

# CONNOR

"Sapience part II"

by Michael Jay

**TEASER**

FADE IN.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A video plays back the climatic scene from episode 1x04 from a low angle. The picture is turn ninety degrees.

Demon gangster KAAR is holding MATTHEW WALLACE by his neck. JASON LAHEY runs into the shot.

JASON

Noooo!!

ON Connor stoically watching. The sound of the NECK SNAP gets the corner of his mouth to twitch. Both of his wrists are handcuffed to rails on the end of the table he's sitting at.

JASON (O.S.)

Matt...?

BACK TO the video just as Pike guns Kaar down, walking into frame as he does so.

PULL AWAY as a detective pauses the video. He's cut right out of a 1930s gumshoe novel: a trench coat covers his cheap suit and a puffy moustache hides most of his lips.

A uniformed OFFICER pops his head in the door.

OFFICER

Detective Shue?

The Officer hands DETECTIVE SHUE a file and leaves.

SHUE

(clears throat)

Pretty ballsy of ya to publish your little snuff flick on the web, kid.

Connor says nothing, his eyes locked on the paused video.

SHUE

Nothing to say?

Connor's eyes float up to Detective Shue, who takes a seat opposite him and opens the file.

SHUE

(scanning the file)

City workers fixing a water main dug up Wallace this morning. We wanted to talk to the other kid...

(MORE)

SHUE (CONT'D)

(turns the page)

Jason Lahey. Can't talk to a dead man though.

Connor's mouth twitches again.

SHUE

Hung himself in a hotel. Note just said 'I can't live with the secret. It's not fun anymore. Sorry.'

Shue turns the file and slides it across for Connor to see. The file shows a police report and several photos of Jason's body hanging from a rope tied to the ceiling.

Connor's eyes dart in several directions, looking at all of the crime scene photos.

CONNOR

(icily)

I didn't kill him.

SHUE

Wallace? No, the guy dressed like a gangster Klingon did, right before your buddy, uh... Oliver Pike shot him dead. Never did find the man behind the mask, but Mr. Pike's on the way back here to answer a few questions. Ironic he was already in county lockup for murder.

Connor looks up from the file, managing to keep his cold expression in place.

SHUE

Just been a lucky kind of day, I guess. Not two hours after we release the discovery of the body, anonymous tip sends us those videos and points us in your direction.

CONNOR

I didn't... kill him.

Shue leans forward, staring a hole through Connor.

SHUE

Don't matter. At best, you're an accessory to murder after the fact. Worse?

(counts them off)

Conspiracy. Failure to report.

(MORE)

SHUE (CONT'D)

Accessory to two counts of first degree murder. You gonna tell me it was all an accident?

Shue gets up from the table and straightens his coat.

SHUE

We're gonna hang awhile until Mr. Pike arrives. 'Bout an hour. Then we're all gonna sit down and chat.

CONNOR

(looking up)

I get a phone call, don't I?

SHUE

Sure. Ain't gonna do any good unless whoever you call can work some magic and make this all go away.

Shue leaves. Connor resumes staring at the paused video.

INT. LAPD TRANSPORT WAGON - NEXT

PIKE, wrists and ankles shackled, is seated on a metal bench opposite three armed guards, riding in silence. His head hangs long.

INT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S HOME - BEDROOM - NEXT

A blinding white light fades away, revealing PROFESSOR MARRUS standing over REBEKAH GRANT, asleep on the bed.

Professor Marrus exhales and wipes a heavy load of sweat from her forehead. She starts breathing hard, out of breath and takes a step away from the bed, grabbing a bottle of water from the nightstand.

She sits in a wicker chair in a corner, half her face veiled in the shadows of the drawn curtains, and sips her water.

PROF. MARRUS

(panting)

You... have been way more trouble than you're worth. Thankfully, it'll be all over soon.

(beat)

And I hope it's quick.

CLOSE UP of Rebekah's face. The corner of her mouth twitches.

PROF. MARRUS

Quick means Connor's our guy. Slow means we move to the next one in line and I can't be bothered to go through this whole process again.

Rebekah stirs and wakes up. She sits up in bed and looks over to Professor Marrus, squinting to make out her visage.

PROF. MARRUS

Good morning, Bridget.

BRIDGET yawns and rubs her bleary eyes.

BRIDGET

(stretches)

Mmm... did I fall asleep?

PROF. MARRUS

For a little while, but you needed it. You weren't yourself earlier.

(beat)

Hungry?

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN.

INT. CEDAR SINAI HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

GABRIELLA and KAIA are sitting in a crowded hallway. Doctors and nurses walk past in all direction, going about their business.

Kaia's leaning back with her legs and arms crossed. Gabriella's bent over with her hands buried in her face.

Two LAPD DETECTIVES, both of them in street clothes with their badges hanging on their necks via chains, exit the patient recovery room across from them. The girls stand up.

DETECTIVE 1

He's too weak right now. Doctors say he should be fine to speak in a few hours.

DETECTIVE 2

Ms. Heron, Ms...

The second detective looks to Kaia, trying to remember.

KAIA

Caine.

DETECTIVE 2

(nods)

We need you two to come down to the station when you can. Get your statements on record. We'll be back to talk to your friend when he's more capable.

The girls nod. The detectives nod back and they depart.

GABRIELLA

(turning to Kaia)

So.. why the fake name?

KAIA

Soon as I remembered who Wallace was, I figured they might've ID'd me in the video. Lucky the same station didn't handle the whole thing with Oli or they'd have known my name already.

GABRIELLA  
 (walking across the hall)  
 Smart thinking.

KAIA  
 Grow up like I did and you learn to  
 think on your feet. All four of 'em  
 sometimes.

They walk into:

INT. CEDAR SINAI HOSPITAL - FAAS'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kaia gently closes the door behind them. Faas is resting comfortably, with machines monitoring his vitals and an IV running into his arm.

A Hispanic doctor looks up at them and freezes.

GABRIELLA  
 Hello, Doctor Mendez.

DOCTOR MENDEZ offers a weak smile to her before picking up a clipboard.

DOCTOR MENDEZ  
 He, uh, should be okay. Pretty  
 banged up, but his vitals are good.  
 I gave him a sedative, so he should  
 be out for a few hours.

KAIA  
 Thanks, Doctor.

Doctor Mendez nods and excuses himself. Before he shuts the door:

DOCTOR MENDEZ  
 Will... you be needing any kind of  
 special aid, Ms. Heron?

GABRIELLA  
 I don't... know yet. Thanks though.

Doctor Mendez nods and lets the door close. Gabriella and Kaia walk around to opposite sides of Faas's bed.

KAIA  
 (frowns)  
 What was that about?

GABRIELLA  
I'll explain later. I need you to stay with Faas for now. See what he has to say when he wakes up.

KAIA  
Where are you going?

GABRIELLA  
To see Connor.  
(off her look)  
Don't, okay? I just... I need to look him in the eye.

Gabriella heads back for the door. Kaia walks back around the bed to meet her at the foot of it.

KAIA  
(frowning)  
Why? You gonna hypnotize him into not being evil?

Gabriella laughs in a "this isn't the slightest bit funny" way.

GABRIELLA  
You'd think someone who reads people as well as you do would understand. We don't even know why he and Faas were fighting in the first place.

KAIA  
So hang around and get it from the horse's mouth, not the guy that's been lying to you all this time.

GABRIELLA  
(blurting out)  
He hasn't been-  
(beat; calmer)  
He never has. I just... wasn't ready to listen.

Gabriella opens the door to leave.

KAIA  
The eternal optimist.

GABRIELLA  
One of us has to be.

Gabriella shuts the door behind her. Kaia stares at the door, arms crossed and head shaking in disbelief.

Faas GROANS, getting her attention.

KAIA  
 (softly)  
 Hey, you're awake. Docs said you'd  
 be out awhile.

He tries to sit up and grimaces when he puts weight on his arms. Kaia walks over and pushes him back down by his shoulder.

FAAS  
 (bleary)  
 I trust Connor was arrested?

Kaia steps back and frowns.

KAIA  
 How'd you know about that?

FAAS  
 I was the one who turned him in.

Kaia's frown drops. She takes a seat next to his bed.

KAIA  
 Short version, please.

EXT. CEDAR SINAI HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Gabriella briskly walks across the lot when her PDA rings. She glances at the number before answering.

GABRIELLA  
 (stops walking)  
 Hello?  
 (beat; surprised)  
 Uh... yes, I'll accept the charges.  
 (beat; wary)  
 Hey.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

Connor's standing at a pay phone holding the receiver to his ear, his back to a nearby GUARD watching him.

CONNOR  
 (in a low voice)  
 Hey. I, uh... I need help.

GABRIELLA  
 And you called me?

CONNOR

(unsure)  
Well, Michelle's not answering her phone.

GABRIELLA

(blinks)  
Michelle... Marrus? You've been with her all this time?

Gabriella resumes walking towards her bike.

GABRIELLA

You murder her son and she offers you a place to stay? That's a little shady, don't you think?

CONNOR

(defensive)  
She actually understands what happened. When I did... what I did to Eric, I thought he'd killed Bridget. She was bleeding out right in front of me and... I snapped.

GABRIELLA

(blinks; stops walking)  
You never told me-

CONNOR

(bitter)  
You never gave me a chance. Too busy blasting me out the window.

GABRIELLA

(sneers; resumes walking)  
Mistaking her for dead doesn't excuse what you did.

CONNOR

I'm explaining, not excusing. Look, I don't have time for argue. I need your help to fix this. Do you still have Illyria's crystal?

ZOOM IN on Gabriella's face. Her lips stammer, flabbergasted.

GABRIELLA

I... yes, but-

CONNOR

I need you to use it again. Go back in time and-

GABRIELLA

(stern)

No. I can't.

CONNOR

(beat; exclaiming)

What do you mean-

His voice rises. A quick glance at the guard calms him back down.

