

The Collective

By Asata Radcliffe

FINAL PRODUCTION COPY; 2021-3-19

The Collective: Broadcast Version

by

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2019 B.C.E. (BEFORE CATASTROPHIC EVENT)

1 EXT. ALBUQUERQUE (6. C.E.: GREGORIAN CALENDER-YEAR 2033)

FADE IN: TRANSPORTING

NORA (MONOLOGUE)

This is Nora. I'm not sure if you're getting my transmissions. I'm in trouble. I can't tell you why. Not now. I've been traveling with a small group of the Collective, about 15 of us. I'm sitting in the back of a scout's bus. We've been on the road now for 2 months trying to get to the Region. Apparently, it's a Collective location not on the radar, somewhere in New Mexico. We're right outside of the the old city of Albuquerque. I'm having pains and I'm not sure if I'm going to make it. I'll send another transmit as soon as I can.

2 INT. THE OLD BUS: STOLEN SCOUT TRANSPORT

(Music playing on the bus. Jefferey, the Scout, driving)

RADIO

Members of the Collective. Pardon our interruption on your musical frequency. This short message from the Plutarchs comes to you as a benevolent sharing of the most wonderful opportunity. We, the Plutarchs, value the human species, and though we are looked at as opposers of the Collective, we do support the freedom of personal choice as it relates to human reproduction.

EXTRA: JASON

Oh, here we go again. Driver, Scout? Can you please turn that shit off?

JEFFEREY

The name's Jefferey. And you all insisted for me to link up this

broadcast, which will cost you extra
by the way, so I'm keeping it on, and
turning it up.

(Disgruntled bus passengers softly expressing disagreement.
Extra improv)

RADIO

In light of the most recent tragic
planetary event, that almost destroyed
human life itself, the Plutarchs have
managed to help sustain basic
resources here on earth, and continue
our endeavors in a most extraordinary
feat of settling people off planet.

NINA

Good. Get the fuck off our land.

EXTRA: CARIANNE

Quiet, Nina. We need to hear what
they're up to next.

YOUNG

I'm sick of them hacking into our
broadcasts.

EXTRA: JASON

Listening to Plutarch propaganda IS
not what we need right now. This bus
ride has been long enough as it is.

(Jefferey turns it up even louder)

RADIO

Members of the Collective. We ask you to reconsider the gift
of giving human life, and give up your vow of abstaining from
human reproduction. There is no need for what you consider to
be a form of non-violent protest. We plead with you to join
us in our efforts to embrace the continuity of the species.
If you join us, we will drop all charges of treason and
terrorism. We will provide free transport and accommodation
both on or off world, your choice! And any male member of
your group will have access to free V-reversals, enabling you
to once again replenish the human race as we now embark on
colonizing the solar system.

NINA

V-Reversal? Ouch!! I trust Young to
never betray us like that.

YOUNG

You're quite right. Even if I wanted to do that, reversing a vasectomy doesn't sound pleasurable.

(We hear the driver hit the brakes and the bus skidding.)

NINA

Jefferey, what happened?

JEFFEREY

I don't know yet.

EXTRA: SCOTT

Are we gonna make it to the Region?

(We hear Jeffrey attempting to start the engine).

EXTRA: CARIANNE

What's happening?

JEFFEREY

It's dead. No electricity. and there isn't a charging station for miles. We're just under a mile outside of Albuquerque.

YOUNG

What does that mean?

JEFFEREY

That means we're walkin.

EXTRA: SCOTT

I'm not walking anywhere in this heat. I'M 70 years old

JEFFEREY

I'm the scout. My call. We'll walk slow. Or, stay here if you like. The rest of you, let's go.

3 INT. ABANDONED COMIC BOOKSTORE IN ALBUQUERQUE

JEFFEREY

Ok everyone. I know holding up in an old comic bookstore wasn't in the plan, but here we are. There aren't any electric charging stations for miles, so getting back on the bus is out of the question. Just hold tight.

Flip through a comic while we contact the Region to see if we can get transport.

(Woman moans)

JEFFEREY

Are you ok? What's your name?

NORA

Nora.

JEFFEREY

Hold on, Nora. Here just sit on the floor. I'll get the medic. Where's Nina? Nina?

NINA

Hey, Jefferey. What's up?

JEFFEREY

This lady isn't doing well. Can you take a look at her?

NINA

Hi. I'm Nina. What's your name?

(Nora moans again)

NINA

Tell me where it hurts? Hey Jefferey, can you clear everyone out while I examine her.

JEFFEREY

Ok, can you all move into the back of the store while we treat this lady?

EXTRA: SCOTT

What the hell are we supposed to do? You're our scout. You're supposed to get us to the Region safely.

EXTRA: CARIANNE

Yeah. What's the plan? There's 14 of us. Where are we gonna get food & water?

JEFFEREY

I'm the Scout. Not my job to feed you. Just to get you to the Region.

EXTRA: SCOTT

As members of the Collective that paid you well, its your job to keep us safe.

JEFFEREY

As a non-member of the Collective, I can tell you to fuck off.

(People start arguing with Jefferey all at once)

NINA

What is happening right now?

YOUNG

Hey guys. There's a bathroom in the back attached to a water tank. There is water, but I don't know how much. You can start there and fill your bottles.

JEFFEREY

Thank you, Young. Can you lead everyone to the back of the store while I--

(Nora moans again).

NINA

Can you all get the hell out of here so I can examine her?

(Disgruntled voices that fade. Extra improv).

NINA

Ok, Nora. I'm just gonna lift up your cape here.

NORA

Please, don't touch me. I'll be fine. I'm just cramping from the long walk.

NINA

I'm the medical professional here. Let me be the judge. I'm just gonna apply a little pressure on your stomach. Whoa!

NORA

Please, don't tell anyone.

JEFFEREY

Don't tell anyone what?

NINA

Guys...

YOUNG

What is it?

JEFFEREY

What the--

YOUNG

Oh my god.

JEFFEREY

You've got to be kidding me. She's
a...Carrier? What the hell??

NINA

Shhhhhh...we don't want to broadcast
it.

JEFFEREY

Oh my god. Why did I take this fucking
job again? I can't believe this is
happening.

YOUNG

Nina, did you know about this?

NINA

Really, Young? No. I didn't know about
this. How would I know about this?

(Nora moans again)

JEFFEREY

Is she going to...have it right now?

NINA

I'm a medic. I've never delivered a
Carrier. How are you doing, Nora?

NORA

I don't know.

JEFFEREY

We are so screwed.

NINA

Nora, you're a Collective member. You just broke the rule of the very reason for our existence. No kids, remember? And what the hell were you thinking coming on a transport pregnant?

NORA

Sorry.

