

BINARY

Written by

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PROLOGUE:
OCTOBER 10, 2043

EXT. FORMER WAR-ZONE USA (PROPOGANDA COMMERCIAL) - DAY

The America you once knew is gone.

Various shots of rubble from collapsed buildings, HOMELESS CHILDREN glare down the barrel as they huddle for warmth, a dog searches for their owner. The only thing missing is a *Sarah McLachlan* song to really drive this home.

(A voice-over erupts with the masculine energy of Don LaFontaine, and thanks to AI Deep-Fake technology-- *it's him*)

VOICE-OVER

They hit us hard. Harder than we've
ever been hit before. The days of
are you in or are you out are over.

A flashlight appears, WE TRACK to see a futuristic authority figure. This is an OCCUPATION ENFORCEMENT AGENT.

VOICE-OVER (CONT'D)

And guess what? Everyone. Is. In.
We all have a role. We will
rebuild. You will rebuild.

The Agent finds a POOR SOUL, cold and scared. He reaches a hand out to his brother-in-arms. When they finally clasp hands, a magical lens flare transition transports us to--

"Living In America Ext. Dance Version" by James Brown plays.

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER (Poor Soul) carries a steel beam over his shoulder with the same bravado Schwarzenegger blessed us with in the opening scene of *Commando* (1985). Fireworks pop off in the background and flying freight cars zoom past as a technologically advanced city begins to rise via time-lapse.

VOICE-OVER (CONT'D)

Rebuild, restore, renew.
We. Are. America.

The homeless children from earlier crudely fade in behind the Hero. Arm in arm they smile-- and like the cover of an *Animorphs* book, the children evolve into agents: Occupation Enforcement, Population Enforcement, Robotics Assembly, etc.

VOICE-OVER (CONT'D)

Don't wait to be drafted.
Choose your occupation today.

MADDIE

(mocking)
...Don't wait to be drafted.
Choose your occupation today.

INT. LIONEL'S OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

CLAIRE "**MADDIE**" MADDOX, 14, spins around on the chair in her father's office while watching television on a holocube-- as one does in 2043. LIONEL MADDOX, her father, is working on equations "*Iron-Man-Style*" pinching the air and throwing numbers against a smart board. Maddie stops spinning.

MADDIE

When are they gonna change that?
They've been playing the same
commercial since I was a kid.

LIONEL

...You're still a kid.

MADDIE

Hey! I mean-- when I was *little*
little.

LIONEL

What do they need to change it for?

Maddie takes a smart-ring off the desk, twists to activate, and throws numbers at a holoboard like her father, albeit artistically. Stacked "1's" for a stem, a zero on top, and a 360 degree pattern of "3's" around the zero create a flower.

MADDIE

I dunno, it's... old?

LIONEL

Like you?

MADDIE

I mean, probably as old, right?

A bunch of tilted green "7's" make a field of grass.

LIONEL

Probably.

MADDIE

I just think it's out-dated.
Y'know, very 80's.

A zero for the sun and "1's" for the rays. ASCII boredom.

LIONEL

What do you know about the 80's?

MADDIE

What do you know about the 80's?

LIONEL

Look, styles come back around every so often. The 1980's were the rage after the war, you had two sides, the people who were rebelling and the patriots.

MADDIE

What side were you on?

LIONEL

(reticent)

Well, I guess there was a third side that didn't really care.

MADDIE

I could make a better commercial.

Lionel breaks focus and turns to Maddie for the first time, acknowledging his daughter's conviction.

LIONEL

You could?

She spins in the chair again.

MADDIE

Definitely. A little research and boom. I'd make it glossy for sure.

LIONEL

(scoffs)

I don't think their vision for America lines up with *glossy*.

Lionel says glossy the way a 40 year old says "lit" in 2020. Maddie stops spinning, almost pukes at the *cool-dad* attempt.

MADDIE

Thanks for the encouragement, Dad.

She takes the smart-ring off, the drawing abruptly corrupts like removing a USB drive without ejecting first. Lionel stops what he's doing. He twirls the ring on his finger and the equation disappears-- a proper shut down.

LIONEL

Hey. Look at me.

A glance from Maddie.

LIONEL (CONT'D)

Who knows, by the time you're older maybe the uh, maybe the country'll be ready for art again. I used to do a little--uh art stuff when I was your age.

MADDIE

You did?

LIONEL

It's in our blood. Nanny and Pappy, you remember. They'd talk about all the creative things they did, the people who followed them. I was gonna-- Eh, it doesn't...

Lionel digs into a hidden pocket.

MADDIE

The government, did they--

LIONEL

--Here, the uh, the antique shop on Pico, show them this.

He hands her a **PECULIAR CHIP**.

MADDIE

They did, didn't they. What's the point.

Lionel forces eye contact with his daughter.

LIONEL

Don't let anyone ever tell you what you can or can not do. Not even me.

MADDIE

But isn't that against--

Lionel gently pushes her out of the room, when she turns back, he winks at her, sweetly.

EXT. LIONEL'S OFFICE - DAY

A futuristic promenade with hologram billboards, hover scooters, fully automated vehicles, vertical farms, and solar decks. One of the billboards features CORBIN LACHES, 40s, Tony Stark meets Elon Musk, charming and charismatic. *"A special thank you to everyone on the front lines. - Corbin Laches, Mercury C.E.O."*

In the sky are SLEEK CARGO TRANSPORTS moving like planes, A.K.A. "MERCURY MOVERS." Package delivery of the future. The "Y" in the MERCURY LOGO is a CADUCEUS, the snakes are replaced by lightning bolts. In the far, far distance are the ruins and remains of the war.

None of this is new to Maddie crosses the promenade and heads around the corner.

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

Electronics, parts, guts, shrines, old computers, 8-tracks, VHS players, Mac book pros, kindles: A museum of technology. Maddie walks in and is greeted by a small "NEATO" bot.

NEATO

We-We--Welcome I'm Neato. Ask me anything.

Maddie takes the chip out.

MADDIE

Uh... I have this? What do I do with it?

ERNESTO "NESTO" NEGRON, stocky, Puerto Rican, enters from the back, clocks the chip, and hits a button on his wrist.

NEATO

Reconnecting in 1... 2...

ERNESTO

Neato. Shut down.

Ernesto runs over and turns Neato toward the wall and takes him off the counter.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Sorry about that, I was uh testing him out. You know those old models... testy. Or-- I guess this one's before you. What you got there, lemme see.

Maddie hands Ernesto the chip.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Wait. No. You're Lionel's girl? Claire, right?

MADDIE

Maddie. I mean, yes, but I don't like that name.

ERNESTO

Well, Maddie, you see anything in the store you like, it's yours. No charge.

Maddie raises a skeptical eyebrow. "Yeah?" She starts to peruse a bit, turns back to Ernesto.

MADDIE

Dad said you have like art stuff?

Ernesto is struck. Smirks.

ERNESTO

Old school. Alright, wait here.

Ernesto grabs a basket and steps into his backroom. We follow.

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - BACK ROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

A sharp contrast to the shop, everything in this room is extremely high tech: Surveillance equipment, weapons, and a super computer that would make Batman jealous.

He opens a closet and fills the basket with paper, pens, crayons, and fancy colored liquid gel pens.

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

Maddie spins the chip between her fingers as she waits for Ernesto. Neato-Bot reactivates as Ernesto steps back out.

ERNESTO

I'd wager you've never seen a blank piece of paper.

MADDIE

Mmm... A couple of times.

Ernesto hands her the basket. Maddie lights up, she immediately goes for the gel pens. She's confused.

ERNESTO

The top. You take the top off.

She takes one and puts it to the paper. Ernesto laughs.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Careful now, don't waste it.

MADDIE
I'll turn it into something cool,
don't worry.

Ernesto nods in approval. Maddie goes to hand the chip as payment. Ernesto immediately closes her hand.

ERNESTO
(stern)
Put that back in your pocket.

Maddie hides her hand, taken aback by Ernesto's tonal shift.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)
That chip. That goes right back to
your dad, hear me? Don't show that
to anyone else.

Maddie nods, she goes to leave but is interrupted.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)
--Also, have your dad reach out
when he's not busy.

Maddie leaves.

NEATO
It's Saturday, October 10, 2043.
The weather is--

Ernesto's face has genuine shock, he runs over to the Neato and looks for a manual off switch-- he can't find it so he repeatedly SMASHES it against the wall.

NEATO (CONT'D)
Hi. I'm Neato. Ask me-- Hi. I'm
Neato. I'm--

A PHONE RINGS. Ernesto turns to a locked drawer, sweat beading. He runs over, fumbles with his keys. Opens the drawer. The drawer is empty except for two things-- a FLIP PHONE and a similar PECULIAR CHIP. Ernesto answers.

ERNESTO
Is--Is this about the Nea--

UNKNOWN
Get out of there, now! Don't grab
anything, just go!

Ernesto breaks the phone in half and scrambles. He goes back for the chip.

