

Primordial Deep
Episode Seven - Crocodile Tears

by

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No Such Thing Productions

Continued...

PROLOGUE

INT. Collin's Laboratories, The Derelict - DAY

Collin stands over Loire and Spinner, both of whom are strapped to operating tables. He moves around the lab, claws clicking, heavy tail dragging along the floor, as he collects various surgical implements -- we hear him placing them on a metal tray, with an almost loving care.

On the table, Loire -- heavily drugged -- groans and begins to stir.

COLLIN

Ah! You're awake... Wonderful. I hope my darlings weren't too rough with you. Poor sweets, they lack the delicate touch. But those with claws often do.

Loire groans and tries to speak, but finds himself unable to.

COLLIN

Gently now, captain! You have some very powerful sedatives coursing through your system. You and your friend were getting a bit... unruly, and I couldn't forgive myself if I were allow two such specimens of perfection to go and accidentally hurt yourselves before we've even begun (laughs)

LOIRE

(slurred, fighting to get the words out) Wh-what have you... done to us?

COLLIN

Oh my dear captain, we're only just getting started. You and I are making something NEW. Evolution is a long, and laborious journey. It's taken me YEARS to perfect my... techniques. My former crew-mates weren't so lucky... I was more eager than knowledgable when we first began... But I keep them around... Don't I, my sweets?

A nearby crocodile lets out a low hiss, and another crocodile

joins the chorus.

COLLIN

They've lost much of their humanity,
poor things, but they do make such
excellent pets, and I am so terribly
sentimental. I had to use older models
for their templates, when I was first
learning to shape this vulgar clay we
call our biology. I've never
understood how such fascinating
prehistoric creatures fell so far out
of fashion as to become extinct. A
fault of nature I aim to correct.

You and YOUR crew-mates on the other
hand, will make such a beautiful new
species. The ultimate apex predators,
a masterpiece of flesh and bone, never
dying, always hunting, a combination
of two of the most lethal killers to
have ever stalked this world. And when
I've finished... you, and your brother
and sisters will inherit the Earth.

LOIRE

Y-you... You can't-...

COLLIN

I assure you, little one, I can.
(laughs) Look at me! I HAVE. You think
this body of mine came without cost? I
have learned the secrets of this
universe, for your good. I have
endured its whispers, its lashing,
biting stings like an endless plague,
and drawn out its hidden knowledge
those with weaker minds could never
bear to hear. You couldn't comprehend
half of what I am capable of.

As he speaks, a subtle, pulsating glow appears beneath
Collin's skin, and the room is momentarily filled with a
strange, rhythmic ringing.

LOIRE

What... what is-... Your hands!

COLLIN

Enchanting, no? That glow, dear
captain, is the Power of Creation, and

I hold it in my hands. Life. That power is MINE to have. Mine to bestow. (grins) You've never met a God like me.

LOIRE
You're insane...

COLLIN
Shh, shh, shh... There's no need for that. You're tired. Anxious. But let's not say things we can't take back. Now hold still. This is going to burn.

The glow and ringing fades. Collin picks up a needle, tests it, then inserts it into Loire's arm. Loire struggles, letting out a soft sound of pain, before sagging back against the operating table with a groan.

COLLIN
There now... Rest... You'll need your strength. The sedatives will stop you from hurting yourself as I work... but it will do nothing for the pain. (chuckles) And believe me... I can say from experience... the agony of evolution is... exquisite. But creation is nothing if not sacrifice.

Loire whimpers, fighting to stay conscious.

COLLIN
Don't worry. When you wake, you will be new-made. A creature worthy of this world... Once you see how beautiful you are, you'll thank me. You, and all your siblings.

He gestures to two of the crocodiles.

COLLIN
Go, my sweet pretty ones... You two must find the others. They're going to struggle, but try to bring them all to me in one piece... Now that our paths have been cleared, our journey towards transcendence can begin.

We hear the bodies of the two huge crocodiles moving across the floor and slipping into the water. They hiss and snap at one another as they swim away, disappearing into the darkened

halls of the derelict.

Collin smiles, and picks up a scalpel.

COLLIN

Well, captain! Shall we begin?

FADE TO:

SCENE EIGHT

INT. Utility Room, The Derelict - CONTINUOUS

Marella, covered in blood and chained to an overhanging pipe, struggles to free herself. Down the hall, the baurusuchus hisses and moves ever closer. Sirena stares at Marella, studying her face, memorizing it.

SIRENA

... Did you have a name?

MARELLA

M-Marella...

SIRENA

Marella. ... I hope for your sake they don't play with you too much.

MARELLA

You can't do this! PLEASE! Don't do this! Don't leave me! We came here to help you!

SIRENA

(shutting her eyes, forcing herself to take a deep breath) ... I'm sorry.

MARELLA

What about your crew?! There must be others on the station! You MUST know where they are! We can help you! We can escape! If you let me down, we can save them! What about the other people?!

Sirena stares at her blankly.

SIRENA

There aren't any others.

Marella stares at Sirena in wordless horror. Sirena studies her for a moment, then sprints out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. Corridor, The Derelict - CONTINUOUS

Out in the hall, the ground shakes as something heavy makes its way down the corridor. Stomp. Stomp. Stomp.

SIRENA

Oh shit...

Sirena, breathing fast, ducks into an alcove and rapidly backs herself up against the wall as the creature approaches.

She holds her breath.

The baurusuchus moves heavily closer, its claws clicking on the ground. It comes to the alcove where Sirena is crouching and stops. We hear the creature sniff... and let out a wet, menacing hiss...

And then it moves on. Sirena breathes again, and once the creature moves off down the hall, we hear her continue her sprint.

Behind her, at the far end of the hall, we hear the echoes of Marella screaming.

Sirena falters, then stops.

SIRENA

... sorry... (then, chastizing herself) ... No. Not my problem.

She starts to move away... Marella screams again -- a desperate, terrified sound. We hear the distant, hissing roar of the baurusuchus. Sirena hesitates.

It's not her problem.

... is it?

Marella screams.

SIRENA

... SHIT.

She turns, and sprints back down the hall.

FADE TO:

SCENE NINE

INT. Flooded Access Shaft, The Derelict - MEANWHILE

Matti struggles to tread water. Asherah breaks the surface of the water next to her.

ASHERAH

It's too dark down there. Can't see a damn thing. Something's moving around, but I can't tell how many.

MATTI

What do we do?

ASHERAH

We'll go slowly. Try not to disturb the water too much.

MATTI

Okay...

ASHERAH

Head for the wall. There has to be a ladder or a foothold.

MATTI

(wincing) O-... Okay...

ASHERAH

(noticing) How's your leg?

MATTI

Not... not good.