NINA

Like, who the hell gets pregnant in the Collective? Like, how stupid can you be?

JEFFEREY

Shit, here comes someone. Cover her stomach.

(A Collective member enters from the other side of the ransacked store).

EXTRA: JASON

Hey, what's going on?

JEFFEREY

We have a...sick woman here, as you can see.

EXTRA: JASON

Can't she just see a doctor once we arrive? Everyone's getting nervous. We need to leave.

NINA

We leave when we say it's time. Why don't you just go back to the others while we take care of this lady.

EXTRA: CARIANNE

Is she gonna die?

JEFFEREY

No one's gonna die here, ok.

NINA

Jefferey, can you get me some water for Nora please? And take everyone with you.

(Voices fade)

NINA

Nora, just lie down. Use my jacket for a pillow. I'm gonna talk to Young right over here, ok? Don't have the baby yet.

NORA

Yeah whatever.

NINA

We could just leave your ass here.

YOUNG

Nina, please. Just walk away.

(Low voices. Extra improv)

NINA

What are we going to do, Young? It's obvious that she can't walk right now.

YOUNG

It's too dangerous to stay here an entire day. There's a lot of camps in town with travelers. Travelers will attack and steal.

NINA

Camps? That makes no sense. There's very little water around here.

JEFFEREY

Here's the water for your...patient.

JEFFEREY

Young, can you go outside see if we can get a signal to the Region? Let them know we're stranded in town. And watch your back.

YOUNG

I'm on it.

JEFFEREY

What I don't understand is how she managed to be that pregnant without anyone noticing? I thought your organization was committed to not having children for the sake of saving mankind from future wars, barbarism, blah blah blah...

NINA

Jefferey, I can't with you right now.
Nora how are you doing? Here's some
water. How's the pain?

NORA

It's actually going away.

NINA

Good.

JEFFEREY

Who are you?

NORA

I told you. My name is Nora.

JEFFEREY

Nora, what?

NORA

Harlem.

NINA

Harlem?

JEFFEREY

You traveled all this way from New
York?

NINA

Oh my god. You're a Day Zero survivor.

YOUNG

Hey, guys. I was able to send a signal
and connect to the Region.

JEFFEREY

What'd they say?

YOUNG

They're not coming to get us but they
said they'll meet us at the gate.

JEFFEREY

Shit.

YOUNG

The Region is an undisclosed
Collective location. If they leave to
come get us, they will get tracked,

which defeats the point of having a secret location.

JEFFEREY

Ok, Nora. When do you think you will have...it?

NORA

I don't know. I've never had one before.

NINA

Look, we're trying to fuckin help you.

NORA

What would help me if you'd stop talking.

NINA

Really? My vote is to leave your ass here because you being here, is selfish. You've jeopardized all of our lives.

JEFFEREY

Nina, please. This isn't helping. We're leaving. There's an Empathy Builder Site about four miles from here. They have a clinic & they protect Carriers. We need to try and figure out how we can get her there safely.

YOUNG

Hi Nora. My name's Young. And despite what the scout just said, we're not leaving you here.

NORA

She's right. Your friend. It was selfish of me to come on the transport. I'm only about maybe six months though. I thought I could make it. I can go to the Empathy Builder Site.

JEFFEREY

Good. Because I saw a bicycle out back.

YOUNG

Wait, what?

JEFFEREY

It's four miles out of the way. It's the only choice we have.

YOUNG

You can't expect her to go out alone. If she runs into a traveler, and they see her condition, you know they will turn her in.

JEFFEREY

Nora, I can draw a map for you. I can talk you through it.

YOUNG

I can't believe you're talking about leaving one of us behind.

NORA

It's fine. I'll do it.

YOUNG

Nora, you can't.

NINA

Oh my god. Young and his bleeding heart.

NORA

You don't have a choice. I won't jeopardize anyone.

YOUNG

Then I'll go with you.

JEFFEREY

No, you won't. Once she gets there, the Empathy Builders will take care of her.

YOUNG

This is bullshit.

JEFFEREY

She's made up her mind. I'll take a look at the bike and make sure it's ride-able.

YOUNG

Jeff, you're not in charge. You're just a scout.

JEFFEREY

Exactly. I'm the one who is paid to save your asses and get you to the Region alive. You want to go with her and take your chances and get turned over to the Plutarchs. Be my guest.

NORA

Young, I appreciate you sticking up for me, but I'm going alone. I'm feeling better. And I don't want to talk about it anymore.

JEFFEREY

I'm calling everyone in. Make sure she's covered.

(We hear voices of the others filing back into the front of the store)

JEFFEREY

Listen, everyone. We've unfortunately got a lot of coverage here, which means that there's a lot more foot traffic in town than I feel comfortable with. There's 15 of us altogether and I don't know how many out there are a threat. It's too dangerous for us to stay here.

EXTRA: JASON

What are you suggesting?

JEFFEREY

We're leaving. Now.

(Lots of gasps and murmuring. Extra Improv).

NINA

Leaving during the day? We can get ambushed.

JEFFEREY

Nina, I've scouted Albuquerque territory a thousand times and I've never been ambushed.

EXTRA: SCOTT

What about live feeds? There could be cameras everywhere.

JEFFEREY

The cameras are dead. The Plutarchs don't spend money on live feeds in areas where there's hardly any water. I know you all are scared. Out there, we can run. And I know where to run. In here, we get ambushed, we die. Is there any part of that sentence that any of you are struggling with?

(Silence).

JEFFEREY

Good. We leave now.

(Lots of murmuring of discontent. Extra improv)

JEFFEREY

Nora, how are you?

NORA

I'm ok.

JEFFEREY

You don't have to leave right now. Since we're pulling out early, any travelers out there keeping an eye on us will think we've all left. You can sit tight until nightfall.

YOUNG

And I guess we're doing this. We're leaving her behind.

NORA

I looked over the map. The bike ride to the Empathy Builder Site is less than an hour away. If I leave at sundown, I'll be fine. I'm not afraid.

JEFFEREY

I put the bike behind the counter. As everyone is leaving, duck behind there and hide so no one will notice you've stayed behind.

NORA

Ok.

JEFFEREY

By the time anyone in the group might notice, we'll be long gone. We'll just say you went your own way.

NORA

I only have one question. When I get to the Empathy Builder Site, do you know what will happen to me?

JEFFEREY

I really don't know what they do with Carriers. You're the first Carrier I've ever met. Maybe they'll turn you over to the Plutarchs.

YOUNG

Thanks, Jefferey. That's helpful.

JEFFEREY

Sorry. Best case scenario, they will allow you to stay with them and take care of you. That is what they're supposed to do. I'm leaving an extra pack for you. There's water and enough food to get you by for a few days if you need it. Hopefully, you won't need it. Good luck, kiddo.