EXT. PROMENADE - DAY

Maddie walks with her new basket of goodies. Multiple whizzing sounds get louder and louder. Maddie looks up.

Low angle wide behind Maddie looking up as a SHOWER of MERCURY MOVERS FALL FROM THE SKY. One is aimed straight for Lionel's office in the Mercury Building.

INT. LIONEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Lionel is very much in his tech-zone. A PHONE RINGS. *The same ring tone from the antique shop.* Lionel slowly turns towards the sound, a panicked look. He hurries to his desk, SOMETHING catches his attention, he turns his head when--

EXT. PROMENADE - DAY

Maddie drops the basket and runs towards her Dad's building as-- CRASH. Maddie FLIES backwards from the impact.

CUT TO BLACK. Silence.

Maddie's heavy breaths become a subtle whimper that slowly fizzle and fade out. Only the crackle of the embers linger.

She struggles to maintain consciousness. With each blurry blink, the chaos devolves into an absurd fireworks display.

TUCSON (O.C.)
Claire! Claire!

CLEAN DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE - DUSK

CLAIRE "MADDIE" **MADDOX** 2.0, now 24, wakes up in a huff from her nightmare. Reflections of FIREWORKS bokeh against the windshield. She looks around to find TUCSON "TWO" LEVY, 26, her senior officer and partner, struggling to subdue a YOUNG PREGNANT WOMAN, white. Maddie grabs her chest, sharp pain.

KIMBERLEIGH	TUCSON
What right do you have?! What right?! Let me go! I swear to God if you don't let me go!	Claire! Open the door! Ma'am let me do my job. Open the door!

The woman, KIMBERLEIGH, BREAKS free from Tucson in a feat of adrenaline and motherly instinct. Maddie exits the vehicle and draws her weapon. She sets the safety from RED to BLUE, and fires a dart that pierces and tazes the woman.

The look on Maddie's face says it all. She's disgusted with herself. Tucson walks over and pats Maddie on the shoulder.

MADDIE
I should have gone in with you.

TUCSON
You needed the rest, feeling better?

Maddie hits Tucson with a strong side eye. He gets the hint.

TUCSON (CONT'D)
She damaged my link with the car,
can you--

Maddie waves the car over with her arm, it instinctively backs up to where the pregnant woman is on the ground.

MADDIE
Door.

The door opens as they lift Kimberleigh into the POPULATION ENFORCEMENT vehicle. The two of them get into the front.

A long, heavy sigh from Maddie. She doesn't need to say it, we know she hates this job.

I/E. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE / CITY STREETS - DUSK

Aerial view of the Population Enforcement vehicle roaming the streets. Other sleek automated cars whoosh past. GARBAGE WORKERS load a truck with the help of a BURLY RUBBERY ROBOT. Graffiti on the buildings say "NEVER FORGET 10/10" and "CORBIN LACHES IS A MURDERER" with several digital and printed out wanted posters for Corbin Laches spread about.

TUCSON
You know, I lost my aunt on 10/10.

Long beat.

TUCSON (CONT'D)
Wrong place, wrong time. Just walking past a building and... whoosh-- debris got her.

Maddie turns her head toward the window.

MADDIE
Plenty of us lost people that day.

TUCSON
Not trying to compare.

MADDIE
Never said you were.

TUCSON
Just solidarity.

MADDIE
(reciting a mantra)
Sorry. I'm doing it again. I, uh, I acknowledge that you have struggled as well, I-- acknowledge that you also feel pain. I acknowledge that I'm not the only one who hurts.

TUCSON
I went to a few meetings too.

MADDIE
Yeah?

TUCSON
Sure, everyone feels like they're the only one who hurts at first.

Kimberleigh starts to stir.

MADDIE
Any time I saw someone smiling or laughing after-- I just uh-- I thought it should have been a crime. Y'know? Look, I didn't--

KIMBERLEIGH
Please. Just let me go, I won't tell nobody. I don't wanna lose my baby-- Please!

TUCSON
I can't make those calls, Ma'am.

KIMBERLEIGH
Sure you can!

Maddie buries her head in the window.

TUCSON
Ma'am. You know the rules.

KIMBERLEIGH
And which one did I violate? Huh?! Which one?! I'm just tryna live!

TUCSON
I'm not sure which one
specifically. But if you're in the
system, it means you either already
have two children--

KIMBERLEIGH
--I don't. No kids. Nuh uh.

TUCSON
Okay. Look, uh--

Tucson looks at the data screen for Kimberleigh's name,
hoping to establish a brief connection. Brief pause.

On Screen: KIMBERLEIGH PORTER. TEN WEEKS DELINQUENT.

TUCSON (CONT'D)	KIMBERLEIGH
Kimber-lay, right?	Kimber-lee.

TUCSON (CONT'D)
Kimberleigh, look, perhaps you're
carrying one of the many diseases
the CDC is aiming to eradicate.

KIMBERLEIGH
Haven't even been to the doctor
yet, so don't believe that one!
Glad we figured it out. Let me go!

She starts kicking the door.

MADDIE
Then it's clear that you failed
your exam proving mental and
financial stability for your child.

KIMBERLEIGH
Oh you wanna speak now?

MADDIE
Huh?

KIMBERLEIGH
Yeah you! Buried in the window. If
you're gonna kill my kid, least you
can do's look me in the eye.

Maddie turns around, makes eye contact with her.

KIMBERLEIGH (CONT'D)
Ohoho. And here I thought only men
were Poppies. How you live with
yourself? Goddamn sellout.

If Maddie could astroproject and punch herself, she would.

MADDIE

Divider.

The car raises a sound proof divider between them. Maddie slinks back around and shrinks in her seat. A distant firework goes off by a "Binary Day" memorial.

Sounds of muffled SCREAMS transition us to:

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Maddie leans against the wall outside the cold, metallic "Detergent Room." On the far right of frame, Kimberleigh is strapped to a chair with stirrups, screaming-- pleading for the life of her baby. Maddie's soul is crushed.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HEADQUARTERS - LATER

Maddie shuts down her work station. Tucson walks over.

MADDIE

All done with the report?

TUCSON

Filed and logged. She processed?

MADDIE

(forcing the vocabulary)
Deterged and elutriated.

TUCSON

Great.

MADDIE

Now, If you'll excuse me-- I need to go home and *elutriate myself*.

TUCSON

Hey-- Hey. Long day, how about I get you a drink? We can call it a "celebration of life" toast.

Maddie's about to decline when they both clock commotion from the deeper offices.

MADDIE

Is that...?

TUCSON (CONT'D)

Goddammit. It's Moose ain't it?

They walk over for a closer look... Sure enough.

MUSTAFA "MOOSE" SUKRESHI, tall, imposing, smug, a champion when it comes to no eye contact small talk as he scans around you for the most opportunistic venture.

SILVIA LOPEZ, wild hair, the type you would expect to be covered in tattoos under her uniform.

Both are clad in full Occupation Officer gear as they exit a board room. Behind them are a pack of SUITS led by DIRECTOR XIAN MA, 50's. If an eyelash fell on the floor, he'd pick it up and wish to be back home in Xinjiang.

Moose clocks Tucson and gives him a knowing wink.

MOOSE
Tulsa, right?

TUCSON
Tucson.

MOOSE
Knew it was some town. Hey. No hard feelings, right?

TUCSON
This has to stop. I'm tired of putting the work in for you guys to just come in and swoop the credit.

MOOSE
Hey, guy, if you've got a problem, you need to take it up the ladder.

Tucson turns to Director Ma, his top superior.

TUCSON
He just walks in and gets the case?

XIAN MA
She was avoiding her appointed role in society.

MOOSE
See, the moment they stop going to work-- ain't nobody care about babies no more.

MADDIE
How are any of us supposed to maintain a clearance rate when 90% of all women violating Quill Code go into hiding thinking that it'll save their child.

MOOSE

'Spose if I were you, I'd make sure
my clearance rate was ten percent.

Silvia laughs. Maddie and Tucson stand defeated, Moose exits.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A glass slams the counter. Tucson's ready for more. Maddie, who normally would be besting him, babysits her water.

TUCSON

Not drinking?

MADDIE

I'm good. No worries.

TUCSON (CONT'D)

I got it.

Before she can insist against it, he's off to the dispenser.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

(stern)

Tucson.

(Tucson turns around)

Really. I'm good. I'm taking it
easy today. If you really want,
just, uh, get me a seltzer.

Tucson nods, totally gets it. The Holoscreen plays aerial coverage of a robotics facility bombing in the background.

REPORTER

Almanac Robotics is still reeling
from Tuesday's bombing in Muskett
by disgruntled employee Jeffrey
Calloway. Thankfully, no human
casualties. An official close to
the company has stated that "this
was a cowardly act." Displaced
employees had differing opinions.

Tucson inserts his ID card followed by a credit chip. He chooses their drinks via the on screen options, much like those fancy coke machines.

INTERVIEW #1

Since no real people got hurt, I
can say this. Good. They treated
those rubber-heads better than us.
That's what they get.

