

Fluids - Episode 1

By

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INT. UNKNOWN BEDROOM

Rolling hillsides, city streets, time elapsing as day turns to night and clouds traverse the sky.

A woman begins to unbutton her shirt, we only see her from the lips down. Water boils and a kettle whistles. She undoes the strap on her bra. Quick flashes of flies eating a rotting cattle carcass and a hand preparing a needle filled with liquid.

Cuts back to the woman as a hand pushes her backwards onto a bed. Someone is receiving lashes in a torture chamber, people starving in third world countries. A man is now on top of the woman. They're both naked, he has his face buried in the pillow next to her face as they have sex. We can't see either of their faces as hers is covered by her long curly cherry coloured hair.

She clutches the bedsheets as he bangs her head against the headboard. He's rough with her but she seems to be enjoying it. Every moan they make is emphasized.

ZINNIA

I want us to create something together!

We see the needle from before being injected into flesh by a gloved hand.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

Something wonderful that's you and me!

We see a fetus inside a womb.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

Proof of our love! Proof that this isn't wrong!

The woman is holding something wrapped in cloth up in her hands as bright light surrounds it.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

Proof that life, that humanity is worth fighting for!

We see the woman digging her nails into the man's back out of ecstasy, leaving marks.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

One big middle finger to everyone that slighted us!

(CONTINUED)

There's fluids all over the bed, it's not tender or romantic, it's rough, animal sex. Sound of a baby crying.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

Our legacy to the world!

A baby being held up triumphantly by the woman.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

Aurai... Our child...

The man goes for one last thrust when it suddenly cuts to an alarm clock ringing.

INT. AURAI'S BEDROOM

AURAI, 14, is lying in bed. She had cherry coloured hair. Her room is small, dingy and wooden. There is a small window. It's barely daylight outside. She's woken by her alarm, which shows 6.30am. Aurai jumps to a start, shutting off the alarm and leaping out of bed. Quick shots of overalls being dressed. She rushes downstairs.

INT. SMALL KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM

Aurai rushes into the room and stops upon seeing her grandfather EOGHAN, 65, sitting at the wooden table eating breakfast while reading a newspaper. He's wearing clothes which cover both his arms. He doesn't turn to look at Aurai as she enters.

EOGHAN

You don't have to keep getting up
at the crack of dawn anymore.

AURAI

I know. I just like to.

Aurai pulls up a chair at the other end of the table. The scrapping of the legs on the floor is loud and ear-piercing. As she sits, a shot of the wide table symbolizes the distance between the two of them as Eoghan continues to read and sip his soup. Aurai notices several pamphlets on the table in front of her, all of them advertising a boarding school called 'Chrysalis'.

Aurai shoots a cold look at Eoghan's back before pulling the pamphlets over to her. Eoghan notices as she uses them as a mat for her bowl, and she begins to pour herself some cereal. As Aurai eats she takes the remote and turns on the small TV at the front of the table.

(CONTINUED)

The TV shows an interview with JULIUS AUSTIN, 41, handsome, short-blond hair, talking in a laboratory. Aurai looks excited while he's on screen.

JULIUS

In the last year, this research program has made tremendous strides towards finding a cure. Our understanding of the disease is better now than ever, and confirmed outbreaks are at an all time low across Labarum.

INTERVIEWER

But what can the public do to protect themselves? What preventative measures should they take?

Eoghan glances up from the newspaper. Aurai is still staring at Julius. She's engrossed in the interview.

JULIUS

Regular checkups. And I don't just mean once a month. Every week. And be alert for the signs. Inflamed itchy skin, black splotches, boils, hair loss. If you notice any of these symptoms, whether with yourself or someone else, report it to your local Medical Lab immediately. Even the smallest-

The TV turns off. Aurai looks over to see Eoghan placing down the remote.

AURAI

I was watching that.

Eoghan puts down the newspaper and turns to face her. He looks serious.

EOGHAN

We have things to talk about.

Aurai gets up and turns towards the stairs.

AURAI

I'm going back to bed.

EOGHAN

Aurai!

Aurai stops in her tracks and begrudgingly retakes her seat. Eoghan pulls the pamphlet out from under her bowl and taps his finger on the picture of the school.

EOGHAN (CONT.)

The entrance exam is next week.
There's still time.

Aurai awkwardly looks away, avoiding eye contact.

EOGHAN (CONT.)

I'm not asking anymore, Aurai. I'm
telling you. I even bought a
uniform for you to wear.

