

CLASS

SERIES 1

EPISODE 6

"Detained"

By

PATRICK NESS

SHOOTING SCRIPT

20th July 2016

1 **INT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT X**

1 *

An asteroid shower, huge STONES tumbling through space. We turn through them. It's awe-inspiring.

Find a smaller ONE, tumbling faster than the others, follow it around-

The tell-tale SIZZLE as a rip in space/time starts to open in its path.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
It was the smallest of infractions.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 10; 15:35**

2 *

Quill, coming down the hallway, angry. Charlie behind her, trying to keep up.

QUILL
Honestly, sometimes I think you can't even hear the words you use.

CHARLIE
It was three minutes, at *most*-

QUILL
Late is *late*, Prince.

CHARLIE
With everything we've been through, I hardly think-

Quill stops suddenly, whips round to him.

QUILL
Everything we've been through? You mean the lies? The slavery?

CHARLIE
Punish- You know what? I'm not going to do this anymore.

QUILL
At any moment, you could destroy the species who wiped out our people, yet here we stand.
(leans in)
In a *school*.

CHARLIE
You shouldn't avenge genocide with genocide. That's what the Doctor said.

QUILL
And obviously no one else in all of
time and space can think for
themselves.

Takes off walking again.

CHARLIE
It isn't your decision, Quill.

Reaches Quill's classroom door. She stops, turns to Charlie.

QUILL
No, but detention is.

She opens the door, gestures him inside.

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL. QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 10: 15:36

Charlie steps in, surprised to see April, Ram, Tanya and Matteusz all sitting at desks. They're surprised to see him, too.

CHARLIE
(turning)
Wait a minute. All of us-?

But Quill has shut the door behind him. He reaches for the handle-

She's locked it. He pulls on it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Hey!

QUILL
(through the door)
You've all got an hour's detention,
and I've got things to do. April's
in charge. Obviously.

CHARLIE
You can't just lock us in here!
(turns to the others)
She can't just-
(stops, off their
reactions)
You've already had this argument
with her.

Charlie turns back to the door. Quill smiles through the glass.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
You're sworn to protect me.

QUILL
(through the door)
That's why I'm locking you in. So
you won't come to harm.

CHARLIE
Why? What are you going to do?

She just smiles and turns away, walking down the corridor.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Hey! (on door handle)
Hey!

CUT TO:

4 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 10: 15:37

4 *

We see Charlie through the glass, pounding on the door.

CHARLIE
Hey!

We see him turn inside to look at the others-

As the SIZZLE of the rip in space/time starts opening just out of sight of the door's window.

CUT TO:

5 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL. QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 10: 15:38

5 *

Charlie's hand still on the door knob.

CHARLIE
(slightly panicked)
She can't do this! I can't be
trapped inside something! It's-

April is suddenly next to him... Holding a key.

APRIL
I think she was just trying to be
annoying.

She puts the key in the doorknob.

CHARLIE
She succeeded.

CUT TO:

6 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL. CORRIDOR - DAY 10: 15:39

6 *

The tear in space/time opens. We see DEEP SPACE behind it-

CUT TO:

7 EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT X

7 *

The asteroid nears the tear on its end. We can see the CORRIDOR through it-

CUT TO:

8 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 10; 15:41 8 *

April jiggles the lock and turns the door handle-

APRIL
I didn't know you were
claustrophobic-

She opens the door-

CUT TO:

9 EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT X

9 *

The asteroid HITS the tear. It's bigger, so only a small part of it comes through, but the rest is TORN TO PIECES.

CUT TO:

10 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10

10 *

April and Charlie both call out as the entire classroom feels as if it's knocked to one side.

Tanya, Matteusz and Ram fall from their desks, chairs tumble, shelves empty, the blinds shake. Like an earthquake.

Then silence. And stillness.

CHARLIE
What was that?

APRIL
Earthquake?

RAM
In London?

Tanya glances to the windows, which we don't see yet.

TANYA
What's up with the windows?

Matteusz sits up next to her, looks the opposite way.

MATTEUSZ
What's up with the door?

Slowly they rise. We pull away, out the door, looking at their shocked faces until we pull out completely into-

CUT TO:

11 **EXT. BLACKNESS - NIGHT X/ INT. QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10** 11 *

A vast blank emptiness. The corridor is gone, only endless blackness, up, down, to all sides. They're floating in absolutely nothing. Framed in the door, Charlie and the others look out, shocked.

CHARLIE
Is detention always like this?

We pull out and out and out, until they shrink to a spot of almost nothing...

THEME MUSIC RISES - "Up All Night" by Alex Clare.

TITLES

CUT TO:

11A **EXT. BLACKNESS - NIGHT X/ INT. QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10A** *

The windows are a pinpoint in the blackness. We slowly come in to Tanya, looking out into nothing.

TANYA
This is bad. This is really,
really, really, really bad.

CUT TO:

12 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10** 12 *

Beat as Tanya turns to the rest of them, all looking out of the window.

TANYA
(beat)
Really bad.

RAM
She tried to kill us.
(looks thoughtful)
I'm feeling weirdly pissed off
about that.

APRIL
"Weirdly"?

They exchange a puzzled glance.

CHARLIE
(shaking his head)
She can't. She *has* to protect me.
Any aggressive move and she'll die
herself.

TANYA
(sceptical)
This is that "civilised" punishment
you keep going on about.

MATTEUSZ
She's obviously done *something*. A
loophole?

APRIL
But what *is* this? Where are we?

CHARLIE
(thoughtful)
Maybe it wasn't her.

RAM
(too sharp)
Of course it was!

The others look at him. He realises how loud he was, looks sheepish.

RAM (CONT'D)
(puzzled)
Sorry.

CHARLIE
(to April)
Why did you have the key?

TANYA
She left April in charge.

APRIL
I didn't *want* to be in charge.

MATTEUSZ
No one was in charge. It was a
socialist gathering of equals.

RAM
It's detention, Trotsky.

CHARLIE
Not the point. If she wanted to
trap us here, why would she give
April a key? You all could have
left at any time.

APRIL
Maybe she knew we wouldn't.

RAM
I would've. If Quill wasn't going
to stick around-

TANYA

No, you wouldn't have. You would've stayed like the rest of us.

CHARLIE

Trust me, she wouldn't have left that to chance. I don't think she did this.

MATTEUSZ

So who did?

APRIL

And what is "this" anyway? Is it even real?

Charlie returns to the door, looking out into space.

CHARLIE

It can't be space or we'd be dead.

APRIL

(gasps)

Maybe we're dead!

TANYA

Oh, no, this isn't what heaven looks like, trust me.

They all look at her.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Well, all of you won't be there with me, for one thing.

APRIL

So, what happened? Where are we?

CHARLIE

And how do we get out?

Beat. Beat.

MATTEUSZ

Maybe it's just really good detention.

CUT TO:

13

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10

13 *

Charlie and April sit against the wall under the window, looking at their phones.

APRIL

Nothing, no signal.

CHARLIE

Me, neither.

Ram is at a desk, looking at his phone.

RAM
Who would you call anyway?

They all look up.

RAM (CONT'D)
(off their looks)
I'm not being a dick! I'm just
asking!

Charlie looks back at his phone, can't quite dispute this.

CHARLIE
I've got friends.

