

Once Upon a Wasteland
Season One

Part Three: The Book of Elizabeth

Episode 10:
"I Shall Take Care"

by

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Based on Fallout 76

by

Bethesda Softworks

ACT ONE

INT. FLAGRANTE BELLO RESIDENTIAL AREA

1	BETH (through clenched teeth) You.	1
2	BRYAN Hello, Kirsche. It's nice to see you again. I hope you didn't mind the little show we put on for you out there. Had to keep up appearances, you know?	2
3	VALDEZ What's going on? You two... know each other?	3
4	BETH Yes, we do. Quite well, in fact. (beat)	4
5	Odessa Valdez, I'd like you to meet Bryan Reardon. Or, as I suppose he'd prefer to be addressed... the Morningstar.	5
6	VALDEZ Wait... the person your dad sent to Washington and then disappeared?	6
7	BRYAN The very same, Odessa. I'm fulfilling the mission that Kirsche here and I <i>both</i> swore an oath to complete.	7
8	BETH You do not get to call me that. Not anymore.	8
9	BRYAN I think that a reminder of who you used to be is exactly what you need.	9
10	VALDEZ Can someone please tell me what's going on?	10

11 DR. FLAGLER
Bryan Reardon? But... hrm. I feel
like that name should mean
something to me, but it doesn't. 11

12 BRYAN
I'm sorry about that, doctor. I had
to take... precautions when we
brought you in. Couldn't have you
giving up the game when we brought
Odessa here in. 12

13 DR. FLAGLER
What are you talking about? 13

14 BRYAN
I don't know how much you remember.
Probably not much considering the
state you were in. I was just glad
we got to you in time. 14

15 DR. FLAGLER
But the rehabilitation program...
you... fixed me. You completed my
research. Our research. 15

16 BRYAN
Well, I didn't complete the
research. I had some help. I was
able to track down one of the four
remaining scientists from your
team, and I brought him here. He
was happy to get back to work.
(beat)
17 Dr. Troiani here was one of the
stragglers. She... 17

18 DR. TROIANI
I left Appalachia almost
immediately after leaving the
Vault. I was supposed to go to
Washington, but... 18

19 BRYAN
Nobody can get near it. I'm sure
you ran into exactly the same
problems we did. 19

20 DR. TROIANI
It was awful. The radiation was
terrible, monsters left and
right... 20

30 DR. FLAGLER 30
It appears that... Bryan here managed to coordinate the resumption and apparently the completion of my research. And I suppose I was the perfect test subject.

31 BRYAN 31
You were. I mean, you were almost completely gone when we grabbed you. You would've been dead within a week or two.
(beat)

32 32
But I had to take some... liberties when I was rooting around in there. I'm sure you understand.

33 DR. FLAGLER 33
What did you do?

34 BRYAN 34
I made you forget about me - who I am, what my mission was, all of it. It was a little complicated because of my relationship with Kirsche here, but I think I managed to do it without causing much collateral damage.

35 DR. FLAGLER 35
That was something that we hypothesized that we'd be able to do, eventually... but it would require a *direct* interface.

36 BRYAN 36
That's right. Building that was a challenge. Kind of like... a partners' desk for the mind. And the initial testing... it didn't go well.

37 DR. FLAGLER 37
(upset)
How many people died testing it?

38 BRYAN 38
Does it matter? You, of all people, should understand the sacrifices that need to be made for the greater good. All of you should.

39 VALDEZ The ends justify the means? 39

40 BRYAN It brings me no pleasure to have had to handle it this way, but yes. Especially when the "ends" are this important. 40

41 VALDEZ What are you trying to accomplish? This is clearly more about curing dementia and repairing neurological damage. 41

42 BRYAN In due time, Odessa. It will all be clear to you, I promise. 42

(beat)

43 BRYAN Now that the cat's out of the bag, as it were, there's no need to keep you locked up in here. You have the run of this facility, and I think you'll be impressed. 43

44 BETH That's one word for what I'm expecting to be. 44

45 BRYAN Don't bother trying to escape. I mean, on one hand I guess I'd be disappointed if you *didn't* try, but I recommend saving your energy. We have a lot of work to do. 45

(beat)

46 BRYAN We'll talk later, and everything will be made clear. Greg? Let's give our guests some time to relax. They have a big day ahead of them tomorrow. 46

BRYAN and CARLSON leave.

47 VALDEZ What the hell is going on? 47

48 BETH I don't know yet... but whatever it is it's not good. 48

49 DR. TROIANI That's an understatement. 49

50 BETH 50
Yeah. I'm just trying to read into
what he said. He almost took
offense to the idea that he was
doing anything other than
fulfilling our mission, but...

51 VALDEZ 51
But how is... whatever this is
fulfilling your mission to keep
civilization going in Appalachia?

52 BETH 52
I don't know. Bryan was always five
steps ahead of the rest of us
strategically.
(beat)

53 BETH 53
I suppose it's possible that he had
a different brief from the rest of
us, but my father *should* have known
about it if he did.

54 VALDEZ 54
Unless Vault-Tec kept it from him.

55 BETH 55
Right. That's always a possibility,
unfortunately.

56 VALDEZ 56
We have four smart people in this
room right now, maybe we can think
it through. How could this
technology be used to further the
goal of keeping the area from
falling into chaos?

57 DR. FLAGLER 57
Well, he seems to have selectively
erased part of my memory. That
could play into it somehow.

58 VALDEZ 58
Perhaps.

59 DR. TROIANI 59
Let's think... bigger. He said that
he had to directly interface with
Tony's mind, and manipulated his
memory in very specific ways.

60 BETH 60
It could be leveraged for more than
just... seeking and destroying.

61 DR. TROIANI 61
Exactly. Maybe instead of just an eraser, it can be used as a pencil, too.

62 VALDEZ 62
Wait! Dr. Flagler, you said something about that when we first spoke, didn't you? You said... um... That you didn't have the right kind of pencil to fix yourself.

63 DR. FLAGLER 63
Yes! I do remember that! I was having so much trouble keeping my thoughts coherent, sometimes I found it easier to think in metaphors.

64 BETH 64
That does beg the question, though... did he use a "pencil" when he was inside your head, or just the eraser?

65 DR. FLAGLER 65
Well, he clearly did a lot of work fixing my neural pathways. I feel sharper now than I did twenty years ago. And he said that he hasn't even finished the repairs yet.