AURAI

Bu... But I-

Eoghan raises his voice slightly.

EOGHAN

Stop back-talking and do as you're
told. This is for your own good.

AURAI

(under her breath)

If you really cared then you
wouldn't have brought us here.

EOGHAN

Something to say, Aurai?

Aurai does not reply.

EOGHAN (CONT.)

You're going. End of discussion.
Start packing.

Eoghan takes her bowl over to the sink. Aurai looks to be on the verge of tears. She slowly gets up and heads back upstairs. Eoghan looks exasperated.

INT. AURAI'S BEDROOM

Aurai crashes onto her bed, upset. She pulls out a box of old photos from underneath, they're off a farm. She takes out a DVD and puts it inside an old DVD player.

The video starts playing. It's of a woman, Zinnia, who resembles Aurai, only older, sitting in an armchair talking to the camera. She looks warm, and is smiling. Aurai appears comforted.

(CONTINUED)

ZINNIA

My darling Aurai. Now I know why you're playing this video. Your grandfather's being difficult again, isn't he?

Aurai looks upset.

ZINNIA

Now there are a number of ways to get around him when he's acting stubborn. Just remember grapes are his favourite food. He's very easy to manipulate if you just dangle a bunch in front of his face.

INT. SMALL BATHROOM

The room is dark and grimy. An old bulb flickers over Eoghan's head as he stands before the mirror and sink. Eoghan is washing his arm in the sink. They're both covered in black splotches and boils. The sound of Zinnia's voice on the video continues to play over the scene.

ZINNIA (V.O.)

But know that whatever his reasons are, your grandfather has your best interests at heart.

Eoghan scrubs his arms with a sponge and soap under boiling water until they're red and bloody. The soap bubbles turn red.

ZINNIA (V.O.)

He might be a little too overprotective at times, but never forget that no matter what happens, he loves you very much. And he'll always be there to protect you.

Eoghan becomes frustrated as blood runs down the side of the sink. He slams his forehead against the mirror in a fit of rage, smashing the glass.

INT. JULIUS'S LABORATORY

Julius has just finishing giving his televised interview. The camera crew is packing up their equipment. Julius looks tired as he sits back and cracks his neck. MADISON, 39, walks up behind him and places a bottle of cold water on his forehead. He looks up to see her standing over him with a smile. She's wearing a lab coat and glasses.

(CONTINUED)

MADISON
How do you feel?

JULIUS
Stressed out.

Madison gives Julius the water bottle and he drinks it. She sits on the edge of his chair.

MADISON
Well, I thought you were great.

Julius and Madison stare into each others eyes. There's a high amount of sexual tension as they both try to restrain their arousal. Several stagehands glance over with judgmental looks as Madison runs her hand through Julius's hair. Madison brings her hand out of his hair to look at a diamond ring on her fourth finger.

MADISON (CONT.)
And thanks again for this.

JULIUS
Well I'm glad you like it.

MADISON
(sighs)
I just feel so discontent that we'll never be able to consummate our marriage.

JULIUS
Never say never. Besides, just being with you is enough for me. I only wish we'd made more progress.

MADISON
"Tremendous strides". That's what you said. That's what we've made.

JULIUS
It's not enough though. New cases keep cropping up. People are still being sent to Juvenal on a daily basis. Sometimes I feel like we're not making any difference at all.

Madison clasps her hands against Julius's face.

MADISON
We'll get there. I have faith in you, my love.

Madison leans in to kiss Julius, he appears tempted for a brief second, but then turns his head to one side, rebuffing her. Madison leans back.

MADISON (CONT.)

I'm sorry. I...

JULIUS

It's alright. Anyway, I need to get to a meeting with Worcester.

Madison gets off Julius's chair and he stands up. He starts to put on a jacket.

MADISON

Worcester?

JULIUS

I know. I know. But it sounds important. I'll see you later.

MADISON

Okay. I've got some more research to do anyway.

Madison kisses Julius on the cheek and begins to walk away.

MADISON

I'm close to a breakthrough. I can feel it.

Julius forces a weak smile before leaving.

EXT. ROOFTOP TERRACE

Shots of terrace streets in Demitto. There is a small rooftop surrounded by buildings, chimneys and silos. On it are small rows of make-shift gardens. There are clouds passing overhead. Aurai is kneeling down next to one of them cultivating a variety of crops. The window to her bedroom is behind her. She sighs and takes a break as a chicken, SNOWDROP, walks past her. Aurai picks her up.

AURAI

Snowdrop, do you think my grandfather still loves me?

