

Characters:

Speaking parts:

Katie - Mid 20s. Fresh out of college. Impulsive and spontaneous. Quick learner who isn't afraid to speak her mind.

John - Late 50s. Long-time scientist at the Center, a few months from retirement. Kind heart and a systematic brain.

Robert - new director.

Ray - Vivian took care of son so that he didn't have to be a father and could have Leah all to himself.

Vivian - same character from Battle Royale and Last Interview

Martin - father of Jamison and Nicolas Billings from Taxi Cab story

Lucas - father of Daniel from Last Interview

Emily - same character from Ghost Hunters story. Board member.

Gloria (Intercom) - only has 2 lines over an intercom

Present at meeting but nonspeaking:

Ramsey - new Head Scientist. Worker from Quarantine.

Mary - Assistant to Robert. Worker from Quarantine.

Locations:

Board room of Roth Lobdow Center for Advanced Research

Time of day:

Afternoon

INTRO BUMPER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Efx: recorder button/tone.

KATIE
(whispering)
Roth-Lodbow Center for Advanced
Research. Project Cyclops, Day 10,
about to begin. Entering the
laboratory now.

Efx: keycard beep. A loud buzz, a metal lock unlatched.
Door opens, quick footsteps.

KATIE
There he is!

JOHN
Good morning.

KATIE
How does it feel?

Efx: A purse is plopped down on the table. The audio
fuzzes for a moment.

JOHN
It hasn't really hit me yet. Ask
me again around 4:00.

KATIE
(laughing)
Right.

JOHN
And what, no gift? I'm sure you
can afford it now.

KATIE
It's all going to the hospital.
Every penny. I'm feeling like this
might all be okay.

JOHN
Anything else from Henry?

KATIE
Not yet. I'm assuming he's still
going through everything I sent
him.

JOHN
You mean everything you sent him
so far. We still have one left.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Efx: sheet being thrown off a box.

JOHN

I'll be damned.

KATIE

Is that who I think it is?

JOHN

Only one way to be sure.

KATIE

Is this some sort of a test from upstairs? Are we sure we want to do this one?

JOHN

It's too late to back out now.
You're up, kiddo.

KATIE

God.

Efx: wet popping noise.

KATIE

Extraction complete. Cube is loaded. Ready for documentation.

JOHN

Project Cyclops. Trial 5-charlie-6. Timestamp is registering correctly. Initiating playback in 3...

2...

1...

Initiate.

HOSTILE TAKEOVER

IN BOARD ROOM OF ROTH LOBDOW CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH.

Efx: meeting ambiance. Shuffled papers. Low speech. Coffee cups on saucers. Maybe someone stirring sugar in a coffee cup with a metal spoon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Efx: door opening. Footsteps.

NARRATOR

The door to the board room opened and Martin strolled in, greeting those already assembled around the table and grabbing a seat next to Ray.

RAY

Martin.

MARTIN

Ray. Emily.

EMILY

Hey, Martin. Wasn't sure you were going to make it.

MARTIN

The email I got said this meeting was urgent.

EMILY

Same.

MARTIN

Who do you think is taking the place of old man Lobdow?

EMILY

My money is on Lucas. Ray here thinks it's going to be one of the Lobdow brats.

MARTIN

No way. They have no experience. Which one would it even be? Oscar?

RAY

Vivian.

MARTIN

Vivian? You must be joking.

RAY

I'm not.

MARTIN

Well, you must be delusional then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EMILY

So when is everyone else going to show-

Efx: door opening. Ambiance lowers in volume. Footsteps.

NARRATOR

Emily didn't bother finishing her sentence as the door to the board room opened. Talk in the room stopped as Lucas entered the room.

MARTIN

Here we go. Looks like you lost.

RAY

We'll see.

LUCAS

(clears throat)
We're still missing a few?

VIVIAN

Yes. You're missing me.

NARRATOR

Vivian Lobdow stood just inside the board room, holding a cake box. No one saw her enter and Lucas jumped when she spoke from behind him.

LUCAS

Vivian.

Hi.

