

The Original Signal

by

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EXT. MOUNTAIN ROADSIDE STATION - DAWN

A BLUE SUV pulls up to a dusty stop on the edge of nowhere. Faded road signs. Old vending machines. Prayer flags strung between telephone poles rattling in the breeze.

**NICO (late 30's)** steps out, stretching his legs. Charismatic in that quiet way that makes people instantly trust him with rugged handsome looks and tattoo's. A man who listens more than speaks- until it matters. Behind his easy charm and warm gaze, something unreadable lives.

**ZEKE (late 20's)** climbs out popping a chip into his mouth. A walking contradiction, goofball on the outside, observer underneath. Cute, sexy (like a young Brad Pitt), jokes when things get tense, flirts when nervous, and always seems one step behind.

ZEKE

Smells like incense and conspiracy theories out here dude.

Nico starts pumping gas.

NICO

Breath it in bro, oh and--  
(whispers)  
Save the conspiracy stuff for after the trip.

ZEKE

(looks in the car)  
Sure thing. I'll keep it Disney.

**ARIA (late 30's)** unbuckles her seatbelt. Climbs out holding up her cell.

ARIA

I've lost signal.

NICO

We're almost there.

Dust kicks up her boots as she crosses the lot. She moves like someone with secrets in her bones with a softness in her eyes, but a storm behind them too. Wild hair dyed some impossible shade of blue. Smokes like she's daring death to come early. A loner, a nomad, a girl who never quite fit in. But beneath the ink and ash lies something bright.

INT. GAS STATION/GENERAL STORE- MOMENTS LATER

Aria steps inside the small cluttered store. A bell jingles. This place is half convenience/half spiritual bookstore. Crystals. Canned soup. Palo santo sticks. Handwritten sighs on the wall, "Local honey", "Protect the mountain"- most noticeable: *"WELCOME TIME TRAVELLERS...ENERGY VORTEX AHEAD"*

**A WOMAN (60's, long silver braids)** stands behind the counter polishing some silver. Their eyes meet. Neither smiles.

WOMAN

You came alone?

Aria hesitates- glancing out at the car to Nico and Zeke who are laughing by the pump.

ARIA

No I'm with them. Just passing through.

The woman doesn't look up. Her voice is low, textured like gravel soaked in honey, threaded with an eerie knowing.

WOMAN

Nobody just passes through.

Aria sets a twenty down on the counter, unsettled.

ARIA

Pump two please.

The woman tilts her head, like studying her. Not her face but the flicker of something beneath it. Many have passed through this store before but something in Aria's aura stirs an old warning.

WOMAN

Be careful up there.

(beat)

The mountain calls the one's it wants.

Aria nods, hurries out.

INT. BACK IN THE CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Nico clocks Aria's unsettled face.

NICO

Everything okay?

ARIA

Fine.

(glancing at the distant peak)  
Just feels like I've been here before.

NICO

Lets go meet Shasta.

Their SUV pulls out onto the main road towards Mount Shasta.

EXT. STILLWATER LODGE -MOUNT SHASTA- NOON

Their SUV winds up a narrow, tree-lined road and pulls into a gravel clearing. **A modest wooden lodge** sits nestled between towering pines- rustic, weathered, beautiful in it's simplicity. A carved wooden sign reads: **STILLWATER LODGE- EST 1972**

They pass a few scattered camper vans, some cabins tucked into the trees.

ZEKE

Anybody else picking up a real calm feeling?

NICO

It's called stillness. The kind of peace you search for your whole life, but only recognise once you've stepped outside everything you've ever known.

Nico and Aria smile together. They pull up to the front doors. Step out onto a walkway above the breathtaking view of **LAKE SISKIYOU.**

ZEKE

Yo, this place is like a spiritual Airbnb.

Aria looks around. Time feels thinner here. The sky-impossibly wide.

ARIA

It's different alright.  
(to Nico)  
You picked the perfect place.

NICO

Not as perfect as you kitty cat.

They kiss.

ZEKE

Uh okay. Love birds in isle one. I'm  
just gonna bring in the bags.

Zeke carries the bags inside.

INT. SILLWATER LODGE LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

A few tourists lounge around stone fireplace. Maple floors,  
doors, the mountain view out the large window-spectacular.

In the center- a massive ancient tree trunk growing through  
the floor, it's branches reaching toward the vaulted ceiling.

Zeke and Nico drop their bags at reception.

ZEKE

Dude, did we just check into a  
Shaman's treehouse?

NICO

I was thinking four season's of  
Narnia.

He shoots Aria a smile like *wow, wild place huh.*

NICO (CONT'D)

(to receptionist)  
Hi. Nicholas Caldera.

A FEMALE RECEPTIONIST (25) behind the desk smiles, checks  
them into the system.

LODGE RECEPTIONIST

Welcome to Stillwater Mr Caldera.  
You're booked in for three nights in  
Cabin two and the main lodge room 11.  
Keys on the hook.

NICO

Appreciate it, thanks.

LODGE RECEPTIONIST

Enjoy your stay.

**DAKOTA- hotel manager (male 60's)** Native, with a grounded  
enigmatic presence, a quiet calm of somebody who sees beyond  
the veil. He wears tradition well, blending indigenous  
wisdom. He greets the group with a smile, wearing earth tone  
clothes and long black braids.

DAKOTA

Hau. Welcome to Mount Shasta.

ARIA

How far up the mountain?

DAKOTA

(into aria's eyes)

All visitors meet her at different levels.

(beat)

It's not about how far you go...but the point you find yourself.

(takes Aria's bag)

Please...let me help you.

They climb the stairs to--

INT. NICO AND ARIA'S ROOM - STILLWATER LODGE - CONT'D

Inside a wooden cosy dreamland. Stunning cedar walls, exposed beams and tall windows that give us a perfect view of the mountain- monolithic, silent, alive, with its snow capped peak rising from a sea of forest.

NICO

There she is...

ZEKE

Damn.

(to Dakota)

Hey, there's no chance she'll erupt this weekend or anything, right?

DAKOTA

Last eruption was over three thousand ears ago. She sleeps.

ZEKE

Sleeping beauty. Cool cool.

(beat)

Unless you know, supernatural beings decide to crash the party.

Dakota smiles.

Aria's POV - in awe, staring up at the mountain.

ARIA

It's like something out of a dream.

Nico grabs three beers from the mini bar.

NICO

Catch!

Aria catches her beer, approaches an abstract painting on the wall. A swirling COSMIC SPIRAL, almost moving if you stare long enough. Colours transfixed with THREE GLOWING SHADES OF BLUE LIGHT.

Dakota watches her for a beat.

DAKOTA

Not all colours fall from the sky.

Zeke gives Nico a look like- *who is this guy?*

NICO

Well...thanks for the help.

Dakota leaves.

ZEKE

So Pocahontas's uncle runs the place.  
Any more surprises?

Aria grabs a bottle of MEZCAL TIQUILA from her bag, fills three shot glasses.

NICO

She comes prepared.

ARIA

You wanted a legend, here she is.  
(holds up her glass)  
To an unforgettable weekend.

ZEKE

Cheers to that!

They cheers, drink.

ARIA

Well don't just stand there, let's go  
have some fun!

She rushes out the sliding back door, down the steps.

ZEKE

Dude, I frickin love her!  
(rushing down the steps)  
(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Should I take the bottle???  
(rushes back, grabs the bottle)  
I'm taking the bottle!!!

Nico and Zeke rush after Aria towards the lake.

"GETAWAY" BY THE STRIKE PLAYS OVER THIS MONTAGE BELOW.

EXT. LAKE SISKIYOU - DAY

Pine tree's line the shores with families out on boats and canoes. Nico captain's the boat at full speed across the diamond glistening lake as Aria moves in and around their boat with precision and speed.

ZEKE  
Bro, you sure your girls human- is  
she's trying to win the Olympics or  
what?!

NICO  
I can't hear you, what??

ZEKE  
*SHE'S INSANE!*

Aria slows, pulls up beside Nico smiling.

NICO  
Looks like I found a mermaid.

He lifts her from her Jet ski, staring at her like the cat who got the cream.

ZEKE  
(cannonballs in)  
Incoming!!

EXT. KAYAK RACE - LAKE SISKIYOU - DAY

The trio race downhill, side by side, splashing, chasing the current downstream. Aria and Nico are pro's- Zeke- not so much as he screeches and screams his way down.

EXT. LAKE SISKIYOU SHORE - LATER

Nico ties up the boat, as Aria gathers her things.

ARIA  
I'm gonna go get ready for dinner.  
(MORE)



ARIA (CONT'D)

Show starts at 6.30, I don't want to miss it...

She walks ahead, away from the dock towards the main lodge.

ZEKE

What kind of show? Like Variety with kids doing magic tricks?

NICO

More like a guy with an acoustic guitar type of thing.

Nico and Zeke continue towards the lodge.

NICO (CONT'D)

It's wild man, I forgot what happiness felt like. With the loss of my mom and trying to keep my head above water with bills and stuff, I'm just super grateful you extended a hand.

NICO (CONT'D)

Why do you think I dragged your ass up here. This place is suppose to *heal* you, clear things out.

ZEKE

I don't think you ever get over burying your mom six feet in the ground.

They continue up the path, Aria now fully gone.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

She use to say, Ezekiel...don't waste your life trying to prove you're a good person. Just *be good*.

NICO

Hey. You don't have to pretend your okay around me and Aria.

ZEKE

You think she likes me?

NICO

She doesn't like most people. It's not personal.

They arrive at Zeke's cabin steps. He takes some additional snaps of Nico.

ZEKE

Hey, you mind if I snap some photo's of Aria for my portfolio? This new agency is always hinting they want "the girl with the look in her eyes"...

(beat)

Of course I'll respect her boundaries.

Nico gives him a look.

NICO

No boundaries. I trust you.

Nico walks towards the main entrance.

EXT. GARDEN PATH -STILLWATER LODGE- SUNSET

Golden light spills across the garden. A string of twinkling pixie lights dance above the pathway.

Aria, radiant in a flowing white satin gown- black biker jacket, walks hand in hand with Nico, wearing a crisp white jacket, boots soft on gravel. The light seems to follow them as a small group of staff wait in quiet formation.

**MARY (40's)** a sweet faced waitress, holds a bouquet. Next o her a male **MARRAIGE OFFICIANT (30's)** smiling, waiting.

Zeke arrives in casual travel clothes, t-shirt, flannel, completely unprepared, jaw slowly dropping.

ZEKE

Wait...what? What happened to the talent show- I practised *baby shark* for nothing?

Dakota remains in the distance, watching it all unfold.

NICO

(winks)

Would you mind being our witness?

ZEKE

You're...you're getting married?

Mary hands Aria her bouquet.

NICO  
Small gathering, nothing fancy.

Zeke blinks, speechless, stares down at his casual clothes.

ZEKE  
My honor...totally my honor.

They join hands and begin.

OFFICIANT  
As we gather in the quiet of earth's  
breathe. Where time folds and spirit  
listens. We stand not only for a union  
of hearts, but as witness to two souls  
joining forces in the alignment of two  
paths, chosen across lifetimes.

Dakota offers Nico the two rings.

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)  
Today we are here to unite Nico and  
Aria in sacred union...forged from  
fire, shielded in starlight. Aria...

Aria places the ring on Nico's finger.

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)  
Do you Aria, take Nico, as your  
destined mirror, sexy warrior and  
husband, to live together in trust and  
love, to fight for him, honor and keep  
him safe, all the days of my life?

ARIA  
I do.

Nico places the ring over Aria's heart space just for a beat,  
then slides it onto her finger.

OFFICIANT  
Do you Nico, take Aria, as your  
destined wife, ultimate travel buddy  
and naughty kitty cat, to live  
together in trust and love, to fight  
for her, honor and keep her safe, all  
the days of your life?

NICO  
I do.

OFFICIANT

And with this symbol of your loyalty  
commitment, by the breath of the land,  
and the alignment of what's seen and  
unseen, bound under the authority  
vested in me by the State of sunny  
California- I now pronounce you  
husband and wife. You may seal the  
deal.

Nico leans in. Their kiss soft, then deepens, not in heat but  
in truth. A promise. A tether.

ZEKE

Lord have mercy...

Dakota bows his head as Nico slides what appears to be their  
MARRAIGE LICENSE over the table for her to sign. Aria picks  
up the pen, **signs her signature.**

INT. BAR -STILLWATER LODGE- NIGHT

A rustic glow over the crackling fireplace and bar with  
scattered florals and a vintage vinyl playing Fleetwood mac.

Zeke, now three bourbons in, leans over a small wooden table,  
talking to Mary the waitress, who's off duty and drunk,  
laughing at something he said, her hair- wildly curly.

ZEKE

So the flight attendant tells the guy-  
"Sir, I don't care how enlightened  
your spirit llama is, it can't come on  
the plane without a passport!"

WAITRESS MARY

You're lying.

ZEKE

Wish I was. The llama was wearing  
rosary beads. Beads Mary.

WAITRESS MARY

Okay, but why were you even on that  
flight?

ZEKE

Documentary gig in the outback. Real  
Indiana Jones energy.

WAITRESS MARY  
You're something else...

Nico and Aria sit side by side, still in white, sipping whiskey in short glasses- their wedding bands catching the candlelight.

NICO  
So how does it feel, Mrs Caldera?

ARIA  
(tipsy)  
Honestly...like I've tricked the universe...into giving me something too good to be true.

NICO  
But even the universe doesn't always get to decide.  
(takes her hand)  
Lets do the math. If I've loved you for five years, I'm pretty sure I'm gonna love you for five million more...it's just science.

She looks over her shoulder at Zeke who's laughing too hard at his own joke.

ARIA  
Everything out of his mouth is a punchline.

NICO  
He's just trying not to fall apart.

ARIA  
You sure you can trust someone like that?

NICO  
You trust me don't you.

ARIA  
Course.

NICO  
Don't worry. I wouldn't bring anyone close to you who didn't understand how rare you are.

Dakota passes them, staring at Aria with a slight nod. She

returns it, just barley.

Zeke stumbles over, gesturing dramatically with his drink.

ZEKE

Okay, okay- real talk. That was the most unpredictable, epic wedding, I've ever crashed. Ten out of ten. Would officiate again.

(confused)

Wait...did I officiate?

NICO

You've had a little too much to drink.

ARIA

So you've known Nico a while but it's funny, I never met you before this weekend.

NICO

I travel a bunch for work.

ARIA

You looking for investment?

NICO

Aria--

ZEKE

No it's okay. I get it. Despite what it may look like, I'm not here chasing no sugar daddy. I'm an artist. I may be struggling, but believe it or not, I have some dignity.

Aria nods politely, then slips away, weaving through the bar drifting towards the vintage Vinyl record player.

ARIA

(under her breath)

Why'd you say that Aria? *Stupid...*

She places the needle gently on the vinyl. Shakes it off. **The opening chords of "STUCK ON YOU" by Elvis** float into the room like a memory.

Dakota appears next to her, his expression unreadable but calm.

DAKOTA  
Great choice.

ARIA  
This place is magic.  
(beat)  
Thanks for having us.

DAKOTA  
Beautiful ceremony.  
(beat)  
No family?

ARIA  
Nah- I'm a lone wolf.  
(glances at Nico)  
Well, not anymore.

DAKOTA  
Sometimes it's better that way.  
(beat)  
No one to stop you, from becoming who  
you really are.

All smiles but it doesn't quite reach her eyes.

ARIA  
Nico's steady you know.  
(selling it)  
Patient, never judges. Guy like that  
doesn't just show up out of nowhere.

DAKOTA  
No, they usually don't.

She keeps swaying, singing to the song.

ARIA  
(wistful)  
I'm gonna stick like glue, stick,  
because stuck on you.  
(beat)  
One day we'll be in Florida...in a  
cute little beach hut.

She chugs her drink. Looks at him more closely.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
You look familiar. Have we met before,  
LA maybe?

DAKOTA

No, I don't recall.

(beat)

Enjoy your special evening.

He fades into the crowd. Aria drags Nico up to dance.

EXT. ARIA & NICO'S WINDOW -STILLWATER LODGE- NIGHT

Outside their window- a dense purple fog clings to the earth as light bleeds through the trees. Wild stirs in the mist.

INT. ARIA & NICO'S ROOM- NIGHT

The party has quieted. The room is dark, bathed in moonlight. Aria lies in bed, turned towards the window. Nico sleeps peacefully beside her.

A faint HIGH FREQUENCY fades in - like a tuning fork, soft and distant, but rising in her mind.

Her fingers twitch. Then her eyes.

INT. ARIA'S DREAMSCAPE - UNKNOWN LOCATION

Aria stands barefoot in a large expanse open space, not a room- but a scope of pure light with stars swirling- *filled with presence.*

A soft blue glow moves towards her, slowly taking shape-this is **MOTHER**- a divine being of great femininity who speaks not with mouth, but eternal mind. Powerful. Not human.

MOTHER

Daughter of the signal- the pulse within you has ripened. You must climb.

ARIA'S MIND

Climb where?

MOTHER

To the summit. Where you came from...and where you are called to return.

Beat.

ARIA'S MIND

I don't understand?



MOTHER  
You carry the frequency.

ARIA  
(confused)  
Wait...who are you?

Mother move's closer.

MOTHER  
You have always known me. You are of  
our blood and light. But now you must  
remember your vow.  
(beat)  
Your mission.

Aria stiffens. Visions flicker- a faint memory of light, of  
pain, of other worlds, other lifetimes.

