

Last Woman  
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## Last Woman

INT. OLD BARN -- NIGHT

The old barn is decorated for a Halloween party and alive with children who move from one game to another, laughing and teasing each other.

In the shadows, behind the apple bobbing table, a cloaked woman watches a ten year old GIRL who is dressed like a witch. She's the only child who is alone as she moves from game to game.

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

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

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

The young woman in the cloak, DANIELLE, throws back her hood and kneels beside the girl. Her flowing hair and soft features emphasize the concern on her face.

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

Danielle backs towards the shadows but before she can escape, a group of women watching from the other side of the room run after her, shouting.

WOMEN

Witch. Witch.

One MAN, grabs a rope from the lasso game and tackles Danielle before she can retreat.

MAN

We hang witches in God's country.

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

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

DANIELLE  
Leave me alone.

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

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

Now illuminated, we can see theater seats as a thundering director, CARSON MACKAY runs up the stage steps. He stands towering over Danielle.

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

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

DANIELLE  
That's the line. Leave me alone.

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

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

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

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

Carson throws down his copy of the play.

CARSON  
Wrong. I wrote this. You will either say the lines as I wrote them or I'll pick one of the other six students who knew how to beg for this part.

He turns to the actors.

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

He glares at Danielle.

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

INT. OLD BARN -- LATER

Danielle lays on the floor with the rope around her neck.  
 Each time she says her lines, she emphasizes a different  
 word.

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

Now she switches into different voices.

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

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
 Who's there?

The footsteps continue.

CARSON  
 You laugh at my work?

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

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

Danielle looks around.

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

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

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

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

DANIELLE  
Leave me alone.

CARSON  
Better.

He reaches into her cloak.

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

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

DANIELLE  
Leave me alone.

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

He chokes her harder.

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

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

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

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

INT. STAGE RAFTERS -- NIGHT

Danielle regains consciousness. She sits naked on a catwalk and the rope around her neck keeps her head upright. Her hands are tied behind her back and a scarf stuffed in her mouth mutes her SCREAMS.

Carson roughly grabs her and throws her off the catwalk. She drops to another step below. She swings and dangles until her toes make contact with the grated stairs and prevent the rope from choking her.

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

CARSON

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

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

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

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

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

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

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

He roughly pushes her off the step.

CARSON (CONT'D)

I will leave you alone.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Danielle wakes up SCREAMING. She reaches over to the other side of the bed. It is empty. She runs to the doorway.

DANIELLE

Bryan.

She runs to the bedroom window.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Bryan.

She turns and runs to the adjoining bathroom door and pounds on it.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Bryan, Bryan, Bryan.

Footsteps come up the stairs and a rugged, yet handsome man in his mid-thirties, BRYAN FRANKLIN, runs into the room and grabs her.

BRYAN

I'm here.

Danielle collapses into his arms and SOBS.

DANIELLE

I thought you left. I thought you were gone.

He strokes her hair.

BRYAN

I'm here. It's not even seven.

He guides her to the bathroom door and twists the knob. It opens.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Get ready. Coffee is almost done and then we'll all leave together.

Danielle stumbles into the bathroom.

DANIELLE

I thought I was alone.

INT. DANIELLE'S BATHROOM -- DAY

It's a whole different Danielle that is now freshly showered and puts on her makeup. She HUMS and smiles when she spots in the reflection a little girl, CHANDRA, standing behind her.

CHANDRA

You're so pretty, Momma.

She spins around and swoops up the tiny six year old into her arms.

DANIELLE

You are the pretty one.

CHANDRA

No you.

DANIELLE

You.

CHANDRA

You.

They break into "yous" and giggle together until they are out of breath. Recovering, Danielle smooths Chandra's hair.

DANIELLE  
Ready for school?

The little girl pats the side of her mother's face and looks concerned.

CHANDRA  
You had a bad dream, again.

Danielle kisses her little girl before putting her down.

DANIELLE  
Go finish getting ready.

After the little girl leaves, Danielle pushes back her hair to expose terrible scars on her neck. She pats some makeup on the scars, and then turns her head each way to make sure they are concealed.

Satisfied, she then ties a scarf around her neck, again checking to make sure the scars don't show.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
It was only a dream.

INT. DANIELLE'S KITCHEN -- DAY

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

BRYAN  
Everybody ready?

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

DANIELLE  
It's this week?

CHANDRA  
You didn't buy one?

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

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

Chandra bites her lip. She fights off tears.



CHANDRA

This is my week.

It's a standoff. Chandra still has a hand on the cage and both Danielle's and Bryan's hearts are breaking.

DANIELLE

Go ahead and take Mr. Beepers to school.

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You'll make sure her cage shuts every time, right?

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I'll stop by after work and get the new cage. Tell Miss Angie that I'll bring it in tomorrow.

Bryan grabs her hand.

BRYAN

You sure? I could cancel the Hendrick install, pick you up early and we could both...

Danielle cuts him off.

DANIELLE

I'm fine. After I snag the UniBank account this morning, I'll take off early.

Danielle grabs her briefcase and heads for the garage door.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Last one out is a poopy diaper.

CHANDRA

Last one out is...

She is gone before Chandra can finish her line.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE -- DAY

Danielle pulls up to the security booth. She enters her code and the bar comes up. She doesn't pull her car forward. A guard, SAM, comes up to her window.

SAM  
Third floor?

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE  
Thanks, Sam.

Danielle pulls away.

INT. DANIELLE'S OLD CAR -- DAY

Danielle sits in her car, looking towards the elevator. The door opens and Sam comes towards her car, tipping his hat.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Danielle and Sam exit the parking garage. There is a lovely park with a waterfall. In the distance is a twenty story building.

SAM  
Through the park today?

Danielle takes a step forward and then freezes.

DANIELLE  
It is such a nice day, let's go the long way around.

EXT. OUTSIDE BUILDING -- DAY

Danielle and Sam arrive at the front of the office building.

SAM  
You okay, or do you want me to walk you up?

DANIELLE  
I'm fine. Sorry about the park.

SAM  
Ain't no reason to be ashamed. Parks are a haven for muggers, drug dealers, and plain old nasty little dogs.

Sam pats his big belly.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Won't find me jogging through that crime infested natureland with my allergies.

He opens the door for her.

DANIELLE  
I'd love to go jogging, but you  
know how I'm afraid of dogs.

She kisses him on the cheek.

SAM  
What was that for?

DANIELLE  
Luck.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING SECURITY DOOR -- DAY

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

Danielle stares at the watch on her other wrist. The door CLICKS open.

DANIELLE  
Six seconds.

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Nine seconds.

She sprints to a third door and SPITS at it. It CLICKS open. She turns to her right and looks back at the three doors. They are actually mock-ups positioned at the front of a tastefully decorated conference room.

The handful of bank executives break out into LAUGHTER. One of the bankers, FRANK PRUETT, stands up and examines the door.

FRANK  
You want our employees to spit?

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

DANIELLE  
Fourteen thousand employees -- five  
to eight seconds savings each.

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

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

Danielle shakes her head and takes slow and measured steps to her briefcase. She pulls out a plastic bag and tosses it down the long mahogany table and the LAUGHTER turns to GASPS as the bag passes by each shocked executive.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

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

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

That little bit of DNA tells a company that the employee isn't drunk, doped up, and most importantly -- that the head is still attached to a live body.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

Danielle reaches over and clicks her coffee cup against the coffee cup of the seasoned administrative assistant, EMILY. With her plump exterior and kind eyes, Emily is half surrogate mother and half fierce defender.

DANIELLE

Here's to three million dollars.

EMILY

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

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE

She added an eyeball to the bag.

Emily chokes on her coffee.

EMILY

Where the heck did Crackers get an eyeball? Me and Crackers are going to have a long talk later. That was unethical.

CRACKERS, an amazon woman with bright red hair pops up from behind a photocopier. She has smudges of toner on her face and down her white lab coat.

CRACKERS

I find it unethical for a company to use technology that is ten years old for their security.

Emily jumps.

EMILY

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

DANIELLE

That's what I love about working for Bio-Sec. I feel safe.

CRACKERS

Then you'll love Justin's next project. He says it's five years ahead of its time.

DANIELLE

How come the incredible VP of sales is the last to hear about this stuff? It's like they don't want me to ever sell it.

EMILY

Because there are only three modes of telecommunications; telephone, telegraph and tele-Danielle.

CRACKERS

He was going to tell you all about it at the party tonight. Told me it was his present for you.

Danielle is in a trance. Emily snaps her fingers in front of Danielle's face.

EMILY

Party? Celebration? Drinks at the Black Orchid? Malcolm wants to congratulate the gal who brought in a three million dollar contract.

DANIELLE  
Bryan has to work late tonight.

EMILY  
I can see if my sister can watch  
Chandra.

DANIELLE  
I don't want to go alone.

Danielle looks beseechingly at Emily.

EMILY  
Okay. Let me see what I can do.

Emily picks up the phone.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
All I can say is that the big guy  
doesn't like to toast from paper  
cups during lunch in the conference  
room.

Danielle kisses her on the cheek.

DANIELLE  
Order extra pepperoni on the pizza  
and he'll be fine. If he gets  
pissed -- I'll handle him.