Are you looking for your father's office? I'm sure I can have my assistant, Gloria, show you the way?

VIVIAN

Actually, I just finished up an interview. I believe you're standing in front of my seat?

LUCAS

Ah, your father's seat, yes.

VIVIAN

Mine now. Excuse me?
(pause)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUCAS

Yes. Yes, of course.

NARRATOR

Vivian set the cake box on the table and sat down. The pink box was wrapped with black bow emblazoned with the Lobdow family crest.

Efx: sitting down

LUCAS

Comfy?

VIVIAN

Actually, I hear the coffee is quite good. Would you like some?

LUCAS

Oh, uh. No, thanks.

VIVIAN

You're saying no to the majority shareholder of this company?

LUCAS

No.

I mean, I wasn't trying to do that. I would love some coffee.

VIVIAN

Wonderful. I see that the rest of you are enjoying a cup, yes?

Efx: murmurs of assent. Vivian pours a cup of coffee for Lucas.

LUCAS

Right. As I was saying, we're a bit light on attendance, no?

VIVIAN

Your coffee is ready, Lucas.

Efx: coffee exchange

LUCAS

Thanks. Now back to dealin-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

VIVIAN

Aren't you going to try a sip?
It's really wonderful.

LUCAS

(short sigh)
Sure.
(Efx: slurp)
Ahhh. This coffee is the best I've
ever tasted. Are you satisfied?

VIVIAN

I will be.

LUCAS

(short sigh)
Did you want to lead this meeting
or can I do my job?

VIVIAN

You can continue for now.

LUCAS

(incredulous)
For now? What's that mean?

VIVIAN

(shrugs)
Go ahead and continue.

LUCAS

Thank you.

As Patrick is no longer with us,
the first order of business should
be redistributing his shares. Is
anyone interested in buying his
shares?

(pause)

Alright, well I would like to
absorb his shares at a fair market
price. Any opposed?

MARTIN

(clears throat)
Ah, I'm not opposed to what you're
proposing, but the shares have
already been bought.

LUCAS

(raps table with his
knuckles. Upset.)
By whom?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MARTIN

It seems that... well, I'm not quite sure how to put this...

LUCAS

Spit it out, Martin.

EMILY

The company bought his shares, Lucas.

LUCAS

You knew about this too?

EMILY

I pay people to pay attention to my investments and let me know if anything interesting is happening.

(pause)

Maybe you should try that?

LUCAS

How could the company buy back his shares? A deal would've had to been made with the recipients of his will, correct?

EMILY

(chuckles)

LUCAS

What's funny, Emily?

MARTIN

I believe she's laughing about the situation, not you.

LUCAS

(exasperated. Just wants answers.)

I don't care. What happened to the shares?

EMILY

Patrick's will required them to be sold back to the company and not dispersed among his relatives.

LUCAS

What?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MARTIN

His lawyer was supposed to send everyone a letter. Did you not get one?

LUCAS

(Efx: unscrews cap of pen)
What's this lawyer's name?

MARTIN

(trying to remember)
Ahhh... Donald... No, Ronald?

EMILY

Reginald.

Reginald Darden. The third.

I'd never heard of him.

LUCAS

Okay. I would like to buy those shares back from the company.

EMILY

(clears throat)
Ah. Actually, you can't buy those shares.

LUCAS

Why not?

EMILY

Someone beat you to it.

LUCAS

Someone already bought them back from the company? How?

EMILY

(shrugs)
I'm not sure how.
(pause)
My money's on Vivian though.
(mumbles to self)
Did I just say that out loud?

LUCAS

Yes, you just said it out loud.
Why is your money on Vivian?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

EMILY

She inherited her father's shares and she's been working behind the scenes at the Center ever since. I'm surprised none of you noticed?

LUCAS

Vivian? Would you like to share what you've been up to the past few months?

VIVIAN

Certainly, but first, I'd like to bring in a few people.

Efx: Intercom page.

GLORIA (INTERCOM)

Yes?

VIVIAN

Hi, Gloria. Please send in Ramsey, Mary, and Robert.