A **poster** by the dispenser looks very familiar, it's a photograph of the Mercury Movers falling with MADDIE at the center of the promenade "NEVER FORGET 10/10" written across.

REPORTER

We're going live now to the
President's 10/10 memorial event.

Maddie twirls the straw in her water, very preoccupied.
Tucson sets a club soda down in front of Maddie.

TUCSON

Seltzer and lime for the lady.

She grabs it, smiles a half smile, and takes a sip. She looks
up at the presentation to see PRESIDENT JON QUILL.

QUILL

Today marks ten long years, but
we'll never forget those lost that
day. We'll never forget the joy
they brought when they were with
us. And we'll never forget that we
are stronger having made it to
today from whence we came. God
bless America. Sorry for your loss.

Maddie is infuriated by the memorial.

MADDIE

(mocking)

Sorry for your loss. Unreal.

TUCSON

What?

MADDIE

"*Sorry for your loss.*" Hate it.
Everyone says it. Sorry for your
loss.

TUCSON

I thought he was actually genuine
for once.

MADDIE

He was patronizing us. Sorry for
your loss is like when you're at
the office and you and a co-worker
walk past each other and you both
say "Hi, how're you doing?" But
neither of you answer the question.
You just, y'know, keep walking.
Empty. It's empty. Like, don't cop
out with me. Tell me what that
person meant to you. Tell me how
they enriched your life. How they
made it better.

(MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Give me a piece of what they gave you to fill that loss. And if you didn't know them, just send me positivity and the energy to heal.

Tucson takes what she says to heart.

TUCSON

So basically what I tried to do this afternoon in the car?

Maddie acknowledges the burn.

MADDIE

Okay. Okay. I deserve that. I shouldn't have interrupted you earlier. The fireworks just--

TUCSON

It's all good, I get it. I do. I just thought after four months we should be more than just strangers.

Maddie gives Tucson a knowing look.

MADDIE

We're more than just strangers.

Maddie raises her seltzer, changing the subject.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

This is a celebration of life toast, right? So, who we celebrating?

Tucson sees her game, raises his glass.

TUCSON

To Bridgette Levy. The woman who raised me.

MADDIE

To Aunt Bridgette.

They drink.

TUCSON

I told you bout how my folks got hooked on Nova in the '30s. Well, Auntie B's the one who came and scooped me so I wouldn't have to fend in the system 'til the draft. No kids, so they allowed it. She was tough man, a real badass.

Two... MADDIE TUCSON (CONT'D)
 After 10/10, I fell back in
 the system and, boom, badged
 up at 18.

Tucson looks to Maddie with open eyes, inviting her to open
 up too. Maddie looks over to the poster of her, defeated.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
 What can I say about me that hasn't
 already been said for me?

They've done this song and dance before, Two's over it.

TUCSON
 So, the share stick makes its way
 back around the room and you're
 gonna cop out on me?

MADDIE
 People literally wear the worst
 moment of my life on T-shirts and I
 can't do anything about it. Is that
 what you want me to talk about?
 That fucking photo is everywhere. I
 can't escape it.

A clearer shot of the poster. "National Binary Day 10/10"

Off Maddie, reflective. She sighs and turns to Tucson.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
 See that building on the right?
 (she walks to the poster)
 That's my dad's office. He's in
 that image, in one of those
 windows, you can't see him-- but
 he's there, seconds away from being
 murdered by a man who is still out
 there, free.

Tucson is stunned, she's never opened up like this.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
 You know they gave me a medal? For
 what? What did I do? Thousands of
 people died that day. Hundreds of
 dads, hundreds of dad-less kids.
 (beat, to Tucson)
 Aunt-less kids. What made me
 special?

(MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

People treat me like I invalidate
their pain, as if I believe what I
went through was worse than what
anyone else went through. All
because the country prostituted my
image for it's own goddamn
propaganda. No protection
. No one was in my corner. I don't
even get the rights back to my own
likeness until 2063. So what do I
feel? I feel like an acid bath
couldn't shower off the grime that
just sticks to me every day.

Maddie almost grabs Two's drink-- stops herself.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Sorry. That was probably a lot...

TUCSON

I never tried to see it from your
perspective.

He goes to console her with a hug.

TUCSON (CONT'D)

--Can I?

She hesitates-- accepts. It's held for a few beats. She wipes
her eyes. They break and make eye contact. Tucson rests his
hand on the bar. Maddie puts her hand on top of his.

TUCSON (CONT'D)

Claire-- We-- uh, we agreed we
wouldn't do this anymore... Claire--

MADDIE

--Call me Maddie.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

A lavish image of beach front property. The crash of the
waves creates a serene lullaby as a reddish glow crests
through the open blinds until-- Bzzzt. Bzzzt. The Holowall
and it's projected image begins to short, switching back and
forth between the beach scene and a plain white wall with a
spinning circle. The audio buffering is absolutely grating.

Maddie wakes up-- begrudgingly, smacks the watch on her end
table. A Holomenu rises, she spins some options and turns the
Holowall off. Maddie turns, almost lovingly, to the other
side of the bed where-- her hand finds an empty area still
distressed from last night's activities. Maddie sighs.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MORNING

Maddie, eyes closed, spaces out under her shower head. Her hair is full of soap, but she's too busy letting the water smack her in the face. Temporary peace.

A timer on the wall looms, 00:17, 00:16, 00:15. Beep.

Maddie opens her eyes and shocks back to reality, cursing up a storm as she knows she's *done it again*. As she starts to let the water wash the soap out of her hair, the timer stops and the water turns off. Maddie feels her hair: Still soapy.

MADDIE

Homer!!

A bathroom tile turns translucent as a CARTOON BEE flies in along the smart-tile. (*Think the "home version" of Alexa.*)

HOMER

Hi, Maddie! How can I help?

MADDIE

Homer, I need another minute of water please.

HOMER

Bzz. I'm sorry Maddie, but your reservoir allotment for October has been used. Conservation is key!

MADDIE

Homer, trade a visitor pass please.

HOMER

You got it-- one visitor pass remaining. Your reservoir will replenish in 20 days. Is that all?

Sigh. Maddie hits the button next to the timer: It resets to three minutes and Homer disappears as Maddie finishes up.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Now in her work uniform, Maddie finishes her routine in front of a mirror. Just as she starts to put her hair in a pony tail-- the mirror turns into an ad:

ADVERTISEMENT (V.O.)

Enjoying the free version of
"Mirror Pro 7?" Pay for PREMIUM now
to remove ads and customize frames!

Maddie grunts and walks over to her "love corner." Plenty of abstract art pieces. Paintings, sculptures, and a somewhat political piece with a bunch of 1's and 0's, except all of the zeroes are crossed out with X's. She heads to the table with the painting of her father Lionel-- draped across is the same peculiar chip from when she was kid: Now, a necklace.

Maddie takes a brush, dips it into her color-wheel and adds a sideways hatch mark to the other nine already on the bottom of the piece-- indicating ten years. She grabs the necklace and tucks it under her collar before leaving.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HQ (WAR ROOM)- DAY

Maddie, Tucson, RAMIREZ, and JOHNSON are being briefed by Director Ma. Holoscreens show both the TARGET and SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, PERRY ROSS, who has dialed into the briefing.

SECRETARY ROSS

Delilah Jones. 26. Been on the run since June, you figure that's-- four, five months along. We doubt she'll be doing much running now.

XIAN MA

Sources say she's hiding in a Nova-Den just outside of Muskett. Two teams, Levy, Maddox you're on the ground. Ramirez and Johnson, you're on the perimeter in case she runs. This is a joint effort with the Department of Defense, so we're on our best behavior out there.

TUCSON

Sir.

RAMIREZ

Sir.

MADDIE

She's been on the run since June?

XIAN MA

As you can imagine, she needs to be questioned thoroughly. Top priority. No mess.

MADDIE

It's just that-- If she's been out since June there's likely a case at the O.C. Office on her as well. If Moose, or some other guy, is just going to come in after us and--

XIAN MA
What's your job, officer?

MADDIE
Uh, to secure, deterge, and
elutriate individuals who violate
federal and state pregnancy laws.

The director gives a look that screams "*know your place.*"

XIAN MA
Dismissed.

Maddie and Tucson head for the exit, Tucson turns back.

TUCSON
She's not wrong. Forgive me for
interjecting, Director Ma, but it's
not just some "morale" thing. It's
a larger bureaucratic issue that
needs to be addressed. We're
basically always doing their jobs
for them. If we became, say, a
division of the O.C. Offices then--

Maddie is impressed that Tucson is standing up for her.

XIAN MA
--That Bohemian rubbing off on you,
Levy? If you want changes, you
should have gone into politics.
Now, go get her before we lose her.

Offended by Ma's comment, Maddie exits, followed by Tucson.

EXT. NOVA DEN - DAY

A run down three story complex, left to rot with no post-war improvements. The outer fence can't decide if it's keeping the unwanted out or the riffraff in. WIRE, a bearded junkie, 40s, leans against the fence and gets spooked. Individuals closer to the building can be seen starting to scramble.

