Once Upon a Wasteland Season One Part Two: The Book of Amanda

Episode 6: "So Desperate a Step"

by

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Based on Fallout 76

by

Bethesda Softworks

ACT ONE

	INT. MACALLAN CLUB, DAY	
	VALDEZ waits outside CRAIG's club, talking to herself.	
1	and Mr. Kirby trained you well, and the other two times you went undercover it went fine (beat)	1 2
	VALDEZ knocks on the door. The BOUNCER opens it.	
	-	
3	BOUNCER Good morning Miss Fonseca. I didn't expect to see you back at the club so soon. And I also didn't expect to see you here alone. (beat)	3
4		4
	The BOUNCER opens the door to the club and leads VALDEZ in.	
5	BOUNCER (CONT'D) Right this way. He's waiting for you.	5
_	VALDEZ	_
6	Thank you.	6
7	CRAIG It's wonderful to see you again, Courtney. Can I interest you in lunch? The club may not be open right now, but my personal chef is never far and our kitchen is always at the ready.	7
0	VALDEZ	0
8	I think that sounds lovely.	8
9	CRAIG Great. What can I get for you? And do you have any dietary restrictions?	9

10	VALDEZ Surprise me. And no, I don't.	10
	CRAIG writes on a pad of paper, tears off a page, it to the BOUNCER.	and hands
11	CRAIG Give this to Henry, please.	11
12	BOUNCER Yes, sir.	12
	The BOUNCER leaves.	
13	CRAIG I wish that Miss Halstead could've joined us as well. You two are electric when you're together. (beat)	13
14	And I adore that just hearing her name still makes you blush.	14
15	VALDEZ Alice sends her regrets. But there were a couple of things that we were hoping for a bit of clarification on.	15
16	CRAIG Of course. I can't reveal any "trade secrets" until our partnership is official, but I'm happy to provide whatever context you may need otherwise.	16
17	VALDEZ Thank you. I wanted to ask about your memory devices.	17
18	CRAIG I thought you might. You seemed quite interested in them when we first spoke. We're still trying to figure out a good name for them, by the way. Davina is a genius when it comes to marketing, but this one has even her stumped.	18
19	VALDEZ Perhaps Alice and I can give that some thought. When our partnership is official, of course.	19

20	CRAIG What would you like to know?	20
21	VALDEZ I'm mostly concerned about the potential danger to clients.	21
22	CRAIG As am I. We've been working hard to mitigate that, and we've made significant progress. There are two primary issues. First, there always seems to be the possibility that a client's mind will reject the experience, which introduces significant neurological trauma.	22
23	VALDEZ And what can you to about that?	23
24	CRAIG Unfortunately, the technology itself is impenetrable. We've been able to play around the margins, but the impact of doing that has been, well, marginal. (beat)	24
25	But we've been developing a chem as well. We piggybacked off research that we found with the equipment. The people who developed the technology, of course, ran into the same problems we did, and although they continued to refine the technology itself, they began working on the pharmaceutical side as well.	25
26	VALDEZ And chems are something that you're very familiar with.	26
27	CRAIG We are. We brought some of the top scientists in that area with us when we came here, and they've made significant progress. Our more recent tests have been very promising.	27
28	VALDEZ That's excellent news.	28

	CRAIG	
29	It is. We're not monsters. You know what it's like out there; we want people to have the ability to enjoy themselves in spite of that.	29
30	VALDEZ Where did you find the tech?	30
31	CRAIG I sent an advance team here to scout locations for this club. One of the teams found an underground lab facility, and although that location was a bit too small and not centrally located, the technology inside was incredible. We moved it to a secure location, and eventually here.	31
32	VALDEZ I see. Have you found any more facilities like that one?	32
33	CRAIG No. We've heard rumors rumblings. But whenever I send anyone to check them out, it's nothing. There were references to other aspects of whatever project created these things, but everything seemed to be what's the word compartmentalized?	33
34	VALDEZ Yes. That's common with Vault-Tec projects, I've found.	34
35	CRAIG How did you know it was Vault-Tec?	35
36	VALDEZ Who else could it be?	36
37	CRAIG I suppose you're right. And even if another group was involved, Vault- Tec would be a very prominent player as well.	37
38	VALDEZ They always are, it seems.	38

	CRAIG	
39	Even with them gone, there are groups to contend with. The Brotherhood of Steel is the one I'm most concerned about. I can see them causing problems.	39
40	VALDEZ What kind of problems? They seem like a noble group to me.	40
41	CRAIG The Brotherhood's reputation precedes it. Their focus on "purity," shall we say, gives me the willies. And they are <i>incredibly</i> arrogant, especially when it comes to technology.	41
42	(beat) Think about <i>this</i> technology. One of the primary reasons for the secrecy surrounding this tech is that they'd level my club and kill all of us if they found out about it.	42
43	VALDEZ That's not true!	43
44	CRAIG That's a surprisingly strong reaction.	44
45	VALDEZ I'm sorry. Alice and I have had a lot of interaction with the Brotherhood, and that kind of thing seems out of character.	45
46	CRAIG Well, I'm glad that your "interactions" have been positive. Ours have been less so.	46
47	VALDEZ I understand. And in your business, if you're not careful, you're dead.	47
48	CRAIG Precisely. I'm sure you face many of the same challenges.	48

49	VALDEZ I do. So I'm sure you can appreciate my desire to perform due diligence.	49
50	CRAIG I certainly can. Was that all you wanted to know about?	50
51	VALDEZ No. I also had a question regarding a chem.	51
52	CRAIG I see. Well, anything you'd like to sample is at your disposal. And if there's anything that Miss Halstead is interested in, you're welcome to take it to her, or she can stop by any time.	52
53	VALDEZ Thank you. I don't want to sample anything, I just had questions about one specific chem. Are you familiar with Venus?	53
54	CRAIG Familiar with it? We developed it. And, if I may say, it's one of our proudest achievements.	54
55	VALDEZ Oh! I didn't know it was one of your creations.	55
56	CRAIG It is. It's still not <i>perfect</i> , but as long as it's used responsibly it's a transcendent experience.	56
57	VALDEZ So I've heard.	57
58	CRAIG Ah, I was wondering if you'd used it yourself. What would you like to know?	58
59	VALDEZ I'm specifically curious about the nature of its effects. Can it create attraction where it didn't exist previously?	59

CRAIG chuckles.