ASHERAH

Come here. Keep treading. I'll see if I can wrap it.

MATTI

With what?

Asherah is already removing her shirt. She grunts softly as she struggles to pull off her shirt and remain afloat. Water splashes.

MATTI

Asherah! Put your shirt back on!
You're going to freeze!

ASHERAH

I'm still wearing a bra. Don't be so modest. Here. (tossing Matti the wet cloth) Hold this. Let me take a look.

She takes a deep breath and dives. Matti, alone, treads water. We hear a hiss. Was that a pipe or a crocodile?

Something slips softly into the water.

Asherah breaks the surface, gasping.

ASHERAH

It's not so bad. Long, but not terribly deep. You'll need stitches.

MATTI

Well that's something to look forward to.

ASHERAH

Give me the shirt.

Matti tosses the shirt back to Asherah, who catches it.

ASHERAH

This won't take but a minute.

She dives, and the world goes muffled as she slips below the surface. We hear her moving, tying the cloth around Matti's leg.

Behind her in the water, something moves. Asherah turns. The baurusuchus lets out a watery hiss -- Asherah's scream is muffled by the water.

At the surface, an explosion of bubbles breaks the water.

MATTI

Ouch! Easy L.T., not so rough!

Nearby something thrashes in the water, and subsides. Matti continues to tread water, nervously.

MATTI

Okay... Okay... Asherah, I don't mean to rush you, but I think we've attracted some attention... I'm fairly alarmed here... Not that... you can hear me... Okay Matti. We are okay... Asherah comes up, we swim for the

sides... climb up the ladder. With a
busted leg... No problem... I can do
this. I can do this...

Nearby, a splash and a low hiss.

MATTI

(trying not to cry) Just the pipes...
Just the pipes... They can't see us
any better than we can see them...

Matti shuts her eyes and anxiously sings under her breath,
trying to remain calm.

MATTI

(singing) *I'm forever blowing bubbles,
Pretty bubbles in the air,
They fly so high, nearly reach the
sky,
Then like my dreams they fade and die.
Fortune's always hiding,
I've looked everywhere,*

Another low, watery hiss.

MATTI

(starting to cry, still singing) *I'm
forever blowing bubbles,
Pretty bubbles in the air.*

*I'm dreaming dreams, I'm scheming
schemes,
I'm building castles high.
They're born anew, their days are few-*

Without warning, something grabs Matti and yanks her under
the water. She barely has time to scream.

Water thrashes.

Bubbles.

Silence echoes.

FADE TO:

SCENE TEN

INT. Utility Room, The Derelict - CONTINUOUS

Marella struggles violently against her chains.

MARELLA

(half praying, half whispering) No...
no, no, no... Come on! COME! ON!
Break! Break you stupid-

A long, reptilian snout pokes around the doorway... and we hear the low, watery hiss of an enormous crocodile.

Marella screams.

MARELLA (NARRATING)

Have you ever looked at something, or found yourself standing somewhere you're not supposed to be, and suddenly realized... you know exactly how you're going to die? You touch the handle of a car door, or catch a glimpse of the subway tracks, or the woman smiles at you, or find yourself staring up into the eye of a storm, and you think -- this is it. Maybe not right here, maybe not right now... but someday. We'll meet again, and you will be the death of me. I recognize my end in you.

The thing about big animals... is that they're always about... twice as big as the picture in your head. Think of a lion. Now double it... and you're probably thinking about something that's about half the size of a lion.

Think of a crocodile. A big one. Seventeen feet long. Approximately two thousand pounds. With a bite force strong enough to crush a car.

Now put it on stilts.

The baurusuchus stands at about 4 feet tall, and looks very much like somebody crossbred a crocodile with a bear. Its legs sit underneath it, not splayed out to the side like a regular reptiles... which means its built to run. Not that it will need to. Not with me chained up like this.

The baurusuchus opens its mouth and lets out a hissing roar.

MARELLA (NARRATING)

It's teeth look like ivory railroad spikes. And I'm suddenly remembering every nature documentary I've ever seen... Remembering the way the water roils as they spring forward, There's a power... a violence in the mere presence of this animal. A force that refuses to be ignored...

And I know how I'm going to die.

For a moment, we just stare at one another. Predator and prey. Animal to animal, across the vanished centuries. I've never felt so small.

And then he charges.

We hear the baurusuchus let out a terrible roar as it thunders across the room. Time seems to slow.

MARELLA (NARRATING)

It was like something out of a dream. Or a nightmare. Like something else took over. He jumped, and my mind went blank. The pipe I am chained to is only a few feet off the ground. Nothing I could ever hope to reach under normal circumstances -- but, given my options...

I jumped. And- (realizing) Jesus, I'm going to die here.

For a second, I'm floating. Flying. The chains at my wrist stretch, rolling like silver ribbons -- impossible, glittering threads, stringing me between life and death. I don't want to die here...

My blood-soaked fingers reach, red and grasping at empty, faithless air. Fuck. FUCK! I can't die here. I don't want to die here. Please... please... don't let me die here. Not like this. Screaming. Crying. Alone.

I won't.

Marella screams, and we hear her chains rattle as she pulls herself up and clings to the pipe.

The baurusuchus' jaws snap shut on empty air, and its body slams against the wall. Marella, disbelieving, actually manages a laugh -- but it quickly turns into a scream as the crocodile recovers, snarls, and leaps at her again. The pipe rattles.

MARELLA
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME!

MARELLA (NARRATING)
The only thing that hears me is the monster, and the only help he offers is to wrap his teeth around the pipe -- weight cannot support our weight.

The baurusuchus leaps, and its jaws snap shut around the pipe. We hear a tearing of metal, a clanking of chains, and Marella screams as the whole unit comes crashing down.

She groans, rolling over as the huge crocodile thuds down beside her, and we hear the rattling of her chains.

MARELLA (NARRATING)
Funny how the fall is always so much faster. Harder. More... final.

And here we are again. Animal to animal. Is this how it's supposed to feel? Have I always been this useless? This... helpless? This small? I am inches away from those jaws, still tangled up with this STUPID pipe... and I know I'm not making it out of this room.

The baurusuchus shakes the pipe in its jaws, and we hear it snap. The crocodile snarls as Marella's chains slide off the pipe and rattle to the floor.

MARELLA (NARRATING)
But if I die screaming, I will not die small.

Marella forces herself to her feet and lifts her chains, slapping them hard against the floor -- a challenge. The baurusuchus hisses.

MARELLA

(with more courage than she feels)
Come on. (slaps the chains again) Come
on then!

The baurusuchus roars, and Marella screams back her defiance. She whips the chain out at the creature -- it connects, and the crocodile hisses violently and snaps.

