

Once Upon a Wasteland
Season One

Part Three: The Book of Elizabeth

Episode 7:
"The Mystic Chords of Memory"

by

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Based on Fallout 76

by

Bethesda Softworks

VALDEZ opens the refrigerator as BETH continues to prepare to cook.

The doorbell rings.

10 VALDEZ (CONT'D) 10
Are you expecting anyone?

11 BETH 11
I'm not. It could be my parents or Charles with an update.

12 VALDEZ 12
I'd better get dressed! I'm, um... not dressed for company.

13 BETH 13
Amanda's t-shirt suits you, but... yeah, probably a good idea.

VALDEZ rushes off to change.

BETH goes to the door and opens it. CINDY is there, upset.

14 BETH (CONT'D) 14
Cindy? What are you doing here?

15 CINDY 15
(angry but measured)
You know exactly why I'm here. What did you do?

16 BETH 16
Cindy, I...

17 CINDY 17
Don't give me any of your spy nonsense. Gaslight me all you want, it's not going to work. Why did you make her leave?

18 BETH 18
Please, come inside so we can discuss this.

19 CINDY 19
Fine.

CINDY storms in.

20 BETH 20
Did she talk to you before she left?

21 CINDY No! She just left me a note. A note! Not even a holotape so I could... 21

22 (quietly) ...so I could hear her voice. 22

23 BETH How about I get us something to drink. Nuka-Cola? 23

24 CINDY Sure. 24

BETH retrieves a Nuka-Cola and opens it, pouring it into a glass.

25 BETH Now. Let's start from the beginning. Calmly. 25

26 CINDY (not calm) Did you know she was leaving? 26

BETH sighs.

27 BETH No. I got a note, too. Odessa and I were supposed to have dinner at her place last night, but when we arrived, she was already gone. 27

28 (beat) Cindy, I... I miss her, too. If I'd had any idea she was considering something like this, I would've said something... done something... 28

29 CINDY Oh, come on. You've been trying to break us up since you took me away from her the first time. News flash - it didn't work then, and it's not going to work now. 29

30 BETH I didn't even know you were back together until yesterday! She never told me! 30

31 CINDY What?! You're lying. As usual. 31

32 BETH 32
I'm not. She said that she kept it
from me because she thought I'd be
upset.

33 CINDY 33
That doesn't even make sense! Why
would you be upset?

34 BETH 34
I said precisely that to her.

35 CINDY 35
Unless...

36 BETH 36
Unless what?

37 CINDY 37
Unless you want her back.

38 BETH 38
Neither of us want that. We even
reiterated that when we spoke
yesterday.

39 CINDY 39
You talked to her yesterday?! You
said that you were going to her
place for dinner but she wasn't
there!

40 BETH 40
 (getting annoyed)
Yes, and I stopped by earlier in
the day to see if she needed any
help. And when I arrived, she was a
mess.

41 (beat) 41
Because of you.

42 CINDY 42
What do you mean "because of me?" I
make her happy, Beth. You're the
one that made her miserable.

43 BETH 43
How dare you!

44 CINDY 44
You know that both of those things
are--

BETH
 (interrupting)
 45 How dare you come into *my* home and 45
 lecture *me*! You petulant child!

CINDY
 46 I am not a child! 46

VALDEZ rushes in.

VALDEZ
 (concerned)
 47 Beth, are you alright? What's going 47
 on in here?

BETH is seething but gathers herself.

BETH
 48 Odessa Valdez, this is Cindy 48
 Connors.

CINDY
 49 *Lieutenant* Cindy Connors. New 49
 Enclave.

(beat)
 50 And who's this? Your-- 50

BETH
 (interrupting)
 51 Be very careful what you say right 51
 now.

CINDY
 52 Wait. Odessa Valdez? You're 52
 Brotherhood, right?

VALDEZ
 53 Yes. I am. 53

(beat, coldly)
 54 Now. Did you come to Beth's home 54
 just to yell at her, or was there
 something specific that you wanted?

CINDY
 (on her back foot)
 55 I... well, I... 55

VALDEZ
 (interrupting)
 56 Because if it's the former, then I 56
 think that it would be best if you
 leave. Now. Don't worry about your
 drink.

(MORE)

VALDEZ (CONT'D)

I'll get you a fresh Nuka-Cola from the refrigerator for the road.

CINDY sighs and gathers herself.

57	CINDY	Amanda left, and I... I don't understand why she'd leave like that. Why she'd leave <i>me</i> like that. She said she loved me.	57
58	VALDEZ	You think it's Beth's fault?	58
59	CINDY	Yeah, I do. She obviously wants Amanda back, and I'm in the way.	59
60	BETH	I do <i>not</i> want her back! My God, it's like talking to a Snallygaster! You try to explain something and you just end up frustrated and covered in spittle.	60
61	CINDY	You're one to talk! You're like a Deathclaw, but taller and with worse breath.	61
62	BETH	My breath is immaculate!	62
63	VALDEZ	Stop it, both of you! Bickering is not going to bring her back, and she would not want you two fighting over her like this!	63
64	CINDY (sotto)	<i>Your face is a Snallygaster...</i>	64
65	VALDEZ	I said stop it!	65
66	(beat)	The Enclave is a military organization, is it not?	66
67	CINDY	Yes, it is.	67
68	VALDEZ	Yes it is <i>what?</i>	68