	CRAIG	
60	No. It's not a love potion. That's one of the things that inspired the name, in fact. It <i>intensifies</i> feelings that are already there. It can't create anything out of whole cloth, and that's by design. There would be too much potential for abuse otherwise.	60
61	VALDEZ I can see that.	61
62	CRAIG It empowers people to take chances that they might not take otherwise. To <i>feel</i> more deeply, which inspires them to express themselves in ways that sometimes, frankly, surprise them. (beat)	62
63	With couples, it usually manifests itself in being more adventurous or experimental in lovemaking.	63
64	VALDEZ And with non-couples?	64
65	CRAIG It's used by people all along the relationship spectrum. People who've been married for years to those who are still finding their way. Although	65
66	VALDEZ What is it?	66
67	CRAIG Well, it never occurred to me before, but while it isn't a "love potion," it could be a truth serum in a way. A test to see if two people have feelings under the surface.	67
68	VALDEZ Do you mean something along the	68
	lines of "in vino veritas?"	

69	CRAIG "In wine, truth." Although "in <i>Venus</i> veritas" would be much more truthful than alcohol. (beat)	69
70	You may have helped me create a new marketing angle, Miss Fonseca. Though we'd certainly want to get the last remaining issue corrected before recommending that kind of usage.	70
71	VALDEZ Oh. Yes. I meant to ask about that. What's that "issue?"	71
72	CRAIG Well, to put it plainly, it can be abused if too much is taken. There's a tipping point, different for each person, where they almost become hypnotized, I suppose, for lack of a better comparison.	72
73	VALDEZ I'm not sure I understand.	73
74	CRAIG If someone takes too much, they'll do just about anything they're asked. There seems to be a line involving direct self harm, fortunately; they won't jump off a building or shoot themselves if told to. But it creates a significant risk of abuse, and that's why we're trying so hard to fix it.	74
75	(beat) We try to mitigate it by being careful about who we sell it to, and strictly limiting the amount we sell to any one person. It's not a perfect solution, but it's the best we can do for now.	75
76	VALDEZ I see.	76
77	CRAIG You seem upset.	77

78	VALDEZ I am, a bit, if I'm being honest. I don't like that a chem with that kind of potential for abuse is out there, "mitigation strategies" or not.	78
79	CRAIG Try to look at it pragmatically. We've made it as difficult as we can for people to abuse it. And alcohol carries the same potential for abuse - if not more - and is available without restriction.	79
	VALDEZ	
80	That doesn't make it right.	80
0.1	CRAIG	0.1
81	We operate in a world of gray, Courtney. Thinking in absolute terms has always been dangerous, and it's especially dangerous in this environment. (beat)	81
82	I've made fixing this my recreational chem team's top priority. I've put everyone on it. We're not developing any new chems or even improving existing ones until this gets resolved.	82
	VALDEZ	
83	That's encouraging. Thank you. I did have one other question about it.	83
	CRAIG	
84	What is it?	84
85	VALDEZ In a situation where someone takes too much and becomes compliant, does it change the nature of the way that the primary effects work?	85
86	CRAIG No. It's an <i>additive</i> effect. If someone were to accidentally take too much, they would still experience the same intensified feelings of attraction and pleasure. (MORE)	86

87	CRAIG (CONT'D) That person's partner would simply need to be careful in navigating how the encounter proceeds. As with most things, it comes down to trust. (beat, thinking) The only potential downside is that at a certain point, memory loss occurs, so the person wouldn't remember anything that happened, no matter how memorable it might be.	87
88	VALDEZ That would be very disappointing, I'm sure.	88
	The BOUNCER approaches.	
89	BOUNCER Mr. MacAllan, Miss Fonseca, lunch is ready.	89
90	CRAIG Perfect! Let's continue our conversation in the dining room. (beat)	90
91	After you.	91
92	VALDEZ Thank you.	92
	MUSICAL TRANSITION	
	INT. KIRBY RESIDENCE, AFTERNOON	
	BETH enters the room. ELISE is sitting on the couch.	
93	ELISE Schatzi! How are you? You just missed your father.	93
94	BETH Oh, dear. Where did he go?	94
95	ELISE He went for a walk.	95
96	(beat) Don't give me that look! He really just went for a walk.	96
97	BETH Good. How are you holding up?	97

98	ELISE I'm fine, dear. You staying the night with us helped, too. It was nice to have you home, Lily. And I may not be an intelligence officer, but I <i>am</i> pretty tough.	98
BETH chuc	kles.	
99	BETH You are, at that. Have you eaten?	99
100	ELISE You also just missed lunch, I'm afraid. Cooking helped take my mind off things for a bit. I would've waited if I'd known you were coming.	100
101	BETH I was kind of hoping I'd be able to use the same strategy to take a break from thinking about everything.	101
102	ELISE (cheeky) Well, I suppose you'll just have to invite Odessa over for dinner, then.	102
BETH laug	hs.	
103	BETH I suppose I will. But I can't stop replaying everything that happened at Foundation. We got there as quickly as we could, but we were still too late to help. You could've you could've been killed, mum. And it would've been my fault.	103
104	ELISE Your fault? Lily, you cannot think that way.	104
105	BETH The more we learn about what the Morningstar is up to, the more it seems to be about me, and I just don't understand why. I never had any involvement in this research. I'm not even a scientist. (MORE)	105