Emily makes a note in her appointment book as Crackers  
returns to her work on the photocopier and Danielle turns  
towards the lab.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
I'm off to see Justin.

CRACKERS  
Good luck trying to get the new  
product information out of him  
early.

EMILY  
We're the only security company  
where nobody can keep a secret.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

The one human is JUSTIN -- a young man who could be a male  
model but his lab coat tells us he's a scientist.

The way he stares at a dry erase board filled with equations tells us that he's both serious and brilliant.

Danielle comes into the room and one of the smallest chimps jumps into her arms.

DANIELLE  
Howdy, Sadie, lady.

She nuzzles the chimp and the chimp returns the affection. Justin jumps and spins around.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Don't worry, just me.

She turns her attention back to Sadie.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Kiss, kiss.

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

Danielle opens a file drawer lined with a baby blanket and tucks little Sadie in.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
You know how the big guy hates them being out of their cages.

JUSTIN  
Almost as much as he hates you feeding them chocolate.

Out from the file cabinet drawer comes a POP and two balls of foil fly across the room.

Justin runs his fingers through his hair as he turns his attention back to the board. Danielle joins him and studies it.

DANIELLE  
This new project. Tell me.

Justin looks around, then pulls her into his office.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
They can understand you?

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

JUSTIN  
I brought you in here to show you  
this.

Justin smiles as he opens his desk drawer and pulls out a paper bag.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
I close the door to protect my  
lunch.

Danielle takes the device from him and studies it.

DANIELLE  
I like the size. Taser?

He shakes his head, no.

JUSTIN  
An electromagnetic pulse.

DANIELLE  
You did it.

She rolls it over in her hand.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Small enough to fit in a police  
officer's pocket. The pulse is  
strong enough to disable an  
attacker -- throw him to the  
ground?

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN  
Half is right. I concentrated the  
pulse to fit in a concealed device  
and the next thing I knew -- I had  
the ultimate personal security  
device.

Justin opens the office door.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Ready to see it in action?

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Sadie spots Danielle and jumps back into her arms. She starts looking through Danielle's pockets.



DANIELLE  
No kiss, kiss. All gone.

While still holding Sadie, Danielle opens her hand with the pulse and turns towards Justin.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Show me what this pulse can do.

Before they can stop her, Sadie takes the device from Danielle and presses it. A FLASH of light and Sadie and Danielle are gone.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Justin runs into his office and picks up the phone. A few minutes later Crackers arrives.

CRACKERS  
This better be good, I've got sixty samples of spit waiting for me and five cranky office people who want their photocopier fixed. Six years of post graduate study for this?

JUSTIN  
Danielle pulsed.

CRACKERS  
No way. She's terrified of being alone.

JUSTIN  
Sadie went with her.

CRACKERS  
How could you let her do this? I haven't given her a physical, she hasn't signed any forms, hell, nobody is supposed to know about this until Malcolm tells us it's okay.

Justin runs his hand through his hair.

JUSTIN  
It's worse -- I didn't tell her anything. She has no idea how the pulse works.

CRACKERS  
How much time?

JUSTIN

That's the problem. It was one of the devices in the cabinet. I don't know if I used it before or not.

CRACKERS

Get me all the devices and I'll start testing them and compare against your test logs and we'll know what we're dealing with. At least Sadie is with her.

JUSTIN

Sadie doesn't have the stop watch on. She won't press the pulse again.

CRACKERS

This is bad. Why didn't you tell Danielle?

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN

I wanted to disappear right in front of her -- big impact.

CRACKERS

Impress her, right?

Justin nods.

CRACKERS

I'm sure you've made an impression that she'll never forget -- if she ever materializes.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle still holds Sadie as she walks around the lab. It's empty.

DANIELLE

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

Danielle spins around.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Unless something went wrong.

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

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Nothing. Not one note about this.  
Do we wait? How long?

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

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

Now she turns around and notices that the other cages are empty. She runs to the door to the offices and opens it. Silence.

She runs out of the lab.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

The offices are empty.

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

(jumps up and down, shouting)  
Justin. Justin.

(runs over and picks up a computer monitor and slams it down hard on the desk)

Here! Do you see me?

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

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

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

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

She holds up the pad and walks around the office. At the lab door, she holds it up. Nothing. She throws the pad into the lab in anger.

She turns around and walks over to a window and looks down.

DANIELLE  
Where is everyone?

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

DANIELLE  
Bryan. Chandra.

She jumps up and runs towards the elevator. She presses her id on a scanner and presses the down button on an elevator.

DANIELLE  
No, no. No. It can't be.

EXT. OUTSIDE BUILDING -- DAY

Danielle runs out of the building and towards the park between the building and the parking garage. She freezes and turns towards the sidewalk and runs the long way around to the parking garage.

INT. PARKING GARAGE -- DAY

Danielle frantically pushes the elevator button. Impatient, she looks over at the stairway door. She goes over to the door and places her hand on the door knob. She freezes.

She slowly turns the door knob and opens the door a crack. The elevator beeps as it arrives and she lets go of the door and runs into the elevator.

INT. DANIELLE'S CAR -- DAY

Danielle pulls out of the parking garage. There are no other cars on the street. She pushes the radio on. All that comes out is STATIC. She pushes the speaker on her cell phone.

DANIELLE  
Call Bryan.

The cell phone dials and then RINGS and RINGS.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Call Kids World.

Again it RINGS and RINGS. Danielle speeds up.

EXT. KIDS WORLD PRESCHOOL -- DAY

Danielle runs along the chain link fence that separates the parking lot of a preschool from a play area filled with large plastic climbing toys, swings, and a tree house.

The play area is empty. Danielle runs up to one of the windows and peers in. Empty. She dashes to her car.

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY -- DAY

Danielle pulls on the inner double glass doors. They are locked. She hops over the counter of the empty security desk. She peers into each security monitor. Nobody. She grabs the phone on the desk and presses a few keys.

DANIELLE

Pick up, pick up, pick up.

She slams the phone down and spots the button. She pushes it and the double glass doors click. She hops over the counter and by the time she reaches the doors they click again. She pulls on them and they are locked.

She pounds on the doors.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Bryan, Bryan, Bryan.

SOBBING, she drops to the ground.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

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

She pulls herself up.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Think, think. Achems Razor -- all events being equally likely, it is the simplest that has occurred.

She looks around.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Justin. I never saw him disappear. I never saw the other chimps disappear. Sadie and I disappeared.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

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

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

DANIELLE

No kiss, kiss. How did you get out?

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I said, no kiss, kiss.

Sadie digs into one more of Danielle's pockets, finds the device and presses it. Danielle looks around and the other chimps and Justin are there. Justin runs over to her and helps her up.

JUSTIN

You figured it out.

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

DANIELLE

She figured it out.

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN

She was trained to press it again, but she didn't have her stopwatch on.

Justin hugs Sadie.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Good girl.

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

JUSTIN

You okay?

DANIELLE

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

He guides her to his office.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

He helps her into a chair.

JUSTIN

Let me explain. The pulse is the  
ultimate security device. Not  
being there.

He tries to hand it to her, but she shakes her head. Instead  
he puts it on the desk and she pushes it further away.

DANIELLE

Not being there?

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

What the hell were they doing  
there?

JUSTIN

Exactly. They could have been  
carrying a gun or pepper spray.

He takes the device and tries again to hand it to her. She  
shakes her head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

But not being there would have been  
better. I push this and I  
disappear.

DANIELLE

To where?

JUSTIN

Here. The pulse suspends my  
energy. It's almost like I'm  
broadcasting at another frequency.

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

Matter that we can see because we  
have the same energy. The pulse  
changes that.

DANIELLE

Have you proven that?

His phone BUZZES and they both look at the display.

JUSTIN

Malcolm waits for no one.

She gets up and places a hand on the doorknob.

DANIELLE

When you're done with him, I want  
to see your notes, the research  
docs, trials.

JUSTIN

I'll check with him. He's  
tightened up access to this  
project.

DANIELLE

You made me disappear and unless  
you want me to make your funding,  
your reputation, and your skinny  
bod disappear, get me that access.

The phone BUZZES again and Justin dashes out.

INT. MALCOLM'S OFFICE -- DAY

MALCOLM, a tall imposing man, sits at his desk looking out a  
large window while Justin paces back and forth.

JUSTIN

This isn't a good time.

MALCOLM

I didn't call you in here to  
discuss your schedule. It's about  
Danielle.

Justin's jaw drops.



MALCOLM (CONT'D)

She made the sale today. We have the funds to start human trials of the pulse device.

JUSTIN

I'll advertise for volunteers.

Malcolm shakes his head.

MALCOLM

I want this contained. Bio-Sec employees only. Level six and above.

JUSTIN

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

MALCOLM

I want new security statements signed, physicals.

Justin nods and walks towards the door.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

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

INT. DANIELLE'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle hangs up the phone as Justin comes into the office.

DANIELLE

Thanks to you, both my husband and daughter think I'm crazy calling in the middle of the day just to hear the sound of their voices.

Justin tosses a piece of paper on the desk.

JUSTIN

Your login. We need to talk.

Danielle grabs it and puts it in her pocket as she stops Justin from sitting down.

DANIELLE

We need not to be late for my party.