69 CINDY Yes, it is... ma'am. 69

70 VALDEZ And you're an officer, are you not? 70

71 CINDY Yes, ma'am. 71

72 VALDEZ Then start acting like it. What would your commanding officer, Colonel... 72

73 BETH Valeria Faustina. 73

74 VALDEZ What would Colonel Faustina say about what's going on here right now? 74

75 CINDY She wouldn't be very happy, ma'am. 75

76 VALDEZ I'm sure she wouldn't. 76

77 BETH And another thing, you... 77

78 VALDEZ (interrupting) Hey! I'll get to you in a moment. 78
(beat)

79 Now. Are you ready to discuss this matter with us like an adult, or should I get that Nuka-Cola for you? 79

80 CINDY I'm ready to discuss this like an adult. 80

81 (long pause) Ma'am. 81

82 VALDEZ Good. 82
(beat)

83 And as for you... 83

84 BETH She burst in here and immediately started attacking me! 84

85 VALDEZ How many years of training did you have in the Vault for exactly this kind of situation? 85

86 BETH This was different! It was about Amanda! 86

87 VALDEZ How many years? 87

88 BETH (thinking) Uh... eleven? 88

89 VALDEZ And yet you fell apart the moment something *personal* came into it. What if she drew her weapon in anger? What would you have done then? 89

90 (beat) Regardless, the outcome would have been at least negative and potentially tragic. You accused her of acting like a child, and you're not wrong based on what I heard. But you were acting like a child, too, Beth. 90

91 (beat) I'm disappointed in you. 91

BETH sighs deeply.

92 BETH (chastened) You're right, Odessa. You're right. And I'm sorry. 92

93 VALDEZ Are you ready to discuss this like an adult? 93

94 BETH Yes. 94

95 (long pause) Yes, ma'am. 95

96 VALDEZ Good. Now that we've all remembered that we're grown-ups, Cindy, you have to understand, Beth had nothing to do with Amanda leaving. (MORE) 96

VALDEZ (CONT'D)

And she's telling the truth about not knowing about you and Amanda getting back together until yesterday. I know that because Amanda confided in me about it while Beth was away.

BETH

97 What?! 97

VALDEZ

98 I... strongly encouraged her to tell you, but she had to be the one to do it. In her own time. 98

BETH

99 No, I understand. It wouldn't have been right for you to betray her confidence. And it did need to come from her. 99

(beat)

100 I was upset, but not because you were together, Cindy. I was upset because she didn't trust me enough to tell me. I just want her to be happy. 100

CINDY

101 Well, she's happy with me. Or at least she was. We just had a date at the Whitespring! Ice cream sodas, roller skating... it was... wonderful. 101

BETH

102 It sounds fantastic, Cindy. Was there any sort of... tension between you two at all recently? 102

CINDY

103 No! In fact, things seemed to be... you know, progressing. Getting more serious. You said you wanted her to be happy, well... she seemed happy. Very happy. 103

BETH

104 Hmm. Until yesterday, I would've said the same. 104

105 VALDEZ 105
We spent a lot of time together
while Beth was away with her dad,
and we, um... well, we had a lot of
fun. She definitely seemed happy.

106 BETH 106
So, as far you two could tell,
there was nothing wrong.

107 CINDY 107
There must be! You said that she
was upset when you talked to her
yesterday - "a mess." What was she
upset about? Did someone threaten
her?

108 BETH 108
No, it's nothing like that.
(beat)

109 109
Cindy, she was terrified of hurting
you. I don't know how much she told
you about our relationship, but...
well, she hurt me. Often and badly.
She said that she wanted me to be
broken like her, and she hated
herself for it after we split up.

110 VALDEZ 110
Oh my God, Beth...

111 BETH 111
It's alright, Odessa. She *didn't*
break me. I wouldn't care to repeat
that part of the experience, but
she made me stronger - strong
enough to not only survive out
here, but thrive. And I think I
made her stronger, too, in the end.
That's why we were able to come
back together as friends, after we
had time to heal.
(beat)

112 112
She's afraid of hurting you like
she hurt me, Cindy. That's what I
was about to tell you when
things... escalated.

113 CINDY 113
(upset)
So... this *is* my fault?

114 BETH 114
No! No, Cindy, this isn't *anyone's*
fault! Amanda loves you, but she
doesn't trust *herself*.

115 VALDEZ 115
Sometimes people just need to...
get away from a situation to get
some perspective on it.

116 CINDY 116
(crying)
She didn't even say goodbye...

117 BETH 117
She probably would've stayed if she
had, and that's precisely why she
didn't.

118 CINDY 118
What do I do now?

119 VALDEZ 119
Is there anyone you can talk to?
Back at the Bunker?

120 CINDY 120
No. The Colonel doesn't even know
about us.

121 VALDEZ 121
Well, you have me.

122 BETH 122
And me. We'll give you the
frequencies to use to get in
contact with us if you need to.

123 CINDY 123
Thank you. And... I'm sorry.

124 BETH 124
I'm sorry, too, Cindy. Would you
like to stay for breakfast?

125 VALDEZ 125
Beth's a good cook!

126 CINDY 126
Thank you, but I think I should be
getting back to the Bunker. I
didn't exactly *sneak out* to come
here, but if I'm gone too long
they'll think something's up.