(Jefferey goes back to the others to leave).

YOUNG

Are you sure you don't want me to come with you?

NORA

I can take care of myself, Young.

YOUNG

This is wrong on so many levels.

NORA

I can't and I won't jeopardize anyone else.

YOUNG

Do me a favor. Take this. This is my radio. I always have two. If you get

into any trouble, dial in.

NORA

Thanks.

NINA

Young, let's go.

YOUNG

Ok. Goodbye Nora. Remember, dial in if you need help.

NINA

Yeah, good luck, Harlem.

(Nina & Young leave. We here murmurs of voices - extra improv).

NINA

You can't blame Jefferey for doing his job. He's trying to get us all to safety.

YOUNG

Not all of us, obviously.

NINA

Point taken.

(Jefferey joins Nina & Young while Nora has already disappeared behind the counter with the bike).

JEFFEREY

She'll be fine. Let's move.

4 (EXT. NORA ON BIKE AT DUSK).

NORA (MONOLOGUE--WE HEAR STRONG WIND)

I don't know if you're getting my transmissions. I'm still on audio. Riding a bike, in the desert, at night, six months pregnant, isn't my first option to get to an Empathy Builder site. I'm on the outskirts of Albuquerque, the border road that traces the edges of the desert. Lots of travelers. It's getting real windy out here. And cigarette smoke in the air. Cigarettes were banned from the planet over 10 years ago and they cost a fortune, like who can afford a

fricken cigarette. I could be a small fortune for someone out here real desperate if I'm not careful. My grandmother always told me I wasn't that bright, a sentiment she shared about my mother as well. My grandmother the saint. Who smoked. Every time I smell cigarette smoke, I remember our last morning together. It was just before Day Zero...

4.2 - SCENE CONT - FLASHBACK

(CUT TO: Nora, 16. At home, in Harlem. Nora is in her bedroom on a video call with a friend, a Collective member. Nora hears a knock on her door.--more editing to do with this)

NORA

I'm up, grandma. On a live feed with my friend Cary.

GRANDMA

Come eat your breakfast. You'll be late for school.

NORA

Be right there.

CARY

Nora, you have to get out of New York. Day Zero has been happening in cities all over the world. The news blackout of the city running out of water is intentional. Come to New Mexico. It's safe here.

NORA

Cary, there is no way my grandmother is leaving Harlem. She's been here all of her life. And anyways, you know how she feels about the Collective.

CARY

She doesn't have to join or take the oath. She's an elder. The oath is about not having kids which obviously excludes her. And, your mom helped start the Collective.

NORA

There's nothing Biblical about the

Collective. My mom died without my grandma even speaking to her because my mother was an atheist. My grandmother would stroke out if she knew I joined the Collective.

CARY

Nora, this is about saving your life. New York is going to run out of water any day now. There won't be a heads up. Start planning. There's a place for the both of you here with us. I'll check back in with you next week. In the meantime, hang in there. You're my best friend and I'll do whatever you need me to do to get you here. The Collective will always be here for you.

NORA

Thanks, Cary.

CARY

I gotta go. And remember, the world ends with us.

NORA

The world ends with us.

(We hear the wind again, taking us back to the present).

5 EXT. EMPATHY BUILDER SITE

NORA is riding the bike to the Empathy Builder Site.

NORA (MONOLOGUE)

With less than a few thousand people on the planet, I'm surprised to see a few squatters stowed away in the empty remnants of old apartments. I'm riding past the flickering of a fire, an older woman wrapped in a blanket huddled close to a fire. My cape covers me as my capture could be a small fortune. Lots of people out here in the night, voices speaking Spanish. I realize the reason the Empathy Builders have a site here. This territory of New Mexico has become a safe zone for people with brown skin. The Plutarchs had given up on hunting down the endangered races, people like me who were Black & Brown, simply because they view us as expendable and ultimately dying. Areas like this supposedly lacked water and fertile ground.

It was easy to spot the Empathy Builder site. It was the only place that had electricity, meaning the faint light I saw came into view sooner than I had expected. An armed guard stood in front of the one-story building, an old style adobe structure, made to withstand the sun we humans could no longer tolerate. Instead of skin cancer, people in the mid-21st century died of Vitamin D deficiency.

GUARD

Name?

NORA

Nora Harlem.

GUARD

I haven't met any Harlem folks. How the hell did you get way out here?

NORA

As you can see, I had no choice.

GUARD

Ohhh. You're a Carrier. So sorry, Ms. Harlem. Please, come on in.

NORA

Do you have a bathroom?

GUARD

Yeah, sure. Right over here.

(We hear a door close, then static as Nora tries to use the radio).

NORA

Ok, let's see if you work. Hey, Young? Young, are you there? Ok, I'll just leave a message. I hope you all made it to the Region. I just made it to the Empathy Builder Site. No one seems to be here but a guard. So far, so good. I'll check in when I can.

GUARD

You ok in there?

NORA

Yes. I'll be right out.

GUARD

Ok, just checking because if I need to

contact someone. You're the first Carrier I've ever seen here. I want to make sure you're ok.

(Toilet flush. Door opens)

NORA

I'm fine. Thank you. Just hungry and tired.

GUARD

Sorry we don't have much here, but we do have food and water. No one's here but me, because it's night. I can show you to a room with a bed. I'll have to make a couple of calls. Well, I mean, I can't do that tonight, but in the morning, you can speak to the Director. I'm sorry I can't do more. There's food and water across the hall.

NORA

Thank you. I need to connect.

GUARD

We have a port. It works. Are you a Collective member?

NORA

Why do you ask?

GUARD

The insignia, next to your ear. That's a Collective symbol, right? No problem at all if you are. If you use the port though, they listen in, you know, the powers that be.

NORA

I'm not sending a live transmit. I have a VRF.

GUARD

A VRF? I thought those were cancelled, used for that old Collective religion. Something about a way to transmit and talk to the dead and all. Isn't that a Collective thing?

NORA

Can you just show me the port? Please?

GUARD

Yeah, sure. It's in the kitchen.

GUARD

Here you go. There's some food in the cooler. When you're finished, one of the night staff will set you up in a room. I'm Jacob. If you need anything, let me know.

NORA

Ok.

(We hear a door close)

NORA

Ok, let's see. This is an old port connection. See if this works...

(Couple of old dial tone sounds).

NORA

Sara Harlem.

SARA

There you are, dear. Are you ok, sweetie?

NORA

I'm ok. Hi mom.

SARA

No. I know you're not ok. You hesitated.

NORA

I'm on my way to join the others.