Efx: Intercom page.

LUCAS

You know Gloria.

VIVIAN

Of course. She's my assistant now.

LUCAS

She's...

VIVIAN

Shhhh, it'll all make sense soon. Just wait.

Actually, you can go ahead and take a seat.

Efx: sitting down as door opens and three sets of footsteps enter

NARRATOR

Three people Lucas had never seen entered the board room. Everything seemed to be happening a little too fast for him.

LUCAS

Who are they?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

VIVIAN

That's Robert, that's Mary, and
that's Ramsey.

LUCAS

Okay? Do they work for you?

VIVIAN

(polite laugh)
They work for the Center. You can
all take a seat.

NARRATOR

The three newcomers took their
seats, but as they sat down, each
placed an item onto the table that
made the stomachs of those already
in attendance twist.

Efx: sledgehammer, mallet with spikes, and a stained axe
being placed on boardroom table

EMILY

Is that a sledgehammer?

VIVIAN

Why don't you ask me the real
question you want to ask?

EMILY

Is that my sledgehammer?

VIVIAN

Of course it is.

EMILY

(said under breath)
Fuuuuuuck.

MARTIN

A sledgehammer, an axe, and a
croquet mallet with spikes. What
is this?

VIVIAN

(laughing)
It's a hostile takeover.

EMILY

Is that blood on the axe?

VIVIAN

It is. Good eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

EMILY

It's still fresh.

VIVIAN

Again, good eye.

LUCAS

I don't have to put up with...

(tries to stand)

I don't have to...

(tries to stand)

What the hell?

VIVIAN

How are you feeling, Lucas?

LUCAS

High almost. Why?

VIVIAN

Just making sure it's working.

LUCAS

Making sure what's working? Why
can't I stand up?

VIVIAN

I dosed your coffee.

It's a little something the
esteemed Roth Lobdow Center
created especially for situations
like this. Actually, you're
sitting next to the mastermind
behind the whole thing.

LUCAS

Robert?

VIVIAN

Bingo.

MARTIN

I can't stand either.

VIVIAN

Yes. We're all here to find out if
any of you will ever stand again.

Efx: small glass vial placed on boardroom table

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

NARRATOR

Vivian placed a small glass vial
on the boardroom table.

EMILY

What's that?

VIVIAN

That's the antidote. If you take
it, you'll gain back the function
of your legs. You'll also be
able... Robert? Why am I telling
them about your passion project?
You go ahead.

ROBERT

Right. Hi, everyone. I created the
serum you've all ingested. It took
a lot of testing, but I'll save
you all the science jargon: the
serum basically paralyzes your
limbs and gives you the
irresistible urge to tell the
truth.

VIVIAN

I'm sure that you can all
understand how much this drug
would fetch from government
agencies...

LUCAS

(quiet voice)

The revenue from such a drug would
be staggering.

VIVIAN

Correct. It's also insanely
helpful when asking questions to
board members.

(In unison)

EMILY

MARTIN

No.

Dammit.

VIVIAN

Right.

So... you may have noticed that a
few of your fellow members have
suffered... accidents over the
past few months.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Did you know that Patrick hit a child with his car?

LUCAS

No.

VIVIAN

Emily? Martin?

MARTIN

No.

EMILY

I knew.

LUCAS

You knew that a member of this board was party to a hit-and-run?

EMILY

I told you that I pay others to keep track of my investments. I pay them well.

LUCAS

Why didn't you let me know?

EMILY

Why would I? I pay so that I can stay in the loop, not so you can.

Vivian, did you have anything to do with Patrick's death?

VIVIAN

Of course.

I tracked down the father of the girl Patrick killed and slid him a home address.

TIC TAC TOE
FLASHBACK IN

Efx: gurgling noise

CHARLIE

(Whispering)

I made a volcano for you,
sweetheart... just for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

Efx: shortened crying + gunshot

TIC TAC TOE
FLASHBACK OUT

MARTIN

Why?