INT. BIO-SEC CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The conference room is packed with celebrating employees, eating pizza and drinking beer. Malcolm makes a toast.

MALCOLM

Here's to a woman that knows fear  
sells.

The group turns towards Danielle and mutter some "here, heres" as they raise their cups and drink.

Danielle moves over to a table where Emily hands out pizza. Danielle takes a couple slices as she glances over at Justin who sits alone in the corner.

DANIELLE

Hawaiian, my favorite.

EMILY

The best for our girl.

DANIELLE

Can I get a couple of Malcolm's  
pepperoni for Justin?

EMILY

Pepperoni? You're right, Malcolm  
loves that. I should have got him  
some.

Danielle takes two plates and joins a serious Justin who studies a notepad.

DANIELLE

Poor Emily. She just had a senior  
moment.

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

Security. Not nice locking me out  
of this. What happened to our  
agreement?

Justin drops his head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I can't believe I did that to you --  
of all people.

DANIELLE

If I hadn't taken Sadie with me, I might never have figured it out.

JUSTIN

You? No way. First, you never would have pushed the device. Second, you would have eventually cracked the security on the server.

DANIELLE

Well, trust me, that won't happen again. I'm not even going to touch it and I'll get Crackers to make me a dummy one to show clients when it's time to sell it.

JUSTIN

Think I can change your mind?

DANIELLE

I don't see any need to carry around a live one of those and I'll get one of the first test group to do my demos.

JUSTIN

I meant about it happening again. Malcolm wants level six and above in the test group.

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

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

Danielle jumps up and spills her pizza.

DANIELLE

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

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

JUSTIN

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

Danielle pulls her hand back and gets up.

DANIELLE  
You have no idea how I feel.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle undresses as Bryan sits at a desk in the corner, working on a laptop.

BRYAN  
It's unbelievable.

DANIELLE  
But not impossible. The pulse causes every molecule in your body to be set at a different frequency. If anybody is there, they can't see you -- can't feel you.

Bryan turns around and faces her.

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

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

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

DANIELLE  
This device could make us rich.

BRYAN  
You're not thinking of doing this, are you?

DANIELLE  
Sure, I was terrified, but I looked at Justin's research and the pulse is harmless in theory.

BRYAN  
You can't be serious? You can't do this.

His laptop BEEPS and he turns his attention back to the work he was doing. Danielle slips on some jeans and a sweatshirt and leaves the room.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

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

DANIELLE  
Your letters? Is that a "T?"

Chandra nods.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
That looks like a lot of homework  
for preschool.

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

Danielle freezes.

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

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

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

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

Danielle shakes her head.

DANIELLE  
He has to upgrade a computer system  
tonight. I'll write a note to Miss  
Angie.

Chandra tosses her pencil.

CHANDRA  
Why can't you go get it?

DANIELLE  
You know Momma doesn't like to go  
out at night.

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

DANIELLE  
That's not fair.

CHANDRA  
You never want to go anywhere.  
Miss Angie said...

Chandra bites her lip.

DANIELLE  
What?

CHANDRA  
Nothing.

EXT. PET STORE -- NIGHT

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

INT. PET STORE -- NIGHT

The door BUZZES as Danielle enters the store. The animals in various cages get excited and SCREECH.

Danielle spots the empty cage that she wants and grabs it and puts it on the front counter.

DANIELLE  
Hello?

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Excuse me?

The door buzzes and Danielle jumps.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Hello?

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

She SHRIEKS. As she spins around she hits a stack of pet food with the cage and the stack crashes to the floor. She backs up the aisle towards the counter.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Is there anyone here?

As she reaches the counter. She pulls out some cash and lays it on the counter. The door BUZZES again. She backs up against the back door and into the door alarm.

It trips and ALARMS. She grabs the cage tightly and races down the aisle and out the front door.

EXT. PET STORE -- NIGHT

As she runs to her car, she digs into her purse and pulls out her keys and a taser. She fumbles with the keys and drops them. A MAN comes up behind her and touches her arm.

MAN  
You okay?

She SCREAMS, spins around and shocks him with the taser.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT -- NIGHT

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

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

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

DANIELLE  
He scared me.

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

She reaches for her taser.

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

## DETECTIVE

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

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

## INT. THERAPIST OFFICE -- DAY

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

## MEGAN

I don't know what is wrong with me.

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

## DANIELLE

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

## MEGAN

Doesn't mean we can't look hot.

Megan sits up as Danielle lets go of Megan's feet.

## MEGAN (CONT'D)

It does mean that what happened in college shouldn't control us.

Megan slips on her heels and grabs a cane.

## MEGAN (CONT'D)

Sure I was stupid enough to jump off a roof, but it's not going to stop me from wearing heels.

She struggles to move over to her desk with her cane. Danielle adjusts her scarf.

## DANIELLE

That's all I'm trying to do -- take back control of my life.

## MEGAN

He's locked up and you're still terrified of being alone.

(grabs her notepad)

Maybe it's not being alone that frightens you.



DANIELLE  
I've tried going places alone, but  
look what happened.

MEGAN  
Exactly. You were fine in that  
store until the door buzzer rang.

DANIELLE  
I didn't think I was alone anymore.

MEGAN  
Exactly. That night in the  
theater, you begged him to leave  
you alone. You think you never  
want to be alone, but it's what you  
need.

DANIELLE  
To be left alone.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
This one?

JUSTIN  
Non-disclosure.

DANIELLE  
I have an N-D-A on file.

JUSTIN  
You have a non-disclosure for what  
happens when you're here and in  
this form.

Danielle sinks back into her chair.

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

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

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

DANIELLE

Kiss, kiss.

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

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

A stop watch?

JUSTIN

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

Danielle GASPS.

DANIELLE

How long was I gone?

JUSTIN

Long enough to scare me to death.

Danielle picks up a small item.

DANIELLE

A camera?

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

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

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

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Spit it out.

Sadie shakes her head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Look what you've done to her.  
Addicted to chocolate and foil.

Danielle glances at the clock.

DANIELLE  
Let's start this after the meeting.

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN  
I don't want to get off schedule.

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

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Pulse.

Sadie pushes the device and disappears with a FLASH.

INT. BIO-SEC CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

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

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

MALCOLM  
Do you have the latest tolerance tests?

Danielle nods.

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

Frank leans back and laughs.

FRANK  
Happy to oblige. Takes quite a person to sell spit.

Malcolm turns to Justin.

MALCOLM  
Where's the schedule on the device?

JUSTIN  
Two weeks.

DANIELLE  
Two weeks? The device?

She freezes and then looks over at Frank.

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

JUSTIN  
Right on track. Medical devices require a ten year equivalent or four million cycle test. That would mean eight months of trials, but legal has determined that we don't need FDA approval.

MALCOLM  
Eight months down to two weeks. I like it.

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

Justin nods.

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

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

DANIELLE  
Military?

She turns to Justin, but Frank gets up and smiles.

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

(winks at Malcolm)  
... and the right contacts in the defense industry.

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

FRANK

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

DANIELLE

What about public safety?

MALCOLM

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

FRANK

Two weeks from now, we have a meeting with a group of people who can make all of us extremely rich.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Justin catches Danielle as she leaves the conference room.

JUSTIN

I'm sorry. Malcolm didn't want you to know.

DANIELLE

The military? We all agreed never to make a weapon. Protection for the police, security for the public.

(pulls her arm away)

I need to talk to Crackers.

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

The best for mankind? Putting the pulse into the hands of the government who makes a career of lying to us isn't an improvement.

INT. CRACKER'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

DANIELLE

Think how much this device will help prevent mugging and rapes -- it will save police officers. It isn't fair to keep it top secret.

CRACKERS

You're talking fair to the person who talked you into using body parts to sell security systems? I had my ethics surgically removed years ago when they put this steel plate in my head.

(enters some information into a PDA)

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

DANIELLE

Any risks?

CRACKERS

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

DANIELLE

Healthier?

Cracker nods.

CRACKERS

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

(looks at her watch)

She should be back, go see for yourself.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
What's happening?

JUSTIN  
It started when Sadie came back.

Danielle looks around.

DANIELLE  
Sadie?

JUSTIN  
In there.

Danielle spots Sadie sitting on the file cabinet in Justin's office. She runs towards the door.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
Kiss, kiss, sweet Sadie.

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

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

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

JUSTIN  
She's out. Good hit.

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

DANIELLE  
This ever happen before?

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

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

INT. MALCOLM'S OFFICE -- DAY

Frank sits across from Malcolm.

FRANK  
Run the numbers again.

MALCOLM  
I've done it three times. We sell  
this to the Department of Defense  
and we make ten times what the CIA  
will pay.

FRANK  
That hasn't been determined yet.

MALCOLM  
It's simple economics. Fifty  
thousand troops armed with the  
device compared to fifty or so  
operatives in the field.

FRANK  
No way a yahoo from Iowa is going  
to grasp how this device works.

MALCOLM  
Danielle sold spit to you. I think  
she can demonstrate how vital it  
would be to move a small platoon  
out of harm's way in Iraq. We're  
talking about saving the lives of  
soldiers.

FRANK  
I'm talking about saving countries.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

CRACKERS  
What are you looking for?