ARIA  
Wait--I sense it...but it's  
impossible.

MOTHER  
Not impossible...duty.

Aria steps forward- almost as if pulled.

ARIA'S MIND  
I don't know what's real anymore.  
(confused)  
Wait, I think I'm lost- where am I?

MOTHER  
You were never lost...we were simply  
waiting for you to remember.

Mother steps closer. Between them a geometric structure  
floats- three shimmering light codes orbiting like stars.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
Three codes. Three truths.  
(beat)  
You must carry them into orbit?

ARIA  
Orbit?

MOTHER  
Not of planets...of power. Of  
alignment. These codes must move  
(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 through the planetary grid- into the  
 living field of humanity.  
 (beat)  
 They must awaken the ancient nodes,  
 where truth was buried, and suffering  
 still echo's.

A soft **wave of vibration** passes through Aria. Her hands  
 flicker with light. She gasps.

Mother's voice lowers- but grows more powerful.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 There are forces that will try claim  
 what's awakening inside you.  
 (beat)  
 But the higher you rise...the less  
 they can touch you. Even those who  
 walk beside you...not all will reach  
 the end. Some lessons must be learned  
 through fire.

ARIA  
 (panics, upset)  
 What is this place? Who--what are you?  
 What are you telling me??

MOTHER  
 The truth will break you-- but it will  
 also make you.

The 3 LIGHT CODES lodge gently into Aria's heart.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 You carry my essence now Aria...  
 (beat)  
*Climb.*

INT. ARIA & NICO'S ROOM- PRE-DAWN

Aria jolts awake, hand on her chest. She crawls from the bed,  
 opens the back patio and descends down the steps barefoot  
 towards the forest.

EXT. FOREST LAKE PATH - PRE-DAWN

Pine tree's loom like ancient sentinels. Mist curls off the  
 still black of the lake. Aria, arms wrapped around her body,  
 barefoot, walks slowly down a dirt path towards the water-  
 still half dazed from sleep.

She stops. Stares up at the giant mountain looming in the distance, which now seems closer, like it's waiting for her.

Directly above, the same three-point constellation which hangs perfectly in the painting above the fireplace.

A faint frequency from her dream fades in again- this time pulsing rhythmic, like her very own heartbeat speaking to her in a language older than words.

She touches her ears- maybe its built up wax?

INT. ZEKE'S CABIN - PRE DAWN

A faint blue haze filters through the curtains. Zeke creeps out of his room, rubbing his eyes, grabs a bottle of water from the fridge- chugs. Walks past the sliding glass doors toward the deck- and stops.

A soft white figure appears through the trees.

He squints- His POV- Aria barefoot, standing alone between some trees.

Some distance away watching her- Dakota the Hotel manager, hiding behind a tree, his expression unreadable- a mix of awe and responsibility.

ZEKE  
(from window)  
What the hell...

He instinctively grabs his camera- snaps a quick photo of Aria, and one of Dakota. The CLICK echoes louder than he expected.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Shit...

Dakota catches Zeke's at his cabin window, then quickly disappears.

Zeke peeks out again behind his curtain- this time see's Nico, now talking with Aria.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Okay- party's officially too weird.

EXT. BY THE LAKE- PRE-DAWN

Aria and Nico talking.

NICO

Aria....what are you doing out here?

ARIA

Couldn't sleep...thought there might  
be a coffee shop or something?

NICO

At 4am? Not at this hour.

(arm around her)

Come on...let's get you back before  
you freeze.

As Nico guides her back towards the lodge, he glances up at  
Zeke's cabin window.

INT. ZEKE'S CABIN WINDOW - PRE-DAWN

Zeke freezes, feeling caught. Unsettled, behind his curtain  
he watches them go.

INT. MAIN LODGE - MORNING

The morning buffet is bustling. Zeke chats casually to a  
**ELDERLY COUPLE (70'S)** about photography and national parks,  
as his tray piles high of sausage links hanging over the  
edge.

ZEKE

Honestly I think Bigfoot does exist-  
he's just dodging Wi-Fi.

Dakota appears silently.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Yo chief- don't be sneaking up on me  
like that.

DAKOTA

Sir, would you mind stepping into the  
back office. We missed part of your  
check in.

ZEKE

Really? Yeah, no problem.

(holds up muffin)

Let me just grab my coffee to go with  
this masterpiece.

He grabs his coffee and follows Dakota to the--

INT. MAIN OFFICE -STILLWATER LODGE- MORNING

Zeke enters the office, places his tray of food down. Dakota shutting the door behind them.

ZEKE

So is this like...privacy forms or--?

Dakota stares at him, his presence strangely heavy.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Look man, I didn't see nothing last night, I swear.

Zeke stiffens in his chair- when a pulse of faint blue light ripples out from Dakota's hands, surging into Zeke's energy field. His pupils dilates. His breath halts before slipping into an unconscious state.

Dakota's mind both neurological and electromagnetic removes the camera's file completely through an DIGITAL VIEWFINDER: INTECUT- dozens of photo's flick rapidly, the lake, trees...then glitch. One photo of Aria, watched by Dakota in the moonlight- DELETED.

INT. RECEPTION-STILLWATER LODGE - MORNING

Zeke walks back out, slightly glassy eyed, muffin and coffee in hand.

DAKOTA

Thank you for your time sir.

Zeke blinks, disorientated, puzzled.

ZEKE

Yeah...eh, anytime man.

Nico finds Dakota near the edge of the stairs. They speak in hushed tones.

NICO

Did she hear it?

DAKOTA

Clear as a bell. Right on time.

The same elderly couple who were speaking to Zeke briefly walk past smiling.

NICO

I'm scared she won't accept this. That she'll run.

DAKOTA

She won't--not when the sky opens.

(beat)

She'll remember.

NICO

They're already circling. It has to happen tonight. After Bonfire.

DAKOTA

I'll make contact.

NICO

Whatever you do...don't frighten her.

Nico leaves down the hall. Dakota glances out the window toward Mount Shasta- beckoning.

EXT. BONFIRE IN WOODS - NIGHT

A soft fire crackles casting golden shadows on their faces. Aria, Nico and Zeke sit under a blanket of starlight passing a bottle of Mezcal. But Aria's mind is elsewhere, her eyes locked on the mountain. She's listening to something far away- a frequency only she can hear.

ZEKE

You okay?

ARIA

Headache.

ZEKE

Altitude. Messes with the Psyche.

(beat)

Makes you wonder if we're really meant to live this fast...like maybe, life's just a layover on the way back home.

NICO

Tell me this, if we're all made of stardust...then why does it feel like I'm still waiting for something to land.

He looks up. Zeke joins him.

ZEKE

Maybe they will...tonight.

(paces)

I mean, we're right under the galactic spotlight. If they're gonna show up anywhere, this is the place.

Aria and Nico catch eyes, smile.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I've heard some people have vanished up here...never came back.

ARIA

What like- alien abductions?

ZEKE

Yeah. UFO's. UAP's. All those orbs people have been seeing lately over new Jersey, that shit ain't normal. If the Annunaki are trying to intimidate us, they're doing a damn good job.

All three stare up.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I mean look where we're at. Mount Shasta's got more sightings than Roswell.

Zeke snaps some shots of the stars, the moon.

NICO

Maybe they're already here.

Their radio on the stump fizzles and sputters- static cuing through the music. Zeke smacks it.

ZEKE

That's weird. Signal is gone again.

Aria ringing sound builds in both ears. She presses her fingers against her temples. Zeke grabs his flashlight.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Gonna go drain some IPA, try not get abducted...be right back.

He disappears behind some trees. Nico reaches towards Zeke's abandoned camera. Flips it on-searching through his shots.

DAKOTA O/S  
I took care of it.

Nico turns to see Dakota, half shadowed by trees.

EXT. WOODED EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Zeke relieves himself when something moves through the trees.

ZEKE  
(flashlight up)  
Somebody there?  
(a racoon sneaks out)  
Alright, alright- racoon season,  
forgot.

BACK ON ARIA AND NICO

Dakota and Nico chat.

NICO  
You sure you wiped it clean?

ARIA  
Wiped what clean?  
(to Dakota)  
Is there something wrong with our room  
sir?

Zeke arrives back, spots Dakota.

ZEKE  
Hey- I know you.

An awkward pause.

DAKOTA  
(whispers to Nico)  
The frequency's shifted. We need to  
move now--

ARIA  
(frightened)  
Nico, what the hell is going on?  
You're scaring me.

NICO  
We've gotta get out here. Just trust  
me okay.

Urgency fills the air as the group grab their things and go.



Zeke grabs the tequila bottle.

ZEKE

Should I be worried?

The group rush back towards the main lodge.

INT. UNDERGROUND OBSERVATION ROOM -EGYPT- NIGHT

Pitch black - except for the glow of dozens of monitors lining a curved wall. Each screen pulses with data, surveillance feeds, heat signatures, global ley line activity.

In the center: a RED DOT blinking over MOUNT SHASTA.

A figure sits in a tall chair- **THE DIRECTOR** - head of the **global council of 300**, only his silhouette visible, still, watching.

A screen displays flickering shots of Dakota, Nico and Aria, her bio-signature glowing unnaturally bright.

AGENT 1

(on radio)

We see her, climbing into a vehicle.

The chair creaks-a hand rises, long fingered nails, polished onyx.

DIRECTOR

My little star is burning again.

(beat)

Bring her in. It's showtime.

EXT. SHASTA OPEN ROAD- NIGHT

WIDE SHOT of the mountain, looming like a sleeping God. **Dakota's ORANGE 1949 DODGE PICK-UP** leads the trail with **Nico's Blue SUV** right behind, as they navigate through the misty tree-lined road.

INT. NICO'S JEEP - NIGHT

Aria rides shotgun, staring into the trees. Zeke slumps in the back, completely bewildered.

ZEKE

Are we being followed? Where exactly are we going?

Both vehicles turn off path, down a paved road and follow a hidden trail, overgrown and half forgotten.

EXT. MOUNT SHASTA- LOWER TRAILHEAD - NIGHT

A flee of black SUV'S screeches to a halt base of the mountain. **AGENTS IN BLACK** and red tactical gear spill out, no insignias, no words, just combat movement.

AGENT #1

Confirmed. Grid she's 400 meters and climbing.

AGENT #2

Move it!

They fan out, scanning thermal readers, launching drones, scaling all visible routes up the rocky terrain.

EXT. HIDDEN ENTRYWAY- CONT'D

A steel door looms ahead, hidden beneath the earth. Nico punches in the code. The door grinds open, with ancient weight to an **UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT**.

ZEKE

Great, we're in Jurassic park.

They descend into a cold industry hallway tunnel.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(gulps)

This definitely isn't the visitor center.

They descend deeper in -and it changes. The walls give way to **something older**- carved stone, symbols, etched in gold and blue faintly shimmering, as if remembering her. Glyphs stretch across the ceiling like a forgotten language from the stars. Aria slows-feels the intense frequency of the mountain with every passing stone.

They enter--

INT. CENTRAL BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

A massive circular space. Ancient meets advanced. The walls glow faintly with embedded crystal veins. A large round stone table sits center of the chamber, smooth, etched with geometric glyphs.

Dakota places his hand above the center. A soft pulse responds and the surface shifts- lighting up like liquid starlight.

A sacred tech interface awakens. Layers of orbit waveforms and gridlines hovering above the table in 3D.

ZEKE

Holy shi--

A large map of Earth's energy grid system appears on the wall, pulsing faintly.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

What is this place- some Spielberg set piece?

(backs away in denial)

Yo. Okay. What the hell is going on Nico? I know you're in tech bro, but this--

Dakota raises his hand-

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(chugs some tequila)

Actually never mind. I'm just gonna finish this and wake up tomorrow perfectly fine...

Dakota zaps that same blue light into his energy field. Zeke slumps down gently to the ground.

Aria stumbles back frightened.

NICO

I'm sorry to be the one to tell you this...but your whole life up to this point, has been a lie.

(beat)

Everything you've experienced so far was preparing you for this moment.

ARIA

(confused, upset)

Why are you doing this? You expect me to believe this crap?

DAKOTA

He's telling the truth. You were brought here when you were just a girl. You'd been....*found*.

ARIA

I'm sorry- *found?*

NICO

Every summer you returned. And every time after your training, your memory was wiped clean. Sent back to your human life.

ARIA

My *human* life? This is ridiculous.

She goes to leave.

NICO

The first three visits were passive. We introduced you to the mountains resonance- gently. Then the collapse last year...

(she pauses)

It wasn't food poisoning.

ARIA

(turns to him)

What?

NICO

You don't remember but your old programming, your nervous system, it couldn't hold the frequency that was trying to awaken inside you. You were expanding too fast- the light you were carrying, it start burning through everything that wasn't aligned.

DAKOTA

Your system crashed. It was a recalibration. So your body could rebuild. Cell by cell.

ARIA

(still in denial)

No...this is insane.

DAKOTA

We didn't know if you'd come back the same, but you did, stronger.

(beat)

You returned.

ARIA

I wanna get the fuck out of here Nico-  
NOW!

NICO

You can't. You signed the contract. 24  
hours ago.

DAKOTA

Nico is your guide, protector. He was  
never suppose to fall in love with  
you...

Long beat as she stares at Nico in disbelief.

NICO

But I did.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry I lied.

ARIA

(emotional)  
You mean we're not married? That was a  
set up?

NICO

You know I love you.

She can't even look a him. So turns to the energy field on  
the grid which seems to be calling her- a pulsing light in  
the center with **her signature**.

Then- three hovering light orbs appear- circling slowly.

They lock into her heart chakra, then disappear. She touches  
her heart, something shifting profoundly inside.

ARIA

What kind of contract?

NICO

An agreement. Something older than  
law.

(beat)

The moment you signed your signature,  
some part of your essence remembered.  
And now the signal is tethered itself  
to you.

(beat)

Their coming. Because of you.

He expands the view around Aria's signature- multiple incoming waveforms closing in, erratic, flicking in red dots.

NICO (CONT'D)

This isn't them tracking you, they're tracking what's inside you. The signal, your light- encoded- and now active.

DAKOTA

Their tech can't access it directly. So they mimic. They project false waves- ghost signatures, designed to confuse the field, trap your signal.

ARIA

So they're just....chasing shadows?

NICO

No. They're shadow chasing you. Artificial imprint tech, created to mimic your frequency. Reactivate dormant nodes which hijack the grid, before you do.

ARIA

(assessing, processing)

Why me?

DAKOTA

Because you're the only one who can unlock it properly.

NICO

And they know it. Their systems respond to your rise- not in real time, but through field reaction. Every activation will trigger a ripple. They map those ripples, phase shifts, a gravitational echo, like chasing thunder after lightening.

The table reveals a map of ley lines, converging around Mount Shasta.

DAKOTA

But if they reach the node before you do, they'll lock your light *inside* the system. End the signal chain.

NICO

But you can beat them to it Aria. Soon as you complete the code, you open the next gate. But *only* if we keep you ahead of the grid.

ARIA

So you've put my life in danger.

Nico ignores her comment, ushers her quickly back down the tunnel.

NICO

We must move now.

(beat)

Each code will activate a new layer of memory. New abilities, new powers.

ARIA

Wait- I don't have any powers?

It's here- the certainty in Nico's eyes. Real. Honest. Unmistakable.

NICO

You do now. Lets go.

They rush her out from the cave towards-

EXT. MOUNTAIN SHASTA SUMMIT - NIGHT

The wind howls across the peak as Aria scrambles over the final rocks, each step feeling heavier,

Dakota and Nico linger behind her- knowing she must face this alone.

ARIA

(shouts back)

*I CAN'T DO THIS NICO!*

NICO

(shouts up)

*YES YOU CAN! I'M RIGHT HERE! YOU'VE COME THIS FAR!*

The sky above swirls like liquid thunder pulsing with silver/electric blue electricity, as the summit stretches out around her- vast, ancient, sacred.

NICO (CONT'D)  
*I TRUST YOU ARIA, JUST LIKE YOU TRUST  
 IN ME!*

For a moment there's nothing but her breath and heartbeat.

A golden shimmer ripples across the stones beneath her feet-  
 a living pulse. Aria's hand rises instinctively to her chest.  
 A ringing fills her ears. And then she hears it-Mothers  
 voice.

MOTHER'S VOICE V/O  
 (a whisper, loving, powerful)  
 Remember who you are...and the old  
 grid will fall.

Aria closes her eyes, desperate to remember her origins.

From within her chest, a spiral of light blooms- vibrating  
 through the gridlines of the earth itself.

MONTAGE - FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD

**Ancient temples-Dense jungles-sacred waters -Deep chambers.**

**THE GREAT PYRAMID, EGYPT-** a beam of visible light pulses from  
 the capstone, then sinks into the sand-into the earth,  
 travelling underneath, thousands of feet.

**BOROBUDUR, INDONESIA-** The carved stupas glow faintly under  
 the morning mist. Birds scatter, as a breeze rushes through  
 like mother's breath.

**STONEHENGE, U.K -** The large stones tremble subtly- moss  
 shaking, as the hum rises from the earth below.

**THE PACIFIC OCEAN TRENCHES -** Beneath crushing depths,  
 bioluminescent creatures swirl into a spiral formation- drawn  
 by something ancient returning.

**THE WESTERN WALL, JERUSALEM -** A rabbi- mid prayer looks up  
 suddenly, placing his hand gently on the stone wall. He  
 smiles, like his spirit has heard something profound.

HIGH ABOVE EARTH- STRATOPHERIC VIEW

We see light points on the globe gently illuminating- a  
 massive grid remembrance reactivation.



