

**Necrolepsy**

a Kev Dooley incident

**EXT. BIG PHARMA LAB - DAY, SUNSET**

A modern, uninspired monstrosity of glass, metal, and bleached concrete set amongst carefully manicured landscaping.

BRIAN (30s, m), absentminded, sloppily dressed, jogs past a sign with a modern, geometric, and indecipherable logo.

He pulls up at the front doors and fumbles with his employee badge, he swipes it angrily at a badge reader.

**ANNOYED BEEP**

A red light winks.

He groans. Tries again.

Same result.

Fuck it. He tries another door.

**CLICK**

Finally! He yanks the door open and stomps inside.

**INT. STERILIZATION HALLWAY - DAY**

Severe, high tech vibes, steel and tile. Several hazmat suits line one wall.

Brian frantically throws his bag and belongings in a locker, glancing at the wall clock.

BRIAN  
Shit, shit, shit.  
She's gonna kill me.

Brian tugs on a lab coat and pats himself down, checking for empty pockets and his badge before rushing through the door.

**INT. LAB - FOLLOWING**

White, sterile rows of workstations, populated by only one other lab tech, her hands inside an isolation glove box.

CAROLINE (30s, F), her tidy bun completes her orderly appearance as she scowls in concentration.

Next to the box is a tray with several neatly organized bottles of chemicals.

CAROLINE  
Late again Bri.  
(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
I couldn't wait any longer if  
we're going to get through three  
cultures tonight.

BRIAN  
Yeah, yeah. I know. Still  
narcolepsy tests, right?

CAROLINE  
Yup. New compound though. Data  
sheet is over there. Looks  
aggressive.

She motions with her head, he looks that direction, scoops up  
and scans through the clipboard of papers.

He walks as he reads, oblivious to the fact that his unbuttoned  
lab coat is trailing across the counter top.

BRIAN  
Oh... This explains the protocols  
reminder email.

Caroline glances at the unkempt and sweaty Brian who barely  
navigates around a stool as he reads deeper.

CAROLINE  
Yeah... that explains it.

BRIAN  
Hey, be careful in there. At these  
concentrations that stuff will  
metabolize fast.

CAROLINE  
About that... you gonna glove in  
and give me a hand sometime today?

Brian is yanked out of his reading and springs into action.

He tosses the clipboard skittering across the counter where  
bumps into the isolation box with an ominous **CLACK**.

He hustles around the counter, opposite Caroline, fiddles with  
the box's built-in gloves and finally gets in position to work.

CAROLINE  
Easy... Double check the condenser  
before I start the reaction.

Brian fiddles with the equipment for a moment and starts to nod  
before his face contorts and his eyes go wide.

CAROLINE

Oh for fucks sake. Did you forget  
your Claritin again?

Brian answers with a ridiculously loud, unrestrained sneeze,  
snot flying straight into Caroline's horrified face.

She jerks back, ripping her hands from the gloves.

The box teters over the edge, the clipboard flies to the floor.

Brian pulls the box sideways as he stands, both yanking his  
hands out and sneezing again.

Caroline lunges for a nearby box of tissues, sending her stool  
rolling away as she wipes her face.

CAROLINE

Why are you like this?

Brian rushes around to her, tripping over the stool. Almost  
crashing into the chemicals, he barely catches himself.

He turns to her with a sheepish smile, suddenly unsure exactly  
how he was going to help.

BRIAN

Oh, you know... genius IQ, too  
much weed, therapy by ChatGPT...

Thinking he's moved into charming, Brian props one arm on the  
isolation box and leans against it.

It immediately slips off the counter under his weight and  
crashes to the ground at Caroline's feet.

A **CRACK** as the box splits down the center and a **FIZZLE** as the  
chemicals inside mix in an uncontrolled fashion.

Caroline stares as a cloud of gas envelops her head.

Brian, also frozen, stares, mouth agape.

Caroline looks up, her angry face pulling into a rictus of rage  
and bared teeth as the whites of her eyes flood with blood.

Brian backs up slowly, raising his hands up in surrender.

A low **GROWL** seeps from Caroline as she advances on him.

Brian has just enough time to loose a shocked, painful **SCREAM**  
as she lunges at him.

SLAM TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

**INT. OLD, SHITTY CAR - DAY**

SUPER: One Year Later

ALYX, late 20s, nonbinary, leaning femme. They wear a long sleeve tee under their scrubs and rock out to MOTHER, MOTHER.

Idyllic golden hour light bathes the car's interior as they run their fingers through their purple and blue hair.

A ringing replaces the song.

They fumble one-handed to answer.

ALYX  
Hey mom! What's up?

MOM (O.S.)  
Just checking on you sweetie.  
Need anything before your finals?

Alyx glances at their backpack.

ALYX  
Just need the patients to sleep,  
so I can study tonight.

The car slows as they flip on a turn signal.

**EXT. ROAD TO FACILITY - CONTINUOUS**

Endless cornfields beside Alyx as they wait for a semi to turn.

Rows of identical warehouses loom across the road.

MOM  
I really hate you working way out  
there. It's so isolated...

**INT. OLD, SHITTY CAR - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx rolls their eyes and makes the turn.

ALYX  
I know. But I'm fine. Love ya  
mom. Gotta go!

MOM  
Ok, call if you--

**ON THE PHONE**

Zero bars. The call dies.

MOTHER, MOTHER resumes.

**EXT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx parks at a nondescript brick building. In contrast to the pharma lab, this facility feels worn down and barely funded.

**INT. OLD, SHITTY CAR - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx digs through their bag to retrieve a name badge.

The textbook *Basic Principles of Ophthalmic Surgery* peeks out of their bag.

Badge in hand, they grab their bag.

**EXT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY - CONTINUOUS**

Bag slung, they hop out of the car and head toward the door.

A rumble of **THUNDER** gives them pause.

They peep the sky: angry clouds roll in to cover the sunset.

**INT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY, LOBBY - EVENING**

A tiny, deserted waiting room filled with older furniture.

Over Alyx's head are shiny new maglocks for the exterior door.

On one wall, a window, and on the other side a desk with a bubbly, hyper femme RECEPTIONIST (30s, F).

BUBBLY RECEPTIONIST

Hey Alyx! It's been a crazy day.  
Lisa wants to see you ASAP!

ALYX

Crazy, huh? Couldn't sleep or  
couldn't wake up?

BUBBLY RECEPTIONIST

Oh, not the patients! Lots of  
changes! Lisa will fill you in.

ALYX

Hey, how'd your kid's audition go?  
They get the lead?

BUBBLY RECEPTIONIST  
 Nope. Ensemble. Probably a better  
 fit... Thanks for remembering!

Alyx nods as they pull one side of the double doors. Nothing.  
 The receptionist's eyes widen as she remembers her new button.

BUBBLY RECEPTIONIST  
 Oh, I got it!

A **CLICK** and it finally opens.

**INT. LOBBY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

On the other side of the door, a CONTRACTOR (40s, m),  
 screwdriver in hand, stumbles back as Alyx squeezes by.

They notice the contractor as he installs a badge reader.

ALYX  
 (to the receptionist)  
 Fancy new locks, huh?

BUBBLY RECEPTIONIST  
 And more! We went high tech!

**INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

A perfunctory knock as Alyx slips in and plops into a chair.

ALYX  
 Hey, hey! Busy day...

Behind the cramped desk in an office crowded with over stuffed  
 bookshelves, sits the site director LISA (40s, F), who holds a  
 small camera up to her eye.

Next to her, a TECH INTEGRATOR (30s, M) monitors her progress  
 on a tablet.

LISA  
 Just a sec...

INTEGRATOR  
 Actually we're all done. Thanks  
 for your time.

He takes his camera back and exits.

Lisa lets her hair down and straightens her barely office-  
 appropriate blouse.

LISA  
 Lot's going on. Indeed.

ALYX  
The grant went through, huh?

LISA  
Yeah, a while ago, but the  
integration company suddenly had  
an opening for the install.

Which is good, because the study  
tonight required some of these  
updated systems.

ALYX  
Are we clear to run it? I kinda  
need the hours.

LISA  
The've got to take Dennis's  
retinal scan, but said everything  
should be ready after that.

Alyx is visibly relieved.

LISA  
Speaking of Dennis... he let me  
know that, in his words, "He's  
getting too damn old for  
overnights."

Alyx sits up, suddenly worried about what that means for them.

LISA  
So we're looking to make a few  
changes. Dennis recommended you  
take over the overnight studies.

ALYX  
Whoa. For real?

LISA  
Absolutely. And I agree. Of course  
it'll mean less time studying  
during your shift...

Alyx hesitates. Time to study is the reason she took the gig.

ALYX  
Uh, yeah, of course.  
Ummm... I just don't know if I'm  
leadership material, ya know?

LISA  
Let's do this, shadow Dennis  
tonight and see what you think.

ALYX  
Yeah... sounds good.

A **ding** on Lisa's computer grabs her attention and Alyx pushes to their feet to head toward the door. Lisa remembers one last thing.

LISA  
Before you go, make sure Dennis knows there's a master control in here in case there's any issues with the new system.

She swivels a shiny new touch panel on her desk toward Alyx.

LISA  
Dennis' badge will get you in. I've got a date tonight, but call if you need any help...

Oh shit... my date!

Lisa looks at the time and flies into a frenzy of panicked packing before she bolts to the door.

LISA  
I'm gonna be late!

Giggling at the chaos, Alyx follows Lisa out.

By the door they cheerily punch a new oversized red button next to a small touch panel.

#### **INT. BREAK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Alyx slips past an integrator packing up his gear and cuts a beeline for a clunky analog time clock on the wall.

DENNIS (60s, m), grandfatherly, cardigan over a tie and slacks, a certain sadness about him, looks up from his clipboard.

A heavy CLUNK as Alyx punches a paper time card.

DENNIS  
Oh hey. We're not using that anymore. Use this.

He holds out a replacement badge on a lanyard, points to a kiosk with a digital time readout and a badge reader.

DENNIS  
Just hit "Time In" and swipe the badge. You talk to Lisa yet?

Alyx nods as they snag the badge.

A **BEEP** as they clock themselves in.

ALYX

Yeah... You really think I'm supervisor material?

Pride floods Dennis' eyes and bearing.

DENNIS

You know anyone else that can keep the other two on task?

They share a chuckle about their coworkers as half of "the other two" barges in:

NOAH (30s, m), their EEG tech who looks like a gym bro stuffed in a too-small lab coat.

NOAH

Can you believe this? The contractors are leaving without tying in the networking.

DENNIS

What's not working? I'll have them get it online before they leave.

Noah crosses to the table and fishes a protein bar out of a basket in the center.

NOAH

Everything works. I just can't monitor it yet.

DENNIS

You can't monitor the EEGs?

NOAH

No, the new security stuff. Don't worry. I'll get it running.

Frustrated, Noah waves off Dennis as he unwraps his protein bar and heads back out.

Alyx giggles. Dennis just looks confused.

DENNIS

Is that even his job?

ALYX

He thinks all the tech is his job... but he's pretty smart... How bad could it be?

Dennis pushes to his feet with an old man's sigh.

DENNIS  
Ready when you are!

Alyx stashes their bag in a cubby hole along the wall. They dig something from the bag and turn, holding it behind their back.

ALYX  
Hey, real quick... I know it's  
been a tough year for you...

Dennis' posture and demeanor droops, he hates feeling pitied.

ALYX  
...I know you don't really want to  
talk about losing Janet, but I  
also know you had a big Italy trip  
planned for your anniversary...

Dennis holds up a hand as his eyes get misty.

ALYX  
...anyway, I know you haven't  
decided whether or not to do the  
trip solo, but I thought you'd  
enjoy this if you do...

They produce the hidden item: a small notebook with a stylized map of Italy and the words "Wine Passport" splashed across it.