Snowdrop only clucks and stares at Aurai.

AURAI (CONT.)

He's been like this for over a week now. What do you think I've done wrong?

(CONTINUED)

Inside Aurai's room, Eoghan calls from the other side of the door.

EOGHAN
Aurai? I'm coming in.

Eoghan lets himself in but finds it empty and the window open. The video of Zinnia is still playing.

ZINNIA
I remember this one time, this was just after I met your father.

Eoghan stops, and stares at the TV.

ZINNIA (CONT.)
Naturally, your grandfather didn't approve. But that wasn't going to stop us. See, there are times when you have to go with your heart, even if it might make someone upset, even hate your guts for a time. But they'll come around eventually, if they truly love you.

Eoghan pauses the video and stares at Zinnia's face. Eventually he climbs out the window. He finds Aurai holding Snowdrop. She doesn't notice him.

EOGHAN
Aurai!

Aurai is startled and Snowdrop flies out her arms. She turns around to find Eoghan standing behind her looking annoyed, casting a shadow over her.

AURAI
Grandfather...

EOGHAN
What is all this? Why are you wasting your time up here with this nonsense?

Eoghan pulls up several crops.

AURAI
Stop! Don't do that!

Aurai tries to intervene but Eoghan pushes her back.

EOGHAN

I thought I told you to stop living in the past. This is our home now.

AURAI

It's not that easy for me! I miss my morning routine! I miss taking the pigs to market and... sheering the sheep... Normal stuff.

EOGHAN

I've had enough of your attitude. I am your grandfather and you will show me respect. I've booked you a ticket on the megabus for tomorrow morning. It will take you to Chrysalis.

AURAI

But-

A neighbor, middle-aged male, on the terrace the next roof over overhears them arguing and begins spying on them.

EOGHAN

Don't answer back! This is for your own good! You need to grow up and do as you're-

Eoghan stops upon noticing that Aurai has tears in her eyes.

EOGHAN (CONT.)

Come on. Don't be a baby.

AURAI

Why do you want me to go to that school so badly? You just want to get rid of me, don't you?

Aurai sniffs and wipes away some tears. Eoghan sighs and kneels down in front of her.

EOGHAN

That's not what why I'm doing this. I'm thinking about what's best for you. This school will help you adjust to life here, and prepare you for the future.

AURAI

Do you hate me now?

(CONTINUED)

EOGHAN

Why would you ask that?

AURAI

Because... I'm the reason we had to leave. That's what the guy who came to the farm said. I thought that's why you wanted me gone.

EOGHAN

I don't want any of this. Aurai, I'm not getting any younger. There might come a day when... I'm not here to look after you.

Aurai lowers her head and looks at the floor.

EOGHAN (CONT.)

I know I can be distant, but you mean the world to me. You do know that, don't you?

Aurai is crying. She gets up and runs to Eoghan.

AURAI

Grandfa-

Aurai goes to hug Eoghan but he stops her embrace and holds her back at arm's length before turning his head to look away from her. Aurai looks shocked and hurt. Eoghan lowers his arms without looking at her. Aurai takes a step back, almost in tears. Eoghan does nothing to placate her.

Aurai runs back into her bedroom leaving Eoghan on the terrace. He stares at the crops for several seconds as they blow gently in the wind. He rolls back his sleeves to tend to his arms, not realizing the neighbour is still watching.

INT. HIGH-RISE CAFE ON THE HIGH STREET

Julius is sitting at a small table on a roof-balcony overlooking the high street. He looks impatient as WORCESTER, 65, wearing an army general uniform, walks over and joins him, he has a coffee.

JULIUS

Why are we meeting here again?

WORCESTER

Because it's secluded, hidden, and there's no chance of us being overheard.

(CONTINUED)

JULIUS

I'm guessing you haven't brought me here for a friendly gossip then?

WORCESTER

I'll cut straight to the chase, Julius. The higher ups in the New Parliament have asked me to speak with you on their behalf.

JULIUS

(sighs)

I can hazard a guess as to what this is in regards to.

WORCESTER

You're the nation-wide face of P4 prevention. Their poster boy for finding a cure. But your current... err, how shall I say, liaison with your lab partner is raising a few eyebrows in the ineptocracy.

Julius is observing the flowers around the railings.

JULIUS

Can't say I'm surprised. I suspected animosity would've bloomed by now.

WORCESTER

Well I'll be honest, I can appreciate their concern. It doesn't create a good image when the New Parliament are trying to push the message that celibacy is the best way to stop the spread.