EXT. BACK TO MOUNT SHASTA - CONT'D

The mountain pulses- veins of light running beneath like a glowing web. The tree's in the surrounding forest bend gently inward towards Aria as she connects more to the energy.

EXT. MOUNTAIN BASE - NIGHT

Silver blue currents ripple across the sky as a line of AGENTS emerge from the trees half frozen.

They halt. All of them. Stare up at Aria's silhouette now suspended in the air. One agent drops to his knees, clutching his chest. Another grips his head- like her frequency is piecing their minds.

A low harmonic rumble rolls beneath their feet. The agents narrow their eyes.

AGENT #2

What are you doing -keep moving!

AGENT #1

I can't move, sir...

He raises his scanning device. A pulse pings out across the terrain- then vanishes.

AGENT #1 (CONT'D)

The energy. It's frozen everything.  
Literally. My device, and my legs.

A beat. Static cracks. Agent #2 stumbles for a response.

AGENT #2

We've got orders commander- she's  
right there!

But agent #2 just stares up, wide-eyed, lost in awe.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - NIGHT

Aria's frequency has now connected to Mothers, her hands raised high as a **WHIRLING VORTEX** of light geometry, vertical and endless, fills her heart, **raising her frequency even higher-** as if the sky itself has torn open.

MOTHER'S VOICE V/O

Star child, you are the key- the  
bridge.

(beat)

(MORE)

MOTHER'S VOICE V/O (CONT'D)

The signal returned.

(beat)

You hold the seed...now breathe it  
alive.

The mountain convulses. The wind howls louder, almost  
celebrating Aria. Her inner world has now AWAKENED.

Below in clear sight- the agents all paused, their tech  
flickering, compasses spinning wildly.

DAKOTA

(to himself)

*Transmission complete.*

Aria falls to her knees. The feeling of connecting to  
something divine and so powerful- overwhelming.

She draws a slow breath, no longer the woman who climbed the  
mountain.

The world is now new- *she* is new.

The entire mountain has shifted.

The dust lifting off the ground- disappearing.

The agents have vanished as if they were never real.

A GREAT SILENCE FALLS. But it's living silence, full of life,  
and possibility. A higher dawn glows on the horizon, a  
promise that the old control grid has broken.

INT. UNDERGROUND OBSERVATION ROOM - NEVADA- NIGHT

Monitors flicker violently, feeds cutting in and out, as  
Aria's vortex of light glows on every screen, her face at the  
center.

AGENT 2 V/O

She breached the outer field, chief.  
Her frequency surged off the charts.  
Like she bypassed every system limit-  
and tapped straight into source...

DIRECTOR

(violent anger)

Source? I am source. She's nothing but  
a mirror- one I made!

AGENT #2

Sir, her body's acting like the transmitter. Our scan says her codes reactivated dormant nodes in Shasta. It's like...the signal left this dimension.

The Directors grip tightens around the head of the console, knuckles whitening.

DIRECTOR

She's nothing but a clone! She may *think* she's hacked the system- with her angelic encoded essence- but her DNA is corrupted! Contaminated! It's *my souls* memory she's tapping into!

AGENT #2

Our signal trackers sill have a pulse.

DIRECTOR

We'll harvest what we need, all in good time.

(cold, shaken)

She's ahead of schedule.

(beat)

Keep her moving. Contain the rise before she reaches the second node.

AGENT #2

Copy that.

EXT. PRIVATE TARMAC - NIGHT

A sleek black jet waits on the runway. The engine hum low, ready to take off any minute.

PILOT V/O

Cross check cabin crew. Ready for departure.

**A CUTE BLOND AIR HOSTESS (30)** walks past Zeke and Nico sitting next to one another on large leather seats.

ZEKE

Dude, I had the craziest dream.

NICO

Oh yeah- tequila dreams always come with a side order of nonsense. Buckle up, we're in a for a long flight.

Zeke buckles up dramatically. We move across the isle to Aria and Dakota.

AIR HOSTELL V/O  
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome aboard  
Delta flight 34, non stop service to  
sunny key West Florida.

Her jaw drops.

DAKOTA  
You said you liked the beach.

The engine roars. The jet lurches forward racing into the night sky. The world below falls away. A new journey begins.

EXT. KEY WEST DIRT ROAD - DAY

A white convertible jeep drives along a dusty coastal road. Aria riding shotgun, hair whipping in the air with Nico and Zeke crammed in the back with their bags.

They round the bend- and there it is.

A perfect aqua blue beach shack home on the water. Whitewashed wood, a hammock hanging lazily between two palms, with a private dock stretching into endless sand. Like something out of a postcard.

Nico, Aria and Zeke climb out- walk up the steps together.

ZEKE  
Man, if this is the apocalypse, I'm  
good with it.

NICO  
This is a rental, no parties.

Aria runs her hand along the sun bleached rail. Swallows hard- this dreams seems too real.

ARIA  
What's the catch.

DAKOTA  
Save the world--get the dream.

EXT. OUTDOOR LIVING AREA- SHACK- SUNSET

Nico, Aria and Dakota sits around the table, a backdrop of the sun setting in the most beautiful peach tones.

Zeke drinks cold beer, flipping burgers at the BBQ grill.

ZEKE

Come on guys, flying private jets,  
landing in the keys what is this-  
mission impossible?

DAKOTA

I'd like you to be Aria's personal  
chef.

Zeke just blinks. Aria rolls her eyes.

ZEKE

You want me to serve up lobster and  
light candles? Nah man...I don't think  
so.

ARIA

Jesus Christ.

Dakota tosses a heavy bag of cash onto the table- THUNK.  
Bundles spilling out.

Zeke freezes. Aria shifts uncomfortably, folding her arms,  
trying not to look at either of them.

ZEKE

(whispers to Nico)

You're rolling with criminals now bro?  
How did you even make it through  
customs?

NICO

Relax.

(thinking fast, covering)

Dakota's not a criminal. He's Aria's  
uncle...and my new investor.

Aria's jaw clenches. These lies tasting bitter in her mouth.

DAKOTA

Humanitarian projects. Off the grid  
type of thing.

ZEKE

Right. Knew it. Its the hair.

(grabs money, mock serious)

So lets get this straight. You flew me  
out here, so you can launch your  
"humanitarian start-up" with uncle

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Koda, and I'm your wife's personal chef, so that makes me...

(hopeful with a smile)  
her rich cousin?

NICO

It's just temporary. And you do cook a mean burger.

Aria storms off down the beach. Dakota follows after her.

EXT. BEACH -FLORIDA- DAY

Dakota catches up with Aria along the shoreline.

Now it's truth time.

ARIA

Zeke doesn't deserve this- and I hate liars.

DAKOTA

He's not lying to hurt you. He's trying to protect what matters most.

ARIA

Oh and that makes it okay.

DAKOTA

No, but when the world is built on deception, sometimes the only way to survive is to outlie the liars.

(they slow)

Nico didn't want to bring you here with half truths...but you'd already been dragged into this long before you said I-do.

(beat)

That man's been breaking protocol every day just to stay by your side.

She stares out at the vast ocean.

ARIA

All I've ever wanted was to be chosen by somebody.

Dakota looks at her- really looks. Not with judgement, but with compassion.

DAKOTA

Don't you see this is your wound. In and out of foster care since what- six years old? Passed around, forgotten. Abusive boyfriends, crap jobs you couldn't hold on to.

(beat)

You want someone to chose you, but you were never meant to be chosen. You were meant to chose yourself first.

ARIA

You sound like Eckhart Tolle.

DAKOTA

He'd agree with me.

Aria's quiet for a moment. Then--

ARIA

Look, you've got the wrong lady.

DAKOTA

No.

(beat)

You just haven't seen what I see yet.

He looks out to sea, as if seeing beyond this world.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

You've been wearing a life that was never yours Aria...now it's time to try on the one that is.

ARIA

(storms off towards house)

Well I don't want it- okay!

DAKOTA

This isn't just about you.

She slows as her stomach tightens. She doesn't want to believe it but she turns.

ARIA

What do you need from me?

DAKOTA

I need you to choose. Not because you're forced or afraid.

(beat)

(MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
 Because you know deep down, this was  
 why you came.

They make their way back towards the house. Aria throwing  
 stones into the water, contemplating.

ARIA  
 What now...do I get a cape? Spandex?  
 (scoffs)  
 Maybe a theme song?

DAKOTA  
 You get a mission. And a headache.

ARIA  
 Great, just what every girl dreams of.

DAKOTA  
 There are black boxes, energy syphons,  
 hidden in plain site across the globe.  
 (beat)  
 You- will neutralize them, using your  
 frequency light codes.  
 (beat)  
 The first one will send a ripple  
 through their whole control system.  
 (beat)  
 Each box will lead to a higher  
 location. Until you reach the core.  
 (beat)  
 First target- Rome. The heart of the  
 grid.

ARIA  
 Italy???  
 (more concerned)  
 Wait...what exactly am I dealing with?

DAKOTA  
 The council of three hundred. Or  
 another name- the black cube cult.  
 They steal light from humanity by  
 control systems, their main goal-  
 permanent soul enslavement. If they  
 had have captured you at Mount Shasta,  
 they would have used your light to  
 rebuild the grid in *their* image.

She takes a moment, grappling with the weight of this.



ARIA

So now I'm officially on the most wanted list.

DAKOTA

The closer you get. The harder they'll hit.

(beat)

There will be no superhero in a cape farce. You will be kept safe at all times. You'll fly to each city and check into a hotel under an Alias name.

Now at the house front steps, he hands her a **fake ID**. A brand new look- short sleek jet black hair.

ARIA

So this is who I have to become...

Nico appears, standing shirtless, barefoot, his body ripped, lean carved from battle, with a headband over his head.

ARIA (CONT'D)

(bashing his chest)

Why did you drag me into this, why?  
You lied to me!

She tries to push past him but he grabs both arms.

NICO

Calm down. There's no getting out of this Aria. Look at me...

(she looks barely)

There's no going back.

(beat)

I know you're scared. But scared doesn't mean weak, it just means you're still holding onto the old version of yourself.

(beat)

She's gone.

(beat)

What's inside you now- is the thing they fear the most.

(beat)

You walk away now, people die.

His words hit something deep inside her. She looks around- almost slow motion and everything goes quiet. The truth now- already awakening inside her.

NICO (CONT'D)

You think this is about codes and grids?

(closer)

This is about you. You've survived every system they've ever thrown at you. Foster homes, abandonment. But survival's not enough anymore. Now you *fight*. Now you become stronger than the pain that built you.

This isn't the relaxed joking Nico she knows. This is warrior Nico- all focused, no mercy.

NICO (CONT'D)

First lesson- when you fall, you get back up!

Before Aria can react-WHAM! He sweeps her legs out from under her. She hits the sand hard- gasping. Scrambles up furious, spitting sand.

ARIA

Are you kidding me?!

NICO

You think they'll fight fair? You think this will be easy? You think they won't hurt you, beat you, betray you- you trust *NO ONE*!

He lunges again, faster this time. Aria ducks- barely dodging. She swings instinctively. Nico catches her wrist easily, flips her to the ground again.

ARIA

(stops, breathing heavy)

You're not exactly making it easy.

NICO

I'm not suppose to.

ARIA

I want to trust you.

He holds his arms up in an X.

NICO

Then break me.

She lunges. Not with precision but with pain. Hurt, rage,

confusion- all of it channels through her fists like a surge as she breaks open his guard.

# MONTAGE OF TRAINING- SUNSET

Hours pass. Dakota watches in silence from the porch.

The stars spin overhead. Again and again- Aria falls.

And again and again she rises. Sweaty. Bruised. Burning. Grasping for breath, hands on her knees, shaking her head- Nico barking at her to stand up.

She climbs up, bloody knuckles. Nico shows her how to roll with a fall- Minimizing impact.

Quick strikes- elbows, knees, dirt fighting catching her off guard, slamming her to the sand. She grabs his wrist mid throw, reversing his move, flipping him, hitting the sand hard. Beat. He gets up slowly, laughing, surprised, impressed.

# CONTINUED TRAINING - SUNRISE

Sunrise burns gold across the ocean. Aria's knuckles now wrapped in bandages- her body screaming.

But her eyes- her eyes are different now.

She moves faster. Sharper. Tougher.

**TWO BLACK VANS PULL UP ON THE SAND**, kicking dust into the air.

Nico nods- gives them the go ahead.

NICO

Final test.

**TEN MEN POUR OUT**, all wearing black training gear.

Silent. Fast. Deadly, they surround Aria in a loose circle.

Dakota rises from his deck chair on the porch- rooting for her to win.

NICO (CONT'D)

This is real now. No more drills.  
Finish it!

The first man lunges. Aria ducks-slamming her palm into his

solar plexus. Another grabs her-but she twists, breaks his hold, uses his momentum against him.

They come faster now- three, four at a time.

Aria focused is blurred, all instinct and pure rage.

She struggles, doubts, gets mad, but never quits.

Sweat drops, sand flies. Grunts and impacts fill the humid air as she takes them all down, one by one.

Fast. Brutal. Emotional. A true hero forging moment.

Down the beach- **TWO LITTLE BOYS (10)** watch on their bikes, in amazement- jaws hanging open.

BOY 1

What's that?

BOY 2

That's a woman.

Aria flips over the last man. Long beat as the sun catches her winners face, bruised, bloodied, but alive.

Nico smiles, hugs it out- pride flashing his eyes.

Aria falls on one knee, wipes blood from her mouth, glances up at Dakota.

His faith in her deepens as she earns her first battle scars and a hand up.

DAKOTA

All systems go.

INT. BEACH SHACK-FLORIDA- NIGHT

Aria stands over the sink, staring at her reflection in the mirror. She lifts a pair of dull scissors. Then- **snip**. Long strands begin to fall. Her eyes water, not from pain, but loss.

Jet black dye drips into the sink- like ink bleeding from the past. She lifts her gaze as a new silhouette begins to take shape. Sharper, bolder, unapologetically her.

EXT. KEY WEST AIRPORT - SECURITY CHECK - NIGHT

Aria moves through the crowded security lines walking with

precision now. Sleek black hair, eyes forward. Her new **FAKE PASSPORT** clutched tight in her hand.

A few meter's behind- Dakota and Nico, wearing tourist backpacks.

Aria's heart pounds, as she hands her documents to the travel agent. A long beep from the scanner.

TSA AGENT

Thank you. Have a nice flight.

She passes through, head down, glances back. Dakota nods at her, barely.

INT. AIRPLANE -ECONOMY CLASS- CONT'D

Aria steps past some Passengers as she shuffle her way down the middle isle and finds her seat.

Nico and Dakota pass her, settle in three rows behind, casual, alert.

She settles in when a text comes in from Nico on her new smart watch.

TEXT FROM NICO

*Breath.*

She takes a deep breath, leans her head against her window, as the plane takes off.

EXT. LEONARDO DA VINCI, FIUMICINO AIRPORT- ROME - MORNING

Aria exits departures as two separate **BLACK SEDANS** pull up. The window rolls down in the first car.

**DRIVER #1** in black suit, sunnies.

DRIVER 1

Sarah LaRoux?

ARIA

Yes.

Aria slides inside. Car speeds away. Moments later Nico and Dakota slide into the second car, disappear through the streets of Rome.

EXT. STREETS OF ROME - MORNING

**TWO BLACK SEDANS** weave through the morning city chaos of Rome. Colourful VESPA'S buzzing past, OLD WOMEN shouting across balconies, MARBLE FOUNTAINS gurgle with children playing in the water.

INT. STAR HOTEL - LOBBY - MORNING

Aria enters the lobby, sunnies still on, walks to the reception counter quiet, alert- hands over her passport.

**A MALE HOTEL CLERK (28)** checks her in.

HOTEL CLERK  
Welcome to Rome Miss LaRoux.

She forces a polite smile. Takes her key card.

HOTEL CLERK (CONT'D)  
Room 300. Third floor.

**300.**

ARIA  
Thank you.

She moves to the elevator when she receives a second text from Nico, right as she presses the 3rd floor button.

TEXT FROM NICO  
*Don't answer the door. Wait for our call.*

Seconds later Nico walks through main entrance, checks in. Slides his passport to the hotel clerk.

Aria's POV on Nico (side eye) as the unravelling of what she thought was love, has now turned to growing doubt.

She slides into the elevator as he accepts his key card.

HOTEL CLERK  
Room 405 sir, fourth floor.

NICO  
Thanks.

Elevator doors close, just as Nico walks towards her.

She exhales, presses the third floor button, catches her

reflection in the mirror but barely recognises herself anymore.

Nico waits for the third floor ping, **presses the 4TH floor button**, just as Dakota arrives like a stranger, walking straight past Nico, into the bar.

Nico's POV- as Bartender approaches Dakota.

BARTENDER

What can I get you sir?

DAKOTA

Cappuccino please.

BARTENDER

Yes sir.

Nico enters elevator and ascends to fourth floor.

INT. UNDERGROUND OBSERVATION ROOM - EGYPT- DAY

The Director stands at the edge of a curved bank of screens. Streets of Rome glowing on several feeds, rooftops bathed in warm floodlight, cloaked agents scanning the crowds.

An agents voice crackles through the comm feed.

AGENT 3

She's not flagged under any alias  
we've prepped- no visual confirmation  
yet.

The Director smirks. Taps his long nails- click- click- click. A single blinking dot slides across one of the screens.

DIRECTOR

But she's there...