CONNOR

(in a harsh whisper)

That's the only way to fix this.

GABRIELLA

No, it's not. It can't be. It won't work.

CONNOR

How do you know it won't?

GABRIELLA

It just... I just know. Connor, I'll find another way. You have to trust me. I'll-

Connor scoffs, not bothering to keep his voice down now.

CONNOR

(frustrated)

Trust you!? Why? Ever since you got your powers back, you've been all weird around me, like I did something wrong.

GABRIELLA

Like you did something wrong? You murdered someone!

CONNOR

Before that!

Connor's guard starts towards him. Connor holds up his finger, asking for one more minute.

CONNOR

(lower voice)

When I was gonna kill the Reillys, you went out of your way to talk me down. What changed since then? It's because of my soul, isn't it?

GABRIELLA  
 (defensive; stern)  
 You're so off it's not even funny.

CONNOR  
 Then what is it? What aren't you  
 telling me?

Gabriella tries to answer. Opens her mouth and everything.  
 She's got nothing.

CONNOR  
 Forget it. I'll deal with this my  
 way. Thanks for nothing.

Connor hangs up with a slam of the receiver.

END INTERCUT

Connor punches both hands into the wall behind the phone and  
 bows his head. The Guard comes over and roughly grabs his  
 arm. Connor doesn't resist as the Guard drags him away.

INT. CEDAR SINAI HOSPITAL - FAAS'S ROOM - DAY

Gabriella bursts into the room.

GABRIELLA  
 Hey, I think-

Kaia yanks her away from the door and slams it. She wedges a  
 chair under the handle to keep it shut.

GABRIELLA  
 (dumbfounded)  
 What?

Faas is sitting on the edge of the bed, removing the IV  
 needle from his arm.

KAIA  
 It's Marrus, Connor's teacher.

Gabriella watches Kaia and Faas mill around, trying to catch  
 up.

GABRIELLA  
 Yeah, Connor called me before I got  
 out of the lot. He's been staying  
 with her.

FAAS  
 You don't understand. Michelle  
 Marrus is a dangerous woman.  
 (MORE)

FAAS (CONT'D)  
I am confident she still works for  
the Senior Partners.

GABRIELLA  
How do you know that?

Kaia brushes past Gabriella and slides the window open.

KAIA  
For starters, she's the one that  
tried to blow you and him up at  
Connor's old warehouse.

Kaia looks out the window.

KAIA  
It's about a two story drop.

Faas removes the diodes from his chest. The heart monitor  
next to his bed flatlines.

FAAS  
(smirks)  
Is that all?

GABRIELLA  
Wait a minute. I don't-

Kaia swings her legs out the window.

KAIA  
(sharp)  
Gab! In about ten seconds, the  
staff here is gonna kick the door  
down. Let's go!

Kaia drops out of the window. Faas positions himself to drop  
down.

FAAS  
I'll catch you.

And now he's gone. Gabriella huffs and walks over to the  
window.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HOLDING CELLS - DAY

Connor is shoved into an open cell. PAN RIGHT as he looks to  
his right...

... to see Pike in the adjoining cell, staring a hole through  
him.

The Guard slams the door to Connor's cell. Connor and Pike keep their eyes locked while Connor walks up to the cell door and extends his wrists to the Guard.

As the Guard removes his cuffs, Connor's eye flick to him before back to Pike. Then back to the Guard.

CONNOR  
(squinting)  
Do I know you?

GUARD  
(rushed)  
No.

The Guard gets the cuffs off and quickly leaves. Connor rubs his sore wrist as he walks to the shared bars between his and Pike's cells.

CONNOR  
He look familiar to you?

Pike shoots his hand between the bars, grabs Connor by his neck, and yanks him face first into the bars.

PIKE  
(irate)  
What the HELL did you do?

CONNOR  
Owww. Dude, what the hell?

Pike slams his face into the bars again before releasing him. Connor staggers back and rubs his nose.

PIKE  
You... buried that kid? You tried to cover up what happened?

Connor curls his lip in response. Really? He throws his hands up.

CONNOR  
Really?  
(mimes holding a phone)  
(mocking)  
Hello, 911? Yeah, there's a kid here who got his neck snapped by a demon.  
(normal voice)  
What'd you expect me to do? And don't say "the right thing" 'cause there wasn't one. Not in that case.

Pike silently fumes, his eyes locked with Connor. He scoffs and turns away, running his hands through his hair.

Connor silently watches as Pike curls his hands into fists and shakes them up and down. He bites his bottom lip.

The dam breaks. Pike starts CRYING in ragged, heaving gasps as he slumps to the ground.

ON Connor's feet, with Pike's sobs in the background. One foot steps towards Pike.

Then steps back.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Gabriella slides a gas pump into her motorcycle's tank.

Kaia's at the pump behind her. She pulls a pump from her car and replaces it on the nozzle.

Gabriella walks over as Kaia gets back in her car. CUT TO a shot looking through the passenger side window into the car.

Faas is in the passenger seat. He pops some pills into his mouth and chases them with a bottle of water.

Gabriella leans down in the driver's side window and rests her arms on the door. Faas swallows and lightly coughs.

FAAS

My people have maintained surveillance on Connor for quite some time, ever since his father cut that deal with Wolfram and Hart and unknowingly admitted him into Project Prodigy.

GABRIELLA

("go on")  
Okay...?

FAAS

We traced the purchase of Eric's bomb back to his mother.

(pauses; low)  
We also... were following Connor when he murdered Eric.

Faas shifts in his seat, trying to get comfortable. Gabriella and Kaia share a surprised look.

KAIA

So at that point, you figured  
Bridget wasn't safe with him  
anymore.

FAAS

(nods)

After getting a green light from my  
superiors and a contingency plan,  
we moved to extract the girl. We  
failed. Connor intervened.

GABRIELLA

So... you got him arrested?

FAAS

We made copies of the videos  
Wallace, Lahey, and Connor released  
before they were deleted from the  
web and turned them over to the  
police. The plan was to have Connor  
out of play while we mounted a  
second extraction effort.

Gabriella looks off to the side and mouths "out of play" to  
herself.

KAIA

Why go to Gab for help? You guys  
don't have a factory or something  
for those robo-ninjas?

FAAS

Yes... in Japan. Connor has  
destroyed all that I had here and I  
couldn't wait for another batch.

Faas moans and pops his neck.

GABRIELLA

You're in no shape to be laying  
siege to Marrus's place. And we  
need more information.

KAIA

(to Gabriella)

So what do you want to do?

GABRIELLA

Investigate. If she's still on the  
Senior Partners payroll, this all  
has to be going somewhere and I'm  
pretty sure I know what.

(to Faas)

(MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

Do you still have the surveillance  
on Marrus?

FAAS

No. Shortly after the murder, all  
of our bugs and cameras were  
destroyed. She must've found them.

Gabriella rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

GABRIELLA

Guess that would've been too easy.  
Okay, I'm going to check out her  
lab. See if she kept any of notes  
there. You two check her place and  
be careful. If you see Marrus,  
don't do anything stupid, like  
stay.

KAIA

What about Connor? I thought we  
were helping him.

Gabriella looks away again.

GABRIELLA

He's out of play for the time  
being. Unless he's stupid enough to  
break out of jail.

Gabriella pats the door and leaves.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HOLDING CELLS - DAY

Connor and Pike are sitting with their backs against the non  
common walls of their cells. Pike snuffles and wipes his nose  
against his sleeve.

CONNOR

So I've been trying to come up with  
ways to get out of here.

PIKE

(dejected)  
Dude...

CONNOR

Not break out.  
(beat)  
Well, it's not plan A anyway.

PIKE

And what's plan A?

A beat.

CONNOR  
I'll get back to you on that.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Pike!

Connor and Pike both look in the direction of the voice. A familiar uniformed officer rushes into frame, stopping in front of Pike's cell.

PIKE  
(squints)  
Billy?

It's BILLY MCKINNEY, Pike's former tenant that arrested him in episode 2x10. Pike gets up and walks over.

BILLY  
(out of breath)  
Came when I heard. I'm on duty, so I can't be here long. The state handed down a gag order right after-  
(points to Connor)  
- he got brought in.

PIKE  
Gag order for what?

BILLY  
Every cop and lawyer worth a damn in this city knows that was a legit demon that killed that kid. They wants to hang your friend for it.

Connor gets to his feet and walks over, suddenly interested.

CONNOR  
What do you mean?

BILLY  
We were told in no uncertain terms that if any of us are called to be an expert witness or testify for you in any way, we'd be run out of town and kiss our pension goodbye.

PIKE  
(realizing)  
They're going to cover it up. Use Connor as a scapegoat.  
(beat; dejected)  
(MORE)

PIKE (CONT'D)

And... this isn't the first time  
this has happened.

BILLY

Why do you think Cali's had the  
biggest arrest and conviction rate  
in the country? Someone had to go  
down for all those vamp killings.

Connor backs away and shakes his head.

BILLY

(to Pike)

I... I felt like I owed it to you  
to tell you.

(lowers voice)

If there's any mystical ways to  
make this go away, you may wanna  
consider 'em.

CONNOR

Guard!

(beat; screams)

GUARD!

PIKE

(wary)

What are you doing?

CONNOR

Plan A.

The Guard at the phone with Connor earlier comes in.

GUARD

What do you want?

CONNOR

I remember you now. The night I met-  
(points a thumb at Pike)  
- him, you were one of the cops on  
the clean up crew.

The Guard's eyes widen for just a second before he tries to  
cover.

PIKE

(points at the Guard)

Yeah... yeah, I remember you.

GUARD

(changing the subject)

What do you want, kid?

CONNOR  
Get Detective Shue for me.

PUSH IN on Connor.

CONNOR  
I'm ready to confess.

INT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S HOME - OFFICE - DAY

Professor Marrus paces back and forth in front of her desk with a phone pressed to her ear and her purse slung over her shoulder.