127 BETH 127
You're going to have to tell
Valeria at some point.

128 CINDY 128
Yeah. I know. I just have to figure
out how to do it.

129 VALDEZ 129
That's what Amanda said about
telling Beth about you two.

CINDY sighs.

130 CINDY 130
Can I have that Nuka-Cola that you
offered? For the road?

131 VALDEZ 131
Of course.

VALDEZ goes to the refrigerator and gets a Nuka-Cola, handing
it to Cindy.

132 CINDY 132
Thank you. And not just for the
Nuka-Cola.

133 VALDEZ 133
I'm glad we were able to talk it
through. We'll let you know right
away if we hear from her.

134 CINDY 134
And I'll do the same. Goodbye for
now.

CINDY leaves.

BETH sighs.

135 BETH 135
That was *not* how I wanted this
morning to go.

136 VALDEZ 136
Come here.

VALDEZ kisses Beth.

137 BETH 137
When do you have to be back at
Atlas?

138 VALDEZ
Not until the afternoon. 138

BETH sighs.

139 BETH
Still hungry? 139

140 VALDEZ
Very. 140

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FORT ATLAS, AFTERNOON

BETH and VALDEZ approach Fort Atlas.

141 VALDEZ 141
As much I love Fort Atlas... you
made it very difficult to leave
your place. I've never had anyone
read poetry to me before.

142 BETH 142
I'll admit, I was doing my best to
keep you there, even though I knew
that duty would eventually call.

143 VALDEZ 143
Promise you'll read me the rest of
that book?

144 BETH 144
Promise.

BETH and VALDEZ kiss.

145 VALDEZ 145
Do you want to come in? Maybe say
hi to Casey? Or talk to Paladin
Rahmani to see if we found out
anything new about that attack on
Foundation?

146 BETH 146
I'll use any excuse to spend a
little more time with you. But I do
have to follow up with the
MacAllans in a bit, and I need to
talk to you about it first. I
didn't want to... ruin the mood
this morning by talking business.

147 VALDEZ 147
What's up?

148 BETH 148
It's about the holotapes dad and I
found. I think that we need to find
out what's on them.

149 VALDEZ 149
Do you mean...

150 BETH 150
I can tell them that we need to
test out this memory technology
before we can agree to invest that
kind of money in it.

151 VALDEZ 151
It's too dangerous, Beth!

152 BETH 152
It is. But unfortunately I don't
see any other option. We've hit a
dead end.

VALDEZ sighs.

153 VALDEZ 153
But if we walk in there with a set
of tapes, they'll know something's
up.

154 BETH 154
I've been thinking about that. We
still have a man on the inside. Dad
said that he's been helping with
cataloging the tapes that they
found with the equipment. If we get
the tapes to him, he can just slip
them in, and produce them when we
do our test.

155 VALDEZ 155
I still don't like it. But I
suppose you're right. There isn't
another way. And I'm willing to
take that risk.

156 BETH 156
Absolutely not. I'll do it. It will
be much safer if you're there to
help if anything goes wrong.

157 VALDEZ 157
Beth, I don't know anything about
this technology! I know a little
bit about neurology, but not enough
to do anything if something goes
wrong!

158 BETH 158
That's still rather more than I'd
be able to contribute. Besides,
I've already put you in enough
danger.

159 VALDEZ Risk is a part of my job. 159

160 BETH And part of mine. But I think that my training will help me deal with whatever that technology might throw at me. One of the things they taught us was how to not lose ourselves, even in the most extreme circumstances. Even torture. 160

161 VALDEZ (aghast) Are you saying... you were tortured? Beth, I had no idea... 161

162 BETH It's alright. There were... aspects of the training that were harsh. Painful. Often cruel. I try not to even think about it, but it... haunts me. But it did make me resilient. 162

163 VALDEZ I still don't feel comfortable letting you take this risk. 163

164 BETH Neither do I, if I'm being honest. But you being at my side will make me feel a lot better about it. 164

165 VALDEZ That's exactly where I'll be. 165

KNIGHT CARLSON approaches.

166 CARLSON Scribe Valdez! It's nice to have you back. And Miss Kirby, it's always a pleasure to see you. 166

167 BETH Thank you. I never had a chance to congratulate you on your promotion. Well done. Knowing Odessa is safe when she's home at Atlas is very important to me, and it sounds like you were the person most responsible for that. 167

168 CARLSON Thank you for keeping her safe while we got that whole thing figured out. 168

169 VALDEZ How's the interrogation going? Did Alan get anything out of them yet? 169

170 CARLSON No. In fact, he was hoping that he could tag Miss Kirby here in. You have training specifically in interrogation, right? 170

171 BETH I do. And beyond that, I have specific training in extracting information when interrogation doesn't yield results. 171