A waiting figure in the shadows, one of the cloaked 300 operatives whispers in a dark tone.

FIGURE IN SHADOW

She thinks she's moving in secret- but  
the grid, it doesn't track names...it  
feels frequency.

DIRECTOR

My little star hums louder than she  
knows....believes she's in control,  
(MORE)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
the hero of *my* story.

FIGURE IN SHADOW  
There's no story without conflict.

The Director's eyes drift back to a monitor showing childing laughing, playing by a fountain- carefree.

He watches- expression tight, revolted, disgusted by their innocence.

DIRECTOR  
Send in the keepers.

INT. ARIA'S HOTEL ROOM -ROME- MORNING

Aria tosses her bag onto the bed. Closes the curtains. Peals off her travel clothes, stepping into something darker, black jeans, leather jacket. Simple. Tactical.

She slips on a small ear-comm. Checks her smart watch.  
4.44pm.

Then takes a call from Dakota.

ARIA  
Talk to me.

DAKOTA'S V.O  
Downstairs, there's a door out though the kitchen to a back alley way. Soon as you hit the crowd, start taking pictures.

ARIA  
Tourist. Got it.

CLICK. She opens her bag, pulls out **a new digital camera-** checks battery is full, throws it around her neck and slips out the door.

INT. HOTEL KITCHEN -ROME- MORNING

Aria walks through the Hotel kitchen swiftly, as **TWO CHEF'S (50's)** chat and prepare lunch.

**A YOUNG BUSSEY (18)** holding a bucket full of dishes walks past her throwing her a strange look. Head down she slips out the back door.



EXT. STREETS OF ROME - NOON

Aria moves through a maze of cracked cobblestones next to a group of tourists quickly, silent. Checks her watch- which tells her to go right.

She turns the corner sharp.

EXT. VATICAN SQUARE - DAY

Aria's POV of the square- grand, busy, full of life with hundreds of TOURISTS and SWISS GUARDS influenced by the Renaissance dress.

Aria's eyes go UP, directly toward the towering rooftop dome of the Vatican complex.

Her watch flashes **5000 Hz**.

ARIA  
(into watch)  
Think I've found the first node.  
Possibly inside the dome.  
(eyes up again)  
I'm picking up 5000hz- this is where  
the manipulation is occurring.

Across the square- standing near a VENDOR SELLING CHEAP ROSARIES- Dakota's watch buzzes.

DAKOTA WATCH  
5000Hz.

ARIA  
You're right, they're mimicking the  
frequency.

DAKOTA  
Keep moving.

Aria skirts the main square, slipping down it's shadowed alley.

EXT. VATICAN- SERVICE ENTRANCE - DAY

A service door sits slightly ajar- guarded by an **OLD MAINTENANCE WOKER (60)** distracted by his phone.

Aria moves fast- sliding through.

INT. VATICAN- SERVICE HALLS - DAY

Aria walks through a stone corridor, thousands of years whispering echo's of ancient prayers. Beams of light pierce through the roof skylight onto her face.

She spots a SECURITY CAMERA, ducks behind a heavy marble pillar. Beat. On the walls holds the most prominent sculptures and Renaissance paintings known to mankind.

She continues down the hall like a normal tourist when her watch blinks- TURN LEFT.

She takes a swift left a stairwell.

INT. ROOFTOP STAIRS -DAY

Aria begins her climb up the main staircase, every breath rasping in her ears. Her watch starts pulsing faster- that blue light growing stronger the higher she gets. She reaches the top, follows **A BRITISH COUPLE (50'S)** out onto the--

EXT. ST. PETER'S BASILICA ROOFTOP- CONT'D

Aria steps out onto a large viewing platform, multiple tourists milling about snapping selfies.

**TWO SWISS GUARDS (40's)** patrol lazily past some scaffolding as her watch starts blinking again.

ARIA'S WATCH  
**6000 hertz.**

Her eyes land on the **GRAND GLASS DOME**. She gets closer, feels something pulsing inside beneath the glass.

ARIA  
(to herself)  
Of course it's locked inside the  
pope's skylight.

She leans over the roof, figures out a way to get inside.

ARAI  
(into watch to Dakota)  
Hopefully next time they hide it under  
a pizza stand.

EXT. VATICAN SQUARE - DAY

Across the square, Dakota -leaning against a stone pillar,

receives a ping.

DAKOTA  
(into watch to Aria)  
Hurry, we're running out of time.

INT. VATICAN STAIRCASE - DAY

Aria's breath thickens as she descends one flight down, tourists all around her.

Suddenly she stops. Feels a pulse. Not from her watch, **from inside the wall**. Her fingertips brush the ancient stone wall as the world muffles and voice's around her fade.

All but **one subtle female voice**.

MARY MAGDALENE'S VOICE  
*Truth hidden in plain sight...read  
between the lines...*

A strong vibration moves through the wall onto her palm.

Then- A light tap on her shoulder.

Startled she spins.

It's Nico, playing the part of an innocent tourist.

NICO  
Sorry miss...you got the time?

She freezes- a beat too long- then snaps without thinking.

ARIA  
Get a watch.

Nico watches her go as she slips through a narrow side door.

INT. DOME STAIRCASE - VATICAN - CONT'D

Aria begins climbing the 200 steps inside a winding narrow staircase.

ARIA  
(into watch to Dakota)  
No elevator's huh?

DAKOTA V/O  
Stay focused.

She reaches the very top platform, steps out onto the dome balcony to more tourist casually snapping. She looks up. The impossible just became more impossible.

ARIA

You gotta be kidding me.

She steps back inside, slides through a tiny door, but claustrophobic and finding it hard to breath- she panics.

ARIA (CONT'D)

(into watch)

Shit, there's no air up here, I can't breath!

NICO V/O

You're almost there, it's the only way.

She edges past some paint buckets and cans, ropes, see's a maintenance ladder bolted to the wall which disappears into the shadows of the very hidden top of the dome.

She grabs the rope coil, yanks herself just inside the dome's belly, surrounded by glass, just an inch away from her face.

Small statues of gargoyles line the wall-their eyes almost watching her.

In the center, half buried beneath etched stone a **SMALL BLACK CUBE FLOATS**- humming softly.

ARIA

There you are you little brat.

**6000hz pulses in her ears**, but it's not mechanical- it's internal, a signal only Aria can hear.

She pulls herself onto a narrow beam- crawling spider-like towards it. Every inch she moves the air-thickens as the cube pushes static directly into her energy field.

She reaches out towards the box, but sitting right under it- **A SMALL SCROLL CASE**. Dust caked. Gold laced. Ancient.

Aria stares. Her hand hovers over it, opens it fast. Inside- **rolled parchment etched in glowing ink, written in an unrecognisable language.**

She slips the scroll band into her inside jacket pocket, then slams her palm against the box.

**FLASH!** A BLAST OF LIGHT ENGULFS HER.

A choral tone rings out- harmonic, otherworldly.

Then -a white static. In the noise- a symbol flashes:  
ancient, glowing red, possibly a geometric glyph of the **EYE OF ISIS**.

A feminine voice echo's through her bones- low, celestial.

FEMININE VOICE

*You scattered your light to remember  
who you are.*

*(beat)*

*Each piece a note in the divine chord.*

ARIA

*(freaked out)*

What? Who said that??

Frightened she pulls her hand away.

Now- the **FIRST LIGHT CODE** emerges from Aria's chest, syncing with the cube's pulse. Her face twists in pain- the cube fighting her mentally, trying to block the light.

She clenches her jaw- **forces her signal surge of light into its center.**

Her frequency **BLOOMS OUTWARDS**- counteracting the cub's artificial hum.

The cube vibrates violently.

CRACKS!

#### **CONNECTION MOMENT - PRE AWAKENING WAVE**

A black sky littered with ancient constellations form intersecting lines, crisscrossing a RIPPLE with gold across the Earth like glowing veins- THE GLOBAL GRID, not stable yet, but alive- reawakened.

Suddenly- The Vatican node glows red, not with light, with layers of programming.

- Centuries of guilt based programming.
- Fractured spiritual truths.
- Rewritten symbols

-Manipulated devotion

Flashes of history before Aria's eyes. Popes in shadowed councils, scrolls burned, women silenced and burned.

GRIDS AND LAY LINES COLLAPSE- **the GRID SHUTTERS**, then disintegrates into a shimmer of stardust.

ARIA  
(into watch)  
Neutralized!

Overhead, the bells of St Peter's ring out, but the sound is distorted, warping into a low pure tone- a soul frequency breaking through centuries of noise. The illusion broken.

INT- VATICAN MAIN HALL - CONT'D

Alarms start to sound off. **THREE KEEPER AGENTS** glance up the main staircase sharply.

KEEPER 1  
Movement- North rooftop!

They ascend fast.

MOMENTS LATER

Below Aria- footsteps, voices...coming fast.

She scrambles back down the maintenance shaft- heart pounding, boots slipping on stone.

EXT. VATICAN SQUARE - CONT'D

The Cube's strong pulse sends ripples through Rome's architecture. Tourists across the square gasp at their phones as their ringtones glitch.

Nico by a fountain - feels it too. He lifts his watch to his mouth, low and urgent.

NICO  
Get out of there.

EXT- ST PETER'S ROOFTOP - CONT'D

The rooftop is alive with faint sirens and shouting below. **THREE KEEPER AGENTS** now block the only exit.

Aria crouches under some scaffolding. Nowhere to run, or

hide. Panic claws at her.

The same tourist couple from earlier, wander near the edge, fumbling with their camera.

Without hesitation, Aria surges forward- charging into the couple, hard.

ARIA  
Sorry- emergency!

They stumble and scream, arms flailing, crashing directly into the oncoming keepers.

The keepers and tourists- tangle momentarily, in a mess of flailing limbs, backpacks and shouted apologies.

Aria dives through the chaos-scrambling low- vaulting over a low railing onto a narrowing maintenance path. As the keepers try untangle themselves, its too late, Aria's already disappeared into the Vatican's --

INT. MAINTENENCE SHAFT- CONT'D

She grabs a rope from the bucket, double knots it to the top of the shaft and slides herself down the ladder landing hard.

ARIA  
Where's Tom cruise when a need him?!

She rips her arm against a sharp piece of wood, leaving a spot of blood.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
*Shit...*

Keeps going bursting out into an--

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONT'D

Aria hits a narrow alley, sprinting, panting, bleeding from a cut on her arm.

ARIA  
(into watch)  
Fastest way to hotel!

WATCH'S VOICE  
400 FEET --VEER LEFT ONTO VIA DELLA  
CONCILIAZIONE. CONCILATION STREET.

No time to think she dashes through Rome's side streets towards her hotel.

INT. MAINTENENCE SHAFT- CONT'D

FOUR KEEPERS, arrive at the ladder with dangling rope.

They scan their devices but the signal has gone.

Keeper #1 sniffs the air.

ROME KEEPER 1

She was here...

Keeper #2 spots a tiny drop of blood gleaming by his shoe. He kneels, licks it. A strange shift in his eyes. He hisses almost overcome.

ROME KEEPER 2

The prophesy is unravelling.

They vanish into the shadows.

INT. ARIA'S HOTEL ROOM -ROME - DAY

Dakota stands above Aria who sits on her bed, shrugging out of her jacket bleeding. The scrape on her arm visibly worse.

DAKOTA

You pulled it off.

ARIA

Barely.

Nico emerges from the bathroom with a first-aid kit- tosses it onto the bed.

NICO

(low- half joking)

Should've waited for back-up.

ARIA

Didn't exactly have time to hold hands.

NICO

(takes her face)

Hey...you did great.



ARIA  
 (pulls away)  
 I didn't like you surprising me like  
 that. You could have blown everything.

NICO  
 You were behind of about 30 seconds.  
 Ever minute counts.

DAKOTA  
 They felt the rupture.

She stiffens.

ARIA  
 They this, they that. Who were those  
 guys chasing me?

DAKOTA  
 The council of 300.  
 (beat)  
 The one's who run the show behind the  
 show.

EXT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - NIGHT

**INTERCUT- DAKOTA'S VOICE OVER.**

DAKOTA V/O  
 They don't sit on thrones, they sit in  
 shadows.

A stage built of dark stone walls surrounded by flames. A  
 circular council of hooded figures stand in silence. Their  
 faces hidden, each holding a blackened flamed torch.

DAKOTA  
 Pulling strings across nations and  
 institutions. Above presidents.  
 (beat)  
 Monarchs. Above your imagination.  
 (beat)  
 They control the currencies. The wars.

They surround a staged platform. Seated upon it- **The  
 Director.** Still only a shadow but now we see more: Scaly,  
 armor-like skin. Long black nails, tapping on the side of his  
 old staff, and a cloak made of something that almost...moves.

BACK IN ROOM-

Dakota creates a global map of ancient key lines and energetic pathways. Locations of black cubes with control nodes embedded in the grid with blue beeping, a mission tracker containing symbols and ancient coordinates.

He taps an encrypted layer beneath the grid map.

DAKOTA

They've gone by many names- the Watchers, the keepers of the box, the 300.

(beat)

But to us...

(glances a Nico)

They're just the one's who think they own the light.

ARIA

I felt something inside the wall...something powerful.

DAKOTA

That would be the original signal.

She looks up confused.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

You're not just detecting the frequencies. You're responding to them- on a soul level.

(beat)

Activating them.

ARIA

But how...how could that even be?

DAKOTA

Long ago, possibly even before time itself, the keys were intentionally scattered across earth's energy grid. Not because you were afraid, but because you foresaw the rise of the control system.

(beat)

The black boxes, they're not just nodes but extra-terrestrial routers, tuned to consciousness- your consciousness. Hijacked by the council of 300 to suppress human awakening and

(MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
control reality.

Aria just stares, overwhelmed.

NICO  
It's a lot to carry, I know. But  
you're not alone.

She lowers her eyes, falls back onto the bed, the weight of  
it hits her.

ARIA  
So all the conspiracy theories are  
true, everything humanity thinks is  
real- was designed to keep us asleep?

NICO  
(dabs her arm)  
Hold still.

The dabs of antiseptic sting. She winces. He leans in,  
careful, places a bandage over her cut, when his eyes catch  
what appears to be a scar just above her shoulder blade.

NICO (CONT'D)  
Huh. You've got something there.

He looks closer. A small triangle shaped scar, **three faint  
dots evenly spaced**. Delicate but, unmistakably intentional.

NICO (CONT'D)  
I never noticed that before.

She pulls her sleeve down, grabs a cold beer from the mini  
bar.

ARIA  
Birthmark. It's always been there.

Dakota takes the beer from her hand, places it down by the  
TV.

DAKOTA  
They'll come harder now. Smarter.  
(pints to new location)  
Next, a secret system underground in  
London.

ARIA  
London?

NICO  
 (dead pan)  
 We go find the second node tonight.  
 (walks to the door)  
 Car pick-up is in seven minutes.

ARIA  
 What?! I haven't even eaten, or  
 showered yet??

NICO  
 (Glances at watch)  
 Six minutes.

Nico and Dakota Exit. Aria reaches inside her jacket. Pulls out the ancient scroll from the Vatican. She untwists the seal. Unrolls the parchment, squints- mouths some words.

ARIA  
 Mary Magdalene's hidden gospel...  
 (glances at the door)  
 "I, Mary, once silenced by the  
 gatekeepers of empire, bear witness to  
 the truth...the divine spark within.

She reads faster, eyes wide.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 Through the words of Yeshua, I was  
 shown the mystical path, not through  
 fear- but frequency. Not through  
 worship but...remembrance.

She checks her watch- three minutes left.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 I carry encoded memory of the watchers  
 and the one's who came before--star  
 beings of the Original Signal.  
 (heart racing)  
 Who taught me how light travels  
 through blood...how sound awakens and  
 heals the soul...and how power is not  
 given...but *reclaimed*--

BANG BANG BANG!

NICO  
 Aria, lets go!

ARIA  
(last part of he scroll- rushed)  
*The truth is hidden in plain sight...  
read between the lines.*

She throws the rolled up scroll deep into her bag, exits.

EXT. HEATHROW AIRPORT LONDON - NIGHT

Wheels hit the tarmac with a violent jolt.

INT. BLACK SEDAN - NIGHT

Aria sits in the backseat of her government grade car with tinted windows. She looks over her shoulder to Dakota and Nico in a second car right behind her.

Outside her window, London flies past in bursts of neon with old stone monuments drowned out by rain.

They pass Buckingham Palace, golden and untouchable.

Aria's watch flickers faintly- the frequency already rising.

INT. LONDON SAFEHOUSE - NIGHT

An elegant period home on Belgrave Road in Pimlico. Dakota re-opens his glowing digital monitor, overlaid with ley lines and sacred geometry.

DAKOTA  
The node is buried here.

He taps the palace.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
Embedded in their underground tunnels.  
The one's the world pretends don't  
exist.  
(beat)  
These guys have military grade locks.  
Pressure sensors. There's no GPS once  
you're down there.

ARIA  
Hold on a second-- you're not  
seriously suggesting I go underneath  
the *Palace*?

A long beat as thunder rolls above their roof.

NICO

Think of it as a quick visit to your grandfather's house.

ARIA

(painful)

That house burned down when I was seven.

NICO

Look, this isn't a suicide mission okay, it's a handoff, fast controlled-in and out, no footprints.

She walks to the window, and as a flash of lightening hits she see's glimpses of **a black cube symbol faintly etched underneath the Palaces perimeter wall.**

DAKOTA

The entire area consists of 39 acres and is comprised of 775 rooms, including 52 royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices, 19 staterooms with 78 bathrooms.