66 BETH 66
Doctor, I think we're going to need to keep a close eye on you, just in case. He may have done more than he's letting on.

DR. FLAGLER sighs.

67 DR. FLAGLER 67
And I may be a danger to all of you.

68 BETH 68
I'm sorry. I hope it's not the case.

69 DR. FLAGLER 69
It's alright, Lily. And I'll be sure to say something if I don't... feel right.

70 BETH 70
Thank you.

71 VALDEZ 71
So, we have a working hypothesis
that he can erase memories, and may
have the ability to *manipulate* them
as well. And given that
manipulating memories was an
important part of this project, it
stands to reason that if he
completed the part of the project
to repair damaged minds...

72 BETH 72
...then he very well may have also
completed the other part.

73 (beat) 73
Wait - the operation at Foundation!

74 VALDEZ 74
He was trying to kidnap Paige,
wasn't he?

75 BETH 75
Yes! So... what, he was going to
brainwash the leader of Foundation,
the largest single settlement in
Appalachia and... send him back as
though nothing had happened?

76 VALDEZ 76
Hmm. That's not exactly an elegant
plan, but I suppose it could work.

77 BETH 77
If my surmise about how this
technology works is correct, then
it would be like... kidnapping
someone and replacing them with a
duplicate. A duplicate that is
completely indistinguishable from
the original.

78 VALDEZ 78
They wouldn't even know anything
had happened. It's like you said at
your place, after what happened at
Craig's club - it was like you'd
always felt that way.

79 BETH 79
It did. It was... unnerving. I knew something was wrong, but at the same time, it felt like there wasn't. Like my mind was trying to convince me everything was fine.

80 DR. TROIANI 80
Keep in mind that the Visiontron at Craig's club is related to, but not *identical* to the tech we were working on for Mind's Eye.
(beat)

81 The eventual plan was to bring the two projects together, and that's what I was supposed to go to Washington for. Vault 112 was the main location for Project Tranquility, but like Bryan said, we couldn't get anywhere near DC itself. 81

82 BETH 82
So what did you do?

83 DR. TROIANI 83
There were other labs, farther away from the Capitol. Vault-Tec knew that DC was going to get a hell of a lot of nuclear firepower dumped on it, so they spread the labs out a lot farther than the ones here. I tried to get to those, but... well, I was one scientist on her own out here in the Wasteland, and it became apparent that there was no way I was going to survive long enough to get to even one of them.

84 VALDEZ 84
So you decided to come back to Appalachia.

85 DR. TROIANI 85
Yes. I thought that I could get together with some Vault-Tec people and lock down the Project Tranquility lab that was here, but I couldn't find any. And before I knew it, Craig and Davina had broken into the lab and taken the pod, the tapes, and all the control modules.

86 DR. FLAGLER 86
Did they damage any of it?!

87 DR. TROIANI 87
They didn't. I think they knew they were onto something big, so they were careful with it. I think the most impressive part was keeping it secret. And it was even more impressive that you two somehow managed to get in. I saw dozens of legitimate... well, as legitimate as criminals can be, I suppose... I'll say "legitimate-ish" parties get turned away. But not you two.

88 BETH 88
Well, I had years of training and Odessa here is a natural.

VALDEZ laughs.

89 VALDEZ 89
I don't know if I'd go that far...

90 DR. TROIANI 90
I would. You even had me fooled. If I hadn't recognized Beth, I wouldn't have thought anything of it.

91 VALDEZ 91
We make a good team. And I was trained by Andrew Kirby.

92 BETH 92
I told you he was the best teacher on the planet.

93 VALDEZ 93
Should we, um... talk about the elephant in the room?

94 BETH 94
What's that?

95 VALDEZ 95
What's he going to do with us?

96 BETH 96
It's a good question. There are so many... permutations of why each of us may be here.

97 VALDEZ I understand why the doctors are here. He said that he was trying to bring the original research team back together. What was left of it, at least. 97

98 BETH Of course. But what about us? 98

99 VALDEZ I think there are two possibilities for why I'm here. He either has a plan to move against the Brotherhood and wants to use me for that plan, or I was just... bait. 99

100 BETH Hmm. Either of those is very possible. He knew that I would move heaven and earth to get to you... and to get you back. 100

101 VALDEZ And you did. 101

DR. FLAGLER clears his throat.

102 DR. TROIANI Tony and I have some... catching up to do. 102

103 DR. FLAGLER The residential area here looks like it was designed to hold about 30 people. There are plenty of empty rooms. We're going to get some rest. 103

104 DR. TROIANI I suggest you do the same. 104

105 BETH I still have a lot of adrenalin running through my system after that fight. I'm not going to sleep for a while. 105

106 DR. TROIANI I understand. I'm still recovering from those Blood Eagles drugging me, so I'm going to sleep like a baby. 106

ACT TWO

INT. FORT ATLAS

RAHMANI, ANDREW, and CINDY are discussing strategy.

120 RAHMANI 120
I'm open to suggestions here. But
the fact that Beth, Odessa, and
Greg haven't contacted us yet has
me concerned.

121 ANDREW 121
I'm concerned as well, of course.
But we made the decision that the
best course of action was letting
Lily handle this rather than going
back in with guns blazing.

122 (beat) 122
Remember, we lost contact *before*
they entered the facility, so
there's likely radio jamming
equipment in use inside, just as it
was outside until MODUS eliminated
it.

123 RAHMANI 123
That's true, but we still need to
consider when a shift in that
strategy becomes necessary. Do we
wait a day? Two days? A week?

124 CINDY 124
I've been in contact with Enclave
leadership since we got back to
Atlas, and we're prepared to assist
with a second rescue operation if
needed. Intel, boots on the ground,
whatever you need.

125 RAHMANI 125
Why is the Colonel so interested in
getting our Scribe back?

126 CINDY 126
I don't know what MODUS told her,
but whatever it was convinced her
that getting both Scribe Valdez *and*
Beth back has become an Enclave
priority.

127 RAHMANI
That's good to know, Lieutenant,
and we may take you up on that
offer. 127

128 ANDREW
But right now, we need to trust
that my daughter is handling this
situation. Rushing in with a
brigade behind us is much more
likely to result in tragedy than
retrieving either or both of them. 128

129 RAHMANI
I agree. And based upon what I've
seen from her, I trust her
abilities, her instincts, and her
training. 129

There is a knock on the door.