Dennis lights up, wiping away tears turned happy with one hand while, accepting the notebook with the other.

Alyx holds their arms out.

ALYX  
Hug?

Dennis just nods and Alyx wraps him in a friendly hug.

DENNIS  
(muffled by Alyx's shoulder)  
Thank you.

The hug ends and he stuffs the passport in his back pocket.

DENNIS  
We should probably get started...

ALYX  
Lead the way!

Dennis strides out with a new spring in his step, Alyx in tow.

**INT. NURSES STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Like the center of a wheel, several hallways meet here, giving access to most of the facility from a central location.

The greenish white walls are dingy, but the lighting is bright and everything seems in good repair.

There is a long counter and behind it a cluttered desk with several workstations.

Behind the desk is the second half of "the other two": ZURI (40s, F), a licensed nurse practitioner and a petite, anxious woman who looks like she hasn't slept much lately.

A bright pink hoodie over her scrubs, she's currently engrossed with whatever she's typing on her phone.

Dennis and Alyx come around the corner, mid-conversation, and startle Zuri, who almost drops said phone.

DENNIS

--so feel free to run with that.

ZURI

Oh! Hey! Uh... Is all this new stuff really necessary?

Zuri nervously motions toward freshly installed cameras. Dennis shrugs.

DENNIS

It is if we want to run the study tonight.

ZURI

I just hate the idea of someone watching us...

DENNIS

Can't say I'm a fan. Do you have the patient profiles ready?

Zuri nods and hands over a packet of papers.

Dennis hands them straight to Alyx who scans through quickly.

DENNIS

Got another copy?

ZURI

No, but I can print one out... Wait, why do they need a copy?

ALYX  
Actually... can I have a tablet?

DENNIS  
Alyx is shadowing me tonight.  
We're gonna see if they like  
running these things.

Zuri huffs as she looks through the clutter on the desk to locate a tablet. She finds one and shoves it toward Alyx.

Alyx hands the papers back to Dennis, takes the device, logs in and follows along as Zuri continues.

ZURI  
So anyway... We've got Phase 1 of  
a narcolepsy med test.

ALYX  
Got it. All healthy, no  
narcoleptics.

ZURI  
Right. And familiar faces mostly.

Dennis skims for the names.

DENNIS  
Brody, Lauren, and... Tom.

ALYX  
Brody? Ugh. Hey... Can you have  
the "can't sleep with a gun" talk  
with him this time?

DENNIS  
Only if you keep Lauren calm  
enough to finish a session.

ALYX  
Deal.

ZURI  
Ten bucks says she won't make it.

Alyx stifles a chuckle.

ALYX  
What won't you bet on?

DENNIS  
And the drug?

ZURI

Really promising. Animal trials went well. Stimulates hypocretin production to keep them awake.

DENNIS

(to Alyx)

Which means we need to be on the look out for what as side effects?

ALYX

Ummm... Increased appetite and...

They giggle. Dennis gives a stern look before relenting.

DENNIS

Arousal. But also aggression and impulsivity. Let's bring 'em in.

They head toward the...

**INT. LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER**

The three aforementioned patients are now waiting in the previously empty room:

\* BRODY: 60s, m, oversized, grey hair, cargo pants, and his best fishing shirt. He studies the maglocks and nods his approval.

\* LAUREN: Shy and nervous. A 3rd grade teacher in her 30s. She wears a muted multi-colored sweater and sits, reading what could only be the sequel to Brian's trashy romance novel.

\* TOM: A tall, lanky middle-aged man with a retreating hairline who could be friendly and thoughtful or the serial killer next door. He chats at the receptionist through her window.

TOM

So you're going to want to rinse the quinoa until there's no suds--

Alyx and Dennis stroll in from the hallway.

DENNIS

Oh good, you're all here.

Brody turns from the locks and moves to the center of the room, ready to take charge. Lauren dog-ears her spot in her book.

BRODY

Looks like y'all are finally getting some decent security around here.

DENNIS

Indeed. There's also been some changes to your study rooms that we'll go over shortly.

Lauren bristles at the thought of changes.

Alyx takes a couple steps forward to set a hand on Lauren's shoulder. Lauren looks up and gets a small smile from Alyx.

TOM

Hey doc! Good to see you. We sleeping or staying awake tonight?

DENNIS

Great to see you Tom. Alyx'll let you know what to expect tonight.

ALYX

Yeah, so tonight is checking to see how a new narcolepsy med works in healthy adults...

Brody puffs up his chest and smiles.

ALYX

This drug is designed to stimulate the production of certain brain chemicals. These help you feel alert, but also may affect your appetite and other... umm...

DENNIS

...other bodily rhythms. So, to answer your question Tom: awake. Now, if you'll all follow me, we'll take you to your rooms.

Dennis turns and leaves, Brody and Tom fall in line.

Lauren stays put and nervously plays with her hair.

ALYX

Hey, how're you feeling tonight?

LAUREN

I'm fine. I just... I was tired for days with the last one...

ALYX

No worries! This is a daily dosage, it should wear off in a few hours.

(MORE)

ALYX (CONT'D)

Just get some good sleep when you  
leave and you'll be right as rain.

More hair fidgeting before a heavy sigh.

LAUREN

Ok... well... if you're sure?

Lauren looks for reassurance.

Alyx, all smiles, moves to help her up.

Lauren weakly returns the smile and lets Alyx lead her.

Alyx waves to the receptionist on their way to the doors.

ALYX

I think that means we're good for  
the night. Thanks!

BUBBLY RECEPTIONIST

No problem! I'm going to head out.

ALYX

'Kay! Have a good night!

Alyx and Lauren pass through the doors.

As they swing shut, the lock engages with a thick **CLACK**.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - NIGHT**

The end of the hallway opens to a broad space with several  
windowed doors.

Everyone listens as Dennis goes over changes.

DENNIS

So, from this vantage point  
there's not much difference other  
than these badge readers.

He steps to the nearest door and swipes his badge.

A green light.

The **CLACK** of the releasing lock.

DENNIS

Instead of deadbolts with keys,  
these allow the shift supervisor  
to quickly open your door if  
needed.

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
 All openings are automatically  
 logged and require a medical  
 reason or the study is  
 invalidated.

Lauren looks from the badge reader to Dennis, panic mounting.

DENNIS  
 Not to worry. You have an override  
 button in your room.  
 You can leave at any time.

Lauren nods, but doesn't exactly calm down.

Alyx steps up to escort her to a door marked with the number 3.

ALYX  
 I promise, you're completely safe.

Alyx swipes their badge.

A red light.

An **ANRGY NOISE**

They try again. Same result.

ALYX  
 Right. Supervisor.  
 That's still Dennis.

Dennis steps over, badges the door open.

DENNIS  
 (to Tom and Brody)  
 While Alyx gets Lauren settled in,  
 let's get you two started.  
 Brody, you're in 1. Tom take 5.

**INT. LAUREN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

A tiny, almost motel-like room with a twin bed, a chair, a small desk, and an overflowing snack basket.

There's a door in the back with a picture of a toilet on it.

They enter. Lauren immediately scans for the override button.

Alyx pulls the door shut and motions for Lauren to open it.

Lauren smacks the button, the lock **CLACKS** and she pushes the door open, relief on her face.

ALYX  
All good?

Lauren perches on the bed's edge, deep breaths, then she nods.  
Alyx motions to an intercom panel with a gooseneck mic.

ALYX  
As always, we're just a call away.

LAUREN  
Yeah. Ok, ok. Let's do this.

**INT. BRODY'S ROOM - SAME**

An identical room.

Brody thumbs distractedly through the ridiculous amount of snacks set out for one night.

Dennis clears his throat and gives him a stern look.

DENNIS  
I assume we don't need to have the  
gun talk again?

Brody scans the room, clocks the camera overhead.

BRODY  
Nope! Heard ya loud and clear last  
time. No firearms on the premises.

Dennis is visibly relieved.

DENNIS  
Great. Get settled. Noah will be  
by to hook you up to the EEG and  
then Zuri will get your vitals and  
administer the meds for tonight.

Dennis leaves as Brody turns his back to the camera, pulls a small revolver from a pocket, and slips it under his pillow.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - FOLLOWING**

Alyx and Dennis pop out of their respective rooms at the same time. They meet at Tom's door.

DENNIS  
It's all you kid. I'll go make  
sure Zuri and Noah are ready.

**INT. TOM'S ROOM - FOLLOWING**

Tom lounges comfortably as Alyx enters.

His shoes are side by side under the chair, his jacket draped over the back.

TOM  
Hey there! Did someone get a promotion?

ALYX  
Yeah, I suppose I did. Any questions about tonight?

TOM  
Nope! I trust ya Doc.

ALYX  
Not a doctor!

TOM  
Not yet!

Alyx gives a smile and slips from the room.

**INT. LISA'S CAR - NIGHT**

Cornfields fly by as Lisa races back towards town.

She checks her makeup in her compact's mirror from its uneasy perch on her steering wheel.

She is mid-conversation, game-planning with her best friend about tonight over the phone's connection to the car.

LISA  
Sure he booked *Joie de Vivre* but he can be fancy AND a creep. Text me at eight?

LISA'S FRIEND (O.S.)  
Obvi. But I got a good feeling. I know you'll send the all clear...

A truck horn **BLARES**.

Lisa slams on her brakes.

A semi **ROARS** across the intersection, inches from Lisa's car.

Shaken, she sheepishly peeps the stop sign in front of her.

**INT. BRODY'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Brody is stretched out on his bed, rubber EEG headband in place, while Zuri preps meds at the desk.

She glances at the camera and then moves to block both Brody and the camera.

She swipes the meds off the cart and puts them in her right pocket. From her left she pulls a different bottle of meds.

This one has the same logo from the pharma lab in the opening.

She drops two pills from the new bottle into a small paper cup, picks up the cup and a tablet, and turns to Brody.

ZURI

You've got water, right?

Brody digs up a water bottle from next to him on the bed and waves it at her.

Zuri hands him the pills and then notes the time he swallows them on her tablet.

ZURI

Make yourself comfortable. I have to lock you in now.

He waves dismissively and Zuri takes her tray out the door.

**INT. ATRIUM - NIGHT**

Zuri exits Brody's room, closes the door, and heads towards Lauren's. Noah comes out of Tom's.

Alyx and Dennis stand in the middle of the room as they review documents on Alyx's tablet.

NOAH

Everyone has their EEG up and running.

Zuri crosses from Lauren's room to Tom's.

DENNIS

Thanks Noah. Alyx, when Zuri finishes with Tom, make sure all three times are logged here...

Alyx nods as Zuri comes out of Tom's room and pulls the door shut behind her.

ZURI

Well, that's all of them.

Dennis tugs each door to make sure they're locked.

DENNIS  
And we're off! Let's head back.

Alyx punches in data as they all head to the nurses' station.

**INT. BRODY'S ROOM - SAME**

Brody paces, clearly agitated.

He scratches at his EEG headband and checks the snacks again.

He plucks out a candy bar and ruthlessly devours it.

**INT. TOM'S ROOM - SAME**

Tom is completely unaffected and settles down to sleep.

The lights on his headband wink as nonchalantly as he seems.

**INT. LAUREN'S ROOM - SAME**

Lauren, still on the edge of the bed, sucks down deep breaths.

She compulsively twirls her hair, which tugs her EEG monitor off kilter with each twist.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Zuri and Noah slide behind the desk, wake up their computers and log in, bringing up their specific monitoring programs.

Zuri's shows camera feeds of each patient's room with overlays for heart rate and blood pressure.

Noah's tracks the graph of each patient's brain activity.

Dennis leans back against the counter to flips through his clipboard.

Alyx continues out the other side of the room.

ALYX  
Gonna grab my bag. Be right back!