ARIA

78 bathrooms-- who's peeing that much.

DAKOTA

There are six underground lines (Victoria, Piccadilly, Jubilee, Northern, District and Circle lines) and five nearby stations, Green Park station is our best bet.

(beat)

When you get off the train, you'll follow the line all the way to the end. There, you'll see a yellow door, usually kept locked, only used for train drivers to take an easier way up after their shift.

(beat)

But you won't be going up.

EXT. GREEN PARK STATION - NIGHT

Rain lashes the curved iron canopy. The glow of a single street lamp flickers at the entrance. No pedestrians, no noise, just a newspaper dragging across the pavement in the wind. A black cab idles, headlights dimmed, then rolls off into the fog.

INT. PLATFORM, GREEN PARK STATION - NIGHT

An empty track. Aria steps off the last tube as it wheezes to a stop. Dressed in a grey trench, black rimmed glasses and French hat, she waits for the platform to clear.

Her smart watch buzzes softly.

ARIA'S WATCH

4500Hz.

(again)

4600Hz.

The conductor steps off the train end of his shift, walks towards the yellow service door. Scans his badge. CLICK.

ARIA

(rushes to him, British accent)

Excuse me sir! I- I fell asleep.

Missed my stop.

(empty hands)

I've been robbed. Wallet, bag,  
everything's gone, please help me. I  
just need to get through.

DRIVER

I'm sorry love, but this is a  
restricted area--

ARIA

I know but please. Just this once.

She steps closer and he swiftly reaches for his radio.

DRIVER

Maim, I'm gonna have to call this one  
in--

**WHAM!** She moves fast- a sharp elbow to the ribs.

ARIA

Sorry buddy.

He bends, groans, dazed, confused.

She spins-Nico's disarm move, drops him softly to the ground,  
grabs his **key card** and slips through the **yellow door**.

INT. ABANDONED SERVICE TUNNEL - NIGHT

Aria makes her way down the staircase, walks through a black

door to **a long dark broken track** with damp cracked walls covered in dust and old soot.

ARIA  
(into watch)  
Shit guys, this place is dark...walls  
are black!

DAKOTA O/S  
4900Hz. You're getting closer.

NICO O/S  
Keep following the old rail line.

She reaches a large rusted iron gate, the kind that dares you to guess what's on the other side.

ARIA  
You guys- this place is giving me the  
creeps.

DAKOTA  
You've got to walk through it. Push  
it- it's not locked.

She twists the corroded lock. It gives with a groan- just enough to slip through.

INT. UNMARKED SUB TUNNEL - CONT'D

Complete darkness. Not just the absent of light- a swallowing void.

A single drip echo's as her feet crunch on broken gravel.

ARIA  
What is this- I can't see a damn  
thing!

NICO  
Welcome to the blind spot.  
(beat)  
Just keep walking forward, you're  
almost there.

Her silhouette inches deeper into the dark. The air grows thick, heavy, like it's soaked in static.

Her watch buzzes- **5000Hz**.



ARIA  
I can feel it vibrating through the  
walls--5000Hz...humming...sharper. The  
same frequency--

Her watch starts beeping--**PALACE - 10 FEET ABOVE.**

The sound of boots marching. Right overhead.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
(afraid to breath)  
You've got to be kidding me.

She swallows her fear. Then a faint blue glow from her watch  
now--and more movement.

Small shapes ahead. Eyes. Lots of eyes. Silent. Watching.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
(into watch)  
More light...

A bright light comes off her phone now to reveal **CHILDREN.**

Some asleep on cardboard.

Some huddled together just watching her.

Aria falls to her knees.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
My God...

**A tiny GIRL**, no more than six, takes a baby step forward.

GIRL  
(whispers)  
They say if we talk...they hear us.

The girls points upwards to faint voices chattering. The  
sound of the palace kitchen at work. Aria can't help but  
notice the children's bony arms- clearly all starving.

ARIA  
(to her lips)  
*Shhhh.*

INT. PALACE PANTRY - NIGHT -CONT'D

A heavy drain grate lifts- barely. No one in sight. Aria  
rises through it- into the pantry of the Buckingham palace

kitchen.

Bread and cheese plates lay on a long wooden table. She quickly loads food into her coat pockets- glances down at about a hundred children now gathered, watching her from the shadows below.

Her eyes sting with fury and disbelief- but doesn't have time to process.

**TWO COLDSTREAM GUARDS-** storm towards her- scarlet tunics flaring, boots pounding. One lunges.

GUARD O/S

Oi! Lady- who the hell are you?!

**She panics.** Frantically shoves bread rolls down the drain, kicking as many as she can through the hole.

**They grab her-yank her OUT- hard.** The drain cover slams shut, the children vanish back into the dark.

INT. PRIVATE PALACE COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

The two Coldstream Guards safeguard the door as Aria sits cuffed to a metal chair- face bloodied, lip split, one eye nearly swollen shut.

This room is buried deep beneath the palace, no windows just stone cold walls and a lone swinging lightbulb slicing through the silence.

**MARCUS THORN (50)** hard nose and weathered stands above her. A working class brut, cockney accent, who's clawed his way into power. His tailored suit doesn't hide the fire in his eyes. His scars across his knuckles and cockney bark tells us he's loyal to the crown and not above braking bones to protect it.

MARCUS

You've caused quite the stir, haven't you.

(beat)

You broke into the royal pantry-  
*HUNGRY WERE YA?*

He delivers a hard smack to her stomach.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Assaulted a government official. Stole state property.

(beat)

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What were you looking for exactly?

Aria can't hardly speak, she's beaten so bad.

He circles her slowly, then leans closer.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Tell me...how did you come up from underneath? Who sent ya? Cuz last time I checked, ain't nobody ever been down there.

ARIA

(mumbles)

Go to hell.

MARCUS

Oh. We got a yank on out hands. Cute.

(scoffs)

You think this is personal don't ya?

Her eyes bend, going down.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I don't hate ya. I'm just amazed that a little bitch like you, could get so tactile. Cuz we all know Americans ain't smart. But you...I kinda admire what you've just done.

(eyes her breasts)

You're rare. Very brave.

(licks his lips)

You've got that little twinkle in your eyes...or as you yanks call it...a spark.

(nasty again)

The kind of spark I like to extinguish when everyone else is sleeping.

He dials a number on his cell. **INTERCUT PHONECALL WITH THE DIRECTOR- EGYPT**

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Chief--yeah it's me at the Palace. Listen I've got someone. Picked her up underground. No ID. No papers. Bit too composed to be a stray- thought she might be one of yours?

DIRECTOR V/O ON PHONE

In London?  
 (heavy dark sigh)  
 She does get around.

Marcus leans in. Notices that faint scar, her small triangle shaped birthmark, **three faint dots evenly spaced.**

His brow furrows. Pale.

MARCUS

Hold up.  
 (steps closer)  
 That mark.  
 (beat)  
 Is it *her...the resonant??*  
 (shocked)  
 Blimey. I think the harmonic prime  
 just fell into my bloody lap.

DIRECTOR V/O ON PHONE

(urgent)  
 Secure the perimeter. No broadcast, no  
 leak. *Bring her to me.*

MARCUS

(hangs up)  
 Secure her now- the Director was  
 clear!

Aria kicks up her leg. **SMACK!** Marcus reels back, blood spurting from his nose.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Lock her down!

Aria is yanked from the chair, kicking, screaming.

INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Aria is thrown hard against the wall, wrists bound behind her back, her face barely visible through the blood. The older guard slams the cell door shut, locks with *his keys.*

OLDER GUARD

Watch her like a hawk.

YOUNGER GUARD

(twitching/unsettled)  
 Yes sir.

Older guard leaves the down corridor.

Beat.

ARIA

I see it in your eyes. You're not like  
them are you...

YOUNGER GUARD

(gruff)

Shut up.

ARIA

You know things...things you're not  
suppose to say out loud.

YOUNGER GUARD

(points his rifle)

I said shut it- one more word and I'll  
take you out right now.

Beat.

ARIA

(bleeding with tears)

I've seen them...the children.

This hits. He freezes- breath caught in his chest.

ARIA (CONT'D)

(crawls on knees to gate bars)

There's more...isn't there?

He backs away, terrified. Then - a choice.

He fumbles for his cell key, unlocks her fast.

YOUNGER GUARD

(shaky whisper)

You breath a damn word of this,  
they'll kill us both.

He drags her down the corridor, throws open a maintenance  
panel, pulling a rolling cart from the shadows.

YOUNGER GUARD (CONT'D)

Get in and don't move.

He shoves her inside, throws a blanket over her, right as a  
**THIRD GUARD** rounds the corner.

THIRD GUARD

Hey, where are you going with that?

YOUNGER GUARD

Trash detail. Orders from below.

A beat. Tension.

The young guard panics, pulls a **small EMP device** from his belt.

THIRDS GUARD

(startled)

What the--

ZAPS the guard- shoves the cart down the hall, rolling fast-SMASHING through a swinging access door.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

The cart bursts out into a shadowed alley, Aria stumbles out fast -coughing, scraping, eventually collapsing.

TIRES SCREECH as a black van skids to a stop. Nico jumps out, scoops her up into the back.

NICO

Go, go, go!

Their car speeds off out of sight.

INT. LONDON SAFEHOUSE - NIGHT

Aria's cleaned up- but barely. Hair wet. Bruised ribs. Arms, covered in bandages. Nico spoon feeds her hot soup.

Long beat.

ARIA

You let them do this to me.

NICO

I wanted to break down the door, charge in there, I swear--

ARIA

Then why didn't you? Why did you let them take me?

Tears roll down her cheeks. Nico kneels to her eyeline.

NICO

Because if we rushed in too soon, they  
would have killed you.

(beat, sighs)

I know this is tough...

ARIA

(deeply disturbed)

You didn't see them.

(beat)

Stacked in the dark like animals,  
watching me, starving to death.

(certain)

I'm going back, with or without you.

Nico looks to Dakota who nods.

NICO

Fine. We'll go together.

Dakota created a new **GLOWING DIGITAL GRID**.

Ley lines intersected over a **pulsing red node beneath Buckingham Palace**.

Aria and Nico stand shoulder to shoulder bruised, battered,  
but locked in.

DAKOTA

This is where it splinters.

(pointing)

I've detected a second level below the  
tunnel where the children are. A  
containment zone. Shielded, off-record  
where the 2nd node exists.

He flicks a layer on the hologram- revealing a **DARK CAPSULE-  
the 2nd black box**.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Aria, you'll go south towards the  
node.

(beat)

Nico, north to the children.

Nico leans in, scanning the structure. A blinking signal  
pings on an old terminal. Dakota marks a faded spot near the  
southern end of the Palace.

NICO

Looks like there's a service shaft.

DAKOTA

No. This one appears to be completely sealed, melted into the roof. You'll need to create a new one.

(points to roof)

This district is unmonitored. All tunnels from the Palace to parliament are emergency escape routes, sealed off subterranean zones used for wartime intel-communication and surveillance. There's a disused service tunnel under the south quadrant, to run ration carts. One duct remains open which takes you under the gardens, then spits you out just shy of Birdcage walk.

NICO

Too public.

DAKOTA

Not if you time it right. I'll have three vans parked outside the east entrance. It will look like they're part of the landscaping crew.

(points to exit)

You get the kids through the access gate here. Follow the utility line until you come to a delivery bay. We don't have much time, lets go.

They urgently grab their gear and leave.

INT. ABANDONED SERVICE TUNNEL - NIGHT

Aria and Nico move like shadows until they arrive at the large rustic iron gate- the point of no return.

NICO

Hey...I just wanna say I'm sorry...I didn't mean to lie.

She hesitates, eyes on the gate, then back on him.

ARIA

I'm sorry I drifted so far away...I guess somewhere along the way I wasn't sure if I could trust you.

NICO

You know me. We've always been a team.  
(MORE)



NICO (CONT'D)  
 Nothing gonna change that. Where you  
 go- I go.  
 (cups her face, forehead to  
 forehead)  
 Locked in for life, yeah?

ARIA  
 (softly)  
 Life.

She pulls him close- clinging to the one thing she still  
 believes in. Then together, they slip through the gate.

INT. UNMARKED SUB TUNNEL - NIGHT

Two paths. Two directions.

ARIA  
 See you on the other side.

They split. Aria heading south, Nico North.

INT. THREAD A- LOWER NODE CHAMBER - NIGHT

Aria moves alone, deeper underground. Walls shimmer with  
 condensation- vibrating slightly with a low hum.

ARIA'S WATCH  
 5800Hz...5900hz.

She climbs down an open shaft, into darkness.

INT. THREAD B- SUB TUNNEL -NIGHT

Nico creeps forward, flashlight flickering. Hears the sound  
 of bare feet shuffling on concrete.

He moves closer to see **A LITTLE BOY (7)** humming a lullaby off  
 key. Nico freezes. Behind the boy- rows of children curled  
 against the cold tunnel walls. Eyes hallow staring straight  
 at him.

NICO  
 (whispers)  
 I'm here to help you. We're getting  
 out, okay.

LITTLE BOY  
 Are you...like her?

Nico takes a beat. The question catches him off guard.

NICO

Well I'm no angel, but I'm close enough.

Nico then smiles, warm, steady (although something lingers in his eyes for just a moment) The kid relaxes, reaches out his hand.

NICO (CONT'D)

I need you guys to stay quiet, while I get us out of here. You think you can do that buddy.

The kid nods yes. Nico's watch screen pulses, flashing a faint grid overline and compass direction.

NICO (CONT'D)

Southwest beneath supply vault near birdcage. Easy.

He counts paces, kneels, runs his hand along the far tunnel wall, tapping the stone. He finds the seam, **grabs a multi tool from his pack**, flicks out the **chisel attachment** and begins scraping away at the seam.

NICO (CONT'D)

Come on old London, don't fail me now.

He works fast, clearing debris until the outline of an old service hatch is revealed. He draws a cross over in chalk, then steady and silent begins carving out an exit point.

INT. THREAD A- BLACK BOX CHAMBER - CONT'D

Aria enters slowly, the energy thick, like it's pressing against her chest.

There it is floating **MID AIR- THE MASSIVE BLACK BOX**, suspended above an ancient etched platform.

Her watch buzzes violently.

ARIA'S WATCH

9000Hz. ESTABLISHED - 1536. MONARCH  
GRID ANCHOR - EUROPEAN SECTOR. STATUS:  
FULLY OPERATIONAL.

ARIA  
 (whispers)  
 Moher fuckers. Five centuries of lies  
 dressed as legacy.

Unlike the one in Rome, **this box is sleek obsidian-** edged in a glowing gold rim, almost regal with golden runes burned into the floor **with symbols of kings, queens, war timelines.**

She steps closer and her eyes catch it- **COUNCIL OF 300 symbol** surrounded by energy lines all bound into one force center of control.

The room's energy begins to peak as visions flash before Aria's eyes.

- Crowds bowing before kings, Queens.
- Blood stained robed, sticks of fire for rituals.
- Children taken beneath cathedrals

**A YOUNG QUEEN (20'S)** whispers to a man in shadows.

YOUNG QUEEN'S V/O  
 No one must ever break the node- the  
 system is sovereign and we were born  
 to uphold it's order.

Aria clutches her chest, overwhelmed.

ARIA  
 (determined)  
 That sounds like a threat...and I've  
 spent my whole life waiting to answer  
 one.

She raises her hand to the cube, surging her frequency out from her heart into the Box.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 I override you!

But the cube's resistance is too strong, now suspending Aria's body in the air.

**A FLASH of a symbol flickers.** The **EYE OF ISIS AGAIN.** But now it begins to shift. The glowing red color melts into blue-crystalline- divine.

FEMALE V/O

Each node- a piece of the whole. Each pulse- a memory reactivated.

**QUICK FLASHES NOW- MEMORIES UNLOCKED**

- A young Aria beneath the stars in Egypt gazing up the the Pyramid of Giza.

- An ancient Glyph carved into a mirror surface, reflecting Aria's eyes.

**BACK IN THE CHAMBER- ARIA GASPS**, grabs hold of the wall pulling herself down to the ground.

The **SECOND LIGHT CODE** emerges from her heart chakra and syncs with the cube's pulse. Aria holds the charge- both hands high overriding **her signal surge of light into it.**

**HER FREQUENCY BLOOMS OUTWARDS- COUNTERACTING THE CUBE'S PULSE.**

**FLASH!** The cube spasms, then cracks open, not exploding- but unfolding, **dissolving like a dying star, releasing a stream of blue light energy.**

A pulse echo's throughout the tunnel walls.

ARIA

(into watch)

Neutralized!

She stumbles back- hears a loud rumble.

LONDON- SYSTEM SHUDDER

-**CCTV blackout** in key zones across Westminster.

- **The London Eye** abruptly halts, then spins backwards for several seconds, faster than usual.

-**Big Ben** chimes several times.

INT. THREAD B- SUB TUNNEL/ BIRDCAGE WALK -CONT'D

Nico lifts the children out of the tunnel. Aria arrives, barely catching her breathe. Climbs out herself onto the **path of Birdcage Walk.**

ARIA

Somethings shifting, you feel that??

NICO

Yeah, the anchor node for the entire western crown grid cracked- lets go!

Aria helps Nico lift out the children as **FIVE BLACK VANS** pull up, Dakota up front in one. Thirty children are placed and secured into each five vehicles.

Aria jumps in the last van.

ARIA

Stay calm everyone- hold hands if you like.

Nico slams the final van door shut.