VIVIAN

Because my father taught me a valuable lesson. It was a lesson taught after he passed away, but I didn't really understand it until I started digging into all of your histories.

MARTIN

What lesson was that?

VIVIAN

That everyone has a dark secret. Some of us, like Emily here, have eight dark secrets.

NARRATOR

Emily's face blanched.

VIVIAN

Right. Let's get to it.

Efx: chair pushed back. Mallet taken from table.

LUCAS

What are you doing with that mallet?

NARRATOR

All eyes were on Vivian as she walked over to Emily, gripping the spiked mallet she'd taken from the table.

VIVIAN

I'm making an example for the future upper management of the Center.

(Efx: footsteps)

Let's start with you, Emily.

EMILY

Do we have to?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

VIVIAN

I think so, yes. I'm going to ask you a series of questions and you're going to answer them. Are you ready?

EMILY

No.

VIVIAN

And you have to tell the truth. No lying.

(under breath)

As if you even could.

Here we go...

MARTIN

This is crazy.

VIVIAN

(to Martin)

Don't worry, Martin. You're next.

(to Emily)

Dear, sweet Emily: do you have any hobbies?

EMILY

Of course.

VIVIAN

Elucidate.

EMILY

I like to knit, read gossip magazines, read reports on the lives of those in this room, and I also like to take care of scam artists.

LUCAS

Take care of? What does that mean?

EMILY

I like to kill scammers.

MARTIN

Oh God. You said eight dark secrets. You've killed eight scammers?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

EMILY

I've killed six scammers. They all
had it coming though.

GHOST HUNTERS
FLASHBACK IN

MARCUS

(panicked)
Brett? What's wrong?

BRETT

(garbled choking
noise)

Efx: metal scraping against concrete from behind. Very
sudden.

CREEPY VOICE

(in left ear)
She's gonna kill you.

MARCUS

Ashley's going to kill me?

CREEPY VOICE

(in right ear)
She's gonna kill you.

MARCUS

Who's going to kill me?

EMILY

(chuckling)
I am.

Efx: hollow thud and then splash.

GHOST HUNTERS
FLASHBACK OUT

LUCAS

Jesus. You said six. What happened
to seven and eight?

EMILY

More like one and two. My
daughters.

LUCAS

You killed your daughters?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

EMILY

I did.

MARTIN

Why?

EMILY

Neither one of them would mind me and I wasn't about to let them run wild, leaving their dirt lying around so any of my enemies could collect it. I needed to nip the problem in the bud. So I did.

VIVIAN

Thank you for sharing, Emily. I thought it was a lovely story. Would you like to tell the others what you found out about Mike?

EMILY

Mike found God.

LUCAS

What does that mean?

EMILY

He and his friend Jack started a cult. Well, tried to start a cult.

CAMP BETHLEHEM
FLASHBACK IN

ELLIE

Why? Why are you doing this? Why do you want the world to end?

PASTOR MIKE

(said like it's the
most obvious answer
in the world)

The only way the rapture will ever occur is if the righteous make it happen.

We did this for the common good.

We die today so that the many shall live forever with God in his kingdom. His Will be done.

Abaddon will be born in the blood of the righteous.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

PASTOR MIKE (CONT'D)
 (Efx: liquid pouring
 + demon whispering
 yesssss)

CROWD
 (crowd whispers the
 word Abaddon several
 times in unison)
 Abaddon, Abaddon, Abaddon.

CAMP BETHLEHEM
 FLASHBACK OUT

EMILY
 He tried to sacrifice several
 girls along with himself to bring
 about the end of the world.

LUCAS
 (snorting)
 You're kidding.

EMILY
 I'm not. They haven't been found
 yet, but I'm sure they will be in
 the coming weeks.

MARTIN
 What would possess someone to
 believe that sacrificing people
 would bring the end of the world?

VIVIAN
 He might've been helped along that
 path.

LUCAS
 By what?

VIVIAN
 By Robert here. Mike was dosed
 with a little something we've been
 developing at the Center.

EMILY
 Was I dosed?

VIVIAN
 Yes. So were those last two ghost
 hunters at your house.