PROF. MARRUS  
(into phone; irritated)  
No Tiffany, this wasn't part of the plan!  
(beat; exhales)  
It's okay though. This might actually work out better.

PUSH IN on the door to the office in the background. Bridget is peeking around the corner.

PROF. MARRUS (O.S.)  
It was a Kaliff demon that killed that boy. I'm sure with a small financial incentive, they'll want to seek revenge.

PULL BACK to get Professor Marrus back in frame. She takes out a makeup compact and checks her reflection.

PROF. MARRUS  
It'll save me the trouble of overpay to hire vampires to break into the precinct and kill Connor.

CUT TO Bridget as her jaw drops. BACK TO Professor Marrus now puckering her lips at the small mirror.

PROF. MARRUS  
I have the local Kaliff family in my directory. Look them up. Get them in the game. Tell them to bring all the muscle they can. Connor and Mr. Pike will not be easy kills, especially in a police station.

Professor Marrus lifts her neck, noticing a red bump.

PROF. MARRUS

Ick.

(clears throat)

He's already tried to call me twice. He won't suspect me. Just let them know he's at the Rampart Station over on West Temple.

CLOSE UP on her mirror. **Bridget is plainly visible in the reflection.** She slips out of the doorway.

PROF. MARRUS

Oh, don't worry about getting Bridget there for the big finale.

(smirks)

It's just been taken care of.

She simultaneously snaps the compact and her phone closed.

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Connor's alone in the room, handcuffed to a table again. Detective Shue enters the room with a smug grin.

SHUE

So... ready to confess your sins?

CONNOR

Yeah, but not to you.

Shue's grin drops. He takes a seat.

CONNOR

I'll confess to everything, but if a video's gonna incriminate me, then I want another one for this.

Shue sneers, leans back, and crosses his arms.

SHUE

I'm not letting you throw a taped pity party.

CONNOR

Then put me back to my cell. We can drag this out as long as you want.

Their eyes stay locked on each other when a KNOCK at the door precedes an older gentleman, the CAPTAIN, entering the room.

CAPTAIN

Detective, a word?

Shue gets up and follows the Captain out, never taking his eyes off Connor until he's out the door.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HALLWAY - NEXT

The Captain gets about ten paces from the door before he turns around to face Shue.

CAPTAIN

Give him what he wants.

SHUE

What?!?

CAPTAIN

Chief wants this sealed off now. If we don't, they'll ship him to another precinct and it's their win.

Shue smiles and shakes his head.

SHUE

Unbelievable.

CAPTAIN

This whole thing's gotten national coverage. We all smell like roses if we close this quickly.

Shue huffs as he turns around and goes back into the interrogation room.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - NEXT

Shue quickly sits down and leans forward towards Connor.

SHUE

Deal. We'll get a crew down here.

CONNOR

I want that anchor from KCAL. Cale Burrows. Him, a cameraman, and a cop in the room that ain't you. That's it.

SHUE

This is my case. It doesn't get closed without me present.

CONNOR

That why your boss just pulled rank on you?

(off his look)

I have great hearing.

Now Connor leans back in his chair with a smug grin. He'd cross his arms if they weren't handcuffed to the table.

INT. GABRIELLA'S SHOP - MAIN SALES FLOOR - DAY

ALICIA SINCAID is sitting on a stool behind the register, mindlessly flipping through a magazine. She picks up a raw turkey drumstick and takes a big bite out of the flesh.

The bell over the door RINGS as Bridget rushes in. Alicia doesn't bother looking up from her magazine.

ALICIA  
 (bored; monotone)  
 Greetings, kind patron of the  
 mystic arts. I am Alicia, your  
 gateway to the realm of-

BRIDGET  
 (out of breath)  
 You have to help me!

Alicia sighs, completely disinterested, and puts her magazine down. Upon seeing Bridget, she flinches ever so slightly.

ALICIA  
 You're Connor's sorta-kinda-maybe-  
 not-really-real sister, right?

BRIDGET  
 (ignoring her)  
 Where's Ms. Heron?

As Bridget strides over to the desk:

ALICIA  
 (not paying attention)  
 How'd you get here?

BRIDGET  
 (also not paying  
 attention)  
 Is your sister here?

ALICIA  
 Did you hitchhike?

Bridget opens her mouth to respond until she notices:

BRIDGET  
 (disgusted)  
 Eww, are you eating raw turkey?

Alicia smirks to herself and sets her magazine down.

ALICIA  
 Okay. Why are you here?

BRIDGET  
 They're gonna kill Connor!

ALICIA  
 Who are they?

Alicia holds her hand up to cut off the answer.

ALICIA  
 (pulls her phone out)  
 Wait. Stop. Don't care.

Alicia dials a number and presses the phone to her ear.

ALICIA  
 Calling my sister. This is for her  
 and Gabriella.

The low sound of the ringing phone is the only sound for a few moments before Alicia rolls her eyes and hangs up.

BRIDGET  
 What?

ALICIA  
 (dialing again)  
 No answer.

Again Alicia puts the phone to her ear. And again, a few moments later, she hangs up.

ALICIA  
 Gab's not answering either.

BRIDGET  
 Then you have to help me!

ALICIA  
 Ha! Why? Don't like him. Don't know  
 you. And-

Bridget breaks out the trembling bottom lip, freezing Alicia in mid rejection.

BRIDGET  
 (pleading)  
 Please. He's my brother.

ALICIA  
 (shaking her head)  
 No, he's n... I mean hell no. I'm  
 not sticking my neck out for-

Stage two of the guilt trip. Tears welling in the eyes. Alicia holds her head high, looking down her nose at Bridget.

For all of two seconds.

ALICIA  
 Crap.

Alicia gets down off the stool. She walks to the front door, flips the sign to 'Closed', and shuts off the lights.

ALICIA

Let's go in the back and put our heads together. Or stall until one of them answers their damn phone.

Alicia waves for Bridget to follow her.

INT. UNKNOWN OFFICE - DAY

Looking at the back of a plush leather chair. Some smoke rises from behind it.

MALE VOICE

(scruffy; Italian)

Yes, ma'am. That ain't a problem. Hell, it'll be a pleasure.

The chair swings around, revealing a KALIFF DEMON similar to Kaar (red leathery skin with small horns running along the jawline and on the top of the head) smoking a cigar and talking on a cell phone.

Let's call him TINY, just for fun.

TINY

Get the funds transferred and I'll take care of the rest. Bye now.

Tiny hangs up as another Kaliff, a HENCHMAN, walks in.

HENCHMAN

Been following on the news. We really wanna do this kid? Kaar's stupid ass got himself whacked going after that pocket change.

TINY

Financially, it's worth our while. How many we got in town? Client says no survivors whatsoever or no money.

HENCHMAN

(pauses; thinks)

'Bout a dozen. Three hours and I'll have more.

TINY

(shakes his head)

We gotta be moving inside an hour.

(beat)

(MORE)

TINY (CONT'D)

What about Grappler demons? Stupid enough for us to kill 'em after and save on the pay.

The two demons share a smile.

INT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S LAB - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

TIFFANY, Professor Marrus's assistant, stands in the middle of the wreckage of monitors and desktops left by Bridget in the last episode. She closes her cell phone and throws her hands up.

TIFFANY

Where to begin?

PAN RIGHT to look past Tiffany at Gabriella standing in the doorway! Gabriella loudly clears her throat.

TIFFANY

(startled; points)

You!

GABRIELLA

(icily)

Where's Michelle?

Black energy swirls up Tiffany's body as her eyes turn JET BLACK. Her shoulders raise as she builds up her power... just before her body is BLASTED straight back by an unseen force, slamming against the wall behind her.

Gabriella's body sparks with yellow energy as she crosses the room and casually leans against the wall next to Tiffany, propping one of her feet up against it.

GABRIELLA

(nonchalant)

Do I need to ask again?

TIFFANY

(scared; gasping)

She's... not... here.

Gabriella crosses her arms and look back towards the door.

GABRIELLA

You wouldn't lie to me, would you?

'Cause the mood I'm in...

She trails off, letting the threat end with a curt smile. Tiffany turns her head to Gabriella, straining just to move that much. Gabriella doesn't meet her eyes.

GABRIELLA  
 (checking her fingernails)  
 You know... about a year ago, I was  
 in your position. Some super  
 powerful jerk holding me against a  
 wall with his magic.

Gabriella blows on her nails.

GABRIELLA  
 Slammed me into it over and over  
 again. I'm not as strong as he was.  
 Can't move your body that easily.

Tiffany's head lurches forward, then slams back against the  
 wall, yelping in pain on impact.

GABRIELLA  
 Just your head. That's all.

Tiffany's head slams again.

GABRIELLA  
 My friend Connor is in trouble and  
 I'm thinking Michelle's got a role  
 in it. Since you tried to attack me  
 on sight, I'm thinking I'm right.

Tiffany doesn't respond. Her head snaps forward again and-

TIFFANY  
 Okay! Please stop!

Gabriella exhales and Tiffany falls to the ground, clutching  
 the back of her head.

INT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S HOME - OFFICE - DAY

ON a window in a set of French doors letting out to the back  
 patio. Faas, crouched down, cuts a circle in the glass with a  
 small blade and pops it out.

He reaches through the hole and unlocks the door from the  
 inside, letting himself and Kaia in.

KAIA  
 (whispering)  
 Stealthy.

FAAS  
 Not very. Too easy, actually. Let  
 us find what we can and get out.

KAIA  
 (points)  
 Computer's a good place to start.

The two of them go to Marrus's desktop. Kaia sits and tries to get the ball rolling but:

KAIA  
 Password locked.

FAAS  
 (taps her shoulder)  
 Here, let me.

Kaia gives up the chair. Faas pulls a small drive and plugs it into an open USB port.

