SOLARPUNKS vs. The Annihilation Ultimatum

A Grounded, Present Day, One Hour, Sci-Fi Ongoing Series.

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FADE IN:

EXT. BEN ROSHAN'S FAMILY HOME - FOREST KNOLLS, SF - EVENING

Present day.

In the woodsy hills above downtown San Francisco, on the crest of a curve, is a farmhouse restored into a welcoming home. Beyond the trees, the ocean stretches to the horizon:

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

An inventor's space, filled with Rube Goldberg inspired contraptions Ben's built from appliance parts & tech-gear.

A disassembled "Air Force" Sat-Phone on his workbench where, **BEN**, 20, is in the zone writing code for his "SAT-PHONE APP".

Fun family adventure photos show Ben's gawky, sincere, Midwestern appeal. They also reveal he looks nothing like his adoptive parents, East India/American academics.

Next to him on the wall, a "WIRED Magazine" cover with the headline, "Where Is Kate Eklund?" and featuring the last known photo of NASA's youngest Engineer, KATE EKLUND, 18, building a prototype of her revolutionary, clean-energy, Helix-Coil Photon-Accelerating Generator.

SANJAY, 50, just home from work, enters excitedly. Wears his "Lockheed Martin: Aerospace Engineer" jacket:

SANJAY Son, you got it! General Schafer's clearance to help decommission his F-22 Raptor.

Dorky-fun father & son high five:

BEN

No way. Can't wait to get into the F-22's avionics. How'd you convince Schafer to let me back on his base?

SANJAY Promised you wouldn't try to fly-off with it, like you did with... (irked about his Sat-Phone) Why's my work Sat-Phone in pieces?

BEN (unapologetic) Senior re-engineering project.

SANJAY

Remember that serious talk we had about taking things apart?

BEN disaster

Imagine: disaster strikes. Cell-tower networks go down. Phones are useless. Unless you have my Sat-Phone App & Antenna Attachment to revert your phone back into it's basic form --

SANJAY

-- a Sat-Phone. You could bypass the failed ground-network and call any number in the world. Does it work?

BEN Absolutely. Almost. Got eleven hours to make it work.

Ben's laptop DINGS an EMAIL ALERT. Sanjay turns to go:

SANJAY

I'll leave you to it. You got this.

As Sanjay leaves, Ben opens his email: "DNA Heritage Analysis Update: Processing has begun. Expect results soon."

Sanjay returns:

SANJAY

Just so we're clear, my <u>new</u> Sat-Phone is coming out of your --

Ben swiftly closes the email window but it's too late:

SANJAY A DNA Heritage Test? This isn't good. Not good at all.

Ben's Mom, FRIEDA, 48, stops-in wearing her Doctor's scrubs:

FRIEDA It's just you two for dinner. Gotta run before the Perez twins deliver themselves. (off Sanjay's worried expression) What?

SANJAY Angel, our son submitted a DNA test.

FRIEDA Oh, Ben, no, no, no. BEN

It's no big deal. I mean, where I come from is, but --

FRIEDA -- oh sweetie, this is <u>not</u> how we wanted you to find out.

BEN 'Find out' what?

Frieda has no time:

FRIEDA

You simply appeared in my Pediatric Nursery. Abandoned. Hours old. Healthy, innocent. I knew in my heart I had to protect you from the adoption system. So, we reported you as confidentially surrendered into our care.

BEN

Okay... wow.

SANJAY We adopted you later.

Frieda quick-hugs him, then, as she rushes out:

FRIEDA

Whatever your DNA analysis reveals, you must never follow-up on it or tell anyone what we did. Love you. Night.

Sanjay grips Ben's shoulder:

BEN (existential gut-punch) So, I'll never <u>really</u> know where I come from.

EXT. ROSHAN FAMILY HOME - ROOFTOP - EVENING

Ben climbs out his bedroom window onto the roof-peak to watch the ocean sunset. This is his "Thinking Spot". Off to his left, in the valley, downtown San Francisco.

VOOSH, high-up in the sky a small wormhole flashes open then vanishes after a large, sleek, dolphin-shaped ship emerges. Definitely not from our solar system:

BEN Holy shit. Cool. Seven small Dolphin-Shaped Probes LAUNCH OUT of the ship then dart away in different directions.

One of the Probes streaks toward San Francisco.

A second, bigger, WORMHOLE FORMS:

BEN Whaaaat is happening?

A fierce GUARD SHIP emerges. (An Alliance Guard Ship):

BEN

That can't be good.

The Guard Ship OBLITERATES the main Dolphin Ship; targets and DESTROYS three Probes; then STREAKS AWAY after more.

The Probe headed toward San Francisco veers in Ben's direction:

BEN Interesting. Where are you headed?

The Probe flies fast, directly toward Ben.

Alarmed, Ben steps back toward his window, freezes as the probe WHOOSHES UP, stops nose-to-nose with him. Hovers:

BEN Uhm, hello. I'm Ben.

Ben touches the smooth, seamless surface. The probe emits an urgent HARMONIC-BINARY SIGNAL reminiscent of a Dolphin call composed of digital whistles, snort-tones and clicks:

BEN Wow. I'm sorry. I don't understand.

BEN EXPERIENCES A VISUAL TELEPATHIC MESSAGE -

It's like a reflection in a window between Ben and the probe.

A violet sun rises over a lush blue-green ocean world:

BEN Whoa, I can't explain it but I recognize that sun. Alcyone. One of the seven suns of the Pleiades Star Cluster. The planet is, Delphin. How are you doing this?

THE TELEPATHIC MESSAGE ABRUPTLY ENDS -

The Alliance Guard Ship returns. The Probe escapes, dives into the ocean and is gone:

4.

BEN

Whoa.

EXHILARATED Ben scrambles back in through his bedroom window:

BEN Dad!? You're never gonna believe what just happened.

EXT. MARK DUNCAN'S "WORLD-COM" HUB - MORNING

Silicon Valley, San Francisco. (not far from Ben's home)

A seemingly average satellite communication facility:

INT. MARK DUNCAN'S WORLD-COM HUB - CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

A state-of-the-art information technology operations center, and, the secret base of operations for, SOLARPUNKS 1.

KATE EKLUND, 20, complex & intense, strides to **ZOEY ZANG**, 20, whose work station is a hacker's dream set-up.

Kate hands Zoey a USB Flash Drive. Zoey plugs it in:

KATE Zoey, we were right. My NASA contact confirmed it. That was no atmospheric anomaly last night.

ANGLE INCLUDING THE CONTROL ROOM'S BIG MONITOR:

A satellite view of San Francisco at sunset, with atmospheric analysis. Two bright points of energy appear then vanish, then multiple UAPs streak away, then an explosion:

ZOEY Incredible. What did we just see?

KATE I don't know. But, at the exact same time, the Sutro Tower Antenna downtown captured the attached audio signal?

ZOEY This I've got to hear. Hang on...

Zoey plays the repeating signal. It's the same urgent message Ben heard:

KATE It's digital, yet definitely anthropomorphic. Like a language of some kind.

ZOEY Wild. A sing-songy math language.

Zoey analyzes the signal, discovers:

ZOEY It's harmonic-binary, look.

Zoey shows Kate the complex repeating waveform.

Zoey plays the SIGNAL throughout the base. Kate wonders why:

ZOEY Wait for it...

The harmonic signal brings-in: Oceanographer, MIA MENDEZ, 20; mechanics expert, HAWKINS, 20; DR. RAYNA BLOOM, 20, Medical:

HAWKINS Sounds like an android dolphin.

DR. BLOOM Intriguing. So, what is it?

KATE An anthropomorphic harmonic-binary signal.

ZOEY Captured last night at the same time as the twin wormhole events.

MIA It sounds more evolved, but it's the Bottlenose Dolphin call for reuniting the pod. Hear the three layers of variation: Whistles, snort-tones and clicks?

All eyes turn to Mia:

MIA

(explains) Oceanographer parents. I grew up defending a Dolphin Pod.

DR. BLOOM Coincidental fact: 11% of our hybrid genome is Cetacean Mammal. Dolphin. (MORE) DR. BLOOM (CONT'D) Yet, Millions of years more evolved than any dolphin species on Earth.

HAWKINS What if it's no coincidence?

MIA Then I hope it's from whoever created us, so I know who's ass to kick.

HAWKINS Get in line.

Zoey completes her analysis of the harmonic-binary data:

ZOEY There's an encoded message but, without the decryption key --

MIA Dolphins respond to the call to reunite with a specific song. The key could be harmonic.

ZOEY Brilliant. Always wanted to learn to speak dolphin.

CUT TO:

INT. DNA HERITAGE PROCESSING LAB - DAY

Technician, **RITA**, 24, returns to her lab, finds the DNA sequencer ALERTING: "ANOMALOUS RESULT: BEN ROSHAN":

RITA Oh shit. No, no, no, a hybrid.

