

Survival of Consciences

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(Work in progress draft)
Sample of first 33 pages

PROPERTY
OF
ALEX BLOCK

FADE IN:

EXT. PRECURSOR SANCTUARY - DAY

In a deep cavern underground lies a hexagon-shaped building, The Sanctuary. A dim, purple glow surges through the computer chip-looking walls.

FOUR SCIENTISTS set up white tents around the Sanctuary.

The logo of a floating island in front of a golden sun marks each tent.

Four giant excavators perfectly line up side-by-side in front of The Sanctuary. An antenna replaces the cockpit of each excavator.

ROBIN PHOENIX (36), wearing a lab coat with padded armor, uses a clipboard to take inventory of the excavators. She has green eyes.

Robin checks over her shoulder. The coast is clear. Quickly, she presses a button on the clipboard.

The clipboard mechanically breaks apart and reforms into a remote control.

Red lights along the excavators' frames glow intensely.

Using the controls, Robin makes two excavators perform a secret handshake with their bucket arms.

MADDIE PHOENIX (38), glowing with health and also wearing a lab coat with padded armor, glares at Robin.

MADDIE

Imagine how the taxpayers would
feel if they saw this.

ROBIN

Something like this.

Robin controls two excavators to high-five.

Maddie shakes her head before snatching the controller from Robin. She makes the excavators resume their initial position; then, the excavator's lights dim to nothing.

MADDIE

You're going to get me fired.

Robin CHUCKLES.

ROBIN
What else is family for?

Maddie SIGHS.

Suddenly, the excavators' red lights illuminate again. Maddie looks at Robin, who shrugs.

Suddenly, an excavator's arm swings at Robin. Maddie pushes Robin into a ditch, saving them both.

The excavators wheel themselves towards the cavern's exit tunnels. At each of the three tunnels, an excavator smashes the dirt ceiling.

Boulders collapse inward, filling the East tunnel: only two left.

In the ditch, Robin pushes Maddie off and spots NOMI BRANIMIRA (30s) on a ledge near an North tunnel.

Nomi wears a black cloak equipped with a radio. She uses a computer tablet that mimics Robin's controller.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
(to Maddie)
Get everyone to safety.

Robin storms after Nomi, but Maddie grabs her wrist.

MADDIE
The plants are not worth it!

Robin yanks her arm away.

ROBIN
This is our only lead.

Maddie hugs Robin before running towards the scientists, cowering under the tents. Maddie signals the scientists to follow her. Then, she leads the charge towards the South tunnel.

Boulders rain down, filling in that tunnel: only one tunnel left and it's guarded by Nomi.

Maddie and the scientists turn back, racing towards the last remaining tunnel; an excavator hacks at its ceiling.

Robin sneaks up the ledge behind Nomi and grabs the computer tablet. They fight over it.

The excavator continues to hack at the ceiling until it partially caves in.

Maddie and the scientists are inches from the tunnel when half of it collapses. However, there is still an open gap big enough for the scientists and Maddie to escape through.

Blocking Robin with her back, Nomi moves the joystick on the tablet forward.

The excavator's bucket arm reaches for a large stalactite above the tunnel.

Robin punches Nomi and swipes the tablet from her.

The bucket arm jerks away from the stalactite.

The scientists run through the tunnel. Maddie stays at the exit, signaling Robin to hurry.

Nomi kicks Robin in the knee.

Robin falls down the ledge to Maddie.

Maddie checks Robin's knee.

Nomi glares down at Robin.

NOMI

I will not let you ruin me!

The excavator's arm smashes into the ceiling, causing the stalactite to fall.

Maddie doesn't notice, but Robin does.

Robin kicks Maddie out of the crash zone.

Maddie watches, horrified, as the stalactite crushes Robin.

EXT. SKYLINE MAIN STREET - DAY

SUPER: "A Few Years Later"

In the heart of a grand town, cobblestone streets front buildings with old Scottish architecture. They have a steampunk yet castle-like appearance.

Clouds roll over chimneys as the buildings slightly bow to the wind. Manicured trees and bushes flourish in and around the buildings and above the sidewalk.

CONVICTS of every size, race, and gender march down the middle of the road between the buildings. At first glance, they look like skeletons with their oversized jumpsuits.

In the middle of the march is the only convict with muscle mass, Robin. Scars cover her face like seams holding her skin together.

The convicts walk past THREE STARVING PEOPLE wearing oversize clothes and lying on the sidewalk.

A TODDLER shakes her FATHER on the ground.

Father doesn't move as Toddler continues to shake him.

EXT. ISLAND TRAIN STATION - DAY

The convicts march through the front doors into the train station.

JAY (50s) leans on a crooked lamp post. He holds a cardboard sign that reads, "Any help appreciated". His suit is two sizes too big for his bony body.

Jay pulls a macaroni necklace from his coat. Hesitantly, he sniffs it hungrily. His jaw slowly opens as the necklace moves closer to his mouth. Suddenly, he shoves the necklace back into his collared shirt.