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



CRACKERS

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

DANIELLE

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

CRACKERS

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

DANIELLE

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

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

CRACKERS

I think I know the reason for the weight gain.

Cracker closes the cage door.

CRACKERS

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

DANIELLE

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

CRACKERS

Look at her.

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

DANIELLE  
Should I do it?

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

DANIELLE  
Then the answer is yes.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- LATER

Danielle sits on the desk with a stop watch around her neck. Justin is busy fastening a small camera to her arm.

DANIELLE  
Are you going to give me a banana too?

JUSTIN  
You're a scientist -- or you were once before you started selling spit. You know how important the control is.

DANIELLE  
You did all this?

JUSTIN  
Of course. It's easy to get caught up with the wonder of emptiness. The stop watch is a reminder to pulse. Read it one more time.

Danielle picks up a sheet of paper.

DANIELLE  
Do not try to change the physical world. Do not leave behind any items. What if I have to go to the bathroom?

JUSTIN  
Hold it. We haven't tried that yet.

DANIELLE  
Do not enter anything into the computer. Return to the same place where you pulsed.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Do not make any phone calls. What a bummer. I thought I could make a ton of long distance calls and not be billed.

JUSTIN

What did Bryan think about all this?

She continues reading.

DANIELLE

Do not drink anything? What exactly did you think I was going to do -- make myself a latte?

JUSTIN

You didn't tell him?

Danielle shakes her head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Nothing? No goodbye, Honey, I'll be home and human again by six?

DANIELLE

He'd be worried.

JUSTIN

He's going to be pissed.

DANIELLE

I don't tell him everything I do all day and neither does he.

JUSTIN

I think when you change into another energy state he'd like a note or something.

Justin hands her the device and takes the paper that she's been reading and sets it down.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sure you don't want to call him?

Danielle shakes her head.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Press it when you're ready.

DANIELLE

With Bryan it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission.

She presses it and with a FLASH, she is gone.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
Not so bad this time.

She looks at the stop watch.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Twenty-nine minutes. What to do?

Danielle sits down at Emily's desk.

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

Danielle flips through an appointment book.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
That's weird.

She flips back and forth, puzzled until the elevator BINGS. She walks over to the elevator as it opens. She sticks her head inside. Nobody there.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Weird.

She then steps inside.

INT. ELEVATOR -- DAY

She looks at the panel. No floors are lit. The doors close. She presses the open door button. Nothing. Next she presses the number 5 and the elevator moves.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR -- DAY

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

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

She presses the up button repeatedly.

DANIELLE  
Come on.

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

She looks back towards the elevator.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Finally.

She runs back and presses the down button again repeatedly. The doors open.

Standing in the elevator is Carson, the man who raped her in college.

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

INT. BIO-SEC STAIRWELL -- DAY

Danielle grips the handrail tightly with one hand and starts up the stairs. The alarm on her wrist watch ALARMS. She drops the device. As she leans down to pick it up the stairwell door opens behind her. She SCREAMS and grabs the handrail.

DANIELLE

Leave me alone.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Justin paces back and forth holding Sadie.

JUSTIN

She's late.

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

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I should have never talked her into going.

INT. BIO-SEC STAIRWELL -- DAY

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

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

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

Danielle runs to the cabinet holding the tranquilizer guns. Justin runs after her, and catches her before she can open the door.

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

This wasn't just anybody.

(pulling away from Justin)

This was the man who almost killed me. A man who is supposed to be in prison. A man who I saw and who saw me. If he wasn't there and it was my imagination like you insist how did the elevator get to our floor?

JUSTIN

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

He manages to pull her away from the cabinet.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

They move over towards the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR -- DAY

He guides her into the elevator.

JUSTIN

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

The door closes.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

See?

DANIELLE

Why did it take me to the fifth floor?

JUSTIN

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

(pressing the number 5. The elevator moves)  
On the fifth floor, you got off and the elevator doors closed automatically and returned to the eighth floor. If you had pressed the first floor and went down, you could have used the finger recognition system on the outside of the elevators, and then pressed eight.

Justin reaches over and presses the 1 button.

JUSTIN

Let's get you some fresh air.

INT. STARBUCKS -- DAY

Danielle and Justin move from the counter to an open table. Danielle takes a sip of her latte.

DANIELLE

Let's just suppose for a moment that I'm not crazy.

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

Or he was here when I pulsed -- like Sadie -- he went with me.

JUSTIN

Again, a man got into my laboratory undetected and stayed hidden until you pressed the device.

DANIELLE

There is another possibility. I went to a parallel universe.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

An identical energy state that differs by one quantum transition.

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

I just did. You have to admit that it's as possible as your theory of altered energy.

Justin rubs his chin.

DANIELLE

There's more. I checked the computer monitor that I picked up the first time I pulsed by mistake. It hadn't been moved. The dust ring is the same.

JUSTIN

That only proves my theory that it's impossible to change this matter while in an altered state.

DANIELLE

What about Carson?

JUSTIN

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

Danielle shakes her head as she gets up to leave.

DANIELLE

There's not going to be another trip.

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

Danielle puts a Starbucks coffee cup on Emily's desk.

EMILY

What did you do?

DANIELLE

Do I need a reason to bring my favorite person her favorite mocha with nutmeg and cinnamon?



EMILY

Let's see, mochas have in the past brought you forgiveness for ruining my umbrella, my good leather gloves and one of my best heels during your demos.

(takes a sip)

Hmm... whatever you did -- it was worth it.

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

DANIELLE

I was looking through this. I'm sorry.

EMILY

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

DANIELLE

Do you always write in pen?

Emily nods.

EMILY

What were you looking for?

DANIELLE

It's silly. Forget it.

EMILY

You know this whole place depends on this little book. It's not just an appointment book, it's a journal. Look at yesterday -- I wrote down that Frank was here and wearing a black Armani suit.

(leans forwards)

See this code?

(flips back one page)

I rated the suit on a scale of one to ten and estimate the cost. This over here is Malcolm's mood that day and over here is how many times Crackers made me mad.

DANIELLE

This day. The day I made the big sale.

(flips back another page)

I saw you write down pepperoni  
pizza for the party.

Emily turns it around and studies it.

EMILY

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

DANIELLE

It's stupid. It's nothing.

Emily takes another slow sip of the mocha.

EMILY

If it will get me more mochas, I'll  
write pepperoni on every page of  
this book.

INT. DANIELLE'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle takes some papers from the printer as Justin comes  
in and drops down into a chair.

JUSTIN

You're right. It's entirely  
possible. You might have been in a  
parallel universe.

Danielle pushes the papers over to Justin.

DANIELLE

At least he's not there.

Justin scans the printouts.

JUSTIN

He directs a prison theatrical  
group?

DANIELLE

Still serving twenty five years for  
attempted murder, rape, assault...

(pointing to the second page)  
... look at his picture.

JUSTIN

Most people don't age well in  
prison.

DANIELLE

Exactly. I saw a younger looking Carson -- not an old man with gray hair and possibly no teeth.

JUSTIN

Good. That threat is gone and I've figured out a few ways to test your parallel universe theory.

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

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

It's not that simple.

DANIELLE

Sure it is and it's the easiest explanation.

JUSTIN

Why then is it empty?

DANIELLE

I don't know but I want to find out.

JUSTIN

Then you'll go again?

Danielle studies the papers about Carson being in prison.

DANIELLE

I'll think about it.

JUSTIN

Logic dictates that the absence of a no is in fact a yes.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

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

CHANDRA  
I see you, Momma.

Danielle comes in and ruffles Chandra's hair.

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

Chandra points to the computer monitor.

CHANDRA  
Your reflection.

Danielle kisses her on the top of her head.

DANIELLE  
Reflection? You are your father's  
child. I guess a little of me is  
in there too.

Danielle SNIFFS the top of her head.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Coconut?

Chandra nods.

CHANDRA  
I love the shampoo they use.

DANIELLE  
You got a haircut today?

CHANDRA  
Daddy took me after school.

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

Chandra shrugs.

CHANDRA  
You're not coming anyway.

Danielle turns Chandra around.

DANIELLE  
Why do you say that?

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

(turns back to her homework)

Nevermind. Petra's mom said she'd take me.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle finds Bryan working on the back of the television. She stands over him.

BRYAN  
Cable came loose again.

DANIELLE  
How come you took her for a haircut?

BRYAN  
It was in my Outlook calendar.

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

Bryan comes out from behind the television.

BRYAN  
What is this all about?

Danielle sinks down on the bed.

DANIELLE  
The pulse today was hard.

BRYAN  
You tested that thing? What were you thinking?

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

BRYAN  
I can't let you do this.

DANIELLE  
Let?

BRYAN  
You know what I mean.

DANIELLE

You mean that you like me this way. A strong powerful woman that makes a ton of money so we can live in the nicest house, drive the best car and have big screen TVs with cable. But a woman that needs you to drive me to work, take me to get groceries -- a frightened freak who can't even go to a mall alone.

Danielle storms out of the room.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle rubs Megan's feet.

DANIELLE

I now know it wasn't him -- it was the thought of going into the stairwell that made me see him.

MEGAN

How is that?

DANIELLE

The steps, the handrail - being alone. I felt my throat tighten -- there was no where to go. I was trapped. I turned back to the elevator and there he was.