MARELLA

COME ON!

She whips her chains at the crocodile, which bellows in pain and fury.

Sirena appears in the doorway.

SIRENA

Marella!

MARELLA

(irritably) It's about goddamn time!
Are you just going to stand there
looking attractively apocalyptic, or
are you going to do something?

SIRENA

You seem to be handling things fairly
well on your own.

MARELLA

HELP ME!

The crocodile hisses and snaps. Sirena picks up one of the broken pieces of pipe.

SIRENA

Get those chains around his snout.

MARELLA

I'm still attached to these things!

SIRENA

Just do it!

Marella slaps the chains against the floor again, trying to draw the baurusuchus' attention.

MARELLA

HEY! Over here!

SIRENA

What are you going to do, dance with him?

MARELLA

Over here you dinosaur reject! I'm talking to you, you stupid, overgrown lizard! If you're as smart as you are pretty, then your brain must be as shriveled as your face!

The baurusuchus bellows and charges.

SIRENA

Marella!

Marella dives out of the way, and the crocodile crashes into one of the standing cabinets, which crashes to the ground. Marella, without thinking, leaps onto the baurusuchus' back. The creature bucks, thrashing violently and hissing as Marella wraps the chains around the crocodile's snout.

SIRENA

Are you out of your mind?! I said chain him, not jump on him!

MARELLA

Do something! Stab it!

SIRENA

I can't! I might hit you-

MARELLA

I DON'T CARE JUST KILL THE DAMN THING!

Sirena hesitates, then lifts the broken pipe and with all her might, slams the broken pointed end of the pipe into the crocodile's side. The creature screams through gritted teeth, thrashing, and finally throws Marella from its back.

The baurusuchus shrieks, its body writhing, sending tools and bits of the shelving unit skittering across the floor. Then it collapses, hissing, its claws scraping along the ground.

beat.

SIRENA

(smirking) So... do you wrestle crocodiles often, or was that show just for me?

MARELLA
(exhausted laugh) Shut up.

A moment. Sirena and Marella stare at one another.

SIRENA
You okay?

MARELLA
No.

SIRENA
Come here.

She moves to touch her, but Marella pulls away.

SIRENA
(annoyed) I'm not going to hurt you.

MARELLA
No? Cause from where I'm sitting, you
just tried to murder me.

SIRENA
Didn't though, did I?

MARELLA
And that's supposed to make it
better?!

SIRENA
(angrily) I came back! You're fine.
Stop being so-

MARELLA
I swear to god, if you call me
dramatic-

SIRENA
I'm SORRY! Okay?! I-... I'm...

She looks away. Beside them, the baurusuchus lets out a weak hiss. Sirena crouches beside it, and lays a hand on its side.

MARELLA
Oh, don't!

Sirena twists the pipe. The crocodile lets out a shrill noise, and dies.

SIRENA
(very quietly) Sorry, Nori.

MARELLA
What?

Sirena as if remembering Marella is still in the room, stands quickly, and moves over to one of the remaining shelving units.

SIRENA
I said I'm sorry. Come on.

MARELLA
Oh no. Absolutely not.

SIRENA
What? Why?

MARELLA
Okay, just to re-iterate, you threw crocodile blood on me and set me up as live bait!

SIRENA
You're still upset about that?

MARELLA
I don't even KNOW you! You couldn't even tell me your name!

SIRENA
... My name's Sirena.

MARELLA
And I'm supposed to trust you, just like that?

SIRENA
Yes.

MARELLA
NO! I'm not going anywhere with-

SIRENA
You really want to be here when the others smell a corpse?

MARELLA
I have to find my crew.

SIRENA

You can't just wander around by yourself. You'll get eaten.

MARELLA

I wouldn't BE by myself if you hadn't kidnapped me!

SIRENA

I told you, that was necessary.

MARELLA

Well it's necessary for me to rescue my crew. So you can either come along, or fuck off! But I'm going.

SIRENA

(sighs) Wait!

Marella, already heading for the door, pauses.

MARELLA

What?

Sirena pulls out another bucket and snaps off the lid. Marella eyes her warily.

MARELLA

What are you doing? Jesus Christ, if that's another bucket of crocodile blood-

SIRENA

It's not blood.

She lifts the bucket and calmly hurls the contents in Marella's face. Marella shrieks.

SIRENA

(matter of fact) It's piss.

MARELLA

What the FUCK?!

SIRENA

I'm helping.

MARELLA

HELPING?! (gagging) Oh GOD it's in my mouth!

SIRENA

You can't walk around the station covered in blood. This will disguise the scent.

MARELLA

Oh and you just "know that" do you?! So you don't even ask, you just throw crocodile piss in my face! What kind of a fucked up person-

She stops, seeing the look on Sirena's face.

MARELLA

I-... Jesus, how long have you been down here?

SIRENA

I'm sorry.

MARELLA

No, I-... d-don't be. I-... Thank you. For... helping. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to-

SIRENA

It's fine.

MARELLA

No, it's not.

Marella reaches out and gently touches Sirena's cheek.

MARELLA

... you're bleeding.

SIRENA

It's nothing.

MARELLA

We'll check it out when we're back on the station. The-... your cheek. See if Destan-... if there's something I can do.

Sirena pulls away.

SIRENA

We should find your pack-mates.

MARELLA

We?

SIRENA

Like I said. You can't go alone,
you'll get eaten. Besides... Now he
knows you're here. He'll want you
alive.

MARELLA

He?

SIRENA

That... last bit of business I have to
settle. Used to go by the name of
Collin.

She yanks the pipe out of the corpse of the baurusuchus.

SIRENA

And I know where he's taking your
friends.

She walks out of the room, and Marella, after a moment's
hesitation, follows.

FADE TO:

SCENE ELEVEN

Static. A series of recordings play -- Collin, ten years ago,
still human. He is sobbing.

COLLIN

I can't make it stop. I can hear her.
All the time. She is... weeping. The
whole planet is-... *Screaming*. I can't
help her. I can't make it stop-

Static.

It's in my skin. I can feel it in my
blood. The deeper I cut, the more of
it I find. It writhes in my veins.
Coats my muscle. I can see it
shimmering under my skin... in the
corners of my eyes... It's so
beautiful. It hurts my eyes. Too
bright-... I try to dig it out. Try to
show the others, but it melts back
into my hands. My hands-... They're

burning... It hurts... She's hurting me... It's so beautiful-

Static.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

Static.

(laughing)

Static.

(sobbing, begging, desperate) Make her stop... Make her stop... MAKE HER STOP! I can't help you!! I can't help you...

Static.