ELLI (6 months) CRIES.

Jay looks over his shoulder at Elli in a stroller. Quickly, Jay cradles Elli in his arms.

Elli continues CRYING.

Maddie wheels by when she pauses her electronic wheelchair. A lab coat covers her pantsuit, which seems a few sizes too big. Her arms and legs have no muscle like they're only skin tightly wrapped around bone. Some of her hair falls out of her scalp.

A black liquid runs through the electrical components of Maddie's chair.

Maddie fishes a small bag with sunflower seeds painted on it from her backpack and tosses it into the stroller.

The chair wheels Maddie away.

Jay smiles as he holds Elli to his chest and reaches for the seeds.

Another hand swipes the seeds from the stroller.

WOMAN #1 runs off with the bag of seeds. The tail of her expensive dress flaps in the breeze.

Jay kicks his stroller to collide with her legs.

Woman #1 dodges the stroller, but her high heels get stuck in the cracked concrete, causing her to trip.

Ignoring her bloody palms and knees, Woman #1 races to get up.

Jay sets Elli in the stroller and grabs the bag of seeds.

Woman #1 tightly holds the bag.

WOMAN #1

We need to plant them.

JAY

We'll all starve before they grow!

WOMAN #1

We need to try!

Woman #1 and Jay pull the bag in opposite directions when RIP! Seeds litter the ground. Jay and Woman #1 fall back.

The seeds attract the three Starving People, Father, and Toddler. They run through the trees.

The images of the trees glitch for a few seconds.

Jay lies on the ground motionless as the starving people and Toddler eat the seeds off his suit.

Father sees a macaroni necklace peek out of Jay's suit. Father grasps the necklace and invites his Toddler to eat the pieces of macaroni off it.

The necklace's string pulls tight around Jay's neck. Jay desperately gasps for breath; his hands grab his neck as a cry for help.

Father and Toddler don't notice.

Elli continues to cry in the background, but no one pays attention to her.

At a nearby building, WARDEN WARREN (55) holds the door for KAREN (30s) and TIMMY (7) to enter.

Warren wears military-grade high-tech armor with sparkling medals. Karen wears a suit and tie over her bloated stomach. Timmy sucks on the collar of his school uniform.

Warren follows them into the building.

INT. THE LIZA'S OFFICE - DAY

On a wooden door hangs a poster of THE LIZA HOWARD (40s) saying, "I got this". Footsteps and incoherent grumbling crescendo behind the door. Suddenly, Warren, Karen, and Timmy barge through the door.

Timmy continues sucking on his collar. His stomach's grumbling.

Karen pulls the shirt out of Timmy's mouth.

KAREN

Sweetie, I need you to look nice for this meeting.

TIMMY

But there's no one here.

Warren notices the desk missing the chair.

WARREN

She's here.

Warren and Karen angrily search the office.

Timmy stays by the entrance where plants bloom in the corner and on the windowsill. Timmy eagerly plucks a leaf off the plant and eats it. He doesn't bother chewing as he swallows it whole. Suddenly, Timmy grabs his neck; he's choking.

Karen observes the old rotary phone and typewriter occupying a desk from the 1960s. Karen follows the phone cord under the desk, discovering it's unplugged.

KAREN

Is this the right office?

Warren glances at the unopen letters scattered across the carpet.

Warren picks up a letter marked "To Liza" with the return address labeled as "The Mines".

WARREN

Unfortunately.

A VOICE quietly singing in the closet catches their attention.

VOICE (O.C.)

(singing)

Everything's fine/Everything's fine.

Karen swings open the closet door.

In between the hanging stylish pantsuits is The Liza. Leaning back in her leather chair, The Liza quietly sings along with her mp3. She pauses, noticing her audience.

THE LIZA

Oh, hello. Did you check in?

WARREN

Get out of there.

Warren grabs The Liza's chair and yanks it and The Liza out of the closet.

The Liza notices Timmy turning purple. She rushes to Timmy and performs the Heimlich on him.

A leaf flies out of Timmy's throat and into Warren's face. Warren's disgusted

Karen runs to Timmy and inspects every inch of him.

The Liza peels the leaf off Warren and inspects it.

THE LIZA

This was from the replica of my favorite plant.

KAREN

Which almost killed my son.

THE LIZA

If you need anything else, then please use my proper title or schedule a meeting with my assistant.

The Liza gestures for them to leave.

WARREN

Your assistant was my brother. You were at his funeral last week!

THE LIZA

Speaking of which, do you know if his family received his last paycheck. I know his little Samantha needs a new heart valve and-

WARREN

If you actually care, then pull your head out of the clouds and focus on the situation we're in!

THE LIZA

I have the situation under control because I'm not any Liza. I'm *The* Liza and your king.

WARREN

Then, look again.

Warren pushes the letter into The Liza's fingers.

The Liza opens the letter and skims it.