Dennis waves distractedly while Zuri takes off her hoodie, drapes it over her chair and digs her phone out of a pocket.

She brings up a basketball game, a commentator's voice blares:

BASKETBALL COMMENTATOR (O.S.)  
Sixers up by 12, but there's a lot  
of game left...

Zuri quickly adjusts the volume down to a murmur.

Dennis jumps at a **BOOMING THUNDERCLAP**.

The lights flicker.

NOAH

Great. Another night fighting to  
keep things running.

He digs in a drawer, grabs a flashlight, and crosses to a door  
across from the desk marked *IT Personnel Only*.

Alyx returns, settles in with their giant text book, and props  
their feet up on the desk.

Noah exits the IT closet and slams the door behind him.

NOAH

They never hooked up the damn  
batteries!

Nobody seems overly concerned.

ZURI

Fuck yeah! Three points!

She looks up sheepishly, realizes everyone's staring.

ZURI

Sorry. I've got a hundred dollars  
on the game...

ALYX

Ever win anything on these bets?

Zuri just scowls back at them.

DENNIS

(to Noah)

Does this affect the EEGs?

NOAH

No, but it means this new security  
system goes offline if the power  
goes out.

DENNIS

Well, let's just worry about that  
if it happens. Okay?

Noah shakes his head, throws the flashlight in the drawer and  
plops back down in his chair.

He slides across the space and collides with Alyx.

They look up, annoyed.

Noah tries to be playful and reaches over to bend their book open wider so he can see the page.

NOAH  
What do we have tonight?  
Oh... eye surgery? Gross.

Alyx rolls their eyes.

A **BEEP** and a disembodied voice pipes in.

BRODY (O.S.)  
Y'all better be listening.  
I'm all out of food.

Dennis sets his clipboard down and presses the mic button on the intercom, he looks to Zuri for confirmation.

DENNIS  
Say again?

Zuri turns her monitor so they can all see.

#### **ON THE MONITOR**

Brody throws the empty basket across the room, wrappers flying everywhere before he rushines back to the intercom panel.

#### **BACK IN THE ROOM**

BRODY (O.S.)  
I said I'm out and I'm fuckin'  
hungry! Bring me more jerky!

Noah punches Brody's EEG fullscreen.

It's red and spiky.

NOAH  
Pre-frontal cortex is lit up.  
He's losing it.

Dennis thumbs the mic button again.

DENNIS  
Hang tight. We're on our way.

As soon the mic is released, Brody screeches back in mid-rant. Clearly he wasn't listening.

Dennis cranks the volume down and taps Alyx's foot.

DENNIS  
Let's go.

Alyx hops up and the two rush down the hallway.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - FOLLOWING**

Dennis breaks for Brody's door, waves Alyx toward the others.

DENNIS  
Make sure Lauren and Tom are ok.  
I've got Brody.

Dennis peers through window.

Brody screams at the intercom, red-faced.

Dennis knocks loudly.

DENNIS  
Hey Brody, we're here.  
What's going on?

Brody charges the door.

BRODY  
FOOD DAMMIT! I NEED FOOD!

Alyx reaches Lauren's door and looks in.

**POV**

Lauren is still on the edge of the bed. She now anxiously chews on the ends of her hair.

ALYX  
Hey... doin' ok?

Lauren flinches and looks up.

LAUREN  
I think I want out. What if this  
stuff causes cancer?

**END POV**

Brody's red face fills the window of his door.

He **BANGS** his fists against it.

Alyx whips their head toward the commotion.

Dennis, hands up, does his best to calm Brody.

DENNIS

I understand you're hungry. We'll note it in your chart... but I can't open the door for snacks.

BRODY

NOW!

DENNIS

Look, if I open the door for non-medical reasons, it invalidates your results.

BRODY

FUCK IF I CARE!

DENNIS

You won't get paid...

A pause.

Something snaps in Brody.

His body jerks rigid.

The whites of his eyes flood red.

A **GROWL** erupts through a demented smile.

He bares his teeth and sinks them into his own arm.

Blood erupts.

Dennis badges frantically, flinging the door open.

Brody sees (smells?) a better option and **ROARS** in excitement.

A piece of his own flesh falls from his jaws.

He yanks Dennis to him, forcing an undulating **SCREAM** from him.

Alyx sprints to help, but Brody **SLAMS** the door in their face.

Alyx pivots and rush to the intercom.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS**

The light on the intercom blinks, but no sound comes out.

Noah and Zuri are clueless as they huddle together to watch the game on Zuri's phone.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx abandons the intercom, swipes to open Brody's door.

Red light. **ANGRY NOISES**

They look in the window.

Brody has Dennis pinned, face buried in his bloody torso.

They sprint back towards the nurses station.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - FOLLOWING**

Alyx careens in, breathless.

ALYX

HELP! Brody. He's. got. Dennis.

Noah looks across to Zuri's monitor and leaps to his feet.

Alyx and Noah are gone before Zuri can react.

ZURI

Oh shit!

She stuffs her phone in her scrubs and hustles after them.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - FOLLOWING**

Alyx and Noah bang on Brody's door as Zuri bolts in.

NOAH

BRODY! OPEN THIS DOOR!

ALYX

Are you crazy?

NOAH

I can handle him.

Noah continues to bang on the door. Alyx sees Zuri.

ALYX

Check on Tom!

Zuri charges over and peers into Tom's room.

**THROUGH TOM'S WINDOW**

Tom is asleep. Snoring. Oblivious.

**BACK TO THE ATRIUM**

ZURI  
Tom's... asleep?

Lauren's face fills the window on her door. She's panicked.

LAUREN  
WHAT'S GOING ON?

ZURI  
Brody attacked Dennis?

LAUREN  
What? This is too much!  
I'm leaving!

A **CLACK**, but not from Lauren's door.

Brody's door flings open and hits Noah in the face.

Noah flies back, skids to a stop on his ass.

Brody fills the doorway, covered in blood, and scans the room.

Noah painfully pushes to his feet.

Brody **GRUNTS** and sniffs the air, his bloodshot eyes light up.

Noah and Alyx move to block him before he can push past.

Brody shoulders them out of his way as he bolts from the room. His bloody hand trails down the wall of the hallway as he goes.

The shove forces Alyx to one knee while Noah slams into the wall head-first.

Noah shakes out the cobwebs before he charges after Brody.

NOAH  
Help Dennis! I've got Brody.

ALYX  
No. Wait--

But it's too late, he's gone.

LAUREN  
On second thought... I'll stay in  
here for a while...

She leaves the door as Zuri crosses to help Alyx to their feet.

ALYX  
 Call 911 and Lisa, she'll need to  
 know what's happening.  
 I've got Dennis.

Zuri nods, digs out her phone while Alyx moves into...

**INT. BRODY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Dennis stirs and moans feebly as Alyx crouches next to him.

They scan his injuries:

- \* Flesh missing.
- \* Ribs exposed.
- \* Blood oozing.

Alyx retches, but holds it in.

They whip the sheet off the bed.

As they do the revolver flies off the bed and barely misses  
 Alyx's head, before it skids to a stop under the desk.

A beat as Alyx stares.

They shake it off and shove the sheet into Dennis' wounds to  
 apply pressure.

**ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS**

Zuri texts furiously on her phone.

**ON THE PHONE**

Previous messages:

**Unknown:** *Let us know when you've  
 administered the dosage.*

**Zuri:** *It's done.*

**Unknown:** *Excellent. Keep us updated.  
 Remember, it's imperative  
 that all subjects remain at  
 the facility and are fully  
 monitored until morning.*

The current message that Zuri types tries to send:

**Zuri:** *WHAT THE FUCK  
 IS HAPPENING?!?!*

A pause, the signal bars drop from two to zero, then:

**Message not sent**

ALYX (O.S.)  
Are you calling?

**BACK TO THE ATRIUM**

Zuri shakes her head but spies a phone on the wall. She shoves her phone in a pocket and uses the landline to call.

**INT. JOIE DE VIVRE RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

A dim corner of the swanky French restaurant.

Lisa sits across from her CHARMING DATE (40s, F). She laughs, fully engrossed in the conversation.

She reaches out, smiles, and touches the date's hand. The date returns the gesture with a knee-buckling smile of her own.

Her purse is slung across the back of her chair, her phone peeks out, the screen lit up as it silently rings.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - SAME**

Thunder **BOOMS**. The lights flicker briefly and the phone goes dead. Zuri slams the handset back onto the receiver.

ALYX  
Forget it. Help me with Dennis.

Zuri dashes over to help.

**BRODY'S ROOM**

Zuri kneels next to Alyx, takes in Dennis' condition.

She looks away.

ZURI  
I can't believe Brody would do something like this...

ALYX  
I need you to focus on helping Dennis. Worry about the why later.

Zuri nods and turns back to Dennis.

ZURI  
Grab his badge. We'll need it.

Alyx swipes it off his belt and grabs him under the shoulders.

ALYX

Good call. Now help me get him  
somewhere secure. Somewhere with  
medical supplies.

ZURI

I've got everything I need at the  
nurses station.

ALYX

Are you nuts?  
It's completely exposed!

ZURI

Right, but we can hole up in that  
IT closet next to it.

ALYX

Perfect. Once the phone reboots  
we'll call 911 from there.

Zuri nods.

ALYX

Grab his feet.

Zuri does and the two shuffle Dennis out of the room.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Alyx and Zuri struggle into the room with Dennis as Noah bolts  
back from the other direction.

NOAH

I lost him. He shattered the glass  
on the vending machine in the  
break room, took a bunch of shit  
and disappeared.

Dennis almost slips from Alyx's blood-covered grip.

ALYX

Don't care. Grab a trauma kit.  
Move!

Alyx and Zuri continue to move Dennis toward the IT closet.

Noah scrambles, finds what he needs, grabs a tablet and meets  
them there.

He badges them in and they all duck inside.

**INT. IT CLOSET - NIGHT**

The brightly lit room is lined with one wall of racked servers.

The rest of the floor is likely usually empty, but it's currently stuffed with a tool cart and boxes full of cables and various odds and ends from the not-quite-finished installation.

Noah clears a spot for Alyx and Zuri to lay Dennis down.

Alyx takes charge:

- \* Rips his shirt open
- \* Grabs supplies from Noah
- \* Kneels to clean Dennis' wounds

Zuri holds Dennis' head in her lap and strokes his face. He's responsive, but seems close to passing out.

ZURI

We've got you Dennis.  
You're going to be okay...

Noah secures the door, then fiddles with the tablet to bring up the camera feeds one-by-one.

NOAH

I don't see Brody anywhere.

ZURI

Why don't you call for help?

Noah scans the closet. There's no phone.

NOAH

I'm not going out there until I  
know where he is.

Alyx fumbles with a bandage, Zuri snatches it and opens it expertly.

ZURI

Here, switch places with me.

Alyx nods and moves out of the way. Zuri starts to bandage Dennis' injuries.

NOAH

What the hell is going on?

ALYX

He was like an animal....

Alyx, lost in thought, shudders. Zuri sits back from Dennis.

ZURI

I've stopped the bleeding for now.

Alyx takes in the puddle of blood around Dennis and the trail back to the door.

ALYX

But he's already lost so much...

Dennis closes his eyes and falls still.

Zuri pats his face forcefully.

ZURI

No. No. No. Stay with us!

A tense moment as everyone watches.

Dennis finally stirs, struggles to open his eyes.

With a weak rasp he asks...

DENNIS

Are Tom and Lauren... ?

ALYX

They're safe.

ZURI

And normal.

A hoarse sigh of relief.

ALYX

Next thing we gotta do is get you an ambulance.

Another **PEAL of thunder** and more flickering lights.

Dennis holds up a hand.

DENNIS

Gotta stop Brody first...

ALYX

...without hurting him...

ZURI

I say we get outside, find cell signal, and let the police handle Brody...