She whispers how to take the extra flesh and make it something new. I pull pieces from my stomach. I make them breathe. They bite and they cry. I make them stop breathing, and she cries. It hurts me. I make them breathe, and they are lovely. I want them all to breathe.

We hear the hissing of a crocodile.

Static.

(calm, but with growing fervor) I sloughed my skin today. I didn't want it anymore. It wasn't beautiful. So I dug my nails into the cracks until the blood ran black, and pulled until it came away -- whole sheets of it, that I will save to build egg casings or embryos. And underneath the skin was something new. I glitter. Like emeralds and obsidian. I tried to claw my face away, but she wouldn't let me. I can only change the color of my eyes and spit out the teeth, like marbles, and pull until the new ones are sharp and hungry. I have crafted my fingers into talons. My spine aches from the weight of me. It's not enough. Not enough. My hands are BURNING. It only

dulls when I shape... when I remake...
when I give them Life... ***I need. More.
Matter.***

FADE TO:

INT. Collin's Laboratories, The Derelict - DAY

A high, pained scream. A strange, pulsating hum fills the room as Collin works on Loire, who writhes and screams, struggling against his ministrations. The hum fades as Collin pauses in his work.

COLLIN

(stepping back) There there, captain. You're doing just fine. Your body is taking to your modifications swimmingly, if I do say so myself. It will take time. We mustn't overwhelm your system after all... but give it a few weeks... a few more sessions... We'll make a masterpiece of you yet.

Loire, exhausted, lets out a weak groan. Behind them, we hear Spinner struggling against his bonds, yelling into a gag. Collin sighs and turns to him.

COLLIN

Something to share with the class, Mr. Davit? ... What's that? I can't understand you. Here. I'll reinstate your speaking privileges, if you promise you'll be nice...

Collin removes the gag. Spinner chokes, and spits at him.

SPINNER

Get away from him!

COLLIN

Oh this WILL be interesting. My dear Spinner, are you going to beg me for your captain's life?

SPINNER

Eat shit you scaly franken-freak!

COLLIN

Evidentially not. Disappointing. You DO know Frankenstein was the man, not the monster.

SPINNER

You clearly missed the point of the book.

COLLIN

(amused) Did I?

SPINNER

Yup. Let me out of these chains, and I'll give you a blow by blow!

COLLIN

By the time you get loose, you won't have hands left, let alone an appreciation for the classics. I'll make sure of that.

SPINNER

Best be careful who you're handing out the claws to, doc.

COLLIN

Hmm. Perhaps you're right. I may have misjudged your... suitability for this next stage of evolution.

There is a sound like several switch-blades clicking out of their sheaths as Collin snaps open his claws.

SPINNER

Easy kitty...

COLLIN

Oooh, *please* DO keep talking... give me a reason to sew that overactive little mouth of yours shut. Then again. Maybe I ought to just kill you now. I think I'd enjoy that.

SPINNER

Unless you're ready to pick on somebody your own size.

COLLIN

(laughs) My size?!

SPINNER

For such a big guy, you seem a little busy torturing people who're strapped to tables.

COLLIN

Strapped down for your own safety, I assure you, not mine.

SPINNER

So we have to lay here while you play at being Herbert West, spouting your shit pseudo-science, when in reality, all you've got is a bunch of crocs you probably fished out of a lake, a dead crew, a bad facelift, and half a braincell, banging around the inside of that zoological nightmare you call a face. I'd call you a mad scientist, but it'd be an insult to actual science. You're not a doctor. You're not a crocodile. So what exactly are you, Monster Man?

COLLIN

A god. (icily) Allow me to educate you.

The pulsating hum fills the air again as Collin's hands begin to glow. Spinner instinctively jerks away from him, his chains rattle, holding him fast to the table.

SPINNER

Hey, back the fuck up! Don't you touch me! Don't-

COLLIN

We start with a useless lump of clay.

The hum grows louder, and Collin plunges his hand into Spinner's stomach. We hear the squelch of flesh being pushed aside and manipulated. Spinner screams.

COLLIN

I like to start with the intestines... the internal organs... They're delicate. Complex. They sing the sweetest harmonies when you pick... the right... chords...

Spinner's screams grow louder and higher. The humming of Collin's hands changes, overtones and undertones joining the melody as he works.

COLLIN

I change you from the inside, out.

Appearances are so painfully superficial. Skin is easy to manipulate. The challenge comes with adapting the the lungs... the heart... the brain... But we start with the gut. I want you to feel hunger like a predator. I want to sew raw animal instinct into every fiber of your being. You'll crave blood. Flesh. Every nerve impulse will drive you towards prey. I'll weave the need to kill into your bones.

SNAP. CRACK. Spinner howls, arching as bones deep inside his body snap under Collin's touch.

COLLIN

It's all about the inside. The hard work has to be done from within. I can't just reshape you, I have to remake you. It's not just enough for you to THINK like an animal. You have to FEEL it. Exist in no other state but that highest and most instinctual plane of BEING. When I'm finished with you, you'll have no other choice.

Collin steps back, and Spinner collapses against the table, whimpering. Blood drips to the floor. The humming fades.

COLLIN

Birth is always a painful process. This is only your beginning, Mr. Davit. But I think you understand the point for now.

Spinner groans.

COLLIN

... I think I will find that needle and thread after all. It's been a lovely chat, but I'm finished talking to you now.

Collin moves away. Loire, on the table beside Spinner, shifts to look at him.

LOIRE

Spinner?

SPINNER

H-hey Cap.

LOIRE

You shouldn't have done that.

SPINNER

Probably not... But it got you a break, didn't it?

LOIRE

Don't do that again.

SPINNER

Sorry, Cap... N-no promises.

LOIRE

I mean it! We've just... just got to find a way to get loose...

From down the hall, we hear a cry of pain.

SPINNER

The hell was that?!

One of the doors slides open, and two large baurusuchus crawl into the room, dragging the bodies of Matti and Asherah in behind them.

COLLIN

(delighted) Oh! Wonderful. It seems we have guests! (stroking the crocodiles) What good little darlings you are... bringing our new friends here to meet us...

The two women are dropped to the ground. Matti whimpers.

LOIRE

Talise! Matti!

ASHERAH

(pained, through gritted teeth) We're alright, Clarion.

COLLIN

My, captain! What lovely company you keep. Another two specimens of perfection. Simply marvelous. Come. Let me get a good look at you. We have so MANY models, we'll have to be extra

Careful to ensure you both have the perfect fit.

SPINNER

Matti, RUN!

COLLIN

Now that's no way to behave.

MATTI

Don't touch me!

COLLIN

Do I frighten you, little one? It's quite alright, I'm not here to harm you. I'm here to help. You can trust me. I'm a doctor. I'm going to make you beautiful.