MEGAN

You haven't seen him before?

DANIELLE

In my nightmares, and a day doesn't go by that I don't relive that night.

MEGAN

Eight years. It's time to address your fears. Get a person who is afraid of flying up in a plane. Toss the water fearing into the deep end.

Danielle pulls out a flyer and hands it to Megan.

MEGAN

Children's Theater?

DANIELLE

They had auditions last week at Chandra's school.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Bryan didn't tell me about it. He didn't think she'd get a part, but she's in their next production. They need parents to make the set decorations.

MEGAN

A theater. That qualifies as the deep end.

DANIELLE

I haven't been in one since it happened.

MEGAN

I'll help you.

DANIELLE

Address my fears?

MEGAN

Make the sets, you're two quarts low on artistic skills.

DANIELLE

That man has already taken too much of my life. I'm taking control again.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Justin reads a sheet of paper.

JUSTIN

This wasn't the deal.

DANIELLE

New rules. If I'm going to test your pulse, I want some new rules. There has to be something in it for Danielle.

JUSTIN

Becoming a millionaire isn't enough?

Danielle gets up.

DANIELLE

I'm sure Jim and Daniel are doing a great job for you. Have you thought about having Daniel get a sex change operation?

JUSTIN

You know I need a female in the test group, but this list is ridiculous. You want to pulse in one place and return in another? How the heck am I going to test that?

DANIELLE

It's simple. Train Sadie to go out the stairwell and down a floor and then pulse. Wait for her down there.

JUSTIN

Why do you need to change the rules?

DANIELLE

If this is going to be sold, we need to allow the users to pulse from one spot, but pulse back from another location. Think of it -- a platoon is trapped inside of a warehouse. They pulse, then hoof it back to the barracks.

Justin continues reading.

JUSTIN

You want to carry one? No way. Too many risks. All of this is too risky. Violates all security precautions, the NDA, your contract, my contract...

DANIELLE

I'm not going to use it -- it's a fringe benefit of being your token test female guinea pig.

Danielle gets up and points to the list.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

This is the deal.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle comes into the bedroom and there is a single candle burning. Bryan lays on the bed with his head propped up on one elbow. Danielle sits cautiously on the side of the bed.

DANIELLE

Your E-mail said "sure to delight."  
You're still in your clothes.



Bryan reaches over to the night stand and grabs a brochure.

BRYAN  
This is your surprise.

Danielle studies the brochure.

DANIELLE  
A new car?

BRYAN  
If you're going to be going out on  
your own, we're going to need a  
more dependable second car.

Danielle flips through the pages.

BRYAN (CONT'D)  
Just like the one you had when I  
met you. It's the retro look. I  
got a bonus for the Hendrick job.  
I only need to know if you want the  
cloth or leather interior.

Danielle sets the brochure down and leans over close to  
Bryan. She starts to unbutton his shirt.

DANIELLE  
The cloth is easier to take care  
of, cooler in summer and cooler in  
winter.

She undoes his belt.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
But the leather is sensual, lasts  
forever, and feels like....

INT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

Justin comes out of the stairway door holding Sadie's hand.  
Danielle crosses the office and Sadie jumps into her arms.

JUSTIN  
Third successful run.

DANIELLE  
Good girl. Kiss, kiss.

Sadie starts grooming Danielle's hair.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Did you hear me? Kiss, kiss.

Sadie kisses Danielle on the cheek. Danielle pulls a Hershey's kiss from her pocket. Sadie takes it and studies it.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Kiss, kiss.

Danielle helps her unwrap it and Sadie eats the chocolate, leaving the wrapper neatly in Danielle's hand.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You've been teaching her more than a new location. I'm impressed.

JUSTIN

I think the bite was a way to tell us that she's growing up. Doesn't wanted to be treated like a baby.

DANIELLE

I know how she feels. Let's get going.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle stands with a stop watch around her neck. She adjusts the camera on her arm.

JUSTIN

Exactly where?

DANIELLE

The park. Ladies restroom.

JUSTIN

I don't like this. What if someone sees you?

DANIELLE

In a bathroom stall?

JUSTIN

It could be occupied.

DANIELLE

Nobody uses those bathrooms. I had Sam go in earlier and put up an "out of order" sign. You're going to stand outside and watch. Gee -- you want me to call in the National Guard to make sure?

He hands her the pulse.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

The deal?

He hands her a second pulse device.

JUSTIN

Don't leave it anywhere.

She reaches over and opens a briefcase and puts the second device in it.

DANIELLE

Happy?

With a FLASH, Danielle pulses out.

INT. STARBUCKS -- DAY

Danielle stands behind the latte machine in an empty Starbucks. She pushes back a strand of hair that crosses her sweaty face.

DANIELLE

I swear these instructions are in French.

She looks closer at the machine.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Continue to apply steam until the milk completely foams.

She releases a handle. Her cup fills. A smile comes across her face as she takes a tiny sip. She squints and moves closer.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Steam can cause severe burns. Open the valve on the machine's steam tube slowly. What valve?

Steam rises as Danielle jumps back.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Damn. Even a degree in Physics doesn't help.

Danielle reaches into her pocket and pulls out some cash.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Rule seven broken.

She lays the cash on the counter and walks out of the store.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Danielle stands at the edge of the park. She takes in a deep breath of air as she continues into the park along the sidewalk.

Suddenly, she is like a small child. She sets down the latte on a park bench and runs to the swings.

Higher and higher she pumps and then jumps out of the swing into the sand, laughing. Her stop watch goes off and she runs to the restroom.

INT. PARK RESTROOMS -- DAY

Danielle comes out of a stall and straightens her hair in a mirror.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Danielle and Justin walk through the park. Danielle stops at a bench.

DANIELLE  
I left it right here.

JUSTIN  
How does that prove there is a parallel universe?

DANIELLE  
Simple. Where else could it be?

JUSTIN  
Anybody could have taken it.

She points to the clean bench.

DANIELLE  
They also cleaned up where I spilled some?

He rubs his hand along the bench seat and then looks around.

JUSTIN  
You're sure this was the bench?

DANIELLE  
Positive.

She opens her hand. There is a wad of toilet paper.

JUSTIN  
Gross.

DANIELLE

I brought it back. More proof. It means I traveled instead of materializing. In the parallel world, I tore off this piece, making a "V" in the role. After I pulsed, I looked at the roll -- no "V." That roll is in the parallel world. I can't wait to pulse tomorrow. I'm going to shop for shoes and check out that new club on fourth.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER HOUSE -- NIGHT

A small group of PARENTS have started to gather on the stage while more come in the door. Megan and Danielle study each person as they arrive.

MEGAN

Are you okay?

Danielle nods as she glances up to the catwalk. From across the stage comes a stern woman, KIMBERLY, who is about fifty.

KIMBERLY

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

Kimberly digs into the satchel she carries.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

This season is special for me.

She starts handing out some color drawings.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

We're doing a short play called "Cats, Kittens, and Carrots." As a special treat, my mentor and the playwright will be here during our season and hopefully he'll direct your children on opening night.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Danielle and Megan walk out to her car.

MEGAN

I was wrong.

DANIELLE  
Exactly. I painted more backdrops  
than anybody. I was fine.

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

Danielle freezes.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Did you hear something?

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

MEGAN  
That's it?

Danielle nods.

MEGAN (CONT'D)  
We would both go?

DANIELLE  
If I grab you before I press the  
button.

MEGAN  
Way cool.

Danielle looks around, frightened.

MEGAN (CONT'D)  
That would be the plan, right?  
You'd grab onto me?

DANIELLE  
Sure.

She studies her friend.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
You're not afraid, you're excited.

MEGAN  
Of course. I already know what's  
out there and I'm not afraid of  
anything they can bring on. Look  
at us. We're in a parking lot with  
others.

Megan gestures toward a few other parents heading towards  
their cars.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Busy street over there. My car is about five steps away and I have a remote. Look around -- we can see anyone coming before we could get to my car. For a scientist, your fear in this situation has no logic. Especially when you've got a pulse in your hand. I on the other hand have never been to a parallel universe. That's exciting.

DANIELLE

Shhh -- you're not supposed to know.

MEGAN

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

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

DANIELLE

You're right. I have nothing to fear.

From the corner of the theater building a man steps from the shadows. After Megan unlocks the car with a CLICK, Danielle opens the door. She freezes when she spots the man.

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

INT. MEGAN'S CAR -- NIGHT

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

MEGAN

Puff.

Megan turns around.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You okay, Boy?

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

MEGAN (CONT'D)

I told you to stay in the back seat.

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

MEGAN (CONT'D)  
He's okay. No harm done.

Danielle looks out the windshield. The parking lot is now empty and there is no man standing by the building. Danielle recovers and puts out her arms.

DANIELLE  
Here, Puff. I'm sorry.

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

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

Megan puts the car in gear.

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

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

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

DANIELLE  
First time she's gone to bed before I got home.

Danielle smiles, turns and kisses Bryan.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
I got home. Hear that? I was out tonight and I came home alone.

BRYAN  
With Megan.

DANIELLE  
But dropped off. I even came in the house alone. I went to a theater-- hear that? A theater, me. A park too. This has been the best day of my life.

He pulls her into the bedroom.



INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle undresses while Bryan watches her from the bed.

BRYAN  
I should have stopped you.

DANIELLE  
The pulse? The theater?

BRYAN  
Stopped you from undressing, but I  
like watching.

He comes up behind her.

BRYAN (CONT'D)  
You need to put something on --  
your perfect day is going to get  
better.

DANIELLE  
It's here?

Danielle grabs a robe and runs down the stairs.

INT. DANIELLE'S GARAGE -- NIGHT

Danielle SHRIEKS when she spots the car.

DANIELLE  
It's perfect.

She runs around the car to the rider's side, but then stops when Bryan holds up the keys. She moves back over to the driver's side and takes the keys.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
My car.

She throws her arms around him and kisses him.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Thank you. I love it.

He opens the door for her. She stops.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Leather?

Bryan smiles.

BRYAN

They found one about fifty miles away. All they had on the lot were cloth.

DANIELLE

I wanted cloth.

He shakes his head.

BRYAN

Leather. You said it would last longer and if Chandra spilled something...

DANIELLE

... with cloth I could shampoo it out. Leather would get ruined. Remember?

Bryan shakes his head.

BRYAN

You circled it on the brochure.

Bryan walks over to the other side and opens the door and pulls a brochure out of the glove box. He brings it over to her.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

See, you circled leather. Tan leather.

Danielle looks at it.

DANIELLE

You must have gotten another brochure -- or erased my notes?

She studies it.

BRYAN

Look at that list.

DANIELLE

CD changer, red first choice, then blue -- it's my handwriting, but...

He pulls her close and strokes her hair.

BRYAN

... you're excited, it's late, it's been a big day. If you want cloth, I'll exchange it tomorrow.

DANIELLE

This isn't about the seats -- it's you. You're trying to control me.

She tosses the keys on the seats and goes into the house.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle paces back and forth while Megan lays on the couch.

DANIELLE

Could he be trying to make me think I'm crazy?

MEGAN

Maybe he resents your new found freedom. You two might need some help to work through this phase. I can recommend someone.

DANIELLE

Let me talk to Bryan after work tonight.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle comes back into the laboratory and jumps on the lab table.

DANIELLE

Let's go. Momma needs some new shoes.

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

JUSTIN

I think you need a rest.

Danielle comes closer.

DANIELLE

How come you keep clipping her toenails?

Justin drops the clippers.

JUSTIN

Scratches.

Danielle moves closer.

DANIELLE

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

Justin runs his fingers through his hair. He turns to say something, then turns towards the computer.

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

Danielle puts on the stop watch and grabs a pulse from the counter.

DANIELLE  
Is this mine?

She looks at the device.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Four four nine three?

Justin doesn't look up from the computer,

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Hello? Four four nine three? Is  
that my next device?

Justin nods and continues working. Danielle pulses with a FLASH.

INT. SHOE STORE -- DAY

Danielle sits trying on a large pile of shoes.

DANIELLE  
I think I better try a seven.

She smiles as she jumps up and faces where she was sitting.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
A seven? Be right back.

Danielle giggles as she goes behind the back room curtain. She returns with a stack of shoes.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
I also brought a seven and a half.  
No need to be embarrassed.

Danielle laughs as she sits back down and dives into the pile.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Danielle walks through the park alone. She spots some flowers on a bench. She picks them up and goes back towards the office building.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

She walks around the empty laboratory as the stop watch BEEPS. She reaches into her pocket and presses the device. She looks around, nothing. No Justin, no chimps.

She looks at the device and then hits it on the lab table. Nothing.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle runs into the office and opens Justin's desk. She finds some keys and opens the cabinet. She takes another device and presses it.

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

JUSTIN

What are you doing in here? I thought you were meeting with Crackers.

Danielle looks closely at Justin.

DANIELLE

Are you okay? Losing it at such an early age? I was pulsing? Four four nine three. It was a dud.

Justin turns back to the computer and shakes his head.

JUSTIN

Right here on the log. Thirty forty-two. That's the last one you had.

Danielle pulls the device from her pocket.

DANIELLE

Four four nine three. See?

Justin looks at it and then hands it back.

JUSTIN

I think you need glasses. Thirty forty-two.

Danielle looks at the device and then drops it.

DANIELLE  
Something is wrong.

JUSTIN  
What do you mean?

DANIELLE  
The pulse is changing things,  
changing people, changing the real  
world. When I come back, things  
are different.

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

Danielle holds out some flowers.

DANIELLE  
Before I pulsed, I noticed these  
flowers on a bench and I wondered  
who they belonged to. While in the  
parallel universe they were still  
on the bench, so I picked them up.

Danielle gestures for Justin to come over to the window. She  
points down to the bench.

DANIELLE  
The flowers are still there.

(pointing to the ones in her hand)  
... and they are here.

JUSTIN  
You must be wrong. Different  
flowers.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Danielle runs over to the bench and takes the second set of  
flowers. She runs back towards the office building, but  
freezes when she sees a man watching everyone coming in and  
out of the office building.

INT. PARKING GARAGE -- DAY

Danielle walks over to the security booth. Sam waves and comes out.

SAM

About time you came by to say "Hi."  
Nowadays you just breeze through  
the gate with a little wave for old  
Sam.

DANIELLE

Think you can walk me to the front  
door?

SAM

Quicker to take the elevators.

DANIELLE

Nice day like this, I'd like to go  
in the front door.

She loops her arm in his.

SAM

I've missed you. Some of those  
flowers for me?

EXT. BIO-SEC OFFICES -- DAY

As Sam and Danielle get closer to the office building,  
Danielle stops.

DANIELLE

Have you ever seen that man before?

Sam squints.

SAM

There's about twenty men over  
there. Which one?

DANIELLE

That one. There -- he just stepped  
between the buildings.

SAM

Poor old Sam needs new glasses. I  
didn't see a thing.

They arrive at the front door and he opens it for her.

SAM (CONT'D)

You want me to go look?

Danielle shakes her head.

SAM (CONT'D)  
You're not going to tell the boss  
that I need glasses are you?

DANIELLE  
Not when I need a new brain.

INT. CRACKER'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle sets both bunches of flowers on a lab table.  
Crackers inspects them.

CRACKERS  
They look like ordinary flowers to  
me.

DANIELLE  
Are they identical?

CRACKERS  
You want me to run some tests on  
them?

Danielle nods and Cracker laughs and gives the flowers back  
to Danielle.

CRACKERS  
I was kidding. I don't have the  
time to test flowers.

Danielle picks up the flowers and dumps them into the trash.

DANIELLE  
I'm going crazy.

CRACKERS  
This new contract has all of us on  
edge. I could have sworn that you  
disappeared earlier today. Justin  
is making mistakes with device  
numbers and consumed with toenails.  
It's a little spooky.

She laughs at her joke.

DANIELLE  
Spooky?

CRACKERS  
Spies and all.

(looks at her watch)



Speaking of spies, aren't you late  
for your big meeting?

(logs onto a computer)

CRACKERS (CONT'D)  
Yeah, it's on the daily plan today.  
You, Frank, and Malcolm at three.

Danielle looks at the screen.

DANIELLE  
I'm losing my mind.

CRACKERS  
Aren't we all. That's what  
computers are for.

INT. BIO-SEC CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Malcolm and Frank sit across from Danielle.

DANIELLE  
This agenda says the sixteenth.

MALCOLM  
Frank has done a lot to get us a  
meeting. This is huge.

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

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

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

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

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

Danielle pushes back from the table.

DANIELLE

I'm not sure we're ready. My demos take me months to plan, rehearse.

(turns to Frank)

You remember UniBank. Spitting first, and then the body parts, and finally the facts. First we pulse, then practical applications.

FRANK

These guys are smart. They'll get it. We're not talking about sending them on the pulse -- or even you. In fact you can use the monkey if you're afraid.

DANIELLE

I'm not afraid. It's a last minute thing.

FRANK

We told you about this six days ago.

DANIELLE

No you didn't.

Danielle turns to Malcolm. He nods.

MALCOLM

I sent you an E-mail. You confirmed that you read it.

She freezes for a moment. Malcolm and Frank look at each other and then back at Danielle.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Fine. The sixteenth? I'll be ready.

Danielle quickly leaves.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle works on Justin's computer. The laboratory is empty except for a few chimps in cages. Even Sadie is missing.

Danielle looks up from the computer for a second and SCREAMS when she sees Justin standing across the lab table from her. He's like a zombie, but holding Sadie.

DANIELLE

You scared me.

Justin doesn't say a word, he continues his stare.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Did you pulse?

Nothing. She turns her attention back to the computer.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Do you think they'll grasp this?  
Every conceivable arrangement of  
matter and energy are postulated to  
exist as a separate universe?

Justin comes around and looks at her work on the computer.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Okay, how about I reduce it to ten  
words? There is another world just  
like this one right next to it.

He now cocks his head.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
You're right. Five words or less  
is best. Duplicate worlds exist in  
parallel.

She reaches over and pets Sadie.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
I can't believe he called her a  
monkey. Kiss, kiss.

Sadie reaches over and takes a single Hershey kiss from  
Danielle's pocket.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
I'm going to run this demo plan by  
Crackers, and then we'll practice  
it. I think you'll like it.