NICO

150- clear!

And they speed off out of sight, safe for now.

INT. PRIVATE PALACE COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

Somewhere deep beneath London, a geometric map of the global grid overlaid with pulsing frequency markers.

One light flickers RED. Then goes dark. **The entire LONDON NODE SECTION DIMS.**

Marcus stands frozen. Slowly turns to the monitor- the Directors face there staring back at him.

MARCUS

(shaking)

It's a breach. London Grid.

DIRECTOR O/S

No Marcus. It's a confirmation.

MARCUS

Sir?

DIRECTOR O/S

This original frequency, matches her signature.

MARCUS

Crikey. She's just activated the same tone as Rome...overruled the command grid...dismantled the whole bloody system.

DIRECTOR O/S  
(long beat)  
Of course she did. She's waking up.

MARCUS  
Heading west. Should I--

DIRECTOR O/S  
No. She's syncing faster than  
expected. Let her play. For now. She's  
almost at the crescendo.

Marcus blinks- unsure if he's afraid of him or her.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE ROAD - PRE-DAWN

FIVE VANS full of children move silently through a fog filled  
area, headlights off.

INT. LONDON SAFEHOUSE - MORNING

Nico carries the bags from the front door into the waiting  
black sedan car parked outside.

As Aria finishes her coffee, she catches a **BREAKING NEWS  
REPORT** on the TV mounted in the kitchen.

BRITISH TV ANCHOR  
--Camber sands, Sussex, where a  
hundred and fifty children were found  
alone on the shoreline early this  
morning. There were no adults, no  
chaperones, no identification. Just  
rows of tiny little souls, wrapped in  
foil blankets, huddled quietly near  
the water. In fact there was no  
crying, but a calmness, like the  
gentle waves in the water, almost like  
they were waiting.

Footage plays: 150 kids huddled together, relieved by their  
rescue.

BRITISH TV ANCHOR (CONT'D)  
Police are now working with  
international agencies to determine  
where they came from. If your child is  
missing or was taken, please contact-

CLICK. She knocks off the TV, quickly exits the house.

INT. UNDERGROUND OBSERVATION ROOM - EGYPT- DAY

The Director's eyes burn as his screens flood with GLOBAL HASTAGS, NEWS STREAMS, the truth spreading like wildfire.

TIK-TOK- VARIOUS USERS:

- "How do you accidentally find a hundred sick children on the beach?"

- "I use to laugh at conspiracy theorist's, I'm not laughing anymore".

- WTF just happened in London?"

ON A MONITOR- A UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ROOM

SWISS DELEGATE

And what about the energy pulse over Rome?

JAPANESE DELEGATE

The frequency also hit our seismographs- it was real!

US AMBASSADOR

There is no need for panic. We are monitoring the situation.

The director knocks off all systems, clenching his fists.

DIRECTOR

(concerned)

She's gone off script.

(explosive anger)

She was never suppose to go this far!

Reset containment NOW!

INT. FLORIDA BEACH SHACK- LATE AFTERNOON

Front door swings open. Bags drop. Sunlight spills onto Aria's broken face. Bob Marley plays from a brand new sound system speaker.

OUTSIDE- laughter. A Volleyball thud. Squeals.

NICO

Yo Zeke...where are you?

EXT. OUTDOOR LIVING AREA-BEACH SHACK- LATE AFTERNOON

Zeke lounges in a Tommy Bahama shirt, drink in hand watching **FOUR FEMALE INFLUENCERS (mid-late 20's)** in tiny outfits, run across the sand playing volleyball.

ZEKE

Well well well, looks who's home.  
Uncle Koda- looking fresh my man.

Zeke offers Nico a cold beer.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So...how'd it go? Seal the deal?

NICO

Yeah- something like that. I though I  
said no parties Zeke?

ZEKE

Technically not a party. Hey, you  
alright man, you seem stressed?

NICO

Fine. Gonna go hose the week off.

Nico disappears inside.

ZEKE

(to Aria)

Oh my god, what happened to your face?

Aria pours a large Captain Morgan-coke, sinks into a deck chair.

ARIA

I fell.

ZEKE

Damn, that's rough. I stocked up on  
food, but wasn't sure when you guys  
were back.

ARIA

(cautious)

Who are these people?

ZEKE

Uh- yeah. So that's Britney. Kesha.  
Olivia. Not sure about the one with  
the dog. They cool. We vibin.



Britney jogs up, glowing with sweat and highlighter.

BRITNEY

Zeke! You said you'd keep score?

ZEKE

Be right there beautiful. Just saying  
hey to my uncle.

BRITNEY

Hi uncle. Britney.

Awkward silence.

ARIA

What do you do, *Britney*?

BRITNEY

Oh- I do content creation. Traveling  
most of the time. Zeke took us  
shopping, got us some cool shots.

ZEKE

Nothing crazy. Few swimsuits. Some  
sushi.

BRITNEY

(skips off)

Well, nice to meet you.

ZEKE

Hey brit, wait up!

Zeke re-joins the girls.

Aria stares after Britney. Captain Morgan finished already-  
sun warm on her bruised cheek. She watches the group closely  
as they dive for the ball carefree, unburdened.

DAKOTA

You want that life?

Aria's eyes drift to the boats far out on the water.

ARIA

I know what's beneath the world  
now...and I can't unsee that.

DAKOTA

You act like you didn't know where  
this road leads.

ARIA

I didn't know what the fuck I was getting into.

DAKOTA

You didn't just fall into this Aria. You answered the call.

(pours himself a drink)

Rome. London-

ARIA

Bullshit! I didn't ask for this okay-

DAKOTA

Nobody forced you.

ARIA

What! Are you hearing yourself? I'm *stuck* here. No way out.

(beat)

I'm trying to stay sane here "*uncle Koda*"! But it feels like every moment I'm stretching every part of myself just to move an inch forward.

DAKOTA

(surprisingly angry)

Because every inch you move...you're pulling the whole world with you.

She stares at him, perplexed. Beat.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

What you have doesn't ask for attention. It doesn't need applause, followers or permission.

ARIA

Yeah well, I decide from now on. Not you.

She holds her gaze for a moment then storms off into the house.

INT. FLORIDA BEACH SHACK- ARIA'S ROOM- SUNSET

Aria sits crossed legged on her bed, the ancient scroll open in her hands.

ARIA  
 (emotional)  
 What is this Mother...help me  
 understand...

She closes the satchel gently, slips it back into her bag. Lays back, and falls asleep. The sound of the Ocean- distant, distorted. A faint blue light pulses from her chest and she begins to rise. Her frequency starts to hum with tiny particles in the air appearing around her body. Shimmery tiny points of light aligning into delicate vertical threads.

#### **ANOTHER REALM APPEARS: A CELESTIAL CLEARING**

Aria floats within a circle of light, surrounded by galaxies and stars-all suspended in a dreamlike stillness.

**THE ASCENDANTS-** six beings. Tall. Blonde. Luminous skin like quartz, wearing iridescent blue body suits, eyes like lit galaxies, emerge through dimensional folds- not portals, but soft tears in reality, as if the veil between realms were a curtain gently pulled aside.

They circle Aria in a sacred formation. A flower of life grid, their energy serene, intelligent, protective.

**MOTHER appears-** more impressive, feminine and sovereign than before.

ARIA  
 The scroll...was it *real*? Was *she*?

MOTHER  
 She lived. And not only lived...she remembered.

ARIA  
 But why am I the one holding it?

MOTHER  
 The truth is not just meant to be found- it's meant to be felt. And you were encoded to feel what others were taught to forget.

ARIA  
 But I'm not ready Mother.

MOTHER  
*She*, carried the signal through  
 silence. You will carry it through  
 (MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

sound.

ARIA

She was erased.

MOTHER

Only in stories they write. But not in  
the one's you'll awaken.

(beat)

Across lifetimes your soul kept  
returning, each time closer to the  
flame. Each time stronger.

Aria begins to remember.

ARIA

They tried to silence my voice. Burn  
my wisdom. Bury my name-

Mother comes closer, but her voice trembles between  
disclosure and divine restraint.

MOTHER

You my child were once the original  
light bearer. *The one they could not  
fully destroy.*

(beat)

You are all of her- the return they  
couldn't stop.

(beat)

You are not early. Nor late. You are  
arriving exactly when the world needs  
you- written into the signal of  
creation itself.

ARIA

It's going to get worse, isn't it?

MOTHER

The grid was once a gift. A sacred  
system of connection. It was designed,  
to create harmony between human and  
source, but it was inverted.

(beat)

Stolen.

(beat)

Hijacked by those who feed on  
dissonance- trapping humanity over and  
over. Splitting the divine from the  
flesh. Cutting humanity from it's own

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

signal.

(beat)

It will intensify. But you carry every woman's DNA who stood before the flame and did not flinch.

Mother drifts back.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

You've done well- each step, each memory, a thread returning to the whole.

(beat)

What you're gathering is not power- it's pieces of yourself, once scattered across time.

Mother's words echo through Aria's being. Her chest glows red with a fractal of crystalline light as she absorbs the flame of remembrance - **the sacred blueprint of the Divine Feminine.**

Surrounding her, the Ascendants chant in harmonics- a wordless melody that bends time, their hands lifting in unison, a multiverse pathways into her field.

Aria's POV- as she see's earth now-not from above, but from within. Blue and green swirls like it's her new blood.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Anchor now.

(firm)

And when in fear, do not escape the darkness...enter it.

(beat)

Just know, not every reflection is your own. Some are born of your light. Others...of whom turned away from it.

Nico tugs at her arm and she jolts up sweating.

NICO

Get dressed. It's time.

EXT. PRIVATE RUNWAY -FLORIDA - NIGHT

Aria climbs the steps of a sleek black jet with Nico, Dakota and Zeke close behind.

INT. PRIVATE JET - MOMENTS LATER

Aria buckles in next to Dakota- still processing her dream of Mother. Nico and Zeke together, Nico planting a smart watch over Zeke's wrist.

ZEKE

So eh, how did uncle Koda build his  
million dollar empire anyway?  
Spiritual retreats- crypto- blood  
diamonds?

Nico opens his laptop, confirms Zeke's watch is now connected to all three. It lights up light blue- BINGO.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(Amazed at watch)

Cool cool. Vibe check - although  
weirdly intense.

A hostess delivers some champagne on a tray. Nobody takes a drink, except Zeke.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Oh- right on time. Thank you.

Another intense silence.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Party for one....all Gucci.  
(suspiciously looking around)  
Yo Kode, hope you don't think I'm  
being nosy, but--

Before he can say another word Dakota takes his drink and forces a fast flash of blue energy into Zeke's field knocking him out cold.

DAKOTA

His third eye was about to overheat.

Nico finds a new trace on his laptop--glances out his window.  
Some black SUVs are parked behind the tarmac gates watching.

The hostess buckles into her seat oblivious.

Engine revs up and they take flight.

EXT. SAQQARA DESERT ROAD- DAY

A beat up **LAND ROVER STATION WAGON** with canvas hood, bounces

along a dust-steaked road flanked by sand dunes and ancient ruin markers. In the back, Aria and Zeke. Sunglasses, cream linen shorts, shirt and boots. Dakota and Nico up front.

ZEKE

(messing with watch)

Hey, is this thing suppose to be picking up Morse code? I got some weird glitching going on here.

NICO

Quiet back there.

EXT. CHECKPOINT - SAQQARA - DAY

A checkpoint looms ahead- rusted metal barriers, tattered flags, and a lone **GUARD** standing watch- with a rifle slung over his shoulder.

As the wagon slows, the energy tightens.

Zeke -fidgets with his camera lens. Aria- adjusts her scarf, keeping her face low. Nico's fingers tighten on the wheel as Dakota hands over forged official documents.

DAKOTA

Clearance for site access- with Dr Omar Saleh. We've got equipment due by sundown.

A long heavy beat, as the guard flicks through the pages. Government stamps. Arabic signatures. All forged but convincing.

He eyes Aria, then the documents.

CHECKPOINT GUARD

Watch the southern pass. Roads washed out near Saqqara.

NICO

Will do, thanks.

The ate clanks open. They dive on through.

EXT. SAQQARA COMPLEX- MOMENTS LATER

They arrive at a modest dig site- one cream coloured tent, a table of **water cannisters, gear cases, scanning tools and drones charging in the sun.**

The wind kicks up dust around the tent as **LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGIST DR OMAR SALEH (50's)** approaches in a Jellabiya and turban. He greets them with a subtle nod.

DAKOTA

Dr Saleh, appreciate your help.

DR OMAR SALEH

Pleasure's mine.

(beat)

But this must say quiet. Even your accent draws attention.

DAKOTA

Of course.

DR OMAR SALEH

You have two days, maybe less. The ministry's team checks the outer perimeter every third sunrise. If they catch wind you're here- it's not just arrests. They shut everything down. Even my work.

DAKOTA

This is a small exploration, in and out. You won't even know we were here.

DR OMAR SALEH

Then follow my lead. We go below at first site.

Omar disappears into the tent to begin preparations.

ARIA

Great. This already feels extra shady.

ZEKE

(eyeing the map, confused)

What happened to full tourist mode and artifacts shopping?

NICO

You think we brought you here to buy souvenirs?

ZEKE

What, you don't want me to cook your camel for dinner?



NICO

No Zeke. Egyptians don't eat camel.

(Beat)

We're mapping out geothermal shifts-energy disturbances. So when that very *expensive watch* on your wrist goes global, our users won't have a single complaint. No interference. Anywhere.

Zeke glances down at his new smart watch.

ZEKE

Yeah but- I heard the old guy say something about a dig.

(beat)

C'mon man. I came all this way to frickin Egypt. Just be real. What is this?

NICO

Alright. Off the record- Dakota thinks there's something down there. Old tech. Real buried shit. It's been his obsession for years.

ZEKE

You're searching for treasure? Like actual Pharaoh level -gold and glory stuff?

NICO

You're here to keep watch. That's it.

ZEKE

So...yes.

NICO

Your only job right now is to watch the tent and keep the drones charged. If anybody asks, you're part of the equipment calibration team.

ZEKE

Equipment calibration-- uh huh.

NICO

Geothermal sensors. EMF field readers. But say it like it bores you to death.

ZEKE

Don't speak about death around here  
(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
bro...something tells me the Gods are  
listening.

EXT. SAQQARA CATACOMB ENTRANCE- TWILIGHT

The golden sun dips behind limestone ridges as Dr Omar, Dakota, Aria and Nico approach the narrow mouth of the catacomb.

Aria glances at her watch but her screen glitches.

ARIA  
Something's not right. It's dropping  
signal.

NICO  
Could be magnetic interference. The  
whole area's unstable.

DR OMAR SALEH  
Whatever you're hoping to find, it  
lies below. Deep under.

They descend inside--

INT. SERAPEUM TUNNEL - TWILIGHT

TORCHLIGHTS flicker against limestone walls as Dr Omar leads Dakota, Nico and Aria through a wide carved passage leading down into unknown territory.

**MASSIVE GRANITE SARCOPHAGI** rests in recessed chambers. Each one enormous - jet black with etched carvings.

Aria glazes her hand over the stone- depictions of figures with elongated skulls, arms raised to the sky.

**A FLASH-** voices of thousands gathered beneath starlight chanting in a lost tongue.

She winces.

DR OMAR SALEH  
The Serapeum was never just a tomb,  
but a resonance chamber.

ARIA  
What's in them?

DR OMAR SALEH

Nothing, they're empty. Some say this was built to house the Apis Bull. But I've always believed...it was to house something else entirely.

ARIA

What do you mean, house what?

NICO

Let's move. We're not here to chase ghost stories.

Nico pushes Aria along further until they come to a woman with a staff of light on the wall.

Her watch BEEPS.

ARIA

4700Hz. It's close.

The ceiling dips and the enter--

INT. DEERPER CHAMBER - CONT'D

They reach a sarcophagus unlike the others- black stone, gold rim, double the size, **humming a darker frequency than any before.**

NICO

I think this is it.

Aria touches it- **the box convulses with a deep angry pulse.** A low frequency shockwave bursts outward, rattling the stone walls, flickering lights, distorting sound.

Ancient glyphs across the sarcophagus glow faintly as a deep angry tone shaking the entire chamber.

DR OMAR SALEH

(shocked, frightened)

No- no, this isn't possible. That box has been dead for centuries.

(stares a aria)

What the hell is this- who are you??

Dakota hits him a blast with blue light energy silencing him mid-evaluation. He slumps to the floor unconscious.

Aria steps forward.

ARIA

Okay, I've done this before--just align the code. Shift the field.

NICO

You can do it.

She breaths deep, trying to find the rhythm, but the box is reluctant.

ARIA

It's fighting me! It feels different!

DAKOTA

This one's older than the others. Hijacked before Atlantis fell. It was built to block the feminine- to bury the source. You have to override it- not with touch- with mind- with memory.

She tries again, hands trembling but feels too weak.

ARIA

I can't break it!

She falls back.

NICO

(pissed, dark)

Okay stop. She's burning out. It's like it wired into her field. *FUUUCK!!*

DAKOTA

(darker)

You need to remember *who* you were, before the field.

She looks up, breath ragged. This was never going to be easy.

EXT. SAQQARA TENT- TWILIGHT

Zeke lounges outside, feet up, flipping through old photo's on his camera when **TWO EGYPTIAN KEEPERS approach.**

KEEPER #1

You part of this dig?