KAIA  
 Can't copy the files without-

She stops as the computer unlocks.

FAAS  
 Asian technology. Should come State-  
 side in a year or two.  
 (while typing)  
 Let's turn on the hidden files  
 and... search... Project Prodigy.

They wait while the computer searches.

KAIA  
 There. Dedicated folder.

Faas opens the folder and the two of them quickly scan it.

KAIA  
 (squints)  
 Three stages of chaos? Open that.  
 (beat; points)  
 Try the... stage one folder.

Faas complies. ARC AROUND behind them to get the monitor in view. A video begins playing of the battle with the golem at Ethan Rayne's fake mansion from episode 1x07.

KAIA  
 (shocked)  
 Oh my God.

FAAS  
 Was this from your night in Ojai?

KAIA

That's a hell of a random guess.

FAAS

Aside from Connor's two trips to England, which none of you accompanied him on, Ojai was the only other time we did not maintain surveillance on him.

Faas closes that video and opens a folder marked 'Stage Two' and a new set of videos. Faas plays one, a recording of the tower atop the radio station at CSULA from episode 1x08.

KAIA

That's where Rayne cast the spell to make all of LA deaf.

PROF. MARRUS (O.S.)

Some fascinating reports were collected on that one.

Kaia and Faas looks up to see Professor Marrus in the doorway, sipping a cup of coffee. Faas slowly stands up and pulls a small knife from a holster on his waist.

PROF. MARRUS

Unfortunately, stage three only lasted a scant few hours. Not long enough to get any substantial data.

KAIA

(furious)

You were behind all that? Do you know how many people got hurt from those spells? How many people died?

PROF. MARRUS

I'm a doctor of psychology. No worse than losing lab rats. Do you realize how intriguing it was to observe the actions of nine million people suddenly unable to hear?

(sips her coffee)

Felt like Christmas come early.

Kaia walks around to the front of the desk.

KAIA

And what're you doing with Connor? Is he another guinea pi?

FAAS

And the girl?

PROF. MARRUS

No. They're the results of years of experimentation and research. And like rats running a maze, it's been clockwork. The only true anomalies were you and your friends.

She sets her mug down on a table next to the door and rolls her neck. Kaia and Faas drops into defensive stances.

PROF. MARRUS

(eyes turning black)

Nothing that can't be erased though. I wasn't going to bother given you all seem to be in the habit of trying to kill each other, but this close to the end of the game, I can't afford anymore wildcards in the deck.

Black energy swirls around her body similar to Tiffany earlier, only louder and more erratic.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Alicia's driving slowly with Bridget in the passenger seat, looking left and right, searching.

ALICIA

(under her breath)

Never a cop around when you need one.

BRIDGET

What are you doing? We have to help-

ALICIA

Are you always a broken record? We can't exactly tell the cops your make-believe brother's in trouble-

BRIDGET

Why do you keep saying-

Alicia shakes her head.

ALICIA

Forget it.

(points)

Aha!

Alicia quickly parks and gets out of the car.

ALICIA  
Come on, let's go.

BRIDGET  
Go where?

Alicia waits for Bridget before crossing the street, towards an old lady folding up her walker next to a Cadillac.

Alicia glances down the street to two COPS leaning against a squad car, one of them writing out a ticket.

ALICIA  
(to the old lady)  
Excuse me, ma'am? We need to borrow your car.

Alicia SHOVES the old lady to the ground! Alicia quickly searches her purse and pulls out the keys.

ALICIA  
(to Bridget)  
Get in!

BRIDGET  
What? Why are you-?

ALICIA  
Just shut up and get in.

Alicia unlocks the driver's side door and gets in. Bridget looks up to see the two cops running towards them.

COP 1  
Hey! Stop right there!

Bridget glances down at the car, then back to the cops. She huffs and gets into the passenger seat.

Alicia pulls off into traffic, waving goodbye to the cops, who double back to their squad car.

FLASH CUT TO a few moments later. Alicia cuts a sharp turn and checks the rear view mirror. The cops are rapidly gaining on her.

ALICIA  
(sighs; muttering)  
Why am I doing this again?

Alicia YANKS the wheel to the side and slams on the brakes. The car squeals to a stop in the middle of an intersection. Among all the stopped cars and blowing horns, the two cops get out of their car and sprint over to them, guns out.

Alicia rolls the window and holds her hands up.

BRIDGET  
How does getting us arrested help?

ALICIA  
How else did you plan to get a message to Connor?

One cop gets to Alicia's window. The other comes up on Bridget.

ALICIA  
We give up. Won't give you any trouble.

The cop on the driver's side opens Alicia's door with one hand, keeping his gun on her with the other.

COP 1  
Out of the car! Now!

Alicia nods and steps out, getting down on her knees.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Connor sits across from CALE BURROWS (late forties, tailored suit, badly dyed hair) and a CAMERAMAN filming him. The Guard he identified earlier cuffs one of his wrists to the table.

CONNOR  
(to the Guard)  
Lock the door.  
(beat; off his look)  
Part of my deal. No interruptions until I'm done.

The Guard looks to Shue and the Captain just outside the door. Shue glances over at the Captain, who nods to him. Shue rolls his eyes and nods back to the Guard, who shuts the locks the door.

CONNOR  
Are we gonna be live?

CALE  
Yeah, just a five second delay.  
Waiting on the station to cue us.

Connor nods and leans back in his chair, waiting. The Guard has his gun and a TASER in hand, ready to jump in if need be.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HOLDING CELLS - DAY

Pike sits on the ground, resting his arms on his knees, his head low. He takes a deep breath and holds it for a few seconds before letting it go.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY

A couple dozen cops are crowded around a large television with Shue and the Captain at the forefront. A news report for channel five is playing.

ANCHORMAN

In other news, police have apprehended a suspect in the murder case of Matthew Wallace, whose body was dug up early this morning after being missing for over a year.

Connor's mugshot pops up onscreen.

ANCHORMAN (O.C.)

Twenty one year old Connor Angel was arrested at his home this afternoon. He has agreed to a full confession on the condition that it be broadcast live. We take you now to the LAPD station where our own Cale Burrows is standing by.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Burrows nods to Connor, who stares off into space.

His eyes dart around and he licks his lips. He shifts in his chair, never once looking at the camera.

He rubs his neck and clears his throat. His fingers rap on the table and he turns his head to the other side.

Burrows shares an uneasy look with the Guard as they wait.

Connor takes a deep breath and exhales, still not looking at the camera. He purses his lips.

CONNOR

My father once told me that nothing in the world is the way it ought to be. That it was harsh and cruel. He said people like us live as though the world was what it should be so we could show it can be.

(beat; shifts in chair)

(MORE)

CONNOR (CONT'D)

I never understand that, until something clicked this morning and I feel stupid for not seeing it before. I can't... show the world what it can be if it doesn't even know what it is right now.

(beat; laughs)

All my life, I've just wanted to be normal. Just another face in the crowd, that's all. But I was so far ahead of the world, carrying this burden of being... what I am that there was no way for me slow down for the world to catch up. So... if I can't do that, then you all need to get up to speed.

Cale leans forward in his seat. The Guard remains... on guard.

CONNOR

Wallace and his friend Jason were shadowing me. They wanted to show the world what it is. Couple of dorks, but they meant well.

(beat; coughs)

They filmed one of my friend's tenants. His name was Hank.

INT. TRISH'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

TRISH, Pike's tenant and neighbor, is curled up on the couch watching the broadcast. Around her are several of Pike's tenants we've seen over the course of the series. The multi-armed demon that made his special bullets. Hank's wife, BETTY, from episode 2x04.

CONNOR (O.S.)

Turned out Hank had a little gambling problem and when those videos streamed to the net, the wrong guy saw them. Guy named Kaar.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Connor rubs his eyes before continuing.

CONNOR

That wasn't a costume he was wearing. It was real. Kaar... was a demon.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - DAY

Shue and the Captain swap shocked looks before they dash out of the room.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Burrows snickers to himself and glances at his cameraman. The Guard glances down at Connor, then back at the camera.

BURROWS

I'm sorry, did you say demon? You meant in the metaphorical sense, right?

CONNOR

No, physical, like evil spawn of Hell type demon.

BURROWS

Can't believe you got me down here for this farce.

CONNOR

(stern)

It's the truth. Demons are real. So's magic, vampires, werewolves...

(beat)

Pretty much everything but leprechauns. Want me to prove it?

Burrows scoffs and leans back in his seat.

BURROWS

(sneers)

How?

Connor glances down. Burrows follows his eyes down to the pitcher of water in front of him.

The FLOATING pitcher of water.

CONNOR

There's a start. Want some water?

Connor glances to the empty paper cup on the table. It FLOATS up to the pitcher. The pitcher tips, filling the cup with water. The cup floats to Burrows, who shakily accepts it.

Burrows's eyes widen. His lips stammer. Connor finally looks at the camera directly.

CONNOR

Want more proof? Look at Burrows.

The cameraman obliges. Burrows looks nervous, his brow starting to sweat.

BURROWS

What are you talking about?

CONNOR

You're a demon. I've known since I saw you on the coverage for the Gus Savant murder trial. I just never said anything about it. Why do you think I requested you by name?

The Guard grabs Connor's shoulder. Connor smirks.

CONNOR

Did I mention I already picked the lock?

Connor ducks under the Guard's arm and slips behind him. He violently slams the Guard face first into the table, knocking him out instantly.

CONNOR

For those who don't believe me-

Connor reaches across the table and YANKS BURROWS'S FACE OFF! The human skin is just a mask, revealing a purple face with neon green eyes and bulging veins underneath.

BURROWS

(shielding his face)  
Cut it off! Cut the camera off.

CONNOR

(to the cameraman)  
Do that and I'll make you eat it.

Someone BANGS on the door from outside. The cameraman nods and sits down. Connor sits back down as well.

CONNOR

Now... where was I?