SARA

Good. I'm glad you're on your way. You still didn't answer my question.

NORA

I'm worried. They're kidnapping women. They're taking the poorest women. Women who have either openly joined the Collective and pregnant women.

SARA

Yes, honey. I know. It's getting worse.

NORA

Have you ever thought the Collective might be wrong about some things. I mean, we are here for whatever reason, as human beings, right? It's not like we designed our bodies. Reproduction is natural.

SARA

Reproduction is a choice. Our species was also not meant for perpetual barbarism. Thousands of years of slaughter. It must end dear. We are the guardians of the Earth. We must protect Her. Look, I know you're worried. We will be together again. This is the only way. You're a Harlem. You can do this.

NORA

Promise me you'll tell me about Harlem the next time we talk. I miss it.

SARA

Harlem was home. Whether you know it or not, you carry the memories in you, from me. Time to go, baby. Next time.

NORA

Ok. I don't know when I can connect again.

SARA

Don't worry. I'll always be here. And remember. The world ends with us.

NORA

The world ends with us.

6 INT. EMPAHTY BUILDER SITE. NEXT DAY.

Nora is sitting in the kitchen. Alone.

GUARD

Uh, miss? Good morning. You ok in there.

NORA

Yes, I'm fine. Good morning, Jacob.

GUARD

Just wanted to let you know that the Director is ready to see you.

NORA

Sure.

GUARD

Follow me. Wow. I can't believe you're a Carrier. Last time I saw a Carrier, was back in the V-Age. Back then, the Plutarchs paid a lot of coin for your kind.

NORA

What do you mean, my kind?

GUARD

Sorry, miss. Don't mean any disrespect.

NORA

So, you haven't seen any Carriers come through here?

GUARD

Nope. I've been here 4 years now.

NORA

You seen any Plutarchs?

GUARD

No, they don't come around here, in the dry desert. Last I heard, the capital is on some fancy island off of the coast of Arkansas. The Plutarchs always stay close to water. At least that's what I heard. Here you go. In here.

NORA

Ok, I don't see anyone. Where is the director?

GUARD

Just listen in.

NORA

This is a live feed?

GUARD

Yep. And we only have audio. All of these screens are nothing but show. Lost visual a couple of years ago. Personally, between you and me, I don't even think the Director is on planet. Oh, and don't say I said that.

(We hear the Guard typing buttons).

GUARD

This is Guard EBS-3 sending a transmission for the Director. Do you copy?

CYBER VOICE

Transmission started. Hold please.

GUARD

Ok, Ms. Harlem, if you need anything, let me know.

(We hear the door close.)

THE DIRECTOR

Hello, Ms. Harlem. I am the Director, I hope you slept well.

NORA

Yes. Thank you.

THE DIRECTOR

Good. Look at you. Poor thing. Please sit down.

NORA

You can see me?

THE DIRECTOR

Yes. I do apologize that our facilities aren't quite as modern as our sister sites. Though we do have all of the basics, a medical room equipped for most emergencies. We have water, food, an actual bathroom, and a live port that I see you've had the chance to utilize, using a VRF?

NORA

How do you know that?

THE DIRECTOR

I get alerts every time the port is used for communication. Tracking purposes. Security is very important. Please, sit down. In your condition, the Empathy Builders are the best refuge. How may we be of service?

NORA

What is this place exactly?

THE DIRECTOR

The Empathy Builder sites are spread sparingly throughout the planet at undisclosed locations. If you are in need of sanctuary, as you are, you learn only of the location you need to get to, which means I can't tell you exactly how many locations there are.

NORA

Who do you work for?

THE DIRECTOR

The Empathy Builders are like embassies that have maintained neutrality in the midst of the Collective resistance. We've been around since before you were born.

NORA

Do the Plutarchs know you're here?

THE DIRECTOR

You look worried. There's no need to feel apprehensive. We are here to protect you.

NORA

You didn't answer my question.

THE DIRECTOR

The Empathy Builders don't openly oppose the Plutarchs nor openly support the Collective. We do, however, shelter any Carriers, with discretion, of course. Who else knows of your condition?

NORA

What does that mean?

THE DIRECTOR

If you want us to help you, I need to know who else knows. If certain authorities know you're a Carrier you could already be tracked. How did you get here, from New York, right?

NORA

I traveled on my own. I was trying to make it to see a friend.

THE DIRECTOR

The father of the child?

NORA

No. He's dead. Are you going to turn me in?

THE DIRECTOR

Turn you in to who, dear?

NORA

You said it yourself. The Empathy Builders practice neutrality. You say you don't work for the Collective or the Plutarchs. Someone is funding you.

DIRECTOR

Ms. Harlem, The Plutarchs are not the enemy. Their only concern is for everyone to embrace the continuity of the human species.

NORA

Yes, and they express their concern by making it illegal for people who choose not to have children.

DIRECTOR

And yet, here you are, a member of the Collective who violated the very creed of your resistance, which means, you are no longer a member.

NORA

You don't know that.

DIRECTOR

Do you actually think that the Collective will risk everything they have fought and protected just to hide you? And even more importantly, are you even thinking about how much danger you put them in? (Pause) I see that you haven't considered any of these things. You're the first Carrier that has come through here in quite some time. The difference with you is that you come with baggage, and not just the unborn.

NORA

I don't think I'll be staying here.

DIRECTOR

You came here on your own accord, Ms. Harlem.

NORA

You can't make me stay here. You're off planet.

DIRECTOR

You could be too. Imagine that for you and your unborn. Guaranteed safety off world. If you leave, we cannot guarantee your safety.

(We hear a sharp digital noise).

NORA

What just happened? Hello? Are you still here? You can't keep me here.

(Nora leaves the room)

NORA

Hey.

GUARD

Is everything ok? You got to meet the Director?

NORA

Yes, I did. Are there other women here besides me?

GUARD

A couple more came in today. Are you ok?

NORA

I'm not staying.

GUARD

Uh, ok. I don't know if that's a good idea. Where are you going?

NORA

I'm getting my things. Do you mind if I take some food?

GUARD

No. Sure. I can sneak some for you.

NORA

Where do people get water?

GUARD

There are tanks that come through here, water pirates. They steal water up north, near Taos. The Plutarchs have pretty much bob-wired all of the natural water sources up in the mountains, the lakes. So the pirates don't always make it out alive.

GUARD

Anyone see you like this, you'd get kidnapped in a minute.

NORA

I can take care of myself.

GUARD

I'm under orders.

NORA

So what happens if I walk out?

GUARD

Uhhh...

NORA

Right. Look, I don't know you, and I don't even know if I should be saying this, but I don't feel right staying here. I don't trust the Director.

GUARD

I don't know about this. Ok, I have some friends nearby. I'll give you a map.