ZEKE

Uh, technically no dig. I'm...support crew.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
 (beat, trying to remember)  
 Equipment...calibration. Yep.  
 Geothermal field stuff. All that jazz.  
 (beat)  
 Sensors. Vibes. Very technical.

KEEPER #2  
 This site is restricted.

ZEKE  
 (grabbing drone)  
 Right, totally. I was just...aligning  
 the- uh- field harmonics.  
 (holds up camera)  
 Wanna see a cool wide shot. No tombs  
 touched. Scout's honor.

The keepers don't flinch. Zeke gulps.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
 Look, I swear, we're not here to mess  
 with anything sacred. Just a few light  
 readings and solar flares.  
 (beat)  
 Worst thing I'll be guilty of is Tik-  
 Tok views.

KEEPER #1  
 (pulls knife)  
 Stories can be dangerous.

ZEKE  
 (nods, swallowing)  
 Yeah. Especially when the wrong people  
 tell them.  
 (nods at the blade)  
 You wanna sharpen that?  
 (undoes belt)  
 Can use my belt?

KEEPER #2 decks him out cold. Zeke drops as they drag him  
 inside the dark hole in the wall, descending down.

INT. DEEPER CHAMBER - CONT'D

Dakota now frustrated, stands close to Aria.

DAKOTA  
 This isn't just a node. It's the  
 decoy. The one they inverted to bury  
 (MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
 your light. You've got to reach with  
 more than your hands...

She holds both hands towards the giant node with pure  
 intention- GAME ON.

But the room begins vibrating, **the box surging with dark  
 pulses**. A faint wind swirls as low ancient tones hum  
 throughout the tomb, some- not of this world.

ARIA  
 It doesn't want me to access it- it's  
 resisting. Like something guarding it  
 from *inside*!

Her vision blurs, reality bends- she's not alone.

**ANUBIS** appears- a tall jackal headed figure cloaked in black  
 and gold, eyes glowing.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 (stares, shocked)  
 What...are you??

His voice like thunder, whispered through a tunnel of time.

ANUBIS  
 The flame is only the beginning.  
 You've lit the fire but now you must  
 descend alone, into the deepest  
 version of the grid- the underworld.

He steps closer, his eyes piercing.

ANUBIS (CONT'D)  
 Not to destroy with rage but to carry  
 the frequency of remembrance into the  
 very heart of the distortion. This box  
 is the one the 300 twisted to hold  
 dominion over our land.  
 (beat)  
 Beyond this node, awaits the one who  
 shadows the light. He fears no death.  
 No gods.  
 (beat)  
 Only your memory. The memory of who  
 you were before the veil. Before this  
 world began.

He offers her **a golden key**, his jackal form shimmering

slightly between dimensions.

ANUBIS (CONT'D)

The heart cipher...passed through  
these temples, through the bloodlines  
of Hathor and Isis. When all seems  
lost, use it, and remember not all  
prisons are built from iron and stone.

**IN A FLASH- ANUBIS IS GONE.**

She blinks back tears--shaken, not of terror but of **finally being seen**. She clutches the key with recognition.

DAKOTA

What was that?....what did you see?

Just then- the two keepers blaze through with Zeke, knife to his neck.

KEEPER #1

One move and we open his throat.

Beat.

ARIA

Then I suggest you don't move first.

In one swift movement she pivots- **grabs keeper #2 by the collar and flips him hard against the stone pillar**. A knife flies from his belt- she catches it mid air- blade now at his neck.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Let him go or your friend dies first.

Keeper #1 presses the blade harder- Zeke winces, bleeding.

ZEKE

(frightened)

It's okay, it's okay. Just give'em  
what they want.

(beat, sincere)

You don't have to prove anything.  
Please, don't lose yourself Aria...not  
for me.

Aria falters, believes him. Releases the keeper, trusting it will be okay.

A tense beat. Suddenly- **SLICE**. Zeke's throat is cut. His body

slumps forward into Aria's arms.

ARIA  
(screaming)  
No- Zeke!

Blood pools at her feet. She drops to her knees cradling his face, shaking.

**A silence** that rings louder than sound.

Then- **her eyes** lift up at the killer keeper, as she realises she trusted...and paid the price.

Something inside her **breaks open**.

The tears stop. Her breath stills. Her stare- endless because this isn't just about saving the grid now- it's personal. Zeke mattered. He was the light. The levity. The reminder of innocence and loyalty in a world unravelling.

**This is her ignition point.**

ARIA (CONT'D)  
You shouldn't have done that.

KEEPER #1  
He's not what we came for.

**TWO MORE KEEPERS** come rushing in with guns and seize her.

KEEPER #3  
It's over- director is waiting.

KEEPER #1  
Asset secured. Repeat--we have her.

Nico just stands there, unable to move. His eyes meet Aria's but she doesn't look back. The old Aria would have screamed, but now...something has fractured and rebirthed inside her.

Dakota turns away, shame flickering across his face.

Zeke's blood pools between them all.

SMASH TO BLACK.

EXT. BANKS OF THE NILE - DUSK

The FOUR KEEPERS load Aria onto a weathered boat moored at the Nile's edge and hide her beneath worn linen blankets.



EXT. NILE RIVER - DUSK

The boat glides along the Nile, silhouetted against the golden haze of the desert horizon.

In the distance, the majestic outline of the **Great Pyramid of Giza**, rising, ominous, ancient.

INT. HIDDEN TUNNELS- UNDER GIZA - LATER

The four keepers drag Aria wrist bound, through a long tunnel etched with **forgotten codes of Orion's Belt** and ancient circuitry pulsing beneath the stone blocks.

They arrive at a set of **RAIL TRACKS**, an ancient transport cart, made from metallic stone, ruins pulsing along it's frame. **But this cart hovers slightly above the track**, the energy from the pyramid's capstone feeding it's magnetic propulsion.

They shove her inside the cart. **Translucent formed cuffs snap shut around her, like glowing bands of energy that lock her into place.**

Keeper #1 places his hand on the control glyph and they shoot forward- silent but fast, into a vast vertical tunnel **illuminated by strange bioluminescent glyphs**- deep diving into earth's hidden underworld.

Symbols appear on the walls, as they descend each level of the shaft, marked with ancient maps of **Orion, Sirius and the Pleiades star constellations.**

Massive chambers open either side-with hidden cities, not vibrant but shadow-cloaked constructs. Towering ancient technology machines hum with suppressed power buried behind obsidian panels, deep beneath stone and secrecy. Hallow walkways stretch into the dark, patrolled by sentry keepers, not fully human. **This is the real underworld- the cradle of control.**

Now beneath the pyramid, as we pass fossilized statues, inverted pyramids hanging upside down, strange monolithic code-pillars that loop endlessly, we arrive **beyond dystopia, where remembrance was buried and the signal hijacked.**

The cart glides to a silent stop before a colossal circular archway- it's perimeter lines with swirling active glyphs. A faint shimmer distorts the air. An energy barrier humming with a convergence of ancient mystery and technological supremacy.

Aria is pulled from the cart. A keeper presses his palm against a glowing control stone. The glyphs respond- a deep resonant tone echoes through the walls- and the barrier dissolves like mist.

INT. THE DIRECTOR'S SANCTUM - CONTINUOUS

Not a thrown...but **a vast command nexus**. A massive floating platform at the center of the chamber, with rings of ancient machinery circling it- like inner workings of a celestial clock, or an orrery mapping star alignments.

**Above the platform hovers a living holographic map of Earth's grid systems-** ley lines webbing the planet, glowing faintly, pulsing with the final remnants of suppressed light. Some nodes still flicker under control- but others- **Rome, London, their cores darkened, neutralized by Aria.**

And surrounding them- subtle waves of renewal. Neighbouring regions, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Egypt, Greece show shifting hues, as if the very field of manipulation has begun to dissolve. This time with sovereign light, no longer bound by old code control systems.

Aria stares at it, realization dawning she didn't just disrupt the network, **she initiated a global undoing.**

She looks around. This isn't just a sanctum- this is the true control room of Earth.

A slow deliberate echo of footsteps from behind a column of shadow and **THE DIRECTOR appears- head of the global council of 300.**

He does not sit- he moves with unnatural grace, tall and almost elegant. His face remaining partially obscured beneath a cowl. His hands bare- long black nails, fingers tipped like talons.

DIRECTOR

Look what you've gone and done.

(beat)

Two nodes fallen. A third nearly lost.

He turns his head slightly, we see just the glimmer of his inhumane soulless eyes beneath his hood.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

You think you've won something little star...but you haven't even begun to understand.

He circles her slowly.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Most anomalies like you...they flare up, burn hot, then vanish, chasing the illusion of light. But you...

(beat)

You skipped the rituals. Skipped Stonehenge, the Temple of Apollo, the Nazca lines.

(stares at her)

And still you found my boxes. And now...you're here, standing in my sanctum.

ARIA

Guess I had to travel deep, to find the real scum of the earth.

DIRECTOR

Such fire. Such conviction.

(beat)

But you really don't know, do you.

(beat)

You see, you've been marching though a maze I designed. Thought you had it all figured out.

(beat)

Well guess what- you were the bait.

Shadows emerge from the curved edge of the room- **ten cloaked figures**, forming a semicircle behind him.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Go on. Say hello.

One by one, the figures pull back their hoods.

Familiar faces. Men Aria has faced, challenged, escaped. Fought off in every corner of the globe.

And then...

Two final hoods remain.

They lower them in unison.

**DAKOTA.**

**NICO.**

Aria's breath is ripped from her lungs. Her knees buckle. She crashes to the floor in disbelief, the weight of betrayal so sudden, so absolute. It doesn't just hit her- it hallows her out.

A sound leaves her that isn't a cry but something older. Something ancestral.

Her heart shatters in silence. Not from lost love, but from reality cracking beneath her feet.

Her eyes lock on Nico. The man she trusted. The man who watched her walk straight into the fire. This betrayal pierces something deeper than flesh.

ARIA  
(sobbing)  
No Nico.... why??? I trusted  
you...Why??

She grabs at his legs. Clawing at the only memory she can find, but Nico doesn't flinch. Just stares forward, face blank, as if she were a stranger from another life. No warmth. No ache. Whatever part of him once loved her- has been wiped clean. And that more than betrayal, shatters her all over again.

DIRECTOR  
(chuckling)  
This whole "Mission"...the "truth".  
(beat)  
They led you here.

She curls forward, the deception too much to bare, her frequency now dimming.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
And now...the mic drop.

He gestures. **A grainy CAMCORDER FEED** appears on a monitor labelled: **SUBJECT #2**

**Location: Section 7- AREA 51- 300 Protocol access only.**

A young girl, unmistakably Aria at age 8, sits upright in a sterile room. Her gaze is steady. A U.S black site official remains just off frame.

CHILD ARIA  
I see things.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
What kind of things?

CHILD ARIA  
Lights. Beings. Up in the sky. But not  
like stars. They come from far away.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
Close to this planet or...further?

CHILD ARIA  
The Pleiades star system. 444 light  
years from Earth.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
And what are they like?

ARIA  
They glow. Talk without speaking. One  
said I wasn't from here. Said I was  
placed here....to remember.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
Placed by who?

ARIA  
Mother. But they erased it.  
(beat)  
I had a brother once, but he stayed  
underground.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
Your twin? What do you mean by  
underground?

CHILD ARIA V/O  
He's from the other side. Where it's  
cold.  
(beat)  
He says I'm different, I'm the light.  
And he's the shadow.  
(beat)  
But he doesn't scare me.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
Why not?

CHILD ARIA V/O  
Because I'm going to stop him.

A long pause. The girl blinks.

2ND OFFICIAL  
She's had enough. Shut it down.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
One last question.  
(beat)  
Do you know *why* you came here?

CHILD ARIA  
No.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
Do you fly there, to that place?

CHILD ARIA  
Mother takes me.

INTERVIEWER O/S  
What does Mother do?

CHILD ARIA  
Keeps the children safe...*from him.*

INTERVIEWER O/S  
End of session.

*Static- shuffling, screen flickers. Tape cuts off.*

Aria's body seizes. Her hands tremble. The truth rippling through her bloodstream.

ARIA  
NO! NO!

DIRECTOR  
*Surprise!*

ARIA  
I don't believe you...

DIRECTOR  
You want me to prove it.

He leans in closer, smug. Pulls his collar down - **A matching birthmark burns on his shoulder.**

She freezes. The sight hits her like a collapse of time.

She shakes her head, refusing to believe it.

ARIA  
 No- that's not--  
       (pulling back)  
 Can't be...

Her denial fractures. Everything she's fought for, shattered in a single glance.

DIRECTOR  
 Twin flames. Split into two. One sent to protect the Earth- the other to control it.

A flicker in he eyes as the resistance drops. Somewhere deep inside she knows...**it is him**. She swallows hard, the horror blooming slow. Stands to he feet.

ARIA  
 So this is what I've been fighting this whole time? Not the system...you?

DIRECTOR  
 I *am* the system.

Her eyes burn with disgust. A quick twist of her bound wrists - the strap loosens. She swings, **punching the director across the jaw**.

ARIA  
 No- you don't control anything- you never did!

He stumbles back- surprised. Wipes the blood from his lips.

DIRECTOR  
       (psychotic)  
 Imagine the headlines- two abandoned counterparts, both from the same origin.

He lunges. Aria dodges. A brutal exchange- fists, elbows, swift kicks. She's fast- he's stronger.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
 You see princess, this was all a trap. The nodes, the children, even beloved Nico...and yet for a moment, I wondered...*should I be worried?*

She elbows his ribs, he knees her hard in the stomach, his eyes alive with twisted pride.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
But then I remembered...I'm still the  
smarter twin.

ARIA  
(gritting through pain)  
I've always hated you.

He smirks, snaps a short blade from his sleeve.

DIRECTOR  
Lets see if your light can survive  
it's mirror.

They clash again- her arms locks his- his blade grazes her  
shoulder.

ARIA  
(fire rising)  
I don't need to survive it, I'm going  
to end it. I told them I'd stop you--

Their powers flare- raw energy between both twins. He throws  
her, slamming into a containment pillar. Then circles  
panting.

DIRECTOR  
Imagine a little girl who forgot who  
she was...and little old me, waiting  
to remind her.

ARIA  
(voice cracking/rising)  
That girl remembers now.

She charges but he activates the magnetic restraints. Aria's  
body jerks- lifted up into the glass box, her limbs pinned  
mid-air.

DIRECTOR  
Let's reboot that spark...shall we.

He SLAMS the control button. A field of ancient symbols  
ignites beneath her. Her body lifted into the air by an  
unseen force.

**A CONTAINMENT CELL** forms around her- pure light hardening  
into glass. A hum begins as her frequency is pulled from her  
chest like smoke, draining from her slowly as it seals.



DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Now I take what's mine- what mother  
would never give me.

Her light- harvested directly into **THE NULL GATE EXTRACTOR**  
(The doorway where signals die- The machine that separates  
soul from self).

She reaches into her pocket, grabs the **KEY** gifted by **ANUIBIS**,  
but it evaporates in her hand.

ARIA

No...please no...

She tries to pull herself down but her body is weakening. Her  
eyes flicker past Nico, Not him- not any more. Thy land and  
Dakota. She reaches out but he denies her, lowers his gaze.

Aria's body hangs weightless, suspended in a cocoon of  
flicking light strands. Her eyes closed, palms slack. Her  
signal flatlines on the Null Gate machine.

TECH KEEPER

Transfer complete.

The Director approaches **THE NULL GATE**, lowering himself into  
thrown-like neural interface tubes. He drops his black robe,  
connects to Luminous cables as they lock into place across  
his spine and neck.

DIRECTOR

Begin frequency sync.

A surge of light pulses through the room. **The SIGNAL** floods  
into him- her light, her memory, her power- all inverted,  
funnelled through the dark prism of the gate.

His spine arches. Breath caught- then possessive and  
predatory.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Yes, yes- I feel it!

(unhinged)

So raw...and pure...*FINALLY MINE!*

He steps closer, twisted beady eyes scanning her aura like  
data as she lies crumpled, drained, slumped in that  
crystalline position.

ARIA  
 (facing death)  
 What's- ha-happening to me??  
 (looks up)  
*Mother...*

Her eyes flicker with glitching overlays- fragments of her vision swirl across his retinas. Star maps, the blueprint of the divine- now filtered through his corrupted lens and he's soaking it up like honey.

DIRECTOR  
 She can't save you now! You may have  
 carried the light...but I am the  
 vessel!  
 (face to face)  
 You'll never win this little grid game  
 you played! You'll never undo *my* work!

He closes his eyes- a tremor runs through him. Her essence- alive in him now. Ripples like a new current in his veins.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
 Shut it down.

The Tech keeper cannot believe she's expired and for a moment he hesitates.

TECH KEEPER  
 Are you sure?

DIRECTOR  
 She's spent. There's nothing left.

The Tech Keeper presses a button and the NULL GATE powers down. Inside the containment cell Aria drops like a marionette with it's strings cut. Her cheeks hit the glass, **SMASHING HER FACE**. Motionless. Breathless.

The monster turns his back, disappears into the shadows with the keepers.

We now enter--

INT. ASTRAL PLANE - ARIA'S CONSCIOUSNESS

Silence.

A flicker of gold as we move through Aria's mind- perhaps her soul- a realm between worlds. The in-between.

Streaks of color stretch across a fluid sky- violet, indigo, pink, with threads of silver and gold weaving like serpents though stars. Like watching time exhale.

**Floating doorways** hover through the mist, each one magical, pulsing with memory. **Keys of light orbit around them,** waiting. Not to unlock places, but possibilities. Each door leads somewhere within Aria. Each key drawn to a different decision. Written on the doors- her past, future, false self, true self.