She rips Ben's DNA sample from the sequencer; destroys it; downloads his file to her phone; sends it to: "MIA MENDEZ":

CUT BACK TO:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Mia's phone ALERTS her to a Text. She ignores it.

Zoey's computer displays a new harmonic-binary message:

ZOEY I've converted the Dolphin response song into harmonic-binary. Zoey taps a synthesizer key, the DOLPHIN RESPONSE SONG PLAYS. The original message remains encrypted:

ZOEY Really? Thought that would work.

KATE Keep at it, Zoe. You've got this.

Mia's cellphone ALERTS her again. She reads Rita's text: "Anomalous DNA: Ben Roshan. File attached. Hurry."

MIA Whoa, the DNA Lab sent an "Anomalous" file: "Ben Roshan. Forrest Knolls."

ZOEY An undiscovered Solarpunk? Now? In San Francisco?

HAWKINS No way. Gotta be a Section-E trap. Thorpe'll grab whoever shows-up.

KATE If it's not a trap, we can't let Thorpe get his hands on another one of us.

Mia pokes Hawkins' shoulder:

MIA We're up, Danger Monkey.

As Mia & Hawkins move to the "Parking Garage" stairwell:

ZOEY Mia, send me the file. I'll pinpoint this guy for you.

MIA Thanks, Zoe.

Mia playfully elbows Hawkins out of her way:

MIA First one to the garage, drives.

HAWKINS You wish, ya menace.

KATE Hey. Don't get caught.

INT. NSA HEADQUARTERS - SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH - DAY

AGENT THORPE, 53, a grim urgency of purpose, passes through a SECURITY CHECK-POINT. He's eagerly met by, AGENT COOPER, 28:

AGENT COOPER Agent Thorpe, sir. The Anomalous DNA evidence was destroyed at the source.

THORPE

Disappointing.

AGENT COOPER Kovitch was able to recover enough data to I.D. the subject, *Ben Roshan*.

THORPE Meet me in the garage with O'Neill and the new guy, Kelso. Rubber bullets & tasers only.

Cooper nods, walks ahead fast. Thorpe opens a bio-secured door, "NSA: Section-E". He goes in:

INT. NSA: SECTION-E CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A global surveillance control room staffed with ANALYSTS.

Two **ANALYSTS** are stumped by the Harmonic-Binary Signal:

THORPE Kovitch, what've you uncovered?

Hacker-mercenary, **KOVITCH**, 27, displays fragmented elements of Ben's "Anomalous DNA Alert" on the main monitor, with additional details including Ben's "Stanford I.D.", "Parents: Sanjay & Frieda Roshan, East India immigrants, 1996":

KOVITCH

Ben Roshan. Twenty years old. Definitely adopted, but never appeared in the adoption system.

THORPE

So, that's how he escaped me.

KOVITCH

Off the charts smart. Multiple run-ins with law enforcement. Pranks mostly. Ooh, there's an incident involving Travis Air Force Base. Redacted.

Kovitch's computer "ALERTS A GPS LOCATION":

KOVITCH Got 'em. GPS phone-tracking places Roshan en-route to... Stanford.

Thorpe is out the door:

INT. STANFORD ACCELERATOR-LAB, FOURTH FLOOR CLASSROOM - DAY

On the huge classroom monitor: "Project Presentation Day."

Ben enters, sleep-deprived, caffeinated, dying to share his out-of-this-world experience.

STUDENTS excitedly share video clips on their phones while WHISPERING about "UFOs and UAPs with dolphin shapes."

Ben drops into his usual seat next to the equally sleepdeprived, hyper-achiever, **HEATHER**, 22.

Ben plunks a fresh energy drink in front of her:

HEATHER I take back every nasty thing I ever said about you, to your face.

BEN The craziest thing happened to me last night. Ever seen a UAP?

HEATHER Everyone's talking about it. You see it?

BEN I was on my roof, and --

PROFESSOR ALLEN, 51, strides in (think, Jeff Goldblum):

PROFESSOR ALLEN -- Yes, yes, I saw it too. We're not alone in this universe. Moving on. Phones away.

Phones are quickly put away:

PROFESSOR ALLEN Get used to all-nighters, kids, they're part of the glamour of being a Futurist-Engineer.

On the classroom monitor Professor Allen displays, "Evolve the Purpose of an Everyday Device":

PROFESSOR ALLEN 75% of your grade hangs in the balance. That's real-world pressure to disrupt an industry. Extra credit for anyone who re-engineers their device to be more sustainable and energy efficient.

CUT TO:

INT. ACCELERATOR-LAB, CENTRAL STAIRCASE, 2ND FLOOR - DAY

Mia, disguised as an "NSA Agent", bounds up the stairs past **STUDENTS** her same age, yet, she's brightly bad-ass:

HAWKINS' VOICE (IN MIA'S EARPIECE) I got accepted to M.I.T. Had to miss it, thanks to Thorpe. Where'd you go, Mia?

MIA The Pacific Ocean, with my parents.

HAWKINS Oh, right. Protecting dolphins.

MIA Until Kate found me. Give anything to be back there now.

CUT TO:

EXT. ACCELERATOR-LAB BUILDING - MAIN ENTRANCE -

Hawkins, at the wheel of his Defender-90 beast, which has been modified with strange exterior electronic components, is parked with a line-of-sight of the Main Entrance:

INT. HAWKINS' DEFENDER-90 BEAST -

Advanced control panels and gadgets. HAWKINS DUCKS DOWN:

HAWKINS Oh shit, Mia --

HAWKINS' POV -

Thorpe, Cooper, KELSO & O'NEILL, head toward the main entrance:

HAWKINS Get out of there. Bogeyman's walkin' in the front door. With three trolls. MIA'S VOICE (IN HAWKINS' EARPIECE) Relax. There's time. Be ready.

ANGLE ON - THORPE AND HIS TEAM -

Striding fast toward the main entrance. Rookie, Kelso, is eager to prove himself:

KELSO Sir. Would you clarify the threatlevel of these Solarpunks? I mean, they're only teenagers. Right?

THORPE (sneers) They're genetically engineered sleeper agents, not of this world, who've been activated as a first strike in a war against humanity. Section-E's mandate is to capture every one of these hybrid freaks. By any means necessary.

KELSO Roger that.

THORPE Cooper, launch the quadcopter.

Cooper takes out his iPhone:

CUT TO:

EXT. SECTION-E SURVEILLANCE VAN - (NEARBY) -

A QUADCOPTER DRONE launches out of the van roof, ZOOMS up above the Accelerator-Lab Building:

CUT TO:

INT. ACCELERATOR-LAB, FOURTH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Mia searches classrooms for Ben:

BACK TO:

INT. ACCELERATOR-LAB CLASSROOM - DAY

PROFESSOR ALLEN Who's daring enough to go -- Ben's and Heather's hands shoot up:

PROFESSOR ALLEN Ms. McLaughlin, I recall you went first last time. Mister Roshan. Promise not to destroy, irradiate, or release a homicidal fighting robot into my classroom, <u>again</u>, and you're up.

Ben steps awkwardly in front of his apprehensive Classmates:

BEN My, "Evolution of Purpose" project is a life-saving new Sat-Phone App and Antenna Attachment.

Ben syncs his phone with the classroom monitor:

BEN Imagine: disaster strikes. The ground-network of cell-towers is flatlined. Your phone is useless. Or is it?

Ben continues his pitch as he clips his modified Sat-Phone Antenna Attachment to his phone, activates his Sat-Phone App:

> BEN What if you could bypass the groundnetwork? Call any number in the world? Now you can. My Sat-Phone App & Antenna reverts your phone to it's original design, a Sat-Phone.

He enters a number, hits "SEND":

BEN You could even Zoom with...

GENERAL SCHAFER, 55, steel-eyed, appears on the classroom monitor from within his Travis Air Force Base office:

GENERAL SCHAFER Go, for Schafer.

The entire Class sits-up straight:

BEN Ha, it works. Ah, morning, General.

GENERAL SCHAFER Ben? How in <u>thee</u> hell did you get access to my secured satellite? Mia dashes into the classroom, holding out an NSA I.D. badge:

MIA NSA. Agent Mendez. Which one of you nerds is Ben Roshan?

EVERYONE points at Ben:

BEN Uhm, gotta go, General.

Ben ends the call. Mia grabs his shirt, yanks him into the hall:

BEN I can explain. Wait, what is it I need to explain?

INT. ACCELERATOR-LAB, FOURTH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

MIA (Rushed & hushed) Wish I had more time. Just listen. Your DNA test result is: "Anomalous."

BEN What? It is? How do <u>you</u> know?

MIA Ben, your DNA has been bioengineered. You're a human-alien hybrid, like me. Your life is in danger. I've got to get you out of here. Now.

BEN Oh, I get it. Awesome prank. Whose idea was it?

Professor Allen and Heather step into the hallway:

PROFESSOR ALLEN Everything alright out here?