JULIUS

Madison and I aren't doing anything untoward. Our relationship is purely emotional.

WORCESTER

The truth is irrelevant. It's what the public perceives that matters.

Shots of the busy high street below.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

Even since we were forced to reveal that a strain of P-4 managed to follow us, there's been unrest in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WORCESTER (CONT.) (cont'd)
the communities. It's up to us to
maintain a semblance of order.

JULIUS
No one is more dedicated to
fighting P-4 than I am.

WORCESTER
Not from where I'm standing.
Anyway, now that my proposal's
finally been accepted, P-4 will
soon be a thing of the past.

JULIUS
What proposal?

Worcester's PCD (Personal Communication Device) starts
ringing. He brings it out, a small mobile phone-like gadget.
He puts his finger up to silence Julius while he answers it.

WORCESTER
Yes? ... I'll be right there.

Worcester closes his PCD and stands up.

WORCESTER
Sorry to cut this short, but I have
to go. One of my boys just tipped
me off about a suspected infection
downtown.

JULIUS
I'm coming with you.

Julius starts to put his coat on. Worcester looks perplexed.

WORCESTER
Why?

JULIUS
Because I've heard rumours about
how you operate. I want to see it
for myself. Not a problem, is it?

WORCESTER
Please yourself.

They leave the balcony together.

EXT. MARKET STREET

Aurai is walking through the market street, she looks depressed. There are signs around which say 'NO KISSING' and graffiti on the alleyway walls which say 'THE SKY IS A LIE'. She notices a stall to her left selling a selection of various sweets. One basket is filled with tiny chocolate balls called 'Dunder Salts'.

Aurai stares at the basket fondly. They trigger a memory. A shot of the Dunder Salts slowly transitions into a shot of Dunder Salts ten years ago. Aurai is riding on Eoghan's shoulders, 4 years old. They're at a farmer's market. Aurai is reaching out to a stall selling the exact same chocolate balls.

YOUNG AURAI

I want those ones, grandfather!

Cuts back to the present. Aurai has bought a bag of Dunder Salts at the stall. The market trader, TOM, male, 34, friendly, is handing her the bag.

TOM

That'll be 5 chimes.

Aurai hands him some money and takes her sweets.

TOM (CONT.)

I have to say, those don't get bought often.

AURAI

They remind me of home.

Tom looks around at the city.

TOM

Doesn't it all?

Aurai turns around and walks through the busy market, coming across another stall surrounded by a large crowd. There is a limousine nearby. Curious, she approaches. In the middle of the crowd is a smartly dressed boy, RASPUTIN, 14, with black hair. He has a bodyguard wearing a suit and sunglasses next to him. The stall is selling antiques, and Rasputin is observing a revolver.

RASPUTIN

Is this a genuine 1851 colt navy revolver? How much are you offering for it? I don't care what it costs.

(CONTINUED)

Aurai tries to get a clear view of Rasputin through the crowd. She suddenly hears shouting coming from behind her and turns around to see Tom the market trader surrounded by armed soldiers, all of them wearing protective suits.

TOM

Stop! I-I've done nothing wrong!

A car pulls up nearby and Worcester and Julius get out, walk over and join them.

JULIUS

Seems like an excessive amount of manpower.

Worcester ignores him and addresses one of his men.

WORCESTER

Is this the one?

SOLDIER

Yes sir. Tom Kenyon. 34.

TOM

What do you people want with me?

WORCESTER

Tom Kenyon, we have reason to believe you may have contracted the P-4 virus. We'd like to take you in for testing.

TOM

What?! I don't have P4! Get away from me!

Tom tries to run away but the soldiers grab him by his arms and violently shove him to the ground, slamming his face into the dirt.

SOLDIER

Stop trying to resist!

TOM

Please!

JULIUS

Is that really necessary?

WORCESTER

Absolutely.

Aurai runs over, horrified for and apathetic towards Tom.

AURAI

W-Why are you doing that?

Julius looks taken back upon looking down at Aurai. His eyes widen. Shot of Aurai reflected in Julius's pupil. Aurai looks up and notices Julius. We see a quick flash of the interview he gave earlier on Aurai's TV as she recognizes him. She then quickly looks away in shock, blushing.

WORCESTER

Stay back, kid. This is dangerous.

Worcester turns to look at her and notices the bag of chocolate she's carrying.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

Say, did you buy that from this gentleman's stall?

AURAI

Uhm... Yeah...

Worcester looks Aurai's body up and down, staring intently at her. He turns to his men.