The Pop Force vehicle pulls up, Maddie and Tucson step out.

WIRE
(exhales cigarette smoke)
Y'all Ockies? My paper's straight.

TUCSON
We're not here for you.

Wire clocks the logo on the car. Runs inside the fence.

WIRE

Poppies, y'all! Poppies!!

Tucson and Maddie share a "*this guy*" look as they duck under the gate and walk toward the building. Maddie sighs, Tucson looks back at her "You okay?" She goes to say something when-- they both notice Moose and Silvia casually leaning against a patrol car on the other side of the West fence.

SILVIA

Took you guys long enough.

MOOSE

Hey Tulsa! When you grab her you can just throw her in here, capiche?

MADDIE

Go and get her yourself.

MOOSE

Now why would I do that when I have you two?

TUCSON

Then I guess we'll just see you at the station later.

Moose and Silvia laugh. Maddie and Tucson press on.

MADDIE

Can you believe those guys, just sitting there?

TUCSON

Oh I can. You were gonna say something before?

MADDIE

Oh. Right. I was-- I was gonna say thanks.

TUCSON

For?

MADDIE

You didn't have to stick your neck out for me, you know? But you did.

TUCSON

Someone's gotta-- Well, at least someone should-- since most haven't. You know what I mean.

Tucson kicks around an injector that resembles the mouth of a Viper-- distribution model of choice for the drug Nova.

TUCSON (CONT'D)
Watch your step-- lotta fangs on
the ground.

MADDIE
Yeah, I see 'em.

They get to the door. Tucson waits for it to open. Maddie walks up and pulls it manually. They enter.

INT. NOVA DEN - LOBBY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

The inside is the "abandoned building" equivalent of a homeless community under a bridge.

A few steps in, a SPARK flies from Maddie's ear. She rips her comms out.

MADDIE
Gah! Fuck!

TUCSON
What? What's up?! You alright?

MADDIE
Jammers. We didn't even get five
feet inside. Wait. You didn't...?

TUCSON
Oh shit.

MADDIE
You forgot to replace your link.

Tucson recognizes his gaff. Wrong day for a rookie mistake.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
What the hell is a place like this
doing with high grade jammers?

More fangs litter the ground next to a slew of sleeping bags and shopping carts. Tucson bends down and picks up one of the fangs, an existential crisis bubbling beneath him.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HQ - WAR ROOM - DAY

Director Ma and other officials react to the feed going dark.

XIAN MA
(to the tech)
Let me know if it comes back
online. Send CI's to recover what
the ground team finds.
(to Ross)
Next time Quill wants my help, tell
him he can call me himself.

Xian Ma goes to exit, but is interrupted by Ross.

SECRETARY ROSS
You're just going to leave?

XIAN MA
Clearly you've underestimated Ms.
Jones and whoever is helping her.

INT. NOVA DEN - FIRST FLOOR - DAY

A NOVAHEAD throws bottles in Maddie and Tucson's direction.
They dart around a corner. Heavy sighs.

Wire walks towards Maddie and Tucson from the other side.

WIRE
Yeah, I just checked there's nobody
pregnant here, y'all good.

They ignore him and walk down the hallway.

WIRE (CONT'D)
Huh? I said y'all good. What y'all
doin'?

Tucson snaps. He steps to Wire.

TUCSON
Oh we're good? *We're good?*

Tucson pushes him against the nearest wall and, fang in hand,
places it a centimeter from Wire's neck.

MADDIE
Two!

TUCSON
You tell me. We good?

Wire is speechless. He keeps looking upstairs. Maddie clocks
this and looks upstairs as well.

MADDIE

Two. Enough.

Tucson puts the fang closer. Maddie goes to intervene--

WIRE

Nah it ain't like that. Yo. Easy!

TUCSON

This is a federal investigation.
Stop. Interfering.

Tucson drops the fang. Wire runs. Tucson tries to calm himself down, Maddie stares at him, "who are you?"

MADDIE

I don't know what the fuck that
was, but I'm going upstairs, you
can cool off down here.

Maddie heads upstairs, Tucson is torn-- follow her? No.

INT. NOVA DEN - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

One side of the hallway is blocked and boarded by a makeshift tower of furniture. LOOKYLOO RESIDENTS duck their heads back in and close their doors. Lock sounds are heard.

Maddie starts down the open path until CLANG! Maddie whips around and rips apart the furniture tower. She removes enough to see a FIGURE run across from one apartment to another.

MADDIE

Hey! Stop right there!
(yelling toward Tucson)
I've got something!

Maddie starts to wiggle through the small crevice she created WHEN-- she's GRABBED and pulled back out by two NOVAHEADS. Maddie twists herself around and UPPERCUTS her palm into the first one's NOSE-- he's OUT, writhing on the ground. The other tries to put Maddie in a lock.

INT. NOVA DEN - FIRST FLOOR - DAY

Two's in the middle of reading rights to a RESIDENT.

TUCSON

...Section 34-C of the Quill Code--

INT. NOVA DEN - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Maddie, still in a lock, backs up against the wall. Upon impact, the Novahead loosens his grip enough for her to flip out of the grasp. She kicks him back, draws her weapon, and fires a stun shot (taser effect). He's out. Lookyloos run as Maddie addresses a sharp pain in her abdominal area.

INT. NOVA DEN - FIRST FLOOR - DAY

Two turns towards the sound of the taser, rushes back.

INT. NOVA DEN - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

As Maddie wiggles her way through the barricade, her NECKLACE GETS TANGLED, and the CHIP from her father FALLS to the ground. Maddie fails to notice, runs for the door.

Knock. Knock. Knock.

JOHANNA, 60s, Dominican, opens the door, chain attached.

JOHANNA

Hmmm?

MADDIE

Population Enforcement. I have reason to believe there is an illegally pregnant individual on the premises. Under section 34-C of the Quill Code you are ordered to comply. Please open the door.

JOHANNA

Esperete, esperete.

She closes the door. Fumbles with the lock for longer than necessary. Maddie pushes it open once the chain is loose.

Two makes it upstairs. Looks left, then right. He sees her enter the apartment through the furniture tower opening.

INT. NOVA DEN - APARTMENT 2N - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Gun drawn, Maddie canvases the apartment, checking every corner like a true professional. Johanna follows, shouting.

JOHANNA

(in Spanish)

You broke my door, you idiot! You better pay for that!

(MORE)

JOHANNA (CONT'D)
Get out, get out! What are you
doing? There's nothing here. Leave!

INT. DELILAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Top to bottom, the room looks like a Rube Goldberg Machine. DELILAH JONES, 26, militant and humble, tosses whatever she can scramble into her bag-- which is efficiently CONNECTED to a rope and pulley system that leads out the open window.

INT. NOVA DEN - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Struggling to reach Maddie, Tucson breaks down more of the "furniture tower" to get through. He's close.

I/E. DELILAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Delilah tosses the bag out the window. It glides slowly down.

THUD.

INT. NOVA DEN - APARTMENT 2N - DAY

Maddie hears the thud outside, rushes to the bedroom. Johanna's pleas for Delilah and the child muffled behind her.

INT. DELILAH'S BEDROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Delilah turns from the window to find Maddie has her at gun point. Unfazed, Delilah pulls the rope tighter, which is now fastened safely to her belt. She rests her hands on the sides of the window, ready to jump.

MADDIE
Delilah Jones.

DELILAH
Yes?

MADDIE
Please step away from the window.

Delilah winces. Maddie seems concerned, clocks the belly.

DELILAH
(with kind eyes)
Sorry, she's kicking.

It suddenly becomes real for Maddie. They're usually not this far along. There's something there. Something alive. Maddie's intensity grows as her resolve wavers. Her muscles tighten, and her finger hovers over the trigger.

DELILAH (CONT'D)
This is bigger than us, you know?

Delilah's candor cracks through Maddie's shell. Maddie has to remain professional, she's holding back tears.

MADDIE
(forcing it, impassioned)
You have violated Quill-Code
Section 4, I have been appointed to
remand you to a detergent facility.
The window. I won't repeat myself.

She's had it. Every single ounce of her is at war with the woman she's become. The antithesis of her own ideologies. She can't do it. Her breath escapes her and the gun goes limp.

DELILAH
Are you okay?

Delilah stares at the weapon and acknowledges Maddie's impotent intention. Maddie backs away cautiously. Delilah nods, nothing is said. Nothing needs to be said.

Delilah slides down the window and makes a break for it. Maddie slumps against the wall. The flood gates open, ashamed of what they wanted her to do-- what she almost did.

Tucson rushes in, immediately clocks the window and then notices Maddie on the floor. He steps over her to see Delilah running away outside. The wheels turn, but the jump is too high. Johanna rambles as Tucson steps away to comfort Maddie.

TUCSON
It's okay. It's okay.

MADDIE	TUCSON (CONT'D)
She-- She got away.	I know. I know. It's okay.