RAM
Besides us?

APRIL
(to Ram)
What's with the aggression, Ram?
And anyway, we're enough.
(to Charlie)
We're enough for me.

*

Tanya still looks out the window, trying to figure it out.

TANYA
Was there a sound of a tear
opening?
(to Charlie)
Did you hear one when you opened
the door?

*
*
*
*
*

CHARLIE
(embarrassed)
Maybe. I was more worried about
being locked in a room-

*
*
*

TANYA
So did we get pulled through?

*

Matteusz kneels by Quill's desk, looking at the floor.

MATTEUSZ
Or did something knock us astray?

The others notice how he's looking and come over -

CUT TO:

14 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 14 ***

Just behind Quill's desk, on the floor in front of her chair,
sits a GLOWING SMOKING ASTEROID FRAGMENT.

APRIL
Now, that's interesting.

RAM
Or deadly.
(off their looks)
Yeah, because nothing has tried to
kill us lately.

TANYA
It looks like...

MATTEUSZ
A rock.

RAM
A *deadly* rock.

TANYA
Like an asteroid or something, is
what I was going to say. Remember
when we watched the astrophysics
film?

MATTEUSZ
Oh, yeah. Was very boring.

APRIL
So, are we thinking... radioactive?

Everyone looks at her.

APRIL (CONT'D)
We are doing physics A-level. We're
supposed to know this stuff.

CHARLIE
The tears go through all of space
and time. So maybe something *hit*
the tear as it opened and...
knocked us away.

RAM
If we got hit by a meteor-

TANYA
Asteroid.

RAM
(firm)
When it enters the atmosphere, it
becomes a meteor.

TANYA
(delighted)
You're learning!

RAM
I didn't get into A-Levels by
accident.

TANYA
Then why all the extra help?

RAM
(oddly angry)
Would you get off my back? You're
just like my dad.

TANYA
(pissed off)
What?

APRIL
(suddenly angry, too)
Don't talk to her that way!

RAM
What are you getting pissed off
for?

APRIL
(loudly)
I don't know!

Beat, as they all calm slightly.

APRIL (CONT'D)
(pulling collar)
Is it hot in here?

CHARLIE
(on the fragment)
I think you may be right about the
radiation.

They turn to look. The FRAGMENT is now sizzling the floor
around itself. Everyone steps back.

TANYA
Anyone know the symptoms of
radiation poisoning?

RAM
Agony. Followed by death.

MATTEUSZ
He is right.

CHARLIE
We've got to get out of here.

APRIL
To where? We're hanging in nowhere.
It's not even space.

They look out the doorway to the blackness.

TANYA
And it's not Shadow? Can you still
feel that?

APRIL
A little. But Shadow feels
different, alive. This looks-

*

*
*

*

MATTEUSZ
Like nothing. Like nothing at all.

CHARLIE
(flexing his fists)
Anyone else feel like it's closing
in on them?
(off their looks)
No? Just me?

RAM
What about the radiation? I don't
especially want to die here with
you lot.

TANYA
(frustrated)
Maybe we're not even trapped. Maybe
it's one of those things where we
only *think* we're in a box, but if
we just walked out the doorway,
we'd be fine.

Beat. No one clearly willing to risk it. Matteusz takes action.

MATTEUSZ
Two birds with one stone.

He reaches down to pick up the asteroid fragment-

CHARLIE
No!

Matteusz turns to throw it out the still-open door, brings his arm back...

And stops.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Matteusz? Matteusz! Drop it! Put it
down!

He reaches out to take the fragment from Matteusz, but Matteusz starts to speak-

MATTEUSZ
(surprised)
I'm in Poland.

This stops everyone.

RAM
(out the window)
Is... this what Poland looks like?

CHARLIE
Matteusz, are you-

Matteusz speaks as if he's seeing something else.

MATTEUSZ
I am in Poland. I am here with my
father. We're visiting my babcia.
We're...

He turns to them, confused.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
It's her birthday. This is last
year. This is only last year. And
she takes me aside, and she says,
"Tell me the truth, Matty. Tell me
the truth."

APRIL
What's going on?

CHARLIE
Matteusz, put down the asteroid-

RAM
Meteor.

Mattuesz looks up at Charlie, his eyes foggy, frightened.

MATTEUSZ
(to Charlie)
I am afraid of you.

CHARLIE
...what?

MATTEUSZ
That is the truth. I love you. I
think of you all the time. My heart
sometimes breaks for just the
thinking of you but... I am also
afraid of you.

CHARLIE
Afraid of me?

APRIL
Matteusz, what are you doing?

MATTEUSZ
(still on Charlie)
You look human. You are human all
over-

TANYA
(under her breath)
I knew it.

MATTEUSZ
But inside you are not human at
all.

Charlie is stung by this, hurt.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
And I am afraid of who you are. Of what you're capable of. Of what you will do.

CHARLIE
(emotional)
I'd never hurt you.

MATTEUSZ
(still foggy)
You'd never mean to. But you would.
(swallows)
You will. If it came to the choice.
If you had to choose... You would not choose me.

Calls out as April, with a BOOK, knocks the fragment out of his hand.

They all watch as it tumbles to the ground, bouncing once, twice, heading for the nothingness beyond the door-

When it hits the plane where it should bounce out, it seems to weirdly bounce RIGHT BACK IN, like a reflection on a mirror.

It tumbles to a stop at their feet. They all look at it, very warily.

APRIL
That's new.

CUT TO:

15 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 15 ***

They're gathered around, looking at Matteusz' hand. Which is fine.

MATTEUSZ
It's not burnt. It didn't even feel hot when I picked it up.

APRIL
So what happened?

TANYA
Yeah, you said you were back in Poland?

MATTEUSZ
A memory. But so much more. So clear. I could see them.
(glances at Charlie)
Was day I told my grandmother about who I was. She knew, of course, grandmothers always do, but she wanted to hear it from me.

He looks at Charlie; they're both still pained.

APRIL
And then what?

MATTEUSZ
It was like... the truth came
clear. And had to be said.

APRIL
(off Charlie's hurt)
I'm not sure you had to.

MATTEUSZ
(to her)
No, I did. That's what I mean. I
couldn't stop.
(to Charlie)
I wanted to, but there it was,
being said. But it's only *part* of
the truth. The most fearful part,
the *angriest* part. It's only-

CHARLIE
(hurt, getting up)
No, I understand.

MATTEUSZ
(getting up)
Charlie-

Matteusz follows him to the other side of the room. April, Tanya and Ram watch them go.

APRIL
(sceptical)
So it's an asteroid of truth?

RAM
Meteor of truth.

APRIL
(snapping)
Yes, all right, we heard you, Ram.

TANYA
That's not possible, though. Rocks
don't make you tell the truth.

APRIL
They don't knock you out into
nothingness either.

RAM
(still annoyed)
Yeah, but it's tears in space and
time? Maybe we got knocked out of
both.

They look at him, blankly.

RAM (CONT'D)
Stop looking at me like that.
Athletes can have brains.

TANYA
No, that's not what I'm thinking about.

APRIL
What are you thinking about?

Tanya stands, looks out the window again.

TANYA
I'm thinking about how we get knocked back *in* again.

CUT TO:

16 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NEAR THE DOOR - NIGHT 106 ***

Matteusz and Charlie look out the still-open door.