A judgmental pause.



ALYX

You really think you can live with yourself knowing that?

Noah looks from face to face and realizes he's alone.

ALYX

What we need to do is contain him without injuring him to give us a clear way out.

Noah, unconvinced, puffs up his chest, ready to take charge.

ALYX

We are medical professionals and we have a duty to provide care... ESPECIALLY since the medication we gave them caused this.

Noah softens, nods. Zuri looks away from the group.

Alyx pushes to their feet to go with him.

ALYX

I'll go with you. Once it's clear, we get Dennis to the lobby for EMS and I'll come back to stay with Lauren and Tom.

NOAH

Absolutely not. You get out and take care of Dennis. I'll be the one to protect Lauren and Tom.

ALYX

While I appreciate your commitment to gender norms, after the last few minutes, there's no way I'm letting you do that. This isn't some macho protection fantasy...

Noah raises a hand to object, his face flushing...

Alyx doesn't care and turns to Zuri and Dennis.

Once no one is watching, Noah's anger slips away, replaced with relief.

ALYX

Dennis, can you move?

Dennis holds up a weak thumbs up.

ALYX  
 (to Zuri)  
 You got him? Can you handle  
 getting him out?

Zuri gives a nod with zero confidence.

ZURI  
 I'm... good. I'll watch Dennis and  
 wait for your signal.

Noah cautiously opens the door, scans the nurses' station.

Thunder **BOOMS**.

A brief flicker then the lights die.

The **HUM** of the servers cuts out.

ZURI  
 Or maybe not...

Behind Zuri, a rack of new battery backups, wires stick out,  
 clearly not hooked up to anything.

NOAH  
 GOD DAMMIT! I told you--

Zuri checks her phone.

ZURI  
 Yep. Wifi's out... and I never  
 have cell signal here.

She scans the group. It's the same for all of them.

ALYX  
 So we call from a landline...

NOAH  
 Can't. Our phones are run by  
 computers...

Emergency lights kick in and create pools of hard light and  
 harsh shadows in the otherwise dark building.

A **CRASH** in the dark, they all whip their heads toward it.

NOAH  
 The break room...

ALYX  
 Which means it's clear to the  
 lobby. Dennis, sure you can move?

He nods weakly. Alyx tosses Dennis' badge to Zuri.

ALYX  
Get him there. Noah and I will  
distract Brody. But first...

Alyx jogs to the cart, searches, comes up with a roll of tape.  
They zip back to the door and tape latch so it won't lock.

ALYX  
Just in case it all goes to  
hell...

A nod from Noah and Zuri as Zuri helps Dennis to his feet.  
Alyx pushes past Noah and slips out of the room. Noah follows.

**INT. BREAK ROOM HALLWAY - FOLLOWING**

Alyx, focused, slinks along and avoids the pools of light.  
Noah's head swings constantly as he scans for signs of Brody.  
They approach the opening to the now silent break room.  
An ET-like trail of snacks and wrappers leads away from it.  
Alyx follows the trail, Noah hisses after them.

NOAH  
Wait a sec...

Noah slips into the break room.

While they wait, Alyx absentmindedly grabs a couple bags of  
fruit snacks from the trail and stuffs them in a pocket.

Noah returns. The pliers are gone and he now wields a heavy,  
wooden mop handle.

Alyx rolls their eyes.

ALYX  
Remember, we want to restrain him.

Noah ignores them and pushes past, down the snack trail...

**INT. LOBBY HALLWAY - SAME**

Zuri struggles to keep Dennis on his feet as they approach the  
heavy double doors to the lobby.

DENNIS  
Motion detectors will be down, but  
try the badge?

Zuri props him against the wall.

She flubs the badge out of her pocket, yanks it free, and turns away from him to swipe it.

Nothing.

Another swipe.

More nothing.

Panic in Zuri's eyes.

DENNIS  
Ok. No worries. There's an  
override. Find the button.

Zuri zeroes in on the big red button, smashes it with almost gleeful expectation.

Nothing.

She pounds her fists against the doors. They're unaffected.

She launches her tiny frame against them.

The maglocks hold the doors perfectly motionless.

DENNIS  
Shhhh! Did you--

Zuri falls still, listening.

A brief moment of quiet fills with a guttural **GROWL**.

Zuri turns to Dennis, her eyes widen as she sees what's coming.

Brody lunges at Dennis, barrels into him.

Dennis stumbles, shoves Zuri into the doors.

The impact forces the badge from her hands.

Flailing, she knocks it under the door, into the lobby.

Brody pounces on Dennis, drags him into the darkness.

Zuri screams, jumps to her feet, sprints back toward the nurses' station.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - NIGHT**

Alyx and Noah follow the trail, which leads directly to Lauren's door.

Alyx squints, straining to pierce the darkness around them.

ALYX

Wait... where is he?  
This is a dead end...

Noah peeks into Tom's window, knocks on it with his mop handle.

NOAH

I don't think I've ever seen him  
sleep like this.

Alyx looks through Lauren's window.

**POV INTO LAUREN'S ROOM**

Lauren mumbles indecipherably to herself, completely oblivious to their presence.

She sits on the bed, knees pulled up to her chest, rocks back and forth, pulls at her hair, surrounded by snack wrappers.

**END POV**

Alyx looks worried.

ALYX

Any chance we can still see her  
EEG anywhere?

A prideful grin stretches across Noah's face.

NOAH

Yeah, I made sure my system's  
batteries were hooked up. The  
nurses' station has a UPS.

ALYX

Well hello Mister Fancy-pants.  
And it'll work without wifi?

NOAH

It has its own network, there's a  
chance it's still up.

ALYX

Ok, let's go. I think we're about  
to have another problem...

The two rush out.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - FOLLOWING**

Alyx and Noah dash behind the desk. He wakes up his computer, logs in, and checks the connection.

NOAH  
See. Still getting a signal.

Alyx tries to hide the fact that they're impressed as he turns the monitor to show her.

**ON THE SCREEN**

For Brody, an angry, spastic red line.

Tom's is a nice, rolling, green line.

Lauren's line looks much more like Brody's...

**BACK TO THE ROOM**

ALYX  
That's... not good. We gotta get help. Can we log onto this network to get a call out?

Noah shakes his head.

NOAH  
No, it's a closed network. There's no outside connection.

ALYX  
What? Why?

It dawns on them as soon as they say it.

ALYX  
HIPAA

NOAH  
HIPAA

A beat and then...

ALYX  
But you've got power? Can we hook it up to something else?

Noah props his mop handle against the wall and grabs the flashlight from the drawer, shines it under the desk.

There's an IT rack mounted there. He studies it for a moment.

**IN THE RACK**

Everything is lit up and seems to be functional. Each device is held in place with security screws.

Ragged pieces of masking tape serve as temporary labels with names scrawled on them in marker. We see:

- \* EEG
- \* Med Device Network
- \* Patient Cameras
- \* Patient Doors
- \* Director's Office
- \* UPS Power Supply

**BACK IN THE ROOM**

Noah shakes his head.

NOAH  
Everything's screwed down and held  
in place with security screws...

ALYX  
So? What's that mean?

NOAH  
It means I can't move anything  
installed here.

ALYX  
So we find an extension cord...

They look across the open area that now looks impossibly huge.

The IT closet might as well be across town.

A **SHRIEK** as Zuri bolts across the nurses's station and darts back into the IT closet.

Alyx and Noah rush to follow.

**INT. IT CLOSET - NIGHT**

Zuri slams the door. It's stopped only by Noah's heavy boot shoved in the way.

Zuri **WAILS** again, throws her body against the door.

NOAH  
(wincing)  
DAMMIT ZURI, IT'S US!

Zuri pauses, unsure.

Noah seizes the opportunity and shoves the door open. He and Alyx slip in and close the door behind them.

ALYX  
What's wrong? Where's Dennis?

Zuri just shakes her head.

ALYX  
Brody?

A nod.

NOAH  
Did he... trick us?

All three exchange glances filled with mounting fear.

ZURI  
He's hunting us.

ALYX  
We'll never get out if we don't  
know where he is.

Noah shines his light on the battery backups to examine them more closely.

NOAH  
Ugh. These weren't even plugged in  
to power. None of these batteries  
are charged.

A **BEEP**.

They all turn toward the cart.

Noah's tablet is there, half covered by his weapon search.

He digs it out, checks the readout and shows them the same EEG monitor as the nurse's station.

NOAH  
We can at least keep tabs on  
changes to their brain activity.

They all see a big spike to Lauren's activity.

NOAH  
Give me sec... I think the cameras  
are still up in their rooms.

He switches over to the feed of Lauren's room.

She's still in the same spot, but rocks faster now, surrounded by even more wrappers.

She slows down, tugs at her hair again.

A collective sigh.

ALYX

Why are the cameras in their rooms still working?

NOAH

Patient cams are hooked into my system in the nurses' station. All the rest run through here.

Noah waves a hand at the server racks.

ALYX

So we can't keep tabs on Brody?

NOAH

Best we can do is monitor his EEG and see when he gets excited...

He flips the feed over and makes Brody's scan full screen.

**INT. LAUREN'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Lauren stops mumbling, looks up with bloodshot eyes, and takes a long, hard **SNIFF**.

She slips off the bed and onto the floor. She crawls, limbs twitch with every movement, as she follows the scent.

At the door, a hand snakes up, smashes the override button.

**ON THE NURSE'S STATION RACK**

A light blinks on the device marked Patient Doors.

**BACK TO LAUREN'S ROOM**

**CLACK.**

She noses the door open and slinks into the...

**ATRIUM**

She takes in the trail of snacks Brody left and begins to follow it.

Anything unwrapped is shoved in her mouth. Anything still wrapped she slips in her shirt for later.

**INT. IT CLOSET - NIGHT**

They still debate their next steps.

NOAH

You know, there was something in  
the rack about Lisa's office...

ALYX

The master control!

Confused looks from Noah and Zuri.

ALYX

There's a touchscreen in there.  
Lisa said it shuts off all the new  
security stuff.

Finally, a bit of hope.

NOAH

Who has access to Lisa's office?

ALYX

Dennis' badge will get us in.

Alyx and Noah turn to Zuri, who is suddenly interested in  
staring at her feet.

NOAH

You do still have it, right?

Zuri recoils, shakes her head.

ALYX

Where is it?

**INT. BREAK ROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Lauren, still spastically crawls and stuffs her face and shirt  
as she follows Brody's snack trail.

From the other direction a bloody trail leads into the break  
room.

**INT. BREAK ROOM - NIGHT**

Brody digs through what's left of Dennis. He looks up as Lauren  
comes in.

Cautious, she stops, sits back on her haunches and pulls at her  
hair hard enough to come away with a lock of it.

In a ragged, confused voice:

LAUREN  
So hungry...

Brody **GROWLS** and pulls Dennis' body away from her.

LAUREN  
No. Gross...

Brody puffs up.

Lauren petulantly tosses the lock of hair at him as she retreats. Brody, the proud lion, goes back to his kill.

**INT. IT CLOSET - NIGHT**

Everyone searches through the installation materials. Alyx opens a box on the floor.

ALYX  
Wait. Will these work?

They lift the box and dump a mess of black cables onto the cart. Noah looks at one. It's a server power cable.

NOAH  
They're not long enough and you  
can't chain them together--

ALYX  
What if we spliced them or  
something?

NOAH  
It's worth a shot, but if we mess  
this up, it could short out what's  
still working...

ALYX  
But if it works the motion  
detector will open the lobby  
doors, right?

NOAH  
Yeah. Let's give it a shot. We'll  
need wire cutters and some wire  
nuts.

ZURI  
What are wire nuts?

NOAH  
Little plastic cylinders closed on  
one end, but look like they screw  
on to something on the other.

Zuri holds up a plastic tub full of bright red wire nuts.