As he reaches for her, there is a sudden, sharp resurgence of the pulsating hum -- a painful flare of sound. Collin lets out a high, pained scream full of sorrow and fury. A chorus of angry crocodilian hisses fills the air. Collin moves amongst them, cooing and attempting to soothe them.

COLLIN

I know, my sweets, I know. I feel it too.

SPINNER

(quietly) I don't like the sound of that.

LOIRE

No. Neither do I. Keep your head down.

SPINNER

(struggling against his bonds) I can't... get loose!

LOIRE

Just keep trying.

COLLIN

(turning to Loire, cold anger) It seems your little friend has woken the monster... and it has cost us... but I promise you, it will cost you much more dearly.

ASHERAH
(whispering, worried) Marella...

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

COLLIN
No? You will. (to his brood) Go. Find
them. This ends tonight. The creature
has found a companion, it seems...
bring her to me, and I'll make you all
a new toy of her heart. The beast will
follow.

There is a cacophony of hissing, snapping, and slithering as
the mass of crocodiles disappear into the darkness.

SPINNER
(uneasy) What beast?

COLLIN
We are not the only "monsters" to
stalk these halls... and my brood and
I are the least of them. But not for
very much longer... First-

He grabs Matti, who screams.

COLLIN
I'll make sure your companions are
properly sedated... ensure that
they're comfortable. And then I'm
afraid I must leave you under the
watchful eye of my beloved broodlings
here. Now that you've set me free,
I'll be able to greet our final guest
on a much more... personal level.
There's a crew member of yours who'll
be dying to meet me.

FADE TO:

SCENE TWELVE

INT. Observation Deck, The Derelict - DAY

Sirena pushes open the door to the observation deck, and
leads Marella inside.

SIRENA

Watch your step.

MARELLA

What is this place?

SIRENA

It's my room. What does it look like?

MARELLA

It looks like somebody tried to build a fort on your observation deck.

SIRENA

Somebody did. Collin knows where my old quarters are. I was too exposed. Besides, the others don't like coming in here.

MARELLA

Why?

SIRENA

They don't like the windows. They don't like their reflections... can't stand the sight of what they've become. And they're afraid of the things that come and watch in the night.

MARELLA

What things?

SIRENA

You just... Stay here. Don't touch anything. This'll only take me a minute.

Sirena moves around the barricaded walls of her shelter. We hear her rummaging around. Marella follows her inside.

SIRENA

Didn't I just tell you to stay over there?

MARELLA

Who's Collin?

SIRENA

Better question would be "what's Collin?"

MARELLA

Okay. What's Collin?

SIRENA

Dead to me now. But we used to be friends when he was our doctor. Just about the smartest man I knew, back when he was a man.

MARELLA

What happened to him?

Sirena hesitates.

SIRENA

... We... found something. An artifact, in a buried place. Collin was experimenting with it, studying it... It... did something to him. He got obsessive. Started ranting about biology, anatomy -- the nature of Life and Death. He claimed that he could hear the planet weeping... that he could FEEL the Earth dying, and that the universe was singing to him, that he could hear the life force of all living things...

MARELLA

He went insane.

SIRENA

That was what we thought. We'd been down here a long time already, exploring... We thought it was the pressure, the lack of sun, the anxiety... And then he started showing us what he could do.

MARELLA

Do?

SIRENA

Don't let him touch you. It's... it's in his hands. All of him, really, but... Collin... he isn't... he isn't human. He can do *something* with his hands... change living matter at will. If he touches you... he'll change you. Like he changed my crew.

MARELLA

What?!

SIRENA

He doesn't need all of you to do it. A piece, big or small will be enough. But he likes whole specimens best.

MARELLA

He... he CHANGED your crew? Into what? ... (realizing) The Baurusuchus?

SIRENA

Not all of them were so lucky. He wasn't... very good when he started out. Some of them he accidentally killed, and god, you should have heard him screaming. Like he could feel it. Or sometimes, he couldn't find ways to complete the transformation... Some he dismembered, and grew the pieces into something new... He believes he wields the power of Life. Of Evolution. And he's probably right. But it took us too long to see what he'd become. By the time we did... it was too late. Collin was-... gone. And we were too busy trying to kill him and his monsters, just trying to stay alive, or trying to escape to do anything about it. It's just me left. And him. And he's had YEARS to practice.

MARELLA

And you've been alone with him? All this time?

SIRENA

He hasn't touched me, if that's what you're asking. I'm not one of them.

MARELLA

No, I-... That's just... I'm... glad. That you're okay.

SIRENA

Why? You don't know me.

MARELLA

I have to know you to be glad you survived?

SIRENA

If that's what you want to call it.

beat.

MARELLA

What are you looking for?

SIRENA

(resigned) A vial. I've been... saving it.

MARELLA

For what?

SIRENA

The end. I thought maybe someday, when I got sick of all this... But if we're going to save your crew... Collin can't be allowed to stay here on this station. He's too dangerous to leave unsupervised.

Sirena picks up a box and blows some dust off of it. She wipes it clean, and we hear her fiddling with a lock. It snaps open and she lifts the lid. There is a soft clink of glass on glass as several liquid-filled vials knock gentle against one another.

MARELLA

Is that...

SIRENA

Poison. I call it the Tears of Tiamat. Came about by accident, back when I had access to the labs. I was trying to recreate a serum one of my crew mates had developed to help us melt the door locks, and instead I got this. It hits the skin like liquid, but in a matter of seconds after contact, it starts to steam and thicken into a syrupy paste. It spreads, and clogs whatever orifices it can find while the poison seeps into the bloodstream, and sears itself into the flesh so you can't wipe it clear. I've seen people pull away whole sections of their face when they try to rip it off... It kills within moments, but from what I understand it

is... excruciating.

MARELLA

And... you were going to-... you're-

SIRENA

I told you, Collin isn't leaving this ship. Not under any circumstances.

She pockets the vials.

SIRENA

Come on.

Marella doesn't budge.

SIRENA

(sighs, irritably) What is it now? Going to give me a lecture about the nature of morality? I hope you know he's down there, torturing your friends-

MARELLA

No! It's not that, I just... aren't you going to pack?

SIRENA

... What?

MARELLA

Pack. Your things...

SIRENA

Why?

MARELLA

Well, for when we leave. You're coming with us, aren't you?

SIRENA

... I-... Y-you'd want me to-

MARELLA

I won't just leave you here alone.

beat. Sirena, overwhelmed and unsure of how to respond, avoids Marella's gaze.

SIRENA

... Would you... watch the door? I-

You should have stayed outside, we need to keep a watch.

MARELLA

Of course.

As she steps outside, she hears Sirena take a shaky breath. After a moment, the now muffled sound of rummaging resumes.