NORA

Please. I have to get somewhere safe. Where's my bike?

7 EXT. THE ABANDONED STREETS OF ALBUQUERQUE.

(Nora is back on the bike when she contacts Young on the radio transmitter. We hear a lot of wind.).

NORA

Young, are you there? Young?

YOUNG

Nora. Oh my god. Are you ok?

NORA

I'm somewhere in the city. Did you guys make it to the Region?

YOUNG

No. Why aren't you at the Empathy Builders site?

NORA

I didn't feel safe there. I met someone who gave me a map. Friends of his I can stay with.

YOUNG

No. You have to get to safety. There's a sandstorm coming.

NORA

What's that?

YOUNG

Nora, you have to find shelter. Let me check your coordinates.

NORA

What?

YOUNG

You're not too far from an aqueduct. About a mile or so, north. We passed it on the way in.

(We hear lots of wind).

NORA
Where do I go?

YOUNG
Just keep going north. You'll come to
an overpass. Go down inside the
aqueduct when you see it. You got to
get out of this storm.

NORA
Ok. North. Ok.

YOUNG
Just keep going in the direction
you're going. I can track you from my
radio. Hello? Hello?

NORA
Hello. Young?

YOUNG
Nora?

NORA
Yes, I'm here.

YOUNG
How's your...baby?

NORA
I think, ok. I haven't had any more
pain.

YOUNG
As soon as we get back to the refuge,
we'll come find you. Just keep your
radio...

NORA
Young? Young? Shit.

(Nora starts pedaling north).

8 EXT. DESERT. SANDSTORM.

(JEFFEREY AND THE COLLECTIVE MEMBERS ARE SCREWED).

JEFFEREY

Keep your heads down!! Hold on to the person's clothing in front of you.

EXTRA: SCOTT

I can't see.

EXTRA: JASON

What is this? What's going on?

NINA

It's a fucking sandstorm.

JEFFEREY

Stop talking and stay close!

EXTRA: JASON

We're not gonna make it.

EXTRA: CARIANNE

Oh my god! Where's Scott?

JEFFEREY

Whose Scott?

EXTRA: CARIANNE

My husband. Scott!! Scott!!

YOUNG

Jefferey. We need to stop.

JEFFEREY

Wait, lady! Come back! Fuck.

EXTRA: CARIANNE

I have to find Scott.

JEFFEREY

No, you have to stay here.

EXTRA: CARIANNE

Let me go! I have to find my husband.

YOUNG

We have to stay close. Come on, everyone.

EXTRA: JASON

We're all gonna die! I knew it.

JEFFEREY
Shut up and stay close! Hey, wait!

EXTRA: CARIANNE
Scott! Scott!

(She runs off. Never to return.)

JEFFEREY
Shit.

NINA
Let her go!

JEFFEREY
Please, everyone, don't run. We have
to stay together.

(WE HEAR RANDOM SCREAMS & WIND).

Cut to: (NORA HIDING IN THE AQUEDUCT)

NORA
Young? Are you there? I made it to the
aqueduct. I don't think I'm gonna make
it. I hurt my leg. I can't walk. I'll
wait here until someone comes. It's ok
baby. We're gonna make it...

9 EXT. THE HAVEN.

DR. HARTWELL
A sand storm.

NORA
How did I get here? Where I am?

DR. HARTWELL
You were tracked.

NORA
How?

DR. HARTWELL
You have friends. And they have
friends.

NORA
That doesn't make any sense.

DR. HARTWELL

Your radio has a tracking device.
Didn't your friends tell you.

NORA

Who are you? Where am I? I remember
crossing this bridge, riding the bike,
through town, before the van broke
down. It was some kind of storm.

DR. HARTWELL

This is the Haven. Rest now. Welcome.

10 INT. THE HAVEN HOUSE

NORA (MONOLOGUE)

Hi Young. I hope you get this
transmission. I'm in some stranger's
home. I think I blacked out during the
sand storm. I don't know how I got
here. I hope it's not a Plutarch
location. I don't think so though.
Looking out the window, there's lots
of weird domes and greenhouses. I
think I'm on some sort of desert farm
compound. I don't see any other
people. Anyways, I just wanted to let
you know that I made it. I hope you
did too. I'll check back in. Please
let me know if you are safe.

(Nina wanders out of the room where she was sleeping. She
wanders the large adobe dwelling, not realizing she is being
followed. She turns around.)

NORA

You scared me. Who are you? Where am
I? How did I get here? Where is
everyone else?

DR. HARTWELL

What's important is that you're here
and you're safe. I'm Dr. Curtis
Hartwell.

NORA

Are you a Plutarch?

DR. HARTWELL

No, darling. There are no Plutarchs in
the high desert.

NORA

Is this a Collective refuge?

DR. HARTWELL

Let's just say we share common interests. And they didn't tell me your name. Only that you are a Carrier, as indeed you are.

NORA

If this isn't a Collective Refuge, what is this place?

DR. HARTWELL

I'm just here to make sure we all eat. What is your name, dear?

NORA

Nora. Harlem. And your last name. Where is Hartwell?

DR. HARTWELL

I am a descendant. That is all.

NORA

Which means you're not a member of the Collective.

DR. HARTWELL

My partner's assessment of my situation is that I'm an ally.

NORA

Is this a farm? What are those domes?

DR. HARTWELL

It's not exactly a farm. More of a stroke of a lifetime of genius. You are most likely in need of a meal. I'll make you and my partner breakfast. Follow me.

(We hear sounds of cooking, boiling water.)

DR. HARTWELL

This is my wife, Marianne.

MARIANNE

Lovely. Oh, so young and beautiful. Do sit down dear. How old are you?

NORA

26.

I don't think we've seen anyone under the age of 40 since, well, before the C.E. Have we darling?

DR. HARTWELL

And, she's a Harlem.

MARIANNE

Oh, my dear child. I didn't think anyone got out alive. The reports are slim about what happened to the eastern seaboard.

NORA

Last I saw, Michigan is the new eastern seaboard.

DR. HARTWELL

The satellite images we received must have been doctored. It's much worse than we thought.

MARIANNE

So, how did you travel over a 1,000 miles away, with an unborn? Where are you headed?

NORA

I was with a scout and other Collective members, on our way to a refuge. All I knew is that it's here, in New Mexico.

MARIANNE

I'm sorry darling that you couldn't make it to your intended destination. The fact that you survived the sandstorm is a miracle. Look at you, how far along are you? If you don't mind me asking.

NORA

Six months, or so.

MARIANNE

Did you really travel all the way from Harlem?

NORA
I had no choice.

DR. HARTWELL
How did you make it all this way.