	BETH (CONT'D)	
106	(beat) What did I do to deserve this? He's been toying with me from the outset, I just didn't realize it at the time. I wish I could just turn myself in and end this. But I guess that wouldn't fit in with his little game.	106
107	ELISE Elizabeth Laurel Kirby, I will not sit here and listen to you talk like that. Besides, I know you too well to even entertain the idea that you'd give up. (beat)	107
108	I know you're concerned about the peril that we all seem to be in right now, and I'm concerned, too. But the best way for you to protect us is to keep doing what you've been doing.	108
109	BETH You're right, of course.	109
110	(beat)	110
110	Oh! I meant to ask, did you recognize any of the people who were holding you hostage?	110
111	ELISE No. I wish I had, that could've provided significant insight if not into who's behind this, at least into which groups are involved.	111
BETH sigh	s.	
112	BETH We were speculating that it might be the Free States, but I knew that was unlikely given the work you'd done to establish detente between them and Foundation.	112
113	ELISE Indeed. I suppose it could've been rogue elements within the Free States that didn't like the agreement, but for what it's worth the men I saw didn't feel like Free Staters.	113

114	BETH In what way?	114
115	ELISE They seemed more precise, I suppose? It's hard to put my finger on it. They seemed more like traditional military.	115
116	BETH Hmm. Perhaps he's bringing in mercenaries?	116
117	ELISE Perhaps. But I think that's something you'll have to discuss with your father when he gets back.	117
118	BETH Before he does	118
110	ELISE	110
119	Yes?	119
120	BETH Well there were some things I wanted to talk to <i>you</i> about. Everything that's happened has had me wondering.	120
121	(beat) How did you and dad do it?	121
122	ELISE How did we do what?	122
123	BETH I've never seen two people more in love than you two. The world <i>literally</i> fell apart around you, but you didn't.	123
124	ELISE It wasn't always easy. Even before the world fell apart. Love is often simple. Pure. But circumstances tend not to be, and those are what can split us apart.	124
125	BETH Did you ever split apart?	125

ELISE sighs.

126	ELISE Are you sure you want to hear this?	126
127	BETH I am, mum.	127
128	ELISE Yes. There were times, especially early on, that circumstances made it seem like we couldn't be together. I hate to say this, but it seemed like love wouldn't be enough sometimes.	128
129	BETH But it was.	129
	ELISE chuckles.	
130	ELISE You wouldn't be here if it wasn't.	130
	BETH laughs.	
131	ELISE (CONT'D) But what we discovered was that no matter what happened, we always came back to each other. It was almost instinct. We were each other's <i>querencia</i> .	131
100	BETH	1 2 0
132	Your what?	132
133	ELISE <i>Querencia</i> . It's Spanish, but it doesn't translate directly to English, or German for that matter.	133
134	(beat) It was a concept your father learned about from a book of poetry he found in an old bookshop in New York. One moment, I'll get it for you. He likes to keep it nearby.	134
	ELISE goes to a nearby bookshelf and retrieves the book, handing it to BETH.	
135	ELISE (CONT'D) Be gentle. It's more than a century old.	135

136	BETH "Cemetery Nights" by Stephen Dobyns.	136
137	(beat) I'll read it when I get home. And I'll take good care of it, I promise. I can imagine how important it is to him.	137
120	ELISE	120
138	And to me.	138
139	BETH Can you explain what it is in the meantime?	139
140	ELISE A <i>querencia</i> is a place. "The place one cares most about, where one is most secure, protected, where one feels safest" is how he put it in the poem, I think. "The place that all our being radiates	140
141	out from." The place you come back to when things seem darkest. (beat) It can be a physical place, or a place in your mind - a memory, even an ideal. Or, as we learned, it can be a person. What that person embodies, what they mean to us. And what we mean to them.	141
142	BETH That's beautiful.	142
143	ELISE That's love.	143
144	(beat) Be careful when you read it. Your father still cries every time. But don't tell him I told you that.	144
145	BETH I won't. And thank you.	145
	CHARLES opens the door end enters.	
146	CHARLES Well, hello, Elizabeth!	146

147	BETH Charles! I thought you might be with dad. You know, keeping him out of trouble.	147
148	CHARLES I think you've noticed by now that the only person who can keep Andrew Kirby out of trouble is Andrew Kirby.	148
149	ELISE Indeed. I've been trying for more than thirty years.	149
150	BETH So, where have you been?	150
151	CHARLES Talking to the Overseer, actually.	151
152	BETH The Overseer? You don't think she has anything to with this, do you?	152
153	CHARLES Not directly, though I trust Vault- Tec higher-ups about as far as I can throw a Vault door.	153
154	BETH I trust them even less than that.	154
155	CHARLES I didn't want to risk showing our cards by asking directly, but I did get her to more or less confirm that the Project Mind's Eye had a sister project that either was or is being run out of Vault 112. "Project Tranquility."	155
156	BETH Vault 112 that's in Washington, D.C., isn't it? As I recall it was one of the last Vaults that Vault- Tec completed before the war.	156
157	CHARLES That is correct.	157
158	BETH That's brilliant news! We can get in touch with Bryan's team, and (MORE)	158

	BETH (CONT'D)	
159	(beat) What?	159
	CHARLES	
160	We haven't been able to contact Bryan or anyone from his team. It's been nine months, I believe. (beat)	160
161	That doesn't mean that we've lost them. Not necessarily. But it does mean that we can't use them as a resource to determine if whatever this Vault 112 project is has anything to do with the Morningstar's plans, unless and until they turn up.	161
162	BETH It's possible that their disappearance is tied to whatever he's up to. Maybe they got too close. Bryan is one of the canniest operators I know	162
163	(distracted) I just I hope I see him again. He was a good friend. And we could certainly use his help right now.	163
164	ELISE And I know that closure would help.	164
165	BETH It would, if I'm being honest. But I can't worry about that now. (beat, gathering bergalf)	165
166	herself) Charles, what did you find out about that sister project?	166
167	CHARLES Not much, I'm afraid. The Overseer didn't seem to know anything about it other than that Vault 112 was one of several Vaults that had projects related to efforts being run out of Vault 76. But she said that she was never apprised of the specifics of those other projects, and I believe her. She was an administrator, there would be no "need to know" that sort of detail.	167