MATTEUSZ
I am not really afraid of you.

Charlie turns to him, with a sad smile.

CHARLIE
I'll believe you if you want me to.
I really will.

MATTEUSZ
Charlie-

CHARLIE
If that's what you need, I'll do my best.

MATTEUSZ
It was the stone-

CHARLIE
It was the truth.

Matteusz doesn't have an answer. He holds out a hand to Charlie. Charlie doesn't take it.

MATTEUSZ
I'm not afraid of you now. I'm not afraid of you when we're together.

CHARLIE
(still sad smile)
Just the rest of the time?

Matteusz looks at him firmly.

MATTEUSZ
Don't you fear for what you love?

CHARLIE
For it. Not of it.

MATTEUSZ
You are different. We are
different. Show me one person who
knows how to do what we're doing?

CHARLIE
(really sad now)
I thought we were finding a way.

He gets up and moves away from him. Matteusz lets him go.

CUT TO:

17 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM- UNDER THE WINDOW- NIGHT 170 *

Tanya paces back and forth, looking out the windows. April
sits on the floor, back against the wall under the window
again, watching Ram play a game of keepy-uppy with a rolled-
up ball of paper. He accidentally kicks it away.

Frustrated, he kicks a desk with his alien leg, pushing it
away. *

APRIL
Does it hurt? The alien leg? When
you do something like that?

RAM
(irritable)
Yes, it hurts when I do something
like that. It does everything a
normal leg does.

APRIL
(whoa)
I'm just asking...

RAM
(baffled by his mood)
I know, I know. God, I'm so...
(makes urrgh sound of
anger, calms to more
forlorn)
It's the fact that it's a normal
leg. That's the problem. Because
footballers aren't *normal*. You
can't be great and normal.

APRIL
Yes, you can.

RAM
(muted, hurting)
Nah, that's just happy clappy stuff
teachers want you to believe. The
world is like this.
(holds out hands level)
This is everybody and up here-
(moves hand along
invisible curve)
(MORE)

RAM (CONT'D)

These are the talented. These are the people who excel.

APRIL

And that's who you want to be?

RAM

No, that's who I was. Who I want to be was up here-

(raises hand even higher)

These are the last little percent. The people who are better than the best. The people who aren't even a little bit normal.

He kicks the little ball of paper again, bitterly.

APRIL

Some people are grateful for so-called "normal."

RAM

Like who?

APRIL

My mum was in a wheelchair for eight years.

RAM

Yeah, but she's not anymore, is she?

APRIL

(cross)

Whoa! Why are you being such a dick?

He pauses, pained-looking. Sits down next to her in frustration, very confused about his mood.

*

RAM

(baffled)

I really don't know. I mean, besides the being trapped thing.

They stare into the classroom, surprised at their grumpiness. Then:

APRIL

I never told you how glad I was you came after me. Through the tear. To a whole other planet.

RAM

(more quietly)

No problem. You couldn't have saved the world otherwise.

APRIL

I guess not.

Long beat.

RAM
How are things with your mum?

APRIL
(glances at Ram)
She looks at me funny when she
doesn't think I can see her.

Ram glances over to Matteusz.

RAM
You think it's like what he said
about Charlie? Like she's afraid of
you?

APRIL
Wouldn't you be?

RAM
I saw you slaughter a bunch of huge
aliens with swords growing out of
your hands and I'm not afraid of
you. I might be more open-minded
than I thought.

APRIL
I think you always were.

RAM
She'll come round. She loves you.

The way he's looking at her clearly means he loves her, too,
though he knows she doesn't want him to say it.

APRIL
Yeah, but I'm different now.
Different than the daughter she
knew.

RAM
Doesn't that happen to all
daughters? And sons?

APRIL
Oh, don't get all wise on me. She
said it was a violent thing I did
to her.

RAM
"Violent"?

APRIL
Yeah, and she's right.

RAM
But you healed her. She can walk
again.

APRIL
Not quite yet. But getting there.
And I'm sure if we'd talked about
it-

RAM
Talked about whether she wanted to
be healed from a wheelchair?!

APRIL
She'd accepted it, Ram. She'd built
a life and identity around it. And
without asking, I just reached in
and gave her a new one.
(off Ram's leg)
You know what that's like.

Ram rubs his leg.

RAM
Not quite the same.

APRIL
Close enough. She's grateful. But I
changed her. Violently. And so of
course she's going to look at me
like she's afraid.

RAM
(again)
You asked me to not be afraid of
you. And I'm not.

He picks up her hand and kisses it. Her expression is
ambiguous.

RAM (CONT'D)
(frowns)
Still kinda pissed off, though.

APRIL
(frowns, too)
Me, too.

Tanya notices this, seems to figure something out. *

TANYA
(to herself)
Me, too.
(turns like she's made a
decision)
Let's have a look at that meteor.

She heads towards Quill's desk.

CUT TO:

18 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 18 *

Tanya approaches the rock, still where it bounced back
inside. They regard it for a moment, April and Ram joining
her, as well as Charlie and Matteusz.

TANYA
Okay, let's think this through.
Stones don't make you tell the
truth-

*

MATTEUSZ
(protesting)
I didn't do that on purpose-

TANYA
(stopping him)
I believe you, so that means...

She leaves the question open. No one answers. And still.

APRIL
Oh! You want us to help.

MATTEUSZ
It means it's not a stone.

CHARLIE
Or not *just* a stone.

TANYA
Correct. So what is it?

*

RAM
Alien?

APRIL
Some unknown material? Something
stuck to it?

RAM
Something *alien* stuck to it?

CHARLIE
An energy?

MATTEUSZ
Telepathy?

RAM
(to Tanya)
Just stop us when we get it right.

TANYA
I don't know. And that's the
problem, isn't it? We're stuck here
and we don't have enough
information.

MATTEUSZ
But Miss Quill will surely have to
come back-

RAM
And you'd count on her saving us,
would you?

CHARLIE
She *has* to save me.
(looks uncomfortably
claustrophobic and
sweaty)
And any time soon would be really
nice.

TANYA
We don't know that she will. We
don't know if we're being poisoned
by radiation. And really, aren't
you all feeling a little angry when
you should be feeling scared?

They look at each other, surprised. This is true.

TANYA (CONT'D)
If it spoke to or through Matteusz,
maybe it can tell us something. So-

*

She reaches down quickly and before the others can stop her,
she PICKS UP THE ROCK.

The others gasp.

APRIL
What are you doing?

RAM
Tanya!

He moves to knock it out of her hand-

TANYA
Wait!

He stops. The others watch her. Tanya is clearly seeing
something that's not there.

TANYA (CONT'D)
I'm being yelled at.

RAM
(lowering his voice
suddenly)
I wasn't yelling.

TANYA
Not by you. My mum.

MATTEUSZ
(stepping forward)
Yes, like me. Like a memory but you
are there.

TANYA
I was little and stole some sweets
from the off-liscence. I tried to
pretend I didn't know it was wrong,
but she sat me down and said, "Tell
me the truth..."

*

MATTEUSZ
And you did.

TANYA
(blinks, looks at the
others)
You guys aren't really my friends.

APRIL
(surprised)
What?