WORCESTER

Take her.

Worcester's men approach Aurai and grab her arms.

AURAI

Wait! What?! Ah!

Aurai drops the dunder salts and they roll out across the ground.

WORCESTER

It's possible this girl's contracted the P-4 virus. Let's bring her in.

Aurai looks terrified. Julius steps forward.

JULIUS

Worcester, this is ludicrous. That's not how P-4 is spread. You're perpetuating a harmful myth.

WORCESTER

Don't tell me how to do my job. Men!

(CONTINUED)

Worcester's men begin taking Aurai away, but Julius walks over and puts his hand on her shoulder while addressing Worcester.

JULIUS

Dozens of people will have bought from that stall this morning. Are you going to arrest them all?

Worcester goes up to Julius and gets in his face.

WORCESTER

This is my jurisdiction, and what I say goes.

JULIUS

I thought you were concern about our public image.

Julius glances to behind Worcester, who looks around and realizes a crowd have gathered and are all watching. He gives Julius a dirty look and reluctantly backs down, gesturing to his men to release Aurai. Aurai looks up to Julius, relieved, as the men step away.

While they're distracted, Tom suddenly elbows the soldier on top of him in the face and makes a break for it, hysterical and panic-stricken. Worcester reacts quickly, pulling out his stun gun and shooting Tom in the back as he tries to run away, electrocuting and subduing him. Aurai looks horrified as Worcester's men drag Lyle up off the ground and forcibly take him away. She takes a few steps backwards before turning around and fleeing through the market.

AURAI

(thinking)

Grandfather! Grandfather!

EXT. OUTSIDE AURAI'S FLAT

Aurai arrives home to find her flat surrounded by men wearing protective suits. She runs over to see them escorting Eoghan out of the flat and towards the back of a big white van. His arms are now exposed and Aurai sees the black splotches. She immediately runs to him.

AURAI

Grandfather!

Eoghan looks horrified as he sees her. Her path is blocked by the men in protective suits.

(CONTINUED)

AURAI (CONT.)

What's happening?! Where are they taking you?!

MAN

(to Eoghan)

Do you know this child?

Eoghan looks away from Aurai.

EOGHAN

... No. Never seen her before.

The men continue to take Eoghan away. Aurai watches before pushing past the men and running to Eoghan, grabbing his arm. Eoghan tries to pull away from her.

AURAI

Grandfather! Don't go! Don't let them take you! Grandfather!

EOGHAN

(talking over Aurai)

Idiot! Get off me!

The men in white forcible separate them and restrain Aurai. One of them injects a syringe in her neck and everything goes dark.

INT. JULIUS'S LABORATORY

Julius and Worcester are arguing with each other.

WORCESTER

How dare you undermine me like that in front of my regiment.

JULIUS

I admit I may have overstepped the line, but I can't approve of your message. People are already fearful enough of P-4, but not because of the death sentence it carries, but because of your regiment's notoriously heavy-handed treatment of them.

WORCESTER

Why don't you just stick to the science, and leave cleaning up the streets to me?

Madison enters and joins them.

(CONTINUED)

WORCESTER (CONT.)

Besides, you're hardly in a position to lecture given your current illicit relationship.

MADISON

Excuse me?

One of Julius's assistants enters holding a folder.

ASSISTANT

Sir, we've just brought in two more cases of P-4.

JULIUS

Two more?

Julius takes the folder and opens it. He looks surprised.

INT. CLINIC

Aurai is slowly waking up on the bed inside a pristine white clinic. There is no one else in the room except for Julius sitting on the end of her bed wearing a protective suit. Aurai is disorientated.

AURAI

Where am I...?

JULIUS

You're in a medical clinic.

AURAI

Why?

JULIUS

It's just routine. We're waiting for your results. So your name's Aurai Willems? That's a Dutch surname, isn't it?

AURAI

Where's my grandfather?

JULIUS

He's already tested positive for P-4. They're taking him to Juvenal.

Aurai turns her head to one side. Her bottom lip is quivering and she looks as if she's about to cry.

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JULIUS (CONT.)

I'm sorry.

Julius gets up and leaves the room. Alone, a heartbroken Aurai weeps while clutching her bedsheets.

INT. JULIUS'S LABORATORY

Julius and Madison are sitting together looking through clipboards and statistics on computer screens. Worcester is standing in the background next to the door talking to several of his soldiers.

JULIUS

What are her chances?

MADISON

Not good. Due to the amount of time she's spent in close proximity with her grandfather, sharing a bathroom, the likelihood of her being infected is extremely high.