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168	BETH Which means we're nowhere.	168
169	CHARLES I wouldn't say "nowhere." Remember, intelligence isn't always big, dramatic revelations. Sometimes it's about gathering enough pieces of the puzzle that you start to see the picture form. And this does seem like a potentially important piece.	169
170	BETH I hope you're right. Given what happened at Foundation, it seems that he's getting bolder.	170
171	CHARLES It does, at that. We'll keep at it. And who knows, perhaps your father will have accidentally stumbled across some information during his completely innocent walk	171
172	ELISE Ugh. He's incorrigible. He's lucky I love him.	172
BETH laug	hs.	
173	BETH He is. You're both lucky.	173
174	ELISE I agree. A lot of hard work in there, too, though. But well worth it - and not just because we got the best daughter on the planet out of the deal.	174
175	BETH Aww	175

END OF ACT ONE

18.

ACT TWO

	INT. BETH'S HOME, DAY	
	The doorbell rings. BETH answers it.	
176	BETH Odessa! Please, come in!	176
	VALDEZ enters. BETH closes the door.	
177	BETH (CONT'D) Can I get you a drink? Something to eat?	177
178	VALDEZ Thank you. I'm fine. I just ate, actually.	178
179	BETH So, what's up? I didn't expect to see you! I was going to radio you later, see if you wanted to get together.	179
180	(beat, awkward) You know, exchange intel, that sort of thing.	180
	VALDEZ chuckles.	
181	VALDEZ We can exchange intel now, if you'd like.	181
182	BETH Oooh! What did you find out? Was Knight Banks able to get something out of those prisoners?	182
183	VALDEZ No, unfortunately.	183
184	BETH It sounds like it's time for me to give it a try.	184
185	VALDEZ I think you're right. Alan's doing his best, but he isn't a trained interrogator, and	185

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186	BETH And you're still not sure about him?	186
	VALDEZ sighs.	
187	VALDEZ No. I wanted this to be the end of it. But I just I can't shake the feeling that there's <i>something</i> going on with him.	187
188	BETH Could it be unrelated?	188
189	VALDEZ Perhaps. But I can't really confront him about it, because if he <i>is</i> working for the Morningstar he'd know we were onto him.	189
190	BETH Look at you, thinking like a spy	190
	VALDEZ laughs.	
191	VALDEZ I'll stick to being a scientist, thanks. Most of the time, at least. It's fun, kind of like roleplaying. Especially with you.	191
192	BETH In that case, I hope that we have the chance for more roleplaying in the future.	192
193	VALDEZ I think we will. (beat)	193
194	You said we could exchange intel. Would you like to go first, or	194
195	BETH Sure. Charles did some legwork and found out about a Vault-Tec project that may or may not be related to the tech that the Morningstar is chasing. Did Vault 112 or "Project Tranquility" come up in any of the materials you analyzed?	195

	VALDEZ	
196	Hmm. No, I don't recall either of those things coming up. But I'll go downstairs and run a search, just to make sure that I didn't miss anything. What are they?	196
197	BETH Information on both was scant. The Overseer was cagey, but did volunteer that Vault-Tec ran a sister program to Project Mind's Eye out of Vault 112. But the nature of that project - Project Tranquility - well either she didn't know or wasn't saying.	197
198	VALDEZ Which do you think it was?	198
199	BETH Charles said that it felt like she didn't know. And that jibes with the way that Vault-Tec operates. As for Vault 112 how familiar are you with the nature of the various Vaults?	199
200	VALDEZ A little. I thought they were all supposed to provide shelter selected people from the bombs. Was that not the case?	200
201	BETH Well, some Vaults were. Vault 76 was one of them. They called them "control Vaults." But others weren't so much about protecting "the great and the good," but were geared more toward conducting experiments.	201
202	(beat) One of the ways my father and I bonded when I was younger was seeing what systems we could hack into together. Daddy-daughter time, you know?	202
203	VALDEZ That's adorable.	203

204	BETH Vault-Tec's systems were locked down pretty effectively when it came to information on other Vaults, but we were able to learn a little bit about a few of them. There was one up north, for example, that was set up specifically to perform experiments related to cryogenics.	204
205	VALDEZ And I take it that Vault 112 wasn't a "control Vault."	205
206	BETH It wasn't. But all that dad and I knew about it from Vault-Tec's records was that it was in Washington, D.C. No mention of what sort of Vault it was, and no mention of any programs or experiments housed there.	206
207	VALDEZ So road trip?	207
208	BETH It may come to that. My hope was that we could leverage resources that were already in the area, but	208
209	VALDEZ What's wrong?	209
210	BETH The program that I was a part of also had teams that were intended to leave Appalachia and do more or less the same thing we're trying to do here - to do what we could, in the background, to hold things together and maybe guide things in a way that would foster a sustainable society. The assignment to go to D.C. was considered the most important of them all. And the most dangerous.	210

211	VALDEZ That makes sense. On both counts. The former seat of government is the kind of place that you'd want to send your best people.	211
212	BETH And we did. That team was led by Bryan Reardon. He was the best of us. Smart, canny, good in a fight. And a hell of a leader.	212
213	VALDEZ I feel like there's a "but" coming.	213
BETH sigh	s.	
214	BETH There is. Bryan was a good friend. We were very close. No romantic entanglements, of course, which helped.	214
215	VALDEZ Of course.	215
216	BETH Not that he didn't try.	216
217	VALDEZ Oh. That must've been awkward.	217
218	BETH At first. But once I made it clear that I was beyond my experimentation phase, he backed off. Fortunately, it didn't harm our friendship at all.	218
219	VALDEZ Yet you said he "was" a good friend.	219
220	BETH You really are getting good at this. I didn't even realize I'd done that.	220
221	(beat) I guess I used past tense for a couple of reasons. Bryan didn't want the D.C. assignment. He wanted to coordinate things here. (MORE)	221

