELICIA

So you're going to kill me like you did Thomas? How did he get a car that was able to go over a hundred miles per hour unless you wanted him to have it? Was he too good to live?

MR. CHATHUM

Not too good just too weak. I'd hoped you'd have more strength but it looks like you got the weak blood as well.

ELICIA

But who'll carry on after you're gone?

Andre signals for the guard to open the door. In walks a very pregnant young girl.

MR. CHATHUM

It's a pity you won't get to meet these brothers either. That's right I'll be the proud father of twins and one of them will someday rule the world.

KIRUM

You can't get away with this. Too many people know we're here.

DR. TODD

Wrong. After a Senior Ab-agent declares this a suicide the body will be cremated and no investigation will take place. I've already buried you with your history of hysteria and your attack on me last night.

KIRUM

You liar. You...

MR. CHATHUM

(Screams.)

Silence.

Elicia looks at him but closes her eyes before he winks at her.

Andre laughs again as his eyes light up and his face becomes monstrous.

MR. CHATHUM

A wink is just a signal for the warrior Elicia. I gave you Gravhala when I kissed your cheek earlier. Take them out of here.

The guard herds Kirum and Lisa towards the door.

LISA

Can't I say goodbye?

James looks at Andre and he shakes his head yes. Lisa runs to Elicia and hugs her. Elicia looks Lisa in the eye and Dr. Todd sees her.

DR. TODD

Hold it right there.

He takes out a pen-laser and looks into Elicia's eyes.

DR. TODD

Still there alright. I've never seen movement like this before.

KIRUM

I'm so sorry I couldn't do anything...

He tries to grab the guard's gun but gets knocked out by the butt of the gun.

Everyone walks out behind the guard who is dragging Kirum.

From Elicia's perspective we see the door close and then turn to look at the Kirian blade.

INT. ALTAR. HOURS LATER. - NIGHT

The door to the altar opens very slowly and Andre steps inside the doorway. He sees Elicia's body laying across the altar and blood all around her. He walks in and sits by her side.

MR. CHATHUM

I wasn't lying about you being my favorite. I never should have let your mother take you and corrupt  
(MORE)

MR. CHATHUM (cont'd)  
your mind against me. But I was at  
such a crucial stage and I  
couldn't afford the bad press.

He pulls the hair back out of her eyes and touches her face.

MR. CHATHUM  
Say hello to Thomas for me.

Suddenly her eyes open and she comes overhanded with the  
blade and into his right eye.

ELICIA  
Tell him yourself.

She walks upstairs and sees Dr. Todd talking to an AB agent.  
It's the Sr. Agent that did Kirum's father-in-law's  
Absolution. Dr. Todd goes running down the stairs. Kirum and  
Lisa see Elicia and they go running up to her. Elicia looks  
at Lisa and winks.

LISA  
Brezhula is week from the battle.  
I knew he was more powerful than  
that nasty old demon.

ELICIA  
Yes he was but I never want to do  
that again.

KIRUM  
When I woke up Lisa assured me  
you'd be alright. She said Abrahin  
had given her someone very  
powerful to help you.

ELICIA  
Powerful and wonderful. I went  
back and forth from depression to  
elation for hours until I heard a  
soft voice tell me everything was  
going to be fine. Where's James?

KIRUM  
He left last night. Where's Andre?  
Is that his blood?

ELICIA

It's mostly my blood. I pulled the scabs off my wrists to make Andre think I was dead. When he got near me I stabbed him with the Kirian blade just the way Abrahin said I had to.

Dr. Todd comes back up and pulls Elicia to the side.

DR. TODD

(Smiling.)

You have no idea the favor you just did me. When the Ab agent declares this a murder you'll lose all rights to any inheritance and you were set to have everything. I'll be in control of this company for the next eighteen years at least.

Doctor Todd walks up to the agent and tries to talk to him but he's on a phone like Kirum's and doesn't acknowledge him. When he gets off the phone Dr. Todd escorts him down to the body.

Elicia, Lisa and Kirum walk outside and the sun is just coming up.

ELICIA

I think all I was able to accomplish was to change the ATC's core philosophy. Raymond Todd might have a different motive but he'll drive up the body count even more because of his love of money.

Kirum seems distracted as he watches the big van out in front of the house. He takes out his remote and Elicia's cell phone rings. She listens but doesn't say anything. Suddenly the doors to the big van bust open and the cleaners run inside.

Kirum walks away from everything and looks up at the beautiful sky. He lets the Sun shine on his face and then smiles.

KIRUM

(Voice Over.)

Elicia's listening to the last part of my conversation with Raymond Todd last night. As he was losing his temper I called my

(MORE)

KIRUM (cont'd)  
voice mail using the remote in my  
pocket.

We see the same scene as Kirum drops his jaw in reaction to  
Dr. Todd throwing his recorder against the wall.

KIRUM  
(Voice Over.)  
The message was meant to go to the  
FBI but when I saw that the  
pedantic, Senior Ab Agent Maulin  
Pei was handling the case I got  
his number from Robert. I sent him  
a copy of my voice mail marked  
urgent and he was listening to it  
when Raymond interrupted him a few  
minutes ago.

Elicia walks over to Kirum.

ELICIA  
You sly dog.

The Sr. agent walks by Kirum and then stops. He looks at him  
and grins.

SR. ABSOLUTIONIST  
I'll take fries and you take  
burgers.

Elicia, Kirum and the Sr. share a laugh.

ELICIA  
Don't worry I'll keep you both  
busy for a long time helping  
families that have been devastated  
by my father.

KIRUM  
I couldn't think of a better  
penance.

Lisa walks up to Elicia.

LISA  
I'm hungry.

Elicia takes her hand and they walk away.

ELICIA  
For such a little girl you sure  
can eat.

The camera pulls back and up and we watch Kirum and the Sr. Agent talking as Elicia and Lisa go inside the house.

INT. CHURCH. - DAY

Kirum and Helen walk down the church steps as people throw rice. Kirum looks at Elicia and gives her a wink. Helen kisses her mother and she and Kirum wave goodbye. They get into a sports car and speed away.

The End