INT. NOVA DEN - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Moose and Silvia are at what's left of the furniture tower. Silvia notices something BLINKING on the ground, it's the peculiar chip. She picks it up, shows it to Moose. The top has CRACKED -- REVEALING a USB CONNECTOR INSIDE.

MOOSE
Log it.

SILVIA
What is that?

MOOSE
Looks like an early generation
storage device. Whoever she's in
league with could be using outdated
tech to organize.

SILVIA
Would make sense. Considering how
she's gotten this far. Do we even
have anything to read th--

A call comes over the analog walkie on Moose's belt:

TUCSON (O.S.)
Suspect on the run. I repeat,
suspect heading North-East along
Eberly. Patrol units respond.

PATROL (O.S.)
Copy. Mobilizing.

MOOSE
I knew they'd blow it.

SILVIA
We should have stayed outside.

MOOSE
And let the CI's find that? Nah,
we're the winners here.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HQ - WAR ROOM - DAY

The holoscreens start to get fuzzy audio and video.

HOLOTECH
We're getting something.

SECRETARY ROSS
Get Xian Ma back in here.

INT. NOVA DEN - APARTMENT 2N - DAY

Tucson, analog walkie in hand, wraps up his call. Maddie is
still inconsolable.

TUCSON
Second floor, N like November.

PATROL 2 (O.S.)
CI's are en route.

Tucson puts the walkie down, calmly turns to Maddie.

MADDIE
Two.

TUCSON
Yeah?

MADDIE
Are we doing the right thing?

Long beat.

TUCSON
They'll be here soon. We gotta go.

MADDIE
I'm serious. Who decided any of
this was okay?

TUCSON
You have to understand the logic, I
felt it first hand. My parents were
not mentally or financially there
for me. It's no life for a kid.

MADDIE
You can't really believe that, I
mean, you realize that if the laws
were what they are now back then,
you wouldn't be here-- right?

TUCSON
That's why I have to make a
difference. Because realistically,
I shouldn't be.

MADDIE
You can't think like that. You're
here. It's not a mistake that
you're here. What they did to that,
what-- what we've done to those
women... that's the mistake. No one
should be involved in the process
of our bodies. You know?

Maddie shoves her face in her hands, deep breath.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Two. There's something I need to
tell you.

TUCSON

Maddie, we're already gonna get
shit for this, we can't be here
when the CI's get here.

Maddie pulls herself together. As she stands up-- !!! A
sinking feeling overcomes her. The necklace! The chip!

MADDIE

(rambling, chaotic)
N-n-no-no-no! Shit!

Maddie starts looking at the ground. Panicking.

TUCSON

What?

Maddie composes herself like a paper tiger.

MADDIE

Nothing. Go ahead. I'll catch up.

TUCSON

What are you talking about?

MADDIE (CONT'D)

I need a minute or two to
collect myself, please Two.

TUCSON (CONT'D)

Collect yourself outside, come on.

MADDIE

(feral)
Go.

Tucson leaves. The search begins.

EXT. NOVA DEN - DAY

Tucson, focused, rushes out of the den. He spots Moose and
Silvia getting in their car on the other side of the fence.
Moose gives Tucson quite a look.

TUCSON

What? Say it already!

MOOSE

No time for jokes today, sorry! Big
mess to clean up!

Tucson scowls as he watches Silvia and Moose drive away.

TUCSON

Dammit, Maddie...

INT. NOVA DEN - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

The furniture tower is now completely dismantled as Maddie scours for the necklace. She's on the verge of physical sickness from all of the stress.

Maddie clocks Wire down the hall.

MADDIE
Hey! You!

WIRE
Yo! I'm done with y'all, I
got nothing for you!

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Was anyone else down this hallway?
Besides us?

WIRE
Just you two and the other two.
When ya'll leaving?

Maddie processes that and continues searching on the ground.

WIRE (CONT'D)
Oh, hol' up, you lost somethin'?
Hold on, I got you. I got you.

MADDIE
No, please. I'm good. Please!

WIRE (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Yo! Hop out, this Poppy
dropped something, let's help
her out!

Within seconds, a DOZEN RESIDENTS pop out and start looking at the ground, all ready to "help."

RESIDENT
So what we lookin' for?

Maddie's defeated, she knows she'll never find it now. Exits.

EXT. NOVA DEN - DAY

Maddie spots Tucson leaning against an inner gate waiting for her. She jogs to catch up, gets about halfway, and VOMITS.

TUCSON
Whoa! You okay?

Tucson rushes over to Maddie.

TUCSON (CONT'D)
Easy. Easy. It all out? You feel better?

Maddie composes herself, heads for the car.

MADDIE
Let's go.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HQ - WAR ROOM / BULLPEN - NIGHT

TOP OFFICIALS crowd the room. Maddie's nausea is rampant.

SECRETARY ROSS
You lost the asset, there's no body cam footage. Best we've got is spotty audio, most of which sounds like someone looking for her keys.

XIAN MA
(turning to Tucson)
Let's hear the report.

TUCSON
They had jammers in the building sir, enough to blow our comms on entry. As the S.O. with the only analog walkie between us, I should have never let the two of us split up. That was our first mistake.

MADDIE
Actually, that was our second mistake. Respectfully, our first mistake was going in there without all of the information.

The pot is stirred.

SECRETARY ROSS
We gave you everything you needed.

MADDIE
If you got the tail end of that run on tape that means the jammer was mobile. How? What are we dealing with here? A pregnant woman with military tech? Is that why the D.O.D. is phoned in? Who is she? Who's helping her? What-- Ugh...

Maddie gets up and runs out of the war room.

XIAN MA
Excuse her, Mr. Secretary.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Maddie rushes for one of the toilets. Violently opens the stall door and vomits again. She gets it all out and hugs the bowl. After a long beat, she sits back on the floor with her head tilted back against the paper dispenser.

MADDIE
Ugh. Fuck.

She rubs her stomach and holds it, motherly.

INT. OCCUPATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - BULLPEN - NIGHT

Silvia is having an inaudible conversation with CAIDEN, 40s, when Moose enters frame holding a 2010 model desktop computer under his shoulder. Monitor in his other hand.

MOOSE
Yo, Sil! Got one!

SILVIA
Is it even going to boot up before
the shift's over?

Moose smirks and enters an open office.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Maddie, still reeling from her sickness, turns to her wrist.

MADDIE
Computer.

The wrist-comm brightens and an "Andross / Matrix-esque" face appears, moving fluidly across the display.

COMPUTER	MADDIE (CONT'D)
How may I help?	Personal mode. Input code one zero one zero.

COMPUTER (CONT'D)
Ten minutes of unpaid personal
mode, starting now.

Computer vanishes. From the side of the display Homer flies in with some buzzing noises.

HOMER

Hey Maddie. Quick reminder, your payment is due on the 17th, would you like to make a payment?

MADDIE

Homer, run a diagnostic.

HOMER

Home or health?

MADDIE

Health.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Stand by.

Vitals are shown on the elaborate display. Heart rate, blood pressure, temperature. A list of possible diagnosis options flood until there are three answers with probabilities.

(1. Nausea: 100%

(2. Progesterone levels elevated: 100%

(3. Deficiencies: Iron, Folate, Vitamin D.

(4. Pregnancy: 93% Probability.

Maddie rubs her stomach.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Ugh, I just want you tell me if they're okay.

HOMER

Would you like me to set up an appointment with a maternity specialist? Your work schedule is clear through next week.

MADDIE

Clear through next week? How? Wait--
Homer, I'll handle it. Thank you.

HOMER

Reminder set for three days. I'll check back then. Will that be all?

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - BULLPEN - NIGHT

Some CLERICAL TYPES gawk as Maddie exits the bathroom.

CLERICAL #1

The one from the poster?

CLERICAL #2

Yeah. I've been telling you for months, it's her. Binary Girl. Trust me. I heard it from Nancy on the second floor.

CLERICAL #3

Yeah? Well, Nancy would know.

CLERICAL #1

So she did all of those protests years ago too?

CLERICAL #2

Yeah, the political art ones, I remember the memes.

They all laugh.

CLERICAL #1

How the hell'd she end up here?

Maddie glares back at the Clericals. Deer in headlights.

CLERICAL #2

Shit, you think she can hear us?

MADDIE

Oh don't stop I'm learning so much.

The Clericals break apart and awkwardly split up. Maddie heads toward the science division area.

INT. OCCUPATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - SIDE ROOM - NIGHT

Windows 7 Logo. Ta-da.

MOOSE

See? Told you. Took eleven different computers, but I got one.

SILVIA

Eleven? I'm surprised any of them worked.

MOOSE

You've got it, right? Try it.

As Silvia grabs the USB, she hits a button on her wrist.

SILVIA

Slide over.

First, Silvia puts the USB in the ethernet. Wrong. Then, in the right socket, but the wrong way. Flips. Caiden pops in.

CAIDEN

Moose, boss needs you.