TANYA
(subdued)
You only tolerate me. You look at
me like a little sister or a baby-

RAM
No, we don't-

TANYA
(subdued still)
That's how it feels. That's the
truth. I'm telling you the truth-

APRIL
Put down the rock and I'll tell you
what the *real* truth is-

Tanya struggles, like she's fighting the truth-telling. She
seems to snap out of it, gets herself back on track.

TANYA
No, I'm doing this for a reason.
Ask me a question!

No one does.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Somebody ask me something!

CHARLIE
About what?

TANYA
About the rock, alien boy! God, you
keep saying you're this prince, but
all you do is stand around and ask
stupid questions and get obvious
things wrong!

CHARLIE
(hurt)
Hey.

APRIL
(getting it)
Is the rock dangerous?

TANYA
("at last")
Yes. Yes, it's dangerous.
(MORE)

TANYA (CONT'D)
If you hold it too long, it fries
your brain, our chemistry can't
handle it-

RAM
Then let it go!

TANYA
Not yet, ask me again. Make me tell
you the truth.

MATTEUSZ
What is it? Is it alien?

TANYA
(struggling)
It's... a kind of intelligence-

RAM
Told you it was alien.

TANYA
But not quite. Something
incorporated on the asteroid-

Her eyes suddenly widen in terror.

TANYA (CONT'D)
A prisoner-

Drops the rock, very scared. Beat of silence.

APRIL
A prisoner?

CHARLIE
What did you mean, "prisoner"?

Tanya, frightened, looks up at them all.

TANYA
There's someone in here with us.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 19 ***

They're all at the back now, keeping a distance from the rock, sneaking looks at it, all except Tanya, who's upset.

TANYA
(to Charlie)
I'm sorry. I didn't mean it.

CHARLIE
(it's not)
It's okay.

RAM
I thought you said it was the truth.

APRIL
Ram!

MATTEUSZ
That's what I meant. You don't want to say it, but you do. You can't help it.

CHARLIE
(uncomfortable)
Does everybody feel that way?

APRIL
(quickly)
No-

CHARLIE
I thought I was fitting in-

APRIL
You are.

RAM
(sceptical)
Well, kinda.

APRIL
(to Tanya)
And you. We don't just tolerate you.

TANYA
(quietly)
That's how it feels. Sometimes.
That's the part that's true.

APRIL
I'm so sorry.

TANYA
That's what I mean. You don't need to apologise to me. You don't need to make a special case because I'm younger.

APRIL
I'm not. I'm apologising because you're a *friend*.
(annoyed)
And friends *listen* to each other.

Tanya is uncomfortable, doesn't answer. Awkward beat.

RAM
(to Tanya)
Why did you even pick it up?

TANYA
If there's something in there that makes you tell the truth, maybe we could force it to tell us the truth of where we are.

MATTEUSZ
And how to get out of here. Clever.

RAM
Stupid. It could have killed you.

TANYA
It didn't kill Matteusz.

RAM
And the brain-frying?

TANYA
Well, I didn't know *that* part...

APRIL
If we could get back to the whole prisoner thing-

TANYA
I don't know. And I don't know where it came from except obviously through a rift.

MATTEUSZ
A rift opened on a kind of prison?
In space somewhere?

CHARLIE
In an asteroid field, maybe?
(nervous)
Or is that obvious and I just don't know?

APRIL
How bad would you have to be to be put in a prison in space?

They all look back at the rock again, worried.

RAM
And if it's here now, does that mean the prisoner has escaped?

This makes them even more worried, but Tanya looks thoughtful on the word "escaped".

CUT TO:

20 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 20 *

Matteusz approaches a forlorn Charlie.

MATTEUSZ
Are you okay?

CHARLIE
(no)
Why wouldn't I be? I'm trapped in a confined space which is making my heart beat nearly twice as fast as normal, you're afraid of me, and everyone else thinks I act like a Prince asking stupid questions.

MATTEUSZ
They don't. That was Tanya being angry.

CHARLIE
But it was the truth.

MATTEUSZ
Of the *moment*. Sometimes truth lasts forever. But sometimes it's just a flash and then it changes.

CHARLIE
(unconvinced)
So the truth that you love me might change at any moment?

MATTEUSZ
Charlie-

CHARLIE
No, I didn't mean that. Just feeling sorry for myself.
(sad beat)
I thought I'd fit in pretty well.
(looks around)
I thought I'd made friends.

MATTEUSZ
You have. You *do*.

CHARLIE
I'm still an outcast-

MATTEUSZ
(laughing)
We are all outcasts, one way or another. All of us.

Charlie is unconvinced.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
So, okay, back when I am learning English, yes? Trying to get enough so I fit into this country, and for this, I read in your language. And the best books for this are for kids and my religious mother, she hears that there are these books about a place called Narnia.

CHARLIE
Narnia? Is that... Canada?

MATTEUSZ
(shrugs)
Who knows? But they're about these
kids who go to this Narnia and
they... I don't know, have
adventures. With goats and witches.

Charlie looks perplexed.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
Not important to this story. But
there's this one girl called Susan
and all the time I'm reading these
books, I'm thinking, "This author
really, really hates Susan" because
for one thing, she doesn't get to
go to heaven because she wears make-
up-

CHARLIE
(horrified)
What are these books *about*?

MATTEUSZ
But the other thing is that she
overhears a friend talking about
her when she shouldn't. And the
friend says not nice things. And
it's a moment of weakness for the
friend, but the friendship is
ruined forever.

(turning to him)
Do you never complain about your
friends? Do you never *once* complain
about me? Even in the privacy of
your head?

Charlie is slightly crushed.

CHARLIE
No. That's the thing. I actually
never do.

Charlie stands to get away from him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(agitated)
I need to get out of here.

MATTEUSZ
(trying to stop him)
Charlie-

CHARLIE
(leaving)
It's okay. I won't be a Susan.

But Matteusz is worried.

CUT TO:

21 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM- UNDER THE WINDOW- NIGHT** 210 *

Charlie approaches Ram and April, who are listening with disbelief at something Tanya is saying.

TANYA

But I can't do it again. The brain-frying, remember?

RAM

Yeah, I'm pretty clear on the brain-frying. That's why I have this look on my face.

CHARLIE

You're not seriously thinking about picking it up again?

TANYA

Not me. One of you.

They look at her again, shocked.

TANYA (CONT'D)

You can do it for a few seconds, it won't hurt you before that.

APRIL

Are you sure about that?

TANYA

(not really)

Pretty sure.

Matteusz joins them.

MATTEUSZ

I think she is right. I didn't feel harm at first.

APRIL

But eventually.

TANYA

How else are we going to get out of here?

CHARLIE

Why do you think it knows anyway? If it's a prisoner, it'd have been locked away.

RAM

Not much to see from jail.

TANYA
Yeah, I know.

She looks out the windows.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Don't you think the view probably
looked a lot like *this*?

CUT TO:

22 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DOOR OUT INTO NOTHING 22 *
NIGHT 10 *

They're gathered at the door, staring out into blackness.

TANYA
Even if you open the doors, there's
no escape at all. No light, no
sound, nothing. Just nothing.

Charlie sticks his hand through the plane of the door-

A REFLECTED HAND comes out the plane next to him-

He pulls his hand back quickly. The other retracts. This is
the claustrophobic's worst nightmare. No escape. He gets a
panicked look.