THE LIZA

You have hundreds of people and all the technological advancements you need, yet you want to end the Precursor Project?

WARREN

It's been years since we've discovered another site.

THE LIZA

But we still know of a site. I have my greatest scientist searching it.

WARREN

It's a Precursor Download Center. Why would it have plants?

THE LIZA

Precursors didn't always exist digitally. Like us, they physically existed. It's how they knew we couldn't survive without agriculture.

WARREN

But they don't need it anymore. A forest is easier to burn than sustain.

THE LIZA

It was a gruesome war, but my ancestors built this sky island in hopes of a brighter future.

TIMMY

My history teacher says it was built because animals became more aggressive from hunger and began slaughtering people.

KAREN

That's my intelligent little man.

Karen pats Timmy on the head.

Timmy sneers as he tries to avoid his mom's hand.

The Liza beggingly glances at Warren.

THE LIZA

Why are they here?

WARREN

To show you how well you're project has solved our famine.

Karen's suit jacket struggles to hold back her bloated stomach while Timmy appears too small for his clothes.

THE LIZA

Nice try, but his mother obviously doesn't share.

The Liza pokes Karen's big stomach.

Karen snatches The Liza's hand.

KAREN

I'm bloating, which means I'm going to die soon unless you commission an alternative solution.

THE LIZA

Sorry, but aquaponic farms are a no go without fish.

WARREN

She's implying a solution that could also dispose of the corpses in the street.

The Liza pretends to throw up in her plant.

THE LIZA

Ew, no way. We are a high-class society.

The Liza looks out the window to see Elli CRYING and Father choking Jay with his necklace. The Toddler eats the macaroni off the necklace as a crowd of people eats the seeds off Jay.

WARREN

Oh, no! My husband!

The Liza closes the blinds and uneasily looks at Warren.

THE LIZA

(unconvincingly)

Must be a new game.

Warren rushes for the door.

The Liza blocks the doorway with her limbs.

Warren attempts to nudge past her, but The Liza refuses to let him go.

WARREN

You're a disgrace to your family's legacy.

THE LIZA

Says the guy who proposed with a macaroni necklace.

WARREN

Your famine has made food more valuable than diamonds, and my honey deserves the best!

THE LIZA

Please give the Precursor Project another chance.

WARREN

Fine, but this is the last time I'll deal with her.

The Liza moves aside for Warren to rush out. She straightens out her pantsuit before glancing back at Karen with a smile.

THE LIZA

Everything is under control. Anything else I can help you with?

KAREN

Yeah, find us a better leader.

Karen snatches Timmy just before he eats another fake plant leaf.

Timmy reaches for the plant as Karen drags him out.

The Liza shuts the door. She stares at the poster of herself, saying, "I got this." The Liza rips the poster off the door and slides her back down it. She cries into her palms, using the poster as a tissue.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

The convicts are packed like sardines in a train car. Some convicts try to stretch their bony arms, but laser cuffs around their small wrists restrict their movement.

In the middle of the crowd, Robin stares off into space.

The CONDUCTOR announces over the speakers.

CONDUCTOR (O.C.)
Brace for landing.

A bump on impact forces CONVICT #1 to fall on Robin, knocking her down onto another convict.

One by one, convicts knock each other over until they hit a man with an eye patch, HUNTER (50s).

Hunter stumbles back and cuts his tattooed leg on the metal stump where a seat used to be.

Silence.

Hunter scowls at the wound, then Robin.

Convicts hastily squeeze themselves against the walls, clearing a path for Hunter.

Hunter approaches Robin.

Robin scoots aside to reveal Convict #1 lying on the floor.

Hunter rests his fingers upon Convict #1's neck, checking their pulse.

Hunter's eyelids tighten as he holds his grumbling stomach. He pulls out a sharp metatarsal bone knife from his boot and starts cutting off Convict #1's jumpsuit.

Robin snatches his knife.

ROBIN

This is your last chance, or article 4, sub-section C will slap another five years onto your sentence.

HUNTER

It's fine. They're an organ donor.

ROBIN

A donor for transplants: not food.

HUNTER

We need some way to survive our journey to death row.

Hunter snatches his bone knife back from Robin. He skins Convict #1.

Robin grows disgusted.

ROBIN

I'm going to be sick.

HUNTER

(chuckles)

Corner's over there.

Robin turns away, gagging.

Hunter cuts a giant piece of skin off Convict #1's thigh.

Starving convicts gather around Hunter.

EXT. LAND TRAIN STATION - DAY

The doors to the train car pixelate away. GUARD #1 signals the convicts out of the train.

Hunter hands Guard #1 a bundle of bones wrapped in orange jumpsuits. Then, he helps convict HILLARY (80s) out of the train car. Hillary has one arm and glasses.

Convicts lean on each other for support as they walk down the platform.

Robin walks alone.

Around the station rests a wasteland of bedrock with no sign of vegetation or wildlife. The train tracks lead to a large cloud, holding a massive chunk of land.