172 CARLSON Are you talking about... torture? 172

173 BETH No. I was trained to *resist* torture, but I won't deliver it. That's a red line for me. 173

174 VALDEZ Good. 174

175 BETH Maybe some of the interrogation strategies that I learned in the Vault will be enough to get what we need out of them. Or at the very least give us something to go on. 175

176 CARLSON Well, he'll be glad for the help. I'm a little worried about him. He's really frustrated that he hasn't been able to crack this. 176

177 VALDEZ I think being able to take a break will help him reset a little bit. 177

178 CARLSON Yeah. He's been at this almost non-stop since Rahmani gave him the assignment. At least he took a few hours off for the party. 178

(MORE)

CARLSON (CONT'D)

(beat)

179 I gotta say, that party was a hell 179
of an idea. We needed that. All of
us.

VALDEZ

180 I agree. 180

CARLSON

181 How go things on your end? Any big 181
breakthroughs?

BETH

182 We have a few irons in the fire, 182
but it's been a slow go. My father
and his assistant have been working
contacts, but nothing just yet.

VALDEZ

183 It may be that we won't know 183
anything until he makes another big
move.

CARLSON

184 Well, hopefully it won't come to 184
that. We can't have another
incident like we had at Foundation.
That put people on edge, and that's
a recipe for disaster.

VALDEZ

185 Could that be part of his plan? Sow 185
distrust?

BETH

186 Hmm. Perhaps. But to what end? 186

CARLSON

187 Well, you said that he wants to 187
take over the region, right? Maybe
if everybody's fighting each other,
the factions will all be too weak
to fight *him* when he makes a play.

BETH

188 I guess it's possible, but... that 188
doesn't feel right. It's just a gut
feeling, though. I'll ask my father
about it, get his take. His gut is
far more experienced than mine.

CARLSON

189 How's your mom doing? 189

190 BETH 190
She's doing very well, thank you
for asking. I think I was more
upset than she was after the
attack.

191 VALDEZ 191
She's an exceptionally strong
woman.

192 CARLSON 192
That's great to hear. And I'm glad
she wasn't hurt. Any leads on the
"royal family" thing?

193 BETH 193
Unfortunately, no. It was clearly
code, but we don't know for what.
It's possible that it just means
that she's considered... important
somehow. Integral to his plans
without actually being involved in
them.

194 (beat) 194
Sorry. I'm just kind of thinking
out loud. It has us baffled.

195 CARLSON 195
Well, if we hear anything you'll be
the first to know.

196 BETH 196
Thank you.

197 CARLSON 197
I'm going to head inside. I'll see
you in a few.

CARLSON leaves.

198 VALDEZ 198
Are you sure we can't loop him in
on this?

199 BETH 199
The existence of those tapes is
something we have to keep very
tightly under wraps.

200 VALDEZ I know, it's just... he was the one who sniffed out the moles, and beyond that, Rahmani trusted him enough to decide that he was the right person to do it. 200

201 BETH That's not lost on me. And he hasn't done anything to make me suspicious.... 201

202 VALDEZ Unlike some other people I can think of. 202

203 BETH Anything new there? 203

204 VALDEZ No. He's still disappearing for hours at a time, but other than that he's been the same old Alan. Things even seem to be getting serious between him and Erika. 204

205 BETH If he *is* working for the Morningstar, that could help explain why the interrogation isn't producing results. 205

206 VALDEZ I was thinking about that, too. But it's odd that he seems so insistent on bringing you in to help. He knows all about your intelligence training. 206

207 BETH It could just be part of the game. There are several aspects of this whole thing that don't make sense. 207

208 VALDEZ Maybe we'll get some clarity from those tapes. 208

209 BETH I hope we do. I don't want to take that kind of risk and come up empty. Again. 209

MUSICAL TRANSITION

221 CRAIG 221
Good evening! It's wonderful to see
you again! I'd like you to meet
Audrey, my right hand.

222 AUDREY 222
Nice to meet you! Craig talks about
you two all the time.

223 VALDEZ 223
Only good things, I hope?

224 AUDREY 224
Always.

225 CRAIG 225
My sister and I remain very excited
about our potential partnership. I
trust that if this demonstration
goes well, you'll be prepared to
commit?

226 VALDEZ 226
I believe we will. This technology
is fascinating, and we feel it has
a great deal of potential.

227 AUDREY 227
You'll fit right in with Dr.
Holcomb, then. If I have to hear
one more monologue about using this
stuff for more "noble" purposes...

228 CRAIG 228
We were very lucky to find a
neurologist at all... She
practically fell into our laps.

229 VALDEZ 229
In the interest of full disclosure,
Craig, I'm concerned. What
assurances can you give us that
this test will be safe?

230 CRAIG 230
I'd be lying if I said there wasn't
risk. There is. But we've made
strides with the chem we use to
prepare people for the experience
and Dr. Holcomb has provided
significant guidance to help people
manage things while they're inside.

231 BETH 231
"Inside?"

232 CRAIG 232
It's a totally immersive
experience. There are screens in
the pod, placed in front of the
subject, but those are mostly to
provide sensory input to make it
easier for that immersion to
happen.

233 VALDEZ 233
I see.

234 CRAIG 234
If you're curious about the
mechanics of how it works, I'm sure
Dr. Holcomb would be more than
happy to talk to you about it.