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN.

INT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S LAB - OFFICE - DAY

Gabriella stands over Tiffany, who is sitting front of a computer. Gabriella face is tight. Dark. Pissed.

PROF. MARRUS (O.S.)

(via computer)

Project Champion entry thirty seven. Plans to separate Connor from his friends are unnecessary. Manipulating him into killing my son had unexpected consequences. Heron has kicked him out of their home. He's living with me now.

(beat)

I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Finally.

Gabriella slams her hands on the desk, making Tiffany jump.

GABRIELLA

Does she have a hard copy of her notes?

Tiffany points to a filing cabinet next to the desk.

TIFFANY

In there.

GABRIELLA

Make a copy of all of those audio logs on a CD. Now.

Gabriella moves to the filing cabinet and opens it up. Tiffany stares at her while pulling out a phone.

INT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S HOME - OFFICE - DAY

A FLASH of light precedes Kaia sailing through the air and crashing on top of Professor Marrus's desk, knocking the computer monitor off it. She rolls off to the floor.

Professor Marrus ducks and dodges, moving impossibly fast, to avoid Faas's knife swings.

She blocks one by grabbing his wrist. It starts to SIZZLE and smoke in her grasp. Faas YELLS in pain and falls to his knees, dropping the knife in the process.

Professor Marrus's skin is blotchy and covered in dark veins. Black streaks of power crackle around her. She grabs Faas's neck with her other hand.

PROF. MARRUS

Do me a favor, Faas?

(beat; menacing)

Tell my son I said hi when you see him in Hell.

Her hand and arm starts to GLOW and Faas SCREAMS as an intense blue light pours out of his eyes, nose, and mouth. Professor Marrus closes her eyes as she's bathed in the same light. Faas's screams fade as the light dissipates.

Professor Marrus lets his limp body fall to the floor. His eye sockets look hollow and smoky, as if his eyes were literally burned out of her face.

Kaia rolls out from behind the desk, perched on all fours. Her eyes turn black and she GROWLS.

KAIA

(feral)

Good thing I saved my appetite.

She bares her teeth as they stretch into fangs. Professor Marrus beckons her forward with her hand.

Kaia ROARS and charges at Marrus.

ZOOM IN on Professor Marrus.

EXT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S HOME - BACKYARD - NEXT

Nice quaint scene. Birds chirping. Squirrels darting around the grass. A flash of light from inside the patio windows followed by Kaia's guttural cries.

Kaia herself crashes through the windows and lands hard out on the patio near the fire pit, knocking the steel poker all over the place.

She rolls to her back and her partial werewolf features fade back to normal human ones. She spits up a mouthful of blood.

Professor Marrus steps through the destroyed windows to the patio. She stalks towards Kaia and extends her hand. A poker flies into it.

PROF. MARRUS

It's a little too hot today for a fire. Shame. The human body burns way better than wood does.

Kaia lifts her head, about the only thing she has the strength to do, and watches helplessly as Professor Marrus advances on her.

PROF. MARRUS  
Eve can attest to that. If you don't believe me, turn around and ask the pile of ask in the pit.

Professor Marrus's hand starts glowing again. The poker soon turns red. Red HOT, in fact.

She gets interrupted by her phone RINGING.

PROF. MARRUS  
(cheery)  
I'm sorry. Could you excuse me just a moment?

She pulls out her phone and checks it.

ON the phone. The face displays a text message: 911. Heron is here. Copied Proj. Champ files.

PROF. MARRUS  
Damn it.  
(beat)  
Goodbye, Ms. Sincaid.

She mindlessly throws the poker at Kaia! Kaia screams and rolls to her side, her body convulsing violently.

Professor Marrus leaves, ducking back into her house.

PUSH IN on Kaia's shaking body. She DROPS the poker out of her hands. The point in her stomach where it would've hit is clean.

She caught it before it stabbed her.

She gasps and coughs up more blood. Her palms and fingers are badly burned.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The banging on the door continues.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)  
Open this door, now!

Connor swipes his hands through the air. The table and all the chair fly over and barricade the door. Connor holds them in place, albeit with shaky hands. He grits his teeth, straining to keep his concentration.

The cameraman is still filming everything.

BURROWS

So... you're saying the existence of demons and magic has been covered up by the world's government?

CONNOR

Yep.

BURROWS

Why?

Connor glances over to Burrows, then back at the door.

CONNOR

Why didn't you say you were a demon when you interviewed for your job?

BURROWS

(scoffs)

Are you serious?

CONNOR

Why do parents lie to their kids about Santa Claus? Why do men lie about the size of their penises? Why do women spend thousands of dollars on their faces and bodies and pretend it's all natural?

Connor pauses to wipe the sweat from his forehead.

CONNOR

'Cause the world's just a little bit happier being blissfully unaware. 'Cause sometimes the truth only makes things worse.

BURROWS

So why blow the whistle now?

CONNOR

A demon killed Matthew Wallace, not me, and people wanted to pin his death on me to protect that truth. I've lived nothing but lies all of my life, but no way am I going to jail to preserve one.

The banging gets louder. More fists hitting the door.

BURROWS

So what's your story then? Why were you so special that you were privileged enough to be let in on the secret?

CONNOR

(snorts)

Ain't got enough time to explain all that.

Connor's nose starts dripping blood. The sustained magic he's doing wearing on him.

BURROWS

The abridged version then?

CONNOR

Well, for starters-

(sniffs)

- both of my birth parents were vampires.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Bridget sits in a chair next to the desk of a random detective. He hands her a cup of water.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HOLDING CELLS - DAY

Pike is pacing back and forth when the door opens and Alicia is escorted in by one of the cops that chased her down. She's put in the cell next to Pike, where Connor was earlier.

PIKE

(squints)

Alicia?

ALICIA

Shut up, I still hate you.

Alicia's cuffs are removed and her escort leaves.

PIKE

Why the hell are you in here?

ALICIA

Got myself popped. Took long enough to find a cop from this division to haul me in. Connor's fake sister is here too.

Pike looks beyond lost.

PIKE  
W... why?

Alicia steps up to the common wall between their two cells.

ALICIA  
(beat)  
There's a bunch of demons on the way here to kill Connor. That professor chick-?

PIKE  
(catching up)  
Marrus.

ALICIA  
Yeah, she set it up.

PIKE  
Jesus. When? When are they coming?

Alicia shrugs.

PIKE  
Why are you, of all people, helping us? Did Kaia send you?

ALICIA  
Because I don't like seeing little kids cry, like my brother did when he watched Kaia and me bury Josh and Nick.

Pike bows his head. Guilty as charged.

ALICIA  
Because I'm not some monster that would let someone die out of spite. I'm only human twenty seven days out of the month, thank God.

PIKE  
How's that work in February?  
(shakes his head)  
Nevermind.

He starts pacing, thinking.

PIKE  
(to himself)  
She'd know Connor wouldn't be here long before being sent to a real jail until his court date, so it's gonna be soon.

The camera drops down, THROUGH the floor to:

INT. SEWERS - CONTINUOUS

Tiny and his goons, dressed in Italian mobster-esque suits and carrying automatic weapons, stalk through the sewers. There's at least a couple dozen of them, followed by a crowd of hulking, grey skinned demons with enormous tusks extending from their mouths. These are GRAPPLER DEMONS.

EXT. PROFESSOR MARRUS'S HOME - BACKYARD

Kaia pulls herself up to sit on the edge of the fire pit.

GABRIELLA (O.S.)  
(screaming)  
Kaia?!?

Gabriella runs around the side of the house to the backyard. She spots Kaia and zips over to her.

GABRIELLA  
Hey, you okay?

KAIA  
(pained)  
Fine.

Kaia stands up and topples into Gabriella's arms.

KAIA  
It was Marrus.

GABRIELLA  
Where's Faas?

KAIA  
(nods towards the house)  
In there.  
(beat)  
He's dead.

Gabriella glances back at the house, then down at her friend. She wraps Kaia's arms around her neck and helps her back up.

KAIA  
Marrus... she was behind... all the  
Ethan Rayne stuff last year.

GABRIELLA  
That and a hell of a lot more.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. KAIA'S CAR - NEXT

Gabriella's behind the wheel while Kaia is patching herself up with bandages and gauze. As usual, Gabriella's driving like a madwoman. She's also holding her phone to her ear.

GABRIELLA

(into phone)

Okay, I'll be there in less than a minute. Thanks.

She hangs up.

GABRIELLA

Project Prodigy was just the beginning. It was meant to study the subjects over a prolonged period of time and identify the top candidates.

KAIA

Candidates for what?

GABRIELLA

To be the champion of the Senior Partners. Connor and Bridget were the top of the class. Only Bridget's powers made it impossible to control her long term.

Kaia nods, then winces as she dabs a scratch on her face with peroxide.

KAIA

Okay, I'm with you so far.

GABRIELLA

So when Connor became de facto number one, they started working to bring him over to their side. Marrus was brought in after their first few attempts failed.

KAIA

("keep going")

Right...

GABRIELLA

The goal was always to tarnish Connor in the eyes of the Powers that Be. Marrus accomplished that when she tricked Connor into killing her son. That put one foot in the grave.

Gabriella whips the car into a parking lot and parks.

KAIA

And the other foot?

GABRIELLA

Killing Eric was the warm up act and Bridget's too much of a liability to the Partners if her powers can overwhelm their spells.

KAIA

(catching up)

No. Connor would never kill her.

GABRIELLA

Not if he has a choice. Marrus was staging it so he didn't.

Kaia nods and looks around. They're outside an apartment complex.

KAIA

(frowns)

Why are we here? Shouldn't we be getting to Connor?

GABRIELLA

I need something first.

Gabriella opens the door and gets out. Kaia blinks, confused.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Bridget blows a strand of hair out of her eyes, looking bored. The sound of GUNSHOTS snaps her head around. Same with the detective baby-sitting her.