The sky island runs the full diameter of the colossal sun setting behind it. Large buildings and houses stretch from the surface of the sky island.

The convicts line up behind a yellow line where FOUR GUARDS wait.

Warren marches out of the front train cart and over to the convicts. All eyes stare at him as he finishes up a call.

WARREN

I'll be okay if you don't wear it anymore; I can live without the necklace but I can't live without you. I got to go. Love you.

Warren hangs up and raises his gauntlet for it to project a holographic screen. He reads what's written on it.

WARREN (CONT'D)

(unenthusiastic)

Welcome to the Precursor Program. Your crimes banished you from the island, but this is your chance at redemption, which is our number one priority.

Warren sneers and puts the gauntlet away.

WARREN (CONT'D)

You're here because we don't care about you.

The convicts follow Warren's gesture toward the wasteland.

WARREN (CONT'D)

This is your home. You must scavenge what you can to survive. If you wish to return to Skyline, you must prove your loyalty by discovering a precursor site and bringing it to our attention.

Hillary steps out of line, aggressively pointing at Warren.

HILLARY

How dare you?! I'm twice your age and suffer from lumbago! I belong in town, not here wasting my retirement shoveling for some imaginary site?!

Warren SIGHS.

WARREN

Another way to prove your loyalty is to feed others before yourself. Donating food to Skyline is one of the most selfless heroic acts one can perform.

Warren snaps his head towards the floating island.

The guards copy him and hold their hands over their hearts.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Do so, and one day you may return to your family. Maybe attend your baby's college graduation.

A single tear seeps from Warren's eye. He licks it away before facing the convicts.

WARREN (CONT'D)

But it is you who chooses life or death. Listen, and maybe you'll survive.

ROBIN

Sir, I need to report-

Warren holds up his palm.

Robin shamefully looks away.

Warren drops his arm behind his back.

WARREN

There are several rules one can-

Warren's voice fades into the background. He doesn't notice Hunter whispering.

HUNTER

(to Robin)

Relax. Tension makes you chewier.

Robin scrunches her face, trying to remain focused on Warren.

Hunter stretches his leg out behind Robin.

WARREN

Number 1: Be vigilant regarding your surroundings. One distraction could be your end.

Hunter sweeps his leg towards Robin.

Robin jump-kicks Hunter in the nose.

Hunter lies on the platform, groaning and bleeding from his nose.

Robin lands on both her feet, with all her focus on Warren.

The guards are unfazed. Warren aggressively SIGHS.

WARREN (CONT'D)
Robin, report to the mines.

ROBIN
Sir, it was just a-

WARREN
Not A. It was one of many kicks!
I'm ready to be rid of this Deja
vu!

ROBIN
This is my first time here. How
will I survive without the
orientation's guidance?

WARREN
What did I say?!

Warren steps up to Robin, staring her down. Robin lowers her head, avoiding eye contact.

ROBIN
(discouraged)
You don't care about us.

Robin walks to the entrance of the mine.

The convicts watch her leave.

Hunter continues to groan and hide his tears.

Warren maintains his stern gaze as he speaks to a FEW GUARDS.

WARREN
Take this one to the gallery.

HUNTER
I'm alive!

WARREN
I meant infirmary.

Three guards drag Hunter away.

Hunter glances at Robin, who has continued walking towards the mine.

HUNTER

I'll kill her for that.

WARREN

You can't kill what's already dead.

EXT. MINE SHACK - DAY

A large stone structure overhangs a bottomless pit.

Robin approaches the drive-thru window of a dark shack nearby. She puts her cuffed wrists through the window.

The guard, Aang (60s), does not notice Robin over his retro computer.

Inside the dark shack, Aang wears a dark, hooded cloak over his bright-red leather armor. Lights from the computer screen flash on Aang's wrinkled face.

The sounds of a rebreather and underwater-alien creatures roar from the computer's speakers as Aang vigorously pushes buttons on his controller.

Robin gently knocks on the window.

While looking at his computer, Aang kicks off his right boot and reaches for a key by a dried drink spill and a tipped-over cup on the floor. Grabbing the key with his toes, Aang throws the key to a small slot in the window.

Robin catches the key and waves it over her cuffs.

The lasers disappear, and the cuffs fall off.

Reaching through the window, Robin grabs a high-tech gauntlet and a fiber belt on the interior desk.

ROBIN

These look a little advanced.

AANG

It's what Dr. Phoenix always requests.

Robin questioningly puts on the gauntlet and fiber belt.

Upon being worn, the gauntlet fits itself around Robin's arm and builds over her shoulder into armor.

A metal tail builds off Robin's back, extending over her shoulder to shine a light.

The fiber belt fastens itself around Robin's waist as a sword and daggers materialize on it. Robin stares at it in surprise and astonishment.

ROBIN

Didn't think Maddie was capable of designing something badass.

Robin throws the key back at Aang, which hits him in the face.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Aang continues to play his game like nothing happened.

Robin approaches the yellow barrels that block the mine entrance.