130 ANDREW
Amanda! 130

131 CINDY
Amanda! 131

132 RAHMANI
Who are you? Other than "Amanda." 132

133 CINDY
She's... Beth's best friend. 133

134 ANDREW
And someone we can trust. 134

135 AMANDA
Can someone tell me what's going
on? And how I can help? 135

136 ANDREW
Right now, we're just... waiting. 136

137 AMANDA
You're *waiting*? Jesus. I should've
just gone over there and gotten her
myself. I figured the Brotherhood
would be over here gazing at their
navels, but you, Mr. Kirby? I
thought you'd be ripping doors off
hinges and beating people to death
with them. 137

ANDREW chuckles.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

He was living alone, unguarded. And the Morningstar already took technology and research from him some time ago. Why not just take him then? There has to be a reason.

AMANDA

148 Yeah. It's like he was waiting for this exact moment to pull the trigger on his plan and get all the pieces in place at once. 148

(beat)

149 Look, I'm just a Ra-- respectable tavern owner and all, so I'll let you big brains figure out what this guy's plan is. But if there's anything I can do to get Beth & Odessa back, I want to do it. Okay? 149

RAHMANI

150 Thank you, Amanda. You appear to have the trust of both Mr. Kirby and the Enclave, so we'll keep you in the loop. 150

(beat)

151 But for right now, we're just going to give Beth time to do what she does best. 151

ANDREW

152 Why don't you go home, and I'll radio you the moment we learn anything new, or if anything happens. 152

RAHMANI

153 You can go back to the bunker as well, Lieutenant. 153

AMANDA

154 Or you can come back to my place. It's closer than the Whitespring, so you can... you know, get back here quicker if something happens. And if we're in one place, it'll save time getting in touch with us. 154

CINDY

155 Paladin? 155

RAHMANI

156 However you want to handle this is fine by me, Lieutenant. But I'm not your commanding officer. 156

(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

I'll leave it to you to decide if this is something that you feel you need to clear with her or if it's the kind of decision you're empowered to make on your own.

CINDY

157 I'll give her a heads-up. Can you keep an empty bunk available in case she decides it isn't a good idea? 157

RAHMANI

158 Of course. You're welcome to stay here as much or as little as you feel you need to. 158

CINDY

159 Thank you, Paladin. 159

RAHMANI

160 Mr. Kirby, I'd like to speak with Charles and get a sitrep. If anything changes, I want us to be ready. 160

ANDREW

161 Of course. 161

RAHMANI

162 Amanda, Lieutenant Connors, we'll contact you immediately if anything happens. 162

CINDY

163 We'll do the same, Paladin. Thank you. 163

ANDREW and RAHMANI leave.

AMANDA

164 So... how mad at me are you? 164

CINDY

165 I'm furious! How could you just leave like that? 165

AMANDA

166 I'm sorry, baby. I just... had to get away. I was overwhelmed. 166

(beat)

(MORE)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

167 I think watching Beth and Odessa 167
fall in love like they did kind of
drove home how I feel about you,
and... it scared me.

CINDY

168 I've never seen you scared. 168

AMANDA

169 Maybe that's why I couldn't say 169
goodbye. I didn't want you to see
me like that.

CINDY

170 Angel, I love you, and that means I 170
don't just want to see you when
you're at your best. I want to be
there to help you when you're
struggling, too! I... I want to be
the one you come to when you feel
like that, not the one you run away
from.

AMANDA

171 I wasn't running away from you, 171
baby. I was running away from me.

CINDY

172 Yet you *did* run away from me. Your 172
actions don't just affect *you*. They
affect the people who care about
you. Who love you. I was
devastated, and I know Beth was,
too. We didn't know if we'd ever
see you again, and that hurt. A
lot.

AMANDA

173 I never wanted to hurt you. 173

CINDY

174 But you *did*. 174

CINDY sighs

CINDY (CONT'D)

175 You are so frustrating. Do you know 175
what I noticed about Beth and
Odessa? Why they fit together so
well? Beth isn't constantly
comparing Odessa to you, or their
relationship to the one you two
had. Yet you can't seem to get past
it. Or her.

176 AMANDA Hey, that's not fair! 176

177 CINDY Isn't it? 177

178 AMANDA I'm not still hung up on Beth! 178

179 CINDY But you are! And don't tell me you 179
two aren't getting back together,
that's not what I mean. It just
feels like you look at me through
the lens of what happened between
you two.

180 (beat) Beth has moved past it, and a big 180
part of that is because she found
the right person to move past it
with. You not being able to do
that...

181 (beat) I'm sorry, Angel. I guess... I'm 181
sorry if I'm... not enough.

182 AMANDA You are, baby! You are! I came back 182
because Beth needed my help, but
I'm staying because of you.

183 CINDY I want to believe you. 183

184 AMANDA Then believe me! 184

185 (beat) Look, when I got wind of what 185
happened, yeah, my first thought
was that Beth needed me. And I
gotta be honest, I wasn't ready to
come back. To face you after
running away like that.

186 (beat) But when I heard your voice over 186
comms... I realized in that moment
that leaving was the wrong thing to
do. I felt *so much* regret. And I
still do. I'm so sorry, dollface.
For running away, for hurting
you... especially for making you
question how much I love you.

187 CINDY That's the one thing I never 187
doubted. I was just worried that it
wasn't enough.

188 AMANDA I've never felt like this about 188
anyone else, Cindy. And I'd like
to... you know, see where this all
leads, if you'll have me.

189 CINDY Beth talked about me being the one 189
who brought you two back together,
as friends. Maybe she brought us
back together, too.

AMANDA sighs.

190 AMANDA This whole thing is... really 190
complicated. And that's going to
make it hard sometimes.

191 CINDY I know. But some things are worth 191
fighting for.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. FLAGRANTE BELLO RESIDENTIAL AREA

BETH enters the common area. VALDEZ is reading.