He pulls out his gun.

DETECTIVE

Stay here.

He and a bunch of other officers run towards the sound of the gunshots. They're all immediately shot to death as the Kaliff and Grappler demons barge their way into the station.

ZOOM IN on Bridget as she takes a deep breath.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

Shue and the Captain clear a path for another officer with a BATTERING RAM. That officer starts ramming the door.

Bridget's SCREAM stops everyone cold.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Connor's mouth hangs open, likely in mid sentence. He whips his head back at the door. Blood is oozing from his nose now.

CONNOR  
(surprised)  
Bridge?

He lets the table and chairs fall away from the door and puts his ear against it.

PUSH IN on his face. The sounds of the battle outside ECHO.

Connor throws the door open. All of the cops that were trying to get in are gone. He runs out into:

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Connor slides to a stop and his eyes go wide.

A massive gun battle has broken out, resembling a shoot out in the Old West. Burrows and the cameraman bump into Connor. Burrows's jaw drops.

BURROWS  
(to the cameraman)  
My God, are you getting this?!?  
Tell me we're still live!

The cameraman, who had his equipment lowered, blinks and hoists it back on his shoulder.

CONNOR  
(frowning; dejected)  
All these guns. Where are the  
swords?

BRIDGET  
Connor!

Connor looks over to see Bridget hiding under a desk. He gets to her as fast as he can while ducking the bullets flying overhead. He kneels next to her.

CONNOR  
Come on, let's get you out of here.

He pulls her out and keeps both of their heads down as he heads for the door.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Kaia's car races down the street. We pull up on the driver's side to show Gabriella driving with an intense purpose.

KAIA  
So this trigger is gonna make  
Bridget go Krakatoa?

GABRIELLA  
(nods)  
And Connor's forced to kill her to  
stop her. The final solution.

KAIA  
Connor wouldn't. I mean, even after  
Eric, he wouldn't-

GABRIELLA  
When I was in the future, I saw him  
shoot and kill Pike point blank,  
laughing while he did it. Then he  
ripped your arm off and beat you to  
death with it.

(beat)  
You have no idea what he's capable  
of.

Kaia looks away.

KAIA  
(muttering)  
That's why Pike has to kill him.  
They want him to stop-

GABRIELLA  
Whoa, what? Pike has to what?

BOOM! The street next to them EXPLODES, throwing the car upside down. It CRASHES through the front of an antique store and lands on its hood.

PUSH IN on the car. Gabriella crawls out of the driver's side window and slumps to her stomach. Kaia does the same on the other side.

KAIA  
(groaning)  
Gab, you okay?

GABRIELLA  
(beat)  
Nope.

PROF. MARRUS (O.S.)  
Tough little bitches, aren't you?

Gabriella and Kaia look out their makeshift entrance to see Professor Marrus gently float to the ground, black energy all around her.

Gabriella locks eyes with Professor Marrus as she gets to her feet. She tosses the keys to the other side of the car.

GABRIELLA  
(emphatic.)  
Kaia. Go.

KAIA  
What? Gab, I'm not leaving you to-

GABRIELLA  
Get to the station! I'll catch up.

Kaia crawls around to the trunk and opens it, pulling out an object wrapped up in blankets. She looks between the other two as she backs away and leaves.

Gabriella and Professor Marrus step towards one another. Gabriella's body lights up with energy.

PROF. MARRUS  
I'm too close to the end to let you stop me now.

GABRIELLA  
I'll kill you before I let the Senior Partners take him.

PROF. MARRUS  
(laughing)  
Kill me? You? Is that supposed to be a threat?  
(serious)  
They already have him, sweetie.  
You're too late.

Gabriella shakes her head. Her hands ball into fists.

GABRIELLA  
Not if I don't let you trigger Bridget.

PROF. MARRUS  
Oh, you didn't get that far into the log. I can't set her off. The phrase that pays can only come from her lips.

(MORE)

PROF. MARRUS (CONT'D)

And there is no stopping it once she pops her top.

(beat)

We've had this in the works ever since Angel signed Connor over to us. If you think you can stop it now, you're just as naive and damned as he is.

That does it. Gabriella fires a powerful blast of energy at Professor Marrus, who throws her hands up to block it. She stays upright, but the attack drives her back.

Gabriella drops it and Professor Marrus starts LAUGHING.

PROF. MARRUS

I hope that was just a warning shot or this is not going to last long.

Gabriella grits her teeth. A concentration of energy swirls around both of her fists.

PROF. MARRUS

Let me ask, in all your running around and whatnot-

Now energy concentrates and swells around Professor Marrus.

PROF. MARRUS

Did you ever stop to think where Ethan Rayne got all of his power?

Gabriella's eyes widen as Professor Marrus fires a tornado like blast of energy that forces a:

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

A random officer sails through the air and crashes through a desk. A Grappler demon pounces on him immediately. In the background, Burrows and the cameraman watch and report from a safe distance.

BURROWS

(into microphone)

At great risk to my own personal safety, I bring to you this exclusive footage of Los Angeles law enforcement battling what seems to be a group of demon... mobsters.

Burrows DUCKS as another officer is thrown over his head. PAN LEFT to Connor leading Bridget towards the front entrance. He throws the door open and stops dead in his tracks.

REVERSE ANGLE to show more Kaliff running up the stairs to the studio. They spot Connor and raise their weapons. Connor throws himself and Bridget to the ground to avoid the hail of fire. He kicks the door shut again.

BRIDGET

(worried)

Connor...

CONNOR

(getting up)

It's okay. I'm gonna get you someplace safe.

Bridget yanks him down behind a desk.

BRIDGET

(off his look)

No, this is about you, not me! Ms. Marrus sent these demons for you!

Connor squints, not believing what he's hearing.

BRIDGET

I overheard her talking. She... she said she was going to hire vampires to kill you, but then she picked these demons instead.

CONNOR  
(beat; low)  
Are you sure?

Bridget nods and crosses her heart with her finger.

CLOSE UP on Connor as his face goes from shock to anger.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Professor Marrus shoots straight up into the air, avoiding an energy blast from Gabriella that destroys the car behind her.

She levitates another car up and flings it down at Gabriella. Gabriella halts the car telekinetically, leaving her open for the other car being thrown from her right.

She throws up a glowing barrier that SHATTERS like glass when the car hits it. The force throws her for a loop. She lands back first on top of a fire hydrant and slides off it. Ouch.

PROF. MARRUS  
(still in mid air)  
Why are you even bothering? Last I checked, you didn't give a crap about Connor.

Gabriella grits her teeth, all of them stained with the blood in her mouth.

GABRIELLA  
(shuddering)  
He's... my friend. I don't... give up... on my friends.

She GRUNTS and thrusts her hand at the hydrant she just landed on. The top of it is blown off and a torrent of water geysers out and blasts Professor Marrus into the stratosphere before she has a chance to move.

Gabriella gets back to her feet to see Professor Marrus SWOOPING back in with a cry of rage. Gabriella telekinetically rips the rest of the hydrant out the ground and hurls it at Professor Marrus, but it passes THROUGH her.

Gabriella is taken aback... until the REAL Professor Marrus dives in and tackles her to the ground. They roll around ending with Professor Marrus on top, their hands interlaced in a test-of-strength grip.

GABRIELLA  
(closing her eyes)  
*Illustro!*

A brilliant flash of LIGHT explodes from Gabriella's hands, blinding Professor Marrus, who screams and covers her eyes. Gabriella rears back and KICKS Professor Marrus right in the mouth! She slides back and gets to her feet.

Professor Marrus staggers up, still trying to regain her vision. Gabriella clips her with a right cross to the chin and snaps a kick off to the liver that doubles her over.

Gabriella shoots a knee up into Professor Marrus's nose that snaps her upright. She throws another punch that Professor Marrus avoids by floating back up into the air.

She spits a bloody tooth back at Gabriella and wipes her freshly bloodied nose. Gabriella smirks in response.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

CLOSE UP on Connor, who doesn't seem to have snapped out of his rage fueled trance.

BRIDGET

Connor?

(shakes Connor's arm)

Connor?!

Connor blinks and comes out of it. He takes her hand and They start moving again, this time in the direction of Burrows and the cameraman.

SHUE (O.S.)

Hey, watch out!

Connor and Bridget turn to see a Kaliff aiming right at them. Shue dives into frame and tackles them both, narrowly missing the Kaliff's gunfire. He cocks and fires a shotgun, blowing a hole through the shooter.

SHUE

(grabs Connor's collar)

What the hell have you brought on us, kid?

Connor smacks his hands away.

CONNOR

I plead the fifth.

(getting up)

Come on!

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - HOLDING CELLS - DAY

The doors are flung open. Shue's the first one in, clearing the area before Connor roughly shoves past him.

CONNOR  
You got keys, Shue?

SHUE  
(off Pike)  
Wait, him? I'm not letting him out.  
Hell, I should put you back in!

Connor stops when he notices Alicia there. She just shrugs.

CONNOR  
(turning back to Shue)  
Pike's probably fought more demons  
than every cop out there. You wanna  
get out of here alive? We need him.

PIKE  
So those demons did show up for  
you, then?

CONNOR  
(to Pike)  
Damn it, does everyone know more  
about what's going on than I do?

Shue and Bridget walk over to Connor.

SHUE  
They're still filming live out  
there. Every cop in Los Angeles  
should be here in a matter of  
minutes to back us up.

CONNOR  
So you're not letting Pike out?

Shue shakes his head. Connor rips the shotgun out of his hands and cracks him in the head with it like a baseball bat. Shue drops to the ground, out cold. Connor pats him down and retrieves a set of keys that he uses to unlock Pike's cell.

CONNOR  
(handing Pike the shotgun)  
Merry Christmas.

Pike nods and pops the gun over to check the barrel.

CONNOR  
Shue had a point. We don't have to  
stick around for this if they've  
got back up coming in.