Julius rubs his eyes and adjusts his spectacles.

JULIUS

She's so young.

MADISON

P-4 doesn't care who it strikes next. It's ruthless.

Shows the screen in front of them. It's a map of the city.

JULIUS

And the effects it's had on Labarum have been devastating. I just wish there was more I could do. Over a year of trying to formulate a cure and I feel like I've made no progress at all.

Madison puts her hand on Julius's shoulder.

MADISON

You don't have to shoulder all of this. You've done more for the people of Labarum than anyone I know. I've been doing additional research, and I believe tracing the disease back to its origins should warrant some results.

(CONTINUED)

JULIUS

I doubt it. I think we should be investing more resources into developing resistant antibiotics.

A sheet of paper starts coming out of a nearby printer. Madison takes it and begins reading. Madison looks surprised.

JULIUS (CONT.)

What is it?

MADISON

It's that girl's test results.

JULIUS

And? How far has it spread?

MADISON

She's... completely in the clear.

Worcester overhears Madison from the other side of the room. Julius looks surprised.

JULIUS

What? Are you sure?

MADISON

The test found zero trace of P-4 in her bloodstream. How incredibly lucky. I thought that after living with her grandfather for so long she'd avoided contracting it. What star was she born under?

Julius looks intrigued. Worcester exits and heads down the hallway towards the clinic.

INT. CLINIC

Aurai is lying in the bed staring at the wall. Just outside the room in the hallway, Worcester is approaching the two soldiers standing guard outside. He nods familiarly at them and they walk away. He enters the room where Aurai is.

WORCESTER

Aurai Willems?

Aurai feebly turns her head to look at him.

(CONTINUED)

AURAI

Who are you?

WORCESTER

My name's Worcester Janvier, I'm a general in the army.

Worcester walks over and sits on the end of Aurai's bed.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

And I have good news. You don't have P-4. Your test results came back clear.

Aurai doesn't react. She merely stares at him whilst looking drained and groggy before turning to look back at the wall.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

You don't seem very relieved.

Worcester slowly slides himself up the bed towards Aurai. He places his hand on her forehead and gently moves Aurai's bangs out of her face with his finger.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

I'm sorry about your grandfather. Were you two close?

Aurai doesn't react to Worcester's advances as she's too depressed and in shock. A single tear rolls down the side of her face. Worcester runs his hand down her neck and onto her shoulder.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

You know I have a son around your age. I've been training him so he can one day join my regiment.

Aurai takes note of what he's doing as Worcester moves closer and begins to pull back her bedsheets.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

Have you ever considered a career in the armed forces?

AURAI

What are you...

WORCESTER

You're a very pretty girl, Aurai.

Aurai begins to get out of bed on the left side.

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AURAI

I have to-

Worcester grabs Aurai by her shoulder as she tries to escape and pushes her down against the bed before climbing on top of her.

AURAI (CONT.)

Ow! Stop it!

Worcester puts his hand over Aurai's mouth as she tries to scream. Worcester is becoming progressively more deranged.

WORCESTER

A man has needs! And since the celibacy laws came into effect this is the only way I can satisfy them! So just be a good girl for me.

Worcester attempts to rip her shirt open, but Aurai grabs a lamp from her bedside table and smashes it over the back of Worcester's head, knocking him off the bed. Aurai jumps out of bed, runs out the room and down the hallway. Worcester gets up holding his head. He's enraged.

WORCESTER (CONT.)

Little bitch!

Worcester scrambles to his feet and tries to chase her, but upon getting to the hallway there is no sign of her. Julius and Madison come running down the hall after hearing the commotion.

JULIUS

What happened?!

MADISON

We heard a crash.

WORCESTER

(frantically)

I-I-I-I don't know! I told her she didn't have P-4 but she just freaked out and ran. Poor thing must be traumatized.

Worcester's soldiers hurry over and he turns to them. Julius turns to Madison.

JULIUS

We need to find her quickly. She may be in the clear, but she's in no fit state to be discharged.

EXT. CITY SLUMS

Aurai is running through the back-alley streets still wearing a medical gown. Her breathing is heavy. She reaches her flat, which is still sectioned off. She heads around the back and climbs up the fire escape to get onto the terrace. She runs past Snowdrop and into the flat. She runs around the entire flat, checking every room in search of Eoghan, before climbing back out onto the terrace only to find the same nosy neighbour looking over again.

AURAI

It was you, wasn't it?