	BETH (CONT'D) He felt strongly that <i>this</i> was the plum assignment and that he'd earned pride of place.	
222	VALDEZ He wanted your assignment?	222
223	BETH He did. He was upset. He accused my father of nepotism and said some unkind things to me, but in the end he accepted the assignment and left, and that was that. But we never had the opportunity to reconcile.	223
224	VALDEZ I'm sorry. I know what it's like to not have closure.	224
225	BETH Thank you. The thing is, I know that even if he were still angry with me, he wouldn't let that get in the way of doing what was best for the mission. The problem is that no one's heard from Bryan's team in about nine months. Charles had been checking in with him periodically. I don't want to assume the worst, but well, you know better than anyone how dangerous it is out there. And it's only going to be moreso in an area that saw as much concentrated fire as the Capitol.	225
226	VALDEZ Don't lose hope. I have no doubt that he's every bit as skilled and capable as you say he is, and people like that often find a way to survive.	226
227	BETH I hope you're right. But, in any case, even if he and his team did find anything out about Project Tranquility, there's no way for that to help us now. And we don't even know if it's relevant to what's going on here; it could just as easily be a red herring as a vital piece of intel. (MORE)	227

	BETH (CONT'D) Still, it's another data point, I suppose.	
228	(beat, cheeky) Your turn	228
229	VALDEZ I paid Craig MacAllan a visit earlier.	229
230	BETH You what?!	230
231	VALDEZ I just had some follow-up questions. You're not upset, are you?	231
232	BETH I'm not, I'm just surprised. And in fact, I'm impressed. What did you find out?	232
233	VALDEZ I was curious about where he got his technology from. From the way he described it, it sounded different from what's discussed in the materials we found, and in Dr. Flagler's notes.	233
234	BETH I noticed that as well.	234
235	VALDEZ He didn't want to volunteer much, but he said that he found it while scouting locations for his club. But all of the labs we know about are accounted for. Cleaned out, sure, but accounted for.	235
236	BETH So that lab must not have been related to Mind's Eye. At least not directly.	236
237	VALDEZ That was my thought as well. And given what you said about Project Tranquility	237

25.

238	BETH It's possible that it was a satellite lab for that project, so it wouldn't appear in the project notes we found. And that might explain why the Morningstar hadn't been looking for it.	238
239	VALDEZ If that's the case, then that tech may be even more relevant to the Morningstar's plans than we'd thought.	239
240	BETH It's been a productive day, hasn't it?	240
241	VALDEZ It has. Seems like we make a good team even when we're split up.	241
242	(beat) There was something else I wanted to talk to you about. Unrelated to all this.	242
243	BETH Oh? Am I going to need that drink?	243
VALDEZ la	aughs.	
244	VALDEZ Maybe. How about you pour and we'll talk. Okay?	244
245	BETH Okay. Have a seat and I'll be right back.	245
BETH make	es drinks. She returns, and she and VALDEZ sit.	
246	VALDEZ I wanted to talk to you about the party.	246
247	BETH (hopeful) Oh? What about it?	247
248	VALDEZ Um this is awkward, but	248
249	BETH Uh-oh	249

250	VALDEZ Casey asked me to go with her.	250
251	BETH Oh! Oh, my. And, um what did you say? I mean, of course I'd completely understand if	251
252	VALDEZ (interrupting) Beth! I didn't say anything.	252
253	BETH You didn't? Why? Did you want to see if I'd be upset before you said yes?	253
VALDEZ la		
254	VALDEZ No, Beth. I did not. She didn't give me a chance to say anything. She told me to think about it and sort of floated away.	254
255	BETH So	255
256	VALDEZ Elizabeth Kirby, would you be my date to the Brotherhood "Blowing- off-Steam" party tomorrow night? Of course, if you're busy	256
257	BETH I'm not busy! And I would love to go with you. Full disclosure, I was kind of hoping that was why you stopped by.	257
258	VALDEZ (chuckling) That was a big part of it, yeah. Do you think you have something in that closet of yours that I can wear? It would have to be a little more demure than what I wore to	258

BETH laughs.

259	BETH Yes, I think that would be advisable. And maybe you can help me pick something out as well.	259
260	VALDEZ I'd love that.	260
261	(beat) You probably know Casey better than anyone. Is she going to be upset? I don't want this to be weird.	261
262	BETH Casey's not like that at all. It won't be weird. And besides, she's probably already had twenty Brotherhood members ask <i>her</i> already.	262
263	VALDEZ You know, it's funny.	263
264	BETH What is?	264
265	VALDEZ I know that people can break up and still be friends. But I've met two people that you were involved with, and well, you're not just friends, they're incredibly loyal to you. Casey made it pretty clear that she didn't want to get in the way of whatever may be going on between us.	265
266	(beat) And, um in the interest of "semper veritas"	266
267	BETH Uh-oh.	267
268	VALDEZ I was kind of, <i>maybe</i> considering asking her out myself before you happened.	268
BETH sigh	s.	
269	BETH Why do I always seem to "happen to" people? (MORE)	269

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

"Oh, that's Beth	- great in	bed,
but she'll knock	you around	like a
radstorm."		

270	VALDEZ I'm sorry. It was a poor choice of words. I didn't mean it in a negative way. And, in fact I'm glad you "happened to" me.	270
271	BETH You really mean that?	271
272	VALDEZ "Semper veritas" still applies. I	272

2 guess I'll just have to find out if I... um... get knocked around like a radstorm.

BETH laughs.