EMILY
 So I wasn't hearing my daughters?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

VIVIAN

No. I have two more questions.

Do you know anything about Robert's other project?

EMILY

Only vague rumors.

VIVIAN

For example?

EMILY

Something to do with headphones or earbuds. Weird subliminal stuff.

VIVIAN

Go on.

EMILYINT

Like MK-ULTRA, but without LSD or any other drug.

Using sound and sound alone as a drug. I've heard he found a way, too.

VIVIAN

Interesting. Anything else?

EMILY

I don't know the specifics, but I hear there are two keys to its success. One is acceptance by the subject, meaning they have to want to listen to it.

The second is they have to listen to it over time, not all at once. Roughly ten to eleven treatments?

VIVIAN

Who is your source?

EMILY

I don't know. It's safer to stay out of that.

VIVIAN

Now it's time for the most important question:

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

If I were to take over this board,
what would you do?

EMILY

I would get as much information
about you as I could, then use it
against you to exercise my own
will on this board.

VIVIAN

Thank you for your honesty, Emily.

EMILY

You're wel-

Efx: sudden swing of mallet and connecting with Emily's
head. Splatting sound maybe?

(Said in unison)

MARTIN

Jesus Christ.

RAY

Damn.

NARRATOR

Both Martin and Ray tried to blink
away the blood from their eyes.
Vivian stood behind Emily, waiting
patiently for her to quit seizing
as if she'd done this a million
times before.

LUCAS

Have you lost your mind?

Efx: spikes removed from Emily's head with a grunt from
Vivian.

NARRATOR

Vivian kicked Emily's head off the
spikes of her mallet with a scowl.

VIVIAN

Not even a little.

MARTIN

You're crazy. Let me go.

VIVIAN

Oh, Martin. I wish we'd found
something in your past.
Unfortunately we didn't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (19)

MARTIN

Thank God.

VIVIAN

I wouldn't go thanking him yet. We did find out what you've been up to behind the scenes.

(pause)

What? Nothing to say?

(pause)

I don't even have to ask you the question I asked Emily, but I will for the benefit of the others here.

If I were to take over this board, what would you do?

MARTIN

I've already hired someone to take care of the person that comes to power.

VIVIAN

And how did you plan to have them taken care of?

MARTIN

When they leave this meeting, they were going to be killed in the parking lot.

VIVIAN

Do you know what the man you hired was going to use to get the job done?

MARTIN

No. I didn't want to know the details.

VIVIAN

He was going to use an axe.

NARRATOR

Martin grew very pale as his eyes locked onto the axe at the center of the table.

MARTIN

This axe?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (20)

VIVIAN

That axe.

LUCAS

Where are you going with this?

VIVIAN

I'm so glad you asked. Martin, did you know that Lucas owns other businesses?

MARTIN

Yes. What of it?

VIVIAN

Did you know that he owns several transportation companies?

MARTIN

No.

VIVIAN

So then you'd be surprised to find out that he owns a limo company named "Horns Limo Service."

MARTIN

(amazed)
Sonuvabitch.

LUCAS

Look. I didn't know how to tell you.

MARTIN

My son died in one of your cabs.

TAXI CAB FLASHBACK
IN

LUCIE

You know what I love about these old cars?

(pause)
No airbags.

JAMIE

Shit, shit, shit.

LUCIE

Time to fly, Jamie-boy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (21)

Efx: massive car crash, Jamie screaming as he's ejected through the front windshield and flies through the air, sudden stop and thump as he hits the wall of the hospital.

TAXI CAB FLASHBACK
OUT

LUCAS

We don't know who the driver was.
The person was nowhere to be found
at the scene.

I'm sure Vivian knew that, so
where is this all going?

VIVIAN

Just setting up motive.

LUCAS

Motive for what?

NARRATOR

Vivian pushed the cake box across
the table to Lucas.

VIVIAN

Open the box, Lucas.

LUCAS

(sarcastically)
You shouldn't have.

Efx: box opening noises

VIVIAN

The man Martin hired was easily
swayed by a bit more money.

LUCAS

To do wh-
(stops speaking when
he sees his son's
head in the box.)

VIVIAN

Didn't your son go on an interview
today, Lucas?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (22)

NARRATOR

The head of Lucas's son, Daniel,
stared back at him from inside the
cake box.

LAST INTERVIEW
FLASHBACK IN

DANIEL

(defeated sigh)
I'm sorry, dad. I tried.

AXE MAN

Don't worry. You'll be seeing your
father soon enough.

Efx: axe chops and screams

LAST INTERVIEW
FLASHBACK OUT

VIVIAN

So this is how it will play out:
Martin hired a man to kill Daniel,
the son of the person—that's you,
Lucas—responsible for the death of
his own son, Jamison.

RAY

Jesus.

VIVIAN

Do you know what you did to Martin
in retaliation for Daniel's death?

LUCAS

(crying/in shock)
Fuck you.

VIVIAN

You did this.

Efx: sudden swing of mallet and connecting with Martin's
head. Splatting sound maybe?

(said in unison)

RAY

(cries out)

No!

LUCAS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (23)

NARRATOR

The mallet was embedded in Martin's head even faster than Emily's. Martin didn't seize though. He looked across the table at Lucas and said a single word, almost as a question.

MARTIN

Damn.

Efx: spikes removed from Martin's head with a grunt from Vivian

VIVIAN

Ray.

RAY

Don't kill me. Please.

VIVIAN

Ray, Ray, Ray. Would you like to go ahead and answer the question for everyone?

RAY

Yes.

VIVIAN

If I were to take over this board, what would you do?

RAY

Nothing. I think you're the rightful leader of this company.

VIVIAN

Good. Now tell the others how I helped you. I want everyone gathered to understand the lengths I will go to protect those under my wing.

RAY

You got rid of Leah's baby. I never wanted it. She did.

Once Caleb was born, he was all she cared about. I disappeared.

You and I talked and you said you'd take care of it. All I had to do was move into a new house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (24)

VIVIAN
And did I deliver?

BABY MONITOR
FLASHBACK IN

LEAH
A hidden room?
Ugh. Is that what smells so bad?
(crying)
Nooooooooo.
(crying)

BABY MONITOR
FLASHBACK OUT

RAY
Leah is all mine again.

VIVIAN
Wonderful.
You can keep your position as head
researcher, Ray.

RAY
(sighs with relief)

VIVIAN
Just keep in mind what I know and
the lengths I will go to keep what
is mine.

RAY
Yes. Absolutely. Can I take the
antidote now?

VIVIAN
Antidote?

RAY
For my legs.

VIVIAN
(laughing)
There is no antidote. The serum
wears off after a few hours.
This board now consists of me, and
me alone.

Robert will be the new Director.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (25)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Mary and Ramsey will both be promoted to head scientists of their own projects and Ray will continue to serve as head researcher.

I wanted an upper management that understood what was at stake.

RAY

What about-

Efx: sudden swing of mallet and connecting with Lucas's head. Splatting sound maybe?

VIVIAN

What about... who? Lucas?

NARRATOR

Vivian smiled down the shaft of the croquet mallet embedded in the side of Lucas's head.

LUCAS

(tries speaking but words won't form)

Efx: spikes removed from Lucas's head with grunt from Vivian

NARRATOR

Kicking his head away, Vivian swung again, spraying those at the table with hot blood.

Efx: sudden swing of mallet and connecting with Lucas's head. Splatting sound maybe?

VIVIAN

Everyone remember this. Never forget. This is what happens if you ever try to take control of my company.

Efx: spikes removed from Lucas's head with grunt from Vivian. Sudden swing of mallet and connecting with Lucas's head. Splatting sound maybe?

VIVIAN

Never.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (26)

Efx: spikes removed from Lucas's head with grunt from Vivian. Sudden swing of mallet and connecting with Lucas's head. Splatting sound maybe?

VIVIAN

Forget.

Efx: spikes removed from Lucas's head with grunt from Vivian. Mallet tossed on the table.

VIVIAN

(sighing with
pleasure)

When the serum wears off, Ray,
clean this up.

RAY

Okay.

VIVIAN

Good.

Meeting adjourned.

Oh, and before I forget...

John and Katie, we need to talk
about your future with the Center.

OUTRO BUMPER

KATIE

She knows our names, John. She
knows that we know. How did she
find...

Efx: keycard beep. A loud buzz, a metal lock unlatched.
Door opens, footsteps.

VIVIAN

Good afternoon Dr. Kinsler, Ms.
Reed. I would like to be the first
to thank you both for all of your
hard work. Without you, I would
never have pieced together
everything going on with those in
power at the Center. So from the
bottom of my heart, thank you.

KATIE

You're welcome?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (27)

VIVIAN

You shouldn't patronize a woman holding a spiked mallet, Katie.

JOHN

Don't talk to her like that.

VIVIAN

Want to say it closer to the microphone? Ms. Reed, why don't you take the recorder out of your purse so we can get a clearer sound.

KATIE

I don't know what you're talking about.

VIVIAN

Naughty girl. You do know that recording devices are strictly prohibited on campus, right?

KATIE

What do you mean?

VIVIAN

(annoyed)

Are we really going to do this? I'm a busy person, you know.

Efx: purse being grabbed. The recorder is thumped on the counter.

VIVIAN

What, the Center's equipment isn't good enough for you? You have to smuggle in a device of your own?

KATIE

I didn't...

VIVIAN

Stop lying to me.

JOHN

That's enough. Leave her alone. It was me.

VIVIAN

Shut your mouth. Tell me Dr. Kinsler, why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (28)

JOHN

I've seen horrible things here.
Someone needed to know the truth.

VIVIAN

Spare me. Your wife's name is
Evelyn, correct?

JOHN

What are you doing?

VIVIAN

Just making sure we're on the same
page. You're life isn't the only
one on the line. Now, tell.. me..
the truth.

JOHN

You already know the truth.

VIVIAN

I want to hear you say it.

JOHN

Fine, I did it. I smuggled in a
Microphone.

VIVIAN

And why did you do it?

JOHN

To sell the information to Sygma
Corp.

VIVIAN

Thank you. There is just one
thing....

Efx: spiked mallet hitting shoulder.

JOHN

AHHHHHHHH!

No!

KATIE

VIVIAN

I hear today is your last day.

JOHN

(grimacing)
Go to hell.

VIVIAN

I need you to apologize.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (29)

JOHN
(grimacing)
Ha!

VIVIAN
Apologize, or your your wife will
be wearing this mallet as a hat.

Efx: John spits at her feet.

VIVIAN
I'm waiting.

Efx: Vivain begins to choke John.

JOHN
(grimacing)
I'm sorry.

VIVIAN
Not to me. To your employer.

JOHN
(grimacing)
What?

Efx: Vivain let's go of John's neck.

VIVIAN
You know who I'm talking about.
Apologize to the individual who
sends your real paycheck. Into the
microphone, please.

Efx: recorder lifted off of the counter, handed to John.

JOHN
(grimacing)
Henry, I'm sorry I let you down...

Efx: spiked mallet to the head. Recorder falls to the
ground. The recorder is picked up.

VIVIAN
This account has been paid in
full, Henry.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (30)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

(efx: handing
recorder to Katie)

Katie, this might even your best
yet.

Please make sure Henry gets it.

KATIE

(whimpering)

What?

VIVIAN

After you edit it, of course. Just
make sure to add the apology and
my message.

KATIE

(whimpering)

Are you going to kill me?

VIVIAN

We'll see. The center has let's
say, interesting methods of
interviewing candidates. You're
ruthless, cold and let poor Dr.
Kinsler take the fall for
something you did. Not once did
you even step in to claim
responsibility.

KATIE

(whimpering)

I didn't know what to do to...

VIVIAN

(laughing)

You might have a bright future
here at the Center yet, Ms. Reed.
But we'll see...now, kill the
recording!

Efx: recorder button press/tone.