White feathered birds pass her, something of a distraction. Then red feathered ones of fire- the wings of phoenixes, singing a painful chirp but never landing.

Confused, she reaches for a closest key, but its too far, just out of reach. A breeze stirs. A door opens.

**It's Mother.**

MOTHER

You were never meant to end here- only decide.

ARIA

I tried. I gave everything. I don't know what I'm doing.

MOTHER

That's because you're still seeing through his eyes.

(beat)

Fear was the last veil. It was never about knowing- it was about becoming.

ARIA

Why didn't you warn me about him?

MOTHER

If I had have told you the truth in the beginning, you would have refused the mission. You would have reached for comfort. Not the flame.

ARIA

So you lied to me...everyone lied...

MOTHER

No. I waited. Until you were forged enough to hear the truth.

(beat)

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

You are not just my daughter of light.  
You are the storm that follows. The  
howl in the dark. The lioness  
returned.

ARIA

Then why do I feel so empty.

MOTHER

Because, you haven't claimed all of  
you.

(fierce)

Your blood carries me. And all the  
feminine who were burned, silenced,  
erased. You are not here to be kind.  
You are here to be clear. To break the  
chain. Now choose.

ARIA

I don't know which one?

MOTHER

Step forward. And let the right one  
recognise you.

Aria moves towards the doors.

ARIA

Old self- true self -false self-  
future self? I need help, I don't  
know?!

MOTHER

The world doesn't change through mercy  
alone. It changes when women rise, not  
to ask, but to take.

(beat)

Now take your key...

Mother's eyes flash like obsidian suns.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Take your voice. Your name. Take your  
place in the fire and become the one  
that finishes it.

Her hand rises slowly to a single golden key. A flare  
happens.

ARIA  
The flame...

MOTHER  
You carry the signal of life Aria. The  
heart cipher has always lived within  
you.

Aria places the key inside the door marked **"OLD SELF"**.  
Suddenly **flames of roaring fire appear before her-roaring.**

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
Step through.

ARIA  
No!

MOTHER  
Burn away what was never yours- or  
remain trapped in their story.

Aria reaches into the flames-courageously steps through and  
**starts burning alive. Her flesh starts peeling away** until she  
vaporizes into the flames themselves.

**SHE BECOMES THE FLAME.**

Light floods her bony limbs. Her breath becomes a roar.

INT. NULL GATE CONTAINMENT CELL- MOMENTS LATER

**Aria jolts awake** gasping-choking for air, eyes wide,  
disorientated. Her chest heaves. Smoke curls from her palms-  
a flicker of flame, but not fire yet.

She drags herself high up -pain etched in every limb and  
claws over the edge of the glass null gate, collapsing on her  
back.

A beat.

Her eyes snap open as she hauls herself toward the control  
panel. Flicks the switch back ON.

The null gate machine hums awake. Low. Ominous. A frequency  
stirring the chamber walls.

She crawls into the shadows. Disappears behind the curvature  
of the machine.

Waiting. Ready to strike.

INT. OBSIDIAN CHAMBER - NIGHT

The director stands alone at a backlit obsidian mirror, examining his reflection, admiring the shape of power carved into his face.

Then a tremor. A faint ripple through the chamber walls. He stiffens. Another jolt. This time feels it in his chest, his jaw, a deep reverberation inside his bones.

DIRECTOR

What...was that?

He spins towards the wall of flickering monitors- one blinks. The null gate interface glows faintly blue. **Active.**

Nico and Dakota enter with two keepers.

NICO

The null gate is active.

DIRECTOR

(to Nico)

Well don't just stand there- go check!

INT. THE DIRECTOR'S SANCTUM - CONTINUOUS

Nico steps inside cautiously. The null gate hums again. Lit from below, a soft golden tone now radiates through the crystal casing- but the chamber is empty.

NICO

Aria...?

Silence.

NICO (CONT'D)

(slightly louder, irritated)

Where are you?

A faint chuckle echoes behind him. Female. Not the old voice. Something darker. Seductive. Feral.

ARIA O/S

Here, kitty kitty...

Nico whirls around.

NICO

(pulls knife)

Show yourself. You cowardly little--

**CRACK.** She appears- silent, sudden, sharp as a blade. In one brutal movement, she snatches his knife, slams his head sideways, breaking his neck with a violent jolt.

He crumples.

ARIA

Looks like I missed a spot.

She drives the knife deep into his chest. His body convulses, then drops. Lifeless. She leans down-low voice.

ARIA (CONT'D)

You called me your kitty once...

(beat)

Should have known I'd come back and scratch.

She stands over him, blood dripping from her hands, then looks to the door.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Now...where's that bitch who stole my signal.

INT. NULL GATE CONTAINMENT CELL- LATER

The silence is heavy. A low mechanical hiss as the door creaks open.

The Director enters- alone.

His boots echo across the chamber. The faint hum of the null gate pulses- then stops. He stares at the empty cell. Frowns.

DIRECTOR

(to himself)

Where's the body?

Behind him-- a whisper of movement.

ARIA

Looking for something?

He turns --too late.

She slams into him like a force of nature, silent, surgical.

He claws for control, but she's already behind him- a whip of **golden plasma**, tightens around his throat. He drops to his knees gasping.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Steal from me again- see what I do  
next.

She yanks his arms back, binds them. Not with rope. **With light**. A golden tether sears into his skin, pulsing like a living snake.

He howls, buckles.

She drags him like a discarded puppet across the stone floor towards the null gate and SLAMS him to the ground, standing over him, her eyes like coals waiting to ignite.

She kicks him onto his back.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Remember this setup? Your machine?  
Your wires?

(beat)

Let's see how you like being drained.

She down the null gate cables- the same metallic tendrils he used to siphon her signal.

Sparks fly. She JAMS them into his temples.

DIRECTOR

No-- wait--!

ARIA

Too late.

She SLAMS her palm onto the control pad- voltage surging through the room. The null gate whirs back to life, louder than before. Blue-white energy BURSTS from the coils.

The Director convulses violently as light pours from his mouth and eyes. Streams of golden light arc from his chest-drawn straight back into her energy field.

Her body seizes, gasping, as the energy re-enters her body. Her eyes roll back- not in pain- but **POWER**.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Now we're even.

His body slumps. She rips the cables from his skull, peeling off part of his scaly skin. She tosses them aside and breathes in- steady.



A NEW FREQUENCY BEGINS TO HUM THROUGH HER.

She lifts her gaze and **begins to change**. Her boots crack apart. Her shirt and pants smoulder off in pieces, as a new suit weaves itself from within. Not fabric, but **a new skin-**black like obsidian, threaded with gold veins, **like lightening sealed into armour**.

Her arms glow. Her back ignites. **Wings of fire** unfurl. Not angelic but feral. Feline. Her eyes open- red -hot, **knowing**.

Her **hair** lifts from her shoulders in **weaves of flame**, her skin no longer simply soft- it shimmers with galaxies, tiny stars across her collar bone, her neck, her wrists.

**A DIVINE STORM- MADE FLESH**. As a surge of her energy re-fills her lungs, the glass shatters outward, not broken by force- but repelled by light.

**She is REBORN.**

She disappears though the shadows into--

INT. PASSAGEWAY BENEATH PYRAMID - CONT'D

Aria rushes through the labyrinth beneath the Serapeum, through cracked stone corridors, her breath ragged, but her frequency fully restored.

She arrives at two massive pillars surrounded by sacred codes carved into the walls of ancient symbols- such as FELINE FORMS, SERPENT LINES, THE EYE OF HORUS. She brushes her hand over them. Has no clue how to do this.

ARIA

Shit--

She turns to the wall flame, traces its tip pointing right. Places her hand on the right pillar. BINGO - it slides open just as she hears Dakota and the keepers behind her.

DAKOTA

*GET HER!*

Dakota and the keepers rush towards her but the pillar secures before them.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

This way- I know exactly where she's going.

He leads the keepers down a long corridor.

INT. TEMPLE OF HAWTHOR -INNER SANCTUM- CONTINUOUS

Aria enters the sacred chamber. The air is charged. Constellations glow overhead, painted into the domed ceiling. Carvings spiral along the walls, musical scales, lunar signals all torched with flames each pointing to the sky.

In the center, an ancient **crystalline altar-but there's no black box**. She steps closer, wary, mumbles some words.

ARIA

Password...shit. Uh, open  
sesames...uh, dammit! You know, if  
you're here Isis, now would be a great  
time to help a girl out.

But nothing happens or appears. Then- **a whisper of wind**, a female voice, soft yet commanding.

FEMALE VOICE (ISIS)

*You seek the box, but the final node  
is not given. The truth in plain  
sight...read between the lines...*

ARIA

Lines?? Wait- that's what the scroll  
said?

MARY MAGDALENE'S VOICE

*The truth hidden in plain sight...*

ARIA

Plain sight...

Aria's desperately searches the stone alter, her fingers brushing against symbols and ancient writings. Symbol by symbol she starts to decode.

ARIA (CONT'D)

(a flame)

From flame...from flame I came--

(2nd flame symbol)

To flame I return.

(Isis holding a torch light)

The light...what, what?

(a sword)

Forbidden.

(beat, desperate)

Come on, I know this.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 (afterlife symbol with fire, three  
 dots like a triangle.)  
 Three become one- source, vessel,  
 flame.  
 (black box and space craft)  
 The triangle is not a sign- it's a  
 mirror. I am the third light!

A strange heat pulses through her. She looks down to see **her birthmark glowing**. A living triangle lit up, the three dots connecting. Something ignites beneath her. A pulse rings out.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 These aren't marks- they're  
 coordinates. It was never just a  
 birthmark. It was the key!  
 (focused)  
 By the seal of three- by the flame  
 within me- I call the final box to  
 rise...

The alter glows. And then- **BOOM. The third black box manifests- hovering, shimmering- settling onto the alter.**

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 Ha- it was me all along!

Before she can approach-the sound of shifting stone. Keepers emerge from the shadows. Seven or eight. **Dakota**. Surrounding her.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
*Uncle koda...*didn't think you'd show  
 your face.

Dakota LUNGES. Aria ducks, grabs his momentum, FLIPS him into another.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 Remember when you asked me to choose.  
 Well guess what- I'm choosing!

She disarms the next with a clean STRIKE to the throat. Then the next. And the next. Every move swift, surgical- like Nico taught her.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 You said I was wearing a life that was  
 never mine, that I should try one that  
 was more fitting--

She returns to Dakota, grabs his wrists, twists. He screeches in pain his arm dislocates off his shoulder, out of his socket.

ARIA (CONT'D)

I thought you'd like this new look.

The last two keeps rush her from behind. She spins, elbow, cracks both noses. Blood sprays. All men now groaning on the floor.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Who said anything about a spray tan.

DAKOTA

(clutching his shoulder)

You think light forgives? Your blood won't rewrite history!

ARIA

You've had your time. You're age is over.

She approaches the final box again with all her strength. **Her 3rd light code drifts OUT of her chest**, surging light into intelligent powerful waves, creating beams of codes with the help of the **celestial flame as it spirals** like a serpent.

It merges with the box- a moment of cosmic marriage. The chamber trembles.

**The box neutralizes.**

A new map etches itself above the alter embedded in coding framing displaying **THE ORION BELT and THREE STARS**, pulsing with stellar coordinates. She starts connecting the dots.

ARIA (CONT'D)

The Orion belt- ancient DNA and frequency- the upward journey.

Ancient glyphs on the wall start pulsing/syncing the same beat as under her skin.

ARIA (CONT'D)

It's recognising my DNA? Ha- I did it!

She starts to levitate as a **new chamber cracks open** above her. **A spiral shaft appears upward** through the pyramid's geometry sucking her inside like a mini tornado. As she begins to ascend at superfast speed, she lets out a happy

cry.

INT. SPIRAL SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

Aria's body spirals upwards in a stream of golden plasma- her hair weightless, tears floating, face lit with awe. She nears the top, the open crown of the pyramid glowing like a cosmic womb.

Then- A SHIFT IN VIBRATION. A harsh unnatural frequency cuts through the current- the golden stream fractures.

ARIA  
(confused)  
What?

Below her- A SHADOW RISES. **It's him.** The Director battered, scorched but alive. Clinging to the spiralling walls with claw-like strength, pulling upward in the tail of her wake.

DIRECTOR  
(gritted, animalistic)  
You really thought you could leave  
without me!

ARIA  
No...

He SCREAMS, his frequency distorting the chamber shaft. A rippling static surrounds him, unstable, corrupted.

DIRECTOR  
You are nothing without me...we are  
one signal, the same!

She tries to push higher but his frequency starts to override the stream- as it tries to consume hers.

ARIA  
We were never the same.

EXT. COSMIC EXIT- APEX / PYRAMID OF GIZA

Aria BURSTS forth like a meteor, emerging through the tip of the great Pyramid- **a literal birth canal of starlight.** Wind howling. Dust scattering. A sonic SHOCKWAVE EXPLODES across the pyramids apex. **Her twin arrives,** the Director- wounded, frantic, realizing *this is the end of his reign.*

DIRECTOR  
You were never suppose to remember...

She moves towards him, slowly- deliberately. Her blade drawn. She straddles him, pins him down. One hand to his throat. The other raised.

He gasps, defiant- until he sees it in her eyes. Not rage. Not hatred. Something worse- mercy.

ARIA

You don't deserve to die by my hand.  
Not because I forgive you--  
(beat)  
But because I want you to live...and  
feel the silence that follows me.

She releases his throat. He crumples powerless. A cosmic sound builds in the air, harmonic, ancient, as a **MASSIVE ORIONIAN MOTHERSHIP** decloaks just above the Pyramid, bathed in cosmic fire and crystalline technology.

A light bridge extends and she climbs up- then looks down at him holding full agency.

ARIA (CONT'D)

You once told me when we were kids, I  
was different...that was true- I am.  
(beat)  
But that difference made life feel  
like exile...like I didn't belong  
anywhere.  
(beat)  
But in that silence, I found my own  
voice...and somehow it lead me all the  
way home.

She opens her heart chakra wide as she can, her frequency erupting over the entire Egypt.

ARIA (CONT'D)

You may have broken the world she gave  
us... but you can never break the  
signal.

He reaches towards the ship but is repelled by its frequency.

DIRECTOR

You can't leave me- we were meant to  
rule this system together!

ARIA

It's over. You can't come where I'm  
going...

ARIA (CONT'D)  
 (light engulfs her)  
 ...the light is too bright.

He looks up completely undone.

DIRECTOR  
 (childlike)  
 The signal was never meant to split us  
 sister. But we can try...we're  
 family...

**THE MOTHERSHIP ASCENDS with a new frequency hum.** And in a flash of white light she's gone upward- TOWARD HER ORIGIN.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
 NOOOOOOO!!!!

EXP. MOTHERSHIP IN SPACE - ABOVE EARTH - NIGHT

A wide shot of the Earth, majestic, glowing blue with light's sparkling across continents. Aria's ship pierces the upper atmosphere, trailing like a comet reuniting with the stars.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - COSMIC REALM- CONT'D

A breathtaking hush falls as Aria arrives.

The ship is vast, like a futuristic space city, curved like a white womb, with walls that pulse faintly- living metals etched with golden symbols, constellations shifting in real time.

A SILKEN PATH unfurls beneath Aria's feet.

She walks slowly, her new form blazing- her tight obsidian suit veined with flickering starlight. The heart cipher symbol pulsing in her chest.

She is no longer hidden- she is seen. Waiting on the dais ahead- **MOTHER**- an ancient regal figure. Long silver-white hair. Skin like moonstone, eyes that see across lifetimes. Draped in layered robes of woven light, she sits not on a throne, but a floating spiral of orbiting glyphs.

As Aria approaches, the glyphs part.

MOTHER  
 You've come home, child of the flame.

Aria swallows emotion, kneels, head down in honor.

ARIA

It's done. I broke the curse mother.  
Remembered who I am.

She slowly lifts her head. Mother stands, descending the spiral like weightless air, floating opposite Aria now, both figures framed by the giant window overlooking the entirety of space.

MOTHER

You reclaimed yourself.  
(beat)  
Your brother may have chose control,  
but you chose sovereignty. And because  
of your actions, humanity will feel  
something shift.

Mother looks out...to the STARS, CONSTELLATIONS, ORIONS BELT aligned. Earth below, glowing bright blue.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

A forgotten light will return. Even if  
they can't name it yet- they will feel  
it.

She places her palm over Aria's heart.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Now let the cosmos hear what they've  
forgotten...

ARIA

(emotional, accepting)  
*I am* the original signal.

The ship responds. All personnel stare over as the walls light up.

MOTHER

Then it is time...to show the stars  
what they were missing.

More ships begin decloaking in orbit. The others.

Aria catches her breath as she observes the floating crafts.

ARIA

Who are they?



MOTHER  
(unquestionable)  
Your origin...the ones just like you.

ARIA  
I'm not alone anymore.

MOTHER  
(smiles)  
You never were.

The ship tilts forward and in a burst of radiant energy--

EXT. SPACE- FINAL SHOT

The mothership along with the smaller crafts vanish deep into the universe.

Only silence remains.

The Earth changed forever.

ARIA V/O  
When they asked me to carry the  
codes...I never expected I'd be the  
one to complete the mission. But  
something tells me this isn't end.  
(beat)  
Another test? Another war? Maybe both.  
(beat)  
But she's awake now. And there's no  
turning back.

**FADE OUT**