Moose heads for the door. Silvia puts the drive in correctly. A FLOOD of .exe files install themselves, activate the network settings, and begin uploading various GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS and files on MERCURY INC. Silvia's eyes go wide.

MOOSE

Alright-- Hold up. He can wait, I'm in the middle of something.

Moose heads back. Silvia stands, frustrated, a black screen.

SILVIA

This piece of shit shut off!

MOOSE

What? It sounds like it's still running.

SILVIA

I'll try to get it working, you go.

Moose sighs, leaves. Silvia nods to Caiden and sits back down. She deliberately turns the monitor back on. Upload 50% complete. It's stuck. It won't load any further. Requires a password. She thinks for a second and types something in.

A video pops up-- it's LIONEL. Maddie's father. Pre-recorded from at least 10 years ago.

LIONEL

You're not my daughter. If you're him, or are working for him then you know the deal. Protect her. She's the only one who can open it.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - DETERGENT ROOM - NIGHT

Cold, metal walls. About as inviting as a morgue. A chair with stirrups in the center. Glass cabinets all around, some refrigerated, filled with equipment or genetic material.

Maddie enters, it's empty. Immediately, she darts for a cabinet with thick metal tubes. WHOOSH, the door opens behind her. NEVEAH, 40s, the elutriation specialist enters.

NEVEAH

Hi. Can I help you?

MADDIE NEVEAH (CONT'D)
 Oh, hey. Just looking around. --You're thinking about
 You know, I've been here a having kids aren't you?
 few mon--

MADDIE (CONT'D)
 Oh, uh, how did you--

NEVEAH
 Nobody comes in here voluntarily.

A sigh of mutual understanding. Woman to woman.

MADDIE
 Haven't been in here since they
 first gave me the tour. They
 basically opened the door and said,
*"Well, you can imagine what goes on
 in here."* And moved over the break
 room. This is how you do the
 testing now, right?

Maddie points to the cabinet she was at.

NEVEAH
 Uh, yeah. You take one of those
 canisters, place it on the side of
 the toilet and the strip extends
 into the-- you get the idea. Much
 more sanitary than the old days.

MADDIE
 I guess. You're still peeing on a
 stick.

NEVEAH
 Sounds like you need piece of mind.

Maddie is flustered. Unsure of how to handle being caught.

MADDIE
 I, uh--

NEVEAH
 Don't use it here if you want to
 keep it quiet for the time being.
 You'll be auto-logged into the
 system, and there's trackers on
 them. You wouldn't believe how many
 people leave them in the bathrooms.

MADDIE
 But at home it won't register?

NEVEAH

Unless you live around the corner
it'll work just fine. It'll need a
range amplifier to send anything
further than that back to us.

MADDIE

Can you get in--

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

If it's positive, I truly
hope you get to keep them.

Maddie exits, opens her palm to glance at the CANISTER. Her
wrist-comm beeps. "Meeting with Ma. Now."

INT. OCCUPATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - SIDE ROOM / BULLPEN - NIGHT

The computer is completely shut down and unplugged. Silvia is
moving everything outside of the room. Moose gets back.

MOOSE

Don't know what that was about, the
boss isn't even in right now. Whoa,
whoa, what's going on?

Silvia hands Moose the computer monitor.

SILVIA

Everything's fried, the drive too.
My shift's up, so I'm out. You good
with the clean up?

FOLLOW Silvia's exit. She grabs her coat, her bag, and
affixes a large magnet under her sleeve to a desk.

HOLD on the magnet.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - MA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Maddie enters Ma's office with her desk cleaned out.

MADDIE

How long?

XIAN MA

I'm sorry?

MADDIE

The suspension.

XIAN MA

This meeting is to determine
whether one is necessary.

MADDIE

My schedule has been wiped already,
so if it's all the same I don't
want to play games, sir.

Director Ma smirks. He appreciates her tenacity.

XIAN MA

Fine. I think you let Jones go
today.

MADDIE

Why? Because hey, we're both women.
Solidarity, right?

XIAN MA

No.

Long beat. He plays back a segment of the spotty audio from
her conversation with Tucson at the Nova Den.

XIAN MA (CONT'D)

I know you didn't choose this job.
I can pull some strings, throw you
back into the draft pool. Take a
week to decide. Maybe second time's
the charm?

Maddie is taken aback. A second chance? Something different?

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Fangs on the ground, a BUM laying on cardboard. Female boots
enter frame.

BUM

Oooh. You lost, baby? Lemme help
get you where you going.

Silvia flashes her badge. The bum turns pale and runs off. A
phone rings. Silvia takes out a burner flip phone.

UNKNOWN

I need the rest of it.

SILVIA

He said you had a "deal" to
"protect her."

Unknown sighs.

SILVIA (CONT'D)
A video popped up when I typed the
wrong password in. "She's the only
one who can open it."

Click. UNKNOWN hangs up. Silvia breaks the phone and tosses
the remains.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - NIGHT

Maddie's on her way out, she spots Tucson.

MADDIE
Two, I really have to talk to you.

TUCSON
What's there to say, Maddie? I just
got my ass handed to me my ass. I'm
lucky I'm not suspended. You got
drafted into this job. But I gotta
be honest, Maddie. I-I chose this.
And you're really jeopardizing my
chances for a promotion now.

This whole time Maddie thought Two was drafted, like she was.

TUCSON (CONT'D)
Look, I put in a request for a
partner transfer. It's nothing
personal, Maddie, I just--

MADDIE
Right. Right. Career first...

Maddie leaves, her view of Tucson crushed, her world crushed.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Security cameras reposition, and eerily follow Maddie as she
enters a restaurant. She's too preoccupied to notice.

E/I. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

SECURITY POV: No human employees. All ROBOTS. Maddie orders
some food and sits in a booth. A robot brings it to her
table. The camera zooms in. Ominous. Uneasy.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT / BATHROOM - NIGHT

Maddie enters, she's doing the "Gotta pee" dance and takes off her jacket, bag, and pants.

HOMER

Welcome home, Maddie! Did you have
a g-g-good day?

The lights flicker, Homer goes in and out. Weird. Maddie runs for the bathroom. Oops. She forgot the device-- runs back for it and takes it into the bathroom.

Privacy view from outside the door. We know what's going on.

Maddie's finished. The strip retracts back into the canister and a purifying aerosol sprays before Maddie picks it up.

| Loading... |

Maddie takes a seat in the chair next to her artwork. DING.

| + PREGNANT + |

Before she's even had a second to process this... Homer FABRICATES a giant CGI showcase in the main room filled with streamers, balloons, fanfare, and giant "Congratulations!" & "We're having a baby!" signs.

MADDIE

Homer, enough.

It all stops. Silence.

Maddie heads to her bed and throws her comforter over her.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (LATER)

The lights flicker. Homer appears and moves over to where the canister is. Homer reaches out to it and the canister starts blinking. The tracker has been activated.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Sun beams through the window. Maddie starts to stir.

HOMER

Rise and shine Maddie. You've got a
mandatory doctor's appointment!

MADDIE

What? What are you talking about?

Maddie notices the canister is blinking.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Oh shit. Shit shit. Oh shit. Fuck.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - DAY

Feels more like a DMV than a hospital. A nearby holocube is turned to the news.

REPORTER
Police are still on the hunt for
Jeffrey Calloway, responsible for
blowing up an Almanac Robotics
Warehouse in Muskett. Any
information leading to an arrest...

Maddie's wrist-comm lights up like one of those beepers at a restaurant letting you know your table is ready.

INTERCOM
Claire Maddox. Claire Maddox. A
testing room has now opened.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - TESTING ROOM - DAY

There is no doctor, just Maddie and an interactive holowall. Reminiscent of K's diagnostic scans in Blade Runner 2049. A long beat, Maddie looks around. Finally, a message appears on the holowall. It's President Quill. Maddie rolls her eyes.

QUILL
On behalf of our country I would
like to thank you. Having a child
is the greatest service you can
perform. As you know, pandemics,
wars, and technology have all
caused great suffering. Our
freedoms were challenged, and to
protect our citizens, the Quill
Code was enacted. A set of rules
intended to improve our quality of
life for generations. Permitting
that you are healthy, mentally fit,
and financially prepared for this
journey, your child will grow and
contribute to our bright future.

The holowall turns into the American flag as a part of the wall drops and a floating cylinder appears. A piece of the floor opens, and another cylinder rises.

INTERCOM

Please insert left and right arms.
When the light turns red, stop.

Maddie complies. A needle pokes out of the right cylinder and draws blood. The left cylinder shrinks to her bicep. It takes her blood pressure, but will also act as a lie detector.

INTERCOM (CONT'D)

State your name, age, date of birth
and occupation for the record.

MADDIE

Claire Maddox, 24, 01/01/29,
Population Enforcement Agent.

INTERCOM

Thank you. Parents names and status
for the record.

MADDIE

Lionel and Cassandra Maddox.
(grits her teeth)
Both deceased.