RAM
Whoa.

APRIL
(getting it)
It brought its prison with it.

TANYA
And took us along for the ride.

MATTEUSZ
It's still a prisoner, though.

RAM
Yeah, if it knew how to escape, it
wouldn't be here.

TANYA
But it'll know *about* the prison.
It'll know who put it there. It
might know something we can use.
(unsure)
Besides, I... got the feeling
something else might be going on.

CHARLIE
How do we know it just doesn't want
to use *us*?

TANYA
Oh, it wants that, too.

MATTEUSZ

Yes, I felt this. It's probing us.

TANYA

But that's a two-way street.

(to the others)

It answered my question. We just need to ask it more. Ask it the right ones.

APRIL

It's too dangerous.

RAM

So is starving to death.

CHARLIE

And being trapped in a room.

TANYA

(off April, Ram and Charlie)

The way I see it is we've got three more chances to find out something we can use. I felt like it learned something from me. I think it knows me and Matteusz now and would kill us before we got anything out of it.

RAM

You're really making me want to pick up that rock.

TANYA

It's a *prison*, Ram. We can't get out.

APRIL

I think Charlie's right, though-

CHARLIE

Thank you. About what?

APRIL

Quill *has* to rescue you. She'll come back to the classroom at some point and-

RAM

(angry again)

And find *what*? What does she see when she opens that door?

MATTEUSZ

That we're gone?

TANYA

Yeah. Are we even on earth anymore?

CHARLIE
(putting it together)
And does that mean she suddenly
lives in a world where I no longer
need to be protected?

APRIL
Oh. Crap.

RAM
(not getting it)
Meaning?

CHARLIE
Meaning she won't exactly be
motivated to save us, will she?

TANYA
Why would she? She's no longer a
slave.

Charlie doesn't correct her. The others look at one another
until finally-

RAM
Fine. I'll do it. I got no secrets
I'm ashamed of.

CUT TO:

23 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 23 *

They stand around the fragment, Ram prepping himself to pick
it up. He's nervous.

RAM
(to Tanya)
You know what you're going to ask?

She nods.

RAM (CONT'D)
Ask me if we're really your
friends. I'll tell you the truth-

TANYA
Ram-

RAM
I'm the coolest guy in this school.
Do you really think I'd hang around
you geeks if I didn't actually *like*
you?

Charlie doesn't believe this, looks down. Matteusz sees him.

April holds a book, ready to hit Ram.

APRIL
(to Ram)
Be careful.

RAM
I don't even know how I would be in
this situation. Just, don't let my
brain get fried. I kind of like it.

TANYA
Ready?

Ram huffs and puffs like he's getting ready to take a big football shot.

RAM
Ready.

He takes a last breath-

And picks up the fragment-

TANYA
(immediately)
Who are you?

Ram doesn't answer.

APRIL
(worried)
Ram?

RAM
This is weird.

MATTEUSZ
What are you seeing?

RAM
My back garden. I asked my dad if I
could tell him what happened to my
leg.

APRIL
The truth.

Ram looks over at her.

RAM
I love you more than you love me.
More than you'll ever be able to
love me.

APRIL
(severely uncomfortable)
Ram-

RAM
I didn't expect it. I didn't ask
for it.
(MORE)

RAM (CONT'D)
But I look at you and I think,
"she's the one." And I don't know
why, but you are.

TANYA
I want to know who the prisoner is-

RAM
(to April, suddenly sad)
And you don't think the same back.

APRIL
Ram, you don't know that-

RAM
That's how it feels.

TANYA
(louder)
Who's making Ram say this? Who's in
there?

Ram looks at her, hard. He frowns.

RAM
(whispers)
Oh, no.

Collapses.

CUT TO:

24 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 24 ***

Ram opens his eyes.

RAM
What happened?

TANYA
You tell us.

Ram sits up, unnerved. He looks at them, worried.

RAM
It *is* a prison. The whole meteor
field-

CHARLIE
(correcting)
Asteroid.

Everyone looks at him. He's clearly still struggling with the
claustrophobia.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Not the time or place, sorry.

RAM
Every rock has the consciousness of
prisoners bound to it.

MATTEUSZ
And one got knocked into ours.

RAM
(nodding)
He... I think it's a he.

TANYA
Felt like a "he" to me.

RAM
He's a murderer. He took lives over
and over and over again. That's why
he was put in this prison. With
four others.

Looks up as they see the resemblance to their group.

CHARLIE
Do you know the species?

RAM
That's the thing. They've been out
here so long, they've forgotten.
Tens of thousands of years.

APRIL
How do you know this? We didn't ask
you, you didn't say-

RAM
He told me.
(looks at her)
That's why we tell the truth.
(to the others)
He was made to. Forced to. And
that's all he's got left after so
long.

TANYA
His confession...

CHARLIE
But what does he gain from it? And
why did he try to kill you?

RAM
(not sure)
I felt like it was something to do
with the strength of my confession.
But I do know this.
(looks up)
The prison stirs you up, makes you
angry. Angry enough to kill.
(beat)
He killed the other four. He killed
them all.

*
*
*

Beat at the silence. April looks away from Ram. Tanya looks at the rock, thoughtful.

CUT TO:

25 **INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM- UNDER THE WINDOW- NIGHT 250 ***

Tanya still looks at the rock, obviously trying to think. April joins her, sitting down next to her.

APRIL
What are you thinking?

TANYA
I'm wondering what we can give him?

APRIL
Give him? He wants to kill us-

TANYA
So he'll give us what we want. He can't kill us right away. We can use that-

APRIL
He's a prisoner. He won't have a key. He can't even remember who he is.

TANYA
(impatient)
But he knows what his prison is like. He knows the boundaries of it. I mean, where are we exactly? Are we in the asteroid field with him? Are we still in Coal Hill, just... trapped?

APRIL
Well, maybe we're wrong. Maybe it will be as simple as Quill coming back and-

TANYA
(shakes her head, quietly angry)
White people.

APRIL
(stung)
White people what?

TANYA
Always so optimistic. Always so sure things are going to work out for you. Because they usually do.

APRIL
(angry, too)
My dad tried to kill me when I was eight.

TANYA

But you got your mum up walking again. Typical white person happy ending.

APRIL

Tanya!

TANYA

No, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. God, I'm in a bad mood.

APRIL

Tell me about it.

TANYA

It's just... I'm not overflowing with friends here. Yet another reason to feel left out.

APRIL

We don't just tolerate you, you know.

TANYA

I'm three years younger than you and Ram and Matteusz and probably Charlie, though who even knows what he is in earth years? And there's a big difference between fourteen and seventeen-

APRIL

Not so much-

TANYA

I'm smarter than all of you-

APRIL

Hey! ...well, okay, fair enough.

TANYA

I'm the only one here not making kissy-face with someone else here-

APRIL

It's not kissy-face-

TANYA

I've been a kid sister all my life. When do I get to stop and just be a person?

APRIL

(impatient herself)

I think you're a person-

TANYA

Yeah, and now you've had to come over here and tell me that, which makes me feel even more different.

APRIL
(snapping)
Christ, Tanya, you don't think
Charlie feels different? Or
Matteusz? He got kicked out by his
own parents. Ram lost his leg. I'm
sharing a heart. Everybody's got
something.

