

EMERY

oxygen

1/16/13

7.

"OXYGEN"

DOCTOR

That's exceptional. I imagine that's why their bodies remain healthy and disease-free under harsh conditions. This serves to support their primary function.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Which is?

Beat... As the Doctor's tone turns grave...

DOCTOR

Survival. By any means necessary.

EXT. WEST CRAVEN HOSPITAL - DAY

Finally, Emery comes to a stop outside a building -- WEST CRAVEN HOSPITAL. She works to catch her breath before entering the sliding glass doors...

INT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING - OFFICE - DAY

A SOCIOLOGIST (50s) sits at a desk with his hands folded. Poised. Academic. He speaks to the off-screen reporter.

SOCIOLOGIST

We can never forget the horror of those three days. But we've had peaceful relations for ten years now. It's time for a fresh start.

And we realize that this entire sequence was being broadcast on a TELEVISION inside --

SCENE #1

INT. HOSPITAL - JULIA'S ROOM - DAY

A hospital room. JULIA (16) sits perched on her bed, surprisingly vibrant for a girl who has made this place her home. Stacks of magazines and books about the Orions sit on her bedside table. She is watching the news report on TV when Emery enters, still catching her breath --

START

JULIA

Only you can pull off sweaty sexy at 7 AM.

Emery pours herself a glass of water from a pitcher on the table. Downs it. Once she finishes --

EMERY

Help me stretch?

1/6

JULIA

Oh, no. I'm not falling for that one again.

EMERY

I know you hate it, but it's a necessary evil...

JULIA

But it's one of the perks of being The Dying Chick! The amount of exercise you have to do is *inversely proportional* to the amount of pizza you can eat.

EMERY

Sorry, dude. And you're *not* The Dying Chick. You're just The Lazy Chick On The Road To Recovery.

(cont.)

Julia grumbles as Emery takes a seat at the foot of her bed.

EMERY (CONT'D)

Anyhow - you've always said you wanted a personal trainer...

JULIA

Named "Fernando." Or "Tristan." With an accent. And abs.

EMERY

I have abs.

JULIA

I mean boy abs.

EMERY

Well, it's a day of new beginnings. For us both.

And Emery takes Julia's hands. Julia acquiesces, stretching her legs out in front of her on the bed. Emery gently pulls Julia forward, stretching her muscles, as a CRAZED WOMAN on the NEWS PROGRAM is interviewed --

CRAZED WOMAN (ON TV)

It's no secret some of them Orions had plastic surgery to hide themselves among us...

2/6

JULIA

Gotta love the conspiracy theorists. One of them was claiming the Orions grow a medicinal herb inside the Sector called cyper.

EMERY

Can it cure conspiracy theorists?

JULIA

Just saying. Maybe you could get chummy with one of the Orions. Get a batch. Fix up everyone in this hospital...

Emery loosens her grip and Julia sits back, taking a breath.

(cont)

EMERY

You look tired. Did you sleep?

JULIA

My new roommate snores.

EMERY

So did your old roommate.

JULIA

Yeah, but at least I could always just pelt her with M&Ms from across the room to shut her up.

EMERY

Thanks for that, by the way.

Emery smiles... Beat... Then:

JULIA

Are you nervous about today?

EMERY

(shrugs)

Yeah. Sure. I mean, the guy on the news last night was saying how "the eyes of the world" would be on Marshall High. Leave it to me to start my first day of school in front of "the eyes of the world."

Beat... As Julia smiles at Emery:

JULIA

I'm really glad you got better, Em.

3/6

EMERY

Thanks. Now it's your turn.

Off a hopeful Emery, WE CUT TO --

STOP

INT. WHITEHILL HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

RAY and MICHELLE (now 40s) watching the NEWS -- Images of MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL, road blocks, protests and helicopters... They trade a look of concern. As upstairs --

INT. WHITEHILL HOME - EMERY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Emery opens her closet, clad in a towel, and surveys the options. An important decision. She pulls out a purple top and snatches a pair of boots, next to which sit an OXYGEN TANK decorated with stickers. A remnant from another life. Soon after..

INT. WHITEHILL HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Emery rushes down the stairs. Michelle is a nervous wreck.

MICHELLE

(rapid fire)

That shirt looks nice. Maybe you want a sweater, too? I packed you a lunch. My chicken salad with an apple. Do you have all your notebooks and pens?

EMERY

Mom, relax.

MICHELLE

This is me relaxed.

EMERY

Dad, help me out here?

Ray kisses his daughter on the top of her head.

RAY

Sorry, kid. Your mother's been dubbed "Best Worrier in the County" eleven years running. It's amazing how she trounces the competition!

MICHELLE

To not worry on a day like this is what would be amazing...

4/6

oxygen
SCENE #2

1/16/13

54.

ACT SIX

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Emery and Roman RUSH through the cornfield, breathless...

START

EMERY

We should be fine here.

They slow down. Roman eyes Emery as she catches her breath.

ROMAN

You okay?

EMERY

Other than having just possibly
committed social suicide? Sure.

ROMAN

It's funny. All these years, we're
taught about this vaunted thing
called "humanity." Something we
could never, by definition, possess.

He looks at her, taking a step closer...

ROMAN (CONT'D)

But after only a few days of being
amongst your kind... And the
intolerance, the anger, the fear...
This concept of "humanity" doesn't
seem so clear...

EMERY

No. There are lots of good people.

ROMAN

I've only met one.

She looks at him. He smiles. She smiles back. She looks
down at her hand still holding Roman's. She spots his red,
bruised knuckles -- RAW from his fight with Eric.

And Emery is now very aware she is alone in the middle of
nowhere... with an alien. Roman senses her trepidation.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

You don't have to be afraid. I
would never hurt you.

And somehow she believes him. They lean in closer... Their
faces now inches apart...

5/6

Electricity there... Interrupted by BUZZING -- Emery's cell phone. Frustrated, the moment lost, Emery checks her phone.

EMERY
Sorry. It's my mom.
(answers)
Hey... I'll be home soon --

Emery's face drops as she listens...

EMERY (CONT'D)
Okay. I'm on my way.
(hanging up)
It's Julia. I have to go.

ROMAN
I understand.

EMERY
If you keep walking straight...
You'll find the road to the Sector.

ROMAN
Thanks. Are you okay... ?

She looks at him... Suddenly very upset... Then:

EMERY
I have to go --

STOP

Roman watches her go, obviously distressed. As we CUT TO --

INT. ORION SECTOR - ROMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nox entering the house to find Gaia pacing.

GAIA
Curfew is in fifteen minutes. And
Roman's not home yet.

Nox turns to Sophia, who is doing homework.

NOX
Do you know where your brother is?

SOPHIA
He probably just lost track of time.

Nox puts a reassuring hand on a nervous Gaia's shoulder.

NOX
Don't worry. I'll find him.

6/6