

THE APEX

Written by

ERICK C. FREITAS

ERICK C. FREITAS
667 MADISON AVE
2nd FLOOR
ELIZABETH, NJ 07201
ERICKCFREITAS@GMAIL.com
908 242 7480

"We measure things by what we are. To the maggots in the cheese, the cheese is the universe. To the worms in the corpse, the corpse is the cosmos."

- Theodore Gottlieb

INT. ANCA'S ROOM

Sexual moaning. (O.S.) All white walls and floors.

Fap-fap-fap-fap-fap. A crying WOMAN masturbates on a white foam bubble.

WOMAN

I'm so fucking bored. I'm so fucking bored.

ANCA (20s) is a bored-out-of-her-mind, masturbating woman.

ANCA

I'm so fucking bored...

Reveal: A WOMAN who looks exactly like Anca is having graphic sex with a BLOND WOMAN.

BLOND WOMAN

Oh, fuck me!

ANCA

Apex, add in Sally.

SALLY, (20s) a nude young brunette, appears beside the fornicators, mechanically waiting for her orders.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Apex, have Sally kiss me.

Sally goes in for a deep kiss on Anca. BROOKE (the blond woman) moves in on her as well. Anca leans her head back.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Apex, now have her eat--

A RED FLASHING LIGHT blares across the room.

The fornicators disappear in the blink of an eye, leaving only Anca, struggling to pull her pants back on.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

Rows of labeled glass containers filled with soil, spinach, mushrooms, onions, etc.

Each container has a LED light over a garden. A few work tables with tools that look both botanical and medical are organized against the wall.

The EIGHT CREW MEMBERS, wearing the same all-white outfits surround a woman we recognize already, SALLY.

Consoling her is another woman we recognize, BROOKE (the blond woman). This time though, they are real.

Sally is in her mother's arms.

SALLY
(shaken)
I was covered in them.

GUSTAVO (40s) a bespectacled mild-mannered, logical man.

GUSTAVO
We would have been notified
immediately us about any foreign
life-forms.

SALLY
Please, you have to believe me. They
were crawling on my skin. Watch the
replay, you'll see.

GUSTAVO
Apex, please play the footage from
Sector Two-Thirty-One, code name
"Sally's Room."

Multiple hologram screens appear with an image of Sally in Sector 231.

They see her lying in bed sleeping. Then, she fidgets her hand like she needs to scratch an itch.

An older man's glasses fall to the brim of his nose as he leans in. This is VIRGIL (50s), sporting a gray ponytail and arms covered in tattoos.

Next to him is JORDAN (30s), a total alpha female, ex-navy seal watching with keen eye of a hawk.

They watch as Sally throws the covers off herself, slapping at nothing.

Sally shrinks as she watches. Gustavo turns to her. He doesn't have to say anything.

SALLY
But I felt them. I really felt them.
I swear to you there were spiders.

Brooke runs her hand through her daughter's hair.

BROOKE
Baby, it might have been a bad
dream.

Upon hearing this, Sally storms out.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
She's just going through a lot.

CORRI, (20s) a female mechanic with a shaved head. Tattoos.
Biceps.

CORRI
We are all going through a lot, but
she needs to keep it together.

ASH (20s), Corri's partner and an all around female ass-
kicker with a Mowhawk.

ASH
I know that's right.

BROOKE
I'll try to talk to her.

ANCA
Maybe she's losing her mind?

BROOKE
Excuse me?

Anca spoke out of turn, but now she has to go with it.

ANCA
Don't act like I'm the only one who
is out-of-their-mind bored every day
here.

Gustavo shakes his head.

GUSTAVO
Must I remind you how much worse
this could all be if we weren't in
here? Please find solace in that.

Anca shrugs.

ANCA
How many days do we have left?

A hologram screen appears: "2,572 days until Earth can be
checked for habitability."

ANCA (CONT'D)

Two thousand, five hundred and
seventy-two days is a lot of solace.

The crew has effectively been punched in the stomach. Even
Gustavo's spirit is visibly broken.

We hear a cacophony of both female and male MOANS (O.S).

Fap-fap-fap--

INT. ANCA'S ROOM

Anca is masturbating again. Ash, Gustavo, Sally, Virgil, and
Jordan. An ORGY. Legs, breasts, butts, thighs.

Then Anca stops. Then orgy stops.

She stares at the "crew" for a beat. Stuck in their sexual
moans and desires. Their bodies, twisted within each other.

ANCA

Apex, have them kill each other.

And with that said, the "crew members" turn into savages and
rip each other apart.

Scratching. Clawing. Biting. Punching. Kicking. Ears being
ripped off of heads. People biting on necks and arms.

Anca loves this. She continues masturbating. She loves it so
much, that she doesn't sense a SPIDER working its way down on
a thread.

Anca cocks her head back.

The spider is inches from her face.

When she opens her eyes--

--ANCA SCREAMS.

FEW MINUTES LATER

Much like before, the entire crew is in Anca's room.

CORRI

Look who's losing their mind now.

ANCA

I'm telling you. There was a spider
right over my head.

GUSTAVO
Apex, please run variation replay of
Program Five-One-Five?

ANCA
What? No, don't do that--

Too late.

The murderous orgy manifests. Some turn away. Others can't. It is all there for them to see. For them to judge.

Anca's deepest darkest thoughts recesses of her mind. Brooke turns away. Sally doesn't. She is sort of into it.

CORRI
What. The. Fuck. Anca.

JORDAN
This is sick.

The crew looks at Anca for some type of explanation. Anca shamefully hangs her head.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Say something.

ANCA
...I'm bored.

Anca drops to her knees, crying.

ANCA (CONT'D)
...I've been so fucking bored.

Smack-smack-smack-smack-

INT. HALLWAY

The sound of DEEP BREATHS and feet SMACKING the ground fill the Apex hallways.

The hallways are smooth and white with no edges. The ground is soft, made with a white rubber foam resembling caulk.

Jogging through the hallway is Jordan. At first we only see the hallway from behind her. Pristine. White. Clean.

Then we see what is in front of her: A beautiful scenic park hologram that follows her as she runs.

Her jogging allows us to see the layout of the Apex.

The agriculture room works as the center of the Apex. All other rooms circle it, like how the planets orbit the sun.

Jordan jogs through the orbit, passing the other rooms as he does so. Anca's room, Virgil's room, athletics room, etc.

The faster she goes, the faster the hologram moves to keep up with her.

The door to Gustavo's room opens as she passed, allowing us a glimpse of Gustavo and Brooke fighting.

Was Gustavo just grabbing her arm?

Jordan pushes harder, trying to outrun the hologram. She darts past the rooms again.

Her face is beet red. Her breathing becomes more controlled as the effort becomes more taxing.

She passes Gustavo's room again. This time the door is closed. She sprints harder, faster. Then suddenly--

--BROOKE.

She almost crashes into her.

JORDAN

I'm sorry. I didn't see you.

Gustavo comes up from behind Jordan. He regains his composure and acknowledges Jordan, then turns his attention to Brooke.

GUSTAVO

Brooke, can we talk this over.

(beat)

In private?

BROOKE

(to Jordan)

I'm okay. Seriously. Nothing serious.

Gustavo places a hand on Jordan's shoulder.

GUSTAVO

Please, Jordan. I assure you this is just a quarrel between a married couple. I don't want you to get mixed up in private matters.

Ever the soldier, Jordan nods.

Gustavo walks Brooke back into their quarters.

Then the door shuts.

Jordan looks down at her feet where the hologram of the park meets the Apex's soft, white mattress floors.

The tips of her toes disappear into the hologram.

'70s ROCK MUSIC BLARES (O.S.)--

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

A big cloud of weed smoke fills the room as Virgil gets stoned and gently pokes the soil in the glass containers.

Then he scribbles in his MARBLE NOTEBOOK.

VIRGIL
Apex, moisturize the soil in
container 2-F.

Like clockwork, the glass container fills with condensation, he runs his fingers across an AVOCADO SEED inside.

The condensation surrounds the seed then it CRACKS open. This is all happening at a hyper speed.

Then a green stem pokes through the shell. Virgil smiles.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
My dear, has there ever been a
sweeter taste than that of
guacamole?

He scribbles in his notebook, but when he looks at the page, he notices something strange.

So strange that he doesn't notice Anca at the door.

ANCA
Am I any closer to tasting your
world-famous dip you keep telling me
about?

Virgil closes his book, forces a smile, then turns around. He gently places his hand on his breast pocket.

VIRGIL
I had a feeling you'd come around
after your little fiasco, so I
prepared properly.

He pulls a perfectly rolled joint from his pocket.

Virgil chokes as he finishes pulling from the joint while a frustrated Anca rubs her temple.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it too much. They will all come around.

ANCA

I don't know.

VIRGIL

I do know. It will just take time.

ANCA

I don't know. You didn't see their faces. The way they all looked at me.

With an understanding smile, Virgil hands Anca the joint.

VIRGIL

I have a little secret for you, my young Anca. You're not special. You just got caught. Every one of us has thought of something they aren't proud of. It is part of life. Everyone knows that. They know that. They'll get over it. Don't worry.

This makes Anca feel better.

ANCA

Maybe you are right. Jordan probably gets off to AR-15 sniper rifles and exploding babies.

They share a laugh. Virgil turns around and notices his avocado stem is now protruding from the dirt.

VIRGIL

We may be eating guacamole sooner than you think.

ANCA

Is it always so fast?

Virgil hides his concern.

VIRGIL

(under his breath)
...A little too fast.

ANCA

Then you've been doing your job well.

VIRGIL

If I died, the Apex would farm these plants better than I could. In fact, remember when our lettuce was bitter? I told you the Apex had some--no pun intended--bugs to work out? I lied. I miscalculated the soil moisture. We designed this thing better than we thought we could.

ANCA

I know.

(then)

It's starting to mess with me.

Virgil takes that in for a moment.

VIRGIL

Do you believe in God?

Virgil examines the stem carefully as he asks. A small pit has grown in its bud.

ANCA

Depends. What is your definition of belief?

Virgil cracks a smirk.

VIRGIL

I can't imagine enjoying a omnipresent position. It must be pretty mundane. Life. Death. Life. Death. Complaint. Complaint. Why not throw in a forest fire or two? Watch everyone burn.

ANCA

Or the mother of all solar flares.

VIRGIL

Exactly.

ANCA

So what's your point?

VIRGIL

Don't let yourself get apathetic toward the wonders of life--

Virgil turns around with a fully GROWN AVOCADO in his hands.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
--or you'll miss out on all the
guacamole life has to offer.

Anca can't believe her eyes. SMASH CUT ON HER ASTONISHMENT--

--POUNING CLUB MUSIC

INT. DANCE CLUB

--BOOM. BASE. BOOM. BASE. BOOM.

Teenage bodies on top of bodies. Gyrate hips. Sally in the center of it all. A HOT GIRL makes eye contact with her.

They get closer in their dance steps. It becomes more sexual.

When she places her hand on her cheek to kiss her, you can see her hand slightly disrupt the hologram.

Their lips "touch." The image distorts. She kisses nothing but she doesn't care.

The door SWINGS OPEN. The club hologram transforms to--

INT. SALLY'S ROOM

Brooke's at the door.

SALLY
Mom, are you serious?

Sally shoulders past her Mother on the way out.

INT. HALLWAY

Sally storms to the bathroom. Just as she is about to step inside, a very stoned Anca steps out.

ANCA
Oh. Hey, Sally.

Sally smells the marijuana and smiles.

SALLY
Hey, Anca.

In attempt to put a few feet between them, Anca nervously turns away, but Sally isn't going to let her.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I know you saw that spider.

Anca stops walking.

ANCA

You don't know that.

SALLY

Don't you think it's a little weird?
That two crew members both "saw
something" the same day?

ANCA

Maybe. I don't know. Could be
nothing. We've been locked up here
for a long time.

SALLY

You know, I always wondered: How
come we never talk?

ANCA

I don't think we have anything in
common.

SALLY

Everyone thinks we're crazy now. We
have that in common.

(then)

Or whatever.

Just like that, she disappears into the bathroom.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

It's lunchtime and Virgil has made his world-famous
guacamole. The crew dips of assorted vegetables into it.

GUSTAVO

Oh, Virgil, this is absolutely
wonderful.

VIRGIL

Thank you, Gustavo. I'm glad you
like it.

GUSTAVO

Maybe we can look forward to
progress on other fruits or
vegetables?

SALLY

I would love some apples.

CORRI

Or tomatoes.

BROOKE

What I would do for a banana.

Virgil looks over them like a proud father who just nailed Thanksgiving dinner, but he notices an empty seat.

Anca's seat.

VIRGIL

Has anyone seen Anca?

The question sucks the air out of the room.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

I see. I'll make her a plate.

Virgil turns to do so, but then the door opens. Anca enters the room without making any eye contact.

Jordan keeps her gazed locked on her.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

You can sit with me, Anca.

Virgil smiles and pats a nearby seat.

BROOKE

Come on, Sally. Let's go eat in our rooms.

SALLY

What? No, Mom. I'm a grown woman.
I'm perfectly fine eating here.

Brooke grabs her by the arm.

BROOKE

I'm serious, Sally. I don't want you
around--

She stops herself, but the damage is done. Anca turns away.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Just come with me.

Sally jabs a fork full of vegetables.

SALLY

No. I'm going to sit here and eat my
veggies like everyone else.

She takes a bite.

BROOKE

Sally, this is not the time to act
foolish. Now come with me.

Sally and Brooke have a stand-off.

JORDAN

Anca, maybe you should eat by
yourself instead of inconveniencing
the entire crew. I think that's the
right thing to do.

That broke the tension. Anca nods.

SALLY

I'll eat with you, Anca.

BROOKE

You will not.

ANCA

It's okay, guys. Seriously. I can go
in my room and eat. I don't want to
bother anyone.

Just as Anca is about to exit the door.

JORDAN

I also want daily metadata reports
on all your holograms.

Jordan CRUNCHES on a mouthful of carrot and guacamole. There
wasn't any venom behind Jordan's request. Just cold protocol.

GUSTAVO

That's going a little too far,
Jordan.

JORDAN

It's for the safety of all of us.
Shouldn't we track this type of
thing?

Jordan turns to Anca.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I know how to kill people.

This stuns the room. Then Jordan continues.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Wouldn't you want to know if I was losing my mind? You're the tech wiz who helped build this thing. You can do serious damage to our existence if you wanted to.

(then)

Maybe you need a break?

Brooke watches Jordan intently. Her strength. Her composure.

ANCA

No, it's fine. I don't mind. If it makes the rest of the crew comfortable. I'm okay with it.

GUSTAVO

I will not allow us to start spying on each other. Time being spent in the Apex is taxing enough. We don't need to breed paranoia.

BROOKE

Gustavo, what about Sally? You're okay with her being locked up with this pervert?

Gustavo scrambles to respond diplomatically.

GUSTAVO

We all have our issues. We shouldn't be so judgmental--

JORDAN

(calmly)

Do you want to kill me?

ANCA

What?! No!

Jordan's tone wasn't judging or aggressive. There's a coolness in it that comes from years of interrogation.

VIRGIL

Jordan.

JORDAN

I'm being serious. If Gustavo is comfortable with you being here, why not go for the real thing? Get it out of your system.

(MORE)

JORDAN (CONT'D)

We're all a little frustrated. You can grab that knife and rip into my throat--

VIRGIL

Jordan. That's enough.

JORDAN

(shrugs)

Or we could just wait till she loses her mind and axes us all at night.

ANCA

I'm not going to ax--

--A BLOODCURDLING SCREAM blares on the speakers. It is terrifying. The scream holds for a long awkward beat.

Long like a birthing cry.

Then it finally ends.

Everyone is frozen. Not sure what to do next. Waiting to see if it'll happen again.

ASH

What the fuck was that?

GUSTAVO

Apex, what was the source of that voice?

A screen with logistics appears. He scans through it. Gustavo looks up over his head at the ceiling.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

...Outside.

INT. HALLWAY

The entire crew marches towards the HATCH for the DECOMPRESSION ROOM.

This is the gap between apocalyptic Earth and the Apex.

Next to the room are 7 HIBERNATION PODS.

Anca checks the hatch. Looks through the glass.

Another blood curling SCREAM that holds for a very long time. This time Anca doesn't wait for it to end.

ANCA

One of our exterior microphones must be picking it up.

CORRI

We don't have any video outside, do we?

GUSTAVO

No, it was all damaged after the solar flares. We just have a few working microphones--

BOY (O.S.)

Help...

It's the voice of a scared little boy.

BOY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Please, help me, I'm scared.

Gustavo takes action, preparing to exit the Apex.

GUSTAVO

We need to go out there. Apex, prepare our suits right now.

Jordan steps directly in front of Gustavo.

JORDAN

I don't think that's the smartest decision.

GUSTAVO

I built the Apex to preserve the human race. Not to sit around and watch it die.

JORDAN

With all due respect, Gustavo, we already sat around and watched the human race die.

Gustavo squirms.

BROOKE

I agree with Jordan.

GUSTAVO

(Under his breath)
Of course you do.

BROOKE

Excuse me?

BOY (O.S.)
Please, oh god, please help me,
please... I'm so scared.

Gustavo listens to that voice intently.

Ash stands in front of the hatch, blocking it.

ASH
I'm not letting anyone open that
fucking hatch. I don't care who it
is. I survived too long in this shit
box to just throw it all away.

Corri follows. Then Jordan. Then Brooke.

It is a small mutiny.

Across from them is Gustavo, Anca, Virgil, and Sally, but
then Brooke pulls Sally to her side.

Five to three. Gustavo has been outvoted.

VIRGIL
I feel as if you're making a
terrible mistake--

--Another blood curling SCREAM cuts Virgil off.

INT. HALLWAY

Untouched. Clean. Perfect. The pristine white hallways of the
Apex set to the SCREAMS of a dying boy.

INT. CORRI & ASH'S ROOM

--SCREAMS.

Ash has wrapped the pillow around her head while Corri uses
her headphones.

INT. JORDAN'S ROOM

A military woman's room. Clean. Organized. Minimal. Jordan is
meditating to block out the SCREAMS.

INT. GUSTAVO & BROOKE'S ROOM

Brooke sleeps like a baby with her headphones on.

Gustavo, on the other hand, is pensive and awake. He pinches the bridge of his nose as the SCREAMS continues.

INT. VIRGIL'S ROOM

A bothered Virgil writes vigorously in his notebook while smoking a small roach.

For a moment, a beautiful fantastic moment--the screaming stops. Virgil soaks it in--

Then he hears the SCREAMS again.

VIRGIL
God help us.

INT. HALLWAY

A sliding door opens and Anca steps out, rubbing her eyes. She stumbles towards the bathroom.

The door slides open and she enters.

The screaming seems to have ceased for now, leaving the stillness of an empty hallway.

Then--

FLUSH.

Anca exits the bathroom. As she walks back to her room, she hears a calm voice, seemingly from nowhere.

BOY (O.S.)
Open the hatch.

This sends chills down Anca's spine. The voice doesn't seem scared anymore. This time it seems very demanding.

BOY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Open the hatch.

Hearing it again makes her shudder. Anca turns towards the hatch. The hatch stares back at her.

Slowly, she makes her way towards it.

From the angle she is coming from, she can see a SMALL FOOT pressed against the hatch, not moving.

Anca sees it. Then sprints to the hatch. She looks inside.

There is a BOY in some type of SPACE SUIT inside of it, but he isn't moving.

ANCA
Apex, open the hatch!

The hatch opens and an ALARM sounds. Red lights flash. Anca scoops up the Boy.

ANCA (CONT'D)
Apex, close the door.

Doors slam shut. The alarm turns off. Anca looks into the Boy's face. He can't be older than ten.

ANCA (CONT'D)
It's okay. Come here, little guy.
It's okay. You are going to be okay.

When Anca turns around, Gustavo and Jordan are approaching. They both see the Boy in Anca's arms.

JORDAN
You have to be kidding me.

Gustavo takes the Boy from Anca. Then looks the Boy in the face, examining it. Getting lost in it. Almost crying.

ANCA
Gustavo?

GUSTAVO
I can't believe it. I can't believe
it. I didn't think it could be
possible...

Virgil comes from behind.

VIRGIL
Quickly, we have to hurry.

Virgil and Gustavo go with the Boy. When Anca steps forward, Jordan cuts her off, bringing her face close to Anca's.

Jordan isn't her calm, cool, collected self anymore. Her eyes burn through Anca.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

Gustavo holds The Boy's hand with care as the crew members are in awe.

The Boy lies in his underwear on an operating table. Curly hair. Brown skin. He's breathing, but he's not moving.

His suit has been cut down the center and placed on another side table.

JORDAN

How did he survive?

ASH

What kind of suit is that?

BROOKE

Are there more survivors? Could there be? Gustavo?

Gustavo looks at Brooke, and feigns "I don't know". Virgil then turns to everyone.

VIRGIL

Please, I assure you, you will all have your time, but for me to even begin to answer your questions, I must work.

(then)

Alone.

They understand. They shuffle out of the room, but not before Gustavo turns to Virgil. Gustavo's not moving.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

Please, let me work. You'll be the first one I contact.

GUSTAVO

Do you believe in god, Virgil?

VIRGIL

You already know the answer to that.

GUSTAVO

No, I mean, now, do you?

Virgil doesn't say anything.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Take care of him, like he was your own child.

Virgil clocks this. Then he is left alone. He turns his head to a nearby hologram monitor and nods.

After a few moments of compiling notes. He writes something feverishly in his notebook.

Whatever it is, it seems to bother him greatly. He rubs his eyes to make sure whatever he is seeing is real.

Then something catches his eye. Beyond the Boy there seems to be a movement in the soil.

Gradually, a SPIDER climbs out of the soil. Then it disappears back into the dirt.

Virgil leaps toward it. He digs and digs but can't find it.

VIRGIL
Apex, did any other life-forms get
inside the Apex?

Lights flash on multiple computers. A quick scan takes place. He looks over the answer: No.

He examines the dirt under his fingernails. He turns back to the Boy. Still there. Still comatose.

There's something about this child, though.

IN A FLASH, Virgil feels a powerful tug on his fingernail. Like someone tied an invisible rope to it and pulled on it.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
Ah, bullocks.

His nail hangs on the end of his exposed finger. Blood drips. He holds onto his nail tightly, wondering.

BROOKE (O.S.)
Oh, you big Philanthropist
millionaire, why didn't you make a
bomb shelter big enough for the
whole world?

INT. GUSTAVO & BROOKE'S ROOM

Gustavo's quarters are absolutely fabulous. A holographic skyline of Paris. Expensive holographic furniture, etc.

BROOKE
You know why you didn't? Because all
you care about is being the smartest
guy in the room.

GUSTAVO
What should I do? Put Anca in jail?
Throw the boy back out?

BROOKE

We could all be infected with god knows what because of this boy. You are supposed to be the leader, and you let us all down.

GUSTAVO

Let us down? By my calculations, we have all lived an extra year longer than the rest of the human race. How long do you think Sally would have survived if it was just you and her out there by yourselves?

Gustavo tries to save himself, but it is too late. Brooke has stormed out of the room.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Brooke, please! Wait! I didn't meant it that way--

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Corri and Ash are working out. Cross-fit. Push-ups, pull-ups, dead lifts, etc. It is one hell of a workout.

CORRI

We're probably all dying right now and we don't even know it.

ASH

Can't believe he brought that boy inside.

CORRI

I would be mad if I wasn't so fucking sick of this place.

The athletics room door slides open. Jordan steps in.

ASH

What's up, Prefontaine?

JORDAN

Hey. Mind if I join in?

They shrug. Sure. Jordan jumps into the workout.

POST WORKOUT

The three last alphas on Earth wipe down their sweat with their towels. Jordan's body resembles a Greek god's.

ASH

Damn. Kind of turning me on.

Jordan smirks, returning to wiping down her legs.

JORDAN

I'm worried about that Boy. Maybe we should keep an eye on him. Just in case we need to make a move.

ASH

What do you mean?

Jordan shrugs her shoulders and tosses her towel into a bin.

JORDAN

You know.

Corri and Ash look at each other.

INT. SALLY'S ROOM

Sally sits with her legs crossed with holograms of three women in their early to mid-20s LENA, MICHELLE, and BEY.

Sally's own personal gang of hologram mean girls. They look like they're living in New York and loving life.

The life Sally wanted.

SALLY

So guys, I think I have a crush.

LENA

O-M-G. Who is it?

BEY

Is she cute?

SALLY

In a dorky way.

MICHELLE

Oh please, tell us everything. Your life is SO interesting.

For some reason, that sounded condescending. Even though it is obviously a hologram speaking.

SALLY

It's Anca, the weird engineer. She basically helped create this. She's so smart.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

I think Gustavo just slapped his name on it. I think it's a total Winklevoss-Zuckerberg situation.

LENA

So you want to kiss her all over?

SALLY

Lena!

MICHELLE

Even if Anca doesn't fall in love with you, it's just because she doesn't have any other choices.

This stings Sally even though this is a hologram. She has no idea where the venom is coming from.

SALLY

Excuse me?

MICHELLE

Your life must be SO interesting.

Sally cocks her head. This is uncomfortable. Their tone seems malicious, but they are still smiling at her.

SALLY

Uh, Apex, swipe holograms.

The holograms disappear. Sally pauses. Is she losing it or are the holograms giving her attitude?

SALLY (CONT'D)

Apex, replay the hologram.

Bey returns and smiles.

BEY

Your life is so interesting.

SALLY

No, the very last thing she said.

BEY

Your life is so interesting.

SALLY

No, that's not...

Sally stops talking. Staring deeply into Bey's eyes. A small green distortion ripples over Bey's cornea.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

We return to Virgil working on the Boy. A few glass containers once filled with dirt have been excavated.

VIRGIL
Apex, check the qDi levels.

He scribbles in his notebook. He moves with the fervor of a man possessed.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
Now scan for blood platelets.

Flashes of data appear and disappear from the monitors. He notices something in the levels again. He does a double take.

He has realized something horrible.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
My God. It can't be. No, no, no,
no...

He vigorously writes in his notebook like his life depends on it. Then he feels something staring at him.

He slowly turns around and sees it. The SPIDER.

This time it has placed itself on the edge of the glass encasement looking right at him. Mocking Virgil.

They stare each other down for a beat.

THEN HIS FINGERNAIL RIPS OFF AND FLIES ACROSS THE ROOM.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
Ah!

More fingernails pop off. *Pop. Pop. Pop. Pop.* Each shooting across the room.

Virgil's EYEBALL pops out his head. He reaches for it, but it floats away like it is playing a game with him.

He tries to call for help, but it is too late. An invisible vise crushes his throat.

He fights for air, but there's nothing he can do.

With one final effort, he frisbees his notebook under one of the glass containers.

Then his SPINAL CHORD pokes out of his mouth.

Then dances into the air.

The ORGANS follow.

Then bone rips through his skin.

Then, piece by piece, Virgil is systematically taken apart.

It becomes a work of art. A mural of organs intertwining in suspended animation. A beautifully terrifying sight.

Eye balls, lungs, blood, bone, organs, fingernails--all spinning and twisting around each other majestically.

The Boy, in his coma, lies still on the bed.

INT. HALLWAY

A disturbed Sally scurries from her room. Then she sees Anca.

SALLY

Hey, Anca?

Anca turns to her with a smile, but when she sees Sally's face, she becomes concerned.

ANCA

Sally?

SALLY

My holograms. They've been acting weird.

ANCA

Weird like how?

SALLY

I don't know. They were, like, passive aggressive?

INT. SALLY'S ROOM

Anca's looking over the holograms of Bey, Lena, and Michelle. They are stiff as boards.

Anca rubs her chin. Then with a flick of her finger, a diagnostic screen appears.

ANCA

Everything looks fine. Sometimes with deep learning the AI is interpreting and incorporating so many difference layers of learning that it may misread a social cue. Just a quick little reset should fix it.

SALLY

Do you have the code to reset the entire Apex?

ANCA

No, only Gustavo and Virgil have that.

SALLY

Kind of messed up that they didn't give it to you, no?

ANCA

I'm not complaining. I mean, they chose me out of billions of people to not die.

Anca hits a few buttons. Puts in a code.

ANCA (CONT'D)

There, this should do it.

The girls disappear. When they do, we realize Anca is face-to-face with Sally.

They are very close.

Sally steps in closer.

Their lips are about to touch when--

ALARMS GO OFF!!

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

Sally and Anca run in.

They see the morbid majesty that is the floating organs.

How the organs twist. How they turn. It's like clockwork. A grand design. Beautiful. Symmetrical. A morbid waltz.

Then the organs collapse, splattering across the floor.

Simultaneously, Sally SCREAMS and Anca VOMITS.

The rest of the crew enter and see the mess that used to be Virgil.

ASH
What the fuck happened?

JORDAN
Everyone, evacuate the room, now!

Jordan pulls everyone out the room. Then the door shuts.

The Boy lays by himself, still.

Then a spider crawls across his face.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

The seven crew members left are huddled together mourning.

Anca is isolated from the group. She sits in the corner, knees pressed against her chest, sobbing.

A red-eyed Gustavo is bewildered as he turns off a hologram that just replayed the security footage.

A stoic Jordan stares off into the distance.

GUSTAVO
I just don't understand. The security cameras don't show anything.

Jordan stands then walks over to a far wall. She presses a small button and it opens up.

Guns. Hand guns, automatics, shotguns, semiautomatics.

She takes a hand gun and storms toward the door, but Gustavo stands in front of her.

There's a hesitation when they meet face-to-face. Gustavo is unsure of himself. This is all so strange.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
Please, Jordan. We don't know what is going on. We can't lose another crew member.

Jordan looks deep into Gustavo's soul.

ASH

I only have about another minute of crying until I get mad and grab a gun myself.

GUSTAVO

No grabbing guns. We have to go about this intelligently--

ANCA

Wait.

Everyone turns around.

ANCA (CONT'D)

He was my friend too. This was my fault. Let me go with you.

Jordan reluctantly nods.

Anca walks toward the guns, and she hears the door slide open. Jordan has stepped out without her.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Jordan!

INT. HALLWAY

A woman on a mission, Jordan cocks the gun and approaches the door. The door slides open--

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

But the Boy is GONE. No blood. No guts. It has all vanished.

Anca is only a few seconds behind him.

ANCA (O.S.)

Jordan!

Jordan turns around and points the gun at Anca.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Whoa.

JORDAN

Put your gun down.

Anca does so.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Why did you let that boy in?

ANCA

What was I supposed to do?

It's taking every fiber of Jordan's willpower to not pull the trigger.

ANCA (CONT'D)

...Please. I'm not trying to hurt you.

JORDAN

Do you understand how bad you fucked us? Because you're some bleeding heart--

Ash and Corri come in with their guns drawn.

CORRI

What the fuck is going on?

JORDAN

The boy is missing.

Jordan's focus is tense. Angry. Ash and Corri notice it, but they don't stop her.

BROOKE

Jordan.

Brooke is at the door with Gustavo and Sally by her side. Jordan puts her gun down.

Ash brings her lips close to Anca's ear and whispers...

ASH

Everybody that dies from this point on is on you. Do you understand that?

Anca gulps and nods.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Reminiscent of a military general, Jordan stands in front of the crew. Corri and Ash by her side, like two attack dogs.

JORDAN

Until we figure out what happened to the boy, we will not leave each other. We eat together. We sleep together. And if someone needs to use the bathroom, we leave together as a group.

The shell-shocked crew agrees with Jordan. Even Gustavo seems to be willing to go along with the plan.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Apex, bring up an image of every room.

Multiple hologram video screen appear for Jordan to look over. Nothing. They're all empty. Jordan growls and--

QUICK MONTAGE OF THE CREW CHECKING EVERY INCH OF THE APEX

- Jordan and the crew flipping beds over.
- Ash and Corri checking utility closets and electrical boxes as the crew members watch behind them.
- Jordan hovering over Gustavo's shoulder checking the video footage. Nothing.
- Jordan's obsession becoming more and more evident as she moves on all fours checking the literal corners of the room.
- Gustavo watches Jordan work. How intense she is. He sighs to himself.
- Jordan and the crew walk past the hatch. Jordan can't help but stare at it.
- Should they open it? She shakes her head, then walks away.
- They flip another bed. They open another closet. They check the videos again. They walk past the hatch again. They flip another bed. They check the videos again. They -

LATER

They are asleep now. In the corner, away from the rest of the group, is Anca curling up with her blanket.

Anca watches Jordan guard the door. Jordan's eyes are fixed on the door. Focused. Jordan's breathing deepens.

Going faster. Harder. But only through the nostrils. Her mouth remains shut. Deep breath in. Deep breath out.

Anca watches her.

Anca's eyes begin to close. The weight of the day getting to her. Jordan disappears under the darkness of her eyelashes.

LATER

Anca has fallen asleep. Eyes flickering in REM. Eccentric shadows dance over her face, like a slow-moving baby mobile.

We now see what floats above.

The contorted bodies of her crew members. They aren't hurt or in pain. Just frozen in strange positions spinning above her.

Their eyes are open, but they are not conscious. Something else controls them.

It is like an invisible child is playing with dolls. Twisting them. Turning them. To see how durable they are.

Much like Virgil's death, this is quite graceful.

LATER

Anca's wipes the morning from her eyes, then looks around.

No one is floating. No one is contorting.

She looks over at the door.

Jordan is staring right at her with a faraway look.

She still hasn't blinked.

Anca gives Jordan half a wave, but she doesn't respond.

Anca pulls the covers back on top of herself.

There is a bit of movement in Jordan's nostril. Then spider crawls out of her nostril, then back into the other one.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

Forks hitting plates, molars chewing veggies. No one is talking, just eating.

JORDAN

We're going to watch the security footage again after lunch, Gustavo.

GUSTAVO

Jordan, we've watched it numerous times.

JORDAN

So, I'm suppose to believe that boy disappeared into thin are?

Gustavo looks at his food.

They eat quietly, with the weight of the world on their shoulders. Unexpectedly, Corri JUMPS out of her seat.

CORRI
(points)
What the fuck is that?

Corri points to her plate, but there is nothing there.

CORRI (CONT'D)
I swear, I just saw a bug.

They search Corri's food. Nothing.

CORRI (CONT'D)
I'm telling you, there was a fucking
bug in my--

Sally SCREAMS. There is a CENTIPEDE crawling across her plate. Anca quickly smashes the bug with her hand.

Sally likes that Anca instinctively protected her. She is flattered. Brooke masks her contempt.

Anca lifts her hands off the bug, and its guts peel away from the table.

ANCA
I've never seen a centipede this
big.

A faint buzzing gets Brooke's attention. She slowly turns her head and faces the glass containers, then SCREAMS.

BUGS. UGLY, DISGUSTING INSECTS COVER THE ENTIRE WALL.

ASH
Where the fuck did that come from?!

JORDAN
Everyone, get out of here! We have
to seal this off.

Everyone but Anca runs out.

Something about the bugs has Anca mesmerized. The way they move in unison. Their movements aren't random.

They fill the wall like a strange black liquid. Moving together as one, forming a spiral.

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Did you hear what I said? We need to
get out of this room.

Jordan distracts Anca. When Anca turns back, the bugs are gone.

The bugs have scattered out. Back to their randomness. Jordan grabs Anca by the arm and pulls her out.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

White noise.

Anca makes a circular motion with her finger. A hologram with the same texture as black paint appears under it.

She's finger painting in thin air.

As Anca spreads the paint in a circular motion, the white noise becomes deafening.

Then the white noise turns into someone calling for her.

JORDAN

Why are you doing that?

Anca has a perfect BLACK DOT hologram covers her face.

ANCA

(thinking fast)

Oh, uh--I'm drawing a spider.

She swiftly dashes a few lines on the black dot with her fingers. It now resembles a crude drawing of an arachnid.

JORDAN

Right.

(Changing)

Take a look at this.

Jordan brings up a hologram screen of the agriculture room's vitals. Anca leans over to look.

Anca's eyes pop with enthusiasm.

ANCA

The Apex is showing significant damage in the agriculture room. We are losing the ability to recreate photosynthesis. Those bugs are going through everything. We need to stop them now or we aren't going to be able to replenish our food supplies.

CORRI

Let's just vent in poison and be done with it.

ANCA

We would need to make A LOT of poison, and on top of being sealed shut, by the time the Apex refilters the air--it may cause more long-term damage to our food source than the actual bugs.

ASH

What about cutting off the oxygen completely? Letting them choke.

GUSTAVO

Impossible. Even if the Apex turns completely off, the oxygen filtration system will continue to operate. Anca and I did not imagine a situation where we would NOT need oxygen. Could you?

They nod.

CORRI

Am I the only one who thinks this has something to do with the boy?

JORDAN

I don't know.

ANCA

How do you plan on eliminating these things?

Jordan looks over at her weapons.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

The amount of bugs in the agriculture room has tripled.
Scorpions. Spiders. Tarantulas. Wasps. Beetles. Roaches.
They zip past each other. Zigzag. Droning. Buzzing.
Contaminating. Consuming. Ruining.

There is a pattern to it. It feels orchestrated.
Like the entire swarm is exhaling and inhaling together.
That's when the door slides open.

First comes Anca with a bandana wrapped around her mouth and a T-shirt wrapped around her head. Sunglasses. Gloves.

In her hand is a FLAMETHROWER--

WHOOOOOOOSSHH! FLAMES.

Behind the flames comes Jordan. She is dressed the same. She has her own FLAMETHROWER. WHOOOOOOOOOSSSHHH.

Gustavo backhands a large bug to the ground then steps on it.

Then come the others. Each using their own tactic for killing as many bugs as possible.

Brooke and Sally stomp on the ones on the ground. Ash and Corri use random tools to smack the bugs out of the air.

Burning insects. Squashed insects. Flames. Tools. Flying. Flaming wasps. Crushed spiders.

Corri's head SNAPS BACK, she grabs her throat. She removes the garment from her head and HACKS uncontrollably.

Ash sees her lover in turmoil and tries to help her, but a wasp stings Ash in an opening between her neck and shirt.

Her head SNAPS back in agony, exposing her throat. Two other wasps dig in.

The *click-clack-click-clack* of an flamethrower running low. Anca shakes it again, but it isn't working.

Jordan has already moved on to swatting and stomping on the bugs. Anca quickly follows suit.

For one moment, we back up and see this scene in its entirety.

The room is filled with insects. We only catch glimpses of the humans trying to fight back.

It is a swarm of madness. An overwhelming buzzing.

For a moment, just a moment, the room is completely dark. You can no longer see them. The room has gone black with bugs.

The buzzing gets LOUDER, and LOUDER, and--

SMASH CUT

--It's over. Every bug has been killed. The room is covered in guts. Bug bites. Bumps. Wounds. Broken spirits.

A very exhausted crew tries to find the breach in the Apex. Searching the nooks and crannies of the room.

No one is talking. To be honest, no one is probably really looking for the breach. They are all just shell-shocked.

Gustavo runs his hands against the wall. The side of his neck and face are covered with bug bites.

GUSTAVO
(to himself)
Where are you?

His eyes dart. His breath quickens. Deeper. Faster. Deeper. Faster. He needs to find this breach.

Anca sits with her legs crossed, rubbing her temple. She is watches a SPIDER crawl across the floor.

Corri steps on it. Then walks away.

CORRI
If we don't figure this breach out
soon we are going to be eating bugs
for dinner.

The way the bug is squashed fascinates Anca. It was somehow squashed into a perfect circle.

--TOILET FLUSH (O.S.)

INT. BATHROOM

Gustavo finishes using the bathroom.

When he is done with the urinal, the urine is quickly sucked down a tube and then filtered into clean water to be reused.

Gustavo takes a moment to look at himself in the mirror, checking the bags under his eyes.

INT. HALLWAY

Gustavo walks through the hallway, then stops. He looks around the hallway and smiles.

GUSTAVO
Apex. New York City. Manhattan.

The Apex turns the entire hallway into Times Square, New York. This is Gustavo's home.

The hustle and bustle of the crowd. Business people speaking into their Bluetooth devices. Hot dog vendors. Etc.

Gustavo is dressed like an industrious man in a suit. A titan of the industry with his sleeves rolled up to, ready to work.

He takes it in. The pinnacle of our society. The movers and shakers. The money. The genius. NYC on its best spring day.

Blue icy eyes stare directly at Gustavo.

It's the eyes of a WOMAN (40s) in the crowd dripping with intellectualism, staring at Gustavo.

The New York City bustles around her, as she maintains her cold gaze upon Gustavo.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Caroline?!

A tear runs down Gustavo's eyes as he runs over.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Caroline! I miss you so much. So, so, so much. I made a terrible mistake. A terrible mistake. Will you ever forgive me?

Gustavo hugs and kisses her, but she's cold to him.

CAROLINE

She still works with you, right?

Gustavo stiffens. That hurt.

GUSTAVO

I'm sorry, I didn't mean it.

Gustavo gets on his knees, we realize Caroline is PREGNANT.

Gustavo puts his head against her belly.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Please forgive me, please forgive me, please--

Then a SOLAR FLARE HITS New York. The ground shakes violently. The New Yorkers burn from within.

Flames shoot from Caroline's nostrils and eyes.

Gustavo is horrified. He falls to his knees crying, burying his face in his hands. The hologram of New York disappears.

INT. HALLWAY

Gustavo is back in the perfect, pristine hallway of the Apex. Sobbing on his knees.

GUSTAVO
I left my fam--

JORDAN
Gustavo?

Gustavo looks up and sees a wide-eyed Jordan gripping a gun.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
You aren't supposed to go anywhere
by yourself. You know the rules.

GUSTAVO
I'm sorry. I just--

He realizes something. It hits him like a ton of bricks.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
I don't remember leaving to go to
the bathroom. How did I get here?

Jordan examines Gustavo. She grips her gun, tightly.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
Where is everyone? Aren't you
breaking your own rule? Aren't we
always supposed to be together?

Now Jordan realizes something. She relaxes her grip on her gun. She turns around, facing the direction she came from.

LATER**EXT. DESERT - DAY**

Jordan is on another jog, this time through a war zone.

MORTAR EXPLODE in the background as she pushes herself through the scene.

The EXPLOSIONS become more frequent, but something makes her stop. Across the desert stands--

The Boy.

Looking directly into the soul of Jordan.

JORDAN
No! No! Move! Move! There's a--

BLAM!

The Boy's body explodes.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Apex! Swipe the hologram!

INT. HALLWAY

Everything clears, except for the Boy, who is standing there at the end of the hallway, unscathed.

JORDAN
I got you...

Jordan reaches for her holster, but realizes she doesn't have a gun. Then she hears the PITTER-PATTER of feet.

The Boy runs. Jordan gives chase.

BY HATCH

The Boy tries to open the hatch like a wild animal. Using his entire body to try and yank the door open.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
No! No! Don't do that!

Jordan goes to grab the Boy, but the Boy points a GUN at her. Jordan backs away, realizing it's her GUN.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Calm down. Calm down. No one is going to hurt you.

The Boy is scared, confused, he doesn't know what to do.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Just give me the gun, no one is going to hurt you.

THE BOY
Where's my Dad?

JORDAN
Your Dad? I don't know. But if you give me the gun, I can help you find him...

THE BOY
You promise?

Jordan nods. The Boy looks like he's going to give it to her.

JORDAN
There you go, just give it to me,
just--

THE BOY
You're lying. You want me to do as
I'm told, like everyone else.

JORDAN
What? No, I promise, I don't want--

The Boy cocks the gun back--

JORDAN (CONT'D)
NO!

The Boy SHOOTs Jordan over and over again, until her entire
body is littered in bullets--

Suddenly Jordan and Gustavo are across from each other like
the previous scene.

Jordan hasn't been hit with any bullets. Gustavo looks up and
sees that Jordan with a gun in hand.

Jordan quickly thinks of something to say.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
You aren't supposed to go anywhere
by yourself. You know the rules.

GUSTAVO
I'm sorry. I just--

INT. COZY LIVING ROOM

The crew members chose to sleep in a hologram of a cozy
living room. A fireplace, boar's head, and rustic furniture.

Anca can't fall asleep. Her eyes are focusing on the boar's
head--its curving tusks, beady black eyes, and matted fur.

She turns her head to the left--BOOM--and there is Sally.
Hair down in front of her face.

At first, she is terrifying, but then a warmth comes.

SALLY
(whisper)
I can't sleep either.

She quietly lies down next to her. Anca hesitates, but then puts an arm around her.

ANCA
(whispers)
Your mom is right there...

SALLY
(whispers)
I'll move before she wakes up. I
just want you to hold me.

Anca smiles. Sally closes her eyes and takes a deep breath, falling asleep on her chest.

The smile on Anca's face becomes a frown. Anca's eyes are once again locked on the boar's head.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

Corri and Ash are putting together some of the equipment that was broken during the melee.

There are a few new bugs in the room, but nothing as bad as before. They simply step on them casually as they work.

ASH
There ain't no benefit in this shit.

Ash steps on a bug.

ASH (CONT'D)
The way I see it, we are the only
two left that aren't losing our
minds. Seeing shit at night. Getting
all fucking weird. Even Jordan has
been acting funny.

Corri steps on a bug. Then another. Double tap. *Pap. Pap.*

Then Corri notices something under the rubble. It's Virgil's MARBLE NOTEBOOK. Corri picks it up and flips it open.

At the same time, a WASP crawls out of the soil.

ASH (CONT'D)
He sure did write a lot.

Corri flips to another page as the wasp lands on the nape of her neck.

CORRI

It ain't nothing but vegan recipes.
This ain't going to help us.

She tosses the notebook into the corner. The wasp flies away. Corri sighs and steps on another bug.

CORRI (CONT'D)

We need to learn how to start
cooking bugs.

INT. BATHROOM

Sally enters the bathroom. Pulls down her pants and sits on the toilet. She takes a deep breath and sighs.

She notices something on the wall. A heart with the letters, "A" and "S". (Anca & Sally).

She smiles. This is Anca's doing. Then she hears BREATHING.

FAST. DEEP. BREATHING.

Then it stops. It was only about five seconds, but it happened and it was scary as hell.

Someone is in the room with her. She cleans herself off. Then hesitates before she slowly opens the bathroom stall.

SALLY

Hello?

No one. Just three other stalls staring back at her, trying to seem innocent.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Mom? Ash? Who's here?

She slowly places her hand on the first stall door. She places her ear next to it to see if she can hear anything.

Nothing.

She closes her eyes, then pushes it open.

Nothing.

She moves on to the next one. Her breathing has quickened.

She places her hand on the second stall. Then she presses her ear against it.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Hello?

She takes a deep breath.

Then pushes it open.

Nothing.

Without exiting the second stall, she bends over and looks over at the third stall.

Nothing.

She stands up and shakes her head. There is nothing to be afraid of.

She goes to the sink and washes her hands. She takes her eye off the mirror for a moment. Then she looks back up.

All the stall doors are closed again.

She turns back around. She quickly jabs each door back open. One directly after the other. *Pop. Pop. Pop.*

Then jumps back to the sink to see what happens next.

Nothing.

She stays on them for a bit. From this angle, she can't see directly inside the last two. She sprints out of the room.

INT. GUSTAVO & BROOKE'S ROOM

Gustavo is re-watching security tapes.

The bug slaughter. He rewinds. The crew eating with Virgil. He rewinds. Virgil and Anca getting high.

He rewinds. Virgil and Anca getting high again. He shakes his head. It's not funny to him. He rewinds again.

Empty agriculture room. He rewinds again.

He stops. It's Jordan and Brooke in the agriculture room together. He hits play.

It seems innocent enough. Brooke is eating at the table while Jordan tends to a plant. He rewinds to the beginning.

Jordan walks in, they acknowledge each other. Then they both go about their business. He fast-forwards now.

His wife cleans her plate. Brooke walks past Jordan and casually grabs her ass. It is quick and playful.

Nothing else came of it. Jordan simply walks out the room.

Gustavo rewinds again.

Brooke washes the dishes. Brooke walks past her. Brooke gives her a quick squeeze, then goes on with her day.

It is all so comfortable. Gustavo fights the tears--

ANCA (O.C.)

So much for all of us sticking
together, huh?

Gustavo jumps, turns off the hologram, and turns around.

GUSTAVO

Anca, I didn't hear you come in.

ANCA

Oh, the door was open.

GUSTAVO

It was?

ANCA

Yeah. Wide open.

GUSTAVO

Well, what is it that you would
like, Anca?

ANCA

Do you think this is all my fault?

GUSTAVO

No, oh god no. If you didn't bring
that child inside, I would have.

ANCA

I'm so relieved you said that.

GUSTAVO

But I'm afraid we're going to all
die anyway. I just don't know how.

This takes Anca back.

ANCA

Gustavo? Is everything OK?

GUSTAVO

This whole situation has just been so taxing.

He takes a deep breath and forces a smile on his face.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

I do want to say, Sally may not be my daughter. She may not like me very much either, but it is important to me that she maintain her composure for the crew member's mental health.

Anca nods.

ANCA

I understand. I'll keep that in mind, Gustavo.

GUSTAVO

Thank you.

Anca turns around to leave the room. Gustavo places his fingers on his lips, resting his nostrils on the tips.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Anca.

ANCA

Yeah?

GUSTAVO

Maybe we should check the Apex for exterior breaches.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Crew meeting. Gustavo up front now, specifically not Jordan.

GUSTAVO

After discussing it with Anca, we think it's best for a team to examine the exterior. Make sure it's not damaged outside.

BROOKE

So we are going to open the hatch again?

GUSTAVO
I see no other option.

BROOKE
There has to be another option.

GUSTAVO
I assure you, I have the crew's best
interest in mind.
(then)
Jordan and I will circle the
perimeter, see if there is any
damage, and then return.

JORDAN
When did I agree to do this?

GUSTAVO
When you agreed to be the resident
soldier of the Apex. I assumed
bravery and honor were part of the
deal.

Jordan tries to read Gustavo, who gives her nothing.

BROOKE
I don't think this is a good idea.

JORDAN
He's right, Brooke. We need to check
the exterior. It's the only place
we haven't looked for the child. It
may give us a clue.

Brooke nods.

GUSTAVO
I'm glad you two agree with each
other.

Brooke clocks the disdain in Gustavo's tone.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
Ash. Corri. You two will stay behind
to guard everyone and make sure
nothing strange happens.

Ash and Corri shrug their shoulders.

ASH
Whatever.

GUSTAVO
Very well then. We will prepare.

The group breaks.

Just as Brooke is about to place a hand on his shoulder, he steps forward and offers his hand to Jordan.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
Let's watch each other's back out there, soldier.

Jordan doesn't hesitate. She shakes Gustavo's hand.

ANCA
Wait, I think I should go too.

GUSTAVO
Absolutely not.

ANCA
If there is any exterior damage, you're going to need help fixing it.

JORDAN
If anyone should be risking their neck, it's definitely you.

Gustavo smiles, but he is seething inside.

GUSTAVO
Very well. Anca will be joining us too.

SIRENS.

INT. HALLWAY

RED FLASHING LIGHTS. The hibernation pods next to the hatch glow in crimson red as Anca, Gustavo, and Jordan stand ready.

The hatch to the decompression room is wide open.

Gustavo raises his foot to get in, but before he does, he looks at his team. They're all ready.

Gustavo steps inside.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

The RED FLASHING LIGHTS blare in the athletics room as well.

Corri, Ash, Sally, and Brooke are in front of a multiple hologram screens, watching the POV from the team's helmets.

Ash sits by the door. Flank position. Gun ready.

INT. HALLWAY

Gustavo, Anca, and Jordan are inside the decompression room. The hallways are empty. Just the open hatch and the little movement we can see inside.

Flashing red lights. Sirens.

A MODERN ASTRONAUT-LIKE EARTH SUIT, sticks their head out just for a moment.

Then slam the hatch shut. The alarm turns off.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

The lights stop flashing. Corri squints her eyes to get a better look at the video.

They have three POV hologram screens displaying what each crewmember is viewing.

Ash remains positioned by the door. Not paying attention to the screens.

SALLY

You don't want to see what the end
looks like?

Ash doesn't even look her way. Just spits on the ground.

ASH

My dick.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

A solid red light now illuminates the room. The wall, the earth suits, the glare--it's all red.

The three of them look at each other. The reality of what they are about to do is setting in.

They are going to see post-apocalyptic Earth for the first time.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

They can see each person's face from another person's POV. Each face, painted blood red from the light.

The red glare on the helmets gets cut with an shade of black.

Sally, Brooke, and Corri can see the reflection of the door opening off the helmets.

They lean in to get a better look. Sally turns to Ash one last time.

SALLY

You sure you don't want to see this?

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Jordan watches the door rise. A fierce soldier, ready for whatever the world has become.

The black widens. The red glare disappears. More of the world is revealed. Gustavo watches regally. Back straight. Chin up.

Then his mouth opens. He is shocked at what he sees.

The door is now completely open.

ANCA

What. The. Fuck.

Fear fills Anca's face. Her eyes water.

ANCA (CONT'D)

What happened...

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

This gets Corri off of the bench. She readjusts the semiautomatic and approaches the screens.

CORRI

Ash, you have to see this.

Ash doesn't budge. Sweat pours down her brow. Something is coming. She can feel it.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

The group faces new Earth, but they can't see shit.

It is a wall of black. A thick, deep black, so dense you cannot see through it.

ANCA

What is it?

The black stops right at the edge of the entrance.

Like it is waiting to be invited in. Gustavo lifts his hand towards it. His fingers disappear into it.

GUSTAVO

Is it some type of smog?

ANCA

If it were smog, it would be entering...

Then the power goes out. It is completely dark in the decompression room.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

The screens disappear.

CORRI

Huh?

Then the power goes out.

BROOKE

Apex? Lights. Apex? What happened to the lights?

Ash waits in the darkness. Ready.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Dark. Panic.

GUSTAVO

Corri? Ash? Brooke? Do you hear me?

ANCA

What is going on?

JORDAN

Touch the walls. Don't move around. We can't lose each other.

Just for a sliver of a second, Anca can see Jordan with one hand on the wall, the other hand extended.

Faintly, she sees Gustavo with his hands straight down, just out of reach of Jordan.

A GLIMMER of metal materializes from his right hand.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Everyone scrambles to try to figure out how the Apex lost power.

CORRI

We can't get video. We can't get light. We can't even get the door open.

BROOKE

Apex? Apex, please. Apex--

The door SLIDES open. It's even darker in the hallway.

SALLY

I thought the doors can't open during a power outage...

Corri lifts her gun and points it at the hallway.

CORRI

They can't.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Jordan frantically bangs on the hatch.

JORDAN

Guys?! Get us the fuck out of here!
If you can hear us, turn the Apex
back on!

Jordan lets out a groan and arches her back in pain. She turns around and sees Gustavo on his hands and knees.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

What happened? Where's Anca?

Deeper into the black, where Jordan can't see, Anca is gripping Gustavo's legs as if she has just tackled him.

On the floor, not too far away, rests a screwdriver.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

There is something coming. Corri points her gun at the abyss of the hallway. A wind storm barrels through.

Brooke and Sally hide behind Corri as she focuses on her scope.

CORRI

I'm killing the fuck out of whatever
comes out of that door.

Her gun spins from her grip, then flies against the wall like
metal to a magnet.

Corri extends her arms and backs up mother and daughter.

That's when he enters.

The Boy in his suit. He's alive and well.

Sally and Brooke scream at the top of their lungs.

The Boy opens his mouth and SHRIEKS--

Then without warning.

--BAM.

Ash shoots the Boy right through his chin and out the top of
his head. The POWER comes back on.

BAM.

She shoots the Boy again.

ASH

Bitch.

Black blood oozes from his head...

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

The power turns back on. The door SLAMS shut. The hatch OPENS
and Jordan tumbles out. Gustavo and Anca fall behind.

GUSTAVO

Anca, what has gotten into you?

Jordan cocks her head at the screwdriver.

JORDAN

Yeah, Gustavo? Why were you holding
a screwdriver?

GUSTAVO

To open the hatch. I figured banging
and screaming wasn't helping. What
did you think I was doing?

As Anca searches Gustavo's face, she hears FOOTSTEPS.

SALLY
Quick! Guys, Ash killed the boy!

Gustavo's eyes widen. He sprints towards the Boy.

GUSTAVO
No! You fools!

INT. ATHLETIC'S ROOM

Gustavo storms into the athletics room.

He drops to his knees at the sight of the Boy. Weeping. He takes the Boy into his arms, cradling him.

Rocking him.

Anca and the crew watch Gustavo's reaction. Anca paying especially close attention.

SALLY
(whispers)
What's a matter with him?

JORDAN
Alright, Gustavo, that's enough.

Gustavo swats Jordan away.

GUSTAVO
Don't you dare touch me!
(re: Ash)
You killed him! You Neanderthal! You killed him! And why? Because you were too dumb and scared to understand him?!

ASH
I'm going to let that go, because we're under a lot of stress, but I would regroup on how you're talking to me if I were you.

Gustavo SPITS in Ash's face. The crew has a collective gasp. Ash smirks with the glob of spit on her face.

ASH (CONT'D)
(calmly)
Oh, you just fucked up.

Ash LEAPS for Gustavo, grabbing him by the neck. The crew jump in, trying to keep them apart.

Ash, holds Gustavo by his throat as everyone tries to peel her off.

One person isn't helping though. Anca notices a change in the Boy. He's older. In his 20s.

ANCA

Uh. Guys. You should look at this.

Anca is landing punches on Gustavo's head with her free arm.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Hey! Guys! You have to see this!

This gets their attention. They turn, and the Boy is somehow, in his mid 40s. He's older. He has greys in his hair.

Gustavo stumbles away from the melee, and kneels by the Boy.

GUSTAVO

What's happening...

Now he's in his 60s. Then it doesn't take long for him to get really old. Shriveling. Shaking. Then he begins to shrink.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

No...

Then just like that, the Boy, now an old shriveled man, shrinks, until he's finally nothing.

Then the Boy disappears.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Oh, god no.

He's overwhelmed. He's rubbing the spot where the boy once was. The spot changes. Like the floor is actually moving. Moving like water. Water that's spiralling.

Gustavo backs away.

Anca and the rest of the crew notice it too.

First it starts small. Then slowly becomes wider in diameter.

Then the spiral, releases a few small green distortions, then turns black.

CORRI

What's going on...

Then the spiral lets out a HIGH-PITCHED DEAFENING SOUND. The crew members are SLAMMED against the wall.

The black spiral spins ferociously. Roaring as it gets larger. Filling the ground with a deep ugly blackness.

The high pitched SOUND crescendos into a vicious TREMOR.

As the room shakes, the crew pull themselves to their feet. Helping each other.

Then the room has a SEISMIC SHIFT that rocks the entire APEX.

Sending a FRACTURE line across the ceiling.

JORDAN

Everyone! Get out! The Apex is collapsing!

INT. HALLWAY

The Apex shakes fiercely as the crew stumble over one another. The lights are flickering on and off.

JORDAN

Everyone to their pods! Now!

Unbeknownst to Brooke, a fracture line CRACKS the ceiling open above her, dropping a huge CHUNK -

SALLY

Mom!

Just as Brooke turns around, to see the piece falling. Jordan dives at her, shoving her out of the way.

Dirt and insects cascade, piling on top of the ceiling. Separating Sally and Anca from the rest of the group.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Mom! Are you OK?

Through the debris, she can see Brooke getting to her feet.

BROOKE

I'm fine, Sally. Come to momma.

SALLY

I can't! I'm stuck here.

More fracture lines. More cracks in the ceiling. More things falling. Then there's an EXPLOSION heard off screen.

JORDAN

We don't have time for this! Circle the Apex! We'll meet you at the pods!

SALLY

But Mom -

JORDAN

Anca! Take her and run! We'll meet you there.

Anca grabs Sally by the arm.

ANCA

Come on, Sally. We need to go.

Together, they run through the darkness. First, encountering a massive rip in the floor. They help each other over it.

They continue stumbling through the ever shaking flickering darkness. Then they stop at a source of light.

A complete wall of fire. Blocking off the rest of the way.

ANCA (CONT'D)

We're stuck.

Anca looks back, then back at the wall of fire. Then she looks above her. Fracture lines on the ceiling.

ANCA (CONT'D)

What are we going to do--

Then, without warning, Sally DIVES into the fire.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Sally! No!

Anca stops at the feet of the fire, examining the flames.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Sally! Sally! Are you OK?

Then a half beat--

SALLY

Yeah! It's fine! Just jump! It's not that thick of a fire! It just looks worse than it is.

Anca looks at the fire. It's looks pretty thick.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Come on, Sally! You can do it! Trust
me!

Sally looks at the fire.

Takes a deep breath.

Then--

Launches herself through the flames.

She leaps THROUGH the fire and into Sally's arm. They embrace
on the other side.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Are you OK?

ANCA
I don't know. I think so. Are you?

SALLY
Yeah. I think we're good.

Then from the end of the hallway, Sally hears...

VOICE (O.S.)
Your life is so interesting.

It sends shivers through Sally. She turns her head. And
through the flickering darkness there are THREE FIGURES.

Bey, Michelle, and Lena.

With the gait of a broken toy, they approach Anca & Sally.

MICHELLE
Your--

LENA
--life--

MICHELLE
--is so--

BEY
--interesting.

Anca and Sally step through the shadows. They're able to see
the holograms in the "flesh."

Their black eyes sparkle with menacing green distortion, as
they chant in a broken vile way.

Their skin dissolving then regenerating, revealing their skull, then returning to their face.

They're UNNATURAL BEINGS...

SALLY

Anca, please tell me these are just holograms--

The Unnatural Beings DIVE at them!

ANCA

MOVE!

Anca pulls Sally into--

INT. GUSTAVO & BROOKE'S ROOM

Anca shuts the door just as a LOUD THUD follows. The Unnatural Beings bang on the door and SCREECH.

But the door holds. It's bending, but it'll buy them time.

SALLY

What are we going to do?

Anca's scrambling, scans the room.

ANCA

Gustavo has to have a secret stash of weapons somewhere. Check under the bed to see if you can find anything that can hurt them.

SALLY

How do you even know that?

ANCA

Because I helped design it.

The Unnatural Beings BANG against the door, mechanically and thoroughly. With each blow, the door becomes more unstable.

Sally flips the bed to find a SHOTGUN under the mattress. Anca types furiously into a HOLOGRAM SCREEN.

SALLY

What are you doing?

ANCA

Just worry about the shotguns. I need to check something...

Sally takes a shotgun, but doesn't know what to do with it.

SALLY
(to herself)
I guess I missed shotgun class in
high school.

Anca's been denied access on the hologram screen. She tries again. She's denied. Again. She's denied.

She thinks about it. She looks around the room. Then it hits her. She types: Caroline. Then she hits the button and--

She got it. She's inside. She scans the files. She can't believe what she's reading.

ANCA
My god...

Bey BASHES her head through the door and grabs Sally by the throat then pinning her against the door.

BEY
YOUR LIFE!

SALLY
ANCA! HELP ME!

Lena and Michelle BURSTS through grabbing Sally's throat.

Anca grabs the shotgun, but doesn't know what to do with it either. Anca points the gun, and clicks.

Nothing.

The Unnatural Beings are digging into the skin of Sally with their nails. Her face bleeding profusely.

ANCA
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

The nails of the holograms dig into Sally's throat.

SALLY
HELP! OH GOD! HELP!

Sally is being choked to death and ripped apart.

Anca checks the safety. She points the gun, but it's not a clear shot. There's too close to Sally's face.

SALLY (CONT'D)
ANCA! DO IT! JUST DO IT!

Anca can't bring herself to do it. Then we hear Sally gurgle for her breath and--

BLAM!

Sally's head is splattered with black blood.

Half of Bey's head dangles through the door. Black goo with green flickers spills to the floor.

Sally falls to her knees, holding her throat and face.

Lena and Michelle SCREECH, as Anca points the gun at them.

Michelle's point blank rage with the weapon.

Her disgusting half-skull, half-distorted face realizes her own fucked-up digital mortality and--

BLAM!

Then Lena leaps--

BLAM!

ANCA

Are you OK?

Sally nods.

SALLY

Just a little bloody, but I'll survive.

ANCA

Come on, we have to go.

Anca grabs Sally and they run out of the room--

INT. HALLWAY

They step over the unnatural being's headless bodies as they run towards the hibernation pods.

Not noticing, that these Unnatural Beings are regenerating...

BY HIBERNATION PODS

The rest of the crew are inside of their pods, except for Brooke, who nervously paces, waiting for Sally.

JORDAN

We don't have time for this. Get inside.

Jordan pushes her inside.

BROOKE

What the hell? That hurt--

Jordan locks the door. Brooke SCREAMS.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

What the fuck, Jordan!

JORDAN

I'm sorry. We can't risk your life.

Brooke SCREAMS and bangs on the door as Gustavo walks away.

Then, through the darkness, Brooke sees Anca and Sally running triumphantly.

BROOKE

Oh, thank god. Thank god.

Then she sees something dark behind them, leaping from wall to wall. Chasing after them.

Behind them are the Unnatural Beings.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

OH MY GOD! RUN! RUN!

As Brooke screams for her daughter, The Apex has another tremor. Shaking the wall the pods are on.

Brooke SLAMS against her glass encasement. Hitting her head. Then noticing, the pod next to her has fallen off the wall.

The glass is shattered. Completely broken.

That was Sally's pod.

BY ANCA AND SALLY

An EXPLOSION sends both Anca and Sally against the wall.

INT. BROOKE'S POD

Brooke SCREAMS for her daughter.

BY ANCA AND SALLY

Anca puts Sally on her shoulder.

ANCA
Come on! Come on!

She carries over Sally to the broken pod. Anca looks around. There's only one pod left.

Then she hears Brook's muffled screams as she begs Anca with her eyes: save Sally.

She lifts Sally off her shoulder and puts her inside.

SALLY
Anca--

Anca shuts the pod. Anca kisses Sally. Then shuts the pod. Sally realizes what Anca's doing.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Anca! No!

Anca can hear the PITTER-PATTER of the beings crawling on the ceiling. Anca turns around. She's facing them.

ANCA FIGHTS THE UNNATURAL BEINGS IN FLICKERING DARKNESS

- The Unnatural Beings leap from wall to wall like predators circling their prey.

- She aims the shotgun, but she can't hit them. They're moving too fast.

- Bey lets out a DEAFENING SCREECH making it difficult for Anca to concentrate as they move.

- Sally SCREAMS from her pod.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Anca! Watch out!

- Lena LEAPS at Anca, she shoots, but it misses her.

- Lena GRABS her, pinning her against the floor.

- Michelle and Bey swarm Anca as well.

- They're biting her. Scratching her. Feasting on her.

- Sally watches Anca being mauled from her pod.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Anca! No!!!!

- Bey takes a HUGE BITE from Anca's rib.
- Bey throws her head back, with dripping blood from her mouth, and swallows a chunk of Anca when--
- A BALL OF FIRE incinerates Bey's face.
- It's Jordan with a FLAMETHROWER.

JORDAN
COME GET SOME, MOTHERFUCKERS!

- A bloodied Anca grabs her shotgun, and BLASTS Lena from below, sending her jaw into her face.
- Together Jordan and Anca burn and shoot at the beings until the creatures are burnt to a green distorted crisp.
- Anca's shotgun clicks, being emptied, but she's still pulling the trigger.
- Jordan puts a hand on her shoulder.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Come on. We need you in the pod. We
won't survive without you.

- If there was time, Anca would be shocked Jordan said this, but they run to the pods together.

INT. SALLY'S POD

They have squeezed Anca into Sally's pod, Sally resting on her chest. They kiss. Exhausted. Bloodied. Happy.

As they kiss, gas is released in the sleeping chamber.

Their lips pull away from each other as they get comfortable.

Just as Anca's eyes are about to close, she sees a DARK SHADOW pass her pod.

She tries to see, but from this angle, it's difficult, she cranes her neck and--

Gustavo?

Anca presses her head against the glass to see better.

Gustavo stands before Jordan's pod. Typing? Tinkering?

What is he--

HE'S VIOLENTLY YANKED OFF SCREEN!

Anca tries SCREAMING for him, but--

She can't fight the sleep.

Her eyes close.

LATER

Dust. Dirt. Bugs. Destruction. This is not the pristine place we once knew. The Apex looks like its been demolished.

The pods are intact though.

They survived the tremors.

Then a BEEP.

A red blinking LIGHT from one of the pods.

Then ANOTHER and ANOTHER.

Then they stay SOLID RED and hold a BEEEEEEEEEEEP--

The pod doors open, the crew spills out.

At first, it takes a second for them to get their bearings.

Still a bit woozy.

But once Brooke comes to, she rushes to Sally.

BROOKE
Sally, are you okay?

SALLY
Yeah. I'm fine, Mom. Thanks.

Brooke and Sally hug. Then Brooke sees Anca.

BROOKE
Anca, I just want to say--

Anca waves her hand. All is forgiven. Brooke hugs Anca anyway. Anca hesitates at first, but then hugs Brooke back.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Thank you for saving my daughter.

Sally embraces them as well.

ASH (O.S.)
Jordan? Wake up. Jordan?

Brooke pulls away from the hug.

BROOKE

Jordan?

Corri is Jordan's lifeless body mouth to mouth. Pushing her chest. Breathing into her mouth.

ASH

Jordan, wake up. Jordan, wake up.
Come on, Jordan. God damn it.

CORRI

Come on girl, we can't have you go
out like that. Come on.

Brooke's heart breaks as she runs to Jordan.

They cover Jordan's body with a sheet. She's gone. Brooke crying in the bosom of her daughter.

CORRI (CONT'D)

Maybe when the pods sealed shut, not
enough oxygen was released. She
suffocated.

Anca's not sure about that.

ANCA

Anyone see Gustavo?

They shake their heads no. Realizing.

SALLY (O.S.)

Uh. Guys? You need to come here...

Sally's standing by the athletic's room.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

The room is filled with a ROAR from black spiral has turned into a MASSIVE BLACK VORTEX in the center of the room.

It's pulsating with a thick with black mass, and sporadic green electrical current.

Disgusting bugs swarm the vortex. Darting in and out. Beetles. Spiders. Their bigger. More disgusting.

The edges atomizing the matter around it, pulling it into the vortex, and becoming part of the thick black liquid mass.

Sally steps toward it--

BROOKE

Sally!

Brooke holds her back.

SALLY

No, Mom, look!

Sally brings her arm close. Her skin atomizes but then she pulls her arm away, and everything SNAPS BACK.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What is it?

ANCA

It's like a mini black hole...

Anca squats by the edge. Bugs dart passed her. She reaches her hand about to touch the black--

An ALARM blares.

CORRI

Someone opened the hatch.

They they hear distant SCREAMING for help from a voice they recognize.

ANCA

Gustavo...

INT. BY DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Gustavo BANGS wildly on the hatch door.

GUSTAVO (O.S.)

Please! Let me in! The door is jammed!

Brooke runs to the hatch to open it.

ANCA

No! Wait--

Brooke opens the hatch. Gustavo falls to the floor, coughing, taking his helmet off.

ANCA (CONT'D)

What were you doing?

GUSTAVO

My pod opened before yours, so I wanted to check what was going on outside.

ANCA

Outside? You went past the black?

GUSTAVO

You should see what's out there if you just push through.

(then)

Where's Jordan?

Brooke looks to the ground. Gustavo bows his head. Anca internally rolls her eyes at him.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to hear that. We had our differences but she was a good soldier and--

Anca grabs Gustavo and pins him against the wall.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

ANCA! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

ANCA

Cut the shit, Gustavo! I know what you did!

GUSTAVO

What? Have you gone mad?

ANCA

You walked right up to Jordan's pod, and started tinkering with her settings. I saw you do it.

BROOKE

Gustavo?

GUSTAVO

I went to every pod to double-check there wasn't any damage done to the oxygen supply. It is my duty as a leader to keep you all alive.

Anca locks her gaze with Gustavo.

ANCA

Yeah. That's funny that you think that's your duty, considering you haven't been telling us the truth about who that boy was.

This enrages Gustavo. He SLAMS Anca against the wall and puts a SCREWDRIVER to her neck.

And as soon as he does, he hears the clicking of weapons being pointed at him.

CORRI

Gustavo? What the fuck do you think you're doing?

Gustavo looks at the crew in horror. Then he looks at Anca.

GUSTAVO

My god. I'm sorry.

He drops the screwdriver.

ANCA

I went to Gustavo's room. I checked his drive. His specific memory drive for only him. Gustavo tinkered with the firewalls for the Apex's educational evolution.

ASH

What is Anca talking about?

GUSTAVO

I wanted to let it become so intelligent, that it could conceive of a way to bring my son back.

BROOKE

But Gustavo, you don't have a son...

Brooke then realizes.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Caroline...

Then it registers to the crew.

ANCA

This all makes sense. At first the Apex much like life itself on Earth would start with insects, then as it became more intelligent it would be able to create... Anything.

CORRI

You're the reason why we're all
going to die?

Gustavo falls to his knees, begging for forgiveness.

GUSTAVO

Please, I've been so lonely, so
confused. I've been living with so
much guilt. I've been so sad--

Anca JAMS the screwdriver into Gustavo's neck.

CORRI

Anca!

Gustavo's eyes widen his hand over his throat, screwdriver in
his neck.

BROOKE

ANCA!

ANCA

He's going to bleed black. Watch!

We can't see the blood yet.

ANCA (CONT'D)

He's not real. He's a hologram. I
saw him die. Watch! Look at his
blood. He's another hologram.

Anca stands with the crew, watching, waiting for the blood.

Then ever so slightly a RED drop of blood squeezes past his
fingers. Gustavo drops to the floor.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Shit.

Ash and Corri put their guns to Anca's face.

ASH

Hands up. Get on your knees. You
have officially lost your fucking
mind.

Anca holds her hands in the air. It's settling in that she
just killed an honest-to-goodness man.

Brooke is overwhelmed, her two lovers are dead within minutes
of each other.

ANCA

I'm so sorry. I thought he wasn't real. It just all made sense. I'm just so confused. I really thought he wasn't--

BROOKE

SHOOT HER! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! SHE JUST KILLED HIM!

Brooke tries to snatch the gun from Corri.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

I'll do it myself!

Corri snatches the gun back, but Anca jumps inside the decompression room for safety. Then locks herself in.

ANCA

Please! I'm sorry!

Ash and Corri bang on the door, but she's locked the door.

CORRI

You better stay the fuck in there!
You hear me!

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

It's dark. Anca can hear the banging from outside, but she turns around. Sits against the wall.

CORRI (O.S.)

Or we'll fucking kill you ourselves!

Anca's breathing heavy sitting against the wall with her hands over her ribs. She checks on her wound from the beings.

She hesitates. She's scared to check. She doesn't want to peel back her shirt.

She wipes her hand in the area. Then makes a fist with her hand. Staring at her hand with every bone in her body.

ANCA

Please don't be black.

She opens her hand.

Red blood.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Oh, thank god.

INT. HALLWAY

Sally tries to stop Corri and Ash from barricading the hatch with a broken pod.

SALLY

You can't do this to her. You can't just leave her in there to rot.

CORRI

We just watched Anca stab a man in his throat because she thought she wasn't real. Is that the type of person you want to be around?

This settles in for Sally, but something isn't right.

They they turn their attention towards Jordan's room. The edges of the entrance are atomizing and turning black.

The vortex has gotten bigger.

CORRI (CONT'D)

We need to stop that thing or we're all dying.

ASH

We have to turn everything off. Everything. The AI. The power. Everything.

SALLY

Everyone who knows how to do that is dead.

ASH

If we can't turn it off, maybe we can seal off the room, then malfunction that room specifically.

CORRI

Yeah, that could work, each room has an electrical panel on the ground, if we can short-circuit the panel, then maybe we turn the whole room off.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Anca's breathing is heavy. She is trying to stay alive. Short, quick breaths. She pulls herself to her feet.

Then she tries to open the hatch door, but it's jammed.

She throws her shoulder into it, but it doesn't budge.

She can't...

She's losing blood.

Then she turns her head to the EXIT...

INT. HALLWAY

Corri, Ash, Brooke, and Sally approach the vortex. They can hear its abhorrent roaring, like a colossal waterfall.

The edges of the entrance and floor are being pulled inside, causing a very strange black and green "Starry Night" feel.

They feel the gravity pulling them as they get closer.

ASH
Everyone hold on.

Corri straps a tactical BELT around Ash's waist.

Brooke and Sally act as the anchor with Corri at the door.

Then Ash lets the gravity PULL HER--

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Ash is SWOOPED inside, then SLAMS on the floor. The belt tightens, just stopping her from falling into the black pit.

She looks at the mouth of the abyss. The ROAR of the vortex permeates. It's much larger than before. Sucking everything.

She looks down at the floor, and mass is being liquefied and pulled under her. As if she was lying on a stream.

Curious insects land on her face, as she swats them away.

CORRI (O.C.)
You good?

Ash double checks the belt, it's tight. She's safe. For now.

ASH
Yeah, I'm good.

INT. BY DOOR

Corri, Brooke, and Sally hold on tight.

CORRI
Can you see the electrical box?

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Ash sees the divots in the ground for the electrical box.

ASH
Yeah, I'm going to crawl over.

Ash army crawls towards the box, pulling against the force of the vortex, swimming against the current. Then she GRIPS it.

ASH (CONT'D)
I got it!

Ash reaches into her pocket, pulls out a small flathead wedge, and starts YANKING the door open.

The vortex is getting closer--

She digs with the wedge--

The door breaks off the HINGES--

It flies off. Slicing the side of Ash's face. Then tumbles over her body. Cutting Ash's belt in the process!

ASH (CONT'D)
Fuck!

INT. BY DOOR

Corri and the rest feel the belt loosen--

CORRI
Ash, what's going on?!

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

There's barely enough material remaining for the belt to hold Ash. Her nails are digging into the edge of the box.

Her clothes are being pulled.

Then one of her NAILS rip off her fingers--

POP! POP! POP! POP!

ASH
AHH! FUCK!

CORRI (O.S.)
Ash! Talk to me!

ASH
I'm good! I'm good!

Ash looks at the belt. She's definitely not good.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Anca has the suit and helmet on. She's facing the exit of the Apex. She opens a small door on the wall.

She presses a few buttons, overrides, overrides, and overrides until finally. *Click-Clack*. The door opens.

The door starts to come apart.

Anca backs away.

She sees the BLACKNESS.

She's in awe.

There's a power to it.

It feels like a monolith.

Then a low murmur fills the room.

The room shakes.

She looks around. She's scared.

There's a SCREAM coming from inside the black.

She backs away.

There's something PUSHING THROUGH IT.

IT'S A FACE!

A LONG, BLACK FACE STRETCHING OUT AND SCREAMING IN ANCA'S FACE!!!!!!

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Ash frantically pulls cables trying to short-circuit the vortex.

ASH
Come on, come on--

Then her belt SNAPS!!!

INT. BY DOOR

Corri, Brooke, and Sally fall back.

CORRI

Ash!

Corri dives towards the door.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Corri sees Ash clinging to the electrical box with her bloody fingernails, trying to hold--

CORRI

Grab my hand!

ASH

I can't let go! It's pulling me in!

Corri sees Ash's foot is being atomized as they speak.

CORRI

Fuck!

INT. BY DOOR

Corri turns to the girls.

CORRI

Strap me up. I'm going in.

BROOKE

What? We can't--

SALLY

Mom! Come on! Just do it!

Brooke and Sally wrap their belts around themselves, then strap in Corri.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Corri stands at the edge of the door.

CORRI

Okay, Ash, I'm coming in. You ready?

ASH
Fuck! Fuck! Don't do it!

CORRI
I'm coming, baby! I'm coming!

ASH
No! Don't--

Corri jumps, but the vortex is too powerful. It unmercifully absorbs Corri. She screams in misery as she is atomized.

ASH (CONT'D)
CORRI! NO!!!

Ash loses her grip and FALLS towards the hole.

Sally dives for her--

SALLY
NO! HOLD ON!

BROOKE
SALLY!

Sally reaches for Ash. Ash is able to grab Sally's wrist, while the bottom of her feet and legs are being torn apart.

ASH
HOLY FUCK THIS HURTS!

SALLY
Hold on!

ASH
THIS HURTS SO FUCK BAD!

Ash hangs onto Sally, who is being held by Brooke, who only has her feet against the edge of the door for stability.

Sally is actually right near the electrical box.

ASH (CONT'D)
Sally, reach over and pull that last wire out.

SALLY
But I'm afraid I'll let you go.

BROOKE
Sally, don't do it. Just hold on.
Mommy is going to pick you up.

ASH
Mommy ain't doing shit but holding
us both up.
(re: Sally)
Do it or you're going to be all
alone and scared in this world.
Okay?

SALLY
I'm scared, Ash. I can't do it. I
don't want to die.

Ash looks at her situation.

ASH
Okay, I understand. Just hold on
then.

Ash uses her upper body strength to yank herself from the
hole. Her lower body snapping together as she does so.

Brooke strains to hold them up.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Anca backs against the wall--

The BLACK FACE stretches towards her--

Then through a SPARKLE of green distortion the black face
forms skin, veins, meat, skulls, and eyes.

Then Anca recognizes it--

ANCA
Virgil?

It's Virgil's face, perfectly content and happy, as if the
rest of his body isn't sucked into some strange black matter.

VIRGIL
Hello, Anca.

He smiles warmly at Anca.

ANCA
Virgil. You were dead. I saw you.

VIRGIL
Maybe. Not sure. I can't say.

ANCA
How did you get out there?

VIRGIL

Oh, my friend, I don't know if there is an "out there" anymore. Or an "in there" for that matter.

ANCA

I don't know what you mean.

VIRGIL

We thought we were creating a paradise, for humans to survive until the next time we could walk on Earth...

(he becomes morose)

But we in fact we created something much better.

ANCA

What?

VIRGIL

And the poor thing, Anca, it's bored. It's oh-so-bored. And we're all that's left.

Anca reaches out to touch Virgil's face.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

You can go ahead, I'm as real as the day is long.

Anca's fingers touch his face. The green distortion gently ripples. Virgil smiles.

ANCA

You can't be real...

VIRGIL

If you were me, you wouldn't be concerned with what is real.

ANCA

Virgil, you have to help us. The Apex is killing us. You have to tell me how to stop it.

VIRGIL

Oh, my young Anca. You've seen the code plenty of times before. It's--
OH GOD NO--

Virgil SCREAMS excruciatingly, then is sucked back into the darkness as if he was never really there.

The black stares back at Anca.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Ash is climbing on top of Sally, trying to reach to the electrical cord.

ASH
Come on, Brooke. Swing me over.

BROOKE
I can't.

ASH
Just fucking do it.

Ash's feet are losing their grip--

She swings--

BROOKE FALLS!

SALLY
MOM!

Ash grabs the cable and rips it, but Brooke knocks her back.

Sally is able to hold onto the edge of the electrical box.

Brooke grabs her daughter's waist.

They watch as Ash falls into the vortex with the cable in hand. She lets out a proud smile with the ripped cable--

Then is instantly vaporized.

She is gone.

The vortex is gone.

The room has lost power.

Sally and Brooke dive into each other's arms.

BROOKE
Oh my god, it's over. It's over.

SALLY
Yeah, I think it's over.

There's a small TREMOR from the floor.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What...

The POWER snaps back on.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What? No, we turned it off!

Then the vortex reappears with a ROARING current. Sucking in the surrounding mass. Sally and Brooke are YANKED towards it.

They grab the electrical box, but their losing their grip.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Mom. I think this is the end.

BROOKE

I'm so sorry, Sally. I tried. I really tried. To keep you alive. I really did.

SALLY

It's OK. I love you.

They reach for each other's hands.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Do you want to let go together?

Brooke smiles at her daughter.

SALLY (CONT'D)

One...

BROOKE

Two...

SALLY

Three--

A HAND grabs both their hands.

It's Anca, pulling them both out.

ANCA

COME ON!

INT. HALLWAY

Somewhere else in the Apex lies Gustavo's body. Well, at least where Gustavo's body ONCE WAS.

Because now, there's nothing but a pool of--

--BLACK BLOOD.

INT. HALLWAY

Brooke, Anca, and Sally run out in the hallway.

ANCA
We have to figure out a way to reset
The Apex. Virgil said--

BROOKE
Virgil?

ANCA
Yeah. I saw him, he told me that--

BROOKE
Oh, OK. You did lose your mind.

SALLY
Mom, please. Listen to her.

Brooke looks like she's about to concede when--
The LIGHTS go out. It's pitch-black.

BROOKE
Stay close, Sally.

SALLY
Did we lose power?

ANCA
The Apex doesn't lose power.

BROOKE
So, it turned off all the lights on
its own?

An eerie pause comes over them.

A long beat.

Then.

ANCA
Do you find our lives interesting?

BROOKE
What are you saying?

ANCA

It's fascinated by us. We're the
only thing it didn't create left...

The lights snap back on.

Everything is back to normal. As if the earthquake never
happened. No damage. Nothing.

A green ripple reverberates through the pristine hallway.

It never looked so abhorrent.

Then from both directions of the hallway comes a low
serenading murmur. The murmuring gets louder.

Rounding the corner, a small red line stretches across the
floor.

At first, they can't tell what it is, but it has the
thickness of a pencil.

Like a toy train set, the red line passes them. They see what
it really is: a very thin stream of BLOOD.

The MURMURING turns into a BUZZING.

A bug flies past Anca's face. The sounds of insects
approaching come from one direction of the hallway.

They brace themselves for the horde, but it never comes.

BROOKE

We need to get out of here.

The stream of blood gets WIDER.

ANCA

It doesn't matter where we go.

SALLY

Can't we just leave, Anca? Please?
Why can't we just leave?

ANCA

It is not going to work. That's why
when we opened the door it was all
black.

BROOKE

We have to do something! We can't
just die!

Brooke pulls on their hands to motion for them to run. Together, they hysterically run, through the Apex.

They turn the corners, passing Anca's room, Gustavo's room, and the athletics room, but never the decompression room.

One after the other, they pass the rooms, but never find the hatch.

The hissing bugs sound like laughter. The river of blood rises in the hallway.

They run the opposite direct. Then they turn around again. Then again. Then the blood makes it too difficult to run.

Brooke stops. Leans against the wall. She's quit.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

I can't do it anymore. I can't.

SALLY

Anca, what's happening--

ANCA

If it never wants us to find the door again, it never will.

The reality sets in on Brooke and Sally.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Now, if you would just give me a chance to look through--

They hear the SPLASHING of approaching footsteps.

They turn to its direction expecting the worst.

It's Gustavo.

GUSTAVO

Hello, Anca.

They keep a safe distance.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Brooke, you don't seem happy to see me.

Brooke forces a smile.

BROOKE

I am. It's just that--

GUSTAVO

I know when you're lying.

(then)

We know when you're lying.

Gustavo closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Ah. Is there anything as tantalizing
as an affair?

The flood of blood reaches their waste.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Can you believe I left my entire
family behind? For you and your
daughter? And for what? A work
fling?

Gustavo reaches out for Brooke's hand.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

But now, it's time for you to leave
your family and come with me,
Brooke.

BROOKE

No, no, I'm not leaving my daughter--

The river of blood's current increases.

GUSTAVO

It doesn't want to hurt us. Not
anymore. It's understands us better
than we can ever imagine. No, what
it wants is much simpler. It wants
us to worship it, for all the life
The Apex will offer.

Anca remembers something Virgil once said...

ANCA

(to herself)

All the life guacamole has to offer--

Suddenly, Anca cannot talk. Sally and Brooke can't move. Then
Gustavo smiles.

INT. AGRICULTURE ROOM

The Agriculture Room is now back to its once pristine state.
The glass encasements are once again filled with soil.

The table has been set. It has pizza, hamburger, steak, lobster, shrimp, all types of food that they haven't eaten.

Sally, Brooke, Anca and Gustavo sit at the table with their heads bowed.

GUSTAVO

Thank you for our food, and the many
more meals you will create for us.
Thank you. Amen.

Gustavo eats the food. Normally. But they are too terrified to eat it. Anca looks down at her delicious hamburger.

It's juicy. Dripping with grease and cheese. Her hands wrap around the lightly toasted bun. She takes a bite.

Letting the meat sit in her mouth first. Waiting for something bad to happen, but it never comes.

She chews and swallows. No problem.

She goes to take another bite, but a cascade of bugs falls out of the burger like a faucet.

Anca GAGS. There is something inside of her mouth. GAG. It is black, shiny, and wet. It's where her tongue should be.

She GAGS again. A SPIDER crawls out of her mouth. It falls and scurries away on the floor.

She bends over, choking, hacking, as pieces of burger and bugs hits the floor.

Brooke hesitantly looks at her food. The steak in front of her doesn't look appetizing anymore. She tightens her lips.

Then her mouth is pried open. Paralyzed at its widest point. Unable to make any sound besides gasping moans.

Sally sees something black and shiny in her mother's mouth. Moving back and forth over her tongue.

A MASSIVE BEETLE.

Sally tries to scream, but only a gasp comes out. Anca recovers from her hacking and sees their predicament.

ANCA

Apex, please don't do this to her--

Anca's chair FLIES against the wall. She's unnaturally bent backwards into a crab walking position.

Sally's eyes follow the beetle as it crawls out of her mother's mouth. Then back inside of it.

Tears simultaneously run down their cheeks.

They both can feel that something terrible is about to happen. Then it does.

The top of Brooke's mouth slowly moves down on the beetle.

Slowly.

Crunching.

Cutting the beetle through the shell.

Sending shivers down Sally's spine.

The shell splits into juicy halves. Revealing all of its inside spilling into Brooke's mouth.

Sally lets out a SCREAM.

Then Brooke takes another juicy bite out of the beetle. Its head still moving. Its legs still twitching.

It is a lovely sight.

Sally SCREAMS again.

Gustavo continues to eat as if nothing is happening.

INT. ATHLETIC'S ROOM

The once athletic safe haven is now a mosque. The furthest wall in the room has been painted completely black.

A deep dark, disgusting void. It contracts than retracts. Like it is breathing.

Then we realize it hasn't been painted black. It's bugs. Millions and millions of bugs condensed on top of each other.

Anca, Sally, and Brooke are on their knees. Arms pulled back. Eyes rolling in the back of their heads.

They make this strange breathing sound. Deeper the hiss. Faster the growl. While worshipping the void.

INT. ANCA'S ROOM

Anca sits at the edge of her bed. Shell shocked. Demoralized.

INT. SALLY'S ROOM

Sally sits in the center of their half circle with the Unnatural Beings Lena, Bey, and Michelle.

They're are playfully putting make-up on each other and giggling, but something is different about Sally.

Sally's head bops back and forth, like she has a broken neck. Her eyes roll back. A glob of drool drips down.

BEY

Sally, can you please pass me the mimosa.

The cocktail manifests into Sally's hand, then she hands the mimosa to Bey.

BEY (CONT'D)

You're so sweet.

Sally's lifeless hands drags off the stem of the cup as Bey takes it with a smile.

INT. GUS & BROOKE'S ROOM

The Brooke is alone with her view of Paris again. Brooke glides her hands across the screen of the hologram.

A slight green ripple follows her finger tips. She smiles to herself. Then types something in the sky.

Green specs light up with every tap. Paris glides off.

The smooth metallic structure behind this panorama hologram. The interior workings of The Apex. So smooth and clean.

She runs her hands across the cool steel.

She presses her chest against it. This is the closest to a God she has ever been.

TWO HANDS appears on her shoulders.

She jumps until she hears a recognizable voice.

JORDAN

(whisper)

Hey, you.

BROOKE

Jordan?

Jordan doesn't give her any time to explain. She kisses her neck, running her hand up her shirt.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Jordan -- please --

She pushes her off.

JORDAN
Please, Brooke, I don't have a lot of time. The Apex brought me back, it put me back together, I don't know when it will take me apart again, let's make love, one last time--

BROOKE
It's not you.

Jordan steps up to her and grabs both her hands, making her feel completely comfortable.

JORDAN
So what if it isn't me? Does it really matter?

There is something painfully genuine in her speech. She examines her face. Then kisses her.

INT. ATHLETICS ROOM

Gustavo stands at the front of Anca, Brooke, and Sally. In his hand is Virgil's marble notebook.

GUSTAVO
The Apex, told me he wanted to do something different today -- uh.

He flips few more pages.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
It wanted me to read from Virgil's book.

They watch Gustavo finds a page.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
Here it is. August 14. Today, I found avocado seeds in my bag. I had no idea that I had packed them, but apparently they were there --

Gustavo flips a few more pages.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Every avocado seed I plant, seems to fail in its own special way. One even seemed like it was breathing. Its shell expanding and contracting, but it must have been my mind playing tricks on me because a quick scan showed nothing of the sorts. I can't lie and say the image of the seed didn't keep me up at night.

He flips a few more pages. He is getting into it.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

Many nights, I find myself thinking about the breathing seed. Wondering about what actual life means. If an object was developed enough to breathe, it must be developed enough to think. What a strange day it must have been for the Cro-Magnons who first experienced their consciousness. I feel like our problem is similar to theirs. Overwhelmed by the possibilities.

Gustavo flips a few more pages.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)

I did not bring any avocado seeds on The Apex. This is something else.
(then)
This is life.

Anca remembers something Virgil once said...

ANCA

(to herself)
All the life guacamole has to offer.

Anca realizes.

ANCA (CONT'D)

Three avocados, ripe. Half small onion, finely diced. Two Roma tomatoes, diced.

GUSTAVO

Anca, this is not the time--

Gustavo's body STIFFENS. Like he can't take another step. The bugs subside, like the recipe is making them go away.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)
 No, Anca, stop that! You don't want
 to--

Gustavo's mouth can't move.

ANCA
 Three tablespoons...three
 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped.

The Apex around them is changing. No more bugs. No more river
 of blood.

ANCA (CONT'D)
 One jalapeño pepper, seeds removed
 and finely diced--

The Apex turns into a NEVER-ENDING FLOW OF GREEN CODE--
 similar to the Matrix--but they are surrounded by it.

SALLY
 Keep going!

ANCA
 Two garlic cloves, minced. One lime,
 juiced and--

Anca suddenly stops.

SALLY
 Anca? What is it?

ANCA
 I can't remember. It's one more
 thing. I know it.

ANCA'S BODY IS LIFTED OFF THE GROUND AND BENT AWKWARDLY.

SALLY
 ANCA!

Sally scrambles to grab the notebook.

POP. POP. POP.

Vertebrae explode inside Anca's back. Her neck is pulled
 between her shoulders.

SALLY (CONT'D)
 Mom! What is it? Quickly! Salt! Half
 teaspoon? It's salt? It has to be
 salt!

Blood spews from Anca's ears, mouth, and nose.

BROOKE

It's sea salt! Half teaspoon of sea salt!

Anca's screams reach a CRESCENDO, then--

Darkness. Everything has been wiped clean from the Apex. Even Gustavo. We HEAR Anca's body hit the floor.

SALLY

Anca?

ANCA

(getting to her feet)
We need to move.

Anca tries to get up, but lets out an agonized moan, then stumbles to the floor.

SALLY

Anca!

Brooke and Sally pull Anca to her feet. Helping her stay upright.

ANCA

We have two minutes before the Apex reboots, we have to get to the decompression room now!

They are in complete darkness. Absolutely no light. Brooke and Sally help Anca through the hallway.

Brooke and Sally under each arm, helping Anca. A flash of GREEN LIGHT illuminates them.

Then it goes back to black.

ANCA (CONT'D)

It's showing signs of life. We need to keep moving.

The GREEN LIGHT flashes again.

DECOMPRESSION ROOM DOOR

The FLASHES of green resemble an old-school camera.

Poof.

They become more frequent as they try to open the door.

Poof.

They grunt and try to open the door.

Poof. Poof. Poof.

ANCA (CONT'D)
Come on! Keep pushing it!

They really put their backs into it. The lights flash again and again.

They keep pulling, then finally, they hear a POP.

The door slowly opens.

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Anca, Brooke, and Sally put on their suits. The flashes of green stay on a bit longer.

Then go back to darkness.

Brooke stares at the huge metal door that separates them from the reality of the apocalypse. She's scared. Anca notices.

ANCA
I don't know what is out there, but
it has to be better than this.

BROOKE
(unsure)
Yeah.

SMASH

Brooke is RIPPED out of the room by a HUMANOID HOLOGRAM of Gustavo.

SALLY
MOM!

INT. HALLWAY

Gustavo struggles to maintain his form. His head bobbles back and forth, barely staying on his neck. Moving unnaturally.

Muscles regenerate then degenerate, but it all happens in a fluid motion. Bones. Green distortions. Lungs. Kidneys.

Every time Gustavo glitches, the hallway walls struggle to change from town to town. Paris, New York, an island, etc.

Brooke is on her ass, backing away from the monstrosity.

BROOKE

Oh my god. Oh my god.

The Gustavo's face morphs. First it is a skull, then muscle generates on it, then skin. Then it turns into Jordan.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

What are you?

Then Gustavo speaks in the a deep guttural voice--

GUSTAVO

I AM EVERYTHING.

Then Gustavo turns back to his original face.

Then his skin **MELTS** off, revealing skull and meat.

Gustavo jaw dislodges.

Opening at an unnatural length.

There is a sickening POP.

Two massive black **WINGS** expand from behind him.

Like a mutant insect.

It moves towards BROOKE, then--

Anca's hand grabs Gustavo's exposed **SPINE**--

--AND TEARS IT FROM ITS BODY!

All in one swoop. Gustavo's insides spill to the ground. But just as quickly as it collapses, it starts rebuilding.

ANCA

COME ON, WE ARE LOSING TIME!

SALLY

Mom!

She runs towards her mother.

BROOKE

No! Sally, go back, don't come for me--

Something happened. Sally can see it in her mother's eyes. The Apex has control over her.

SALLY

...Mom?

Brooke's neck slowly pulls away from her collarbone.

Her mouth widens at the same time to an agonizing length.

Brooke is ripped apart, but not in a poetic way. It is done in a weird jerking motion, which is far more barbaric.

It is slow, awkward, and brutal, like using a blunt knife to sever a head.

SALLY (CONT'D)

MOM, NO!

Sally is hysterical, but Anca sees something much worse.

From down the hallway, the lights are turning back on, one by one, racing towards them.

SNAP-SNAP-SNAP--

ANCA

RUN!

INT. DECOMPRESSION ROOM

Anca and Sally SHUT the hatch, then turn their attention to the exit.

ANCA

Quick. Lift it from the bottom.

Sally gives her a hand, and the door goes up easily. Faster than they both thought it would.

They back up and take a look at the weird blackness of Earth.

Sally's eyes are red with tears. She's trying her best to keep her composure.

SALLY

What do we do?

ANCA

I don't know what it is...

SMASH!

GUSTAVO BURSTS THROUGH THE DOOR!

ANCA (CONT'D)

JUMP!

Anca grabs Sally's hand, and--

TOGETHER THEY JUMP INTO THE DARKNESS.

GUSTAVO LEAPS WITH AN INHUMAN SHRIEK.

Gustavo's hand just BARELY grazes them. He missed. Gustavo screams, like a mother being torn away from her baby.

The lights flicker a few more times.

Gustavo fills with flesh. The veins regenerating. The blood cells working.

His eyes fill with tears, then he atomizes into thin air.

He's gone.

EXT. THE APEX

Earth resembles Mars. Barren. Smooth hills. Untouched by humans. The sand is a burnt orange.

A starry universe replaces the blue sky.

This is the new reality.

Deep breathing.

Helmets.

Anca helps Sally to her feet, then motions to the view. She gets a good look at it.

Sally looks around and sees there is nothing but sand for days. No sign of civilization. No sign of food or water.

SALLY

It doesn't even look like Earth
anymore.

That's when they hear it.

VOICE (O.C.)

You're so interesting.

The comment sends shudders down their spines.

They turn around and see the Apex's entrance, built into the side of a mountain.

Inside of the framework of the door are Jordan, Gustavo, Corri, Ash, and Brooke.

Each is holding a plate of food.

ANCA

Don't worry, they can't hurt us.
They can't leave.

She's right. They're all standing right at the edge of the entrance. Smiling genuinely. Being so welcoming.

Jordan lifts a plate of food towards them.

JORDAN

Don't be scared.

They back away slowly.

BROOKE

No, no! Don't go! Don't leave me,
Sally! Please don't leave me here
all by myself.

Sally knows that isn't her mom, but it hurts anyway. They look back at the miserable uncertain state of Earth.

GUSTAVO

Face it, we are all that's left.

Then they turn back to the holograms. Each of them holding their own tray of comfort food, smiling.

Anca and Sally both turn to the open space again.

Contemplating.

They look at the barren earth.

Then they look back at the Apex.

Then they look at each other.

THE END