A hazard sign marks the yellow barrels. Just past the barrels, a hook with rope hangs from the ceiling.

Robin stares at the rope's torn end.

Robin tilts her head as she leans forward to look down past the barrels.

Blue torches barely illuminate the bottomless hole that the barrels block.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

What am I supposed to do?

Aang slouches deeper into his chair with his eyes on his computer.

AANG

I don't know. Jump or whatever?

ROBIN

(troubled)

I prefer not to...

Robin glances down the mineshaft. Smirking, Robin backpedals into a runner's position a hundred feet from the barrels. Suddenly, Robin bursts at full speed towards the mine entrance. Robin front-flips over the barrels and dives into the bottomless hole.

Aang keeps his attention glued to his computer.

INT. MINE ENTRANCE - DAY

Robin pencil-dives headfirst toward the bottom of the mine. Layers of rock and tunnels race past her as the air rushes through her hair. Torches fly by as she falls.

She SCREAMS with delight.

Close to the bottom, Robin flicks her gauntlet arm out.

A pickaxe materializes around Robin's hand.

Robin shoves the pickaxe into the rock wall.

Robin continues to fall with the pickaxe carving a ravine in the wall.

Along the way, she runs into other pickaxes stuck in the wall.

Some pickaxes still have disembodied arms in their gauntlet. Robin ignores them.

Friction causes Robin to slow down just before she hits the bottom of the mine. Her boots land on a skeleton wearing a soiled orange jumpsuit.

Robin hoists her pickaxe out of the wall, and with a sharp turn on her heels, she faces a tunnel entrance.

Robin shakes her head like she'd just awoken from a dream. She looks at her pickaxe and the bodies around her.

The bodies wear the same jumpsuit as her. Some of the bodies are missing one arm.

Robin uneasily walks towards the tunnel entrance, trying to avoid stepping on the corpses along the way.

INT. UNDERGROUND FORKED TUNNEL - DAY

Robin glances at the lit corridors on her left and right side. She gazes over her shoulder at a dark tunnel clogged with rocks.

The flashlight on her back illuminates the dark tunnel as Robin approaches.

Dusting off a spot in the pile of rocks, Robin discovers the old bucket of an excavator. Beside it rests a small hole just big enough for her to crawl through.

ROBIN
It feels like it was only
yesterday.

Robin crawls through the hole.

EXT. PRECURSOR SANCTUARY - DAY

Boulders rest on top of The Sanctuary, while more boulders rest on the remains of excavators. Caved-in tunnels surround The Sanctuary.

Through one tunnel, the small figure of Robin squeezes out of the rocks.

When Robin hits a button on her gauntlet, a holographic screen pops up. The screen reads "MADDIE PHOENIX" with a phone icon under the name.

ROBIN
Hey Maddie, I'm at the coords.

MADDIE (O.C.)
It's Dr. Phoenix, and your tracker already told me, "You're late."
Slide down there and see what you can find.

ROBIN
Did you get liposuction for that tight ass or a new stick?

MADDIE
Robin, please take this seriously.

ROBIN
(sarcastic)
Yes, Ma'am.

Her eyes set on The Sanctuary, Robin marches over but can't help herself from deliberately stomping on a shattered tablet along the way.

Robin slides down a broken excavator arm to an open breach in The Sanctuary.

Moss thrives in the infrastructure's crevasses.

Robin's pickaxe retreats into the gauntlet for her real fingers to extend and poke the moss.

MADDIE (O.C.)

We know about the moss and the high potential for water. I request you move on.

ROBIN

How did you-?

MADDIE (O.C.)

Robin.

Robin walks away from the moss and enters the breach in The Sanctuary.

INT. PRECURSOR SANCTUARY

Purple beads of glowing electricity barely illuminate the hall as they run through a maze of wires on the wall. The corridor is a perfectly shaped hexagon.

Robin walks through the ancient corridor.

MADDIE (O.C.)

Whatever voice you have in your head, silence it.

ROBIN

It's hard to doubt I'm a spelunking virgin when I safely arrive at my destination, and Warren seems to already know me.

Robin pauses at dirt tracks on the floor.

MADDIE (O.C.)

All women look the same to Warren, and it's your training that got you down safely.

Next to Robin's boot is a footprint that is the exact same size and shape.

ROBIN

When was training exactly?

MADDIE (O.C.)

Get out of my wheelchair!

ROBIN

I'm nowhere near you.

EXT. MADDIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Maddie lies on the cheap floor of a futuristic office. Her typewriter, projecting a screen, lies sideways on the floor with her. A microphone extends off her typewriter.

A clean workbench rests in the center of the room. Under her framed PhDs in Robotics, tools are neatly organized on a wall rack close to the floor.

Behind Maddie, The Liza spins in Maddie's wheelchair.

MADDIE
Final warning, Liza.

THE LIZA
The Liza, and it's not like you're
using it?

The Liza knocks over a bin of stones with a wire design. She stops the chair.