ZURI  
Like this?

NOAH  
YES!

He digs through a small bin of hand tools on the cart and finds the cutters.

He holds them up, they all brave a small smile of hope.

**A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS AS**

- \* Alyx lays out the cables end to end across the closet.
- \* Noah shows Zuri how to cut the ends off and strip the wires.
- \* Alyx scans the servers, finds one marked DOORS.
- \* Zuri moves down the line as she strips wires.
- \* Noah uses the wire nuts to join each of them together.

**END MONTAGE**

NOAH  
Okay... Now all we have to do is connect it and hope for the best. I'll take the end for the nurses' station. Alyx when I tell you, plug into the server you found.

Alyx nods as Noah gingerly wraps the cable.

He heads to the door and pushes it open.

NOAH  
Zuri, I need you to hold the door to keep it from closing on the cable and... can you keep an eye out for Brody?

Zuri looks at the door in horror. She doesn't want to risk meeting Brody in the dark again.

NOAH  
I know you're scared, but this takes all of us.

She relents and heads to the door. She carefully steps over the makeshift extension cable.

Noah backs out slowly as Zuri posts up to nervously scan the open area of the nurses' station.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS**

He tiptoes, doling out the cable inch by inch.

A distant **CRASH** as Brody destroys something.

Noah pauses, waits and listens for anything else. He hears a loud whisper from Zuri

ZURI  
HURRY UP!

He doesn't need to be told twice. As quickly as he can creep, Noah crosses the space, he carefully lays the cable as he goes.

**IT CLOSET**

Zuri glances from Noah to Alyx, sees they're not watching and then moves the cable with her foot so a splice is in the jamb.

She slowly pulls the door, checks to make sure the steel plate at the bottom of the door will make contact with the splice.

She pushes it back open to keep watch.

**NURSES STATION**

Noah slides under the desk, flashlight in hand, finds an open spot to plug in their Frankenstein cable and shoves it in.

Nothing. So far so good.

In a hoarse whisper-shout:

NOAH  
Ok! Plug it in!

**IT CLOSET**

ZURI  
(to Alyx)  
He says plug it in!

Alyx takes a deep breath, double checks that they have the right device and plugs it in.

A light blinks on the server as it comes to life.

Zuri turns to let Noah know when...

A much closer **BOOMING SMASH** echoes down the hallway.

Zuri **SLAMS** the door shut, severs the cable and, almost as an afterthought, **SCREAMS** to help sell her fear.

**NURSES STATION**

Sparks fly into Noah's face as power surges. Smoke pours from several outlets before he can yank their makeshift cable.

He pulls himself out from behind the rack, sweeps the light down the front of the components.

Smoke rises from the one marked Patient Cameras. The device marked Director's Office still has power.

NOAH

FUCK!

He leaps to his feet, jogs back to the IT closet and **BANGS** on the door.

**IT CLOSET**

Alyx shoves Zuri out of the way, yanks the door open.

Noah spills in.

NOAH

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?

Zuri stands up for herself.

ZURI

I thought Brody was back. You haven't seen him like I have! You don't know what he's capable of!

NOAH

You just blew our best chance of getting out of here!

Alyx steps between them, ever the peacekeeper.

ALYX

Hey, hey... it's ok... we'll just find another way. What's messed up out there?

Noah takes a deep breath, Zuri just moves away.

NOAH

We lost cameras in their rooms, but Lisa's door should still work.

ALYX

Fine. Plan B. We find a way to get Dennis' badge and we use it on Lisa's door.

Tempers cool as they return to their search. After a moment Noah comes up with a large plastic circular item: a fish tape.

NOAH  
This'll work!

He pulls the flexible but stiff fiberglass line out a few inches, to show it to both of them.

ALYX  
Perfect. Let's get that badge and get out of here!

Alyx and Noah turn towards the door. Zuri hesitates...

ZURI  
Maybe I should stay here, just in case?

NOAH  
In case of what?

ZURI  
I just don't want to screw anything else up... but also, what if Dennis comes back?

NOAH  
I thought you said he was dead.

ZURI  
Yeah... I mean... probably?

Noah fights back anger. Alyx steps in.

ALYX  
Dennis could barely move on his own before the second attack. If it's as bad as you said and we come across him, it'll take two of us to move him. Without the third to keep watch there's no way we'll make it. We gotta stick together here.

Zuri nods, but doesn't move.

NOAH  
Look, if this works, it'll be quicker to just make a dash out the front door.

Another nod, this time she inches toward the door.

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS**

They exit the closet.

Noah shoves the fish tape at Alyx.

NOAH  
Here, take this.

They take it as Noah cuts to the desk to grab his mop handle.

Alyx gives him a dirty look as he rejoins the group.

**INT. LOBBY HALLWAY - FOLLOWING**

The three steal down the hallway.

Alyx in the lead, fish tape in hand, pauses every few steps.

To peer into the dark.

To listen.

Zuri shuffles nervously behind them as she monitors the tablet.

ZURI  
Looks like Lauren's calming down.

Noah brings up the rear, he slowly turns in circles and holds the mop handle out like a holy relic in a vampire film.

NOAH  
As long as she stays in her room,  
I don't care. How's Brody look?

**SLURP**

Alyx pulls up short.

Zuri freezes and squeezes her eyes shut.

Noah, currently facing backwards, stumbles into Zuri.

Zuri **YELPS**.

ALYX  
SHHH!

Alyx tries to decipher the darkness.

A **MOAN** floats back to them.

Noah pushes to the front, mop handle extended.

NOAH  
Enough tricks Brody!

LAUREN (O.S.)  
(muffled)  
Hungry...

ALYX  
Lauren?

Silence. And then...

LAUREN (O.S.)  
(muffled)  
So hungry...

ALYX  
Noah, give me some light.

Noah's hands shake in fear as he bobbles the mop handle and drops it with a loud **CLATTER** as he digs out the flashlight.

He gets the light out and shines it down the hallway.

Lauren sits in front of the lobby doors, her back to them.

There are now several large bald patches on her head.

Alyx rushes to her, reaches out.

Lauren twitches, jerks around to face them.

Both hands stuff hair in her mouth.

She sucks it down greedily.

ZURI  
OH GOD NO!

ALYX  
NOAH! Get her hands!

Noah shoves the light to Zuri, rushes in to restrain Lauren.

Lauren **SHRIEKS** and kicks back towards the door.

Alyx puts a hand on Noah's shoulder.

ALYX  
Lauren, wait! It's ok.  
We're here to help.

Lauren pauses, confused.

Noah takes a step forward.

Lauren recoils from him.

ALYX  
Easy... Everyone take it easy.

A beat as Lauren looks from one to the other.

LAUREN  
Huuuung...ry....

ALYX  
I know, I know. If we can find you  
some food, will you go back in  
your room?

Lauren turns her focuses to Alyx.

LAUREN  
Food?

Noah slips out of her peripheral vision to angle into position.

ALYX  
Yeah, I brought a lunch... some  
leftover pasta salad. It's all  
yours if you go back...

Lauren closes her eyes and takes a deep breath, as if already smelling the pasta salad.

Noah lunges and grabs for her arms.

Lauren wasn't smelling the non-existent pasta salad.

LAUREN  
FOOD!

Eyes wide, she spins to face Noah.

She ducks under his outstretched arms, comes up far too close.

Before Noah can react, she's sunk her teeth in his meaty neck, blood spouts as her incisors find his jugular.

Alyx charges forward.

Noah's eyes glaze over.

Alyx hits Lauren with the only thing at hand, the fish tape.

Lauren swats at it, the awkward item twists out of Alyx's hands and it skitters away in the dark.

ALYX  
ZURI, HELP!

Zuri drops the flashlight and tablet to pull Noah to safety.

Lauren's bite holds.

A chunk of Noah's throat rips away.

Blood gushes over both of them as Noah collapses on Zuri, his bulk drives them to the floor.

Teeth clack as Lauren thrusts toward Alyx, chomping the air.

Alyx jumps back, narrowly misses Lauren's lunge.

They're ready when she tries again.

With a quick side step, they shove Lauren from behind and she shoots past them.

Lauren stumbles headlong toward a bathroom door. Her foot lands awkwardly on the fish tape and she crashes into the door.

Alyx sees their chance, charges at her with a shoulder tackle.

They drive Lauren, and the fish tape, through the swinging door. Alyx quickly pulls it shut.

Alyx struggles to keep the door shut as Lauren attacks it from the other side.

They **SCREAM** in desperation and scan the hallway for anything that can help.

Zuri tries to push herself up and out from underneath Noah.

Her hand lands on the mop handle which immediately rolls away.

She crashes back to the floor.

ALYX  
Zuri! Grab that. Quick!

Zuri flails.

The door surges away from the frame again.

ALYX  
NOW!

Zuri steadies herself, pushes up, finally gets a grip on the handle, and shoves it to Alyx.

Alyx uses their foot to pull it closer.

The door yanks inward again.

Alyx barely keeps it closed with both hands.

Deep breath.

Alyx strains with their whole body to hold the door.

They let go with one hand to grab the mop handle.

Alyx tries to shove it through the door handle but misses as the door pulls back from the frame again.

Alyx's anger bubbles over and erupts as another **SHOUT**.

They shove the mop handle through the door handle and across the door's frame.

Lauren jerks at the door again.

With a confidence-erasing **CREAK**, the mop handle holds.

Alyx backs away slowly, they don't trust it.

Zuri's weeping breaks Alyx's focus.

They turn to find Zuri cradling Noah's head in her lap.

Blood is everywhere.

Noah's eyes are open and unfocused. His mouth hangs agape.

ZURI

No... no... it wasn't supposed to  
be like this...

ALYX

What do you mean?

ZURI

Not my pretty Noah...

Alyx crouches, lays a hand on each side of Zuri's head and forces her to face them.

ALYX

What wasn't supposed to be like  
this?

Zuri tries to shrink away.

Alyx holds her tight.

A struggle.

Zuri gives up and settles for lowering her eyes.

ZURI

I just... I was always one bet  
away from getting out of the hole.

ALYX

Please tell me I'm not dying for  
your gambling addiction...

ZURI

All I was had to do was make a  
copy of the data at the end of the  
night... and all my markers...  
just gone.

Alyx pushes back in horror, rising to their feet.

ALYX

Wait... does that mean...  
The cable... that was on purpose?

Zuri says nothing, just looks away.

ALYX

So you knew this would happen and  
your job is to what? Keep us here?

ZURI

NO! They said to make sure "the  
subjects" stay on site... I never  
thought it would be like this.

Zuri looks down at Noah's slack-jawed face, her tears create  
watery runs in his crimson mask.

ZURI

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS KEEP THEM SAFE  
AND COPY THE DATA. THAT'S IT.

ALYX

How much?

ZURI

Huh?

ALYX

How much debt are they wiping out?

Zuri tries to look anywhere other than Noah or Alyx.

ZURI

A hundred and eighty kay.

ALYX  
Someone offers you four times your  
annual salary to copy data... and  
you assume everything's kosher?  
How fucking dumb are you?

A **LOUD, SPLINTERY CREAK** as Lauren tries the door again.

ALYX  
We don't have time for this. Let's  
get the badge and get out. Where's  
the fish tape?

Alyx retrieves the flashlight, shines it around, desperate as they search for the fish tape.

As the light crosses Zuri, Alyx sees her pointing...

Back toward the bathroom door.

Alyx slides to the crack under the door, shines the flashlight. Their body goes slack as they see it.

ALYX  
God. Damn. It.

Alyx slowly climbs to their feet, clearly dejected.

ALYX  
Ok... we need a new plan. Let's  
check Lisa's door and see what we  
can come up with.

Alyx moves to pull Zuri to her feet, she shrugs them off and reaches for the tablet.

ALYX  
Forget it.  
What good has it done us?

Zuri nods, takes Alyx's help to push to their feet.

The two make their way back down the hallway.

Behind them, on the tablet, Tom's EEG twitches, spikes, and goes from green to yellow.

**INT. DIRECTOR'S HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Alyx and Zuri, cautious and on edge, creep to Lisa's door.

Alyx quietly tries to open it. It doesn't budge.

Zuri examines the new security apparatuses.

ZURI  
Is that a palm reader?

ALYX  
And a retinal scanner too...

ZURI  
When did we become the CIA?

ALYX  
This is all big pharma FDA  
bullshit so we can do more  
testing.

ZURI  
So.. umm... who can get in Lisa's  
office?

ALYX  
Lisa... and Dennis...

They look at each other, not sure who's going to say it.

ALYX  
We can't drag him here. Not with  
Brody on the loose.

Zuri emphatically shakes her head. She wants none of this.

ZURI  
We can't even find an extension  
cord. And you want to... what? Cut  
his hand off?

ALYX  
You got a better idea?

ZURI  
But he was our friend!

ALYX  
You helped get him killed and now  
you care? Spare me.

ZURI  
That's not fair--

ALYX  
Don't you even try to talk to me  
about fair. The only thing that  
matters now is getting out of  
here. C'mon, I think I saw what we  
need back in the closet.

Alyx doesn't wait, they push past Zuri and head down the hall with purpose.

**INT. IT CLOSET - FOLLOWING**

Alyx charges in.

After a beat, Zuri slinks in behind her.

Alyx makes a beeline for the cart while Zuri watches the door.

Alyx digs through the tool bin. They find assorted wrenches, pliers, and screwdrivers.

Then a box cutter. They consider it a moment but ultimately set it aside. Finally they find what they need, a hacksaw.

They turn back toward the door, the saw held up.

Zuri turns away, disgusted.

ALYX

Don't worry, I'm going to do it.  
Wouldn't want you to get your  
hands dirty.

Zuri scoffs but otherwise takes the insult.

Alyx reaches past Zuri to pull the door open and steps out of the closet.

ALYX

Just help me keep an eye out for  
Brody, ok?

Zuri ignores them, furious.

ALYX

Which direction did he drag Dennis  
off to?

A ragged, terrified breath as Zuri recalls the encounter.

ZURI

Towards the break room, I think.

ALYX

Alright. Stay close.

Alyx sneaks that direction, Zuri follows.

**INT. BREAK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Broken glass and snack food wrappers surround Dennis' now-mangled body in the otherwise empty room.

Just beyond the corpse and the emergency light's cone of light, Alyx and Zuri take one last look around before they creep in.

Alyx steps over the body and they both kneel on opposite sides to inspect the hand closest to them.

Alyx finds the Wine Passport, soaking in a puddle of claret.

They quickly wipe it on their pants and stuff it in a pocket before continuing the search.

Neither one has good news.

ALYX

Well shit. I've got three missing fingers. How's your side?

In response, Zuri throws up in her mouth and just points.

Alyx looks over at a jagged, seeping stump, no hand in sight.

They both lean back to think through options.

As if coming to the conclusion simultaneously they both scan up the body to Dennis' face.

Alyx turns to consider the hacksaw.

ALYX

I can't take out his eye with this.

Zuri almost relaxes before she realizes what that means.

ZURI

No... you can't!

ALYX

It's no different than his hand at this point. We have to do it if we want to get out of here.

Zuri backs away, pushes to her feet.

Alyx moves up Dennis' body to the neck, draws a deep breath.

They hold the hacksaw to his throat when--

A **GROWL** rumbles from the darkness in the hallway.

ALYX  
See anything?

ZURI  
No... but I feel him out there.

Zuri slowly turns her head, as she scans the surrounding dark.

ALYX  
I need a couple minutes to get  
this done. You've got to keep him  
away from here.

Brody **ROARS** and charges Zuri from her blind side.

She stumbles away from him and throws the closest thing at hand: the pliers Noah left here earlier.

The pliers hit him square on the nose. He stops him mid-rush.

He **GROWLS** and shakes his head.

Zuri takes the brief pause to inch toward the hallway.

She grabs a nearby chair, bangs it on the floor to pull his attention away from Alyx.

It works.

He jerks his head toward her, just in time to catch the now-thrown chair full in the face.

He **ROARS** again and charges toward her.

Like a frightened gazelle, she bolts.

The lion gives chase.

Alyx seizes the opportunity, draws the hacksaw across Dennis' throat with a **SQUELCH**, blood sprays onto their face.

Another deep breath as they wipe the blood out of their eyes.

Back to sawing, they shiver as blood spurts with each thrust.

**INT. LOBBY HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Zuri sprints around the corner.

Her foot lands squarely on one half of the mop handle.

It rolls out from under her and she flies head-first into the wall, before she crumples onto the floor.

She's dazed as Brody lopez around the corner, straight for her.

Thoughtlessly, she reaches for the only thing at hand, the broken handle, and brings it up at the last second.

Brody, unable to stop, impales himself on the now sharpened stake and crashes into Zuri.

He **HOWLS** in pain.

She crawls out from under him, kicks him over on his back.

The mop handle protrudes from the front of his shoulder.

He'll live, but that arm won't ever work the same.

He tries to sit up but falls back down.

At least for now, the fight has gone out of him.

Zuri pulls herself up and evaluates her options.

She scans from the hallway to the break room across to the one that leads to the nurses' station.

In between her eyes stop on the open bathroom door.

Its empty black eye stares back at her.

ZURI

Fuck this.

She heads back toward the break room.

As she does, Brody stirs, reaches up to pull the mop handle out of his shoulder.

**INT. TOM'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Still sleeping, the lights on his EEG now blinking angrily.

His eyes snap open.

Where Brody's and Lauren's eyes were merely bloodshot, Tom's are almost solid red, with ropery black streaks.

**INT. BREAK ROOM - NIGHT**

Alyx is bent over their work.

They pause to arm sweat and blood from their brow.

Back at it, the saw **GRINDS** against the vertebrae.

Sinews **SNAP** and **POP**.

One final **SQUELCH** as the saw breaks through.

Dennis' head rolls free.

Alyx sits back, out of breath.

A beat passes.

Alyx pulls themselves to their feet, drops the hacksaw and gingerly picks up Dennis' head with both hands.

They accidentally make eye contact and Alyx hitches back a sob.

ALYX

You don't deserve this.

Alyx tucks Dennis' head under their arm and heads the opposite way that Zuri went.

Blood trails behind them.

Silently, a barely visible and nearly-bald Lauren skitters across the doorway on her hands and knees, following the blood.

Zuri turns the corner into the break room and stops at the sight of Dennis' headless body, sobs wrack her again.

Before she can compose herself... a **GROWL** from behind her...

**INT. NURSES STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Alyx, head still tucked under their arm, cautiously crosses the open space, looking in all directions.

**SLURP**

They stop.

The wet slurping doesn't.

The shuffle of feet joins the slurping.

They look down and finally notice the blood dripping down their leg and trailing behind them.

ALYX

FUCK.

They scan and see Zuri's pink hoodie on the back of a chair.

They snag it and wrap the head in it.

**INT. BREAK ROOM - NIGHT**

Zuri is not only backed into a corner, but she's backed halfway into the open refrigerator.

She uses the door to hold back a snarling Brody.

He slams into the door and crushes her with it.

She **SHRIEKS**, but shoves back and flings the door back open so hard it rocks the refrigerator forward.

She doesn't notice.

She holds the door out with one hand and blindly searches the fridge with her other for anything solid enough to be a weapon.

Brody swats ineffectually at her over the top of the door.

With no luck, he changes tactics and grabs the door, yanks it towards himself.

The fridge rocks forward again and shoves Zuri off-balance.

She catches herself as a jar of pickles rolls into her hand.

She **SCREAMS** and throws it at Brody's face.

He jukes his head to the side and her throw goes wide.

He yanks at the door again.

This time Zuri dodges out of the way.

Without her body to stop it, the refrigerator tips forward.

She **BELLOWS** in victory and pushes it over onto Brody.

His head bounces off the tile floor as the fridge crushes down on him. He's out cold.

Deep breaths as she backs away toward the door.

She pauses.

She has to know.

Zuri returns to him and bends close.

He's still motionless.

She reaches out a hand to check for shallow breaths.

His eyes fly open and he snaps at her, snagging her ring and middle fingers in his mouth.

She **SCREAMS** in pain, punching at him with her free hand over and over again.

He shakes his head like a dog with a finally-caught squirrel.

A **RIP** and a **POP** as Zuri stumbles backward.

The **SCREAM** continues as she holds up her hand.

The two fingers are gone.

The scream intensifies as she bolts from the room.

Brody chews his prize in delight.

**INT. DIRECTOR'S HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Alyx sits against the wall next to the door to Lisa's office.

Dennis' head is on the floor next to them, a macabre companion.

Alyx's head is buried in the crook of their elbow as they cry.

**Zuri's scream** reaches them just before Zuri tears around the corner and skids to a stop.

Alyx leaps to their feet, dries their eyes with their sleeve.

Zuri shoves her hand at Alyx.

Blood pumps from her stumps in rhythm with her heart beat, splashing across Alyx's face. Alyx sputters a response:

ALYX

Ok, ok. Calm down. I got this.

They leap into action, pull off their scrub top to stuff into the wound.

Zuri's scream peters out, she draws in ragged breaths.

Alyx's long sleeve tee underneath is a band shirt for Calabrese, with the band dressed as zombies.

ZURI

Fuck. Even your shirt's in on it.

A smile from Alyx.

ALYX

You're going to be ok... but you gotta tell me, are we safe?

ZURI  
(between breaths)  
Yeah... I dropped a fridge on him.

Alyx almost looks impressed before guilt sets in.

ALYX  
Is he... dead?

Zuri shakes her head.

ALYX  
Ok. But we've got another problem.  
Dennis' eyes are messed up.  
Scanner won't work.

Zuri squats to look at Dennis' face.

Both eyes look like they've been scratched, but the left eye is in marginally better shape.

Zuri pushes back up, shrugs.

ZURI  
I was reading about these the  
other day... they scan the back of  
your eyes.

Alyx looks from Dennis' head back to Zuri.

ALYX  
And?

ZURI  
His left eye is mostly intact. I  
bet if we removed the damaged  
front of the eye, it would scan.

ALYX  
How does that help us?

ZURI  
Isn't that what you're studying?

ALYX  
Corpse mutilation?

ZURI  
Ophthalmological surgery?

A beat. Alyx considers it.

ALYX  
I don't have any actual  
instruments.

ZURI  
Well no, but maybe we can make  
something else work?

ALYX  
I saw a box cutter in the  
closet... but I might as well just  
use a chainsaw...

ZURI  
Got a better idea?

Their own words flung back at them sting a bit.

Alyx sighs heavily.

They reach down and pick up Dennis by the hair.

ALYX  
C'mon old friend. Time to  
disrespect you a bit more.

Alyx trudges back towards the closet.

Zuri sees the pink of her hoodie on the floor, just barely in  
the light.

ZURI  
Oh hey. How did this get here?

She snags it and pulls it over her head before she discovers  
it's soaked with Dennis' blood.

She immediately regrets her decision.

ZURI  
What. the. actual. fuck?

She strips it off, throws it away and marches after Alyx.

**INT. IT CLOSET - NIGHT**

Alyx barges in, crosses to the cart, all business.

They scan, grab the box cutter, and shove everything else off  
the cart before they move it under the emergency light.

They set Dennis down on the now cleared cart.

He flops over to one side.

Annoyed, Alyx surveys the mess on the floor.

They dip down, grab a soldering iron stand and set it on the center of the cart.

They lift Dennis, line him up, and shove him down onto the stand right as Zuri comes in.

ZURI

Oh for fucks sake!

Alyx shrugs, grabs the box cutter, runs the blade out and inspects it.

ALYX

Do me a favor and just watch the door, okay?

Zuri nods and turns around to secure the door, she pulls the tape off to let it lock.

The blade is new and sharp.

Alyx tries multiple grips and approaches in a search for the best way to do this with the wrong tool.

Eventually they give up.

They look through the mess on the floor and find a screwdriver, disassemble the box cutter, and pull out the bare blade.

Deep breaths as they hold the blade mere millimeters from Dennis' eye--

**BANGING** on the door.

Zuri **YELPS**.

Alyx lets out a long, steady exhale.

They make their first cut and gingerly slice away an almost imperceptibly thin layer of damaged tissue.

More **BANGING**.

Brody lets out an angry **ROAR**.

Alyx shoots Zuri a look to make sure the door is holding.

Zuri pushes her petite frame against the door.

Another deep breath.

Another delicate cut.

More **POUNDING**.

The door **CREAKS**.

Alyx's hand slips, the bare blade digs into their fingers and draws blood.

They draw a deep breath to mentally reset.

Alyx traces a thin cut around one side of the iris.

A tiny drop of cloudy fluid follows the blade and mixes with the blood oozing from Alyx's fingers.

Brody hits the door so hard Zuri bounces off it.

ZURI

I don't think this will hold much longer!

Alyx nods.

They trace a cut around the other side.

Fluid pours freely out of the eye as the iris falls away.

ALYX

Ok. We've got a clear view of the back of the eye.

Brody slams the door again.

The latch pops, the doorframe splinters.

His arm snakes in, swipes at Zuri who barely keeps him at bay.

His hand finds her hair and hauls her into the widening crack.

She **SCREAMS**.

Alyx dives into the pile next to the cart, finds a hammer.

They hold the top of Dennis' head in place, and smash the hammer into his jaw.

Teeth fly loose, but the jaw holds.

They swing again, bones **CRUNCH** as one side comes loose.

Dropping the hammer, they wrench the jaw loose from the other side and bolt to the door.

Alyx shoves the jawbone over Zuri's head, waves it under Brody's nose.

He stops to sniff the offered treat, his eyes follow it as Alyx sways it from side to side.

ALYX  
Yeah, that's a good boy. You want  
your treat?

He cocks his head.

Somehow he knows they're mocking him.

Alyx throws the jawbone deep into the nurses' station.

Brody gives chase.

Alyx sprints back to retrieve what's left of Dennis and hurries toward the door.

ALYX  
MOVE!

Zuri reacts instinctually, yanks the door open and sprints away, Alyx on her heels.

**INT. DIRECTOR'S HALLWAY - FOLLOWING**

They skid to a stop at Lisa's door, panting. Listening.  
Silence.

ALYX  
Here goes nothing. Watch my back.

Zuri nods and turns to watch the hallway.

Alyx holds Dennis up to the scanner by his hair.

Nothing.

ALYX  
WHAT THE ABSOLUTE--

They notice that Dennis' hair blocks his eye.

ALYX  
Didn't even think to give you  
haircut while I was at it...

They brush his hair away, hold his eye to the scanner and...

It scans.

Bated breath.

Red light.

**ANGRY BEEP**

Enough is enough.

Alyx screams a deep, coarse **ROAR** of frustration.

As their cry fades away, it's met with a guttural **RUMBLE** and, on its heels, a quiet, longing **WHIMPER**.

Alyx turns as Brody and Lauren slink out of the darkness.

Another **SCREAM** as Alyx launches Dennis at Brody.

Brody ducks, smells what just missed him and pivots.

He dives after the mutilated head.

Lauren's eyes go wide with a different type of hunger.

She licks her lips and throws herself at Brody, she presses herself against him as he claws at the head.

A beat as Alyx and Zuri take in Lauren's new tactic.

ALYX

I think we should give them some  
alone time...

Zuri nods as they beat feet back to the...

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - FOLLOWING**

Zuri jogs up to the desk, bends over, hands on her knees and draws in deep shaky breaths.

Alyx, right behind her, leans up against the counter, a goofy smile on their face.

Zuri pushes upright, laughter breaks free.

ZURI

Well, uh... I hope they're very  
happy together.

ALYX

Pretty sure that just makes them  
more dangerous, right? I mean,  
talk about a power couple...

They share the laugh a moment longer.

The moment fades when a loud **CLANG** rings out from the hallway to the patient rooms.

ZURI

What now? We don't even have a safe place to hide anymore.

Zuri points at the ruined IT closet door.

Alyx paces, thinking through the problem.

ALYX

Each of these new locks has an override on the inside, right? Somehow we need to activate the one on Lisa's door...

ZURI

Great. If only one of us had studied electrical engineering...

Alyx closes their eyes, tries to remember Lisa's office...

ZURI

I mean... short of blowing a hole through the wall--

Alyx's eyes snap open!

ALYX

That's it!

Alyx takes off down the hall toward the patient rooms.

A confused Zuri follows after them.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - NIGHT**

Tom's door lies on the floor.

Unlike the others, who used the emergency latch to open their door, Tom battered his down and tore it off it's hinges.

Alyx pulls up quick, scans the room and the damage.

They see nothing but pools of deep, inky darkness in this area.

Zuri slinks in behind Alyx.

ZURI

Did... Tom do that?

Alyx nods, holds a finger to their lips.

ZURI

(quieter)

We should just go!

Alyx shakes their head and cautiously creeps into Brody's room. Zuri's head is on a swivel as she keeps watch.

**INT. BRODY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx pulls the chair out of the way and slides under the desk. They find the gun, exit the room, and hold up their prize.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS**

Impossibly fast from the darkness, Tom charges Alyx.

He slams into them, and with inhuman strength, lifts them off their feet. Alyx flies across the room and into the wall.

Zuri spins to see the scuffle, realizes what's in Alyx's hand.

ZURI  
JUST SHOOT HIM!

Alyx, groggy, shakes their head, stuffs the gun in their waistband, and crawls back into Brody's room.

ALYX  
NO! I can't!

Tom turns to follow, a grin spreads across his deranged face.

A blur of red as something strikes the side of his head.

Zuri towers behind him, fire extinguisher in hand.

Tom turns and chuckles. He is not fazed despite taking a blow that would render anyone unconscious.

Zuri realizes the error of her ways. She backs away slowly, as she lowers the extinguisher.

ZURI  
Hey Tom... Can we talk this out?

He steps forward, his grin spreads into a toothy smile.

From Brody's room a basket flies out and hits Tom in the head. Tom ignores it.

Alyx throws the chair.

It hits him in the back, he pauses and then continues to stalk Zuri as she scrambles away.

A **GROWL** from the dark of the hallway as Zuri passes it.

She chances a glance, dives clear as Brody lunges toward her.

He misses her, slams square into Tom's chest.

Tom finally stops He shoves Brody back.

A savage **CRY** rings out. Lauren leaps over Brody, driving Tom to the ground with a crossbody, her full weight on his face.

Brody dashes back in and the melee becomes a rolling mass of clawing, biting, and kicking, headed straight for Brody's room.

Alyx, eyes wide in fear, makes for the door.

But they're too late, the pile pushes in. They're cut off.

**INT. BRODY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx jumps on the bed, tries to avoid the writhing scrum.

The three bang into the bed.

A random limb swings toward them and Alyx jumps over it.

They see their opportunity.

A desperate leap to the desk gives Alyx a clear path out.

They dive through the doorway and roll to their feet.

**INT. PATIENT ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS**

As Alyx gets their bearings, Zuri dashes over, slams the door shut, and collapses against it.

ZURI

They've still got an override.  
They'll just get right out.

ALYX

I got this.

Alyx pulls the revolver from their waistband, kneels, and puts the gun up to the badge reader.

They look away and squeeze their eyes shut.

Zuri clears out as Alyx jerks the trigger.

**BANG**

The plastic reader shatters.

A puff of sulfurous smoke wafts from the hole.

Alyx peers through it and into the room.

**POV**

The brawl has paused, each of the patients staring at the door.

**END POV**

Alyx pushes up, stashes the gun again, and backs away.

The three patients rush the door, slamming into it.

ZURI  
Did it work?

ALYX  
Guess we'll know soon enough?

A shared look, they realize it's time to be anywhere else.

They sprint off down the hallway to...

**INT. NURSE'S STATION - FOLLOWING**

Alyx and Zuri skid to a stop outside the IT closet doorway.

Alyx ducks inside.

**INT. IT CLOSET - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx digs through the pile of supplies and tools, finds a screwdriver and a pair of wire cutters.

**INT. NURSES STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx comes back out.

ALYX  
Let's get our asses out of here.

Zuri nods and the two take off down the...

**INT. DIRECTOR'S HALLWAY - FOLLOWING**

The two pull up as they reach the door.

Alyx hands the pliers and the gun to an uncomfortable Zuri.

Alyx repeatedly stabs the screwdriver into the wall next to the palm reader and retinal scanner and chips away until they have enough room to get the tool in behind the scanners.

A **SCREECH** of metal and a **POP** of plastic.

The scanners fall limp, hanging by their wires.  
Alyx swaps the screwdriver for Zuri's wire cutters.  
They clip the wires, the dangling devices **CLATTER** away.  
A faraway **CLANG** causes both of them to jump.  
Zuri drops the gun and then dives to retrieve it.

ALYX

Stay calm. We gotta move fast, but  
we can't fuck this up.

Zuri comes up with the gun and a nod.  
Alyx digs the flashlight out of a pocket and inspects the hole.

**POV**

The flashlight shines off the galvanized junction box of the touch panel.

Alyx repeatedly hits a circular cutout on the box with the wire cutters.

It bends away from them and then pops free into the box.

**END POV**

Alyx turns back to Zuri, trades the wire cutters for the gun.  
They fiddle with it, looking for, and finally finding, the way to open the cylinder of the revolver.  
They dump the empty shell and four remaining rounds into Zuri's hands, then stuff the gun back in their waistband.  
Alyx picks up a round and uses the wire cutters to help pull the bullet away from the shell.  
They reach back into the hole and dump the gun powder into the junction box.

As they reach for the next round...

ZURI

Do we need to use all four?

ALYX

I honestly have no idea.

ZURI

Maybe save one? Just in case?

Alyx nods and proceeds to empty two more shells into the box.

They load the last round back into the revolver and line up the cylinder so it'll be the next round.

Back in the waistband with the gun.

ALYX

You, uh, might want to stand back?

Zuri enthusiastically steps back.

Alyx uses the wire cutters to strip the plastic from the ends of two of the hanging wires.

They touch the wires together, getting the hoped for spark.

ALYX

Well here goes nothing...

They reach in with both hands, face turned away in a grimace.

**BOOM**

A not-as-small as they hoped for fireball.

**A SCREAM**

Alyx falls back, clutches their smoking hands to their chest.

ZURI

ALYX!

Zuri rushes to them, Alyx waves her off.

ALYX

No time. They know where we are  
now. Get the door.

Zuri peers into the smoking hole, sees the office through it.

**INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Zuri's arm shoots through the hole as she proceeds to smack blindly on the wall for the button.

Finally she hits pay dirt.

**CLACK**

The door releases and is immediately yanked open wide.

Zuri's arm retreats through the hole.

She and Alyx stumble in the office and pull the door shut.

ALYX  
It's there on her desk. See if  
there's any way to get out.

Zuri inspects the desk and sees the touch panel.

ZURI  
This thing?

Alyx nods. Zuri spins it to face her, taps it.

A beat as the screen stays black.

Then it lights up.

A mostly empty screen with a single text entry field: *Password*

ZURI  
We've got a problem.

ALYX  
Have you met Lisa?  
Look around for a post-it.

Alyx joins Zuri to search the desk.

They yank a drawer open and find a first aid kit and tuck it under an arm.

Next they scan across the bottom of her computer monitor where there is a row of pink post-its.

They're scrawled with dates, times, or out-of-context phrases.

No luck.

Frustrated they fling the monitor off the desk and flip the keyboard across toward Zuri

ALYX  
WHY CAN'T ONE FUCKING  
THING GO RIGHT?

ZURI  
You mean like this?

She's pointing at yet another pink post-it. This one on the bottom of the keyboard.

On it are a random string of characters and symbols.

Alyx gives a sigh of relief.

ALYX  
That's gotta be it. Punch it in.

Zuri taps away and hits enter.

#### ON THE TOUCH PANEL

A processing indicator turns lazily for what feels like an eternity.

Finally, the login screen is replaced with a thumbnail-based menu. We see:

- \* Cameras
- \* Doors
- \* Schedules
- \* Alarms
- \* Settings

Cameras and Doors are both greyed out.

#### BACK TO THE ROOM

ZURI  
Umm... Any ideas...

Alyx wraps their hands with gauze from the first aid kit and looks over her shoulder.

ALYX  
Of course... there's no power. See what's in settings.

Zuri taps.

A long, confusing list of options comes up.

She scrolls through them.

ALYX  
Stop! Right there! Try power routing.

#### ON THE TOUCH PANEL

Zuri taps the Power Routing option. We see:

System	Local Power	System Power
Cameras	X	
Doors	X	
Alarms	X	

ALYX (O.S.)  
 What happens if you switch the  
 doors to "System Power"?

Zuri taps the option. A warning message comes up:

*Depending on your configuration, this option may drastically  
 reduce the runtime of any battery backups. Do you wish to  
 change your routing option?*

**BACK TO THE ROOM**

Zuri's hesitates.

ZURI  
 What's that mean?

ALYX  
 I think it means we better be  
 ready to leave as soon as you  
 change it.

ZURI  
 Do we want to stay?

A beat. Zuri turns to look at a conflicted Alyx.

ZURI  
 You can't be serious.

ALYX  
 I mean... We've kept them safe  
 this long... and the medication  
 should wear off soon, right?

ZURI  
 You really think a company that  
 offered to pay off my gambling  
 debts gave us accurate drug info?

ALYX  
 But... they're in our care...

ZURI  
 And they ate Dennis. And Noah.  
 Do you want to be next?

Alyx bites their lip in thought.

ALYX  
 No... but we caused this, ya know?  
 Don't we have a duty to... I dunno  
 protect them from themselves?

Alyx still can't decide... so Zuri does.

ZURI  
Fuck it.

She punches the "Yes" button.

ZURI  
Now what?

Alyx doesn't respond.

The emergency lights noticeably dim.

ZURI  
ALYX! NOW WHAT?

ALYX  
Fuck. Fine. Back to the main menu.  
See if Doors are still greyed out.

#### **ON THE TOUCH PANEL**

She exits to the menu. Doors can now be selected.

ZURI (O.S.)  
It works. Now what?

ALYX  
Unlock all the doors before we  
lose power.

Zuri selects Doors.

Next we see a list of every door with a fancy new lock.

Her finger scrolls to the bottom where there is an entry labeled: All.

She punches the button marked Unlock.

The processing animation lethargically mocks them.

#### **BACK TO THE ROOM**

They stare at each other nervously as the animation turns.

Simultaneously:

- \* A loud **CLACK** as the door unlocks.
- \* The lights die.

Alyx and Zuri let out a collective sigh in the room which is now only lit by the touch panel.

Alyx digs the flashlight out again.

ALYX  
We better go. They've got to be  
close by now.

Zuri nods and the two make their way back to...

**INT. DIRECTOR'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

They are close. As in, all three are just a few feet outside the door, sniffing as they look for their prey.

Prey who were kind enough to step out right next to them.

ALYX  
Shit. Run for it?

Zuri's answer is a dash toward the biggest gap between them.

Lauren swipes at her but just lands an ineffectual slap.

Brody and Lauren turn to follow after Zuri, which gives Alyx the opening they needed.

Alyx sprints forward and shoves Lauren into Brody.

The two go down in a tangle of flailing arms and legs.

Tom laughs.

Younger legs and lungs mean Alyx quickly catches up to Zuri.

ALYX  
I know you didn't just leave me  
behind.

ZURI  
You said to run!

Tom gallops after them, fast as horse, he steadily closes the distance to his quarry as they reach...

**INT. NURSES STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx makes a slight detour to grab a rolling chair and spin it out into Tom's path.

He attempts to barrel through it, but his foot lands on one of the wheels, he slips and plows into the counter.

Alyx and Zuri make their turn down...

**INT. LOBBY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

They sprint for all their worth.

A recovered Tom unflaggingly pursues them.

Zuri sees the bloody mop handle, stoops to grab it, and chucks it spear-like at Tom.

He ignores it despite it burying point-first into his chest.

The two burst through the double doors into...

**INT. THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

They move to sprint across the lobby.

Zuri's first step into the room lands on Dennis' badge.

She slides sideways and careens into Alyx.

Alyx catches her deftly and sets her back on her feet, but it cost them fractions of a second.

It's enough for Tom to dive and snatch Zuri's foot.

She slams into the ground face-first.

Blood erupts from either side of her head.

Alyx skids to a stop and turns.

Tom still holds Zuri's foot as he rises and pulls her to him.

He twists her foot and she flops over with no resistance.

He kneels on her midsection and raises both fists high before he slams them into her chest.

He raises his hands again--

A chair hits him square in the chest, the metal legs crumple.

He snaps his head to look at his attacker.

Alyx doesn't hesitate to bash him again, this time in the face.

Tom shakes it off, rises, and **ROARS** in defiance as he pulls the mop handle from his shoulder and tosses it aside.

He rips the chair from Alyx, throws it across the lobby.

Alyx lunges away from him.

It's impossible for them to move fast enough.

Tom hammers at them with both fists and sends them careening toward the receptionist's window.

A **CRACK** as Alyx impacts the window.

They turn to face Tom.

He leers, grabs their face, pounds their head into the glass.

Again.

And again.

And again.

A **CRACK** of the reinforced glass with each impact, spiderwebs of cracks grow from their head.

Alyx struggles against Tom's grip.

His hands are like iron bands, the drug making him impossibly strong, and Alyx's struggle is fruitless.

Again against the glass. Blood explodes as Alyx's skull cracks.

Tears stream down their face as they continue to struggle.

Alyx closes their eyes, an audible sob wrenches from them as...

**BANG**

Tom slows.

Stops.

Releases Alyx.

And stumbles back. He looks down.

Blood spreads from the smoking bullet wound in his abdomen.

He drops to one knee.

Alyx drops the now useless gun with a loud **CLATTER**.

They bulldoze Tom, drive him to his back, and sprint to Zuri.

Zuri's nose is broken.

Several teeth are gone.

Her chest caved in.

But she draws a ragged breath.

ZURI  
You... came back?

ALYX

Yeah. You're the asshole. Not me.

Tom stirs.

ALYX

Shit. This'll hurt. A lot. But  
it's better than being eaten...

Alyx moves to Zuri's shoulders, drags her toward the exit.

Across the room from them, Brody and Lauren prowl in.

Torn between Alyx and Zuri and the weakened Tom, they pause.

Alyx's eyes light up. They dig in a pocket.

ALYX

HAVE A FRUIT SNACK YOU FUCKS!

Alyx pulls the snacks out of their pocket and tosses them smack  
at Tom's chest before they continue to drag Zuri to the door.

Brody and Lauren make their decision.

They lunge at Tom as he pushes to his knees.

They drive him back to the floor and **HOWL** in delight.

Alyx smashes the crash bar and fumbles Zuri out into the pre-  
dawn darkness.

**EXT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY - NIGHT**

Everything is soaking wet, but thankfully the rain has stopped.

Alyx pulls Zuri clear of the door and sets her down gingerly.

They scan the entry area and spy a bench.

Straining, grunting, slipping, they drag the bench to the  
doors, angle it under the pull handles to wedge the door shut.

Back to Zuri, they kneel by her.

She slips in and out of consciousness.

ALYX

I'm going for help. I need you to  
stay alive until they get here.

A weak nod. Alyx knows they can't expect much more.

They take a shaky breath before they sprint down the...

**EXT. ROAD TO FACILITY - CONTINUOUS**

Giant, silent, windowless warehouses on either side.

Not a soul in sight.

Alyx stumbles.

Catches themselves.

Rushes on.

They reach the...

**EXT. MAIN ROAD - CONTINUOUS**

...and scan the crossing road for traffic.

Just cresting the hill back towards town, a pair of headlights.

They dart toward them and wave their hands over their head.

The car's horn **BLARES** out as it swerves around them and speeds on.

Alyx **SCREAMS** in frustration.

They turn, barely in time to dodge the semi truck coming from the other direction.

The **SCREECH** of tires and the **PSSSHHHHTT** of air brakes fill the early morning silence.

Alyx picks themselves up and bolts for the cab.

ALYX  
OH THANK GOD! WE NEED HELP!

The truck's door opens and an older, stout TRUCK DRIVER (60s, F) hops down from the cab, phone in hand.

TRUCK DRIVER  
Are you alright--

Alyx snatches the phone from her hand and makes a call.

The truck driver opens their mouth to protest but notices all the blood and reconsiders.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Nine-one-one, what's your  
emergency?

ALYX

We need EMS and police. There's been a medical emergency. Multiple dead.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)

Slow down ma'am. I'm gonna need some details...

As the conversation continues, the truck driver ushers Alyx to the cab of their truck.

FADE TO:

**EXT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY - DAWN**

Alyx, on the ground, Zuri's head cradled in their lap.

The two, covered in blood, eyes unfocused, sit in a mental fog.

Flashing red lights splash over them.

Alyx comes to and sees an ambulance and two police cars as they pull around the semi truck parked just outside the lot.

The **SIRENS** break through the daze just before they cut out.

The sound is replaced with something softer.

**WEEPING**

**INT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY - SAME**

The drug has worn off.

Lauren sits with her knees pulled tight to her chest and rocks herself. She reaches to twirl hair that is no longer there.

Tom holds what's left of his shirt in his gunshot gut.

Brody looms by the doors back in, staring into the darkness.

Each face contorted by guilt and uncontrollable sobs over memories that will never be far from their thoughts.

Lights flicker and come back on.

**BEGIN MONTAGE**

**IT CLOSET**

**BEEPS** and flashing lights as the servers kick in and power on.

**LOBBY HALLWAY**

The badge reader light comes on, shining green.

**DIRECTOR'S HALLWAY**

Loose wires touching, raining sparks onto destroyed scanners.

**NURSES STATION**

Lights on a a phone run through a start-up sequence and go out except one marked *MESSAGES* which continues to blink.

**BREAK ROOM**

The overturned fridge, door ajar, shines a weak white light on a pile of forgotten food and condiments.

PRE-LAP: A phone **RINGS**

**END MONTAGE****EXT. SLEEP STUDY FACILITY - CONTINUOUS**

Alyx gently juggles Zuri to retrieve their ringing phone.

**ON THE PHONE**

Lisa calls.

**BACK TO SCENE**

Alyx answers, holds the phone to their ear without a word.

LISA (O.S.)  
 Sorry I missed a call. My date  
 went great! How'd the shadowing  
 go? Ready to fill Dennis' shoes?

Alyx squirms uncomfortably and digs in a back pocket.  
 They stare at the Wine Passport and hitch back a sob.

LISA (O.S.)  
 Hello? You there?

Alyx clears their throat, spits a bloody wad of phlegm.

ALYX  
 I'm gonna take a few days off.

The phone drops, tears finally flow.  
 An EMT kneels next to them and police rush into the building.

FADE TO BLACK.