Continuum

“Lost and Found”

Written by

Ryan Fortier & Edward Pace

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. WILLOW AVENUE - DAY

A chyron reads, ‘September - 2040.’ A woman walks a robotic dog down the street. A man flies by on a jetpack. The device stops working and he plummets, SCREAMING. The woman and dog watch in horror, but the jetpack SPUTTERS to life at the last second.

A moving van SCREECHES to a halt beside a two-story house. ALEX MILES (43) and EMILY MILES (42) step out. They hurriedly open the back of the van and grab some boxes as their daughter, KALI MILES (15), joins them.

ALEX
Let’s get this inside.

Kali’s spherical hovering robot, VIC, flies out of a box.

VIC
Is this our new abode? How marvelously quaint!

KALI
Home sweet home...again.

INT. MILES PARLOR - LATER

Kali sets some family photos atop the fireplace. The front door SLAMS shut as Alex and Emily enter.

KALI
Want to set up the parlor?

EMILY
We need to finish the lab, Kali.

Alex and Emily storm into the kitchen. They gain access to the basement via a retina scanner in the wall.

VIC
I’ll help you decorate, Ms. Miles.
KALI
Never mind. We’ll probably leave in a few months anyway.

INT. MILES PARLOR – EVENING

Kali eats dinner and watches TV with VIC. On the screen, a group of adults ARGUE inside a dome on the moon.

NARRATOR (O.S.)
Who will stay and who will get the airlock? Find out when The Real Moon returns!

Kali turns off the TV and SIGHS.

KALI
Mom! Dad!

No response. Kali and VIC head into the kitchen.

INT. MILES KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

Kali and VIC approach the basement door. She scans her retina to no avail.

KALI
Seriously? VIC, do you mind?

A probe extends from VIC and fits into the scanner. It BEEPS. Kali and VIC head downstairs.

INT. BASEMENT LABORATORY – CONTINUOUS

EMILY
Can’t we wait one more night?

ALEX
It has to be now. We’re out of time.

Kali’s parents spot her on the stairs. Kali glances at the time machine, which is a polished mechanical archway.

KALI
Since I’m here, can I help finish it?
ALEX
We’re just getting organized tonight. 
(sighs)
But you can help in the morning.

KALI
(surprised)
That’s…great. Anyway, I came down to see if you wanted dinner --

EMILY
We’ll eat later, Kali.

ALEX
Have a good night.

Alex and Emily return to their work.

Kali heading upstairs:

KALI
Fine. I’ll be in my room if you need me.
(whispers)
But I know you won’t.

EXT. WILLOW AVENUE – NIGHT

A SPERO AGENT stands on the front lawn two houses down from Kali’s. He speaks to a microchip on his collar.

SPERO AGENT
They’re here.

INT. KALI’S BEDROOM – MORNING

Alex shakes Kali awake. Outside the window, police cars and black vans form a barricade around Willow Street.

ALEX
Kali, wake up!

KALI
Dad? What’s going --

ALEX
Just get downstairs!
INT. BASEMENT LABORATORY - LATER

Alex leads Kali down the stairs. Emily hurriedly works on the time machine.

KALI
Where’s VIC?

Alex points at Kali’s stuffed backpack on the floor.

VIC (O.S.)
I’m in the backpack, Ms. Miles!

EMILY
The time machine’s ready.

KALI
You said I could help finish it!

ALEX
That’s not important right now!

KALI
Of course it’s not. Why would it be?

A HELICOPTER is heard. Emily turns to Alex.

EMILY
Start it.

Alex goes to the time machine. Emily kneels before Kali.

EMILY (CONT’D)
I know we said you could help, but your father and I wanted to surprise you.

KALI
Mom, what’s going on?

EMILY
You’re going to be the first person to travel through time.

Alex hands Kali her backpack.
ALEX
We’re coming too, but you need to go first.

KALI
Where...when are we going?

EMILY
To meet Leonardo da Vinci. Like you always wanted.

Alex quickly types on the time machine’s console.

ALEX
Milan, Italy. 1490. It’s all set.

EMILY
We packed everything you’ll need.

Alex activates the time machine. The display is tilted away from Kali, and only, “Year: 2014” can be seen. Alex hands Kali what looks like a futuristic remote control.

KALI
So you’ll be right behind me?

Emily hugs Kali.

EMILY
Yes. We love you, Kali. And we want you to know that things will be different from now on.

ALEX
We’ll see you on the other side.

Kali takes a DEEP BREATH and steps through the machine.

INT. SAVAGE KITCHEN - MORNING

A chyron reads, ‘September – 2014.’ JASON SAVAGE (13) stands over a hot plate connected to a hundred potatoes for power. He is cooking a hash brown.

JASON
C’mon, you spud!
Jason’s mother, MS. SAVAGE (32), enters. She awkwardly steps around the wires. Jason grabs and bites the hash brown.

    JASON
    Success!

    MS. SAVAGE
    I thought you didn’t like those.

    JASON
    I couldn’t pass up the irony.
    (beat)
    Because hash browns are potatoes, and
    the hot plate is powered by pota --

    MS. SAVAGE
    Very clever, honey.

    JASON
    Now if I could just get that toaster to work.

Jason puts on his giant backpack and stares sadly at a toaster connected to a dozen loaves of bread. He and his mom head towards the front door.

EXT. ANIMUS HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Ms. Savage pulls her car up to the school. A massive crowd of kids and teachers mill in front of the building.

    MS. SAVAGE
    All this for a science fair?

    JASON
    It’s not a science fair. It’s a
    symposium!

A half dozen cars slide to a stop behind Ms. Savage’s parked car and BLARE THEIR HORNs. A CRAZED MOTHER (40) leans out her car window.

    CRAZED MOTHER
    Move it! You’re holding up science!
MS. SAVAGE
You should get out of the car, Jason.
Good luck!

JASON
Thanks, Mom!

Jason exits the car as his mother pulls away. Several security guards try to control the crazed crowd.

JASON (CONT’D)
And we’re going the back way.

EXT. ANIMUS HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Jason approaches the empty rear of the school.

JASON (CONT’D)
Emily wasn’t kidding at orientation.
Symposium day is nuts.

A giant hole in the space-time continuum rips open. Kali falls through and lands on the ground. In the background, the shockwave knocks over Jason.

KALI
This doesn’t look like 1490s Milan.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

EXT. ANIMUS HIGH SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Kali takes off her backpack and pulls VIC partway out.

KALI
VIC, when are we?

VIC
Based on the carbon dioxide levels, I would say the early 2010s.

In the background, Jason gets up and gapes at Kali.

KALI
How could they have gotten the date so wrong? Are Mom and Dad coming?

VIC
Negative, Ms. Miles. No space-time disruptions present.

KALI
It’s okay. No one saw us, so we’ll just pop back to the lab.

JASON (O.S.)
How did...who are...what the...

Kali turns around and spots Jason.

JASON (CONT’D)
Who are you?

Jason, Kali, and VIC approach one another.

VIC
Hello! I’m VIC, and it’s an absolute pleasure to make your acquaintance.

JASON
Hello, talking robot.
(to Kali)
Explain yourself!
KALI
My time machine just opened a wormhole according to Einstein’s field equations.

Jason takes out a bottle of pills from his shirt pocket and takes two.

JASON
This is not good for my anxiety.

VIC
We’re from the future! How wondrously mysterious this must be for you!

KALI
Look, I’ve got to get back home. You seeing us might change humanity’s future, so...don’t remember this.

JASON
Wait, so --

KALI
Bye!

Kali activates the return device, but nothing happens. She presses the button a few more times to no effect.

KALI (CONT’D)
Come on, come on!

Kali falls to the curb in despair.

KALI (CONT’D)
What’s happening?

JASON
I don’t know!

KALI
My parents stranded me in the wrong time!

The school bell RINGS. Jason remembers the symposium.
JASON
Oh, that’s so sad.
(beat)
Anyway, I’ve got a big symposium, so…

Kali keeps her gaze on the return device. Jason SIGHS.

JASON (CONT’D)
Need some help?

KALI
You can’t fix my return device.

JASON
I can’t just leave you here. Look, I have very little idea of what’s going on, but why don’t you come inside? We’ll figure something out together.

Kali hesitates.

JASON (CONT’D)
It’s not like you have any better options.

Kali looks questioningly at VIC.

VIC
I believe we can trust this charming young lad.

Kali nods and gets to her feet. Jason extends his hand.

JASON
I’m Jason, by the way. Jason Savage.

Kali studies his hand. She shakes it awkwardly.

KALI
My name is Kali Miles.

INT. ANIMUS AUDITORIUM – LATER

Jason leads Kali into the auditorium. It is packed with tables and science projects. A gopher calmly levitates above one table, attracting a large crowd.
Jason brings Kali to an empty table. He puts down his backpack and pulls out a laptop.

JASON
If anyone asks, just say you’re my cousin. You came from out of town to see my project.

KALI
Sure. Hey, do you guys have a machine shop or a place with tools?

Jason is focused on his computer.

JASON
Yeah, in the basement. Why?

Jacob looks up to see Kali gone.

JASON (CONT’D)
Oh, that’s not good.

GREG THOMPSON (14) strolls up. He CLAPS Jason on the back, sending the pill bottle tumbling from his shirt.

GREG
Dude, you didn’t invent the laptop for your project, did you?

JASON
It’s not the computer, Greg. I made a program. I’ll show you if this thing ever boots up.

GREG
You should check out my exhibit.

Greg points out a nearby volcano model.

GREG (CONT’D)
You can’t tell me that isn’t epic.

JASON
We were supposed to invent something or do serious research.
GREG
Do you know how many Wikipedias I read to get this thing right?

JASON
(weary)
Oh my gosh.

GREG
I know, I’m worn out. Anyway, sorry you won’t be winning the blue ribbon.

JASON
This isn’t a science fair! There are no ribbons!

Kali returns with an armful of tools.

KALI
I’m back.

Greg sees Kali. It is love at first sight.

JASON
Greg, this is Kali. She’s my cousin.

KALI
From out of town!

JASON
She’s here to see my project, okay!

GREG
Hey, Kali. I’m Greg...or Gregory for long.

KALI
Huh?

Greg’s volcano EXPLODES.

GREG
No! It wasn’t supposed to do that yet!

Greg runs off to fix his volcano.
KALI
Well, my return device won’t fix itself.

INT. ANIMUS AUDITORIUM – LATER

A teacher finishes examining Jason’s project and walks off. Kali sits beside him repairing her return device. She throws her tools down in frustration.

KALI
Darn it!

JASON
Still not working?

KALI
These tools are too primitive. What’s wrong with you people?

JASON
We do the best we can!

KALI
I need some air. I’m going to take a look around.

JASON
Fine, I’ll come with.

Kali and Jason walk off. Greg joins them.

GREG
Hey, Kali. Nice symposium, huh?

KALI
Yeah, I guess. Sorry your project exploded.

GREG
I fixed it.

Greg looks at his volcano, which is plugged with a football.
GREG (CONT’D)
And now it’s back on track to win this thing.

Kali stares back at her return device.

KALI
I wish I had your optimism.

GREG
I wouldn’t mind sharing it. Hey, after I win you can borrow my ribbon.

Jason throws his hands up in the air.

GREG (CONT’D)
It’ll look pretty in your hair.

Kali approaches a poster board entitled ‘The Last Frontier: The Higgs Field.’ EMILY FORTIS (16) sits at the next table over. Her neuroprosthetic exhibit reads ‘Reaching Out to Science.’

ALEX MILES (17) and XAVIER CHASE (17) approach.

ALEX
I shouldn’t have included that ‘Reviews of Modern Physics’ article. They were way too generous with CERN’s findings.

XAVIER
Relax. We won’t have any real competition here anyway.

Xavier stares at Emily, who glares at him.

XAVIER (CONT’D)
Ooh, you could make an omelet with the egg on our faces.

EMILY
I’d say that’s painfully clever but it was really just painful.
(to Alex)
Still stuck on that Higgs particle, huh?
ALEX
You’re really going to mock the cornerstone of the physical universe?

EMILY
I was actually just mocking you.

Xavier approaches Kali, Jason, and Greg.

XAVIER
Can I help you?

KALI
We were just looking at this exhibit.
(to Alex)
It’s really impressive.

Alex curtly nods. Emily waves at Greg.

EMILY
Hi Greg!

Greg is confused and waves back.

XAVIER
Yeah, my friend really outdid himself.

Xavier extends his hand.

XAVIER (CONT’D)
I’m Xavier.

Kali shakes his hand very awkwardly. Xavier notices. In the background, Alex and Emily resume ARGUING. Greg watches in horror as the neuroprosthetic grabs Jason.

KALI
Kali.

XAVIER
I hope you and your friends aren’t overwhelmed. The upperclassmen’s presentations are pretty advanced.
KALI
What’s overwhelming about CERN proving the Standard Model of particle physics?
(aside)
Although dividing leptons into electrons and neutrinos might confuse the uninitiated.

This piques Xavier’s interest.

GREG
What’s a particle?

TOBIAS CHASE (60) enters the auditorium. The crowd WHISPERS EXCITEDLY.

STUDENT COLLECTIVE
Oh my gosh, it’s him! / Is that Mr. Chase? / Is this really happening? / I am so happy right now!

EMILY
It’s actually him!

KALI
It’s actually who?

XAVIER
That’s my uncle, Tobias. He funds this school, not to mention he founded the Spero Corporation.

KALI
Yeah…I’ve heard of that.

XAVIER
They’re the first company dedicated to time travel. Who hasn’t?

Tobias approaches Xavier.

TOBIAS
Xavier, it’s good to see you. I missed you at breakfast.
XAVIER
Uncle.

Tobias notices Emily’s exhibit, which has Greg in a headlock.

TOBIAS
This is a magnificent design. Still a work in progress, I see.

Emily stares at Jason, who has a black eye.

EMILY
There’s still a few kinks.

ALEX (O.S.)
Oh, that’s too bad.

In the background, Kali checks to make sure no one is looking. She pulls VIC out of her backpack. VIC shocks the arm off of Greg.

TOBIAS
(to Alex)
And what is your project about?

ALEX
I decided to --

XAVIER
He completely analyzed all current research on the Higgs boson particle.

Tobias steps back from Alex and Emily’s projects.

TOBIAS
You two have done a remarkable job. This is exactly the type of work I hoped to see from Animus’ students.

ALEX AND EMILY
Thank you.

Greg rubs his throat and glares.
JASON
(quiet)
Yay.

TOBIAS
Yay indeed! Would you be interested in taking a tour of Spero this afternoon? I’m curious what you would think of our facility.

EMILY
Yes!

ALEX
Of course, sir!

XAVIER
Uncle, can we invite one more person?

TOBIAS
We can if we take the limo instead of the helicopter.

XAVIER
I was hoping we could take my new friend Kali. She’s from out of town but definitely of Animus caliber.

Tobias approaches Kali.

TOBIAS
Well then of course you can go!

Jason frantically elbows Kali in the stomach.

KALI
Um, can my cousin come too?

TOBIAS
Yes! Yes! You can go too!
(points to Greg)
And you can go!

Greg is confused. Tobias points at two more random kids.
TOBIAS (CONT’D)
You’re coming as well! And you!
And, wait, no, not you two. The limo
only seats seven.

INT. ANIMUS CAFETERIA – LATER

Jason and Kali are in line to get food.

KALI
This might actually work. If Spero’s
researching time travel, they should
have what I need to fix my return
device.

JASON
How can you think about going home?
We’re getting a guided tour!

Jason and Kali sit down at an empty table. Greg joins.

GREG
Hey Kali and others. Man, how cool
is riding a limo on our field trip?

JASON
It’s not a field trip. You have a
problem understanding school
functions.

GREG
Whatever. Hey, did you tell your
cousin I’m captain of the football
team?

JASON
Animus doesn’t have a football team.
That’s just a myth.

Emily appears and takes a seat across from Greg.

EMILY
It’s not a myth. Greg’s just the
only player. I go to all his games!
BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The Willboro Woodchucks kick off to the Animus Gophers. Greg is the only Gopher. Emily is the only fan in the Gophers’ section.

   EMILY
   Go Gophers! Yay!

Greg catches the ball but is mauled by many woodchucks.

   EMILY (CONT’D)
   Oh, boo!

END FLASHBACK.

INT. ANIMUS CAFETERIA - RESUMING

Emily beams at Greg.

   EMILY
   I think you do a great job.

   GREG
   Last season we won two games!

Emily looks at Greg too long as Alex stops at the table.

   ALEX
   Oh look, it’s a family reunion. All the underclassmen here together.

   EMILY
   Yeah, I’m a junior. That’s an upperclassman.

   ALEX
   You just keep telling yourself that.

Alex walks away and sits with Xavier.

   GREG
   Someone’s got a football stuck in their goalpost.
EMILY  
(laughs flirtatiously)  
Oh Greg, wouldn’t it be great if all men were like you?

JASON  
We can only dream of such a world.

Greg stares at the empty table beneath him.

GREG  
Dang, I forgot to get food. I’ll be right back.

Emily watches Greg leave and silently follows. Kali turns to Jason.

KALI  
I’m no sociologist, but your friends are weird.

JASON  
I didn’t think we were friends. But since they’re gone, I’m guessing we should come up with a plan?

KALI  
Agreed. Once we get inside Spero, keep your eyes open for a distraction. When we learn where they keep their supplies, we’ll sneak off and grab what I need.

JASON  
That’s not much of a plan.

KALI  
It’s a start. And I have a feeling between the two of us, that’s enough.

EXT. THE SPERO CORPORATION - DAY

A limo goes through a large gate and parks in front of an enormous complex. The license plate reads ‘GLD4LFE.’
Alex, Emily, Xavier, Jason, Greg, Tobias, and Kali exit the limo. Above Spero’s entryway is engraved ‘The Spero Corporation: Changing Your Past for a Better Future.’

EMILY
It’s incredible, isn’t it?

JASON
My future feels better already.

INT. SPERO LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Tobias leads the group to an elevator in the lobby. Down a hallway, several gophers quietly follow a woman in a white lab coat.

TOBIAS
You are about to witness the pinnacle of modern engineering and technology.

The elevator door opens.

TOBIAS (CONT’D)
Let’s begin.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SPERO NUCLEAR REACTOR - LATER

Tobias and the teens stand on a circular walkway around the top of a nuclear reactor. They are all wearing hard hats. A sign behind them says, 'No Hard Hats.'

TOBIAS
We use so much energy in our labs that we have a nuclear reactor on site. It can produce 1.21 Gigawatts of power per hour.

KALI
(to Jason)
If the return device’s battery is dead, I can use that power to get back to the future.

JASON
That goes without saying.

INT. SPERO VIVARIUM - DAY 2014

Tobias leads the group into a room filled with cages. A variety of animals are present, including rats, a macaque, and a rockhopper penguin.

TOBIAS
Here we keep all the animals we use in our experiments.

ALEX
What experiments? Did you already build a time machine?

TOBIAS
Don’t be silly, lad. That’ll take decades.

XAVIER
Time travel is our main focus, but we have smaller labs for other projects.
TOBIAS
In fact, that penguin will be testing our lab-grown sockeye salmon!

XAVIER
A perfectly valid use of our resources.

GREG
Well, yeah.

TOBIAS
There’s nothing wrong with creating a nutritious and cheap food source, Xavier. But enough about aquaculture; there’s more to see.

Tobias leads the group out of the room. Jason and Kali share a look, and Jason unlocks the penguin’s cage.

INT. SPERO HALLWAY - LATER

The group passes a door marked ‘Supply Room.’

KALI
What’s in there?

TOBIAS
That’s where we keep all of the tools and components we use in the labs.

KALI
Can we check it out?

JASON
Let’s go in please!

TOBIAS
Oh, that wouldn’t be interesting. The lab itself has plenty of sciency-thingies!

XAVIER
It’s just a big closet, people.

TOBIAS
Come now, the core lab’s up ahead.
INT. SPERO HALLWAY - LATER

Tobias and the teens stop in front of a large door.

TOBIAS
And this is the heart of Spero. Welcome to the main laboratory.

INT. SPERO LAB - CONTINUOUS

Tobias leads the group inside. Wondrous partially constructed machines and robotics are strewn about.

EMILY
This is everything I dreamed life could be.

All the kids but Xavier fan out and explore the area. An ALARM SOUNDS as the lab’s loudspeaker CRACKLES.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

TOBIAS
Children, I’ll be back after I catch a slippery Spheniscidiae. Please don’t break anything.

Tobias puts on a safari hat and leaves.

XAVIER
Well, I guess I’ll take over from here.

KALI
You can start without me. I have to go to the bathroom.

JASON
Oh what a coincidence, I do as well.

EMILY
Yeah, me too.

KALI
Maybe you don’t, though?
EMILY
What? No, I do.

XAVIER
But you’ll miss the ion spectrometer.

GREG
Guys, ions. C’mon.

EMILY
We’ll hurry back.

Emily leaves with Kali and Jason hesitantly in tow.

INT. SPERO HALLWAY - LATER

Kali, Jason and Emily pass the supply room and head towards the bathroom. Kali stares at Jason for ideas. He shrugs.

Emily pushes open the girls’ room door and notices Kali isn’t following her inside.

EMILY
You coming?

KALI
Yeah, just a second.

Emily disappears inside.

JASON
What do we do?

KALI
I’m not sure.

JASON
It was such a foolproof plan, too.

KALI
Shush. I’ll figure out a way to ditch her. Just wait here.

Kali enters the bathroom.
INT. SPERO BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kali slowly enters the stall next to Emily’s. She considers her options and then smiles.

KALI
Why do you think Xavier and his friend are such jerks?

EMILY
I thought you’d never ask! Sometimes I feel like I’m the only one who notices. It all started when I was a freshman and --

Kali dashes out of her stall and the bathroom.

INT. SPERO HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kali rushes past Jason, who quickly follows her.

JASON
How long do we have?

KALI
I think a while.

Kali and Jason slide to a stop in front of the supply closet. She yanks on the door, but it is locked. She then notices the keypad next to it.

KALI
It’s okay. VIC can hack it.

VIC (O.S.)
(muffled)
It’s so nice to be remembered!

Kali studies the keypad in confusion.

KALI
Wait, where’s the probe interface?

JASON
The what?
KALI
The probe interface! Where your robot jacks in!

Jason confusedly points at the keypad’s USB port.

JASON
Um, that’s the USB port.

KALI
The what?

JASON
Just let me.

Jason takes out his laptop and connects it to the keypad. WADDLING FOOTSTEPS are heard before the penguin rounds a corner and belly slides down the hall.

KALI
We don’t have much time!

TOBIAS (O.S.)
It went that way! Stay in arrow formation!

Jason yanks his USB cable out of the keypad.

JASON
We’re in.

Jason and Kali duck inside the room just before Tobias leads a trio of security guards down the hall.

INT. SPERO SUPPLY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is enormous and lined with tall shelves. Kali grits her teeth and pulls VIC out of her backpack.

KALI
VIC, head right. Jason, you’re with me. We’re looking for magnetic rotors, silicon circuit boards, tool kits, and fuel cells.

VIC heads right as Kali and Jason go left.
INT. SPERO BATHROOM - DAY

Emily’s stall is shown.

    EMILY (O.S.)
    Then in tenth grade Alex stole my sandwich. For no reason. He doesn’t even like bologna.

INT. SPERO SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

Jason is hanging on a shelving unit with one hand and throwing a few circuit boards down to Kali.

    VIC (O.S.)
    I’ve found the rotors, Ms. Miles!

Kali helps Jason climb down, and they both head towards the door. VIC flies towards them. Kali opens her backpack.

    KALI
    Nice work! Get in here!

VIC goes inside. Kali slings the pack over her shoulder.

INT. SPERO BATHROOM - DAY

Emily is in her stall. Kali and Jason rush in. Jason realizes he is in the girl’s room just as Kali shoves him out.

    EMILY (O.S.)
    And so deep down, I think he’s just a sad, lonely person. But underneath that he’s still a huge jerk.

The toilet FLUSHES and Emily steps out.

    EMILY (CONT’D)
    You know, you’re a great listener.

Kali wipes the sweat from her brow and smiles.
INT. SPERO LAB - LATER

Emily, Jason, and Kali return to the lab and approach Tobias, who has returned. Alex and Xavier are untangling an angry Greg from a chair. Behind them lies a broken ion spectrometer.

TOBIAS
Oh good, you’re back. So what do you think of Spero?

EMILY
It is absolutely the greatest facility I have ever seen.

TOBIAS
Well I’m glad you approve, because I’ve decided who my two newest interns are.

Emily’s and Jason’s eyes WIDEN in anticipation. Tobias stares at Jason guiltily.

TOBIAS (CONT’D)
Oh...one of them is Alex.

Kali perks up at the name ‘Alex.’ Jason and Emily share a smile which quickly becomes competitive.

TOBIAS (CONT’D)
I’m very sorry Jason, but I can only take on upperclassmen.

Emily LAUGHS and points at Alex.

EMILY
See? I told you I’m...
(turns to Tobias)
Wait, are you saying that --

TOBIAS
Indeed I am. I award this glorious yet unpaid honor to one of Animus’ greatest students, Emily Fortis!
Emily SQUEALS and CRUSHES Kali in a hug. Kali goes wide-eyed at the realization that Alex and Emily are her parents.

EXT. SAVAGE RESIDENCE - EVENING

Kali and Jason walk up to Jason’s front door. Greg takes his bike out of the limo’s trunk and follows them.

GREG
I had a great time, guys. So, uh, Kali. You said you’re only here for the day, right?

KALI
Yeah. I’m leaving tonight.

GREG
Well...tell Jason if you need to borrow my volcano. You know, for science class.

KALI
I don’t know what to say.

Greg hugs Kali. She is shocked but slowly hugs him back.

GREG
See you tomorrow, J-man. We should hang out more.

JASON
I think I’m looking forward to it.


INT. SAVAGE PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Jason and Kali enter the living room.

JASON
Well, that was pretty much the craziest day in history.

KALI
Yeah, it kind of was.
VIC (O.S.)
(muffled)
Pardon my intrusion, but might I be allowed some fresh air?

Kali opens her backpack and VIC hovers out.

VIC (CONT’D)
Oh, that’s much better!

KALI
(to Jason)
Your parents aren’t around, are they?

JASON
No, my mom won’t be home until eight.

KALI
Good. I think I can fix my return device by then.

Kali takes a seat on the couch and begins going through her supplies.

JASON
Are you hungry?

INT. SAVAGE KITCHEN – LATER

Kali and Jason eat at the kitchen table. VIC hovers near Jason as Kali repairs her return device.

JASON
So they were really your parents?

KALI
Yep.

JASON
The whole time?

KALI
Jason…

JASON
Right, obviously. It’s just, wow.
KALI
It’s insane, I know. But I’m not dealing with it much longer. This thing is almost done.

JASON
So, what will you do when you get back home?

KALI
I’m going to yell at my parents for screwing up their time machine. Then I’m going to fix it myself.

JASON
Glad to hear it. Hey, you live in this city in the year 2040, right?

KALI
Yeah, a few streets over.

JASON
Maybe if I’m still in the area in 26 years, I could say hi?

KALI
I’d like that.

Kali screws the cover back onto her return device.

KALI (CONT’D)
That should be it.

VIC interfaces with the device.

VIC
I can happily confirm that this device is 100% functional.

KALI
(to Jason)
Well, let’s go outside. We’ve got a wormhole to open.

EXT. SAVAGE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Kali, Jason, and VIC are in the backyard.
KALI
Okay. Jason, stand back. VIC, be ready to go through the wormhole as soon as it appears. We need to move fast before this thing breaks again.

VIC
The tension is exhilarating!

JASON
So I guess this is goodbye, huh?

KALI
I guess so.
(beat)
Thanks, Jason. For everything.

JASON
It was my pleasure.

KALI
See you in 26 years?

JASON
I sure hope so.

Kali extends her hand, but Jason hugs her. Kali hugs him back. VIC squeezes in between them. The hug ends.

KALI
Ready to go home, buddy?

VIC
When you are, Ms. Miles.

KALI
Here goes everything.

She powers it on. Nothing happens.

KALI (CONT’D)
No.

Kali presses the button again. Still nothing.

KALI (CONT’D)
No, no, no!
Kali desperately and repeatedly presses the button.

JASON
Kali?

KALI
This is supposed to work!

Kali collapses onto the ground and stares at VIC.

KALI (CONT’D)
Why won’t it work?

VIC
I’m at a loss, Ms. Miles.

Jason takes a seat beside Kali. Eventually Jason looks at his tree house.

JASON
Listen, my mom works three jobs. If you can’t get home, you could stay in my tree house. She’ll never know you’re there.

INT. TREEHOUSE - LATER

Kali and VIC are inside their new home. Jason climbs up and sets his backpack down.

JASON
It’s not much, but it will get you through the night. We’ll have more time to set things up tomorrow.

Kali opens Jason’s backpack and pulls out books, snacks, and a lantern. Outside, a car PULLS INTO the driveway.

JASON (CONT’D)
That’s her. I’ve got to go.

Jason grabs the ladder.

KALI
Thank you.
Jason nods and climbs down. Jason runs up to his mom as she exits the car.

MS. SAVAGE
Hi honey! Did you have a good day?

Jason casts a brief glance back at the tree house.

JASON
Yeah. It was great.

Jason and his mom head inside. Kali SIGHS and lays down.

VIC
Are you alright, Ms. Miles?

KALI
No. If the return device is really functional, then there’s only one reason why it’s not working.

(beat)
Something’s wrong with the time machine.

VIC
Don’t fret! You’re mother and father are very capable. They’ll repair it soon.

KALI
I hope you’re right.

(whispers)
But I know you’re not.

EXT. WILLOW AVENUE - NIGHT

A chyron reads, ‘September - 2040.’ PAN OVER the street. Dozens of cop cars and black vans fill the road. A fire truck with FLASHING lights comes into view. The flaming Miles’ residence is shown; an explosion has clearly occurred. STOP ON a charred piece of the time machine.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END