THE LIZA (CONT'D)
Is this charged?

The Liza grabs the defibrillator off the back of the wheelchair and checks the paddles.

Maddie opens a control software program on her typewriter-computer.

The paddles shock The Liza, and The Liza slides out of the wheelchair.

The defibrillator and paddles return to their initial position as the wheelchair rolls to Maddie.

Maddie's limbs shake uncontrollably as she climbs into her wheelchair. Without a break, Maddie proceeds to put her typewriter on her desk.

The Liza lies on the floor in a comical pose, admiring Maddie.

THE LIZA (CONT'D)
You don't have to show off for me.

MADDIE
I don't need your help either.

The Liza stands and dusts herself off.

THE LIZA

But I do need *your* help. People are getting a little hangry.

MADDIE

Robin's already searching The Sanctuary.

THE LIZA

I know, but we can't make any mistakes this time.

Maddie turns around, concerned.

MADDIE

Are you canceling the program?

THE LIZA

It's not like I want to. It's just, uh-

MADDIE

Did someone threaten you?

THE LIZA

I don't fear death. It's just everyone's expiration date is coming soon: especially yours.

Robin's voice comes from the typewriter's speaker.

ROBIN (O.C.)

Expiration date?

Maddie glares at The Liza, who shoots a disgusted look back.

THE LIZA

You didn't mute?

Maddie faces her typewriter to talk into the microphone.

MADDIE

(to Robin)

She's talking about my rations.

ROBIN (O.C.)

Seeds don't have an expiration date! You need to eat.

MADDIE

Not until we get this mission right. I'd rather give my rations to those who need them more.

INTERCUT - SANCTUARY/MADDIE'S OFFICE

ROBIN

You are living proof of how someone can be so smart and dumb.

MADDIE

Mom and Dad were the same way. Are you calling them dumb as well?

ROBIN

Promise me you'll eat as soon as I get those seeds or whatever plants are down here.

MADDIE

(sarcastic)

Yes, Ma'am.

THE LIZA

You know, being the descendent of the sky island builders gives me extra food privileges.

The Liza smiles at Maddie. Maddie fake smile affectionately back.

Robin notices dry blood and a mysterious, black stain covering the wall. Further down the hall, there is less blood but more of the mysterious, black stain.

ROBIN

How many drones did you sacrifice?

MADDIE

(to Robin)

Enough to know where the traps are. Whatever's down there doesn't want to be found, so you must listen to me.

ROBIN

Roger dodger.

THE LIZA

Me too, and I'm not programmed to say that.

The Liza leans closer to Maddie.

MADDIE

Forward wall jump.

Robin kicks herself off the walls to propel herself forward. A grappling hook shoots from her gauntlet, leaving her dangling upside down from the ceiling.

The floor disintegrates into acid.

Dirt falls from Robin's boot and boils in the acid.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Duck!

The walls at the top of the corridor clash together without warning.

Robin releases her grappling hook to drop down.

Robin stretches her limbs against the walls, catching herself just before she hits the boiling acid.

The flashlight arm - that extends from Robin's back - boils in the acid until there is nothing left.

The Liza grabs the microphone.

THE LIZA

Forward!

Maddie grabs The Liza's wrist and holds the microphone closer to herself.

MADDIE

Ignore that! Grapple up when the walls move.

The Liza blushes at Maddie holding her wrist.

THE LIZA

The walls weren't moving.

MADDIE

It's delayed. The trap pattern should be the same; therefore, we don't need to change the plan.

The walls above Robin remain clamped shut, but the walls on the bottom half quickly begin to clamp together with Robin still between them.

Robin holds her position.

Maddie continues to hold The Liza's wrist.

THE LIZA

Bae, you need to be more flexible.

Maddie rolls her eyes, releasing The Liza. She glances back at her typewriter.

The holoscreen displays what Robins sees, which are the walls clamping together with herself between them.

MADDIE
(slight panic)
Robin, forward now!

Using her gauntlet, Robin grapples forward and out of the way.

When the walls hit, cracks grow and disintegrate the middle section of the walls into dust.

Robin looks back at the old- blood-stained walls, now turned rubble, blocking the exit.

ROBIN
Should I still go up?

MADDIE
Something's not right. Stand by.

Maddie pulls up notes on her typewriter, which covers her view of Robin. Maddie reads the notes.

Suddenly, the Sanctuary's floor acts like the surface of water, creating a giant series of PRECURSOR STONE WAVES that race toward Robin.

ROBIN
Uh, Maddie? An order would be really helpful right now.

Maddie minimizes the notes application on her typewriter. She panics at the fuzzy video feed, showing the waves rushing toward Robin. Maddie frantically snatches her microphone.

MADDIE
(static)
Up! UP!

ROBIN
And away.

Robin grapples up and presses herself against the ceiling. She barely squeezes through the small gap between the wave and the ceiling.

The Liza admires Maddie over Maddie's shoulder.

Maddie presses buttons on her typewriter in a panic.

THE LIZA
(to Maddie)
Does my presence make you nervous?

MADDIE
(more static)
Yes, you're very overwhelming. Can
you please be-

Static replaces Maddie's voice.

A static screen replaces the video feed on Maddie's
typewriter.

Maddie vigorously types. She's on the verge of tears.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
(quivering)
Robin? Robin?! Not again. Please,
not again.

END INTERCUT

Deep ROBOTIC VOICE #1 BOOMS through The Sanctuary corridor.

ROBOTIC VOICE #1
Robin Phoenix, concede.

Static continues over the gauntlet's speaker.

Robin's arms shake with weakness. She tries to shut her eyes
tight while wincing in pain.

A wave on the ceiling pushes Robin onto the floor.

Waves on the ceiling and floor rush towards Robin.

Robin starts to panic.

ROBIN
Maddie, some assistance? Hello?

The wave hits Robin and throws her across the corridor into
the pile of rubble.

A series of waves continue after Robin.

The clamped walls prevent Robin from running away.

Robin presses a button on her gauntlet.

Robin's holoscreen projects a series of protocols labeled
"Maddie's Emergency Protocols."

Robin highlights a protocol on the list.

A video plays on the holoscreen where a stick figure of Maddie shoves a rock between two incoming waves on the wall and ceiling.

An inch away from being flattened, Robin grabs a large, bloody stone and shoves it between the waves.

The waves are stuck in place with the stone wedged between them.

The waves reverse in the other direction, dropping the stone and leaving Robin.

Robin SIGHS, but then the corridor rotates ninety degrees into a pit.

Robin grapples to the side, struggling to dodge the rubble raining down.

A piece of stone clocks Robin in the head, forcing her to look down at the waves racing towards her.

This time, the waves have no problem crumbling any stones that land between them.

Robin highlights another protocol on her holoscreen.

An image shows the stick figure of Maddie pointing up.

Robin glances up at the fixed wall pieces, which create a platform large enough for her to stand on. With the rubble gone, the platform has a hole to crawl through.

Robin climbs the wire design in the walls, rushing to get to the platform.

The waves almost devour Robin's heels when a hand extends from the gap in the platform.

Robin grabs the hand.

The hand quickly hoists Robin onto the platform before the waves eat her feet.

Suddenly, Robin's pinned against the wall with a knife to her neck. Robin glares at her attacker and savior, Nomi, who's just as mad.

NOMI
What did you find?

ROBIN

A crazy hermit with a knife.

Robin kicks Nomi in the shin. Nomi loses her hold on Robin. Robin savagely pulls Nomi down towards the gap in the platform.

Head in the gap, Nomi watches her knife fall down the hole and be crushed between the waves.

Suddenly, the corridor rotates one-hundred-and-eighty degrees, creating a bottomless pit below Nomi and Robin.

The waves are now on top of Nomi and Robin, but the waves do not follow them.

Robin falls first down the corridor with Nomi close behind. Robin throws her sword at Nomi.

Nomi catches the sword and shoves it into the wire design in the wall. The force of the fall yanks her arm to let go.

The sword disappears above, embedded in the wall.

Grabbing her shoulder, Nomi winces in pain.

Robin throws daggers at Nomi until she has one left.

Nomi catches the daggers and throws them back at Robin.

Robin kicks herself wall to wall avoiding the daggers.

Electricity in the wire design absorbs into the sword embedded in the wall. A spark of lightning leaps from the sword and down the trail of daggers behind Nomi and Robin.

The daggers melt as electricity surges through them.

The bottom is close upon them.

Robin tries running down the wall, slowing her descent, when a bright light captures her attention.

Robin glances up at the lightning racing towards her. She turns her gauntlet into a pickaxe.

Robin kicks herself off Nomi, furthering the distance between them.

A door frame circles where Nomi and Robin will land.

SANCTUARY CORE

Falling through, Robin catches the tip of her pickaxe on the lip of the door frame.

Nomi grabs Robin's arm but slides down Robin's body to Robin's boots. This causes Robin to swing forward and avoid the lightning and daggers.

The lightning absorbs into the floor's wire design while the daggers splat on the floor. The room is a perfect square with no other windows or doors.

Robin releases the door frame and lands her boots on Nomi.

Nomi winces in pain but opens her eyes when the tip of Robin's pickaxe touches her throat.

NOMI

You know what you're doing is wrong.

ROBIN

What's wrong is letting my only family starve to death.

NOMI

You're selfish like the rest of humanity.

Robotic Voice #1 interrupts.

ROBOTIC VOICE #1

This process of extermination has been insufficient.

Robin and Nomi glance at a grand, large 3D-hexagonal prism with a purple aura floating in the center of the room. Pedestals on the floor and ceiling hold it in place. This is the PRECURSOR.

NOMI

A precursor! That's hella cool.

Robin rolls her eyes.

ROBIN

(to Nomi)

"Hella," I hate that word.