192	VALDEZ Good morning.	192
193	BETH Good morning. How long have you been up?	193
194	VALDEZ A little while. I took a walk around the facility. It's enormous. But he wasn't exactly telling the truth when he said we had the run of the place.	194
195	BETH There are areas that are still off- limits?	195
196	VALDEZ Yes. There were a few doors that were locked up tight. They weren't guarded, but...	196
197	BETH What is it?	197
198	VALDEZ It sounded like there were Super Mutants on the other side of most of them.	198
199	BETH Super Mutants? I wonder if he's been experimenting on them as well. If he could program an army of those, Appalachia would be in serious trouble.	199
200	VALDEZ Even more serious than it already is.	200
201	BETH Indeed. I was thinking about the timing of all this. (MORE)	201

BETH (CONT'D)

He's seemed to make so much of this about me, personally, that having me here, in his clutches makes it feel like he's about to make a move. A big one.

VALDEZ

202 I was thinking about that failed operation at Foundation. He was trying to kidnap their leader, but the more I think about it the more logical it is that he'd already... tested his plan. 202

BETH

203 I see what you're saying. You don't try to execute your plan on a key piece until you're sure that you're ready. 203

VALDEZ

204 And what better way to be sure of that than testing it on other people? 204

BETH

205 Odessa, I'm worried. About you. 205

VALDEZ

206 About me? Why? 206

BETH

207 I think he may be planning on using you to infiltrate the Brotherhood. I don't think you were just bait. 207

VALDEZ

208 The Brotherhood is all I've ever really known. I can't betray them, I don't care how much "reprogramming" he does. It's been my entire life. Well, until I met you. 208

BETH

209 Perhaps the Brotherhood could be your North Star, if it comes to that. 209

VALDEZ

210 Everything the Brotherhood has meant to me, and still means to me, is always going to be an important part of what makes me who I am. 210

(MORE)

VALDEZ (CONT'D)

But my North Star is standing right
in front of me.

211 BETH 211
Do you mean that?

212 VALDEZ 212
(playfully)
When have you known me to say
things I don't mean? Of course I
mean it.

213 BETH 213
There's something I need to tell
you. It's important, and... well, I
want to make sure it's not left
unsaid, no matter what happens.

214 VALDEZ 214
What is it?

215 BETH 215
Odessa... I love you.

216 VALDEZ 216
I love you, too, Beth. When I...
thought I was going to lose you,
back at the club... I think that's
when I realized it.

217 (beat) 217
I guess I knew before that, but it
was hard to admit it to myself...
to allow myself to feel that way
again.

218 BETH 218
After Derek broke your heart.

219 VALDEZ 219
Yeah. I didn't want it to happen
again. I was afraid it would...
break me. But I realized that not
only is it okay to take that risk,
I have to take it. It just has to
be with the right person.

220 (beat) 220
With someone who loved me, truly.
And who I truly loved back.

BETH and VALDEZ kiss.

221 BETH 221
So, what did you find when you
looked around? Other than locked
doors and Super Mutants, that is.

222 VALDEZ 222
Well, it's big, like I said. It
must have a huge footprint.

223 BETH 223
Hmm. That might mean that it's even
bigger than our intel suggested.
And that means that there may be
more entrances than we thought
there were.

224 VALDEZ 224
And more exits. I wonder...

225 BETH 225
What is it?

226 VALDEZ 226
Well, I wonder just how familiar
Bryan is with this facility. Maybe
there's a way out that he doesn't
know about.

227 BETH 227
There may be. All we have to do is
find it. Shall we go exploring?

228 VALDEZ 228
Let's go!

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. FLAGRANTE BELLO

BETH rattles a door.

229 BETH 229
Another locked door. There are a
lot of them in this section.

230 VALDEZ 230
Yet I don't hear any Super Mutants.
Or anything else, for that matter.

231 BETH 231
Maybe it's an area that's not in
use?

232 VALDEZ 232
Possibly. But we had to pick two
locks just to get into this part of
the facility, so whatever's here
must be important. If not now, for
some... later phase of his plan.

233 BETH 233
At least we know this is a Vault-
Tec facility now. Their branding is
all over the place.

234 VALDEZ 234
It's interesting... I'm not an
expert or anything, but I've been
in several Vault-Tec facilities,
from California to Appalachia, and
I've never seen one quite like
this.

235 BETH 235
It's like my place, in a way. But
much larger, and much deeper
underground. Not quite a Vault, but
certainly not an ordinary
structure, either.

236 (beat) 236
I wonder how many of these were
built... this can't be the only
one.

237 VALDEZ 237
And I wonder what it's for. I mean,
specifically. Is it just for
Project Mind's Eye and Project
Tranquility? Is it some kind of
research hub for even more
projects?

238 BETH 238
It seems too vast to just be for
those two projects. It must be the
latter.

239 VALDEZ 239
And considering how well it was
hidden, whatever they were planning
to do here was clearly something
they didn't want out in the open.

SFX: LABORED FOOTSTEPS

240 BETH 240
Do you hear that?

241 VALDEZ
Someone's coming. We need to get
out of sight! 241

242 BETH
All of these doors are locked and
I'm not going to be able to pick
one in time. Bryan *did* say we had
the run of the place. 242

243 VALDEZ
I have a feeling sections we had to
break into weren't part of the
deal. 243

244 BETH
Wait... it's Dr. Flagler and Dr.
Troiani. 244

245 VALDEZ
He doesn't look good. Is there
anyone else with them? Guards? 245

246 BETH
I think it's just them. 246

BETH and VALDEZ approach DR. TROIANI and DR. FLAGLER

247 VALDEZ
Are you okay? What happened? 247

248 DR. TROIANI
I'm fine. And he'll be fine. He
just had his last treatment. It
takes some time to recover, both
from the procedure and the chem
they had to give him, but when he
does he should be as good as new.
Maybe even better than new. 248

249 VALDEZ
That's great. It was so nice seeing
the *real* him when I was first
brought down here. The first time I
spoke with him was...
heartbreaking. He clearly had such
a brilliant mind, but he couldn't
access it anymore. All because of
Vault-Tec. 249

250 DR. TROIANI
I'm just glad to have him back.
That's the important part. We'll
figure out the rest later. 250

(MORE)

DR. TROIANI (CONT'D)

(beat)

251 I need to take him back to the residential area. You two be careful - I don't think you're supposed to be here. 251

VALDEZ

252 We're not. Thank you, we will be careful. 252

DR. TROIANI and DR. FLAGLER leave.

BETH

253 Let's head in the direction they were coming from. 253

BETH and VALDEZ walk up the hall.

VALDEZ

(sotto)

254 Hey. Open door. 254

BETH

255 I see it. Be careful, we don't want anyone to spot us, but maybe we can listen in. Assuming anyone's still in there. 255

BRYAN

256 How does the data look, doctor? 256

DR. FALCO

257 Everything looks good. The operation appears to be a success, though we won't really know until we can talk to him. 257

BRYAN

258 Once we get the process down, I'd like to get started on figuring out how to do it programmatically. And we'll need Emily to start working on integrating the Visiontron technology into what we have here. 258

DR. FALCO

259 Good luck convincing her to cooperate. 259

BRYAN

260 Once she sees what we did for Tony, she'll come around. You did. 260

261 DR. FALCO 261
I'm still not comfortable with...
the rest of this, and you know
that.

262 BRYAN 262
You'll come around on that part,
too.

BRYAN pauses.

263 BRYAN (CONT'D) 263
Beth, Odessa, you might as well
come in here instead of crouching
outside the door.

BETH sighs. She and VALDEZ enter.

264 BETH 264
Did you spot us?

265 BRYAN 265
No. But I know you well enough that
I figured you'd be showing up right
around now. And I think it's time
we talk.

266 BETH 266
Oh, is it time for the big villain
speech?

267 BRYAN 267
You think I'm a villain? Come on.

268 BETH 268
You adopted the name of one. That's
certainly not a coincidence.

269 BRYAN 269
I needed a cover, and using the
Morningstar's name and reputation
made sense. Besides, he wasn't
using it anymore.

270 VALDEZ 270
Did you...

271 BRYAN 271
Kill him? Yes.

272 (beat) 272
Oh, don't look at me like that. How
many people have you disappeared
since you left the Vault, Beth?

(beat)
(MORE)

BRYAN (CONT'D)

273 That's what I thought. Anyway, now 273
that everyone's here, let's talk
about our path forward.

BETH

274 You say that like we're not 274
prisoners.

BRYAN

275 Well, I'll admit that I knew I'd 275
need a captive audience for this,
but once I explain I think you'll
understand.

VALDEZ

276 And if we don't "understand?" 276

BRYAN

277 If it comes to that - and I don't 277
think it will - we'll deal with it.

VALDEZ

278 I... don't like the sound of that. 278

BRYAN

279 You're both well acquainted with 279
the tech and its capabilities, so
there's no need to rehash that. I
found out about the project when I
was in Virginia. We were buttoning
up some labs and I got curious.
Started reading a few terminal
entries and it hit me - we get this
project finished, it's our best
chance to do what we were sent out
here to do, a lot faster and with a
lot less bloodshed.

BETH

280 I'm not following. 280

BRYAN

281 We know how to build a functioning 281
society, right? Your mom taught us
well. Very well, in fact. The
problem, like it always is, was
people. But I didn't buy that our
only real option was to operate
behind the scenes and *hope* we were
able to manipulate people enough to
get them to do the right thing.

(beat)

282 But I will say, you guys did a 282
great job.

(MORE)

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Your mom got in with Foundation and the Free States, you and your dad both got in deep with a bunch of Raider factions, and you even infiltrated the Brotherhood of Steel. That's pretty impressive.

VALDEZ

283 What?! Did you-- 283

BETH

284 No! I did not "infiltrate" the Brotherhood of Steel. 284

BRYAN chuckles.

BRYAN

285 Whatever you say, "Acting Knight Kirby." When's the wedding, by the way? 285

(beat)

286 Anyway, this tech? This gets us where we need to be years ahead of schedule. Maybe decades. 286

VALDEZ

287 By... reprogramming people? That's not how you save society. 287

BRYAN

288 And what is? Trusting people to do the right thing? You're not that naïve, Odessa. You've been around. You've seen people. They're going to ruin it, like they always do. Look around. This is what trusting people gets you. 288

BETH

289 But with you in charge, it will be different, right? 289

BRYAN

290 Oh, no, you don't understand. Not me. Us. 290

BETH

291 Us? There is no "us." And there never will be. 291

BRYAN

292 Oh, Beth. That's where this tech really works its magic. 292

(MORE)

BRYAN (CONT'D)

I've been using it to... improve myself, with the help of Dr. Falco, of course.

DR. FALCO

293 I was in charge of the memory manipulation part of this project. 293
I expressed my... discomfort with Bryan's plans, but... well, I didn't have much of a choice.

VALDEZ

294 So you're in on this. 294

BRYAN

295 He's not just in on it. He's a partner. Our Merlin. 295

VALDEZ

296 I don't like where this is going. 296
Not one bit.

BETH

297 Let's hear this plan. 297

VALDEZ

298 Beth! You cannot seriously be entertaining any of this. 298

BETH

299 Let's hear him out. 299

BRYAN

300 See? I knew you'd come around. 300

(beat)

301 We need to establish something that 301
will last. And since the powers that be decided to bomb everything back to the Dark Ages, I thought "what's the most stable form of government we can put in place given the circumstances?" Democracy certainly isn't the answer. But you know what is?

VALDEZ

302 A dictatorship? 302

BRYAN

303 No. Think... bigger. 303

BETH

304 You said "dark ages." You don't mean... a monarchy? 304

305 BRYAN 305
Now you're getting it.

306 BETH 306
So you want to be a king.

307 BRYAN 307
Maybe an emperor, eventually. But
we'll start with king.

308 VALDEZ 308
You're insane.

309 BRYAN 309
And every king needs his queen.

310 BETH 310
Um... that's not going to happen.

311 BRYAN 311
If we want to set up something that
lasts, it needs to be a *hereditary*
monarchy. Our children will bear
our standard, and their children,
and so on.

312 BETH 312
I'm not going to do this. I am not
going to be your queen and I am *not*
going to be the mother of your
children. I thought we settled this
years ago. I thought you knew who I
was and I thought you respected
that.

313 BRYAN 313
Of course I know you're a lesbian,
Beth. You made that very clear. And
yes, I did respect it. But this is
a different situation.

314 BETH 314
I won't cooperate.

315 BRYAN 315
That's disappointing. See, here's
the thing. When this process is
over, that part of it isn't going
to be a concern anymore.

316 VALDEZ 316
You're going to... reprogram her
sexuality? That's disgusting.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Be my queen and we'll rule
Appalachia together. Just think how
beautiful our children will be. Oh,
and your parents? They won't be
harmed, either, of course. They'll
be honored members of our royal
family. Respected court advisers.
In fact, anyone who you want
protected will be protected.

(beat)

326 I won't even be offended if you 326
want to take a mistress. How about
your Raider friend, Amanda?

VALDEZ

327 You don't have to do this, Beth! We 327
can find another way!

BETH pauses to consider the situation.

BETH

328 Stop. Just... stop. 328

(beat)

329 I'll do it. 329

VALDEZ

330 No! You can't! 330

BETH

331 I have to, Odessa. I'm sorry. 331
There's no way out of this, and I
need to keep you safe.

VALDEZ

332 I love you! Isn't that enough to 332
get you to fight?!

BETH

333 Bryan? 333

BRYAN

334 Yes, Beth? 334

BETH

335 Can you make her forget about me? 335

VALDEZ

336 I don't want to forget about you! 336
You're my North Star!

BRYAN

337 I can take care of that when we do 337
her memory wipe. But let's get you
sorted first, okay?

(MORE)

BRYAN (CONT'D)

This won't take long. I've had a lot of practice.

(beat)

338 I hope you don't mind, but... I'm going to poke around a little bit while I'm in there. I can't wait to see all the depraved things you two do to each other. 338

VALDEZ

339 You're sick. 339

BRYAN

340 Appalachia is sick. And I'm the cure. I'm sorry that you don't understand. I thought you were smarter than that. That you might... join us. 340

VALDEZ

341 I'll never join you. The Brotherhood will fight you every step of the way. 341

BRYAN

342 I'm looking forward to it. But for now... 342

(beat)

343 Dr. Falco, we won't need the handcuffs to keep Beth in the pod, fortunately, but we can't have the Scribe interrupting the proceedings. Cuff her to that pipe. 343

DR. FALCO cuffs Valdez to the pipe.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

344 Thank you. Now she can yell, scream, and cry all she wants, but that won't matter. 344

(beat)

345 Beth, please get in the pod. Dr. Falco will connect you. I'll connect myself. 345

BETH gets into the pod. DR. FALCO connects her to it.

SFX: CONNECTING MACHINE, BEEPS

WHILE INSIDE THE MACHINE, USE ECHO

BRYAN (CONT'D)

346 Alright, I'm in. 346
(beat)
(MORE)

BRYAN (CONT'D)

347 Oh... oh wow. Are you sure you 347
don't want to keep her as your
mistress? This is... next-level
stuff.

(beat)

348 You know what? Keep both of them. 348
I'm just adding in attraction to
men, I won't take away the
attraction to women.

BETH

349 Notice anything strange, Bryan? 349

BRYAN

350 What are you talking about? 350

BETH

351 An open door can be passed through 351
in both directions.

BRYAN

352 Stop. You have no idea what you're 352
doing.

BETH

353 Quite the contrary. I know what I'm 353
doing far better than you do. You
sort of blindly felt around in
people's minds to figure out what
to do. I have years and years of
research at my disposal, courtesy
of Dr. Troiani. I hadn't been able
to get it until now, but it appears
that the machine unlocked the
knowledge.

BRYAN

354 No! You can't do this! 354

BETH

355 I have to, Bryan. You lost your 355
way, and I'm going to fix you. What
you saw? Odessa and I together?
That was just so I could distract
you long enough to get inside your
head.

BRYAN

356 Stop this! Stop it right now! 356

BETH

357 I can't do that. And I won't. I 357
want to bring you back, Bryan.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I'm going to reset you, back to the way you were just before we left the Vault.

(beat)

358

There. I think I found it. One moment, and I think I'll have it...

358

The machine beeps.

BETH and BRYAN come out of their stupor.

BRYAN

359

Wh... where am I?

359

VALDEZ rushes to BETH.

VALDEZ

360

Beth! What happened? Dr. Falco said something went wrong, but...

360

BETH

361

Quite the contrary, Odessa. Everything went very right.

361

BRYAN

(dazed)

362

Should I know you, ma'am?

362

VALDEZ

363

I'm Odessa Valdez, Brotherhood of Steel. You don't remember me?

363

BRYAN

364

Brotherhood of what? Beth, what's going on?

364

CARLSON enters.

CARLSON

365

We have a problem.

365

DR. FALCO

366

What now?

366

CARLSON

367

I don't know what happened, but those Super Mutants that were locked up in East Wing... well, they're not locked up anymore, and they're headed this way.

367

(beat)

368

Is the procedure complete, Dr. Falco?

368

369 DR. FALCO
Erm... yes, it is. 369

370 CARLSON
My queen. 370

371 BETH
Please get Dr. Troiani and Dr.
Flagler to a safe location outside
the complex until we get these
Super Mutants back in their
corrals. They're too important to
our plans to risk their safety. 371

372 CARLSON
Yes, ma'am. 372

373 VALDEZ
Uncuff me, please. 373

374 CARLSON
Doctor? 374

375 DR. FALCO
It's fine, Greg. We didn't even
have to perform the procedure on
her. 375

CARLSON uncuffs VALDEZ.

376 VALDEZ
Thanks. I wish this weren't the
only way, but I understand now. The
only options for Appalachia are
continued existence under our
guidance, or... 376

377 CARLSON
Total annihilation. I knew you'd
see the light. It's the only
logical conclusion. 377

378 VALDEZ
We'll need weapons. 378

379 CARLSON
Two doors down. I'll unlock the
door on my way to grab the doctors.
Take whatever you need. And stay
safe. 379

CARLSON leaves.

380 DR. FALCO 380
Those Mutants are going to lay waste to this place. We all need to get out. We're not going to be able to get the tech itself out, but we need to preserve this research. You saw what it did for Dr. Flagler.

381 VALDEZ 381
Is it stored somewhere? Somewhere that we can get to quickly?

382 DR. FALCO 382
We keep physical backups in a location not far from one of the main exits. It's the only exit that's still open, so we'll have to go that way anyway.

383 VALDEZ 383
What are we going to do with Carlson?

384 DR. FALCO 384
We should be able to deprogram him using a Visiontron. They have a lot of the same underlying tech as this stuff. Emily, Tony, and I will figure it out.

385 BETH 385
Let's worry about that when we get out of here. Bryan, are you okay to move?

386 BRYAN 386
Yeah. I feel fine. But you're going to have to tell me what's going on at some point. I feel like I just got yanked out of a dream.

387 BETH 387
I know the feeling. Let's go.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. BACKUP STORAGE OFFICE

388 BETH 388
We still have about... uh... thirteen Super Mutants hot on our heels. We need to get these backups and get out.

389 DR. FALCO
This is it. Terminal's over here,
Odessa, next to the door. 389

390 BETH
I'll hold them off as long as I
can. 390

SFX: EXPLOSIONS

391 VALDEZ
What was that? 391

392 BETH
Sounds like another group is coming
from your 9:00. They must've found
the armory. They're going to try to
blast through. The gate should
hold, but I don't know how long. 392

393 DR. FALCO
Jesus! They're going to bring the
whole room down on top of us! 393

394 BETH
I'm going to concentrate on the
ones who were chasing us. I'll
worry about the other ones if and
when they break through. 394

395 DR. FALCO
Here, let me unlock the storage
container with the tapes. There's a
bag we can use to take them in
there. 395

396 VALDEZ
I don't suppose there are any
offsite backups... 396

DR. FALCO clacks at a terminal.

397 DR. FALCO
I know, I know... 397

398 (beat)
My access code isn't working.
Dammit! 398

399 VALDEZ
I'll hack it. 399

SFX: NEARBY EXPLOSION, CRASHING

400 VALDEZ (CONT'D) 400
That was too close. How are things
going over there, Beth?

401 BETH 401
I count... eleven Super Mutants
still upright.

402 (pause) 402
Ten.

403 (pause) 403
Nine. They're starting to get a
little close for comfort!

404 VALDEZ 404
I'm almost there!

405 (to the terminal) 405
Come on, come on!

406 BETH 406
I can finish this, you have to take
what we already found and get out
of here with Dr. Falco!

407 VALDEZ 407
I'm not leaving you!

408 (beat) 408
Got it!

The terminal chirps and a panel opens, revealing several
holotapes, journals, and pieces of technology.

BETH turns to join VALDEZ to gather everything and escape,
but before she can move the room collapses, separating them,
BETH trapped on the side with the Super Mutants.

409 VALDEZ (CONT'D) 409
Beth! Are you alright? Can you get
through?

410 BETH 410
I'm ok! But you need to grab what
you can and get the hell out of
here!

411 VALDEZ 411
Five seconds faster...

412 BETH 412
Odessa, listen to me. You need to
get Dr. Falco and all of this back
to Fort Atlas, and you need to go
now or else you're going to get
trapped, too.

413 VALDEZ 413
Five seconds...

414 BETH 414
Odessa Valdez, you stay *focused*! If
you love me - and I know you do -
you'll go!

415 VALDEZ 415
I can't leave you, Beth!

416 BETH 416
If there's another way out of here,
I'm going to find it. Heaven and
Earth, remember?

417 VALDEZ 417
 (crying)
I'll hold you to it. You'd better
not be lying, or I'll never forgive
you.

BETH chuckles wryly. Weapons fire is still audible behind the rubble.

418 BETH 418
Understood.

419 (pause)
Odessa, I love you. No matter what
happens...

420 VALDEZ 420
 (crying harder)
Don't say that!

421 BETH 421
No matter what happens, I am so
glad I met you. You've helped me
become more than I ever thought I
could be.

422 VALDEZ 422
I love you, Beth. Heaven and Earth.

VALDEZ turns to leave, casting one final glance at the wall of rubble.

BETH is shot and lets out a loud groan.

423 VALDEZ (CONT'D)
Beth! No! 423

424 DR. FALCO
We need to go! Now! 424

425 VALDEZ
(quietly, crying)
I love you, Beth... 425

MUSICAL TRANSITION - PIE JESU/REQUIEM

INT. BETH'S RESIDENCE, DAY

There are people milling about. VALDEZ is distraught.

426 AMANDA
(tenderly)
Odessa, baby... are you sure you
want to be here? At her place? 426

427 VALDEZ
I... I didn't know where else to
go. 427

428 AMANDA
I'm so sorry. I... I know how much
you loved her. And I know she loved
you, too. 428

429 VALDEZ
Thank you, Amanda. 429

430 AMANDA
Do you want to stay with me for a
while? You shouldn't be alone right
now. 430

431 VALDEZ
I think I'd like that. Leila said
that I could take all the time I
need, and... I think I'm going to
need a lot. 431

432 AMANDA
Okay. Come by whenever you're
ready. 432

AMANDA leaves.

ANDREW approaches.

433 VALDEZ
Oh, Mr. Kirby... I... I don't know
what to say. 433

434 ANDREW
There's nothing to say, my dear. 434
But thank you. Is there anything I
can do for you?

435 VALDEZ
No... and I should be asking you 435
that question, not the other way
around.

436 ANDREW
Elise and I... we knew that 436
something like this could happen.
But that doesn't make it hurt any
less, of course.

437 (beat)
I'm... glad that you were there 437
with her, at the end. And we
consider you part of our family
now. Our door will always be open
to you.

438 VALDEZ
Thank you, Mr. Kirby. 438

439 ANDREW
Did you go into the secret room? 439

440 VALDEZ
I didn't. Why? 440

441 ANDREW
I don't know for sure, but... she 441
may have left something for you. I
think you should check, when you're
ready.

442 VALDEZ
I'll check now. Thank you for 442
telling me.

443 ANDREW
Of course, my dear. I'll be taking 443
Elise home. We need to mourn there.
Being here is... too much for both
of us right now.

ANDREW leaves.

VALDEZ opens the secret room by moving a book and entering a code on the keypad. She walks down a flight of stairs and into the main room.

VALDEZ

444 A holotape? 444
 (beat)
 445 And a note... 445
 (beat)
 446 "Had we but world enough and 446
 time..."

VALDEZ retrieves the holotape and inserts it into a terminal. It begins to play.

BETH

(on tape)

447 Well, Odessa, if you're listening 447
 to this, I guess I... didn't make
 it. Please tell my parents that
 I've left a tape like this at their
 place. And Amanda, too. Whatever
 happened, I hope it was
 spectacular.
 (beat)
 448 I also hope that I had a chance to 448
 tell you that I love you, and I
 wish that we'd been able to spend
 more time together. Those two weeks
 when I was off chasing leads with
 dad... fourteen days that I
 could've been with you. This isn't
 something I could've told you to
 your face, but I'd really started
 to believe there was a chance that
 we'd spend our lives together. Grow
 old together. Maybe my body
 produced DMT before I died and that
 happened. A lifetime in an instant,
 all spent with you.
 (beat)
 449 I was so lucky to meet you, and to 449
 spend the time with you that I did.
 To hold your hand, to walk with
 you. To kiss you, to make love to
 you. You were fantastic, Odessa.
 You are so kind, and so capable...
 you're going to do great things, I
 know it. I only wish I could be at
 your side while you do.
 (beat)
 450 I loved your moments of glad grace, 450
 and I loved your beauty.
 (MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

But I also loved your pilgrim soul,
and I wish I'd had the chance to
love the sorrows of your changing
face.

(beat)

451 I hope you think about me, 451
sometimes. About how love fled, and
paced upon the mountains overhead,
and hid my face amid a crowd of
stars.

(beat)

452 I hope that we can meet again, 452
someday, perhaps in that same crowd
of stars. But not for a long time.
You have so much life left ahead of
you. Live it.

The holotape clicks off.

VALDEZ begins to sob.

VALDEZ

453 I'm sorry, Beth... 453

BETH enters.

BETH

454 It's alright. But I suppose I'll 454
have to record another one of those
now.

VALDEZ

455 Beth! You're... 455

BETH

456 Alive? Yes, I am. Although... ugh. 456
I've felt better.

VALDEZ

457 You just missed your parents! And 457
Amanda!

BETH

458 We'll need to contact them right 458
away. Let them know I'm... not
dead.

VALDEZ

459 What happened?! Let's get you to 459
the medical bay.

BETH

460 Those bloody Super Mutants got me, 460
right in the gut.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I went down, but I still had enough of my wits about me to take out the five that were left. I dragged myself to a medical bay and patched myself up, but I must've passed out from the pain before I could get to a stimpak.

(beat)

461 I don't know how long I was out, 461
but when I came to, I heard the rest of those Super Mutants trying to take the safety gate down, so I had to press onward. And it's a good thing they forced me in the direction they did, because I managed to find an emergency egress point.

(beat)

462 But, Odessa... 462

VALDEZ

463 What is it? 463

BETH

464 It was the thought that I might 464
never see you again that gave me the strength to go on. I don't know how else to explain finding that hatch, but in a way... it was you.

VALDEZ

465 No, Beth. It was you. But either 465
way... our story clearly wasn't meant to end yet.

BETH

466 So what now? What's next in that 466
story?

VALDEZ

467 I don't know. But we'll find out 467
together.

BETH

468 I love you, Odessa. 468

VALDEZ

469 I love you, Beth. 469

END OF ACT THREE

EPILOGUE

INT. TESS'S BEDROOM, NIGHT

ELIZABETH has just finished reading a bedtime story.

470 ELIZABETH 470
...and they lived happily ever
after.

471 TESS 471
What? That can't be all there is to
it.

SFX: MUSIC STOPS ABRUPTLY

472 ELIZABETH 472
There *is* more. A lot more. But it's
late.

473 TESS 473
Come on... just give me a hint.
What does "happily ever after" even
mean?

ELIZABETH sighs.

474 ELIZABETH 474
Okay.

475 (beat) 475
Beth and Odessa got married not
long after that. About a year and a
half, maybe two years later. They
had five children - the twins,
Andrew & Amanda, came first, then
David, Cynthia, and Daniel.

476 (beat) 476
Do you remember he stories I told
you about Great-Great Grandma
Cynthia?

477 TESS 477
I loved those stories! Wait, was
she...

478 ELIZABETH 478
Yes! Grandma Cynthia was Beth and
Odessa's daughter. Her maiden name
was Valdez-Kirby.

479 TESS 479
Oh, wow...

480 ELIZABETH
Wow indeed. 480

481 TESS
So what else happened? 481

482 ELIZABETH
You're really pushing your luck... 482

483 TESS
Just a little bit more... 483

JACK, TESS's father and ELIZABETH's husband enters.

484 JACK
(kind, but firm)
Hey, what's going on in here? 484
Lights out, Tess, you have to be up
early tomorrow for school!

485 ELIZABETH
Somebody won't take "happily ever
after" for an answer. 485

JACK laughs.

486 JACK
I see. How about this - if I tell
you how the story ends, will you go
to sleep? 486

487 TESS
Okay, deal. 487

488 JACK
Okay. Grandma Beth lived until
2167. Their whole family was with
her when she passed... Grandma
Odessa, their children,
grandchildren... even a few great-
grandchildren. 488

489 TESS
Were you there, mom?! 489

490 ELIZABETH
No. I wasn't born until about a
year later. But *my* mom and dad were
there, and that's why they named me
Elizabeth. 490

491 TESS
What about Odessa? 491

492 JACK 492
She... declined quickly after she
lost Beth. They'd spent a lifetime
together. Their family stayed by
her side, too, until the end. Her
last words were "a crowd of stars."

493 TESS 493
Are you crying?

494 ELIZABETH 494
A little, yeah.

495 TESS 495
But what happened in the middle?!
You left out what... 60 years?

496 JACK 496
A deal's a deal, kiddo.

497 TESS 497
Awww.

498 JACK 498
We'll tell you the rest of their
story, okay? I promise. Just not
tonight.

499 TESS 499
(disappointed)
Okay.

500 (beat) 500
Good night, mom. Good night, dad. I
love you.

501 JACK 501
I love you too, Tess. Good night.

502 ELIZABETH 502
Good night. I love you.

ELIZABETH switches off the light.

ELIZABETH and JACK leave and close the door.

503 JACK 503
You okay, hon?

504 ELIZABETH 504
Yeah. It's just... that story. It
really hits me hard. I don't know
if I'm going to be able to read the
rest to her. They went through so
much.

505 JACK
There were ups and downs, sure. The
downs were pretty low, but the ups
were incredible. 505

506 (beat)
Sound familiar? 506

ELIZABETH laughs.

507 ELIZABETH
It does. 507

508 JACK
I'm still going through everything
they retrieved from that lab.
There's a lot there. But I promise
I'll get it all written down for
you. 508

509 ELIZABETH
Do you think it's all true? 509

510 JACK
Well, the historian said that
everything checks out timeline-
wise, so I'm going to choose to
believe that it is. 510

511 ELIZABETH
Regardless, it's one hell of a
story. 511

512 JACK
A story that needs to be told. And
I'm going to make sure it is. 512

THE END