TANYA
Don't explain my own feelings to
me. And don't pretend you know how
this feels.

APRIL
Tanya-

But Tanya gets up. The others (at desks) look at her.

TANYA
We need someone else to hold it.
Charlie or April.

RAM
And we all just do what you say
now, do we?

TANYA
Don't see anyone else picking up
the mantle.

MATTEUSZ
A mantle which has managed to
insult a number of us.

TANYA
(defiant)
Sometimes action isn't pretty, you
big Polish giraffe.

MATTEUSZ
(snapping)
That isn't even a logical insult.

APRIL
We shouldn't fight each other.

RAM
Who else are we going to fight?

MATTEUSZ
Giraffes have very long necks! I am
perfectly normally proportioned!

RAM
Are we getting things off our chest
now? Because I've got a few
opinions I'd be happy to share.

APRIL
I think you already got a few
things off your chest.

RAM
(embarrassed but fronting)
I'm not ashamed of that. I'm not
ashamed of what I said.

TANYA
Me neither. It was the truth.

CHARLIE
(tensing up)
Hey! Come on. This isn't normal.
This isn't us.
(tensing up more)
We fought things together. We saved
things *together*. We can do it
again.

But none of the others seem too convinced. Beat. Charlie
starts to breathe heavily.

MATTEUSZ
I think we may be getting the
prisoner's anger, too.

APRIL
(controlled anger)
That would explain a few things.

TANYA
I *am* feeling pretty pissed off.

RAM
Me, too.

MATTEUSZ
Me, too.

They look at him, as his relative calm.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
Stoic doesn't mean unemotional, it
means *privately* emotional.
(beat)
So there.

Charlie starts to hyperventilate. They stare at him for a
moment, then Matteusz goes to him.

CHARLIE
(gasping)
It's okay...

MATTEUSZ
Really?

CHARLIE
No, I was lying.
(grabs chest)
My heart-

Matteusz embraces him, holds his head, strokes his hair.

MATTEUSZ
It's okay. It's okay.

CHARLIE
I feel like... I think I'm dying-

The others look on, horrified. Matteusz talks into Charlie's hair.

MATTEUSZ
No. I know this. This is a panic attack.

CHARLIE
A what?

MATTEUSZ
An attack of panic.

CHARLIE
(gasps, "that doesn't help")
Oh.

MATTEUSZ
It will pass. It feels like death.
It is not.

Slowly, slowly, Charlie calms. He looks sheepishly at the others.

CHARLIE
I'm having real trouble being trapped in a confined space.

April suddenly looks decisive.

APRIL
Okay.

RAM
Okay what?

April stands, moves to the rock.

APRIL
We're either going to kill each other from rage or Charlie is going to have a heart attack. I'm picking up the rock.

Moves with intent. She stops, looks back angrily.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Isn't anyone going to try and stop me?

Nope.

CUT TO:

26 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 26 *

April prepares herself, looks at the others, reaches down, grabs the fragment-

GASPS.

APRIL
Oh, my God-

A sibilant, terrifying VOICE suddenly seeps into the room-

VOICE (O.S.)
...Confess...

The others stand, jolted.

CHARLIE
That didn't happen before.

RAM
It's him. It's the voice I heard in
my head.

TANYA
I didn't hear a voice.

MATTEUSZ
Nor me. Is he getting stronger?

RAM
(eyes on April)
April?

He moves to her, reaches out-

APRIL
Don't!

VOICE (O.S.)
...Confess...

Sudden angry tears roll down April's face.

APRIL
It's when I had to testify against
my dad after the accident. I had to
tell the truth about how he drove
off the road on purpose, how he...

She clamps her mouth shut, but then-

APRIL (CONT'D)
He wants me to speak. Before he'll
tell us anything. He wants me to-
(to Ram)
I don't love you as much as you
love me.

Ram reacts as if slapped.

APRIL (CONT'D)
I don't trust how fast you've
fallen. I don't trust that it'll
last.

RAM
It will, I promise-

APRIL
I don't believe you, but it's not
just that. I worry that I'll never
feel for you as strongly as you
feel for me.

RAM
(crushed)
April-

April gasps again-

TANYA
Let her go!

She picks up a book to slap the fragment away.

APRIL
No, don't! He's got his confession.
Ask something!

TANYA
(beat, leaps in)
Where are we?

VOICE (O.S.)
Here. And nowhere.

Tanya angrily raises the book.

TANYA
Not an answer!

VOICE (O.S.)
You are in no-time. No-space.

Tanya hesitates.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(growing louder)
You will not escape-
(louder to hysteria)
YOU WILL NOT-

It stops suddenly as Charlie steps in and knocks the rock away. April collapses and he catches her, laying her down.

CHARLIE
April? April!

APRIL
I'm... here. I'm okay...
(confused, sits up)
(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

It was the heart. He wasn't expecting Shadow Kin blood in my veins.

MATTEUSZ

Do you know what he meant? "No-time"?

APRIL

(nods, recovering)

We've been taken out of time. We won't age. We won't need to eat. But we'll be here forever.

(looks up)

They were still-living consciousnesses..es.

(frowns)

Put into a prison where guilt was a weapon. The worse their guilt, the stronger the confession. And that's the thing. The pain our confessions cause?

(glances at Ram and away)

That'll only get stronger. And stronger... They used theirs to obliterate each other.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

TANYA

(thinking)

So... there's no release but death and the guiltiest kills the rest?

APRIL

Shortening their sentences of the least guilty on up. Their idea of mercy.

TANYA

And the guiltiest doomed to live forever.

Everyone looks at the other people they're trapped here with quite uncomfortably. Charlie breaks the silence.

CHARLIE

Did he have any thoughts on a way out?

APRIL

He wants us to start killing each other. That's the only way out he knows.

*

MATTEUSZ

He wants us to confess each other to death?

*
*
*

CUT TO:

27 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 27 *

The group sit together, but not too close. There are fractures in them now. No one looks at each other while they speak. Ram is especially withdrawn.

TANYA

We have one more chance. Charlie hasn't picked up the stone yet.

MATTEUSZ

And he is not going to.

CHARLIE

That's my decision. Not yours.

MATTEUSZ

Yes, I hear quite a lot from you about the decisions you own. But what would even be the point?

CHARLIE

I'm not human on the inside. He stopped at April's heart. Maybe a Rhodian might throw him, at least for long enough to get more information. Something useful.

MATTEUSZ

Or it might make it easier for him to kill you.

RAM

He'd force Charlie to tell the truth, though. That way he'd feel as stupid as the rest of us.

APRIL

Ram-

RAM

Not talking about it.

APRIL

But-

RAM

I said, no.

Gets up, walks off in a bit of a huff.

TANYA

Okay, question one-

RAM

(still walking off)
Oh, good, we're back in class.

TANYA

(unruffled)
Question one. Was the prisoner lying?

APRIL
I didn't feel like he could.

MATTEUSZ
I didn't either.

TANYA
Me neither. That's the whole point
of the confession, but question two-

RAM
(from the other side of
the room)
Seriously! So much fun!

TANYA
Is he saying what's true or what he
feels to be true?

CHARLIE
In this case, there isn't much
difference.

MATTEUSZ
Not so. Tanya fears we don't like
her. But we do. That is subjective
rather than objective truth.