235 VALDEZ 235
I'm still not entirely comfortable
with Alice doing this, but...

236 BETH 236
But I insisted. If we're going to
invest this much money in
something, I want to make sure that
it is what you say it is. We've
built up a measure of trust, Craig,
and I do appreciate that. But I
need to ensure that there are no
misunderstandings.

237 CRAIG 237
Of course. Trust but verify. I
operate under that model myself.
(beat)

238 CRAIG 238
Shall we go to the lab? Alice will
need to take our chem and prepare
before we can begin.

239 BETH 239
After you.

 The group walks.

240 BETH (CONT'D) 240
So, Audrey, where are you from?

241 AUDREY 241
Virginia. Not too far from the
Capitol.

 (MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

My sister Lois and I came here when we heard that things kind of... loosened up a little with those scorched things.

BETH

242 How bad is it there? 242

AUDREY

243 It's not good. A lot worse than it is here. I mean, it's the Capitol, so it caught a lot of fire. People are still trying to make a go of it, though. 243

BETH

244 Humanity is nothing if not stubborn. 244

VALDEZ

245 It's ironic. That stubbornness probably caused the war, and it's also going to be what allows society to rebuild. 245

AUDREY

246 Well, either way, Lois and I were doing our thing for a little while. Ran with a Raider gang; that was fun, but it got old. Thought about going over to Foundation, but they seemed like a bunch of squares. 246

BETH

247 You're not wrong about that. 247

AUDREY

248 We did a little bit of trading here and there, made a lot of contacts and even a few friends, but we were barely making ends meet. Then these two showed up. We needed a new gig, and they needed people who knew their way around and knew how to get things done. 248

CRAIG

249 And you both fit that brief perfectly. Audrey and Lois helped us fill our staff and make the right connections. 249

CRAIG opens the door to the lab.

250 DR. HOLCOMB
You're here! You must be Courtney
and you must be... Alice. 250

251 BETH
Is something wrong? 251

252 DR. HOLCOMB
No. You just reminded me of
someone. Daughter of a friend-of-a-
friend. 252

253 VALDEZ
It's very nice to meet you, Doctor. 253

254 DR. HOLCOMB
Likewise. Shall we get started? We
have three experiences available:
horseback riding, skydiving, and
water skiing. 254

255 BETH
Hmm. Skydiving sounds interesting. 255

256 DR. HOLCOMB
Adventurous! I like it! Audrey,
would you please get the skydiving
tapes ready? 256

257 (beat)
The first thing we'll do is give
you this chem. It has several
functions. It's primarily to relax
you so that full immersion is
easier, and it also lowers your
stress level. We hypothesize that
part won't be necessary after
someone has been inside a few
times, but we're erring on the side
of caution and not testing that
hypothesis just yet. 257

258 VALDEZ
Of course. That makes sense. Safety
first. 258

259 DR. HOLCOMB
It's my top priority. And we've
made great strides. The number
of... incidents has decreased
significantly since we started. 259

260 CRAIG
I think we're close to going
public. 260

261 DR. HOLCOMB
I'd say we're closer to going public. 261

(beat)

262 If you're ready, Alice, I'll hook you to an IV. That will be how we deliver the chem, and we'll also ensure that you get enough fluids. We'll monitor your heart rate, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, and brain electrical activity. We anticipate that we won't need to be quite so elaborate in terms of monitoring as we refine the process, but for right now... well, safety first, as you said. 262

263 BETH
I'm ready. 263

264 DR. HOLCOMB
Wonderful. The pod is right over here. If you'll get in, Audrey will start connecting you to the monitors, and I'll administer the IV. 264

265 BETH
Of course. 265

BETH gets into the pod. DR. HOLCOMB inserts the IV. Monitors begin to beep.

266 DR. HOLCOMB
Alright, everything looks good. Your heart rate is steady, blood pressure is excellent, and sats are perfect. 266

(beat)

267 The chem takes effect very quickly. You're going to feel sleepy. Once you're in a REM state, the pod will begin your skydiving simulation immediately. Once it's complete, we'll gently wake you up. The experience itself lasts about eight minutes. 267

268 BETH
I'm already feeling it... I'll see you soon, Courtney. 268

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. VAULT 76

BETH is asleep. A figure enters the room to wake her.

	VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR	
269	Elizabeth, you overslept again.	269
	(beat)	
270	Wake up. You're already running late.	270

BETH stirs.

	BETH	
271	Ugh. Where am I? Wait... this looks like my... this can't be... am I back in the Vault?	271

	VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR	
272	"Back" in the Vault? Elizabeth, I know you like to fancy yourself a proper little spy, but you've never set foot outside this Vault and you won't until Reclamation Day.	272
	(beat)	
273	Were you drinking last night? If you've broken any rules I'll have to tell your father, and neither of us want that.	273

BETH sighs.

	BETH	
274	I wasn't drinking. I was just... I guess I was having a very... vivid dream. I thought I was outside the Vault. And had been for a couple of years.	274

	VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR	
275	That sounds like quite a dream.	275

	BETH	
276	It was.	276

	VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR	
277	It's time to step back into reality. You have training, and you know better than to leave them waiting.	277

278 BETH 278
Why do I have to do this? I hate
it! How does this even make me a
better intelligence operative?

279 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 279
We've been over this, Elizabeth.
Every operative has to leverage
their particular skills or assets.
In your case, that's youth and
attractiveness, and frankly, you
don't have much else going for you.

280 BETH 280
I don't even try to get any
information out of any of them! I
just go in, "indulge" them, pretend
to enjoy myself, and leave.
 (beat)

281 BETH 281
I think the best part of that dream
was not having to do this anymore.
I feel like a prostitute.

282 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 282
If that's what it takes for you to
get into character, so be it.
 (beat)

283 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 283
If you don't feel that you're cut
out for this program, Elizabeth, we
can go to the Overseer's office
right now and tell her that you
want to drop out. Unless you want
to tell your father first, of
course. I'm sure he wouldn't be
disappointed in you at all for
giving up.

BETH sighs.

284 BETH 284
You know I can't do that.

285 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 285
Then stop whining and focus.
 (beat)

286 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 286
Look, you're not going to be able
to pick and choose who has the
information or the access that
you'll need to do this job out
there. The mission isn't going to
care that you're a lesbian. You may
not like it, but the people you
need to get information from are
usually going to be men.

297 ASSISTANT 297
This is a great little side hustle
you got going on here. You think
she's ever going to catch on?

298 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 298
She's so wrapped up in making daddy
happy that she'd never do anything
to screw that up.

299 ASSISTANT 299
You realize that "doddering old
professor" thing is a front, right?
I've seen him sparring in the gym
when he thinks nobody's watching.
You'd better hope that those
holotapes are enough to keep
everybody's mouths shut.

300 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 300
Your mouth is included in that,
too. You breathe a word of this to
anyone and Andrew Kirby will be the
least of your concerns.

301 ASSISTANT 301
Am I still on the schedule?

302 VAULT-TEC DIRECTOR 302
Thursday afternoon at 3.

303 ASSISTANT 303
Good. Have her wear that schoolgirl
getup. She hates it.

SFX: TRANSITION STING

INT. VAULT 76 HALLWAY

BETH is walking quickly down the hallway. She runs into
someone walking the other way.

304 DR. TROIANI 304
Oof!

305 BETH 305
I'm so sorry! I'm such a klutz. Are
you alright?

306 DR. TROIANI 306
Yes, I'm fine.

318 DR. TROIANI
 You're not ugly, Beth. And
 everyone's awkward at your age,
 including the people who are being
 cruel to you.

319 (beat)
 Wait. Odessa Valdez?

320 BETH
 (brightly)
 Yes! That was her name! Is she...
 someone who lives in the Vault and
 my brain just mixed her up with
 you?

321 DR. TROIANI
 No... I don't know why I know that
 name. It doesn't...

SFX: TRANSITION STING

INT. CLASSROOM

BETH is being teased by classmates.

322 CLASSMATE 1
 Come on, say something, Betty. I
 want to hear that stupid accent.

323 CLASSMATE 2
 Why does she even talk like that?

324 CLASSMATE 1
 Because she's "daddy's little
 girl," that's why. It's pathetic.

325 CLASSMATE 2
 She's pathetic. That ugly orange
 hair is probably fake, too.

326 CLASSMATE 1
 Talk!

327 CLASSMATE 2
 Yeah, talk!

CASEY enters.

328 CASEY
 Sorry I'm late.

329 (beat)
 What's going on in here? Where's
 Mr. Barnes?

330 CLASSMATE 1 330
We're trying to be friendly, and
"daddy issues" here won't even talk
to us.

331 CLASSMATE 2 331
She's such a snob. Maybe that's why
she has that fake accent.

332 BETH 332
It's not fake!

333 CASEY 333
Knock it off! She clearly isn't
feeling well and you're being
idiots.

334 CLASSMATE 1 334
We didn't mean anything by it, we
were just having fun, you know?

335 CASEY 335
Bullying isn't fun. I think I heard
the word "pathetic" being thrown
around before I walked in here, and
that's a much better word for what
you're doing.

336 CLASSMATE 2 336
(chastened)
Sorry, Casey, won't happen again.

337 CASEY 337
No, it won't.

338 (beat) 338
Beth, why don't we walk down to the
infirmary so the nurse can take a
look at you?

339 BETH 339
(shaking)
O...okay.

BETH and Casey leave and close the door behind them.

340 CASEY 340
Are you okay?

341 BETH 341
You didn't have to do that.

342 CASEY 342
Yes, I did. You were about to cry,
and I didn't want them to have the
satisfaction of seeing that. But
it's just us here now, so if you
still need to, let it out. It might
make you feel better.

BETH begins to cry.

343 BETH 343
Why are you being so nice to me?
You never really talked to me
before. I assumed you didn't know I
existed.

344 CASEY 344
I guess I was kind of...
intimidated by you, and never had
the courage to say hi.

345 BETH 345
Intimidated? By me? You're the
prettiest girl in the Vault, you're
smart and elegant, and graceful...
everyone loves you. I'm like a baby
giraffe on ice skates.

CASEY laughs.

346 CASEY 346
Is that how you see yourself? Well
let me tell you what I see. A
smart, kind, friendly girl who
always shows grace even when people
aren't being gracious to her. And
you're tall, beautiful... your hair
is amazing.

347 BETH 347
They always make fun of my hair.

348 CASEY 348
They're intimidated by you, too. So
they're trying to tear you down.

349 (beat) 349
Look, I know you're not sick, I
just had to figure out a way to get
you out of there. Want to skip
class and hang out? I have some
snacks I can grab from my room, and
I know a few places where nobody
will find us.

350 BETH 350
That... that sounds really nice,
Casey. Do you really mean it?

351 CASEY 351
Of course I mean it, Beth. Come on,
let's get moving before anybody
wanders down this hallway.

SFX: TRANSITION STING

INT. VAULT 76 HALLWAY

352 BETH 352
Whoa, what was that? I thought I
was with Casey just now? Am I
hallucinating?

353 DR. TROIANI 353
Beth, I think I know what's
happening. You weren't dreaming.
You're dreaming now. Kind of.

354 BETH 354
What do you mean?

355 DR. TROIANI 355
I know this is difficult, because
you feel like you're standing in
Vault 76, and you're what, 16 right
now?

356 BETH 356
I think so. I met Casey when I was
16, and she was 14. We spent that
whole day together, just chatting.
It was the day we became friends.

357 DR. TROIANI 357
Beth, listen to me. You need to be
very careful. You seem to be in
what we called a Hofstadter-Moebius
loop. Basically, the combination of
your mind and the technology that's
being used to present the data on
the memory holotapes I created are
operating in conflict, and as a
result you're... stuck here. Inside
your mind.

358 BETH 358
This is madness. It isn't real, I
must be... sick.
(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I don't know who you are, but it's
cruel to play with someone like
this when they're unwell.

DR. TROIANI

359 That's the loop talking, Beth. It's 359
not... malevolent, but it *will* try
to convince you to stay here, to...
not wake up. You'll die within 15
minutes, based on what we've seen,
but thanks to the way time dilation
works in dreams, it can seem like a
lot longer than that. A full life,
playing out exactly how you always
hoped it would.

(beat)

360 That's a very enticing proposition, 360
especially in the moment, but I
need you to fight it.

BETH

361 You mean, I could... be with Casey? 361
She wouldn't say no when I asked
her to stay with me?

DR. TROIANI

362 Beth, you cannot think that way. 362
This isn't real. The only reality
if you do that is that you'll be
dead.

(beat)

363 I have an idea. I'm going to start 363
feeding you project information in
the background. Scientific data and
research material - facts. That may
stem the tide while we figure out
how to wake you up.

BETH

364 Why can't the people on the outside 364
do that?

DR. TROIANI

365 We learned the hard way that trying 365
to do that would kill you
immediately. It's too much of a
neurological shock.

(beat)

366 Tell me about Odessa. It's 366
fascinating that I'm appearing to
you as her and not myself. You must
really trust her.

DR. TROIANI

376 It's alright. Better than a flat 376
 "no, you're dead."
 (beat)

377 The data transfer seems to be 377
 happening. I don't know if you'll
 retain any of it, but it's mostly
 just to keep you grounded.

BETH

378 I *did* do this to learn more about 378
 the projects, so it would be nice
 to...

SFX: TRANSITION STING

INT. DINING ROOM

BETH and VALDEZ are eating dinner.

VALDEZ

379 It would be nice to what? 379

BETH

380 Odessa? 380

VALDEZ

381 Um, yes? Are you okay? You went... 381
 vacant there for a second. Do you
 want to take a break? I know
 wedding planning can be
 overwhelming.

BETH

382 Yes... it is, but it's worth it. 382
 Even in the Wasteland.

VALDEZ laughs.

VALDEZ

383 I know Morgantown isn't exactly 383
 London or L.A., but I wouldn't call
 it a wasteland. Besides, it's nice
 to be around family.
 (beat)

384 Don't forget, mom and dad are going 384
 to fly in on Thursday. Mom's
 bringing her dress so we can take
 it to your mom's tailor.

BETH

385 (hesitant) 385
 Right... Thursday.

386 VALDEZ 386
Do you want to take a break and
watch a movie or something? The
centerpieces aren't going anywhere,
and we don't have to pick a
photographer tonight.

387 BETH 387
Can I just... live in this moment
forever, Doctor?

388 VALDEZ 388
Who are you talking to? I mean,
it's sexy when you call me
"doctor," but it feels like you're
talking to someone else.

389 BETH 389
This isn't real.

390 VALDEZ 390
It's as real as you want it to be.
Don't you want to be with me?

391 BETH 391
The real Odessa wouldn't do this.
She would want me to fight.

VALDEZ's voice changes. She is overtly a construct of the AI
now.

392 FALSE VALDEZ 392
All we want is for you to be happy,
in your final moments. You're past
the point of no return. No one has
recovered when they've been in the
loop this long.

DR. TROIANI appears.

393 BETH 393
Doctor! You're back!

394 DR. TROIANI 394
Beth! Don't listen to it. It's
trying to get you to give up and
you *cannot do that*. You still have
a chance. You need to find your
North Star.

395 BETH 395
My North Star? Dr. Flagler talked
about that, but he couldn't
remember what it meant!

396 DR. TROIANI 396
It was shorthand that Tony and I came up with. As we spoke with people who'd been inside, it became clear that remaining centered was vitally important. Otherwise, it was too easy to get lost. We correlated EEG data with their descriptions of the experience. It seems to be very similar to a dream, though, which made getting those descriptions difficult in some case.

397 BETH 397
It *is* very dreamlike. It feels so real when you're in the moment.

398 DR. TROIANI 398
People have always used the North Star for navigation, so it was the kind of symbol people could remember, even inside. We started telling people to figure out what theirs was, and to use that to guide them home.

399 BETH 399
Their *querencia*...

SFX: TRANSITION STING

400 CLASSMATE 3 400
Hey, Beth! Come on! You're going to be late for the exam!

401 BETH 401
Er... what exam?

402 CLASSMATE 3 402
Symbolic Logic!

403 BETH 403
Symbolic Logic? I never took symbolic logic...

404 CLASSMATE 3 404
It may seem that way since you've never gone to class, but the exam is today and you need to stop fooling around! Why are you hiding behind that plant?

415 VALDEZ Beth, if you can hear me, you need 415
to wake up! There's not much time!
Please! Just... just come back to
me, okay?

VALDEZ's voice fades away.

A false VALDEZ appears. Her voice is like VALDEZ's but distorted.

416 FALSE VALDEZ We have all the time in the world. 416
We can... grow old together. Have
children.

417 BETH But this isn't real... 417

418 FALSE VALDEZ Do you want Casey to be part of our 418
family? It can be any Casey you
want. Sweet teenage Vault Casey,
sexy Brotherhood Initiate Casey...
I can be anything you want, too.

419 BETH Stop, please... 419

420 FALSE AMANDA What about me? 420

421 BETH Amanda?! 421

422 FALSE AMANDA You made me run away out there, but 422
here? We can fix all the mistakes
we made. We can start over. Think
about the last thing I said to you -
"I love you." You know that's true.
And you know you still love me,
too.

423 FALSE VALDEZ No one can hurt you here. All those 423
Vault-Tec people who did? They'll
finally get the comeuppance they
never got out there. You can kill
them in all the different ways
you've thought about over the
years.

(beat)

(MORE)

FALSE VALDEZ (CONT'D)

424 You can feel it - your mind is 424
 adapting, and the machine is
 helping you do it. We can live out
 a full life together, Beth. Isn't
 that what you want? *That* Odessa is
 better off without you anyway. You
 keep putting her in danger, just by
 being you. And you know you're
 going to break her heart. You'll
 drive her into someone else's arms,
 just like Amanda.

FALSE AMANDA

425 Stay with us, Princess. Be my good 425
 girl again.

SFX: Pulsing light sound

BETH

426 What is that noise? 426

FALSE VALDEZ

427 A... quirk of the machine. Ignore 427
 it.

BETH

428 And that light... 428

FALSE VALDEZ

429 Ignore it! 429

The real VALDEZ's voice breaks through.

VALDEZ

430 Beth! 430

BETH

431 Odessa! I don't think you can hear 431
 me, but there's a light here. Your
 voice seems to be... emanating from
 it.

FALSE VALDEZ

432 Have you never heard of "walking 432
 into the light?" It's the oldest
 cliché in the book! If you do that,
 you're going to die. Immediately.

BETH

433 I think I understand! The light is 433
 another construct, and Odessa's
 voice... she's my North Star! The
 machine *is* helping me - that may be
 the way out!

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

(beat)

434 I have to take this chance... I 434
can't live out a lie in here. I'd
rather that it just... end.

FALSE VALDEZ

435 She'll never love you! You're too 435
broken! It's only a matter of time
before she leaves you!

BETH

436 I have to take that chance, too. 436

A tone can be heard.

BETH (CONT'D)

437 What's *that* sound? It's new... 437

FALSE VALDEZ

438 You're dying. This is your last 438
chance. Your pineal gland has begun
biosynthesis of N,N-
Dimethyltryptamine. You're not
going to wake up, but we can make
your last few seconds feel like
decades. Like *centuries* if you
want. Your mind wants you to be
happy. *I* want you to be happy.
Just... give in and let it happen.

BETH

439 I'm... dying? 439

FALSE VALDEZ

440 Yes. And you know I'm telling you 440
the truth.

BETH sighs.

BETH

441 I do. I can feel it. At the end, 441
it's just a matter of...
inevitability, so the only true
decision is how to behave.

FALSE VALDEZ's voice returns to normal.

FALSE VALDEZ

442 Come here. We have so many years to 442
look forward to together. I love
you, Beth.

VALDEZ's voice breaks through again. She is distraught.

443 VALDEZ Beth! Wake up! Please, wake up! You 443
can't leave me now! I'm sorry I was
so hard on you, I'm just... afraid
of having my heart broken again.
But the only thing I'm afraid of
right now is losing you! Just wake
up!

FALSE VALDEZ's voice returns to its distorted tone.

444 FALSE VALDEZ No! 444

445 BETH Yes! I have to follow my North 445
Star! It's the only way I can truly
find my way home.

BETH runs toward the light.

SFX: Loud portal sound.