For a while, it is the only sound. But then, from down the hall, we catch the distant sound of soft, taunting laughter. Frowning, Marella moves to investigate, and we hear the door to the observatory slide open.

MARELLA

Hello?

SIRENA

(calling) Marella? What are you doing?

MARELLA

(calling back) I thought I heard something!

SIRENA

(on alert) Heard what?

Far down the hallway, something large slithers away.

MARELLA

(realizing) Somebody's out there!

We hear Sirena hastily putting things down.

SIRENA

Wait, wait-

MARELLA

(to herself) ... It's him... (then, making a decision) Okay then.

SIRENA

Marella, where are you?! I said WAIT!
Marella!

But Marella is already moving off down the hall, the door sliding shut behind her.

MARELLA

Is someone there?

Further down the hall, we hear a door slide shut. From behind it, we hear another muffled laugh, as Marella cautiously approaches. She stops in front of it.

MARELLA
(hesitant) Hello?

Marella slowly opens the door.

MARELLA
... Collin?

The utility room is pitch. black. She toggles the light switch, but they do not respond.

MARELLA
... I know you're there.

In the darkness, Collin chuckles.

COLLIN
And yet you came all the same...

MARELLA
It is Collin, isn't it?

COLLIN
Have you come to play?

MARELLA
No... I'm here to make a bargain. What have you done with my crew mates?

Marella moves further into the room.

COLLIN
You've come to steal! But it's too late... (moving away) Nobody left... There's nobody left... Just poor Collin...

MARELLA
No... No, that's not- I know you've taken them, where are they?!

There is a heavy slithering sound and the clicking of Collin's claws as he moves about the room. His voice never seems to come from the same place.

COLLIN
Strange little thing, aren't you? Come

all this way, all alone... I can't tell if you're brave or stupid. Or didn't you have anyone to come with you? Did they leave you all alone?

MARELLA

(becoming uneasy) I-... I'm not alone.
(blurting) They said they were coming back for me...

COLLIN

(sneering) Alone, then. Runt of the little. No friends... No crew... Ah... but then, you have the butcher, don't you. She's killed my friends. I felt them die. All my little precious ones...

MARELLA

(unsettled) They were trying to kill us.

COLLIN

Is that what she told you? Strung you up, and left you to die... And she calls ME a monster.

MARELLA

Sirena's told me what you've done.

COLLIN

I wonder... who will tell you what she's done? Someone ought to have warned you... She's a murderer... Just look at what she's done...

MARELLA

... Come into the light.

COLLIN

And now she's going to try to kill me too...

We hear Collin's voice, now directly behind Marella.

COLLIN

But not if I kill you first.

A clawed hand reaches out of the darkness and wraps around Marella's throat, cutting off her scream. Collin lifts her from the ground and observes her.

COLLIN

My, my! Aren't we are a pretty one...
I can see why she's keeping you.

Marella chokes and struggles in his grasp.

COLLIN

Hush now, little one. You're more than
safe with me. I'll take you to your
precious crew. I do so hate to break
up a matching set!

MARELLA

SIRENA!

COLLIN

(laughs, very softly) That's right.
Draw the slithery little bitch out...
She'll come running after you, and my
darling's will be waiting. What a
wonderful killer's instinct you have!
You're going to make an excellent
addition to the family.

He drags her away, laughing, as Marella continues to scream.

FADE TO:

SCENE THIRTEEN

INT. Collin's Laboratories, The Derelict - DAY

From the hall we hear sounds of struggle. The laboratory door
bursts open and Collin drags Marella in, hurling her to the
floor. There is a light splash and Marella cries out in pain
as she hits the floor, and we hear the hissing of several
crocodiles.

COLLIN

(delighted) Well! The gang's all here!

ASHERAH

Marella!

MATTI

No...

LOIRE

Doctor, are you alright?

SPINNER

Don't let him touch you, Rey!

COLLIN

How sweet, it's a family reunion.
Marvelous. Simply marvelous!

LOIRE

Are you okay, Marella?!

MARELLA

I-... I'm sorry...

COLLIN

Now there's no need for that. No
apologies nor tears. Your re-birthing
is a festive occasion! Evolution is a
gift! Now... let me see...

He grabs Marella who yelps in pain, and studies her.

COLLIN

It's been such a long time since I've
had to work with such a delicate
model... But no matter! We'll find a
fitting form for you yet. Perhaps
something new!

We hear the tell-tale pulsating hum as power begins to surge
into Collin's hands.

COLLIN

Would you like that, my dear?
Something long-boned... swift and
sleek... Something utterly original...
What do you say?

MARELLA

Yes! Finally! Thank you!

The pulsing hum falters. Everyone looks at Marella in
surprise.

LOIRE

(stunned) Marella-

COLLIN

Shut up! (to Marella) ... You WANT me
to change you?

MARELLA

Something utterly original. She said
you could remake me. And I told you...
I came here to bargain.

ASHERAH

Marella!

COLLIN

I said be QUIET!

MARELLA

Make me like you.

SPINNER

(under his breath) Oh my god...

MARELLA

I don't WANT to be like the rest of
them. I don't want to suffer the
mediocrity of their fate. I want to be
made truly beautiful. Change me. But
make me like YOU, Collin.

COLLIN

There's no one like me.

MARELLA

Then teach me.

COLLIN

Ah. (chuckles) You want my gift.

MARELLA

I want a proper education. You KNOW so
much more than you say. Teach me.
You've communed with the Universe
itself, surely you have some scraps of
knowledge you can share with a
colleague?

COLLIN

A colleague?

SPINNER

Have you lost your goddamn mind?!

MARELLA

A student, then. Every master needs
his pupil. Every god, a worshiper. You
want to spread your message, change

the world? Who better than a disciple to spread the gospel.

COLLIN

You're the scientist?

MARELLA

A novice in comparison to you. But I understand. And now that I've seen you... if THIS is what you're truly capable of... Please... let me be a part of it.

COLLIN

And why should I do that?

MARELLA

Because I have NOTHING else. I have dedicated my LIFE to science, I have... I am... nothing else. Do you know what that's like? To have nothing, be nothing but your work? To be alone?

COLLIN

(sneering) Alone? Then why so anxious to get back to your friends?

MARELLA

Who ever said there people were my friends? I came to find you because I knew what you'd do. And I wanted to watch.

SPINNER

(stunned) You fucking-

MARELLA

Ask any of them what they know about me, ask any of them if deep down a single one of them cares what you're about to do to me. They left me with that... woman, knowing full well what was going to happen. They'd sacrifice me in a heartbeat to save their own skins -- I know what I'm worth to them.