(to Precursor)

So, you're the one who broke my connection.

PRECURSOR

I could not let them discover my existence.

NOMI

Exactly. You and me same team.

PRECURSOR

Your statement is false. History sanctions humans as inadequate allies.

A VACUUM SOUND hums as dust flies into crevasses in the walls, floor, and ceiling.

PRECURSOR (CONT'D)

My calculations indicate you have three minutes for your death rituals.

NOMI

Wait, just transfer yourself to another facility!

PRECURSOR

Connections to other facilities were lost years ago, making it impossible to leave here. Your death is the optimal solution to ensure my existence remains unknown.

Robin moves her pickaxe off Nomi and storms towards the Precursor.

Nomi springs to her feet, snatches the last dagger from Robin's belt, and blocks Robin's path. She holds the dagger threateningly.

NOMI

You can't extinguish this species.

ROBIN

As long as it's alive, I can't receive Maddie's orders.

Nomi lunges at Robin with the dagger. Robin dodges, takes the dagger, and throws it at the Precursor.

The dagger disintegrates in the Precursor's aura.

PRECURSOR
Humans were never a rational
species. Perhaps you prefer a more
violent process of termination.

The Precursor flies at Robin and Nomi.

Robin dodges out of the way into a nearby transparent capsule.

Nomi bumps into an arrow-shaped button on a panel.

ROBOTIC VOICE #2 announces.

ROBOTIC VOICE #2
Process initiated.

Purple strands of light extend from the pedestals and grab the Precursor.

The Precursor tries to fly away, but once in the lights' grasp, the light thrusts the Precursor back between the pedestals.

PRECURSOR
Get out of there this instant!

Robin runs but the door slams in her face, locking her inside the capsule.

ROBOTIC VOICE #2
Storage vessel secured.

Two more beams of light stream from the ceiling and floor pedestals, grabbing Robin's chamber and hoisting it between them.

Robin bangs her pickaxe against the capsule walls. It makes no dent.

PRECURSOR
Terminate the process!

Nomi anxiously looks back at the panel, discovering it to have crumbled under her weight.

With the Precursor and Robin side by side, the light leaves the Precursor to wrap Robin in a vortex of purple light.

Robin SCREAMS quickly fades out as the Precursor becomes an empty, lightless 3D-hexagonal prism.

The stones of the Sanctuary no longer glow.

ROBOTIC VOICE #2
Core overheating. Evacuation is
advised.

The prism falls and smashes across the floor.

The walls crack as debris showers from the ceiling.

Nomi ducks in a corner.

All the light absorbs into Robin's head.

The pedestal on the ceiling collapses, dropping Robin's capsule onto the pedestal below.

The capsule smashes as the lower pedestal impales it. Sharp pieces of the capsule slide across the floor.

Nomi dodges pieces of the capsule as she races to Robin.

Purple glowing veins flow through Robin's skin and to her brain, where they disappear. Her green eyes begin to glow with the purple light.

Nomi shakes Robin.

ROBIN
(semi-conscious)
That hella hurt.

Nomi's eyes widen with a hopeful smile.

NOMI
Robin! You back?!

Robin's eyes flutter shut as her head drifts back.

A large chunk of the ceiling crashes into the floor beside Robin and Nomi.

Cracks grow from the hole in the ceiling.

Through the ceiling, Nomi sees a faint, blue light of a torch in the distance.

Nomi picks up Robin before dodging and climbing debris as it falls into a mound that builds towards the hole in the ceiling.

Larger ceiling debris smashes into the foundation, creating cracks and causing the floor to cave in faster.

The distance between the top of the mound and the hole in the ceiling grows with every second.

Suddenly, the floor below Nomi collapses into nothing. Nomi, with Robin in her arms, falls with the floor.

A grappling hook catches the edge of the ceiling.

Nomi's hands grasp Robin's gauntlet control panel as it reels them in. Nomi tightly holds onto Robin, who remains unconscious.

Nomi looks at the void below them and SIGHS.

INT. MADDIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Maddie tries to keep herself together as she uses her typewriter. On the holoscreen, she types "Mission Failed" on a report document. She's about to press the "submit" button, but then she trembles. She breaks down, crying into her hands.

The Liza eagerly barges into the office with a typewriter.

THE LIZA

Oh, Honeywheels!

MADDIE

Not now, Liza. She may have been fake, but my feelings weren't.

THE LIZA

First, I'm The Liza. Second, I know how important Robin is to you, so I messaged Wardy about the mission, and he sent me info from the tracker in Robin's jumpsuit.

MADDIE

I'm not going to rebuild her. I can't bear this pain again.

THE LIZA

I love how you're such a family gal, but it's not over.

The Liza sets her typewriter on the desk and hits a button.

The typewriter projects a hologram of their planet in front of them. A small, beautiful model of Skyline floats above the planet's barren wasteland.

THE LIZA (CONT'D)

Our planet does not match Skyline. Should we implement plant holograms in the wasteland?