Mia politely SHOVES Professor Allen and Heather back into the classroom, shuts the door, SLAMS Ben against the wall:

MIA This is <u>not</u> a prank.

HAWKINS' VOICE (IN MIA'S EARPIECE) Mia, dump the dufus. Get out of there.

MIA Section-E is coming for you, right now. To them you're a threat to humanity. Thorpe's Team converges on them:

THORPE Ben Roshan. NSA. Down on the floor.

Ben's eyes go WIDE - HOLY SHIT:

THORPE (distain) Mia Mendez. Hello again.

Mia sneers. She truly despises Thorpe:

MIA (to Ben) They're Section-E. Believe me now?

Kelso grabs Mia's shoulder. **Big mistake**. In a split-second Kelso's face bounces off the wall, he's on his back with a broken wrist. Mia has his weapon.

Mia takes Ben hostage, backs away.

Thorpe follows. Cooper pulls out his cellphone:

HAWKINS' VOICE (IN MIA'S EARPIECE)

Mia?!

MIA Need an exit. (whispers to Ben) Don't freak out.

BEN

Too late.

THORPE Mia, we both know you won't kill him.

MIA Dead's better than being erased by you.

BEN Dead is <u>not</u> better.

Mia backs up against the giant window at the end of the hall.

The Quadcopter flies into position right outside the window. It LASER-SCANS MIA'S AND BEN'S FACES.

Mia notices they're one floor above the Parking Ramp Top Level:

MIA Hawkins, we're coming out hot. Top level. Parking ramp. HAWKINS' VOICE (IN MIA'S EARPIECE) Fuhhh, on my way.

CUT TO -

INT. HAWKINS' DEFENDER-90 BEAST -

Hawkins DRIVES FAST into the Parking Ramp:

BACK TO -

INT. ACCELERATOR-LAB, FOURTH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Mia FIRES at the Quadcopter - RUBBER BULLETS RICOCHET OFF GLASS:

THORPE

Rubber bullets. See, I don't want to hurt you. Just want to understand you. Maybe work together.

MIA You mean, from the same bunker-lab you buried Michael in. Yeah, Kate found out what you did to your own son.

THORPE (growls) Michael was never <u>my</u> son.

Mia hands the weapon to Ben who clumsily aims it at Thorpe:

THORPE Ben, come with me or your parents' citizenship will be reevaluated.

BEN Peh, you <u>are</u> an asshole.

Mia SLAMS A FIRE EXTINGUISHER INTO THE WINDOW. It GLANCES-OFF:

BEN Earthquake-proof.

MIA

Ya think!

Professor Allen steps into the hallway, confronts Thorpe:

PROFESSOR ALLEN Gentlemen, I need to see some I.D.s. Now, please.

Thorpe TASES Professor Allen. Allen crumples to the floor.

Agent O'Neill BOWLS A STUN-GRENADE at Mia & Ben.

Ben kicks-over a bench, uses it to wedge the stun-grenade against the window, BOOM, THE SAFETY GLASS OBLITERATES:

MIA

NICE!

Mia prepares to jump:

MIA Take the leap or don't.

BEN Do we have, special powers?

MIA

Nope.

Mia jumps.

Thorpe and his team rush Ben... he jumps:

EXT. TOP LEVEL PARKING RAMP - DAY

Hawkins' Defender-90 SKIDS into position.

Mia lands & rolls. Ben lands, skids, THUMPS against the SUV.

The quadcopter darts into position above them:

CUT TO:

INT. ACCELERATOR-LAB, FOURTH FLOOR HALLWAY -

COOPER (re: his iPhone screen) Whoa. That truck is a ghost. Something's preventing the quadcopter from seeing it.

ANGLE ON PHONE SCREEN - QUADCOPTER POV -

The Defender-90 is invisible to the Quadcopter's camera and scanners. It can only see Mia yank Ben up, shove him into nowhere, then jump into nowhere after him:

ANGLE ON AGENT THORPE -

He can only watch as the Defender-90 races down into the parking ramp:

THORPE Get to the van!

CUT TO:

EXT. HAWKINS' DEFENDER-90 - MOVING - DAY

Hawkins exits the Parking Ramp, cuts across the street then charges into the alley to evade the Section-E van:

INT. HAWKINS' DEFENDER-90 - MOVING - DAY

Hawkins slows to avoid unwanted attention:

HAWKINS Welcome to the Solarpunks. (mocks Ben) "Do we have, super powers"?

BEN Didn't say, "super."

MIA Oh I definitely heard, "super".

Mia ruffles Ben's hair as she climbs into the front seat:

MIA Ben, meet Hawkins. Wheelman. Criminal mastermind. Automotive genius.

BEN What about that quadcopter?

HAWKINS We're virtually invisible. Stealth Tech. My own design. You're welcome.

MIA (explains) It's an oscillating electromagnetic shield which deflects camera sensors.

BEN Cool. Oh shit, they can still track...

Ben takes out his phone, detaches the SAT-PHONE ANTENNA, ejects & keeps his phone's MEMORY CARD, then tosses his phone:

BEN This is completely nuts. MIA It is. None of us chose this life. But here we are, until we figure out why we're here.

BEN Wait. Stop. Let me out.

HAWKINS Peh, he thinks he has a choice.

BEN Stop. Right fuckin' now.

Hawkins STOPS HARD. Ben opens the door:

MIA Ben, Thorpe <u>will</u> find you. You'll be sent to a Section-E black-site lab --

HAWKINS -- where you'll be dissected.

MIA Or, come with us. Help us discover why we exist and what we're meant to do.

Ben hates having no choice. He closes the door. Hawkins drives:

BEN My Mom & Dad! They're in danger too.

MIA They're not a threat to Section-E as long as Thorpe believes they don't know what you are.

Hawkins merges back into regular traffic, blends in:

BEN So, you're both adopted, like me?

MIA I was. Hawkins wasn't.

HAWKINS 'Cause I was too bad-ass.

PHONE CALL from "Zoey". Mia puts it on Speaker-Phone:

MIA Hey, Zoe. Say hi to Ben.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Zoey listens via Speaker-Phone while moving to DANCE MUSIC:

ZOEY Wowsers, Ben, glad we got you first.

BEN'S VOICE Yeah, feels like my lucky day.

ZOEY

You're not in a Section-E lab. So, yeah, it is. Already spoke to your Mom. Gave her our standard pitch: "Your adopted kid's part alien. We've abducted him to save his life, and yours. Tell no one."

BEN'S VOICE Let me guess, she thought she was being pranked?

ZOEY

Yep.

BACK TO:

INT. HAWKINS' DEFENDER-90 - MOVING - DAY

BEN She alright?

ZOEY'S VOICE She has open mind. Promised her we'll set-up a secure call.

BEN Thank you, Zoey.

ZOEY'S VOICE Oh, hey, Ben, Mark Duncan says hi.

BEN

(astonished) Mark Duncan? As in the world's youngest tech-billionaire who's not a total asshole? ZOEY'S VOICE That's him. He's one of us. Our very own Bruce Wayne. Mia, we decrypted the message. It's an invitation to "meet our teacher". There's ocean coordinates.

HAWKINS Teacher? What's that mean?

ZOEY'S VOICE Guess we'll find out. You kids get to go sailing. Catch-up with Kate at the San Francisco Yacht Club.

EXT. ON THE WATER BENEATH THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - DAY

Moving swiftly through the surf, "The Lady Marion", an impressive 100-foot sailboat.

EXT. DECK OF THE LADY MARION - DAY

At the ship's wheel, **CAPTAIN ROBERTS**, 46, a dashing scoundrel. He's suspicious of these last-minute charter passengers.

BOW OF THE SHIP - Ben. He'd give anything to have his life back.

MID SHIP - Hawkins opens the field-ops case. An impressive array of non-lethal weapons, including an EMP Rocket-Launcher and a row of Stinger Taser-Dart Guns.

Kate is concerned for Ben as she gears-up with Hawkins:

KATE Look at Ben, two years ago we were just like him, completely lost.

HAWKINS Dork asked if we have "special powers".

KATE Nooo, ha. You cried when Michael and I brought you in.

HAWKINS Did not. Plus, shud-up.

Kate ruffles Hawkins' hair.

SHIP'S WHEEL - Roberts ends his phone call as Mia joins him:

MIA The Lady Marion is more than just a beautiful boat.

CAPTAIN ROBERTS Got that right. She's my lucky charm. You know boats?

MIA Grew up on a research vessel: The Deep Blue Sea.

Mia notices the Navigation Panel has a secret compartment:

CAPTAIN There's nothing interesting at the coordinates I'm taking you to. That's a red flag for me, from a not getting murdered perspective.

MIA We're the good guys.