EXT. FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Maddie, 5, picks flowers with Lionel and CASSANDRA MADDOX.
Another MAN is in the background. The sun is beaming, plenty
of laughter. She's happy. She reaches for her parents as an
echo gets louder and louder.

INTERCOM

Cause of death?

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - TESTING ROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

INTERCOM

Repeat. Cause of death?

Maddie is seething.

INTERCOM (CONT'D)

Your blood pressure is rising,
should we skip to the next
question?

MADDIE

Murder. My father was murdered.

INTERCOM

Thank you. Your mother?

MADDIE
I don't know.

INTERCOM
Thank you. Next question. Father of
the child's name, age, date of
birth and occupation for the
record.

Long beat. Maddie is toying with several things to say.

INTERCOM (CONT'D) MADDIE
Repeat. Father of th-- I don't know. Skip.

INTERCOM (CONT'D)
I will return to that question
later. Are you married? Or engaged
to be married?

MADDIE
No.

INTERCOM MADDIE (CONT'D)
Are you in a committed relationship? No.

INTERCOM (CONT'D)
Will the sole burden of raising
this child fall on you?

The incredibly deafening white walls close in her.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - WAITING ROOM - DUSK

A closed off room that feels more like a drunk tank than anything else. Several WOMEN pace back and forth waiting for the results of their test. Some have their MALE S.O.'s. Maddie leans against a wall, looks up to the ceiling.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DR. STRAUCH, male, 40's, sits across from Maddie. She might as well be listening to Charlie Brown's teacher.

DR. STRAUCH
Do you understand what I've just
explained?

MADDIE
Thalassemia. A rare blood disease
that if severe could cause heart
failure by 30. Got it.

(MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

The home assessments I expected,
but this, I just-- I just don't
understand how I've never been told
this before.

DR. STRAUCH

It's an inherited gene. Do you know
of anyone in your family who has
had this?

(scans her answers)

You mother, perhaps?

MADDIE

I don't know. I was young, and I
can't ask my father.

(a mental lightbulb)

...But she was 30.

DR. STRAUCH

Hmmm. I'll attempt to find those
records. Honestly, it's a miracle
that you're even here with us
today. Thalassemia is a Level 4
elimination under Quill Code now.
Am I being too candid? Sorry. I
just know you understand our line
of work. Do you want to set up the
elutriation at your facility, or
with us? Probably yours, right? I
can call ahead.

MADDIE

I'm sorry, I just-- I need some
time to process all of this. I
understand what is required of me
and I'll get it done. I've been
here all day, I haven't eaten. I
need some rest, and I'll take care
of it tomorrow or the next day.

DR. STRAUCH

If you refuse to act upon this
today, I'm forced to insert a nano-
implant for tracking purposes.

MADDIE

I work in Population Enforcement,
that won't be necessary.

DR. STRAUCH

All the more reason to cooperate.

Off Maddie processing. A powerful choice is made.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

CLOSE ON the door knob as Maddie gingerly exits the office.

NURSE

All set Ms. Maddox?

Maddie smiles and heads for the locker with her belongings.

MADDIE

Oh! Yeah, great. I'm just going to change and head home.

NURSE

Says here we have to fit you for your tracker. Follow me.

Maddie pulls out her bag, wrist-comm, clothes, and sneakers.

MADDIE

Oh, no. No. Dr. Strauch and I talked about it. See, I'm in Pop Enforcment, so I'm just gonna have Naveah handle everything over headquarters. No worries!

Maddie leaves. The Nurse walks over to Dr. Strauch's door.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - DOC'S OFFICE - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Nurse peeks in to see Strauch holding his head, struggling to get up off the floor.

DR. STRAUCH

She's a Population Officer! She's got every code to the building, get her!

Nurse RUNS out of the room.

INT. MATERNITY FACILITY - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: Maddie, still in her gown, putting her sneakers on.

FLASH!! Red siren ALARMS everywhere. Maddie looks up, sighs.

MADDIE

Knew I wouldn't have time to change.

She shoves the clothes in her bag and runs down the sally-port corridor. A computerized door at the far end. Locked.

She looks behind her to see a flood of ORDERLIES running for her. She opens up her wrist-comm and logs into the facility using her access codes from work.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Come on, come on, come on.

The door opens. She runs through and locks it from her end.

The orderlies fumble with their own wrist-comms. They're all basically pulling on a car door when the other person is pressing the button to open it. Doesn't work.

Maddie rounds the corner, elevators in sight when THWACK!! She's hit with a flying tackle by a SECURITY GUARD. He pins her down while another ORDERLY tries to sedate her. She KICKS the orderly in the shin and he trips into the guard. She uses this momentum to BREAK FREE from the pin.

She sprints for the elevators. A NEW GUARD rushes her into the wall. She grabs the baton off of his belt and WHAM! WHACK! One, two, combo. Before she can take a breath, Tackle Guard and Orderly are back up and after her. She books it.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HQ - NIGHT

An alarm sounds within the headquarters. Every Holoscreen in the bullpen and war room loads a photo of Maddie's face. "CLAIRE MADDOX, ILLEGALLY PREGNANT, ASSAULT AGAINST A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, REFUSED TRACKING." News plays mostly for audio.

REPORTER
...Assaulting multiple medical personnel during her escape. The true twist of this story is her occupation. Claire Maddox is, get this, a Population Enforcement Officer. Yeah. Current whereabouts unknown. Updates as details unfold.

Director Ma raises a very surprised eyebrow. Naveah smirks.

Tucson exits the break room to see the bulletin and immediately drops his coffee mug. A multitude of feelings and emotions. He rushes into the bathroom in a cold sweat.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCMENT HQ - BATHROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Tucson pushes a CO-WORKER out of the way as he rushes over to the sink. Breathing heavily, he puts his hands under the faucet and throws the water on his face. Head down, he lets the water drip onto the sink.

Long beat. Deep, deep breath.

He raises his head, makes eye contact with himself, resolved.

EXT. MATERNITY FACILITY - NIGHT

Maddie, starved and tired, bursts through the emergency exit running for her life, for the life of her child.

INT. POPULATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - NIGHT

Tucson weaves through the bullpen with conviction, all the while feeling the piercing, inquisitive, and invasive eyes of his peers. He reaches the exit when Director Ma approaches.

Brief stare down. Time is of the essence, Tucson leaves.

INT. OCCUPATION ENFORCEMENT HQ - NIGHT

Moose sees the news about Maddie and laughs.

<p>MOOSE</p> <p>Isn't that? Yeah! That's that girl! Where's Sil? She's gotta see this.</p> <p>(shouting across bullpen)</p> <p>When this hits our queue, this one's mine! I'm calling this case!</p>	<p>REPORTER #2</p> <p>Don't recognize her yet? Let's spin her around! It's Binary Girl! Now a federal fugitive. Child stars, am I right?</p>
--	--

EXT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Police have Maddie's complex surrounded with both ground and drone units.

Maddie racks her head for options as she watches in the bushes far enough away.

MADDIE

...They put more people on me than Delilah Jones. This is--

She runs her fingers through her hair, twists her fingers, and wrings a bit with a muffled scream. Deep sigh. It's over. Her wrist-comm powers on, a phone call. Tucson.

TUCSON

Looks like you're back in the spotlight, Binary Girl.

MADDIE
Matter of time, I guess.

Maddie notices the drones by her complex are turning around.

TUCSON
You want to tell me where to get
you? Or do I have to track your
wrist-comm?

MADDIE
We really doing this?

TUCSON
If you drag this situation out any
longer, it's going to be a lot
harder to get you reinstated.

MADDIE
That's at the bottom of my
priorities.

She ends the call, powers down her wrist-comm, and runs.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Maddie jumps into an alley and swiftly tries to change out of
the hospital gown.

VOICE
If I can see you, how long will it
take them?

Maddie turns her head to the sound of the voice, it's coming
from a car. Maddie leans to make out who it is-- SILVIA.

SILVIA
Don't run! I'm not after you.

MADDIE
I know. It's too early to see you
guys. Why are you here?

SILVIA
Get in.

MADDIE
Are you nuts?

Maddie tosses the gown, starts to rush out of there.

SILVIA
Maddie!

Maddie stops.

Silvia wouldn't know to call her that. She turns around.

Maddie sees Silvia holding her necklace. The peculiar chip.

MADDIE	SILVIA (CONT'D)
How do you--	Get in.

INT. SILVIA'S CAR - NIGHT

Silvia hands Maddie a bag of fast food in the car.

SILVIA	MADDIE
You're probably hungry.	Oh my god! Yes! Food!

Maddie demolishes the fries.

SILVIA (CONT'D)
Give me your wrist-comm.

MADDIE
(mouth full)
Already turned it off.

SILVIA
Not good enough.

Silvia affixes an electromagnetic chip onto her wrist-comm.

MADDIE
That's, uh, not going to work
again, is it?

SILVIA
How do you think I found you?

Silvia hands Maddie the necklace back. Maddie looks it over.

MADDIE
It's really it. You had it. I never
thought I'd see this again.