	BETH	
273	Alright, let's start looking through that wardrobe. And don't forget, we're having dinner with Amanda tonight at her place to talk about what happened that first night I was gone.	273

VALDEZ

	(ruefully)	
274	Wouldn't miss it for the world.	274

BETH

275 It will be fun! I'm going to check 275 in on her after you head back to Atlas and see if she needs any help with cooking or setting up. And I promise not to try to get any information out of her ahead of time.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE, AFTERNOON BETH knocks at AMANDA's door. AMANDA opens the door slowly. She is tipsy. AMANDA

(downcast)	
Hey, Princess.	276

276

	BETH (concerned)	
277	Are you alright?	277
278	AMANDA Never better. Care for a drink?	278
279	BETH How many have <i>you</i> had?	279
280	AMANDA Uh four? But they were kind of big.	280
281	BETH Why don't we sit down together for a moment? I need you to talk to me about what's wrong.	281
	BETH guides AMANDA to the couch and they sit. the verge of tears.	AMANDA is on
282	AMANDA I love you, baby.	282
283	BETH I love you, too. And you're really worrying me right now. Did something happen?	283
	AMANDA sighs.	
284	AMANDA I guess I've just been thinking a lot about us, and what went wrong.	284
285	BETH (wary) Amanda, I	285
286	AMANDA (interrupting) You trusted me, and I threw it away. I threw you away. We could've been happy	286
	AMANDA begins crying.	
287	BETH Shh come here. Where's all this coming from?	287

	AMANDA	
288	I loved you so much, but even that didn't matter. I broke your heart. All because of some sick need to break you. I wanted you to be broken like me.	288
289	BETH I was broken before I even left the Vault, and you know that. Vault-Tec and the people they allowed into positions of authority made certain of that.	289
	AMANDA	
290	I took advantage of you!	290
	BETH	
291	I wanted you to. I may not have realized it at the time, but I needed to purge all of that pain somehow. Those memories. The way I was abused under the guise of "training."	291
292	(beat) Amanda, you're the reason I made it through. Because I loved you. And you loved me back. I'm always going to carry that pain from the Vault with me, but you didn't ruin my life, you <i>saved</i> it.	292
	AMANDA	
293	I was a monster.	293
	BETH	
294	Then I guess you were exactly the monster I needed.	294
295	AMANDA That's not what you said when you left.	295
296	BETH I was angry, and I was tired. Tired of having the same fights, over and over. And yes, I blamed you. It's not a stretch to say I hated you in that moment. I still loved you, too, which made leaving hurt even more.	296

297	AMANDA I hated you, too. For giving up,	297
	for taking that <i>feeling</i> away from me. You were the first person who ever made me feel like I was <i>somebody</i> , and not just another generic Raider girl.	
298	BETH Amanda, you're so much more than that. You always have been. Anyone who actually gets to know you understands that. My parents love you, Odessa absolutely adores you these are all people who've seen the real Amanda Otis. They not only like you, they <i>respect</i> you. The people who only see you for your body, or how beautiful your face is	298
299	AMANDA With these scars?	299
300	BETH Yes, with those scars. Do you remember how I used to run my fingers along them? How I kissed them?	300
301	AMANDA Yeah	301
	BETH kisses AMANDA on the cheek.	
302	BETH (tenderly) Everything about you is beautiful, Amanda. Even your scars. And I pity the people who thought that physical beauty is all you have to offer.	302
303	AMANDA There's also the ruthlessness.	303
	BETH laughs.	
304	BETH Well, yes, there is that. Kind of a necessity to survive in the Raider world. And it <i>is</i> kind of hot	304

AMANDA laughs through the tears.

	AMANDA	
305	You really know how to flatter a girl.	305
306	BETH It's part of the whole "Elizabeth Kirby experience," I suppose. But I mean it. All of it. (beat)	306
307	How long has this been bothering you? I wish we could've talked about it sooner	307
308	AMANDA It's been rattling around in my head since we broke up. But I guess I've been thinking about it a lot more over the past couple of weeks.	308
309	BETH Because of Odessa?	309
310	AMANDA No! In fact, hanging out with her has helped kind of take my mind off it a little bit. She's a really fun distraction. You found a good one there.	310
311	BETH I did, didn't I? And I feel like we turned a corner while I was away. Like there was less pressure, and I was finally able to do what you told me to do.	311
312	AMANDA "Let it breathe?"	312
313	BETH Yeah. And while we did pick out dresses together, they were for undercover work and not a wedding.	313
AMANDA lau	ıghs.	
314	AMANDA You know, she said the same thing about "less pressure." Keep that up, okay?	314

	BETH	
315	I'll do my best. (beat)	315
316	But you didn't answer my question. Why's it been top of mind recently?	316
AMANDA s	sighs.	
317	AMANDA I guess I knew this day was going to come.	317
318	BETH What are you talking about?	318
319	AMANDA Do you remember that little Enclave lieutenant that Valeria paid you to, uh, retrieve from me?	319
320	BETH Yes, of course. Cindy. Valeria was very glad to have her back. I had to massage the truth a little bit to ease her re-entry into the Enclave.	320
321	AMANDA What did you tell her?	321
322	BETH We had a conversation about the dangers of deep-cover work. Valeria is an interesting character. But the bottom line is that she cares about her people, and she was mostly glad that she had her back.	322
323	AMANDA "Mostly."	323
324	BETH She was upset - with Cindy for going AWOL and with herself for putting someone that young and inexperienced in that position. (beat) (MORE)	324

	BETH (CONT'D)	
325	The thing my dad taught me about being a leader is that the hardest part is understanding the people under your command and deploying them in the way that most suits their capabilities rather than presuming they can do all the things you can. Cindy is smart and capable, but she's a child compared to virtually everyone else in the Enclave. (beat)	325
326	But she brought us back together, so I can't complain <i>too</i> bitterly.	326
327	AMANDA There <i>is</i> that	327
328	BETH Is that whole affair what's gotten you so upset? (beat)	328
329	Wait. I think I might be starting to get it	329
330	AMANDA Uh-oh.	330
331	BETH When I took her back to the Whitespring, she was furious with me, obviously. She was petulant. Almost bratty. But the thing that struck me at the time was that she told me she loved you. Over and over. She was distraught to be taken away from you. And I know that feeling.	331
332	(beat) Are you worried that being with you hurt her? That you've ruined her like you thought you were ruining me? We were together for months, surely you didn't have enough time	332
333	AMANDA (interrupting) Beth I I <i>have</i> had enough time.	333
334	BETH You said "have had" and not "did	334
557	have."	554

335	AMANDA We're still together, Beth.	335
336	BETH You're what?!	336
337	AMANDA It took a little time to work it out; Valeria had her on lockdown for quite a while. But	337
338	BETH But you found a way. You always do.	338
339	AMANDA You're not mad?	339
340	BETH Of course I'm mad! Dammit, Amanda, I'm your best friend! How could you not tell me?	340
341	AMANDA I thought you'd be upset!	341
342	BETH Amanda, that was a <i>job</i> . I <i>love you</i> . That's more important than any payday. You should've trusted me!	342
343	AMANDA I don't trust myself, okay?! I I'm in love with her, Beth. And I'm scared shitless that I'm going to end up hurting her like I hurt you. I get that you feel like you came out better on the other side of what I did to you, but I don't want to do the same thing to her. She's not like you. I don't know if she could bounce back from that. And I don't want to lose her like I lost you.	343
344	BETH Look, I've also done a lot of thinking about "us," and the conclusion I reached is that we're so similar that the only two options for us as a couple were to rule the world or flame out in spectacular fashion. There could be no middle ground, and it ended up being the latter. (MORE)	344

	BETH (CONT'D)	
345	(beat) From what I know about Cindy, you're right, she's not like me. And I think that means you two have a much better chance to be happy than we ever did.	345
346	AMANDA I hope so. I'm just scared. You're the only other person I've ever felt like this about, and I don't want to fuck it up this time. And more than that, I don't want to fuck her up.	346
347	BETH It's a leap of faith. I get it.	347
348	AMANDA I just wish I had more faith in myself.	348
349	BETH I have faith in you. Look at how you've taken care of Odessa!	349
350	AMANDA (hiding something) Yeah. I guess you're right. And I liked "taking care of her." Helped take our minds off things.	350
351	BETH (oblivious) And there are a lot of things to have our minds taken off of.	351
AMANDA sig	jhs.	
352	AMANDA I have a lot to think about, Beth. I've lived most of my life just trying to survive, you know? I never had time for "feelings."	352
353	BETH Well, now that you're a successful business owner and a respected member of the Raider community, maybe you're just making up for lost time.	353

AMANDA laughs.

354	wanted hone	AMANDA it's overwhelming. You sty? I'm having trouble h it. A lot of trouble.	354
355	happy and I	BETH r you. I want you to be 'll do anything in my lp make that happen.	355
356	`	elping you with dinner.	356
357	I think I no	AMANDA eed to handle it myself.	357
358		BETH . Do you at least want and keep you company?	358
359		AMANDA ou need to go look Odessa anyway.	359
360	though. Prop before you	BETH till worried about you, mise you'll talk to me look for answers at the bottle next time?	360
361	Promise.	AMANDA	361
362	We'll see ye	BETH ou later.	362
363	Bye. And Be	AMANDA th?	363
364	Yes?	BETH	364
365	I love you.	AMANDA	365
366	I love you,	BETH too.	366

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

	EXT. AMAN	DA'S HOUSE, EVENING	
	BETH and (ODESSA approach.	
367		BETH I cannot wait to hear this story.	367
368		VALDEZ It was quite a night.	368
	BETH knoc	ks on the door.	
369		BETH I'm also very curious to see what's on the menu. I offered to help, but she shooed me away.	369
370		VALDEZ Still, it should be a nice change for someone to be cooking for <i>you</i> for a change.	370
371		BETH The company's the important part.	371
	BETH knoc	ks on the door again.	
372		VALDEZ Did she forget dinner was tonight?	372
373		BETH No I visited her earlier to see if she needed any help.	373
374		VALDEZ Did she?	374
375		BETH She did, but not with dinner.	375
376		(beat) Did she seem alright to you while I was gone?	376
377		VALDEZ Yes! She was great, as a matter of fact! We had a <i>lot</i> of fun. Nothing seemed off.	377

BETH tries the doorknob. The door is locked.

378	BETH Something's wrong. I'm going in.	378
379	VALDEZ Are you going to break down her door?!	379
380	BETH No. I have a key.	380
	BETH unlocks the door and opens it. The pair enter the	ne house.
381	BETH (CONT'D) Amanda? Where are you? (beat)	381
382	Let's check the rooms.	382
383	VALDEZ Amanda? Are you here?	383
	BETH and VALDEZ return to the living area.	
384	BETH Where is she?	384
385	VALDEZ Do you think	385
386	BETH No. God, at least I hope not. Besides, if the Morningstar or his men took her, there would be signs of a struggle. She wouldn't go down without a fight. No struggle here	386
387	VALDEZ I suppose you're right. That's good news, at least.	387
388	BETH She didn't say anything about leaving when we were talked. Something must've come up. But why didn't she radio me? I could've helped!	388
389	VALDEZ Beth over here. On the table.	389
390	BETH What? What is it?	390

391	VALDEZ A note. And it's for you.	391
	BETH takes the note and opens it. She reads.	
392	BETH She's gone.	392
393	VALDEZ Gone? What do you mean, "gone?"	393
394	BETH She left. She said she was overwhelmed too many emotions, too many feelings. She couldn't handle being here in Appalachia too many reminders.	394
395	(beat) Dammit, I knew I should've stayed it feels like I just got her back, and she's gone.	395
396	VALDEZ (cautious) Did she say she isn't coming back?	396
397	BETH No, but she didn't say that she is, either.	397
	BETH chuckles wryly.	
398	BETH (CONT'D) She <i>did</i> say, though, that she left instructions at her bar that we can drink for free.	398
399	VALDEZ That's a good sign, right? If she still owns The Spider's Web then she's got to come back, right?	399
400	BETH I hope so. I just I just wish she'd trusted me to help her through it. But I'm part of the problem, so I guess that was off the table.	400
401	VALDEZ Hey. Don't talk like that.	401