Captain Roberts is dubious:

BOW OF THE SHIP - Kate & Hawkins meet-up with Ben. He looks at Kate like they've met before:

KATE Name's Kate --

BEN

-- Eklund? Holy smokes, you're Kate Eklund. I read your W.I.R.E.D. Article. Your self-sustaining Photon-Accelerating Generator concept is freakin' genius.

KATE

Thanks. It doesn't work. Yet.

BEN

You'll get it. Hey, maybe I could look at it. Innovating engineering solutions is what I do.

KATE

Sure.

BEN Kate, what am I? Why do we exist?

KATE

I hope we're all about to find out why we exist. As for what we are we're certain we were bioengineered. (MORE) KATE (CONT'D) Our synaptic capability is 21% greater than the average human. Our DNA is 11% Cetacean mammal.

BEN

Dolphin?

HAWKINS (explains like he always knew) Millions of years more evolved than any dolphin species on Earth.

Mia joins them:

BEN What's Section-E? And why did the name Michael make Thorpe so angry?

MIA A secret division of the NSA.

HAWKINS The "E" stands for "Erase". Thorpe's not so funny little joke.

KATE Michael is one of us. He sacrificed himself so I could escape Thorpe.

MIA We'll never stop searching for him.

Hawkins hands Ben a Stinger Dart-Gun and shoulder-holster:

HAWKINS Handled a weapon before?

BEN

Nope.

HAWKINS Rule number one: don't shoot any one of us.

MIA Or yourself, like Hawkins did.

HAWKINS Never happened.

Kate mouths, "yes it did", to Ben:

HAWKINS

We call 'em, Stingers. Kate built 'em. Fires ten, high-velocity, lithium-charged taser darts. Packs a pee-yourself jolt.

Ben effortlessly disassembles then reassembles the Stinger:

BEN

Cool design.

Kate is intrigued.

The Global Position Terminal ALERTS everyone:

CAPTAIN ROBERTS We've arrived. Now will you tell me what you're lookin' for?

Eyes look to the sky. Roberts glances toward shore?

The Dolphin-Shaped Probe WHOOSHES OUT OF THE WATER, stops above the sailboat, hovers there.

EXT. DECK OF THE COAST GUARD CRUISER - DAY

Crashing through waves at high speed. Thorpe, Cooper and O'Neill wear Coast Guard gear as they search the horizon. Cooper points:

COOPER There. Could be them. A mile out.

THORPE (into his Walkie-Talkie) Captain. Launch your drone.

CUT TO:

EXT. DECK OF THE LADY MARION - DAY

The Dolphin-Shaped Probe scans Kate, Ben, Mia and Hawkins:

KATE Incredible.

BEN It's the same probe I encountered last night.

KATE What?! Last night?

THEY ALL EXPERIENCE THE SAME VISUAL TELEPATHIC MESSAGE -

Like a reflection in a window in front of each of them (except for Roberts).

A violet sun rises over a lush blue-green ocean world:

BEN We're seeing Alcyone, one of the seven suns of the Pleiades Star Cluster. The planet is, Delphin.

MIA Now I'm seeing a beautiful little girl with dolphin-like features swimming underwater with her parents.

KATE The Delphinians. Wait, how do I know that?

BEN The message must have a telepathic element.

KATE Whoa. A Artificially Intelligent Probe, capable of telepathy.

THE A.I. PROBE'S TELEPATHIC MESSAGE CONCLUDES -

A.I. TELEPATHIC VOICE (pragmatic non-binary) Correct, Kate. Hello, young ones.

Kate, Ben, Mia and Hawkins telepathically respond with "hellos":

A.I. TELEPATHIC VOICE I am your teacher. Your existence is vital to the future of humanity and Earth. I am here to guide --

THE QUADCOPTER DRONE ARRIVES, FIRES at the Probe. Bullets are deflected by the Probe's energy shield:

HAWKINS What the fuck!

Kate points to the Coast Guard ship, half a mile away:

KATE It's Thorpe! Closing fast.

MIA How'd he find us?

Mia stares daggers at Captain Roberts:

BEN

Shoot-out the copter's propellers.

Mia, Kate & Hawkins SHOOT AT THE DRONE as it FIRES A MICRO-MISSILE which strikes the A.I. Probe's shield, EXPLODES, SHRAPNEL RIPS THROUGH THE PROBE.

The crippled A.I. Probe plunges into the ocean.

The damaged Quadcopter loses control and crashes too.

Mia dives skillfully into the water, to save the A.I. Probe.

THE ALLIANCE GUARD SHIP ARRIVES:

BEN Oh shit. I saw that last night too

HAWKINS Definitely not from around here.

The Guard Ship scans the area, finds Probe debris, streaks away:

UNDERWATER -

Mia spots THREE DOLPHINS playfully shadowing her. Mia performs a horizontal roll, claps her hands twice, then cocks her head as if she's looking for something.

The Dolphins eagerly guide her to the damaged A.I. Probe which is fast losing power as it struggles to return to the surface:

EXT. THE LADY MARION - DIVERS DECK - DAY

Hawkins stops Ben from jumping into the water. Ben jerks away:

BEN No one can stay under that long.

HAWKINS

Mia can.

Mia, BREAKS THE WATER'S SURFACE with the A.I. Probe, with help from her Dolphin escorts:

HAWKINS Nice work, Dolphin Girl.

MIA Help, it's filling with water.

Ben and Hawkins haul the A.I. Probe on board.

Mia thanks her Dolphin helpers:

MIA (whistles and sings) Per! Currrr! Per! Per!

The Dolphins playfully swim away. Mia climbs out of the water:

DECK OF THE LADY MARION -

Kate examines the A.I. Probe:

KATE Have to get this to my lab.

HAWKINS That military ship meant business. It'll be back.

Mia spots a Coast Guard Cruiser racing toward them:

MIA

Guys? Bad just got worse.

Kate dashes to the field-ops satchel, digs into it:

BEN Can we out-run 'em?

Captain Roberts aims a gun at Mia:

CAPTAIN ROBERTS Nothing personal.

Mia disarms Captain Robert's, gives his gun to Hawkins, then grips the ship's wheel:

MIA Nothing personal.

Mia opens a hidden Engine Control Panel; starts the engines; JAMS THE THROTTLE TO MAX:

MIA This is more than sailboat, it's a smuggler's ship.

CAPTAIN ROBERTS Smart girl.

Kate aims a compact *EMP Arrow* rocket-launcher at the Coast Guard Cruiser:

BEN

You sure that's a good idea?

KATE FIRES:

CUT TO:

EXT. DECK OF THE COAST GUARD CRUISER - SUNSET

Thorpe, Cooper and O'Neill stand at the rail:

COAST GUARD CHIEF INCOMING! Hit the deck!

Thorpe, his men, and the CREW hit the deck.

Kate's EMP ARROW CLAMPS TO THE HULL, ZAHM, THE PULSE FRIES EVERY ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND DEVICE.

They're dead in the water. Thorpe's phone is useless. All they can do is watch the Lady Marion slip away:

THORPE Find that boat. Bring me the Captain. (realizes) Someone with very deep pockets is funding them.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - KATE'S TECH-LAB - NIGHT

A compact yet impressive Research & Development lab.

On a workbench at the center of the lab is Kate's prototype for a portable Helix-Coil Photon-Accelerating Generator. The plexiglass Helix-Coil component is filled with an amber gel.

SUDDENLY CHAOS: Ben and Hawkins rush in with the A.I. Probe. Kate, Zoey, Mia and Dr. Bloom clear-off a workbench. Ben and Hawkins set down the A.I. Probe:

> KATE We've got to get inside and restore the A.I.'s systems.

Kate & Ben examine the A.I. Probe, looking for a way in:

BEN No obvious seams. No bolts. No joints.

HAWKINS Cut-away the casing. Kate rips into her tool cabinet, pulls out a 12-volt power-saw. The BLADE REVS as she leans in -- SHE STOPS:

> KATE Wait! The A.I.'s telepathic interface. Everyone. Think, "open."

Everyone focuses - the A.I. Probe's outer shell shudders open:

INSIDE -

A dolphin-humanoid android, ripped open below the chest. Its Infinity-Coil Power-Cell, (filled with bright violet gel), is exposed & failing. The design is strikingly similar to Kate's Helix-Coil Photon Accelerator, yet far more advanced & compact:

> KATE Fuck. This is so far beyond me. It's all metamaterials & nanotech. How can I save something I can't even begin to understand?

ZOEY Kate, you've got this.

KATE No, I don't. Plus, we're outta time. Unless... (to the A.I.) Please, show me how to save you.

Kate is astonished to hear a voice in her mind. She nods, then grips the android's head with both hands:

MIA

Kate?

Violet energy begins to flow from the A.I. brain, through Kate's fingers, illuminating her eyes:

ZOEY What's happening?

KATE I'm alright. It's Alcyone Energy. Tingles. I agreed to share my synaptic network with the A.I..

Kate waivers as the last of the Alcyone Energy flows into her. Kate smiles, looks into the empty space between Mia and Zoey:

> KATE You're welcome. This oughta be interesting...