APRIL
There's no such thing as objective
truth about what you feel.

RAM
(from the back)
Yes, there is!

CHARLIE
So is the prisoner objectively
right about there being no way out
or is it a subjective feeling that
he has? A belief that's kept him
going.

TANYA
We won't know unless we ask him.

MATTEUSZ
If even then. Truth is slippery. I
have seen belief mistaken for
truth. The consequences can be very
bad.

TANYA
So then question 3. When do we
start killing each other?

APRIL
And who'll be the last one
standing?

RAM
(from the far end)
I will!

April's had enough. Gets up to go over to him.

CHARLIE
(thoughtful, to Matteusz)
What you said earlier... That maybe
we're getting his anger.

TANYA
I agree. Can't you feel it? It's
all I can do not to yell at
everyone.

CHARLIE
Hasn't stopped the insults, though.

TANYA
(shrugging)
Perfect people are boring.

CHARLIE
I don't feel angry, though. I feel
hugely stressed about being trapped
in a space we can't leave, but I'm
not especially angry.

TANYA
(considering)
That's true, isn't it? Why are you
different?

CHARLIE
It's probably not because I'm a
Prince.

TANYA
A human Prince, anyway.

CHARLIE
Exactly. Whatever he's doing, it
seems like it affects Rhodians
differently.

MATTEUSZ
I don't like where this is going.
He's getting stronger. He's feeding
on our confessions somehow-

CHARLIE
(ignoring him)
But he might not be able to feed on
mine.

MATTEUSZ
That is a very big "might".

TANYA
But you should always take a remote
chance over a non-existent one.

CHARLIE

Yes.

MATTEUSZ

I do not *want* you to pick up the stone, Charlie.

CHARLIE

(stressed now)

So I can stay the stupid Prince forever? Always asking obvious questions?

TANYA

Charlie, I was annoyed when I said that. All friends fight-

CHARLIE

(suddenly harsh)

I wouldn't know.

This stops both Tanya and Matteusz.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

All right, now I *am* a little angry. Because Ram was right. Who would I call on my phone that isn't Quill or in this room?

TANYA

(confused)

But back on your home world-

CHARLIE

I was a *Prince*, as you never stop reminding me. How many friends do you think Princes have? We have servants and tutors and advisors and diplomatic acquaintances. The closest friend I had before coming to this planet was the man who wrote my speeches.

TANYA

You gave speeches?

CHARLIE

Since I was *seven*. Did I ever fight with friends? No, I didn't, and I don't know how to do it and I don't know how to make my heart stop feeling like this and I don't know how to stop the *true* feeling that you all have just been putting up with my stupidity and difference this whole time.

MATTEUSZ

That is *not* what I am doing.

CHARLIE

No, you're just afraid of me.

MATTEUSZ
Charlie-

TANYA
(interrupting)
We all feel that way.

CHARLIE
What?

TANYA
(sore)
Something April said and I shut her up. We all feel that way. We all feel like the one who's left out, the one who the others could do without.

(glances at April w/Ram)
Which can't possibly be objectively true, but is subjectively true all over.

CHARLIE
(to Tanya, simply)
I look forward to seeing you, every single day.

Tanya looks at him, moved, but shrewd.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Well, I used to, before today.

TANYA
I'm sorry. That's a true apology, too.

Charlie nods, sadly. This'll take some getting used to.

CHARLIE
And that means we can be friends again?

TANYA
We never stopped, you airbag!
(off Charlie's look)
"Airbag" in a friendly way. But yeah, I don't know how long we're going to last in here. Maybe you should pick up the rock.

Charlie looks at her, then Matteusz, who's shaking his head.

CUT TO:

28 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 28 *

Ram sits in Quill's chair, playing with the ATOM EXPANDABLE TOY. April sits near him, neither speaking, until:

RAM
This thing is, like, impossible not
to play with.

He sets it down.

RAM (CONT'D)
Don't know what it teaches you,
though.

Beat. Then he picks it up again.

APRIL
Ram-

RAM
It's okay.

APRIL
Don't tell me it's okay when it's-

RAM
It's okay. I knew it anyway. I'm
not an idiot.

APRIL
Then don't be an idiot about
allowing me to feel complicated
things. I can feel for you and I
can still worry. I can still
wonder.

Ram just expands and contracts the atom toy.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Though you're making it easier by
pouting.

RAM
Then let me help you even more.

Puts the toy down, gets up to leave.

APRIL
Ram-

RAM
(turning to her)
It's okay. It's good to know the
truth.

APRIL
The truth of now. The truth of that
moment. Not the truth I want. Not
the truth I'm exploring-

RAM
You don't have to explore it any
more. I hoped... But it's better
this way. Good to know I can play
the field.

APRIL

Ram-

RAM

I mean, it's not like I don't have options.

APRIL

(angry)

Why are you being like this?

RAM

(angry, too)

Are you really that stupid?

APRIL

(really angry)

What?

RAM

You think you can say those things and I don't get hurt?

APRIL

That's the last thing I wanted-

RAM

We both confessed the truth. Mine was that I loved you. Yours was that you didn't.

APRIL

That's not exactly what I said.

RAM

That's what I heard.

Charlie, Matteusz and Tanya approach.

CHARLIE

We've all heard things we didn't want to hear.

TANYA

And said things we didn't want to say.

CHARLIE

I'm going to pick up the rock.

RAM

Why? So you can be the hero?

APRIL

Don't take it out on him, Ram.

RAM

You know what? My life didn't turn to crap until I started hanging out with you dorks. Maybe I'm missing the obvious solution to all this grief.

TANYA
You're calling me a dork?

RAM
Aren't you?

APRIL
Hey!

RAM
Enough with the "hey", goody two-shoes. You get someone this smoking hot after you and you can't even be bothered to stir yourself up to *liking* him?

APRIL
You're making it easier by the second.

MATTEUSZ
Yes, you're being a real Susan.

RAM
And who are *you* anyway? Why are you always hanging around with us?

CHARLIE
Whoa.

RAM
(to Charlie)
Please, he said he's afraid of you.
You're defending him?

CHARLIE
He's my boyfriend.

RAM
You ever wondered about that? You ever wondered what kind of a guy would date an alien?
(to Matteusz)
I mean, that's a really specialised fetish, mate.

Matteusz stretches himself to his full height.

MATTEUSZ
I'm sorry, are you challenging me to a fight?

CHARLIE
None of this is natural-

RAM
I'll say. Alien shagging. How many knobs does he have? *

TANYA
I wondered that.

APRIL
I kinda did, too.

CHARLIE
(yelling)
STOP IT!

They look at him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Is this who we are now? Just
endless angry truths? The worst
things we think about each other?
Don't you think this is exactly
what the punishment is!?

They exchange glances.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
He's got into our heads enough to
start us fighting. And this room is
obviously only going to make us
angrier and angrier.

TANYA
That's... not a stupid explanation,
Prince.

CHARLIE
I know!
(off their looks)
You think you know me. You think
I'm this pampered Prince. I hadn't
left the palace grounds since I was
three years old. It wasn't safe,
because we were at war. And the one
saving grace of my entire planet
being killed was that Earth, at the
very least, had space where I could
breathe. I cannot breathe in here.
And I have to get out of here,
because... Because...
(to Matteusz)
You're afraid of me. And you should
be. You all should be.