402	BETH It's true. Amanda and I have such a complicated relationship, and I found out today that she's been seeing someone on the sly. She didn't trust me enough to tell me about it because she thought I'd be angry with her.	402
403	VALDEZ Complicated or not, the one thing that's very clear is that you have a lot of love for each other. So much that even though you didn't work as a couple, you still found each other again as friends. And you've been there for each other ever since.	403
BETH sigh	s.	
404	BETH I just wish I could be there for her <i>right now</i> . I hate that she's hurting and I can't help.	404
405	VALDEZ I have an idea. Why don't we lock up here and go back to your place. We can make dinner together, and you can tell me your favorite Amanda stories. And I'll tell you about what happened that first night you were gone.	405
406	BETH That sounds quite nice, actually.	406
407	VALDEZ Good, it's settled. And I'd like to stay the night, if that's okay. I don't think you should be alone tonight. I'll get you tucked into bed and I'll only be a flight of stairs and a hallway away if you need me.	407
408	BETH Odessa	408
	VALDEZ	
409	Yes?	409

410	BETH Thank you.	410
411	VALDEZ You're welcome. Now, let's make sure everything is secure here and head home.	411
412	(beat) I didn't bring anything to sleep in, though. Do you think Amanda would mind if I borrowed one of her t-shirts?	412
	MUSICAL TRANSITION	
	INT. FORT ATLAS, NIGHT	
	The Brotherhood party is winding down. There is still considerable walla and music.	
	BETH sighs in relief.	
413	BETH What a crazy couple of days. But I'm glad that we got to spend so much time together. And this party has been the perfect way to cap things off.	413
	CASEY approaches the couple.	
414	CASEY Hey, you two! I'm sorry I haven't had a chance to say hi all night and maybe steal a dance or two. I hope you're having a good time!	414
415	BETH You did a brilliant job organizing all this on short notice, Casey, you really did.	415
416	VALDEZ It's impressive! And, um Initiate Jenkins seems nice. Handsome, too.	416
	CASEY chuckles.	
417	CASEY I guess we both have a thing for redheads.	417
	VALDEZ laughs.	

418	CASEY (CONT'D) Thanks for letting me know right away that you were going to ask Beth, by the way.	418
419 420	VALDEZ I didn't want to leave you hanging. (beat)	419 420
421	How many people asked <i>you</i> ? CASEY I kind of lost count.	420
В	ETH laughs.	
422	BETH Nice to see that you haven't lost your touch.	422
423	CASEY Neither have you! Look at you two, you're both gorgeous!	423
424	BETH One of the perks of having undercover work as part of my brief is a <i>very</i> robust wardrobe closet.	424
425	CASEY I think you need to let me take a look through it sometime.	425
426	BETH We could have you over for dinner! It would be nice to catch up properly. I want to know all about what you've been up to since you left the Vault. And any embarrassing stories about Odessa, of course	426
V	ALDEZ laughs	
427	VALDEZ Hey! (beat)	427
428	Beth is going to try to teach me to cook, but I promise I'll step aside and let her work her magic if you come over.	428

429	CASEY That sounds great. (beat)	429
	(MORE)	

430	CASEY (CONT'D) Oh, no. Poor Ty looks completely lost. I'd better get back to him before he wanders into a ladder or falls down a flight of stairs or something.	430
431	BETH Make sure he understands that he'd better not try any funny business, or I'll make sure that they'll never find his body.	431
432	CASEY I'll be fine. I always held my own with you, remember?	432
433	BETH That you did.	433
434	(beat) Hey - thank you. And have fun.	434
	CASEY leaves.	
435	VALDEZ She seems happy.	435
436	BETH She's in her element. I think that she's going to great things for the Brotherhood.	436
	Music starts playing.	
437	VALDEZ I think they're playing our song. Shall we?	437
	BETH and VALDEZ dance.	
438	BETH We have a song?	438
439	VALDEZ Nah. I've just always wanted to say that.	439
	BETH laughs.	
440	VALDEZ (CONT'D) You're a good dancer.	440

441	BETH Only on slow songs. I'm a bit of a disaster when the tempo gets too fast. Unless it's a tango.	441
442	VALDEZ Ooooh! Will you teach me?	442
443	BETH I would love to. But, um	443
444	VALDEZ What?	444
445	BETH You know that the tango is a dance of passion	445
446	VALDEZ I know. It's my parents' favorite dance. It's special to me. But I never found the right partner to try it with myself.	446
447	BETH Not even with your former fiancé?	447
448	VALDEZ Derek wasn't a dancer. He was more like a linebacker.	448
BETH laug	jhs.	
449	BETH I see.	449
450	VALDEZ But I don't want to talk about Derek right now.	450
451	BETH Of course, I'm sorry.	451
452	VALDEZ It's alright. I just want to stay in this moment. With you.	452
453	BETH That's what I want, too Just us.	453
454	VALDEZ I'm not even sure there's anyone else here. I only see you.	454

455	BETH What should we do when the song is over?	455
456	VALDEZ I'm not ready for this night to end yet.	456
457	BETH It doesn't have to. We're both grown-ups. We don't have a curfew.	457
458	VALDEZ We don't need permission.	458
459	BETH We never have.	459
460	VALDEZ Just from ourselves.	460
461	BETH And each other.	461
462	VALDEZ Beth?	462
463	BETH Yes, Odessa?	463
464	VALDEZ When this song is over I want you to take me home.	464
465	BETH We could have a glass of wine maybe a bite to eat.	465
466	VALDEZ That's exactly what I had in mind. You know, you've made me breakfast, lunch, and dinner, but, um there's still one course left.	466
467	BETH Are you saying what I think you're saying?	467
468	VALDEZ I'm ready for dessert, Beth.	468

END OF EPISODE 6