NORA
My mother helped.

MARIANNE
Did you get separated?

NORA
No. She died when I was 16. Do you all have a portal because I'd like to let her know I'm ok.

MARIANNE
I'm sorry, young lady. We don't have that kind of signal up here.

DR. HARWELL
You go ahead and finish your breakfast. Afterwards, if you're up to it, I'll show you how those of us that are left eat.

11 EXT. THE HAVEN COMPOUND

(Dr. Hartwell is taking Nora on a tour of their "farm". We hear lots of bubbling water).

DR. HARTWELL
Welcome to Aquaponics.

NORA
What is this?

DR. HARTWELL
This is the key to earth-bound survivors. You see those lovely, healthy fish swimming in the tubs under the tables? The nutrients from the fish travel up the tubes into this bed of reddish rocks. The rocks serve as the bedding for the plants that are now growing tall in this sustainable environment...perfection itself.

NORA
So, you're growing food in a lab?

DR. HARTWELL

No, this isn't a lab. This is the new supermarket, if you will, an alternative and safe way to grow food, especially when you live in the desert. These red rocks that look like rabbit food...they serve as the conduit for the nutrients that travel up the tubes that feed the plants. And the nutrients from the plants travel downward into the water to keep the fish alive, symbiosis at its best.

NORA

There's at least 100 pods out here. How do you maintain all of this? And what do you do with all of this food.

DR. HARTWELL

We feed many.

NORA

You mean, the Collective.

DR. HARTWELL

Many.

NORA

If you're not a member, why do you do this?

DR. HARTWELL

Consider me an opportunist. My wife is your ally. Me, I'd love nothing more than to see procreation come back in style, as I'd make more money that way. But, since we don't have any offspring of our own, meaning who would I leave all of this greatness to, and well...your little renegade group won my partner's heart.

NORA

I take it the Plutarchs don't know you're out here.

DR. HARTWELL

Doesn't matter who knows. Everyone needs to eat. No one bites the hand of the farmer during times of scarcity. When we die, this little operation

automatically shuts down.

NORA

Then what?

DR. HARTWELL

There are others. Remember, when the people resist, there are always others. Oh, hello darling. Glad you can join us.

MARIANNE

I'm thinking our guest might want a lie down. You must be tired, Nora.

NORA

Yes, I am actually not feeling too well. I feel dizzy.

MARIANNE

Taos is 6,966 miles above sea level. That is where we are. You need to drink more water. It will help to ground you and acclimate you to the high altitude.

NORA

If I can just stay one more night, and then you can direct me to the nearest settlement.

MARIANNE

You are more than welcome to stay here, more than welcome. However, I must say, we are not equipped to deliver an unborn. We can see if we can find transport to someone who can assist you. And we promise, you wouldn't have to go anywhere else. If that's ok with you?

NORA

Yes, I'll go. I honestly don't know what to do. I'm sorry to be a burden.

DR. HARTWELL

Don't be sorry. You've been through the worst. Right now, it's important for you to rest. I have a friend who can take care of you, and your unborn, when the time comes. In the meantime,

if you'd like to hear what's going on with the rest of your people, there's a broadcast you can listen to in your room. Make yourself at home. You have time.

NORA

Not much.

12 (INT. NORA IN HER ROOM.)

NORA (MONOLOGUE)

Hello Young. I haven't heard back from you so I imagine I might need a VRF to contact you. I'm with a couple, the Hartwells. For now, I am safe. There is actually a Collective live feed radio broadcast. If I hear any news about the Collective, I'll let you know.

(Nora plugs into the radio broadcast).

DJ BRISTOL

We're coming to you live, broadcasting from JAW, connecting to our Collective sisters and brothers planetwide. Music is alive in the New World and we're bringing it to you from the U.K. fam. It's a sweltering 86 degrees here in the West End and it's only 10 a.m. Hope you filled your water tanks this week because it's "dry out" Thursday and we don't want to hit a Day Zero like our fam in New York, rest their 1 million souls. So, let's take our minds off of water and take you to eco-punk rocker and Lakota, Patrick Chicago. In case you've been underground and not plugged into JAW, Patrick Chicago was one of the lucky ones who survived the C.E. And still making music, fam. Let's see how Patrick do we have him on the JAW line. Are you there, Patrick? It's Bristol from JAW.

PATRICK

Yes, hey Bristol.

DJ BRISTOL

Patrick. Thanks for joining us. Glad you made it out of Chicago alive, bruh. And you're making music. Tell us how you're doing, man.

PATRICK

Thanks for having me on, Bristol. Yeah, we got hit hard, and I'm thankful to have made it out alive.

DJ BRISTOL

Luck, man.

PATRICK

No, Bristol. Denial is not one of my character traits, like the sleeping masses that kept their million dollar homes on the coastlines. Nope. I built a studio away from the antics of the cities and the coastlines, programming music on analog.

DJ BRISTOL

Analog? Mad fam! Old school. So, tell me about the music. Your band before the C.E. topped the international charts, hot in all of London. You must miss those days.

PATRICK

No, we actually sucked, Bristol.

DJ BRISTOL

Come on! What are you sayin, man?

PATRICK

I'm saying that I made shit music, got a ton of STD's, and then the world ended. Rock n roll dream, Bristol.

DJ BRISTOL

Raw truth, fam. That's what we love about you Patrick. All out, open book. So, the new world brought you to some enlightenment I'm hearing?

PATRICK

I'm 60 years old and my elders told me long ago that the world was going to shit, so I welcomed the earth changes

that you all call climate change. All it took was one big planetary storm to kill that soul drain called the internet which means all of that crap music I made died with it. Now it's all about a cosmic reset.

DJ BRISTOL

We can't wait to hear some of that New World music, but before we do, do you have time for us to take one lucky caller?

PATRICK

Sure, Bristol.

DJ BRISTOL

Ok, looks like we have a Collective member all the way from the high desert of New Mexico. Hello, New Mexico! You're on the JAW line.

TEENAGER CALLER

Hi, DJ Bristol! I listen to your show almost every day.

DJ BRISTOL

Thank you and what's your name caller?

JUDE

My name's Jude.

DJ BRISTOL

Hello Jude, from New Mexico. Do you have a question for Patrick?

JUDE

Yes. Do you have any advice for me? I want to make music like you Patrick. I want my life to be about music and I don't know how with the world ending.

PATRICK

You sound young, Jude. How old are you?

JUDE

14.

PATRICK

Wow. You were born the year of the

C.E.

JUDE

Yeah. My sister and I both want to be musicians. We're twins.

PATRICK

Nice. All I can say kid, is for you and your sister to make instruments out of what's around you. People need music. All the way to the end of the world.