She notices the broken part where the USB exits.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Wait. What happened to it?! You
broke it? What is this?

SILVIA
That's how we found it.

MADDIE

We?

SILVIA

Moose and I.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Moose? Hold on, why am I in your car?

SILVIA (CONT'D)

I'm not turning you in. And Moose has nothing to do with this.

MADDIE

Then why are you helping me.

SILVIA

Because of that. Look under the broken area.

MADDIE

A USB?

SILVIA

You know about them?

MADDIE

My Dad was into tech stuff like this. I guess I'm not surprised. It'll probably be impossible to find out what's on it.

SILVIA

It better not be.

MADDIE

Where are we going?

SILVIA

Somewhere safe. I know there's a lot going on, but just relax.

Maddie side eyes Silvia.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The roll gate lifts, Silvia pulls her car in as a MAN pulls the chain to lower the gate.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Silvia and Maddie exit the car. Inside the warehouse are THREE MUSCLE CARS from the 70's, and an '08 Kia Sorento.

MADDIE
Manual cars?

SILVIA
You're not going to be able to
travel on the grid any longer.

MADDIE
I'm not going to be able to travel
off the grid either. I have no idea
how to use any of those.

JEFFREY "FREE" CALLOWAY, male, 28, an African-American
cerebral mechanic, finishes closing the gate and walks over.

FREE
That's what I'm here for.

SILVIA
Claire, this is Jeffrey Calloway.

FREE	MADDIE
Call me Free.	It's Maddie.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Free? Alright. Guess neither of us
like our names.

FREE
(laughs)
Well, mine is at least part of my
name, but that's cool.

SILVIA
Her last name is Maddox. I guess
that's where it comes from.

FREE
Ah, cool, cool.

Silvia grabs a hard copy paper map from her satchel, sprawls
it out over the hood of a car.

SILVIA
Maddie, you know how to read a map?

MADDIE
I can learn.

SILVIA
Better learn fast. We're here. The
areas with the Black X's are towns
that aren't rebuilt yet, the roads
are hazardous. Avoid them.

(MORE)

SILVIA (CONT'D)

Follow the blue line path to the Red X. Another map will be there waiting. That one will take you where you need to go. Same rules apply. I have to get back before someone tries pinging my car. Good luck, and don't get caught.

Silvia heads for her car. Maddie stops her, holds the chip.

MADDIE

What the hell is so important about this thing.

SILVIA

I can't tell you that. But he can.

Maddie turns to Free, "*him?*"

SILVIA (CONT'D)

(shaking her head)

No, not him.

Silvia gets in the car. Free already has the gate up. He ties the chain off momentarily. Maddie instinctively walks to the muscle cars. Free heads for the Sorento.

FREE

You comin'?

MADDIE

Oh, I thought--

FREE

Nah, we need four wheel drive for this trip! Hop in!

Maddie gets in. Free turns the engine, Maddie is startled.

MADDIE

Is it... supposed to make that noise?

Free laughs, hands Maddie the map.

FREE

Good thing we didn't grab the other one.

E/I. ROAD / KIA - NIGHT

Aerial Montage: The Sorento rides off into the night.

Various shots show the destroyed roads and crippled towns. Think Centralia, Pennsylvania, but everywhere.

Maddie looks at the map and points along the road.

Free, having gone the wrong way, backs up and resets himself.

Maddie starts to nod off, Free pushes her awake.

FREE

You can nod off after we get to the next town, we'll be on that road for a while based on the map.

A whirring sound in the distance. Free stops the car. Turns off the headlights and rolls the seat back.

MADDIE

What? What's going on?

FREE (CONT'D)

Surveillance drones. Shh. Stay still.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Here?! We're in the middle of nowhere.

FREE

That's the point. Shhh.

Long beat.

Long beat.

FREE (CONT'D)

Should be good.

MADDIE

Can I ask? How did you get roped into this.

FREE

I, uh, I worked for Almanac. On the line, building and fixing the bots. The hours were terrible, all these mandates. They controlled you. Told you when to arrive, when to go to the bathroom, when to go home. Didn't care if your next shift started in three or four hours. Nothing... They wouldn't let me go to my sister's funeral, man. Locked me in the body shop. Can you believe that? The "cotton" was that important.

(MORE)

FREE (CONT'D)

Then they told me two days later that the next group of rubber-heads were going to be able to repair themselves. That they were downsizing. Take a day off if I needed it.

Maddie realizes Free was the Almanac bomber.

MADDIE

...You didn't.

FREE

Hey, I made sure no one was in the building. Just the bots.

Maddie admires a good "stick it to the man" approach.

FREE (CONT'D)

I don't know how they found me. But they did. Said my goals lined up with theirs. They wanted to end the oppression. Fix the world. I said to them, I said, well shit. My name ain't Free for nothin'.

Maddie smiles.

FREE (CONT'D)

How bout you?

MADDIE

Me? I don't even know, it all happened so fast, I--

A CELLPHONE RINGS.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

Free opens the center console to find a burner phone. "Toss after use" is written on it. Free answers. Underneath the phone are flowers. Maddie picks one up, a memory rushes.

UNKNOWN

Good work dodging that drone.

They both start looking out the windows.

UNKNOWN (CONT'D)

This time, I want you to follow it.

FREE

What about the second map?

Unknown hangs up. The whirring returns. The drone flies by.

FREE (CONT'D)
Aw, shit. Hol' on.

Free starts up the car again, hits the lights, and floors it.

Maddie puts the flower in her pocket, and closes her eyes.

INT. KIA - DESERTED ROAD - MORNING

Free nods his head on the road as he follows the drone. Maddie's passed out. A FIGURE is standing in the middle of the desert, obscured by heat haze. Free wakes Maddie.

MADDIE FREE
Huh? You see that?

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Is that a person?

FREE
I think so.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - MORNING (CONTINUOUS)

ANGLE ON the UNKNOWN MAN from behind. The car pulls up.

CLOSE ON MADDIE ENRAGED. She exits the car, bubbling with an intensity we've yet to see. Free exits. Maddie tackles him to the ground. WHAM! Punch after punch, The man doesn't resist.

MADDIE
Is this a sick joke?! A fucking
game?! How dare you bring me here!

Free rushes in to pull Maddie off of the man.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
(To Free)
Are you in on this?! He's a
murderer!
(To Unknown)
Murderer! You killed my--!!

Maddie is resisting, trying to break out of Free's hold.

FREE
Whoa! Calm down.

Unknown sits up, low angle chest shot. He dusts the sand off of his pants, and uses his shirt to clean his hands.

UNKNOWN

I didn't kill your dad, Maddie.

TILT to learn UNKNOWN is CORBIN LACHES (Locks). Yes. The most wanted man in the world. 50's, the charisma of Tony Stark and the fortitude of Elon Musk rolled into a tight package. His gray hair, shaggy beard, and relaxed clothing paint a very different picture than the billboards and wanted posters.

LACHES

Why would I? Don't you remember the old days?

EXT. FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The same flashback of Maddie picking flowers, just clearer. The other MAN is and always was Laches. Nesto's behind him.

LACHES

You know what those are, Claire?

YOUNG MADDIE

What?

LACHES

Those are anemones.

YOUNG MADDIE

Nemaddies?

LACHES

A-nem-uh-knees. They're said to represent a forgotten love. Keep one in your pocket to protect you from bad things. Just like that.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - MORNING (CONTINUOUS)

Maddie takes the anemone out of her pocket, conflicted. She throws it at the ground and steps on it.

MADDIE

Ten years too late for flowers.

Innocence lost. She's not a little girl anymore. A long knowing beat from Laches. He wipes the blood from his chin.

FREE

Hey, I'm Free. Just saying wassup.

Laches raises a "not now" hand in Free's direction.

LACHES
 (to Free)
 Read the room. I'm having a moment
 with my Goddaughter.

His claim of ownership enrages Maddie, she runs at him again.

LACHES (CONT'D)
 Stop-- Not healthy for your baby.

Maddie seethes. Retreats.

LACHES (CONT'D)
 I don't expect you to trust me. You
 want proof? It's around your neck.

Maddie grabs her necklace. Looks at the Caduceus on it,
 acknowledges the correlation between it and Laches.
 Laches hits a button on his wrist and a port hatch to an
underground bunker rises from the ground.

MADDIE
 So you have something to read this?

ERNESTO (Antique Shop Owner on 10/10) pops up from below.

ERNESTO
 We sure do. Good to see you again.
 (long, soft beat)
 Did you ever get to draw?

Maddie tears up a bit. It's all so overwhelming. Her
 quivering face gives Nesto a very complicated "*kinda*."
 Laches goes to comfort Maddie, she retreats, and bursts.

MADDIE
 No! You built those things! You did
 this! It's your fault! You built--!

ERNESTO	LACHES
He tried to save him-- To	* I didn't pull that trigger.
save all of us.	*

MADDIE
 (to Laches, stern)
 Then. Who. Did.

LACHES
 ...Quill.

CUT TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED.