

**Once Upon a Wasteland**  
**Season One**

Part Three: The Book of Elizabeth

Episode 8:  
"The Power Confided to Me"

by

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Based on Fallout 76

by

Bethesda Softworks

**ACT ONE**

INT. MACALLAN CLUB VISIONTRON LAB

BETH is in a Visiontron, surrounded by VALDEZ, CRAIG, and DR. HOLCOMB.

SFX: BEEPING MEDICAL MONITORS

DR. HOLCOMB

1 The chem takes effect very quickly. 1  
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.

BETH

2 I'm already feeling it... I'll see 2  
you soon, Courtney.

VALDEZ

3 I'll see you when you wake up. 3

CRAIG

4 Just relax and have fun, Alice. I'm 4  
confident that this experience will  
convince you that this technology  
alone is worth the price of your  
investment.

VALDEZ and DR. HOLCOMB wait for the simulation to begin.

DR. HOLCOMB

5 She's in REM, and everything seems 5  
to be going well. Brain activity is  
a little high, but well within  
tolerances. It could just be an  
indication of an active mind, or a  
vivid dreamer.

VALDEZ

6 She's a sound sleeper, that much I 6  
know. Sometimes I feel like I  
should put a mirror under her nose  
to make sure she's still breathing.

DR. HOLCOMB laughs.

DR. HOLCOMB

7 Hmm. 7

8 VALDEZ  
What is it? 8

9 DR. HOLCOMB  
Brain activity is increasing. 9

10 VALDEZ  
Is that a problem? 10

11 DR. HOLCOMB  
(masking concern)  
No. She most likely just got to the 11  
exciting part of the simulation.  
(beat)

12 Heart rate is increasing as well, 12  
but this is a skydiving simulator  
so that's to be expected.

13 VALDEZ  
(concerned)  
Right... 13

14 DR. HOLCOMB  
So, how much has Craig told you 14  
about all of this?

15 VALDEZ  
Just the broad strokes. 15

16 DR. HOLCOMB  
Well, if you end up coming aboard 16  
formally there's a lot to explore  
beyond that. Most of it is pretty  
opaque to someone who's not a  
scientist, but sometimes I can't  
help but geek out about it.

17 VALDEZ  
Oh, I don't mind that kind of thing 17  
at all. Even as a... non-scientist,  
that level of detail has always  
fascinated me.

18 DR. HOLCOMB  
If your eyes start rolling back 18  
into your head while we're  
discussing it I'll know I've gone a  
bit too far.

VALDEZ laughs.

An alarm sounds.

19 VALDEZ  
(urgently)  
What's happening? 19

DR. HOLCOMB urgently types at a keyboard.

20 CRAIG  
Doctor? 20

21 DR. HOLCOMB  
Brain activity and heart rate are  
spiking. Blood pressure, too.  
Dammit! 21

22 VALDEZ  
Can we pull her out? 22

23 DR. HOLCOMB  
No. Once a subject is inside the  
simulation forcibly bringing them  
out of it is too much of a  
neurological shock. It's like...  
the old wives tale about waking up  
a sleepwalker, except... well, this  
isn't an old wives tale. It will  
kill them. 23

24 VALDEZ  
What can we do? 24

25 DR. HOLCOMB  
There's... nothing we can do. At  
this point, it's all up to them. 25

26 VALDEZ  
"All up to them?" What do you mean? 26

27 DR. HOLCOMB  
They have to bring themselves out  
of the simulation. The problem is  
that the person's mind knows  
something's gone wrong, and it  
tries to compensate. That creates a  
conflict with the pod's  
programming, and results in what's  
called a Hofstadter-Moebius loop. 27

28 VALDEZ  
A Hofstadter-Moebius loop is only  
supposed to happen within an  
*artificial* intelligence, not in  
humans. 28

29 DR. HOLCOMB I know. The best I've been able to 29  
come up with is that it's the  
specific combination of *this*  
technology and the human mind.  
(beat)

30 Wait. I thought you said you 30  
weren't a scientist?

31 VALDEZ I'm not. I just... read a lot. 31

32 DR. HOLCOMB H. Moebius loops are pretty 32  
arcane... they're not the kind of  
thing you'd read about in Tesla  
Science Magazine.

33 VALDEZ We have more important things to 33  
worry about than what's on my  
bookshelf. There has to be  
*something* we can do.

34 DR. HOLCOMB I've hypothesized that external 34  
stimuli may help because they  
introduce more "reality" for the  
subject to hold onto.

35 VALDEZ I'm willing to try anything. 35

36 DR. HOLCOMB I'm going to open the pod. I don't 36  
want to risk overstimulating her  
and exacerbating things, so let's  
start by having you hold her hand.

37 VALDEZ Alright. 37

DR. HOLCOMB opens the pod. VALDEZ pulls a chair over and  
sits, taking BETH's hand.

38 DR. HOLCOMB Perfect. Just hold her hand like 38  
you would when you're together at  
home, or walking together.

39 CRAIG Is there anything I can do? 39

40 DR. HOLCOMB  
Yes. We'll need plenty of boiled  
water and clean towels - preferably  
warm ones. 40

41 CRAIG  
Boiled water and warm towels? What  
are-- 41

42 DR. HOLCOMB  
(interrupting)  
Please, Craig, time is of the  
essence here. 42

43 CRAIG  
Of course. I'll get right on it. 43

CRAIG leaves.

44 VALDEZ  
I'm also a little curious about how  
boiled water and warm towels are  
going to help. 44

45 DR. HOLCOMB  
They won't. I just wanted to get  
him out of our hair. Him being here  
would just stress us out, and we  
need to focus. If she comes out of  
this we'll need to be very careful  
with her. 45

46 VALDEZ  
You mean "when" she comes out of  
this. 46

47 DR. HOLCOMB  
Courtney, I don't want to sugarcoat  
this. The more time that she spends  
in the loop, the less likely it is  
that she's going to come out of it.  
(beat)  
48 But the good news is that holding  
her hand seemed to have an impact.  
Her brain activity, heart rate, and  
blood pressure all decreased a bit. 48

49 VALDEZ  
(trying to stay calm)  
How... how much time does she have? 49

50 DR. HOLCOMB  
It's different for everyone, but...  
it's not long. 50

51 VALDEZ  
(growing more upset)  
Beth! Can you hear me? 51

52 (beat)  
Anything? 52

53 DR. HOLCOMB  
There does appear to have been a  
reaction. Try talking to her again. 53

54 VALDEZ  
Beth, if you can hear me, you need  
to wake up! There's not much time!  
Please! Just... just come back to  
me, okay? 54

55 DR. HOLCOMB  
Why did you call her "Beth?" 55

56 VALDEZ  
It's... um... it's her middle name. 56

57 DR. HOLCOMB  
(suspicious)  
I see... 57

58 (beat)  
Just keep holding her hand for now.  
She's stable, but we're still  
working with a limited amount of  
time. 58

59 (beat)  
Tell me about her. What's she like? 59

60 VALDEZ  
Um... well, she's passionate.  
Loyal. Smarter than she gives  
herself credit for. And she's  
tough. She had... a lot of trauma  
growing up. It's been hard for her  
at times. 60

61 DR. HOLCOMB  
But now she has you. 61

62 VALDEZ  
(wistfully)  
Yeah. 62

63 DR. HOLCOMB  
What's wrong? 63

64 VALDEZ  
I... I feel like I just found her,  
and now I'm afraid that I'm going  
to lose her. 64

65 DR. HOLCOMB  
Try not to think like that. Just be  
here for her. I know this probably  
isn't something a scientist should  
say, and I certainly don't have any  
evidence to back it up, but... I  
think it helps. 65

66 VALDEZ  
I hope so. 66

An alarm sounds.

67 VALDEZ (CONT'D)  
(urgently)  
Beth! 67

68 DR. HOLCOMB  
There was another spike in brain  
activity. That's what triggered the  
alarm. Dammit! 68

69 VALDEZ  
What is it?! What's going on?! 69

70 DR. HOLCOMB  
It appears that her body has begun  
biosynthesis of DMT. 70

71 VALDEZ  
N,N-Dimethyltryptamine?! 71

72 DR. HOLCOMB  
(surprised)  
Er, yes. And if you know what DMT  
is, you understand the  
implications. 72

73 VALDEZ  
(choking up)  
She's dying. 73

74 DR. HOLCOMB  
I've never seen a loop behave this  
aggressively. I'm... I'm sorry. I  
think you should... say your  
goodbyes. 74



75 VALDEZ I'm not ready to say goodbye! 75

76 DR. HOLCOMB I know. We never are. But you're going to regret it if you don't. 76

77 VALDEZ The only thing I'll regret is if I stop fighting. 77

78 DR. HOLCOMB Then fight. And I hope you win. 78

79 VALDEZ Beth! Wake up! Please, wake up! You 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! 79

80 DR. HOLCOMB This is new... 80

81 VALDEZ What's happening?! 81

82 DR. HOLCOMB Her brain activity spiked again, a few seconds after you stopped talking. That's usually the brain's... last gasp before the subject dies. But... 82

83 VALDEZ But she's still alive. 83

84 DR. HOLCOMB Not only that, her vital signs are returning to normal. Well, normal-ish. There are still some spikes, but they're not as acute as what we were seeing when things went sideways. 84

85 VALDEZ Does that mean she's going to wake up?! 85

86 DR. HOLCOMB I... I don't know. This is all new ground for me. 86

(MORE)

DR. HOLCOMB (CONT'D)

I've never seen someone wake up  
when they were that far gone.

(beat)

87 Courtney, you need to... prepare yourself. *If* she wakes up, there's a strong possibility of neurological damage. It could be temporary, it could be permanent; it could be minor, it could be serious. Or maybe there won't be any damage at all. But you need to be prepared for the possibility that there is. Okay? 87

VALDEZ

88 I'm not going to give up on her, no matter what. 88

DR. HOLCOMB

89 Good. She's going to need you. 89

VALDEZ

90 When will we... know? 90

DR. HOLCOMB

91 I'm not sure. I'm sorry. 91

CRAIG returns, pushing a cart.

CRAIG

92 I hope this is enough water. I had Henry boil as much as I could transport. 92

DR. HOLCOMB

93 Thank you, Craig. 93

CRAIG

94 What's our status? 94

DR. HOLCOMB

95 We're not sure. Miss Halstead passed the point of no return - or what we thought was the point of no return, at least - but she's still with us. Unconscious, but still with us nonetheless. Her vital signs are reasonably close to normal. 95

CRAIG

96 I take it we won't know anything further until she wakes up? 96

97 DR. HOLCOMB  
If she wakes up. I don't want to 97  
make any assumptions right now. I'm  
sorry, Courtney.

98 VALDEZ  
(holding it together)  
I... understand, Doctor. 98

99 DR. HOLCOMB  
May I have one of those towels,  
please? 99

100 CRAIG  
Of course. 100

CRAIG hands the towels to DR. HOLCOMB.

101 DR. HOLCOMB  
Courtney, please take this and  
place it under Alice's head and  
neck. 101

VALDEZ takes the towel and puts it under BETH's head as instructed.

After a few moments BETH stirs.

102 VALDEZ  
Dr. Holcomb! Come here! I think  
she's waking up! 102

BETH groans.

103 BETH  
Am I dead? Oh, god, my head...  
there shouldn't be headaches like  
this in the afterlife... 103

VALDEZ fails to stifle a chuckle.

104 VALDEZ  
You're not dead. 104  
(beat)

105 Doctor, can you give her something  
for the pain? 105

106 DR. HOLCOMB  
Yes, I'll give her an analgesic.  
That should take care of her  
headache and allow her to relax.  
Her brain is still coming down from  
that spike. 106  
(beat)  
(MORE)

DR. HOLCOMB (CONT'D)

107 Craig, can you give us the room? I want to limit the number of voices she hears until we can ascertain the level of neurological trauma she's suffered. 107

CRAIG

108 Uh, sure... is that why she's speaking in an English accent? Neurological trauma? 108

DR. HOLCOMB

109 It must be. Trauma can manifest itself in a variety of different ways. 109

(beat)

110 I'll come get you when I have an update. But the fact that she woke up at all is highly encouraging. 110

CRAIG

111 Did you record the data from the session? 111

DR. HOLCOMB

112 I did. And it may provide insight on how we can bring people back if they get stuck in a loop. 112

CRAIG

113 I hope that's the case. Thank you, Doctor. We'll talk later. 113

CRAIG leaves and closes the door.

DR. HOLCOMB

114 Beth, I'm going to give you something to make you feel better, okay? 114

BETH

(strained)

115 Okay. Thank you. 115

DR. HOLCOMB gives Beth a chem through her IV.

DR. HOLCOMB

116 That should do it... 116

(beat)

117 Alright. I know who she is, but who are you? 117

VALDEZ

118 Excuse me? 118

119 DR. HOLCOMB 119  
I thought I recognized her from the  
Vault, and then you called her  
"Beth" and not "Alice." But hearing  
her drop the American accent is  
what made it click.  
(beat)

120 So. Who are you and what are you 120  
and Beth Kirby doing here?

121 VALDEZ 121  
I... um...

122 DR. HOLCOMB 122  
Don't worry. I'm not going to tell  
Craig. At least, not necessarily.  
Just... tell me the truth and we'll  
go from there. But if you're just a  
couple of rival gang members  
looking to steal this tech I'm  
going to be very disappointed.

123 VALDEZ 123  
We're not.

124 DR. HOLCOMB 124  
I'm sure you'll understand that I  
can't just take you at your word.

125 VALDEZ 125  
Of course. I think we'll be able to  
prove it to you, but... not here.

126 DR. HOLCOMB 126  
Why don't we start with who you  
really are?

127 VALDEZ 127  
My name is Odessa. Odessa Valdez.

128 DR. HOLCOMB 128  
Alright, Odessa, I don't remember  
you from the Vault, and if you were  
part of Andrew's cloak-and-dagger  
diplomacy program I think I would.

129 VALDEZ 129  
I wasn't in Vault 76. I'm... from  
California.

130 DR. HOLCOMB 130  
California? That's... quite a hike.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

DR. HOLCOMB (CONT'D)

131 Well, "California Girl," if you're working with *Beth Kirby*, that means you're working with Andrew. Unless...

VALDEZ

132 No, no, he's fine. And yes, I'm working with them as well. Mr. Kirby is semi-retired, but, well, he seems to forget that sometimes.

DR. HOLCOMB laughs.

DR. HOLCOMB

133 That sounds like him. I'm sure he's driving poor *Elise* crazy.

VALDEZ

134 Oh, she's holding her own. She's... quite formidable herself.

DR. HOLCOMB

135 She is. Especially if... wait, this is none of my business, but are you and *Beth*... together? Or is that just part of your cover?

VALDEZ

136 We are together, yeah.

DR. HOLCOMB sighs.

DR. HOLCOMB

137 Alright, you two being here changes everything. As far as any of us knew, this was still a secret, and that allowed me to continue to refine the technology to make it safe.

(beat)

138 Craig is a decent guy, at least as far as mob bosses go. But I don't think he understands just how exposed he's going to be once word gets out.

VALDEZ

139 Does he know about Project Mind's Eye?

DR. HOLCOMB

140 Wow, you are good. No, at least not directly.

(MORE)

DR. HOLCOMB (CONT'D)

He knew there were other labs, but not specifics on that project. He assumed that those labs were just associated with *this* tech, and I let him operate under that assumption.

VALDEZ

141 It sounds like we all need to have a long talk about this. Can you... get away long enough to do that? 141

DR. HOLCOMB

142 I think I can sell Craig on the idea that I should accompany you and Beth home so that I can keep an eye on her. He really is concerned about her; that's not an act. 142

VALDEZ

143 Beth has a medical bay at her place. It's really just there so she can get patched up if she gets injured in a fight or gets sick, but it should do. 143

DR. HOLCOMB

144 Perfect. We'll need to keep a close eye on her. And I'll need a copy of any diagnostic data we get; I don't mean to sound cold, but it will be very helpful for my research. 144

VALDEZ

145 I'm a scientist. I understand the value of data. 145

DR. HOLCOMB

146 Ah, I thought that might be the case. I feel like we'll have a lot to talk about, Miss Valdez. 146

(beat)

147 Beth should be stable enough to make the trip soon. It will be... an adventure, but as long as we keep her pointed in the right direction we should be fine. Wait here and I'll go talk to Craig. I'll be back in a few minutes. 147

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

INT. BETH'S RESIDENCE, MEDICAL BAY

SFX: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

BETH stirs.

148	VALDEZ Hey, sleepy-head. How are you feeling?	148
149	BETH I... I'm not sure.	149
150	VALDEZ Just try to relax. I'm here and I'm not going anywhere. You had a quiet night.	150
151	DR. HOLCOMB And that's very encouraging. I'm going to leave some chems with you, along with instructions on when and how to use them, if you need to. Everything from analgesics to antipsychotics and anti-seizure medications.	151
152	VALDEZ (concerned) Do you expect seizures?	152
153	DR. HOLCOMB I don't <i>expect</i> them, especially given the improvement we've already seen, but I want you to be prepared in case they do happen.	153
154	VALDEZ I understand.	154
155	DR. HOLCOMB Everything you need is on this holotape. I recommend reviewing it as soon as you can.	155
156	VALDEZ I will. Thank you.	156



157 DR. HOLCOMB 157  
With that, I have to get back to  
the club. Craig is, to use a  
clinical term, "freaking out."

158 VALDEZ 158  
He should be. Perhaps this will  
give him pause before he moves  
forward with providing this...  
service publicly.

159 DR. HOLCOMB 159  
I hope it does. I've been trying to  
get him to slow down, but both he  
and his sister are stubborn. I  
think it's the Scot in them.

160 BETH 160  
Is our cover still intact?

161 DR. HOLCOMB 161  
It is. He was suspicious; very  
suspicious, in fact. But you were  
quick on your feet, Odessa, and I  
think I convinced him that it was  
all easily explained.

162 VALDEZ 162  
Thank you. You have our contact  
frequencies, right?

163 DR. HOLCOMB 163  
Yes, including the secure comms  
channel.

164 VALDEZ 164  
Great. We'll keep you updated.

165 DR. HOLCOMB 165  
And I'll do the same. Goodbye for  
now.

166 (beat) 166  
Try to get some sleep, Odessa.

167 VALDEZ 167  
I will.

168 BETH 168  
Goodbye, Dr. Holcomb. And thank  
you.

DR. HOLCOMB leaves.

169 VALDEZ Your vital signs look good. Can you talk to me about what you're experiencing right now? You said you weren't sure how you felt, and that's... concerning. 169

170 BETH It's difficult to explain. There's... noise in my brain, but I don't know how to describe it. It doesn't correspond with any of my senses, it's just... there. 170

171 VALDEZ Does it seem to be getting better? Or worse? 171

172 BETH I don't know what the baseline should be. It's as though I've... always felt this way. 172

173 (beat) But I do appreciate you staying here with me, Doctor. 173

174 VALDEZ (concerned) Um... let's go through some cognitive exercises, to see where you are. 174

175 BETH (mildly petulant) Do we have to? 175

176 VALDEZ Yes. We have to. 176

177 (beat) Can you tell me your full name? 177

178 BETH Elizabeth Laurel Kirby. 178

179 VALDEZ And when were you born? 179

180 BETH 21st April, 2081. 180

181 VALDEZ And that makes you how old? 181



193 VALDEZ 193  
Did you have nightmares last night?  
Dr. Holcomb said that the chem she  
gave you to sleep would put you  
into deep sleep so you wouldn't  
dream at all.

194 BETH 194  
Not last night, at least not that I  
remember. But I had them before  
this. Vivid ones. Reliving  
everything that happened in the  
Vault. Everything that was... done  
to me. Over and over. And when I  
was inside my head, I had to relive  
it again, but it felt much more...  
real than even the worst nightmare.  
(beat)

195 I'm just scared that's going to be 195  
how it is moving forward. Same  
nightmares, but even worse.

196 VALDEZ 196  
Do you want to talk about it? What  
happened while you were connected  
to the machine, I mean.

197 BETH 197  
I don't know if I can put all of it  
into words, at least not just yet.  
But you were there. And beyond  
that, you were the reason I was  
able to wake up.

198 VALDEZ 198  
What do you mean? How was I  
"there?"

199 BETH 199  
The machine was trying to get me to  
stay. To not wake up. It made it  
sound not only like an enticing  
option, but the only option.  
(beat)

200 It told me I was dying, and that I 200  
could spend what felt like a  
lifetime with you, if I'd just give  
in. It said something about a  
chemical that my body was  
producing... I don't remember much  
about that, but it sounded  
convincing.

VALDEZ sighs.

201 VALDEZ 201  
It was telling you the truth. Dr. Holcomb said that your body was producing a chemical called DMT, and that's something that can happen in a person's... final moments. It's the body's way of taking the terror out of what's happening, of... of the end.

202 BETH 202  
But it wasn't the end. I don't know if it was a creation of the machine that... rebelled against what it was trying to do or just my own mind fighting back, but I heard your voice. The real you, not a false Odessa that was trying to... ease me into the grave.  
(beat)

203 What is it? Are you alright? 203

204 VALDEZ 204  
(shaken)  
You did hear me...

205 BETH 205  
It was you?

206 VALDEZ 206  
Dr. Holcomb suggested that I try talking to you. She wasn't sure if you'd even be able to hear me, but at that point we were out of options and I... I wasn't ready to say goodbye.

207 BETH 207  
Did you mean what you said?

208 VALDEZ 208  
Every word of it.

209 BETH 209  
You really are my North Star. You guided me back to you. You guided me home. Odessa, I...  
(beat)

210 I'm sorry. I'm kind of... emotional 210  
right now. I'm not normally like this.

211 VALDEZ 211  
It's alright. Dr. Holcomb said that  
you might experience mood swings  
and unusually strong emotions. We  
just need to take things easy for a  
little while, and you need to rest.

212 BETH 212  
Can you radio my parents? They need  
to know what's happened.

213 VALDEZ 213  
I did that while you were sleeping.  
And I told them that you're going  
to be okay.

214 BETH 214  
Fortunately, it doesn't appear that  
our inside man had an opportunity  
to reach out to dad before you  
contacted him. He and mum would  
have stormed through that door to  
check on me if he had. We can visit  
them later. Perhaps the fresh air  
will do me some good. It might help  
clear my mind a bit. Get me re-  
centered.

215 VALDEZ 215  
We can go to see them after lunch.  
Until then, you should relax. I  
have the medications that Dr.  
Holcomb left right here in case we  
need them.

216 BETH 216  
That sounds wonderful. Odessa,  
could you, um...

217 VALDEZ 217  
Could I what?

218 BETH 218  
Could you... read to me? I know  
it's silly, I just... hearing your  
voice is...

219 VALDEZ 219  
I would love to read to you, Beth.

BETH

220                   Thank you. I have just the book                   220  
                            right here...

## MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. KIRBY RESIDENCE, DAY

BETH and VALDEZ enter.

ANDREW

221                   Lily! It's lovely to see you.                   221

(concerned)

222                   Please, have a seat.                   222

(beat)

223                   Thank you for radioing us to let us                   223  
                            know that she was alright, my dear.

VALDEZ

224                   Of course. We wanted to make sure                   224  
                            you knew she was safe and  
                            recovering, just in case your  
                            operative reached out to tell you  
                            what happened.

ANDREW

225                   He didn't, but that's not                   225  
                            surprising. He has to be quite  
                            cautious about communicating with  
                            me, and there are times that he  
                            simply can't get away.

(beat)

226                   Now, Lily, do you want to talk                   226  
                            about what went wrong? All I know  
                            is that things didn't go according  
                            to plan.

BETH

227                   No, daddy. They didn't.                   227

(beat, upset)

228                   They went very badly indeed. There                   228  
                            was some sort of... problem, and...  
                            well, I...

VALDEZ

229                   There were complications. We're not                   229  
                            sure what happened, specifically,  
                            but Beth was... trapped.

ANDREW

230                   Trapped? What do you mean by                   230  
                            "trapped?"

231 BETH I was trapped inside my own mind. 231  
Some combination of my brain and  
the machine triggered a response  
from both, and that response made  
me have to fight to wake up.

232 ANDREW Oh, my god. We knew the use of this 232  
technology carried risks, but...  
(beat)

233 I never should've allowed you to do 233  
this.

234 BETH You've always done everything in 234  
your power to protect me, daddy,  
but... I'm an adult, and it was my  
decision whether or not to take  
that risk. I knew the potential  
dangers, but it was the right call  
based on the situation and the  
available information. And I think  
you know that.

235 ANDREW I do. But adult or not, you're 235  
still my daughter, and I still  
worry about you.

236 BETH I know. But I had Odessa to guide 236  
me out, and Dr. Holcomb kept me  
stable while that happened.

237 ANDREW Dr. who? 237

238 BETH Dr. Holcomb. Rebecca Holcomb? 238

239 VALDEZ She said she knew you from the 239  
Vault, and she recognized Beth. She  
didn't blow our cover, fortunately,  
and even helped paper over her  
accent when she was coming out of  
it.

240 ANDREW I'm afraid you have me at a loss. I 240  
don't remember a Rebecca Holcomb.



241 VALDEZ  
That's strange. She certainly  
seemed to remember you. She even  
asked if you were driving Elise  
crazy. 241

242 ANDREW  
I trust that you answered yes? 242

VALDEZ laughs.

243 VALDEZ  
I demurred. 243

244 BETH  
For what it's worth, I didn't  
recognize her, but that doesn't  
mean much. All those Vault-Tec  
scientists sort of run together in  
my mind, apart from Dr. Flagler. 244

245 ANDREW  
I'm certainly curious about this  
Dr. Holcomb, but unfortunately we  
have rather bigger fish to fry. 245

246 BETH  
What's going on? 246

247 ANDREW  
For the most part, movements of  
factions and subfactions around  
Appalachia have been incremental.  
Exceptions have happened, of  
course, like the Brotherhood's  
arrival two years ago, but in those  
cases it's been one faction doing  
the moving. 247

248 BETH  
And that's not what's happening  
now? 248

249 ANDREW  
I'll let Charles explain. One  
moment and I'll get him. 249

ANDREW leaves.

250 VALDEZ  
I wonder... could it be that he  
feels the rope tightening, so he's  
taking more aggressive action? 250

251                                   BETH                                   251  
It could, I suppose. Or he could've  
decided that there was no need to  
take things slowly anymore. That  
Appalachia is so fundamentally weak  
that he doesn't need to be quite  
so... precious about everything.

252                                   VALDEZ                                   252  
He hasn't taken direct action  
against the Brotherhood, other than  
trying to steal what we'd already  
found from my lab.

253                                   BETH                                   253  
Well, you've established yourselves  
as one of the stronger factions in  
the region already. It seems as  
though it's inevitable, but perhaps  
he feels that he needs a bit  
more... force behind him before he  
does that.

254                                   VALDEZ                                   254  
A consolidation of power makes  
sense.

255                                   BETH                                   255  
It does, and it's something we need  
to prevent. I just wish I knew how.  
Hopefully Charles has come up with  
something.

CHARLES, ANDREW, and ELISE enter.

256                                   BETH (CONT'D)                                   256  
Speak of the devil!

257                                   CHARLES                                   257  
And the devil appears!

258                                   ELISE                                   258  
Schatzi! I was worried sick! Are  
you feeling better?

259                                   BETH                                   259  
I'm getting there.

260                                   ELISE                                   260  
You are definitely the scion of  
Andrew Kirby. I swear, one or both  
of you will be the death of me.

BETH laughs.

261                                   BETH                                   261  
You love us.

262                                   ELISE                                   262  
I do.

263                                   BETH                                   263  
Charles, you have some new intel?

264                                   CHARLES                                   264  
I do. Well, new-ish. This  
Morningstar is a canny bugger.

265                                   BETH                                   265  
What do you mean?

266                                   CHARLES                                   266  
How much do you know about this  
character?

267                                   BETH                                   267  
Not a lot. His superpower seems to  
be that he's "mysterious." I know  
that he was a major power player  
going back several years, even  
before the Scorched Plague. But he  
went underground, and by all  
accounts he's been pulling the  
strings from very deep in the  
shadows since then.

268                                   CHARLES                                   268  
Indeed, and things have become more  
and more obfuscated over the years  
to the point that it's impossible  
to know which... endeavors he may  
actually have involvement in and  
which are simply someone attaching  
his name to it for effect.

269                                   BETH                                   269  
I always got the feeling that most  
of what we heard fell into the  
latter category. Given his  
reputation, it seemed as though  
he'd be far more likely to involve  
people in his various schemes  
without them even being aware that  
he was behind them. Otherwise,  
there isn't much point to staying  
in the shadows to the extent he  
has.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

And besides that, it all seemed a bit scattershot, which didn't fit in with his previous work.

ANDREW

270 I frankly wondered if he was even 270  
still alive. Or if he ever *really*  
existed in the first place.

VALDEZ

271 What do you mean? It sounded like 271  
he was real, at least before the  
Scorched Plague hit.

ANDREW

272 That's the thing about legends. 272  
There comes a point where you can't  
even trust what seems to be  
historical.

ELISE chuckles.

ELISE

273 And you know a thing or two about 273  
that.

ANDREW

274 Now, now, Elise... 274

CHARLES

275 But in any case, what we're seeing 275  
now is significantly more  
aggressive than what we've seen  
since he left the stage.

ANDREW

276 That little display at Fort Atlas, 276  
for example. That implies a level  
of hubris that simply wasn't  
present before. Even when he was at  
the height of his power.

CHARLES

277 The same goes for the operation at 277  
Foundation. He no longer seems to  
care about anyone knowing that it's  
him. In fact, he seems to be  
reveling in it.

BETH

278 But why would he target me like he 278  
has? I don't see how I could've run  
afoul of him in a way that would  
merit this kind of attention.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

Even if some of my freelance work got in the way of his operations, it's far from a proportionate response.

CHARLES

279 Indeed. And what I've been doing is going over our various intel reports to see if I could identify a pattern, and separate the wheat from the chaff, as it were, whilst I did that. 279

BETH

280 But you said doing that was virtually impossible, given the sheer number of things that seem to have been done in his name over the years. 280

CHARLES

281 I did. So instead of trying to look at his entire oeuvre, I concentrated solely on the past six months or so, starting when this tech started to become an area of focus for the various factions. 281

BETH

282 That makes sense. Given the way this has all played out, it's unlikely that these are simply a series of unrelated operations by each group. 282

CHARLES

283 Yes. My working theory is that he was parceling out the intel on the locations of each of these labs so that no one faction had enough on their own to put two and two together. 283

BETH

284 And considering who some of these groups were, it's likely they thought it was just a smash-and-grab and not part of some overarching effort. 284

VALDEZ

285 Do you think that the Brotherhood's presence in Appalachia had anything to do with his plans accelerating? 285  
(MORE)

## VALDEZ (CONT'D)

Craig expressed a strong opinion regarding what he thought we'd do if we found out about this tech. An incorrect opinion, but still, a strong one.

## CHARLES

286 It's possible. You've been steadily gaining strength since that unfortunate Rahmani/Shin business, so his aim may be to at least acquire all of the tech before you have the opportunity to, even if he'd still need time on the back end to get it to do... well, whatever it is he wants to do with it. 286

## BETH

287 That first operation - when we first met - certainly could have demonstrated to him that it was only a matter of time before you turned your full attention to it. 287

## CHARLES

288 After frankly far too much time looking at maps and poring over intel, I noticed that there were specific gangs, as well as mercenaries, whose actions seemed to be... working in concert. And I've noted three locations that *may* - and I must stress "may" - be bases, or at the very least important locations for those groups. 288

## BETH

289 You believe they're working for the Morningstar? 289

## CHARLES

290 That's my theory, but it's just a theory. It could be a coincidence and the pattern I recognized may not be a pattern at all. 290

## BETH

291 I trust your instincts, Charles. This could be the breakthrough we need. 291

292 VALDEZ  
Where are these three locations? 292

293 CHARLES  
There's a former Free States bunker  
in the Mire, not far from the lab  
where you and Elizabeth first met. 293

294 ELISE  
Has there been any indication that  
the Free States are involved in the  
Morningstar's plans? 294

295 CHARLES  
No, interestingly enough. They seem  
to be staying out of each other's  
way, but not in a Molotov-  
Ribbentrop way. They don't seem to  
be involved at all. 295

296 VALDEZ  
And the other locations? 296

297 CHARLES  
There's one in the Ash Heap. That  
one jumped out at me because it's  
an abandoned mine that had a very  
large contingent of Mole Miners  
that were summarily wiped out not  
long ago. And the third one is in  
the Savage Divide. Not far from  
Fort Atlas, in fact. 297

298 VALDEZ  
If they're establishing a base  
close to Atlas, they could be  
planning on a direct assault on the  
Brotherhood! 298

299 CHARLES  
They could indeed. That location,  
however, has been largely quiet for  
a period of months, unlike the  
other two. My operational  
assessment is that there is no  
imminent threat to the Brotherhood.  
(beat) 299

300 The interesting thing about this  
one is that, unlike the other two,  
it has a name. 300

301 BETH  
A name? What is it? 301

302 CHARLES "Flagrante Bello." It's Latin. 302

303 VALDEZ For "with war blazing." More or less. 303

304 CHARLES Yes. It gained that name by being the site of significant factional fighting over a period of years. We believe that there may be a large underground compound somewhere near there, but we have thusfar been unable to determine whether that is the case or not. 304

305 BETH It would make sense that there's something there worth fighting over. And with that much fighting, it must be something big. 305

306 CHARLES If there is, whatever that "something big" is has been lost to history. We haven't found either records or anyone with direct knowledge to confirm it. 306

307 BETH Sounds a bit like Crane's treasure. There were dozens of people looking for that over the years. Maybe hundreds. 307

308 CHARLES Indeed. But in any case, at this point, best we can tell is that a group of Raiders control the area. 308

309 BETH I wish Amanda were still here. She'd be able to help us get to the bottom of this. 309

310 VALDEZ I have an idea. 310

311 BETH I'm all ears. 311



312 VALDEZ 312  
We can't go undercover, since  
everyone at the Spider's Web knows  
us now, but we still might be able  
to pick up some chatter.

313 BETH 313  
I used to do that when I was still  
with Amanda. It was almost like a  
game. People tend to... overshare  
when they've been drinking, and we  
got a lot of information that way.

314 ANDREW 314  
Are you feeling up to that?

BETH sighs.

315 BETH 315  
No. But I don't think we have a  
choice.

316 ANDREW 316  
Unfortunately, I agree. Please, be  
careful. And Odessa, knowing you'll  
be there with her makes me feel  
rather better.

317 ELISE 317  
And me as well.

318 VALDEZ 318  
Thank you. I won't let you down.  
I'll take good care of her.

319 ELISE 319  
Thank you, dear.

320 BETH 320  
Let's head home. I'd like to rest  
up a bit, then we can get changed  
and head to the Web.

321 VALDEZ 321  
That sounds perfect.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

INT. THE SPIDER'S WEB, NIGHT

BETH and VALDEZ are at a table, chatting and having a good time. There is considerable activity.

322 VALDEZ 322  
It certainly seems like business as usual in here.

323 BETH 323  
I have to admit, I was a bit worried that things would... devolve without her here.

324 VALDEZ 324  
She has a good team in place. We spent a lot of time here while you were away, and that became very clear.

325 BETH 325  
How much time did you spend here?

326 VALDEZ 326  
Enough that people thought we were seeing each other.

327 BETH 327  
(teasing)  
Ooooh! Another victim, caught in the web by the spider herself!

VALDEZ laughs.

328 VALDEZ 328  
Stop!

329 BETH 329  
I'm glad she took good care of you while I was away.

330 (wistfully) 330  
And she's still taking good care of us, even while she's away.

331 VALDEZ 331  
She took very good care of me.

332 BETH 332  
Anything I need to know about?

VALDEZ laughs.

333 VALDEZ  
My lips are sealed. 333

BETH laughs.

334 BETH  
You're terrible. 334

335 VALDEZ  
She'll be back, Beth. 335

336 BETH  
I just hope she's okay. Wherever  
she is. 336

337 VALDEZ  
She is. I can feel it. 337

338 BETH  
If she stays away too long, you,  
Cindy, and I will have to form a  
support group. 338

VALDEZ laughs.

339 VALDEZ  
"Amanda Anonymous." 339

BETH laughs.

340 BETH  
Something like that, yeah. 340

BONES approaches.

341 BONES  
How are you ladies doing? Can I get  
you anything? 341

342 VALDEZ  
You've been so sweet, Bones. You  
have a bar to run - you don't have  
to keep doting on us. 342

343 BONES  
You're sitting at the boss' table,  
you get the boss treatment. 343

344 BETH  
Well, in that case... another  
round. 344

345 BONES  
Coming right up. 345

346 BETH 346  
And Bones - please do let us know  
if your ears happen to catch  
anything... interesting.

347 BONES 347  
Sure thing.

BONES leaves.

348 BETH 348  
I don't think I ever told you...  
this is where I first heard about  
you. Right here at this table.

349 VALDEZ 349  
You didn't tell me that! You  
mentioned that you'd heard people  
talking about me when we were  
chatting in that first lab, but you  
didn't get into the details.

350 (beat) 350  
Well... let's hear it.

351 BETH 351  
I was here with Amanda, and I was  
feeling a bit... lost, I suppose.  
She was doing her best to cheer me  
up, but I was in a dark mood.

352 VALDEZ 352  
Aww! Well, you were with the right  
person, at least.

353 BETH 353  
I was. She was about to take me  
home to... comfort me there when  
some Brotherhood types happened in.

354 VALDEZ 354  
Members of the Brotherhood? Here?

355 BETH 355  
Don't act so surprised! The  
Spider's Web welcomes everyone, as  
long as they keep their noses  
clean. Well, except Blood Eagles.  
They're not even allowed through  
the door.

356 VALDEZ 356  
That's a wise policy. So, is that a  
regular thing? Brotherhood members  
hanging out here?

357 BETH 357  
Well, it's not as common to see  
them as it is Settlers or traders,  
but it's not uncommon.

358 VALDEZ 358  
Knight Carlson was still trying to  
smoke out the moles while you were  
gone, and Rahmani had everyone on  
lockdown. Well, everyone other than  
me. That must be why I didn't see  
any.

359 BETH 359  
I'm sure. You lot were as busy as  
dad and I were while we were away.

360 (beat) 360  
At any rate, just as we were about  
to leave, three of them came in.  
Amanda knew them, and, well, we  
decided to stay. And I was glad we  
did! They were a lot of fun to chat  
with. And eventually, after a few  
drinks, your name came up.

361 VALDEZ 361  
Oh, my, I'm not sure I want to hear  
this.

362 BETH 362  
I can stop if you want!

363 VALDEZ 363  
I wasn't being serious, I  
absolutely want to hear this.

BETH laughs.

364 BETH 364  
Alright. Well, it seems that Amanda  
had heard about your... fans coming  
to visit you and trying to woo you.  
And there was a... discussion,  
shall we say, of that.

365 VALDEZ 365  
Ugh. Is that all anyone knows about  
me? You mentioned the same thing  
when we first met.

366 BETH 366  
It's just because they haven't had  
the opportunity to meet you. The  
real you.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

Paladin Rahmani, Knight Shin,  
Knight Banks... their roles mean  
that they're out there in  
Appalachia. You haven't been  
afforded that opportunity nearly as  
much.

VALDEZ

367 Well, that does seem to be changing 367  
a bit. Thanks to you.

BETH

368 It's all down to you, Odessa. You 368  
constantly amaze me. This situation  
keeps pushing you and pushing you  
and all you do is continue to  
demonstrate that your potential is  
limitless.

VALDEZ

369 That's... thank you, Beth. If I 369  
didn't know better, I'd think you  
liked me or something.

BETH laughs.

BETH

370 I suppose I do. 370

VALDEZ

371 So you were saying... Amanda knew 371  
about people from the Wasteland  
trying to pick me up.

BETH

372 Yes! And the Brotherhood members 372  
knew all about it as well. Amanda  
asked them how many had done it  
that day.

VALDEZ

373 Do I want to know how many it was? 373

BETH

374 I believe it was five. 374

VALDEZ

375 Ugh. 375

BETH

376 What's wrong? Slow day? 376

VALDEZ laughs.

377 VALDEZ  
It tends to come in waves. 377

378 BETH  
I'm sure it does. Were you ever...  
tempted? 378

379 VALDEZ  
Not really. Occasionally? A little?  
I don't know. I never seemed to be  
in the right... headspace to feel  
like saying yes. The thing with  
Derek took a toll, and it's not  
like I didn't have plenty to do.  
(beat)

380 It didn't make sense, but I think I  
kept... subconsciously comparing  
them to him. It wasn't fair. Hell,  
I wouldn't even be able to compare  
*him* to him; it was this idealized  
version that I made up based  
entirely on the good times. 380

VALDEZ sighs.

381 VALDEZ (CONT'D)  
I know it's not rational. 381

382 BETH  
Love often isn't. And you clearly  
loved him very deeply.  
(beat)

383 "The double grief of a lost bliss  
is to recall its happy hour in  
pain." 383

384 VALDEZ  
"...and that thy teacher knows."  
(beat)

385 But that finally feels like it's in  
the past now. I wasn't sure I'd  
ever feel that way. And all it took  
was meeting you. 385

BETH and VALDEZ kiss.

386 VALDEZ (CONT'D)  
Beth, I... um... there's something  
I want to tell you, but... 386

387 BETH  
But what? 387

388 VALDEZ 388  
It's not rational. And I'm... well,  
it scares me a little.

389 BETH 389  
It's alright, Odessa. I never want  
you to be afraid to tell me  
something... rational or not.

390 VALDEZ 390  
It's not just telling you. I'm  
scared to feel this way. Especially  
this soon.

391 BETH 391  
I think the best thing is to just  
say it. And... I may have something  
to tell you, as well.

392 VALDEZ 392  
Beth, I...

393 BONES 393  
(interrupting)  
Um... excuse me. I hate to  
interrupt, but...

394 BETH 394  
(interrupting)  
But you did. What is it?

395 BONES 395  
I have your drinks.

396 VALDEZ 396  
You interrupted us for that?!

397 BONES 397  
And you may want to take note of  
the two jamokes sitting at table  
seven. They've been eyeing you two  
up since they came in here, and...  
not in the way guys usually eye you  
up. Be careful.

398 BETH 398  
Thank you, Bones. We will.

BONES leaves.

399 VALDEZ 399  
To us.



400                                 BETH                                 400  
                              To us.

BETH and VALDEZ clink glasses.

401                                 VALDEZ                                 401  
                              How are you feeling?

402                                 BETH                                 402  
                              I don't know that I've ever felt  
                              better.

403                                 BETH                                 403  
                              (beat)  
                              But, if I'm being honest, I'm a  
                              little tired.

404                                 VALDEZ                                 404  
                              Then I suppose I'll need to get you  
                              into bed.

405                                 BETH                                 405  
                              You don't need to tell me twice...

406                                 VALDEZ                                 406  
                              But Bones is right. Those two are  
                              clearly up to something, and they  
                              may not be alone. Wait here, and  
                              I'll arrange an escort.

VALDEZ leaves.

CARLSON bursts in. He does not see VALDEZ and rushes to  
BETH's table.

407                                 CARLSON                                 407  
                              Beth! Where's Odessa?

408                                 BETH                                 408  
                              She'll be back in a moment. What's  
                              wrong?

409                                 CARLSON                                 409  
                              It's all-hands back at Atlas.  
                              Paladin Rahmani couldn't raise  
                              Odessa on comms so she sent me out  
                              to find her and bring her back.

410                                 BETH                                 410  
                              What's happened?

411                                 CARLSON                                 411  
                              There's an old Raider hotspot  
                              that's a stone's throw from Atlas.  
                              (MORE)

CARLSON (CONT'D)

It's been cold for a while now, but it's heating back up and we're concerned that they may be gearing up for an assault on the Brotherhood.

BETH

412 Dammit! How could Charles' gut be 412  
that wrong?

VALDEZ returns.

VALDEZ

413 Greg? What are you doing here? 413

CARLSON

414 Looking for you. We need you back 414  
at Atlas, like now.

VALDEZ

415 I'm sorry, I didn't bring a radio 415  
with me.

(beat)

416 How did you even know where to find 416  
me?

CARLSON

417 Rahmani told me to check Beth's 417  
place, her parents' place, and  
here, in that order.

BETH

418 She did say that she'd done her 418  
homework on me.

CARLSON

419 I'll explain the situation on the 419  
way. Nothing has happened yet, but  
we need to be ready in case it  
does.

BETH

420 It's Flagrante Bello. Sounds like 420  
something's happening there and the  
Brotherhood wants to stay in front  
of it in case they're preparing an  
attack.

VALDEZ

421 Didn't Charles say... 421

BETH

(interrupting)

422 He did. 422

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

And that leads me to believe that something else is going on, but it's prudent to be ready.

(beat)

423 Knight Carlson, I am at the Brotherhood's disposal. 423

VALDEZ

424 Are you sure you're feeling up to it? 424

BETH

425 No. But if there's a fight, I want to be at your side. 425

CARLSON

426 Sorry, Beth. Rahmani gave strict orders that it's Brotherhood personnel only. 426

BETH

427 But I'm... 427

CARLSON

428 A freelance contractor. You're not Brotherhood. I'm sorry. 428

VALDEZ

429 Greg, she could help! 429

CARLSON

430 Then you'll have to take it up with Paladin Rahmani when we get back. I'm under strict orders to bring you and only you back with me. 430

BETH

431 It's alright. I'll stay with mum and dad tonight. And I'll keep a radio with me in case you reach out. 431

VALDEZ

432 I arranged an escort with Bones. Tripod and Gino are ready when you are. Benny is going to follow, but out of sight. They'll make sure you get to your parents' place safe and sound. 432

BETH

433 Alright. Thank you. Knight, please ensure that nothing happens to her. 433

434 CARLSON I will. 434

435 BETH And Odessa... I'll miss you. Please stay safe. 435

436 VALDEZ I'll miss you, too. Get some rest. I'll radio you as soon as I can. 436

BETH and VALDEZ kiss.

VALDEZ and CARLSON leave.

BONES approaches BETH.

437 BONES Everything okay? 437

438 BETH I don't know. Something about this doesn't feel right, but... maybe the Brotherhood is always like this and it's just something I'll have to get used to. 438

439 BONES The boys are ready. They'll take care of you, and not just because Amanda would wear their intestines as a hat if anything happened. 439

BETH laughs.

440 BETH Well, that's quite a visual. Thank you, Bones. I'm ready to go. 440

441 BONES Sounds good. I'll keep an eye on those two jokers, too. Maybe they'll do something stupid and I'll be able to throw them out. I really didn't like the way they were looking at you two. 441

442 BETH Hopefully they were just creeps. 442

443 BONES Hopefully. 443

MUSICAL TRANSITION

EXT. FORT ATLAS, MORNING

BETH approaches Fort Atlas. There is considerable activity.

444                               BETH                               444  
 Excuse me, have you...  
                                   (beat)  
 445                               Is Scribe Val-                               445  
                                   (beat)  
 446                               Will someone please tell me what's                               446  
                                   going on?!

Eventually, KNIGHT BANKS approaches.

447                               BANKS                               447  
 Beth! Hey, I'm glad you're here. I  
                                   assume you heard?

448                               BETH                               448  
 Heard what?

449                               BANKS                               449  
 Oh, no. You didn't hear.

450                               BETH                               450  
 Didn't. Hear. What?!

451                               BANKS                               451  
 Beth, it's Odessa, she's...

452                               BETH                               452  
 Oh, God...

453                               BANKS                               453  
 She's been taken.

454                               BETH                               454  
 Taken?! By whom?!

455                               BANKS                               455  
 We don't know. They got jumped on  
                                   their way back here last night.  
                                   Greg fought them like hell, but  
                                   there were too many of them. Greg's  
                                   in pretty rough shape. He barely  
                                   made it back.

456                               BETH                               456  
 Do we have any information at all?

457                               BANKS                               457  
 We scrambled every available  
                                   resource the moment he told us what  
                                   happened.

(MORE)

BANKS (CONT'D)

We have patrols in the field, we're working contacts... we're doing everything we can.

BETH

458 I will move heaven and earth to get her back. 458

BANKS

459 I know you will. That's why I'm so glad you're here. 459

BETH

460 I'll need to use your communications station to contact my father. And after I do that, you and I need to have a very frank conversation. 460

BANKS

461 Uh, okay. Everything the Brotherhood has is yours to use. Rahmani said to give you full access to everything, no limitations. 461

BETH

462 Good. Let's get inside. We have a Scribe to save. 462

END OF EPISODE 8