DJ BRISTOL

And we can't wait to hear some of that New World music of yours Patrick that will carry us in this new age.

PATRICK

My music isn't about the new age. Its about an ode to the end of the world, my friend.

DJ BRISTOL

Aw, come on, Patrick. Let's give our young musician some hope.

PATRICK

Good luck with that, Bristol. Remember kid, there's only the Collective now that have helped human beings tap into the true soul of nonviolent protest. And the Plutarchs can suck my...

DJ BRISTOL

And with that, we'll take our thirsty listeners on a ride with Patrick's new tune mixed with some analog rhythms. Thank you, Patrick for giving our artists out here living beyond the C.E. a reason to live and a reason to create here in the New World. Bless the departed souls and as we breathe each moment towards joining an everlasting Collective, we at JAW leave you with these words...the world ends with us, fam.

PATRICK

The world ends with us, my friend.

(A stream of music blasts and we hear the night wind blowing outside of Nora's window).

13 EXT. NIGHT AT THE PODS.

(We hear bubbling sounds to signal we are back at the Haven).

MARIANNE

Staring at the stars again, my love.

DR. HARTWELL

Isn't it a lovely night, Marianne?
Want to go for a galactic cruise?

MARIANNE

Remember, you get seasick, let alone
taking a shuttle to the other side of
the galaxy.

DR. HARTWELL

Imagine, you and I, dancing in our
first class space pod suite, the Milky
Way as our glorious backdrop.

MARIANNE

We could still try for the Moon.
Transports leave once a month.

DR. HARTWELL

The moon? Please. Mars is the dream
darling, isn't it? What, we were in
our 20s when the first mission
launched.

MARIANNE

Yes. And if we could have afforded it,
our honeymoon would have been spent
eating space crackers and pooping in
spacesuits for six months.

DR. HARTWELL

If only the world was ready for
aquaponics before the C.E. People had
no vision, let alone the good sense
enough to realize that most of the
earth's soil would be completely void
of nutrients for growing anything. I
tried to warn the Plutarchs who owned
the university. But no, they wanted to
keep me as their young Black prodigy,
the budding genius scientist they

could use for window dressing for their funders. Though, obviously, I was a genius. Their loss.

MARIANNE

No regrets, love. Look at the beauty of what we've built for Earth.

DR. HARTWELL

What's left of it.

MARIANNE

Look. I know we didn't have the chance to leave the planet, but our legacy, what we've built together, aquaculture on the Moon. Those colonies wouldn't have lasted five minutes without your work.

DR. HARTWELL

I suppose so. And don't forget Mars.

MARIANNE

Yes, dear. We'll have our first transmission with the first colony only a month from now. Isn't it exciting?

DR. HARTWELL

I suppose. Oh, if the fragility of age wasn't still the thorn in scientific advancement. Maybe I should have worked on preventing aging instead of growing food from fish poop.

MARIANNE

Well, according to our new guest, mortality isn't an obstacle to human existence.

DR. HARTWELL

That poor, poor child, brainwashed to believe such nonsense. To actually believe she can talk to her dead mother.

MARIANNE

We are not here to judge a person's spiritual beliefs.

DR. HARTWELL

I know how they accomplished it--this communication with the dead via VRF. The downloading of one's Chi or spirit into a heavenly neural digital network. Nonsense.

MARIANNE

Don't knock until you try it, dear.

DR. HARTWELL

Please don't tell me you believe such a farce. If you say you do, you'll give me heart failure right here and now.

MARIANNE

Would you try it if something happened to me?

DR. HARTWELL

Please, I don't wish to have a conversation based upon a concocted scenario that breaks my heart as we speak. Our guest seems to have made quite an impression on you. And what are we to do with her? She can't have a child here?

MARIANNE

No, she can't.

DR. HARTWELL

I am also concerned about who else knows. As much as I want to protect her, we cannot jeopardize our facility.

MARIANNE

Yes, the Collective could not survive without our pods.

DR. HARTWELL

I was thinking about our other interests, like our investors. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be able to feed your charity of choice.

MARIANNE

Darling, let's not argue. Every choice we make is our choice.

DR. HARTWELL

Yes, Marianne. I'm sorry. I just don't like to feel vulnerable, especially after everything we've worked for.

MARIANNE

We need to send her to a place where she can deliver the child.

DR. HARTWELL

I've actually been thinking about that and I have an idea of someone who can protect her and provide support for a birth.

MARIANNE

And who are you thinking?

DR. HARTWELL

I think it's time to contact the Beekeeper.

14 INT. DR. HARTWELL'S OFFICE

(Dr. Hartwell contacts the Beekeeper, who is out tending to his flock)

DR. HARTWELL

Frank. How's monsoon season treating your flock?

FRANK

The flock is out right now. Waiting for the winds to settle. What's going on my brother? Good to see you.

DR. HARTWELL

You, as well, Frank. Life in the lower altitude is the same as always, which means, business is good.

FRANK

I'm not doing too bad myself. I'd be doing better though if you are calling to report how my little ones are doing now that they've literally flown the nest.

DR. HARTWELL

I won't hear any reports on the new Mars colony until our first

transmission.

FRANK

They arrive next month, right?

DR. HARTWELL

Yes, and if you'd like, I could bring you in on that transmission.

FRANK

Nooo. No thanks, my man. One thing you're good at that I'm not, is being the ever-so-smooth scientist businessman. I'm quite ok with collecting a check incognito.

DR. HARTWELL

I like being rich and remembered.

FRANK

And how is the woman that manages to keep you ever so humble?

DR. HARTWELL

Having a soulmate does have its advantages. You should find one, my friend. The lone wolf persona you adopted in middle school is far from sexy.

FRANK

I have thousands to keep me company, though it broke my heart to part with my queens who are now space-bound.

DR. HARTWELL

What if I told you that you could see your queens once more without an extra pair of eyes?

FRANK

I'm listening. What's the catch?

DR. HARTWELL

No catch. Our lifelong friendship is not transactional, Frank. You know I've always had your back.

FRANK

Same here, my friend. But I know you. And you never call me during monsoon

season because you know I'm out with my flock. So out with it.

DR. HARTWELL

Touche. I have a special guest I'd like for you to meet. Someone who needs safety and protection out of sight. It's a serious situation and I only trust you. This guest needs more help that we can give, and you have lifelines here in the desert that we don't have.

FRANK

Lifelines?

DR. HARTWELL

Family.

FRANK

Sounds serious. Whatever I can do, my brother. As long as you can get your guest here.

DR. HARTWELL

We'll send for transport to your place tomorrow.

15 EXT. THE LAND OF THE BEEKEEPER

FRANK

Come on over. Don't be afraid. They don't bite.