He's tough now, scary, surprisingly so.

TANYA
Why should we be?

Charlie glances at Matteusz, then back to the others.

CHARLIE
You want confessions? I'll give you
a confession.
(beat)
I want to murder all the Shadow
Kin. Every last one. I want to use
the Cabinet of Souls to wipe them
from the face of existence.

Beat, as this sinks in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Quill, for once in her wretched life, was right. What have I been left as the last one for, if not that?

MATTEUSZ
But... *Charlie*-

CHARLIE
I would lose you. I would lose myself. I would lose the souls of my entire race and all hope for anything good ever again.

(emotional now)
But I want to do it. I think of it every day. And the only thing that stops me is *you*. And sometimes...
(beat, swallows)
Sometimes I hate you for it.

Matteusz is shocked by this. So are the others.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
And that's who I am. You think you know me, but you don't. You want to know who'd be the last one standing out of the five of us?
(firm, scary)
I would.

He turns, leaving them in their shock, reaches down, picks up the rock.

MATTEUSZ
Charlie, what are you doing?

But it's too late.

CHARLIE
(to the room)
Come and get me! Force the truth out of me. You think you can take the guilt of the Prince of *Rhodia*?

VOICE (O.S.)
...*Confess...*

CHARLIE
I already did! What else you got?

VOICE (O.S.)
...*Confess...*

CHARLIE
Tell us how to get out of here.
Tell us what you're lying about.

RAM
Lying?

CHARLIE
All truth can be twisted to lie.
Every royal knows that.
(shouting now)
Come on! What are you hiding?

VOICE (O.S.)
Confess!

CHARLIE
No, you confess-

Charlie is starting to struggle, shake, the stone frying him.

MATTEUSZ
Charlie! Put it down!

CHARLIE
Not until he tells the truth!

VOICE (O.S.)
(overwhelming now)
CONFESS!

Charlie really struggling now. Skin flushing, veins coming to the surface, BLOOD coming out his nose-

Mattuesz knocks the hand holding the rock, but Charlie can't let it go-

CHARLIE
What aren't you telling us?!

VOICE (O.S.)
...You...

The others look up at this change.

TANYA
You what? You *what*?

Charlie yells in pain but still holds on to the rock. BLOOD comes from his ear-

MATTEUSZ
Charlie, please!

CHARLIE
(to the voice)
What *about* me?

Charlie's eyes, bloodshot and bloody now, suddenly calm, as if he's seeing something else. He looks to Matteusz-

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I...

MATTEUSZ
What?

CHARLIE
(almost surprised)
I love you.

MATTEUSZ
...Charlie-?

CHARLIE
(tears out his eyes)
It's the truth. And it's also true
that... I'll lose you.

Matteusz moves towards him but he screams, fighting. A crack appears in the stone.

APRIL
What's happening to it?

TANYA
(amazed)
I think Charlie's winning.

CHARLIE
CONFESS! What do you have to tell
me?

VOICE (O.S.)
...You...

CHARLIE
Yes?

VOICE (O.S.)
...are...

CHARLIE
I am *what*!?

The stone cracks again.

VOICE (O.S.)
(beat)
...my murderer...

CHARLIE
(beat, shocked, but:)
Yes. Yes, I am.

He cries out as the stone BURSTS from his hand, smashing
against the wall, breaking into pieces-

And the corridor beyond the door REAPPEARS. As does OUTSIDE
THE WINDOWS.

Charlie collapses, Matteusz runs to him, holds him.

RAM
What the hell?

MATTEUSZ
Charlie?

CHARLIE
(panting)
He was looking for death. He wanted
someone guiltier than him to end
his suffering...

Fades off, downcast.

APRIL
And you stopped him.

CHARLIE
(very downcast)
Yes. Because I'm not innocent. Not
in my heart. For a Rhodian, a wish
is the same as an action.

TANYA
Well, *that's* messed up.

CHARLIE
(up to Matteusz, pained)
I, uh, I think we have some things
to talk about.

MATTEUSZ
(troubled)
Yes, we do.

RAM
(looking out the door)
Can we go now? Cuz I'm outta here-

He moves towards the door, but the stone fragments suddenly
FIRE BRIGHT YELLOW, roaring up like flames, blocking the way.
Ram falls back.

APRIL
What's happening?

Tanya looks to Charlie.

CHARLIE
(confused)
I don't-

A STRAND OF FLAME wraps itself around Charlie's ankle!

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Oh, no.

APRIL
What? *What?*

CHARLIE
(as if just realising)
Oh, I think I may have done
something stupid. Again.

The strand starts DRAGGING him across the floor, to the
prison. Matteusz holds him back.

MATTEUSZ
Charlie?

CHARLIE
The prison... Still needs a
prisoner.
(horrified, realising)
And I'm the guiltiest-

It pulls him hard, pulling Matteusz over. He holds on more firmly, but it jerks harder. He yells out in pain.

April helps, but the tugging is too strong. Tanya tries to KICK the stone, but it knocks her back.

All seems lost-

Until MISS QUILL steps through the door, a VERTICAL SCAR running from forehead to cheek, bisecting her eye, which has its iris split, too. Her HAIR is noticeably LONGER.

MISS QUILL
What the hell is this?

APRIL
We're under threat!

MISS QUILL
(rolling eyes)
When aren't you?

And to their ASTONISHMENT she PULLS OUT HER GUN and FIRES it at the rock, blasting it into a MILLION PIECES.

The light dies. The classroom is back to normal.

Charlie is agog.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
My God, you can't even handle
detention right.

CHARLIE
How can you-?

MISS QUILL
(angry, grieving)
In no mood to talk.

Ram moves swiftly for the door.

RAM
I'm gone.

April watches him go. Tanya watches her not go.

TANYA
Aren't you going after him?

APRIL
No. I'm not.

TANYA
But if that thing was making us
angry-

APRIL
When you get a boyfriend, you'll
understand.

TANYA
(beat, stung)
And there it is.

Tanya leaves. April watches her go, angry, too.

APRIL
Why do we even bother with other
people?

She leaves, too.

Angle on Charlie and Matteusz, staring in horror at Quill.

CHARLIE
How can you fire a gun?

MISS QUILL
You do *not* want to talk to me after
the day I've had.

CHARLIE
Day? You've only been gone 45
minutes.

MISS QUILL
(bitter)
Funny. It felt like a lifetime.

MATTEUSZ
What happened to your eye? And your
hair?

CHARLIE
And how can you fire a gun?

She stares back at him, at the blood drying on his face.

MISS QUILL
I saved you, didn't I? Isn't that
my punishment?

CHARLIE
I... But you-

MISS QUILL
Consider it my last favour.

MATTEUSZ
"Last"?

Eyes on Charlie, she reaches into her pocket, pulls out a SQUISHY CLEAR PLASTIC BAG and throws it at him.

He catches it. Through the plastic, he can see-

MISS QUILL
It's the Arn.

Charlie looks up, astonished, worried.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
(truly grieved)
I am no longer your slave, Prince.
I have my free will and I have my
gun.

She holds it up, cocks it, looks very dangerous.

MISS QUILL (CONT'D)
And things are going to change
around here.

END CREDITS.