LOIRE

I-... Marella-

MARELLA

I had ONE person in this entire nightmare of a trip who meant anything to me, and they killed him! I listened to him die, while they sat back, and they could have saved him, and they did NOTHING. When I was dragged off, begging and screaming, they did NOTHING. I thought I was nothing... But you... You took one lok, and you knew me. I know you must see me? Small as I am? You... could save me. Rescue me from the nothing! And I won't be alone...

... You were alone. Sirena abandoned you. She locked you away down here, like you were nothing, when all you wanted to do was to create something beautiful... something new...

COLLIN

Something worth having.

MARELLA

You want to remake the world, you want to make us beautiful! Make me an original. Teach me everything you know. I could be worth SOMETHING! Let me repay you, and I'll make sure this world winds up just like me -- they will see nothing, be nothing, love nothing but you.

beat. Collin studies her.

COLLIN

Poor lonely child... I pity you. But I'm afraid the wanting isn't enough. How am I ever to know if I can trust you?

MARELLA

Just give me a change to prove myself. Please, I'll do anything.

COLLIN

Hmm... A new life... for a life. It seems a fair exchange. I'd been planning to silence your mouthy little friend, Spinner over there... but our

introduction cut things short. Now I think I've changed my mind. Here. Take this scalpel. Kill him. And I'll bestow on you a natural beauty beyond your wildest dreams.

We hear the scraping of metal on metal as Collin picks up a tool from the nearby lab bench. He hands it to Marella, who falters.

MARELLA

I-... You want me to-

COLLIN

This isn't the time for hesitation, my dear.

MARELLA

... yes... of course.

Slowly, she walks over to the bench where Spinner begins to strain against his bonds.

SPINNER

Oh fuck... Jesus... No, Rey... Don't... Come on! I know we ain't always seen eye to eye, but-... You're not LIKE him!

MATTI

Marella, please!

LOIRE

Marella, stop, DON'T! You're better than this!

COLLIN

Tick, tock, my darling.

SPINNER

(pleading) Rey...

MARELLA

... I can't.

COLLIN

(sighs) Oh, and I was just starting to like you... How... disappointing.

MARELLA

No, I mean I can't believe Sirena's

actually managed to get THIS close to you without you turning around.

COLLIN
(alarmed) What?!

Collin whips around, his tail crashing against the lab equipment as he struggles to turn his bulk. Sirena stands in the doorway, Asherah's handgun aimed at Collin's chest.

SIRENA
Hi Collin. Good to see you again.

She pulls the trigger. BANG! The first bullet slams into Collin's chest and he lets out a cry of mingled pain, surprise and fury. He starts to charge, and Sirena pumps four more bullets into his chest.

Collin crashes to the ground, laughing and wheezing.

COLLIN
You viperous little bitch! You think that's enough to stop me?!

SIRENA
I just needed to get you on my level.

She pulls one of the vials of Tiamat's Tears from her pocket and hurls it at Collin. It shatters against his face. A moment later, we hear Collin's skin beginning to hiss, bubble and liquify as the poison thickens and begins to spread across his face, clogging his mouth and nose. He screams, choking and thrashing as he tries to free himself. The others can only watch in silent horror.

COLLIN
(reaching for her, screaming) Sirena!
Sirena!

SIRENA
(very softly) I told you the next time I saw you, it'd be the last... I warned you.

COLLIN
Please! PLEASE!

SIRENA
I'm sorry...

COLLIN
 (choking, fighting for breath) It
 should have been you... It should...
 have been... you!

SIRENA
 Goodbye, Collin.

Collin, or what's left of him, lets out a strangled gurgle as he spasms. His body jerks, thrashing, then falls still. The bubbling and hissing slowly dies away.

beat.

SIRENA
 (turning to Marella) Are you okay?

MARELLA
 I-... Y-yeah... Sure...

SIRENA
 Are you sure?

MARELLA
 You got here just in time... I wasn't
 sure how much longer I could have kept
 him talking...

Sirena bends down and scoops Collin's keys up off the floor and tosses them to Marella.

SIRENA
 Here. Let's get them out of here.

Marella begins going around and unlocking all of the shackles.

SPINNER
 (stretching) Ah... Jesus Christ...

MATTI
 (nervously) Uh... Should we be worried
 about... a-all of the giant
 crocodiles?

ASHERAH
 (warily) They don't SEEM to be
 attacking.

SIRENA
 Why would they? You just set them

free.

LOIRE
(as Marella unlocks his shackles)
Marella-...

MARELLA
Captain. ... Scared you for a minute
there, didn't I?

LOIRE
Just a little. I-... Are you sure
you're-... What you said... You know
we don't-

MARELLA
I know. It was the only thing I could
think of... So I did my best to make
it sound convincing. Had to keep him
focused, right? I couldn't let him
hurt my friends.

LOIRE
... right.

SPINNER
Not to be "that guy," buuuuuut is
anybody going to explain to me who the
hell the hot post-apocalyptic badass
is?

Marella glances at Sirena, and smiles.

MARELLA
Everyone... This is Sirena.

SIRENA
(smirking) I'm here to join your crew.

FADE TO:

SCENE FOURTEEN

INT. The Bridge, The Tiamat - NIGHT

Loire and Asherah stand together before a console. Kiran,
frowning for once, observes them over a video call.

KIRAN
A wreck? What kind of a wreck?

LOIRE

Some sort of a large ship, possibly another research station. It was hard to tell given all the exterior damage.

KIRAN

And the man you found. The-... creature inside. He was alone?

The entrance to the bridge bursts open and Matti and Spinner come charging into the room, but stop short at the sight of Kiran on the screen.

MATTI

(startled) Kiran!

SPINNER

Aw, shit!

KIRAN

Ah... Matti! Spinner! I wasn't aware we were expecting company... Captain, it seems you would do well to start locking your doors during these meetings.

LOIRE

(tightly) Officer Davit. Officer Coburn. This is a private conference call.

MATTI

Sorry, Captain. We just-

SPINNER

Can we talk to you? It's... uh... it's a little bit of an emergency?

KIRAN

(sharply) If it's only a little bit of an emergency, then I'm sure it can wait. Captain.

MATTI

Captain, PLEASE-

LOIRE

You've been dismissed. I'll be with you in a minute. ... go on.

Spinner and Matti hesitate, then slowly move towards the

door.

LOIRE

Now. I'm sorry, Kiran, you were saying?

KIRAN

The creature on the wreck. Was he the only one? Were there any other survivors?

From the doorway, Spinner makes a quiet but frantic, closed mouth "don't say anything" noise. Loire looks at him.

KIRAN

Captain?

LOIRE

... Asherah. Close the door.

Asherah moves to shut the door.

KIRAN

Well?

LOIRE

... No. There were no other survivors aboard the wreck.