Aurai scoops up a handful of mud from her garden and hurls it at him. He ducks. Aurai starts relentlessly throwing mud and crows at him while shouting hysterically.

AURAI (CONT.)

Don't you have anything better to do?! Get a life! Why couldn't you have left us alone?!

The nosy neighbour rushes back inside his house. Aurai climbs through the window into her bedroom. She changes her clothes and packs up several things, including the DVDs of her mother and her pet chicken Snowdrop.

INT. SMALL KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM

Aurai rushes down the stairs carrying several suitcases only to find Julius sitting at the kitchen table. She's caught off guard. There are two cups of tea prepared.

JULIUS

Aurai, isn't it? What's the suitcase for?

AURAI

I'm gonna go rescue my grandfather.

JULIUS

How? Do you plan on breaking into Juvenal all by yourself?

Aurai goes to leave but Julius kicks the chair on the other side of the table forward.

JULIUS

Sit down. And if you don't like what I have to say then I'll take you to Juvenal myself.

(CONTINUED)

Aurai puts her suitcases down and sits in the chair.

JULIUS (CONT.)

I would have thought a young lady such as yourself would be preparing for her second year at Chrysalis next week.

AURAI

I didn't go the first year.

JULIUS

Why not?

AURAI

Because I wish we'd never come to this place. I know we didn't have a choice, but I can't just paint on a smile and pretend that I'm happy, can I?

JULIUS

No one's saying you should. How did you come to be here? Your grandfather's either rich or brilliant. So which is it?

AURAI

Well, I came home one day to find my grandfather talking with a strange man...

The scene transitions into a flashback sequence.

INT. EOGHAN'S FARMHOUSE, KITCHEN - 2 YEARS AGO

Aurai comes in from the back of the house after a hard day's work to find Eoghan talking with a mysterious man, 39, in the living room. She sneaks over to the door and listens to their conversation without being noticed. The mysterious man is trying to give Eoghan two tickets.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Please Eoghan. These tickets are for Labarum. I implore you to take them. I understand that you don't want to leave, but think of Aurai. Think of her future.

EOGHAN

How dare you talk to me about Aurai. I've lived on this farm my

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EOGHAN (cont'd)
entire life. We're not going
anywhere. Now get off my land.

The mysterious man sighs and places the tickets down on the coffee table to their right.

MYSTERIOUS MAN
I pray you'll reconsider.

Aurai watches as the mysterious man turns and leaves.

INT. SMALL KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM

Aurai and Julius are sitting at the table opposite each other. Aurai has the cup of tea clasped between her hands.

AURAI
I admit, I think I've made life
difficult for my grandfather.
Maybe... this is my punishment for
not behaving.

JULIUS
P-4 doesn't work like that. I know
it seems like a malignant force,
but it's just a pathogen that jumps
from person to person. It doesn't
think for itself. It's natural for
humans to seek out answers and
logic, but sometimes bad things
just happen, and there is no reason
behind it.

Aurai looks at the ground and wipes away some tears.

JULIUS (CONT.)
Believe it or not, I understand
exactly how you're feeling.

Aurai looks up at him, slightly surprised.

JULIUS (CONT.)
I lost the most important person in
my life because of P-4. So I know
what you're going through.

Julius looks at the pamphlets for Chrysalis still spread out on the table.

(CONTINUED)

JULIUS

Are you interested in Chrysalis?

AURAI

My grandfather wanted me to go.

JULIUS

Smart man. You know, anyone has the power to change their situation. Chrysalis may be your solution.

AURAI

What do you mean?

Julius holds up one of the pamphlets.

JULIUS

This school will give you the skills and knowledge you need to survive in this world.

AURAI

My grandfather said something similar.

JULIUS

And he'd want you to be protected and safe, right? In fact, with your only legal guardian gone your only options are Chrysalis or the care system.

AURAI

Does... Chrysalis teach you about P-4?

JULIUS

Yes it does, it has a whole course dedicated to its history, pathology, treatments and prevention.

Aurai pauses and recalls what Eoghan said.

EOGHAN

"I'm thinking about what's best for you. This school will help you adjust to life here, and prepare you for the future."

Aurai stands up.

AURAI

Alright.

Julius looks ponderous.

AURAI (CONT.)

If you think it will help, then I'll go Chrysalis. I'll become a student.

JULIUS

It won't be easy. You'll have to pass an entrance exam. Have you prepared at all?

AURAI

No, but I'm done running.

Aurai looks slightly bashful.

AURAI (CONT.)