PIKE  
What's the plan?

CONNOR  
I'm thinking sewers are our best  
way out of here.

A Kaliff kicks the door to the holding cell area down. Pike hardly needs a second to aim and blow him to Hell.

ALICIA  
Hey, you're not gonna let me out?

Connor scoffs and starts to leave with Bridget, but Pike stops him. Connor rolls his eyes and hands over the keys. Pike releases Alicia, who promptly SLAPS Connor.

ALICIA  
Jerk-ass norms.

CONNOR  
(rubbing his cheek)  
Help keep my sister safe and there  
might be some rawhide in it for ya.

They leave, Pike and his shotgun leading the way.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Professor Marrus throws another car at Gabriella, who rolls to the side to avoid. Down on one knee, Gabriella throws her arms up while screaming:

GABRIELLA  
*Incendis!*

A WALL OF FLAMES extends from her sides, setting off a domino like chain of vehicle explosions! Professor Marrus lowers to the ground, now out of cars to throw around.

Gabriella rushes in to attack, but Professor Marrus's body shimmers and SPLITS, leaving two of her! This repeats until Gabriella is completely surrounded by clones.

All of them rush Gabriella at one. Their punches go through Gabriella's blocks, as if they're ghosts.

One punch clips her across the chin, that one from the real deal. Gabriella stumbles back and flutters her hand up like she's throwing an underhanded softball pitch in slow motion.

Small dots of light float from her hands, surrounded all of the clones around her. The dots SPARK off one of them.

Gabriella leaps at that one, firing a bolt of energy that knocks Professor Marrus to the edge of the flaming cars.

More black veins bulge from Professor Marrus's skin as she pushes herself up. She barely looks human now. She PUNCHES her hands into the ground and it starts to QUAKE.

Gabriella trips and falls to her ass. The ground in front of her rips right down the middle like a piece of paper. She rolls to avoid the crevice in the middle and gets to her feet.

CLOSE UP on Gabriella as she gets her bearings back.  
PROFESSOR MARRUS IS RIGHT BEHIND HER!

ON Gabriella's back as Professor Marrus raises her hands up to it and blasts her with magic point blank. Gabriella screams as the attack flings through THROUGH the flames of a burning car.

She crashes through the glass of a display window for a clothing boutique and lands on a circular rack of clothes.

EXT. LAPD PRECINCT - DAY

Police cars and vans pull up to the station. Police officers pour out of them, dashing into the fray. The demons outside the entrance to the station open fire on the new arrivals.

INT. LAPD PRECINCT - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Pike blows a hole through the chest of a Kaliff as he, Connor, Alicia, and Bridget run past it. Alicia's head darts left and right, looking for any immediate threats.

ALICIA  
(eyes widening)  
Stop!

She flings Bridget to the ground and catching a leaping Grappler demon. The demon is too big for her and the two of them fall to the ground together with the demon on top.

Connor and Pike whirl around to see Alicia PUNCH HER HAND THROUGH THE DEMON'S CHEST! The demon roars, a dying effort. Alicia rolls it off of her and helps Bridget back up.

They keep moving. Bridget sees a Kaliff aiming a pistol at Connor. She SCREAMS and leaps in front of Connor, taking the shot right through her chest! She falls down in front of him.

Pike decapitates the Kaliff with a well placed shot. Connor drops to his knees and scoops Bridget into his arms. His eyes well up with tears as Bridget gasps and spits up blood.

CONNOR  
 Bridge. Oh God, no.  
 (yells)  
 Come on!

Connor takes off running, Pike and Alicia on his heels. ON Connor's legs as a bullet rips through the back of his upper right thigh.

Connor falls forward, sliding on his stomach until his momentum stops. Bridget slides out of his arm. Alicia ROARS and pounces on the demon that shot Connor.

CONNOR  
 (clutching his leg)  
 Pike! Get Bridge out of here!

Pike looks between Connor and Bridget, not sure what to do.

CONNOR  
 She's dying! Please!

Pike nods and scoops Bridge up. He makes a beeline for a nearby exit.

BRIDGET  
 (weak)  
 No. We can't leave.

PIKE  
 Have to, sweetie. You need help!

BRIDGET  
 No... we... I have to save Connor.

Bridget's eyes begin to glow, followed quickly by the rest of her body. CLOSE UP on her chest wound as the blood sucks back inside it before it heals itself!

Pike skids to a stop just before Bridget SCREAMS as the glow explodes out of her. Pike is blown clear across the room. The demon/cop battle grinds to a screeching halt.

Bridget's body turns upright, hovering a few inches off the ground. She looks around at herself, abject fear in her expression.

BRIDGET  
 Wha... what's happening to me?

Bridget SCREAMS again as the space around her twists, the ground crumbling into dust. This effect rapidly spreads out, destroying everything in her vicinity. Bridget's body starts to vibrate, eventually moving so fast it becomes a blur.

A nearby Grappler demon caught in her wake has its entire body twisted and turned inside out. It howls as limbs and bones are bent at horrific angles before it explodes into gory chunks. Bridget's screams never die down.

Pike picks Connor up and helps him limp away as fast as he can. Alicia runs over and wraps her arms around Connor's waist to help.

Bridget throws her barely visible head back and energy fires out of every opening on her face, blowing holes in the roof of the station.

Cops and demons alike flee as the building begins to cave in on itself. Bridget floats higher into the sky. Wide streaks of energy fire out of her, disintegrating anyone in the way.

A dome of white energy swells from her body, fanning out like a tsunami. Everyone in that wave of energy is knocked into the air as the entire building EXPLODES!

INT. CLOTHING BOUTIQUE - MAIN SALES FLOOR - DAY

Gabriella pushes herself up to all fours. She manages to lift her head as Professor Marrus floats down into view just outside the demolished display window.

Both women are bleeding from several cuts on their faces and bodies.

PROF. MARRUS  
(gasping)  
Well, this was fun.

Gabriella tries to lift her arms, but she can't. She looks down at her hands to see a faint glow around her. She strains to lift them again, but no dice.

Horrified, she looks back up at Professor Marrus.

PROF. MARRUS  
You can die now.

Professor Marrus slowly raises her hands. Black energy swirls around them, steadily increasing in size. All of the natural sunlight around Marrus seems to fade as if eclipsed.

Gabriella WAILS as she desperately tries to lift her hands. Her entire body glows with the energy she's exerting to break the hold.

In a FLASH OF LIGHT, she frees herself. She dives forward for a shard of jagged glass and throws it at Professor Marrus...

... who barely has to tip her head to the side to avoid it.

PROF. MARRUS  
As far as last ditch efforts, that  
was just pathetic.

GABRIELLA  
(panting)  
I wasn't aiming for you.

CLOSE UP on Professor Marrus as she's grabbed from behind and STABBED IN THE NECK by the glass! Professor Marrus's mouth gapes as the blood pours from the fatal wound. PAN LEFT to reveal Kaia as the culprit.

KAIA  
She was passing it to me, bitch.

Kaia yanks the glass out. Professor Marrus drops to her knees and slumps over on her side. Dead.

Kaia runs to Gabriella's side and helps her up.

GABRIELLA  
(gulps)  
Thought I told... you to go.

Kaia wraps Gabriella's arm around her neck.

KAIA  
Uh huh... you're welcome.

Gabriella gives her a smile as they limp out of frame.

EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Just outside the now destroyed station. Police officers and demons crash into the ground and nearby cars. Connor, Pike, and Alicia land on top of a cab.

The 'vertigo' effect spreads to the streets and the adjacent buildings, turning them inside out and crumbling them into dust.

Bridget continues to scream.

One of the streaks fires towards Alicia. Connor grabs her and flings out her out of the way. The streaks blows up the cab they landed on.

The vertigo has consumed almost a fourth of the city block.

A cinder block from a crumbling building falls on Alicia's head, dropping her to the ground. She's down for the count.

PUSH IN on Connor's face as he stares at Bridget.

CONNOR  
 (to himself)  
 This... this is my fault.

The vibrations of Bridget's body slow enough to make her features out a little easier. She looks right at Connor.

BRIDGET (V.O.)  
 (telepathically; little  
 girl voice)  
*Connor... help me.*

CONNOR  
 I couldn't protect her. I let  
 Marrus...

His eyes land on a sharp metal post from a fence. He bends down and picks up, looking it over.

ON Pike seeing this. He shakes his head.

PIKE  
 (under his breath)  
 No.  
 (out loud)  
 Connor!

CONNOR  
 (locking eyes with Pike)  
 This is my fault, Pike. So it's on  
 me to end it.

PIKE  
 No! You won't even make it!

Several SCREAMS up ahead get their attention. Energy streaks are melting several cops too dazed and hurt to dodge.

Connor looks back to Pike and shakes his head.

CONNOR  
 If I don't try, there's no telling  
 how much she'll destroy.  
 (beat)  
 I... I don't have any choice.

Connor breaks into a run, hobbling a bit on his injured leg. dodging any streaks that come his way.

PIKE  
There's always a choice!  
(panting)  
Connor!

Pike runs his hands through his hair and glances down at the ground. A GUN is right by his foot. He stares at it... the anguish written all over his face.

After a tense moment, he kneels down and slowly picks it up.

PAN LEFT to see BENNY standing behind him, right in his ear.

BENNY  
(whispering)  
If he kills her, he's as good as dead anyway. Consider this euthanasia.

PIKE  
(choked up)  
If he doesn't... she's going to-

BENNY  
Destroy the world? World's been around for billions of years, dude.

CUT TO a shot behind Connor running in SLOW MOTION.

BENNY (V.O.)  
Comparatively speaking, the existence of mortals like us is like a miniscule second. Do you really think any single power is capable of destroying it?

A streak of energy hits a police car and destroys it along with the half dozen officers taking shelter behind it.

BENNY (V.O.)  
A millennium from now, this whole thing will seem like a hiccup.

BACK TO Pike and Benny.

BENNY  
Real question is can you wake up tomorrow and know you did the right thing, bro?

A tear rolls down Pike's cheek as he raises the gun, his hands trembling badly. He pants and bites his bottom lip.

KAIA (O.S.)

Oli!

Benny disappears and Pike turns around to see Kaia and Gabriella coming towards him, carrying the covered object.

Kaia grabs the object with both hands and throws it into the air. Gabriella thrusts her hand out and uses her powers to propel it forward.

In the space between Pike and the girls, the blankets fall to the ground. Pike looks as the (out of frame) object sails over his head. He glances back at the girls.

CUT TO a BIRD'S EYE SHOT looking down on Connor as he continues his sprint towards his surrogate sister.

Two GUNSHOTS are heard off screen just before a glass container holding a curdling mass of LEECHES flies into frame over Connor.

The bullets shatter the container and the leeches descend on Bridget! Dozens of them latch onto her body.

CONNOR

(stops running)

What?

He turns around to see Gabriella, Kaia, and Pike coming up.

ON Bridget as the leeches drain the energy from her body, glowing and increasing in size. The streaks and vertigo effect stop and Bridget SCREAMS as she drops to her stomach.

Finally, she goes still. Kaia and Pike come to a stop when they reach Connor. Gabriella keeps running.

GABRIELLA

(kneels over Bridget)

God help me.

Gabriella lowers her hands and closes her eyes. A flash of ORANGE-RED ENERGY shoots up her back and down her arms.

TILT UP to Gabriella's face as the glow from beneath lights it up. She grits her teeth and her nose starts to drip blood. Out of frame, the sound of SIZZLING FLESH is heard.

After about ten seconds, the glow fades. Gabriella stands back up just as Connor comes to her side.

Bridget now has the MARK OF SAA burned into her back!

CONNOR  
 (shocked)  
 The Mark of Saa?

GABRIELLA  
 It was the only way I could of to  
 stop her... without killing her.

Connor looks to Gabriella, who doesn't look away from  
 Bridget.

CONNOR  
 When did you learn it?

GABRIELLA  
 Shortly after I got my powers back  
 in case I had to use it on you.

CONNOR  
 On me?

Now Gabriella looks at Connor.

GABRIELLA  
 I should've told you this a long  
 time ago.  
 (beat; sighs)  
 When we used Illyria's crystal the  
 first time, I didn't go into the  
 past. I went into the future.

PUSH IN on Connor's face.

GABRIELLA (O.S.)  
 A future where the Senior Partners  
 had finally gotten their way. You  
 were... evil, Connor.

Connor shakes his head.

GABRIELLA (O.S.)  
 I never told you because... I don't  
 know. I was afraid, I guess.

PULL AWAY to get Gabriella back in frame. She looks back down  
 at Bridget.

GABRIELLA  
 I got so caught up trying to stop  
 you turning evil that I didn't see  
 Marrus was playing all of us. She  
 tricked you into killing her son  
 and Bridget was meant to be the  
 final nail in the coffin.  
 (MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

Marrus put a trigger in her mind that would overload her powers and make her destroy... everything. To force your hand. Make you kill her.

Connor looks down at Bridget now, who actually looks peaceful in her induced slumber.

GABRIELLA

I should've trusted you. Trusted you enough to say all this a long time ago and know that you wouldn't follow that path if you knew where it would lead.

(beat)

You're better than that. You deserved better than that from me.

Connor nods. He takes a deep breath and exhales.

CONNOR

Her... name isn't Bridget.

GABRIELLA

(softly)

I know.

CONNOR

I'm tired of living lies.

(beat)

Is it over now?

There's a long pause between the two friends.

GABRIELLA

Is it ever?

A powerful GUST OF WIND whips through. A sphere of light surrounds Connor and Gabriella.

ON Pike, holding his hands over his face to shield from the fierce wind. ON Kaia, who is on her knees cradling a barely conscious Alicia in her arms.

CUT TO a BIRD'S EYE view of Connor and Gabriella just before we ZOOM OUT, leaving Los Angeles, through the clouds and:

EXT. AMARA - GARDEN - DAY

Back to the sunny garden atop the never ending mountain that we know to be AMARA.

Connor is doubled over at the knees coughing. Gabriella falls to all fours projectile vomiting.

Connor finishes coughing and stands up, looking around.

Connor goes over and helps Gabriella to her feet as all eight of the HIGHER POWERS lightning blast into view.

On one side of Connor and Gabriella are the four we know from 2x11 to be the infamous SENIOR PARTNERS: the white MIST MALE, black CLOUD MALE, blue WATER FEMALE, and the red FIRE FEMALE.

On the other side are the MIST FEMALE, CLOUD FEMALE, WATER MALE, and FIRE MALE. Given we know who the other four are already, these must be the POWERS THAT BE.

GABRIELLA  
(while coughing)  
Connor... where are we?

FIRE FEMALE  
(irate)  
You are a total failure, Destroyer!

Connor frowns. That ain't cool.

CONNOR  
What do you mean failure?

WATER FEMALE  
As a child of the Senior Partners,  
you were to execute the girl and  
take your rightful place as our  
champion. You failed.

MIST FEMALE  
As a child of the Powers that Be,  
you were to preserve the girl,  
protect her until her physical  
limitations were no longer exceeded  
by her mental capabilities. You  
failed.

GABRIELLA  
(looking around)  
It can't be...

CONNOR  
What? The Mark of Saa can be  
removed. I'm standing next to  
living proof. Gabriella only did  
what she did to save her. To stop  
me from killing her.

A chilly wind blows through. Gabriella has to rub her arms to stay warm.

CLOUD MALE

The mark has permanently tainted  
any potential of naturally  
controlling the energy within.

(beat)

She is no longer of any use to us.  
Any of us.

GABRIELLA

This... is impossible.

CLOUD FEMALE

However, her fate was beyond her  
control. The true failure is you,  
Destroyer.

Gabriella steps to Connor and whispers in his ear.

GABRIELLA

Connor... this is Amara?

Connor steps away from Gabriella. His demeanor is tense now,  
but not angry.

GABRIELLA

(blinks; realizing)

Wait, that doesn't make any sense.  
Connor was supposed to save Bridget  
AND kill her? How can you expect  
him to go both ways? It's  
impossible.

FIRE FEMALE

The first Destroyer was able to  
fulfill the whims of both sides. To  
fully accept and maintain the  
balance. This incarnation... is  
inferior.

GABRIELLA

So the first Destroyer was  
quintuple-jointed?

CONNOR

(threatening)

Inferior? I'll show you infe-

He's cut off as a blast of light from the ground engulfs him.  
He SCREAMS in pain and drops to his knees.

GABRIELLA

(rushing over)

Connor!

Connor winces and gasps. Gabriella gently rubs his shoulder and he gives her a nod between the winces.

WATER FEMALE

Remember your place, child.

Connor and Gabriella stand back up. Connor pushes Gabriella's arms off of him. There's that anger.

CONNOR

(furious)

My place?!? You.. things have done nothing but manipulate me and make my entire life one miserable event after another!

WATER MALE

We only intend to direct you towards your fated path.

GABRIELLA

(stepping up)

That's a crock. How do you do that if the damn directions change everyday!

Gabriella's hands curl into fists. Now she's getting angry.

GABRIELLA

You're the Higher Powers. I get that. What I don't understand is how any of you blame Connor for anything that's happened when all of YOU are responsible for it!

WATER MALE

All of his choices were made of his own free will. His wrong choices.

CONNOR

And who says they're wrong? How are they when whatever the right choices are changes every damn day! You want me to cook, let me do the grocery shopping too!

Gabriella opens her mouth... then she pauses and gives Connor a confused look.

GABRIELLA

(shakes her head)

What happened to no direct interference with mortals?

(MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

Has he ever been allowed to choose anything for himself?

FIRE FEMALE

No.

MIST MALE

He is the Destroyer. Our child. His life is what we determine it to be.

CLOUD FEMALE

This day was to be when he made his ultimate decision. To be the champion of one or the other.

WATER FEMALE

Instead of making that choice, he has failed both. In part thanks to you and your friends, Ms. Heron.

Connor takes a step towards the Water Female. This time, no gust of wind knocks him over.

CONNOR

I never asked to be your damn child in the first place. What if I don't want be your Destroyer anymore?

CLOUD MALE

Impossible. It is what you were born to be. Your entire purpose.

CONNOR

(seething)

I. Don't. Care. I'm done.

There's a long beat of silence.

MIST FEMALE

You would renounce your very heritage? Your reason for being?

CONNOR

(firm)

Yes.

(beat)

I just want to be Connor. Is that too much to ask?

Another beat.

FIRE FEMALE

Very well. If that is your choice.

All of the Higher Powers' eyes LIGHT up with white light, building to a point where they blind Gabriella.

Connor HOWLS in pain as a similar light engulfs him!

After an agonizing few moments, things return to normal.

Except Connor is laid out on the ground. A horrified Gabriella rushes to his limp body. She cradles him in her arms. Connor's eyes are black and hollowed out, with smoking coming from them. Just like Faas earlier.

GABRIELLA

(shakes him; choking up)

Connor! My God. What did you do?!?

Though she asks, her face says she already knows the horrible truth.

He's dead.

CLOUD MALE

If he is no longer the Destroyer,  
then he has no purpose.

WATER MALE

No path.

MIST FEMALE

No fate.

FIRE MALE

No reason to live.

WATER FEMALE

No existence. As you two desired,  
that was his choice and his alone.

The tears flow freely from Gabriella's eyes now.

GABRIELLA

No...

She buries her head into Connor's shoulder and neck, sobbing.

THE HIGHER POWERS

(simultaneously)

Goodbye... Connor.

PUSH IN on Connor's black, cold, lifeless eyes.

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF SHOW**