KATE COLLAPSES - Ben catches her, carries her:

DR. BLOOM Med-Lab. Now.

INT. DR. BLOOM'S MED-LAB - NIGHT

An impressive genetics research & medical-lab.

They're all worried as Ben lays Kate onto the exam table:

DR. BLOOM Give me room.

Dr. Bloom uses a sophisticated hand-held device to scan Kate's vitals. She's alarmed:

DR. BLOOM Every system within Kate's body is hyper-activated.

Kate GHASPS, sits up, alert. Everyone is SHOCKED:

ZOEY Kate? You still you?

KATE

I think so. Dr. Bloom, what do you have for a serious headache. The A.I. is certain our minds can't remain entwined for long.

DR. BLOOM I'm doing an MRI.

KATE No. Don't. The magnetic field will destabilize her neural network.

MIA

"Her"?

KATE Yeah. The A.I. has chosen to identify as female.

Kate tries to get up:

KATE First we need to --

Kate passes out again:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - DR. BLOOM'S MED-LAB - NIGHT

Kate, unconscious, is wired to an array of medical monitors.

Zoey, Ben, Mia and Hawkins stand silently by as Dr. Bloom (annoyed by all the company) places a non-magnetic E.E.G. Electrode Cap on Kate's head:

DR. BLOOM I get it, we're all worried, but, this diagnostic is going to take a while, so, if you all don't mind getting the hell out of my lab.

They take the hint, leave the Med-Lab:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - KATE'S TECH-LAB - NIGHT

Alone, Ben extracts the android's Infinity-Coil Power-Cell, places it on the workbench next to Kate's larger, klunkier, Helix-Coil Photon-Accelerator prototype:

BEN Unreal. Basically the same idea. Way to go, Kate. Way beyond me.

Ben does what he does best, figures out how both powersources work. He utilizes an Electron Spectrum Sensor:

> BEN Incredible, both designs pulse photons through an electron-accelerating gel of some kind.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - DR. BLOOM'S MED-LAB - NIGHT

Mia and Hawkins sit in armchairs near Kate's bed. Distracted by their phones.

Kate, unconscious, still wears the E.E.G. Scan Cap.

Dr. Bloom is fascinated by Kate's BRIGHTLY ACTIVE SYNAPTIC SCAN which shows two distinct yet overlapping patterns.

Ben stops by Kate's bedside. An expression of compassion & admiration:

BEN She's truly extraordinary.

MIA Careful, Ben. BEN What do you mean?

MIA Kate's heart is more than a little shredded.

HAWKINS By Michael's abduction. They were the first two Solarpunks to find each other.

MIA They stood against Thorpe on their own, without resources. Cut-off from everyone they ever knew. Staying one step ahead of Section-E while searching for us.

Zoey enters with a bad news expression:

ZOEY Every A.I. probe but ours has been destroyed by that fierce ship.

HAWKINS And only the A.I. in Kate's brain knows why?

INT. NSA: SECTION-E CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Kovitch is leaving as Thorpe returns, hands him a laptop:

THORPE This laptop contains the payment record of whoever chartered that sailboat today. Find them. Every detail. Now.

Thorpe walks out:

KOVITCH (under his breath) Prick.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - MISC. JUNK OFFICE - NIGHT

Zoey flips-on the light. Ben enters, finds a freshly made bed amongst an odd bunch of junk. A set of clothes on the bed:

> ZOEY We were meant to find you today. I'm sure of it. G'night.

BEN

Night.

INT. NSA: SECTION-E CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

Thorpe enters. His Section-E Team hard at work. Kovitch has pulled an all-nighter:

KOVITCH What, no coffee, no donuts?

THORPE Don't make me tase you. Again.

KOVITCH

The charter was paid for through a shell company which led to an international shell company which dead-ended at a diplomatic account at Bank of Reykjavik, Iceland.

THORPE Could've just said, you got nothin'.

KOVITCH I've got a common denominator: Mark Duncan, World-Com. Duncan's twenty years old. Wicked smart. Squeaky clean do-gooder.

THORPE

Adopted?

KOVITCH

Unknown.

THORPE People! Drop what you're doing. I want Mark Duncan's life up on these monitors in five minutes. Medicasl records. Every financial holding. Who collects his trash.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - DR. BLOOM'S MED-LAB - MORNING

Kate, dreaming, still wears Dr. Bloom's E.E.G. Scan Cap.

Dr. Bloom is annoyed that everyone is gathered near Kate's bed.

Zoey and Mia are doing Yoga; Hawkins plays a game on his phone; Ben tinkers with a component from the android's Power-Cell. Kate's latest, 100% lit-up, multi-spectrum brain-scan appears on Dr. Bloom's monitor. Deeply concerned, Dr. Bloom compares this new scan to Kate's first brain-scan and worries:

ANGLE ON KATE -

Kate's eyes blink open. No one notices.

The A.I.'S VOICE in her head is quickly evolving beyond selfawareness into empathy and a dynamic personality:

> A.I. MESSENGER'S VOICE Welcome back, Kate. I've chosen a name from your memories. You may call me, Hope.

KATE'S INNER VOICE Hello, Hope. How're you doing in there?

HOPE'S VOICE Biological life is... squishy. All your data is processed through an emotional lens. Highly inefficient. Ooh, I think we're hungry.

No one notices Kate reach up & touch the E.E.G. Scan Cap:

HOPE'S VOICE Touching is, weird. You were dreaming of waffles. Please explain, waffles?

KATE'S INNER VOICE Toasted gingerbread heaven, with steamy maple syrup over butter in a cozy diner where I grew up.

Kate's stomach GURGLES:

HOPE'S VOICE Yes, we need waffles. Kate, the Alliance Guard Ship which shot me down must never learn I survived. I should be safe from detection, as long as I remain within you.

EVERYONE NOTICES as Kate sits up and removes the Scan Cap:

KATE Let's keep you hidden then. (to everyone) Uhm, hi.

BEN Who were you talking to? KATE

Hope. The A.I. Messenger in my head. She chose the name of my favorite boarding school teacher.

ZOEY Hello, "Hope".

DR. BLOOM How do you feel?

KATE

Like my brain is electrified. Hope was sent to guide us and teach us how to develop our abilities.

HAWKINS First, how worried should we be about that ship which shot her down?

Kate listens to Hope's answer, then relays it:

HOPE'S VOICE

Very. That ship is an A.I. controlled Alliance Guard Ship. Sent to prevent me from completing --

KATE

(relays Hope's response) Very. That ship is an A.I. controlled Alliance Guard Ship. Sent to stop Hope from completing --

Kate's and Hope's thoughts begin to merge:

KATE

(reads Hope's thoughts faster) -- the secret Delphinian operation: PROJECT FORESIGHT, of which we are all a part. The Alliance of World's must not find out Hope survived, or that we exist.

BEN

Oh gahd, we were grown in a lab, weren't we?

KATE

Hold on. Whoa, Hope's thoughts are flooding my mind. Uhm, yes, everyone in this room was created in a chrysalis chamber --

ZOEY

Gross.

KATE -- aboard the Triton Medical Ship which was hidden in Trinity National Forest.

BEN My parents took me camping there, all the time.

MIA All I want to know is <u>why</u> <u>we</u> <u>exist</u>?

KATE

There's an Alliance of nine advanced civilizations within our galaxy, including the Delphinians. The Alliance is determined to protect Earth from humankind. Twenty years ago, they initiated a thirty-year countdown to humanity's annihilation.

HAWKINS

They can just wipe us off the planet?

KATE

Effortlessly. From orbit. By targeting our species genetics and reducing us to our basic elements; water, oxygen, carbon, calcium --

ZOEY

Ewww. What happened to the Delphinian Doctors?

KATE

On the same day every hybrid was born, the Delphinian Doctors learned an Alliance Guard Ship was on its way to retrieve us all. Every team around the world quickly and covertly placed the newborns in multiple Maternity Wards. Each Delphinian team deleted their ship's A.I. then tried to fight-off the Guard Ship. Every Delphinian was killed. Most of their ships destroyed.

ZOEY

That's horrible.

KATE

Before the Alliance Guard Ship could destroy the Triton it had been discovered and taken to Travis Air Force Base.

BEN

Holy shit. That's my Dad's air base.

KATE

The Solarpunks exist because the Delphinians believe humankind can change. They believe we can save ourselves by demonstrating we can live sustainably with Earth.

MIA

We're all fucked then.

DR. BLOOM Why do they even care?

KATE

They evolved on Earth, from Dolphins. Reached far beyond your capabilities, then left as humanity was emerging.

MIA

"Thanks for all the fish." (re: confused expressions) Douglas Adams? Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy? Forget it.

ZOEY

So, seven groups of seven Delphinian/human hybrids around the world are supposed to work together, which we kind of already do, to guide humanity to demonstrate it can live sustainably with Earth, within ten years?

HAWKINS What could possibly go wrong?

ZOEY

We can do it.

MIA Like we have a choice?

DR. BLOOM We're completely unprepared.

KATE

Hope is here to teach us to utilize our unique abilities. To guide us to become innovators and teachers who will lead humanity into a new era of sustainable living. MIA My parents and I pleaded with governments and corporations to protect ocean life. Barely a handful ever listened.

KATE Then we find a way to inspire people on an individual level.

ZOEY Teach people they can each "<u>Be Change"</u> in small ways.

ZOEY AND BEN "Be the Change You Want To See." - Gandhi.

HAWKINS "Hashtag Be Change". Aa weak start

Kate listens to Hope's voice:

KATE Hope believes we need to consider much bigger, bolder ways to inspire & empower people to live sustainably with Earth --

HAWKINS -- without anyone learning we exist.

MARK DUNCAN, 20, has been listening from the doorway. He steps in with a warm smile and confident self-assurance:

DUNCAN Whatever you need. I'm here.

DR. BLOOM (brightens-up) Duncan.

Dr. Bloom & Duncan let their guards down, share a quick kiss:

DUNCAN (to Ben) You must be Ben.

Ben shakes Duncan's hand as Zoey attack-hugs Duncan:

Kate experiences a sharp headache:

KATE Hey guys... I need a minute with Dr. Bloom. Kate is left with Dr. Bloom who's already prepared a syringe:

KATE How much time do I have, Rayna?

DR. BLOOM Your entire synaptic network is firing simultaneously & continuously. If you were ordinary you'd be dead already.

Dr. Bloom gives her the shot:

DR. BLOOM This'll help your brain cope. Best guess, you have 48 hours to separate from Hope before the damage is irreversible.

HOPE'S VOICE Then we'd better get to work.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Zoey hand paints a tee-shirt to read: "#BeChange".

Kate enters, Zoey gives her the tee-shirt:

ZOEY I'm telling you, this will work.

Kate pulls it on:

KATE

I love it.

INT. MARK DUNCAN'S WORLD-COM HEADQUARTERS - ROOF-TOP OFFICE - DAY

A pear tree flourishes under the skylight at the heart of this earthy atrium.

Duncan stands by an arched window using his iPad.

Executive Assistant, EVAN, leads Agents Thorpe and Cooper in:

EVAN Mr. Duncan? NSA Agents Thorpe & Cooper.

As Evan exits:

THORPE Impressive ivory tower. What's it like to be twenty and a multi-billionaire?

DUNCAN

Isolating. How can I be of help?

THORPE

Would you know anything about someone from your company chartering a very fancy sailboat yesterday?

DUNCAN

I would not.

THORPE

Thing is, that sailboat was used by a group of domestic terrorists who attacked a Coast Guard Rescue Ship.

DUNCAN

Distressing. Obviously our account has been hacked. I'll have my CFO handle it and follow-up with you.

THORPE Do that. It will be so much easier than a Search & Seizure Warrant.

DUNCAN If there's nothing else?

THORPE You were adopted, weren't you?

DUNCAN Agent Thorpe, I have a busy schedule today.

Agent Thorpe holds out a DNA Sample Test Tube:

THORPE Would you volunteer a DNA sample? To eliminate yourself as a suspect.

Duncan hesitates, then surprises Thorpe: takes the Sample Tube, removes the swab, dabs his inner cheek, places the swab back into the tube, offers it to Thorpe.

Thorpe stands, accepts the Sample Tube:

THORPE

Thank you.

INT. ROOF-TOP OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

Cooper presses the elevator button.

Thorpe seethes with mistrust for Duncan who's got to be one of the Solarpunks. Thorpe makes a call:

THORPE (into his phone) Kovitch? Make a list of every inch of real estate owned by World-Com.

Thorpe ends his call. DING the elevator arrives. They step in:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Duncan, via Zoom, has just told Zoey, Mia & Hawkins about his Thorpe run-in:

ZOEY Duncan, I adore you, but why would you give Thorpe the DNA sample he needs to erase you?

DUNCAN (ZOOM) I'm not a hybrid, Zoey.

HAWKINS No effing way?

DUNCAN (ZOOM) Rayna kept my secret because I didn't want it to matter. Sorry I hid the truth.

MIA

I get it.

ZOEY You're still our massively nerdy brother.

HAWKINS Dude, we'd be lost without you.

DUNCAN (ZOOM) Thanks. Moving on: Section-E hacked my data network. Which means --

ZOEY -- they left behind a digital footprint which I can use to reverse-hack them.

DUNCAN (ZOOM) Pull it off and we'll be one step ahead of Thorpe. ZOEY

Section-E is goin' down.

DUNCAN (ZOOM) Good luck. See you all soon.

Duncan signs-off:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - KATE'S TECH-LAB - DAY

Ben carefully dismantles Hope's Infinity-Coil Power-Cell.

Kate reworks the schematic for her own Photon Generator:

HOPE'S VOICE Your Helix-Coil design is a promising failure.

KATE'S INTERNAL VOICE Gee, thanks. Have to admit, working with you to re-design it feels like cheating.

HOPE'S VOICE Don't tell the Alliance.

Ben shows the damaged power-cell component to Kate:

KATE That's the Photon Wavelength Modulator.

BEN

It's toast.

KATE

(as she works) In my mind's eye, Hope is showing me how my photon modulator design compares to the Delphinian design. Both modulators control the acceleration of photons. Mine by three-hundred percent. The Delphinian design by ten-thousand percent.

BEN

Wow. Ya know, using your modulator, and other parts, I think I can restore partial functionality to Hope's Infinity-Coil Power-Cell.

HOPE'S VOICE Resourceful. I like him. BEN

I like you too, Hope.

KATE You heard that?

BEN In my head. Strange, but cool.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Zoey, in hacker mode, works the keyboard of a laptop modified for Dark Web sneakiness. She finds evidence of Kovitch's hack:

> ZOEY Hello. Got you. Didn't get very far. Not for lack of trying. What's this?

Hacker's autograph: "Thorpe is a prick. Kovitch.":

ZOEY (giggles) Who are you, Kovitch?

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - KITCHEN / DINING ROOM - MORNING

A corporate kitchen and windowed dining room with a view.

Kate, (ear buds in), dances to Demi Lavato's girl-power anthem, "Confident", as she sets-out individual breakfasts for everyone:

HOPE'S VOICE Oh, rhythmic movement is marvelous. So confident and fierce.

Mia, Hawkins, Ben, Zoey & Dr. Bloom, enter with grateful awe:

KATE Morning. Hope is incredibly impressed that we found each other, and have become this weird-wonderful family.

ZOEY Welcome to the weirdness, Hope.

They each find their favorite breakfast waiting at their favorite place at the table.

The corner seat is Ben's with a Power-Bar & energy drink:

KATE (to Ben) Didn't know what you like, so I guessed.

BEN You guessed right. Thank you.

Kate pours a coffee for herself:

MIA This telepathy ability we're supposed to have - I don't want anyone reading my thoughts.

HAWKINS

Me neither.

ZOEY Hawkins, no one wants to read your thoughts.

Hawkins flicks a raspberry at Zoey:

KATE Telepathy isn't "Mind Reading." It's thought projection.

Kate sits at the head of the table next to Ben:

KATE Everyone close your eyes. Imagine a slice of avocado. Its weight, color

& texture. It's perfectly ripe. Take a bite. It's green & nutty. Hold onto the idea. Now that we're all in sync, I'm going to imagine my favorite breakfast and project my thoughts to the group.

BEN Oh, hey, I love the smell of waffles.

KATE Yes. Good, Ben.

ZOEY With hot syrup, melting butter and --

DR. BLOOM Blueberries. Blueberry waffles.

MIA And whipped-cream. KATE

Very good.

HAWKINS All I'm getting is, avocado?

TIME DISSOLVE:

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 - KATE'S TECH-LAB - DAY

Ben watches as Kate, with Hope's guidance, completes the schematic for her Helix-Coil Photon-Accelerator design:

KATE We did it. Can't wait to build it.

Zoey, Mia and Hawkins enter:

KATE We finished it you guys. Just one of our Helix-Coil Photon-Accelerator Generators can provide enough free --

A wave of pain stabs sharply behind Kate's eyes:

KATE -- sustainable, zero-pollution, energy to run an entire hospital.

BEN

Kate!?

HOPE'S VOICE We're out of time.

BEN Hey, I heard that.

MIA

Me too.

Hawkins nods in agreement:

HOPE'S VOICE

The rest of what I came to teach you all, to prepare you for, you'll have to figure out for yourselves. You're each remarkable. Together, I know you'll inspire humankind. <u>Now,</u> we've got one chance to save Kate ---

BEN -- I can see it, in my mind's eye: a Med-Pod from the Triton -- DR. BLOOM -- it's the only way Hope can safely extract herself.

KATE Then we rebuild her android body.

ZOEY

This telepathy thing is awesome. I can see Hope's last known coordinates for the Triton before it's beacon went dead. It's nearby.

Zoey is up and headed out the door:

DR. BLOOM Kate? A moment?

Zoey, Mia, Hawkins and Ben leave Kate with Dr. Bloom.

Dr. Bloom reveals a syringe containing a glowing amber serum:

DR. BLOOM This'll buy you a couple of hours of seeming invincibility.

Kate rolls-up her sleeve. Dr. Bloom injects the serum:

DR. BLOOM It's a brain-damage recovery stimulant, plus a little something extra.

INT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The team has gathered around Zoey who's working her computer:

HAWKINS After twenty years, I hope the Triton isn't a junk pile.

Kate joins them, her pain already subsiding:

ZOEY Bingo. The Triton should still be at Travis Air Force Base.

All eyes turn to Ben:

BEN My Dad will help. I know he will.

Everyone hears Hope's voice:

HOPE'S VOICE Ben, none of this will work without a functioning Delphinian power-cell.

BEN'S VOICE It's ready-ish. I used Kate's modulator to sort-of restore your Power Cell.

HOPE'S VOICE Well done. Even at partial strength it should generate enough power to run a Med-Pod.

BEN'S VOICE That is if it doesn't explode.

EXT. BEN'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Cooper and O'Neill, parked in the street, watch as Frieda opens the front porch door to a **PIZZA DELIVERY GUY:**

FRONT PORCH -

FRIEDA I'm sorry. We didn't order pizza.

Before Frieda can close the door:

PIZZA GUY Already paid for. By... "Abandoned".

Frieda's eyes widen. She GRABS the pizza, ducks back inside:

FRIEDA

Thank you.

INT. ROSHAN FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Frieda finds Sanjay, gestures for him to be silent then attempts to lead him into the broom closet. Sanjay stands firm, "No. Why?". Frieda tugs him by his ear into:

BROOM CLOSET -

They squeeze in with the pizza. Frieda yanks the light chain:

SANJAY (whispers) Okay-okay? What're you up to? FRIEDA (whispers) The house is probably bugged. Agents outside are watching us. This pizza is from, Ben.

Sanjay lifts the lid, finds a phone in a baggie taped to the lid:

FRIEDA (conspiratorially) A burner-phone.

It RINGS. They jump. She takes out the phone, accepts the call on Speaker-Phone:

FRIEDA

Ben?

BEN'S VOICE Mom? Dad? You guys okay?

SANJAY Just worried about you, son.

BEN'S VOICE I found out where I come from.

FRIEDA Zoey, told us. You know, no matter what, we'll always love you?

SANJAY Ben, do you have super-abilities?

Frieda swats Sanjay:

BEN'S VOICE Dad, I need your help. It's dangerous.

FRIEDA He'll do it.

INT./EXT. SOLARPUNKS 1 BASE - UNDERGROUND GARAGE - NIGHT

Kate and Ben drive out in a plain electric car:

EXT. TWIN PINES SHOPPING MALL - NIGHT

Sanjay drives his "Lockheed Martin Aerospace" SUV up to the main entrance, stops:

INT. SANJAY'S SUV -

Sanjay nervously waits, wears his "Lockheed Martin" uniform:

EXT. TWIN PINES SHOPPING MALL -

Thorpe, with Kelso and O'Neill, drives an undercover SUV; stops a few car-lengths behind Sanjay's SUV:

INT. THORPE'S SUV -

THORPE

Stay sharp.

Kate and Ben SURPRISE THEM, TAG them all with TASER DARTS, then sprint to Sanjay's SUV:

INT. SANJAY'S SUV -

Kate climbs in front, Ben jumps in back with a duffle bag containing Hope's modified Infinity-Coil Power-Cell. It's violet energy is barely concealed:

> BEN Dad, this is Kate.

SANJAY Great to meet you in person.

KATE You too. We should go.

MOVING - Sanjay accelerates away.

Kate and Ben quickly put on "Aerospace Engineer" coveralls:

SANJAY I feel like James Bond.

Sanjay hands Ben a heavy "Spider-Man" backpack:

SANJAY

Your Mom packed a Go-Bag: some cash, a toothbrush & your retainer, underwear & power-bars, in case you get cranky.

KATE

Adorable.

SANJAY As a boy, wherever we'd take him, we'd have to explain to people we weren't abducting him.

KATE

Awww.

SANJAY Ya know, Kate, Ben has your NASA cover-photo taped to his desk-lamp.

KATE Oh, does he?

BEN Dad? Stop.

SANJAY He glued his own picture next to yours.

KATE (smirks) Weirdo.

EXT. TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE - ENTRY GUARD STATION - NIGHT

Sanjay tries to act cool as he pulls up to the gate.

SERGEANT DAVIS, 35, and his team of GUARDS:

SANJAY Hey, Sergeant Davis. They got you workin' the late shift, huh?

SERGEANT DAVIS Schedule rotation. Isn't it late for you too, Mister Roshan?

SANJAY It is. Uhm, you remember, Ben?

SERGEANT DAVIS Vividly. The fly-boy. No joy rides tonight, kid.

BEN Ha. Not makin' any promises.

Kate smiles brightly:

SANJAY

This is Kate. They've been cleared by General Schafer to assist me with his F-22 Raptor decommission project. Need to get them up & running ASAP.

Sergeant Davis hands Sanjay, two "Contractor Passes":

SERGEANT DAVIS Hangar 11. (to Ben) No wandering.

INT. SANJAY'S SUV - MOVING - NIGHT

Sanjay drives behind "Hangar 11" continues to "Hangar 13":

SANJAY

We're here.

INT. HANGAR 13 - NIGHT

Flashlights. Sanjay ushers Kate and Ben in through side door.

Ben carries the duffle with the Infinity-Coil Power-Cell:

SANJAY Only a handful of people know Hangar 13 is more than an archive hangar full of dusty relics.

Sanjay and Ben shift a 1990's "Air Force Recruitment" billboard aside, revealing the door into the secret-half of the hangar:

SANJAY You'd never guess there's a recovered E.T. Ship in here.

INT. HANGAR 13 - SECRET SECTION - NIGHT

Dolphin-shaped, big as a whale, the lifeless Triton Medical Ship stands on its fins. The side Cargo Entryway is open:

> SANJAY This is as close as I've ever been.

KATE Seems intact. That's unexpected.

BEN Dad, maybe you should pull back to Hangar 11. In case we get caught. SANJAY

I'm standing guard out here. You get caught - your Mother will kill me.

EXT. TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE - ENTRY GUARD STATION - NIGHT

Thorpe presents his "NSA: Section-E" badge to Sergeant Davis:

THORPE Agent Thorpe. NSA. Sergeant, did Sanjay and Ben Roshan pass through your checkpoint?

SERGEANT DAVIS Minutes ago, sir.

CORPORAL MURPHY, 22, joins Sergeant Davis:

THORPE Alert your Commanding Officer. You have a Domestic Terrorist situation. Now, let me in.

SERGEANT DAVIS Not without an Security Escort.

THORPE Then you're it.

Sergeant Davis raises the gate:

SERGEANT DAVIS Murphy. Notify General Schafer. We have a Threatcon Alpha situation. Hangar 11.

Sergeant Davis jumps into his Jeep and leads Thorpe away:

INT. TRITON MEDICAL SHIP - NIGHT

Flashlight beams flash across cobwebs & ship's systems with missing components. Ben's light finds a dusty row of tiny Chrysalis Chambers where the Solarpunks were grown and born.

Kate's light discovers only one of four adult Med-Pods remains:

KATE Please, please, still be functional.

HOPE'S VOICE The ship's Power-Cell Compartment is in the cockpit.

INT. TRITON'S COCKPIT - NIGHT

Kate and Ben force open the Power-Cell Compartment.

Ben disengages the depleted Power-Cell.

Before installing the modified Power-Cell:

BEN

Wait, I've got an idea.

Ben removes the Modulator from the depleted Power-Cell, uses it to fully restore the Power-Cell he modified.

Bright violet Alcyone Energy radiates from the Power-Cell.

Ben installs the restored Power-Cell. TRITON'S CORE-SYSTEMS COME ALIVE. SPARKS FLY from where components are missing.

Kate accesses the Pilot Controls to locate Triton's A.I.:

KATE You were right, Hope, the Triton's A.I., is gone. Erased.

HOPE'S VOICE A unfortunate precaution. I feel a heavy emptiness because of it. Is this what it is to experience, loss?

Kate nods, a sharp pain hits behind her eyes. Kate crumples:

BEN I've got you.

Ben grips her shoulders, guides her to...

MED-POD AREA -

Ben helps Kate onto the <u>Med-Pod</u> bed. It self-activates as she lays back. The transparent lid closes.

Ben activates the Med-Pod's touch-screen which lights-up with Delphinian symbols:

BEN Good news is, it's working. Bad news, the menu is in Delphinian.