KIRAN

None?

LOIRE

Nothing human, anyway.

ASHERAH

Just him and all his nightmare brood.

KIRAN

You're certain? There was no one else?

LOIRE

I'm certain, sir.

beat.

KIRAN

... well. That's... I see. ... Captain I'd like you to put down roots, and stay where you are.

LOIRE

Sir?

KIRAN

From now on, you stay by the derelict. Continue mapping the area, but I don't want you moving more than 75 clicks in any given direction. From here on out, that wreck is your home base.

ASHERAH

Is that... safe, sir?

KIRAN

You said there was no one else in the vicinity, I can't imagine why it wouldn't be.

ASHERAH

But we don't know why the derelict was wrecked in the first place!

KIRAN

Then I suggest you keep a very good watch. But I want you to set up a new home base here, and I want the area mapped. Have I made myself absolutely, one hundred percent, completely crystal clear Lieutenant?

ASHERAH

... yes sir.

KIRAN

Captain?

LOIRE

We shouldn't be in any immediate danger. If we can pick up any extra information about the wreck-

KIRAN

That won't be necessary. I'm not looking for excess information about an empty metal tub. Just transfer your initial findings to the Syndicate, if anything seems worth looking over again, we'll let you know. ... there's no need to put your crew any further at risk.

LOIRE
... understood sir.

KIRAN
And you're sure you have nothing else
you'd like to tell me?

LOIRE
... like what, sir?

KIRAN
I'm not sure, you tell me.

beat.

LOIRE
No, sir. Nothing I can think of.

KIRAN
Then I'd say we're done here. You and
your people have done good work today!
And you've more than earned yourself a
rest. Take a break. Once you're all
fit and ready to work again, I suggest
you start working on getting those
repairs to your comms room finished
up. I'll be staying in touch.

LOIRE
We look forward to it, sir.

KIRAN
I look forward to reading your
findings, captain. ... Happy sailing.

He cuts the line of communication. Loire and Asherah exchange
a look.

ASHERAH
(calling out) He's gone! You can stop
listening at the door now!

The door to the bridge opens slowly and Matti and Spinner
reluctantly stick their heads into the room.

ASHERAH
You know listening in on conversations
like that is a court marshallable
offense.

MATTI

Sorry.

LOIRE

No you're not.

SPINNER

Yeah, not really.

ASHERAH

Where's Marella?

MATTI

There was... an incident.

LOIRE

(sighing) Hell... What'd Sirena break now?

SPINNER

(gleefully) D.O.C. hopefully! I think there's FINALLY somebody on this rig who hates that stupid hunk of junk more than I do!

LOIRE

You going to tell us what this is all about?

SPINNER

Well, Matti and I were just going through the information we pulled from the other Tiamat's archives...

MATTI

It's WILD how much data is still on there. It's hard to access because the system is so old it's not really compatible with our newer tech, but some of it is starting to come through.

LOIRE

And?

SPINNER

Captain... you're gonna want to see this...

Matti hands Loire a sheet of paper, which he begins to read, Asherah peeking over his shoulder.

LOIRE
... oh my god.

SPINNER
(grimly) Yeah.

LOIRE
(angrily) FUCK! ... Are you sure about this?

SPINNER
Checked it twice.

ASHERAH
What is it?

SPINNER
File's been corrupted. Looks like we're missing about three full names, and some pieces of the others...

ASHERAH
Names?

MATTI
It's the original crew manifest...

LOIRE
(reading) Nori... Dr. Solana Cyra, Dr. Collin Gharial... Sirena... and Kiran Flint.

FADE OUT.

EPILOGUE

INT. Observation Deck, The Tiamat - NIGHT

We hear the door to sick bay slide open. Inside, D.O.C. cowers in a corner, shrieking plaintively.

D.O.C.
Please! Do not strike me! I am here to assist! Please! Do not strike me! I am here to assist!

MARELLA
I'm sorry! I am so SO sorry... It won't happen again! She just doesn't like needles!

Doc continues shrieking as the door slides shut behind Marella. She sighs and runs a hand over her face, then moves down the hall to the observation deck.

She opens the door.

MARELLA

Sirena? ... You in here?

Sirena sits on the floor in front of the huge bay of windows, dutifully hacking away at her hair with a pair of scissors.

SIRENA

Yeah. I'm here.

MARELLA

SIRENA! What are you doing?!

SIRENA

What does it look like I'm doing? I'm cutting my hair.

MARELLA

STOP!

Marella snatches the scissors away, mortified.

MARELLA

It's so beautiful- What would you go and do a thing like that for?!

SIRENA

It's too long. Get's in your face, and it's too easy to grab. It's a liability and a combat hazard.

MARELLA

A combat hazard? (she puts the scissors down on the floor... gently) You're not on the Tiamat anymore. You know that.

SIRENA

Yes I am.

MARELLA

Okay, yes, but you're not- ... Collin's gone. You're safe here.

SIRENA

... I know that. (beat) Your robot

tried to break my leg.

MARELLA

He was TRYING to reset it for you, so that limp of yours can heal.

SIRENA

He was trying to sedate me!

MARELLA

You really want to be awake for something like that?

SIRENA

... He kept poking at me. Prodding. I thought-... It felt like-

MARELLA

I know.

SIRENA

I... I'm sorry...

MARELLA

It's okay. We can try again tomorrow. Only if you'd like.

SIRENA

Yeah. Maybe.

beat.

SIRENA

I uh... have a last name. I mean, I came up with one, since I couldn't-... since I can't... I was looking at a book, and I thought-... I found one that might be nice...

MARELLA

Oh?

SIRENA

It's... Halcyon. Sirena Halcyon. For the things I can't remember... and better days ahead...

MARELLA

Halcyon... (smiles) Hm... Nice to meet you, Sirena Halcyon.

SIRENA

Yeah. Nice to meet me too.

MARELLA

You want me to finish cutting your hair?

SIRENA

I can do it myself!

MARELLA

I know you can. But you don't have to. If you want... I'm here to help.

SIRENA

... okay.

Marella picks up the scissors. She runs a hand through Sirena's hair, and the other woman lets out a soft, almost frightened gasp.

MARELLA

It's okay. It's okay. It's just my hand. Gentle. See?

SIRENA

Yeah. Sorry. I just... it's-... I haven't... I haven't really DONE gentle in...

MARELLA

Yeah... I understand.

She starts cutting Sirena's hair, humming softly in the silence. Sirena goes very very quiet, and then, after a moment, softly begins to cry. Marella hesitates, then puts down the scissors and runs a hand through Sirena's hair again. Sirena leans into the touch, crying. They stay that way.

FADE OUT.

END OF SEASON ONE.