NORA

What are these?

(Frank laughs)

FRANK

Where are you from? Wait, what's your name?

NORA

Nora Harlem.

FRANK

Wow. You are far away from home. Yeah, I guess you're too young to have seen any of these. Supposedly extinct which means this is our little secret. These

are regular old fashion honeybees.
Perfectly harmless.

NORA

The Hartwells told me you were a
farmer.

FRANK

Did they now? I see myself more as a
caretaker. Follow me.

(We hear the sound of the bees taper off)

FRANK

Welcome to my lab. Take a load off.
Have a seat.

NORA

I'll stand thank you.

FRANK

I really think you should sit. You are
carrying a lot there.

NORA

What is this place?

FRANK

All this? This is how I monitor my
flocks. Honeybees are on this screen
here. Those big guys there. Those are
my Rusty Patches. Hey, you like
pumpkins? I have to grow those just to
feed my gourds. And these here...I'll
show you a close up.

(We hear lots bees buzzing)

NORA

That doesn't look safe.

FRANK

Nooo... These are what keeps us safe.
People used to call these African
Killer Bees. Folks are just racist.
These are my sweethearts. Their honey
is just as sweet. I keep them in a
special place.

(Nora moans again)

FRANK

Hey, you ok?

NORA

I'm fine. Just a little tired. Look, thank you for the bee tutorial. I'm just really confused as to why I'm here. The Hartwells told me that I would be with someone who could help me.

FRANK

I can.

NORA

I mean, like, I'm a Carrier.

FRANK

I know.

NORA

I thought I'd be with a doctor or something, not a bee farmer.

FRANK

Beekeeper.

NORA

Right. Whatever. How can you help me?

FRANK

What cuz I'm in a wheelchair? You underestimate me. Look, you're right. I don't know a thing about escorting a new life into this world, but you're on the run. Believe it or not, you my friend, are in one of the safest places on the planet.

(Nora moans, having another pain)

FRANK

Hey, you ok? Have a seat? Is this happening now?

NORA

Can you get me some water please?

FRANK

Sure. Hold on.

(We hear Frank's wheelchair. He pulls a bottle of water out of his cooler)

NORA

Thank you.

(She takes a sip)

NORA

I'm ok. This happens off and on. I'm good.

FRANK

You sure. I can get back up if it's time.

NORA

For real. I'm good.

FRANK

Look, you're the first Carrier I've seen in a long time, long before the C.E. The fact that you survived the C.E. and made it all the way here, I can't even begin to imagine how you're feeling right now and what you've been through. I know this is weird, being shuffled around to a total stranger. But I promise you, the Hartwells, they're like family, and if they want me to protect you, that's what I'm gonna do. And, I do know someone that can take care of you when the time comes.

(We hear a loud siren like noise)

NORA

What's that?

FRANK

Hold on. Looks like a communication is coming through from an unknown source. Shit.

NORA

What does that mean?

FRANK

It means that a communication shouldn't be coming through because no

one, other than the Hartwells, knows I'm here.

(The siren stops)

NORA

Is everything ok?

FRANK

I don't know. Might be a fluke. The first time it went off in a long time was the day of the sandstorm a couple of weeks ago. Probably need to replace the wiring. Anyways, you alright?

NORA

Yes.

FRANK

There's a room all the way down the hallway to your left. You have your own bathroom. First class amenities.

NORA

Thank you.

FRANK

No prob.

NORA

By the way, do you have a port?

FRANK

Nope. If you need to contact someone, let me know. I have to send transmissions out through here in the lab. Everything is encrypted so they can't be tracked.

NORA

Ok. Thank you.

FRANK

There's a com in the room. I'll call back there when dinner is ready.

16 INT. NORA'S ROOM

NORA (MONOLOGUE)

Hi Mom. I'm recording this message instead of transmitting. I'll upload

when I can get to a port. Right now, I'm with a man who calls himself the Beekeeper, Frank. I'm still somewhere in the desert. He made a noodle dish with chicken, something I haven't had in over a year. I didn't see any live chickens around when I arrived, and I didn't ask where it came from. The meal also came with a slice of pumpkin pie. My taste buds are off now, so I don't know if I liked it or not. I think my tastebuds are off because of...I have something to tell you and I don't know how. I've betrayed the Collective. That is all I can say for now in case this message gets compromised.

(We hear a small beeping sound).

Oh shit. Sorry mom. I have to go. I have a radio message from my friend, Young. That must have been the communication that set off Frank's alarm. It also means that my friend is alive. Somehow, I promise, I'm determined to make my way to the Refuge. Home...

17 EXT. THE REGION. THE REMAINING GROUP HAS FINALLY ARRIVED.

(LAST SCENE WITH YOUNG)

YOUNG

Nora. This is Young. Are you there? I hope you made it. I sent someone for you. To rescue you after the storm. A local Collective ally. My radio transmitter got lost in the storm so if you sent any messages, I didn't get them. I should have never let you go alone. I don't even know what the Collective rules are for a Carrier. Maybe the Collective will have you. We can't just abandon you. There's only one person that I can ask about this. I'll keep trying on this frequency until I...hear from you.

(CUT TO: Young now plugs into his VRF. We hear digital noises).

YOUNG
Sun Auckland.

SUN
Hello, my son.

YOUNG
Hello, father.

SUN
Good, good. I'm so glad you checked
in. How are you?

YOUNG
I'm not sure.

SUN
Why are you not sure? What's wrong
son?

YOUNG
Remember when you told me that I'd see
things that wasn't right or wrong.

SUN
Yes.

YOUNG
Well, I saw something, something that
goes against everything the Collective
stands for, and I don't know what to
do. I don't think it's right, but I
don't feel it's wrong either.

SUN
You don't know what to do. Can you
change the situation?

YOUNG
No. I mean, I can't change it, but
maybe I can help it.

SUN
Well, my son, sometimes situations are
just information. You are a witness,
and you learn, and you move on.

YOUNG

And?

SUN

And what?

YOUNG

I know there's more. I know you, dad.
Don't hold out.

SUN (HE LAUGHS)

Yes. You know me too well. I'm still
protecting you even though I can't be
there. I wish your mom and I could
have gotten out.

YOUNG

I know, dad. It's ok. We're here now.
Tell me, what else, dad?

SUN

Oh, yes. The situation. Well,
sometimes a situation is information,
and sometimes a situation points you
in a direction.

YOUNG

I don't understand.

SUN

Son.

YOUNG

Yes, dad.

SUN

Whatever you decide, take care of
yourself. I wish I could be there.

YOUNG

You are dad. Thank you. I miss you.

SUN

I miss you too, son. This will all be
over, and we'll be together soon.
Remember, the world ends with us.