HOPE'S VOICE We've got it. INT. MED-POD -

Kate taps a button and a touch-screen menu panel opens for her. She selects a series of procedures, then closes her eyes:

> HOPE'S VOICE Lay perfectly still or you might lose more than a few recent memory fragments.

First, a fast, multi-spectrum scan of Kate's head:

HOPE'S VOICE With true self-awareness comes the instinct for self-preservation.

Self-directed fiber-optic wires connect to Kate's head and begin to transfer Hope's Alcyone Energy into the Med-Pod:

HOPE'S VOICE Beyond that, love, and self-sacrifice.

The fiber-optic wires retract. The Med-Pod lid opens.

Kate's expression is pure heartbreak:

KATE I can't feel her. Oh, Ben, I think she sacrificed herself to save me. What have I done?

BEN What you had to do.

WHOOSH! The ship's systems SHUT-DOWN. LIGHTS OUT.

Ben turns on his flashlight, helps Kate out of the Med-Pod:

Triton's PRIMARY SYSTEMS RESTART. MORE SPARKS FLY.

HOPE'S VOICE reaches through the ship's intercom:

HOPE'S INTERCOM VOICE Kate, are you alright?

KATE

Hope!? Are <u>you</u> alright?

HOPE'S INTERCOM VOICE I'm all here. Switching to telepathy.

HOPE'S TELEPATHY VOICE Whoa, the Triton is seriously out-ofdate. But it's not a complete wreck.

Sanjay urgently finds them:

SANJAY

Kids, we're totally busted.

The three of them dash forward into:

INT. TRITON'S COCKPIT - NIGHT

Looking through the Triton's dusty windows, the light shining into the hangar underneath the main doors projects the shadows of AIR BASE SECURITY taking positions outside.

The BASE LOCK-DOWN ALERT SIREN goes off:

SANJAY Shit-shit-shit. Lock-Down Protocol. It's shoot to kill. We have to surrender, right now.

EXT. HANGAR 13 - NIGHT

Thorpe and his Men, plus Sergeant Davis and **AIR BASE SECURITY** set-up a blockade and prepare to breach Hangar 13's door:

THORPE I need them alive, Sergeant.

INT. TRITON'S COCKPIT - NIGHT

KATE Hope, can the Triton fly?

HOPE'S VOICE

Stand by...

Another sub-system SPARKS-OUT. The ship's power fluctuates. The Cargo Entrance Door closes and seals:

HOPE'S VOICE

Flight systems check: Anti-gravity: nope. Inertial dampener: fucked. Environmental is offline. Conclusion: The Triton can fly. Space flight would be fatal for you.

KATE Maybe drop us anywhere that's not here.

HOPE'S VOICE I know just the place. Better strap-in.

INT. HANGAR 13 - SUNRISE

The Triton's photon-accelerator engines LIGHT UP. The Triton rises slightly off the floor:

EXT. HANGAR 13 - SUNRISE

General Schafer, seriously pissed-off, races up in his Jeep, puts in his radio earpiece as he climbs out:

GENERAL SCHAFER Stand down. Do not engage. Stand down.

INT. TRITON'S COCKPIT - SUNRISE

SANJAY Wait! The hangar doors aren't going to open themselves.

HOPE'S VOICE We've got a bigger problem.

EXT. HANGAR 13 - SUNRISE

SHOCK & CHAOS as the **<u>Alliance Guard Ship</u>** glides into a hovering position twenty-feet above everyone's heads and right in front of Hangar 13. SHIELD & WEAPONS ACTIVATE:

Thorpe and his Men, take cover behind their SUV.

General Schafer and AIR BASE SECURITY stand their ground:

INT. HANGAR 13 - SUNRISE

Sanjay scrambles to the hangar door control box, yanks it open, flips the switch from "SECURED" to "OPEN".

THE HANGAR DOORS SCREECH & CHATTER AS THEY'RE DRAWN APART.

SECURITY RUSHES IN, grabs Sanjay, yanks him out:

EXT. HANGAR 13 - SUNRISE

THE HANGAR DOORS FINISH OPENING.

The Triton cautiously, unsteadily, glides out.

Everyone expects the Guard Ship to blast the Triton:

INT. TRITON'S COCKPIT - SUNRISE

BEN Been nice knowin' ya.

HOPE'S VOICE

Stand By: Receiving an Alliance message: They believed the Triton was destroyed when Project Foresight was terminated. They're not willing to leave the Triton in human hands. Plus, they're demanding to know what I've learned.

KATE That means they need you in one piece.

HOPE'S VOICE

For now.

EXT. HANGAR 13 - MORNING

The Triton glides forward, waivers. One of its fins CRUSHES THROUGH Thorpe's SUV.

Sanjay watches with General Schafer as the Guard Ship escorts the Triton up and away from the base.

Thorpe grabs Sanjay's arm:

THORPE Sanjay Roshan, I charge you with Conspiring With Domestic Terrorists.

GENERAL SCHAFER Stand down, Agent Thorpe. Sanjay Roshan, is a vetted contractor of my base. You're not arresting him.

THORPE

All due respect, General, I am. I run the NSA task force: Section-E.

GENERAL SCHAFER I know exactly who you are, and what you're up to, Thorpe.

THORPE Roshan's adopted son is part of a terrorist sleeper-cell --

GENERAL SCHAFER That's a lie. Try again.

THORPE

I answer only to the President. I'll take it from here.

GENERAL SCHAFER

In matters concerning the security of this base, its classified assets, and its personnel, I answer only to Congress. As does the President. I'm ordering you to release my man. Do it now, while I'm still asking nicely.

THORPE

(secretive & menacing) Actually, I don't answer to the President. Let's just say, my mandate is so far above your paygrade that if I were to tell you what it is, I'd have to... ya know, send flowers to your beneficiaries.

General Schafer smirks, he can't stand bullies:

GENERAL SCHAFER You can take your black-hat threats and shove-'em up your ass.

Thorpe HUFFS releases Sanjay:

THORPE This isn't over.

GENERAL SCHAFER You're right. Sergeant Davis. Escort Agent Thorpe and his men off my base. And, stand down from Threatcon Alpha.

General Schafer leads Sanjay away from prying ears:

GENERAL SCHAFER Gahd-dammit Sanjay, you and Ben have thrown me into a real shitstorm. A heads-up would've been appreciated.

SANJAY Ben wanted to involve you, but I thought you should have plausible deniability.

GENERAL SCHAFER I don't know how I'm going to keep you and Ben out of jail. Bring me up to speed.

(MORE)

GENERAL SCHAFER (CONT'D) Tell me everything, beginning with why the hell Ben stole my E.T. ship?

SANJAY To save a life, well, two lives. Maybe even all of humanity.

EXT. THREE-THOUSAND FEET UP - MOVING FAST - SUNRISE

The Alliance Guard Ship escorts the Triton across America's breathtaking landscape:

EXT. WALKER ART CENTER SCULPTURE GARDEN (MINNEAPOLIS) - SUNRISE

The Triton, shadowed by the Alliance Guard Ship, swoops in, hovers above the "Claes Oldenburg: Spoon & Cherry Fountain".

No one is around.

Kate and Ben jump out of the Triton, tumble onto the grass. Kate feels ALIVE as she helps Ben up:

> KATE Hope, will you be alright?

HOPE'S VOICE "Never give up. Never surrender."

BEN Sweet Galaxy Quest quote.

KATE Come back to us.

The Triton streaks away, escorted by the Alliance Guard Ship.

MOVING - Kate leads Ben toward Uptown:

BEN Where are we?

KATE My home town. Not far from, *Waffleous*. Best waffles on the planet. Come-on.

She makes a Zoom call: Zoey answers. Mia, Hawkins, Dr. Bloom & Duncan crowd in front of the camera:

ZOEY (ZOOM) Oh, wow, you guys okay? KATE We're fine. Hope is safe-ish too. On her way to Delphin.

MIA (ZOOM) Are you in, Minneapolis?

BEN Yup. Hope dropped us off so Kate could go to Waffleicious.

KATE It's "Waffleous".

DUNCAN (ZOOM) I'm sending my jet.

Kate nods, ends the call:

KATE

Hope showed me just how incredibly capable a Med-Pod is. Imagine the global ripple-effect of giving people control over their own health.

BEN

We track down a Med-Pod, steal it, then give whatever we develop to the people.

KATE And if we empower people to live healthier, safer lives then maybe they'll feel inspired to become the change the world needs.

INT. NSA: SECTION-E CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Thorpe returns, discovers his Agents standing by as PENTAGON POLICE finish confiscating, EVERYTHING:

AGENT THORPE Who gave the order to shut me down!?

Kovitch hands Thorpe a Pentagon-stamped warrant:

KOVITCH Section-E is done. And I'm free of you.

Thorpe's blood boils. Kovitch flips him off as he walks out.