I hate to ask but... will you take me there tomorrow, if it's not too much trouble? I don't know how I'll get there otherwise.

Julius smiles.

JULIUS

No problem. You can stay at my place tonight and I'll drive you there in the morning.

AURAI

Also, can you do me one more favour?

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF AURAI'S FLAT

Julius leads Aurai out of her flat, which has already been surrounded by Worcester and his men. She cooperates, and they lead Aurai into the back of a van. Aurai and Worcester exchange looks before they part. Aurai's look is not of fear, but intimidation. It's clear that Worcester is unnerved, almost fearful of Aurai.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO JUVENAL

Eoghan and several other infected people, including Tom, are being corralled out of the back of a van by men in white suits and directed towards the entrance through chained fences. One of the men approaches Eoghan.

MAN

You, come with me.

Eoghan complies, the man takes him through a door into a completely white room with a single desk and chair in it. Eoghan takes a seat and the man places down a tablet in front of him. Eoghan looks confused as it starts playing and shows Aurai sitting in the back of Julius's van.

AURAI

Grandfather, can you see me?

Eoghan looks surprised. He leans closer to the tablet.

EOGHAN

Aurai?

AURAI

I don't have much time. I just wanted to let you know I'm safe. I don't have P-4.

Eoghan looks overcome by relief. He rests his elbow on the table and squeezes his eyes shut with his fingers, obscuring his brow.

AURAI (CONT.)

And... you don't have to worry about me, because I'm going to Chrysalis. I'm going there to find a cure.

Eoghan looks up at the screen, surprised.

AURAI (CONT.)

So just sit tight, Grandfather. I'll have you out of there in no time.

Eoghan stands up and his chair falls over.

EOGHAN

Aurai!

(CONTINUED)

MAN

She can't hear you. It's a one-way link.

AURAI

I guess this means we won't be seeing each other for a while. But I promise I'll take care of myself and work really hard. I love-

The line goes dead and the screen turns black. Eoghan stares at the device on the table for a few seconds.

INT. JULIUS'S FLAT, DUSK

Julius opens the door and lets him and Aurai inside. His flat is clean, modern and quite large. Aurai looks around in awe.

JULIUS

Make yourself at home.

Two men carry in Aurai's luggage behind Julius, including Snow in a cage. Aurai takes a seat on the red velvet sofa and feels the soft padding under her thighs.

JULIUS (CONT.)

My flatmate Madison should be working overnight. You can take her bed.

Julius walks over to Madison's room.

AURAI

Thank you.

Julius stops and looks back at Aurai. He smiles.

JULIUS

Think nothing of it.

INT. MADISON'S BEDROOM, NIGHT

Aurai is lying on her side in bed asleep holding her phone in her hand. It's playing a video of Zinnia. Aurai's cheeks and nose are tear stained, she's clearly been crying.

Julius sneaks in through the slightly open door. He's immediately alerted to the sound of Zinnia's voice on the phone. He approaches the bed and gently takes the phone out of Aurai's hand to look at the video.

(CONTINUED)

ZINNIA

There will come a time, when you're
around 12 or 13, if you're not
already, when you'll start to
notice boys, or girls.

Julius appears to be staring at Zinnia with surprise in his eyes.

ZINNIA (CONT.)

You mustn't try and fight these
feelings, Aurai. Especially if you
feel strongly about a certain
someone. Follow your heart. That's
my girl.

Julius presses a button on the screen causing a window to appear asking if he wants to delete the file. He presses 'YES'. He looks down at Aurai sleeping, sits down on the bed beside her and feels her cold, wet cheek. He slowly pulls out a syringe and injects it softly into her upper arm through a piece of tissue paper, withdrawing blood. Aurai writhes slightly in her sleep but doesn't wake up.

Julius stands up and begins to leave with Aurai's blood. His phone goes off. He looks at it to see that he has received a text from Madison saying 'WILL BE AT THE LAB OVERNIGHT. LOVE YOU. XXX.' Julius replies with 'LOVE YOU TOO. XXXXXX.'

EXT. CHRYSALIS MAIN GATES, NEXT DAY

Prospective students are arriving for the entrance exams. Aurai walks in wearing the uniform, holding a cage with Snowdrop in it under her arm, and with a look of steely determination. She takes a deep breath.

AURAI

This is it. My future.

Aurai takes a step forward. As she does the scene slowly pans out further and further until the entire town can be seen. It continues to pan out until the reveal that the entirety of their world is confined within a gigantic spaceship floating through endless outer space.