INT. CRACKER'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Crackers studies the page in front of her.

CRACKERS  
First Sadie, then you, but standing  
behind them. Incredible. They  
will pee their pants.

DANIELLE  
I'm not sure if I will pulse or  
not. I'm not feeling well and then  
there's Justin.

Crackers looks at Danielle.

CRACKERS

What's wrong?

DANIELLE

He's acting even weirder. Very private and to himself. I tried to access his logs, but my security isn't high enough.

CRACKERS

I meant with you. Your physical yesterday was okay.

DANIELLE

Can't put my finger on it. It's like I'm forgetting stuff.

Crackers opens up a drawer and gives her a device with a little bunny on it.

CRACKERS

For you. If you change your mind just use this one instead. A dummy. Identical to the real thing except for this tiny rabbit I painted on it.

DANIELLE

Rabbit?

CRACKERS

Rabbits are faster than most of their predators. The only reason why they get eaten is because they stop running.

DANIELLE

There is nothing for me to be afraid of -- this is what I do, selling security. I'm good at it.

CRACKERS

You run hard all day long making these big sales but every once and a while I catch you -- frozen like a little bunny.

DANIELLE

You think I'm like a frightened little bunny? That's the reason for drawing a rabbit? To mock me?

Crackers shakes her head.

CRACKERS

A rabbit is the only thing I can draw that still looks like a rabbit when I get done. Dealing with these spooks scares me and I don't want to see you get eaten. Go talk to Justin.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

Danielle stands in the doorway and Justin gestures for her to come in.

DANIELLE

Can we talk?

Justin runs his hand through his hair.

JUSTIN

I know we should, but I'm pretty busy. If we're going to try and pulse in and out fifty to a hundred miles apart, I need to adjust the power.

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

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

(comes around the desk)

I'm not going to say that I'm sorry that it happened.

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

INT. CRACKER'S LABORATORY -- DAY

Danielle runs into Cracker's office.

DANIELLE

UniBank.

CRACKERS

Last week, they increased the tolerance level. I told you that.

DANIELLE  
Last week. Cloth versus Leather.

CRACKERS  
I told you two days ago that the  
last samples failed.

DANIELLE  
Two days ago. Before the last  
pulse. I was going to talk to  
Bryan about going to counseling.

Crackers shakes her head.

CRACKERS  
Counseling? You? You said  
specifically, "not in this  
lifetime." You thought Bryan was  
going to leave you -- it's almost  
like you didn't care.

DANIELLE  
I have to fix things.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

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

DANIELLE  
We need to talk.

BRYAN  
Haven't we said enough?

DANIELLE  
What is going on?

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

DANIELLE  
Quit? Counseling?

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
I'm going crazy.

BRYAN

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

DANIELLE

What are you talking about?

A horn HONKS. Bryan goes over to the window.

BRYAN

There's Megan.

DANIELLE

Megan?

BRYAN

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

The horn HONKS again and Danielle slowly gets up.

DANIELLE

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

Two more HONKS.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Megan. Megan will know.

Danielle runs out of the bedroom.

INT. MEGAN'S CAR -- NIGHT

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

MEGAN

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

DANIELLE

Carson?

MEGAN  
The director? The playwright? Our  
set changes?

Danielle grabs the dash.

DANIELLE  
No, no, no.

Megan slams on the brakes.

MEGAN  
What is it? Another panic attack?

(grabs Danielle's purse)  
Take your pills.

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

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

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

MEGAN  
What is wrong?

Danielle looks over at Megan as she continues running.

DANIELLE  
Your cane!

MEGAN  
I'm so gorgeous that I have to beat  
them off with a stick, but I don't  
need to carry a cane.

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

Megan turns and looks at Danielle.

MEGAN  
How many of those pills did you  
take?

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



MEGAN

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

Danielle runs faster towards the theater.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER -- NIGHT

Danielle runs into the theater.

DANIELLE

Chandra! Chandra!

She spins around and there is Carson. She SCREAMS.

CARSON

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

DANIELLE

You. Where is Chandra?

She grabs him by the neck and starts choking him.

CARSON

Get her off me! All the children are over at Mickey's eating dinner.

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

CARSON

I'll probably have bruises you crazy bitch. I'm already late for joining the children at dinner.

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

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

No, no, no.

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

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

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

CARSON

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

She fumbles in her purse.

CARSON

All if forgiven. I'm sure you're just nervous about Chandra's big night. I have big plans for that beautiful little girl of yours.

DANIELLE

No.

She gets her hand on the pulse, pushes it and with a FLASH she is alone. She pulls the car door closed and drives away.

EXT. MICKEY'S DINER -- NIGHT

Danielle presses the pulse as she runs up to the diner door.

INT. MICKEY'S DINER -- NIGHT

As she runs into the busy fifty's style diner, she almost collides with a WAITRESS.

DANIELLE

Children? Theater group?

The waitress points to a side room.

WAITRESS

That's our meeting room, but it's empty.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Danielle returns to the theater parking lot. Two WOMEN walk to their car. Danielle runs up to them.

DANIELLE

The children? Where?

WOMAN

I don't think any children would want to see what we're performing.

The two LAUGH.

DANIELLE  
Isn't this the children's theater?  
Cat, Kittens, Carrots?

WOMAN  
Pussy would be more like it.

Danielle looks at the marquee and runs back to her car.

INT. DANIELLE'S FOYER -- NIGHT

Danielle runs up the stairs.

INT. CHANDRA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

She freezes when she reaches Chandra's room. It is empty.  
The furniture, clothes, posters -- everything is gone.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

When she enters her bedroom, it looks the same, but she walks  
over and opens a closet and half of the clothes are gone.  
She walks over to the dresser mirror and inspects her neck.  
No scars.

She holds up her hand. Her wedding ring is gone.

She falls exhausted on the bed, SOBBING.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
How long have you known?

JUSTIN  
Sit down.

DANIELLE  
I'm okay.

JUSTIN  
No, sit.

DANIELLE  
You should have told me.

JUSTIN

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

He gets up and starts pacing.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Remember the time she bit me? Then she seemed to see the Hershey kisses for the first time. Now, it's her toenails. I had clipped them -- right before a pulse. They either grew during the last pulse -- or she came from a universe where I hadn't clipped them. I've kept notes, I started reading them every time anyone pulsed. Sadie was the control. I measured everything by her.

DANIELLE

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

JUSTIN

Come look.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

JUSTIN

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

Danielle GASPS.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

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

Danielle looks at Peter who is wearing the stop watch and then back at Sadie who naps in her cage.

DANIELLE  
They switched. Little chimp trick,  
right?

He shakes his head.

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

He gets Sadie from her cage. He puts a stop watch around her neck and gives her a device.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Pulse.

Sadie sticks the device in her mouth and chews on it.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
She's not trained.

DANIELLE  
We saw Sadie. She came back each  
time.

JUSTIN  
That was a different Sadie - she  
came in from another universe. Her  
toenails, anger, the missing foil.  
Each time another universe's Sadie -  
- or Peter. It's in my logs. That  
same day, another file. You came  
in and fed Sadie a Hershey. She  
wouldn't spit out the foil, so I  
picked Peter. Another parallel  
universe was created.

Danielle holds her head and paces around the room.

DANIELLE  
All I know is here and now.

JUSTIN  
Exactly. This is your universe --  
at least until you pulse again.

DANIELLE  
Each time, I'm not returning?

JUSTIN

The parallel universe is not a train track like we thought -- it's more like a spider's web.

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

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

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

DANIELLE

Can I go back?

Justin shakes his head.

JUSTIN

I can't tell. Each decision you make creates another universe.

DANIELLE

Worse than the last.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

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

DANIELLE

You?

CARSON

We still on for lunch?

She looks around.

DANIELLE

How did you get in here?

CARSON

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

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

Darling.

She's terrified. She runs.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

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

JUSTIN  
What is wrong?

Danielle grabs a device.

DANIELLE  
Carson is here. He's in the building. He knows me. I don't know why. I have to get out of here.

She runs to the laboratory and pushes it just as Justin grabs her arm.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

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

DANIELLE  
Why did you come with me?

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

DANIELLE  
Look, I don't have much time. I need to print out all the logs, find Bryan and explain it to him. I need to get Bryan and Chandra back. If he sees all this, he'll understand what happened. He'll see the divorce was a mistake.

JUSTIN  
The computer -- I was doing a search on your name to see if you were divorced or not. I wanted to help.

He slumps down onto his stool.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
It's in the records. You and Bryan. You never met. You're involved in community theater. That guy that was in prison? He runs the theater group.

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

In this universe the rape must have not happened. Someone must have interrupted him. You must have become friends.

Danielle pushes him aside.

DANIELLE

It can't be. I'll search again.

Justin grabs her shoulder.

JUSTIN

It's all my fault. I am so sorry. There is no Chandra.

DANIELLE

I don't believe you. You don't want Bryan and me to get back together. I don't know what happened between us, but I don't feel it. I love Bryan. I want my family back.

She grabs a stack of papers from the printer.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I'm going to fix everything.

EXT. DANIELLE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Danielle pulls up in her car and presses the remote for the garage. It doesn't work. She jumps out of her car and runs to the front door.

The alarm on her wristwatch goes off. She pulls a device out of her purse and presses it. She tries to insert a key in the lock but it doesn't fit. The door opens and a WOMAN looks at Danielle.

WOMAN

Who are you?

DANIELLE

This is my house.

Danielle points to the numbers on the house.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Twelve forty seven. This is where I live.

WOMAN

We bought this house new four years ago.



Danielle pushes past the woman and goes into the house.

INT. DANIELLE'S KITCHEN -- DAY

Danielle looks around the kitchen. She picks up a towel.

DANIELLE  
This isn't mine.

WOMAN  
This whole house isn't yours.

Danielle opens a few drawers.

DANIELLE  
Not mine. Not mine.

The woman backs up towards a phone, picks it up and dials.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
Wait. Look at my driver's license.

Danielle pulls out her wallet and hands it to the woman open to her driver's license photo. The woman balances the phone while looking at the license.

WOMAN  
Danielle Moore. Thirty-seven Fifty-first street. That's downtown.

DANIELLE  
Moore? Let me see.

(takes the wallet back)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
My name is Danielle Franklin.

WOMAN  
(into the phone)  
Intruder.

Danielle looks at the woman and runs towards the front door.

INT. DANIELLE'S CAR -- DAY

Danielle gets inside her car. On the seat next to her is a bunch of flowers. Danielle pulls out the card from an already open envelope.

DANIELLE  
Good luck tonight. Carson.

INT. JUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

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

JUSTIN

Don't.

DANIELLE

Why not? What do I have in this world? A world without Bryan, a world without Chandra. Each world more horrible than the last. I'd rather live alone than suffer anymore.

JUSTIN

Is that what you call it? Suffering?

DANIELLE

It isn't living -- not when I'm alone and he is out there.

Danielle pulls away from Justin and into the laboratory.

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- DAY

As she presses the device, he lunges and throws his arms around her as there is a FLASH.

Danielle and Justin lay on the floor. He helps her up.

DANIELLE

Why? I want to be alone.

JUSTIN

You didn't let me finish.

She tries to hand him the device.

DANIELLE

Use it again. Get out of here. Your world is not ruined.

Justin ignores her and goes over to the computer.

JUSTIN

It worked. I'm gone.

Danielle comes up behind him.

DANIELLE

A chat room?

JUSTIN

I set up an E-mail long ago that would send me a message every day to join a chat room. I was in it, but look -- now I show inactive.

DANIELLE

How can that be?

JUSTIN

Quantum Physics. It's impossible for two objects to occupy the same space at the same time. We're in the next world.

Danielle grabs him by the shoulder.

DANIELLE

So this world -- the empty world -- is actually a conduit to the next world? We can see the next universe before we pulse?

Justin nods.

JUSTIN

We are already in the next world and the pulse brings it into focus. These computers are already there.

DANIELLE

Wait. You said you sent the E-mail from another universe and it's here now?

JUSTIN

We're in a universe that is only a few connections from other universes that we know. Sometimes we go sideways, sometimes forward, but never backwards.

Justin stares at his computer.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Danielle.

She continues typing frantically.

DANIELLE

Don't slow me down. I want to finish this before our time is up. I'm sending Bryan an E-mail explaining everything. It will go to other universes.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

He'll forgive me, we'll get back together. I have to find him.

JUSTIN

You need to look at this.

DANIELLE

It has to work. I know there is a universe where he still loves me and Chandra exists. There -- it's sent.

JUSTIN

Danielle.

She looks over at Justin, he is crying. She runs over to his computer and looks at the screen.

DANIELLE

(Reading from the screen)

Missing for three days, Danielle Franklin is presumed dead. According to her ex-husband, Bryan Franklin, she would never go that long without contacting her daughter.

She turns towards Justin.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

My daughter. Chandra is in that world. The very next world. I can be back with them.

JUSTIN

Didn't you hear me? That Carson must have gotten you. Police have no clues, but fragments of rope were found in your apartment. You were last seen the night of Chandra's dress rehearsal.

DANIELLE

Rope. He did it again.

JUSTIN

Not again. The first rape never happened. This one won't happen either. I'm going with you.

DANIELLE

You can't pulse with me. He's violent and dangerous. He'll kill you too or worse. What if all the development of the pulse dies?

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

No personal safety devices, no protection for our police.

JUSTIN

There will be two of us. We'll be prepared. It's a risk I'm willing to take.

DANIELLE

No it is not. Two objects cannot occupy the same space. I know he has me, but where are you when we pulse into this universe?

JUSTIN

Probably right here. I was in the chat room a few minutes ago.

DANIELLE

You could be in a car -- anywhere. I can't believe how lucky we've been not to cause an accident when we pushed the other Danielles and Justins out of their universe to make room for us.

Justin grabs his head.

JUSTIN

You're right. How did I not see this? When Peter came in, I looked in his cage and he was gone. The other Peter was pushed out.

He turns to the computer.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

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

DANIELLE

They had to suspect him. Bryan knew. I told Megan. He's won this time. Three days of his torture. I'd rather be dead.

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

JUSTIN

No.

DANIELLE

This is my choice.

JUSTIN  
You'll be alone forever. No Bryan,  
No Chandra.

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

DANIELLE  
Alone.

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

INT. JUSTIN'S LABORATORY -- LATER

Danielle looks around at the laboratory. The chimps SCREAM as Carson walks into the room, holding a rope. She backs into the corner. He glances over at a computer.

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

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a device.

CARSON (CONT'D)  
Recognize this?

Danielle's eyes widen in horror.

CARSON (CONT'D)  
You should thank me.

He points to the computer.

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

DANIELLE  
You raped me.

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

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

One of those stupid students came back and talked you into going to dinner with them. A decision that obviously split the universe. You transferred colleges, but my desire for you never subsided. I've followed, I've waited.

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

We ran out of time that night -- but never again.

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

CARSON (CONT'D)

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

He reaches up inside her blouse and caresses her.

CARSON (CONT'D)

When you disappeared from my apartment, I knew you'd be here. You must have pulsed.

He pulls out a device from his pocket.

CARSON (CONT'D)

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

DANIELLE

Chandra.

CARSON

Yes, that beautiful child. She looks so much like her mother. When I followed you to your car that night, I hit you, and drove you to my apartment. I then took the device and used it. Imagine my delight to find the empty world between parallel universes. I went to your work to find out what this device does.

(MORE)

CARSON (CONT'D)

You'd think a security company would have better security -- especially about leaving these out. I've been having some fun, but now it's your turn.

Danielle stares in horror as he pulls out another device.

DANIELLE

Someone must have seen you come in now. They will wonder what you are doing here.

CARSON

Exactly. My time is running out. Our time is running out -- but we will soon be alone where no one can bother us.

He comes close to her again and kisses her.

CARSON (CONT'D)

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

Danielle pulls her hands away from the rope and pushes him, causing her to fall backwards and hang. There is a FLASH and he is gone.

Quickly she gets a hand on the rope and reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small knife. She cuts the rope and drops to the floor.

After gasping for a few minutes, she struggles to get up and dials 911.

Bryan and Justin run into the lab.

BRYAN

Where is he?

DANIELLE

Gone.

Bryan runs to her and pulls her into his arms. Justin inspects her neck.

JUSTIN

That's a bad bruise. It's going to leave a scar.



DANIELLE  
I'm okay with that.

JUSTIN  
Did you?

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE  
He's all alone now.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER -- NIGHT

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

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

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

CHANDRA  
You're so pretty, Momma.

Danielle scoops Chandra into her arms.

DANIELLE  
You are the pretty one.

CHANDRA  
No you.

DANIELLE  
You.

CHANDRA  
You.

They break into "yous" and giggle together until they are out of breath. She sets her down as Kimberly comes in and ushers the children to the curtain opening.

Danielle steps towards the back of the stage and spots Justin watching her. She walks over to him.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)  
You're done being mad at me?

JUSTIN  
First I was so angry with you that it took me a few hours to realize that you took another device out of that drawer.

DANIELLE

I couldn't have you go with me --  
what if he had grabbed you and  
taken you into the empty world?

Justin tosses her a device.

JUSTIN

Your little rubber band trick  
helped create this.

Danielle rolls the device over in her hand.

JUSTIN

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

DANIELLE

A weapon.

JUSTIN

Protection.

DANIELLE

Maybe they'll use Carson for target  
practice. The vision of him  
pressing that dummy device that  
Crackers had made over and over  
gave me the strength to let go of  
the rope.

JUSTIN

How did you know?

DANIELLE

Crackers had put a small rabbit on  
it. I must have left it in the lab  
and Carson picked it up.

JUSTIN

I thought you had chosen to be  
alone. An end to your nightmares.

DANIELLE

I have plenty of them left to  
torment me.

JUSTIN

You're going to be rich and you  
have your family back. Sounds like  
a nightmare to me.

DANIELLE

Are there twenty or thirty  
universes where Bryan and Chandra  
have to live without me? Where is  
Carson in each one?

JUSTIN

What if I develop a pulse that  
takes you to prior universes? You  
could know the answer.

Danielle shakes her head as she hands him the device.

DANIELLE

I'm fine with this world. It's  
time to leave me alone.

She walks alone into the shadows.

FADE OUT: