



NOVA

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"NEW OPPORTUNITY, VITAL AMBITIONS"

by

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BASED ON THE REAL LIFE STORY OF...

NOBODY CUZ ALIENS AREN'T REAL.

DISRUPT MEDIA
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TEASER

INT. SYNERGEN TECH BASEMENT - LATE NIGHT

Underground. Echoing sounds of dripping water. A lightbulb glitches, causing abstract shadows on the walls. FOOTSTEPS. **TWO MEN** in white CLEANROOM SUITS, faces masked by illuminated hooded visors, move with trained precision. They reach a HEAVY STEEL DOOR. **MAN ONE** swipes a KEYCARD. The door glides open, revealing...

INT. SECRET CLEAN ROOM - LATE NIGHT

A stark contrast, this space is pristine, almost unnaturally. Built from a blend of white and silver clean surfaces. Cold, sterile, scrubbed of any semblance of personality or style.

At the heart of the space stands a HIGH-TECH DESK donned with next-gen displays. **THE MAN IN WHITE**, back turned, standing behind the desk, head crowned with VR VIZOR. He maneuvers his gloved hands as if conducting an orchestra, with a relaxed posture, he plays a masterpiece.

MAN IN WHITE

1am. Not 1:07 and 33 seconds.

He turns, deliberately, face obscured by the vizor. A swipe of the hand reveals his EYES through the tinting glass. His perfectly tanned skin unblemished, much like the space. Our eyes draw to the distinctive NECK TATTOO - a cryptic SYMBOL.

MAN ONE

We ran into an obstacle.

MAN IN WHITE

Obstacles are opportunities.

He swipes a virtual file to Man One. The hologram appears above Man One's wrist device. A PHOTO OF A **MAN**, "**THE TARGET**" with DETAILS scrolling beside it.

MAN IN WHITE (CONT'D)

This frontrunner is your next opportunity. Scheduled in the morning. He won't make his appointment. Make it messy.

The molecular structure of the room shifts with unspoken urgency. The men nod, understanding the task.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - LATE NIGHT

THE TARGET from the photo, a middle-aged gent, makes espresso in his well-lit modern kitchen. Relaxed.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - SAME TIME

The Two Men from the basement, in dark attire, approach the house, *stealth mode*. Silent, *tense*.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - CONTINUOUS

As The Target takes a sip, he turns toward the window. A SHADOW passes outside, unnoticed by him.

THE POWER CUTS and the entire house plunges into blackness. RED LASER LIGHTS beam into the house. BACKDOOR opens.

In the darkness, bodies wrestle in and out of the red light. With their weapons pointed directly at his HEART and HEAD...

TARGET

Please, take anything you want.

The Men stand above The Target. They raise him from the floor by his arms and DRAG HIM out of the kitchen.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OFFICE

The Target, now seated at his desk, frightened.

They stage the room as a suicide, producing another gun they put in the man's hand.

TARGET

Please! NO!

Man One holds the GUN to the Target's temple and PULLS THE TRIGGER. Brain matter splatters all over. He falls forward. Gun in his hand.

They make the final few adjustments and move swiftly out of the room.

INT. SECRET CLEAN ROOM - SAME TIME

The Man In White watches the gruesome scene play out on his displays. Mission complete. He nods with a cold sense of satisfaction, then back to work like this is normal. Once again the tattoo on his neck is subtly illuminated.

END TEASER

ACT I**EXT. HIGH-END ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT**

City-lights glow from below. Melding in with the ELITE CROWD, we watch A RED-HEADED FEMALE FIGURE in a sleek BLACK DRESS move through the space in the shadows.

We follow her to A SECLUDED TABLE. She sits, ear locked to...

ELI MARSHALL, Black man with wealth and vanity dripping from his Tom Ford ensemble. He's in deep conversation with **THOMAS**, modestly dressed to soften just how handsome he is, hangs on to every word. Eli tipsy-talks a bit too loud for discretion.

ELI

Same story. Position opens, past two years, never considered. But Mr. Geriatric White-Bread with antiquated credentials shows up and gets the red carpet. This time, Collins from NorthTech.

THOMAS

Wasn't he ousted for embezzlement?

ELI

Slap allegedly on that and it's on to the next job you go. Tomorrow a formality. Collins is in.

Thomas' attention turns toward Nova as if he senses something. Her presence magnetic, **FACE STILL UNSEEN**. She shifts her position as to remain unnoticed.

Eli DOWNS A WHISKY SHOT. *Frustration palpable.*

THOMAS

I'm sure all they care about is keeping Nexus on track.

Eli forces a smile, **but we know this matters to him.**

On Nova's shadowed PROFILE of her face, as Light flashes her deep BLUE EYES. *Calculating.* Wheels turning as she STANDS, GRACEFULLY WALKING AWAY. A trail of intrigue behind her.

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - EVENING

Sweeping PANORAMIC VIEW of Silicon Valley's skyline, we zoom in on a sleek, modern campus that stretches for miles, circling down to reveal the ENTRANCE branded with the **SYNERGEN TECH LOGO, the symbol tattooed on The Man In White.**

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY - EVENING

Buzzing with ambition and innovation. **EMPLOYEES**, all dressed in individually styled head-to-toe WHITE outfits, move about the space in deafening silence as they work behind the glow of their VIRTUAL SCREENS.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

A GROUP OF EXECUTIVES, including Eli and Thomas, sit around a conference table with INDIVIDUAL DISPLAYS floating above. They are bored and disinterested as they suffer through...

MR. CRYER, a nervous wreck of a candidate stuttering through his final words. His awareness that he just shit the bed is no match to the silence that falls on the room as each Executive turns their focus to...

TILT UP: We see RED-BOTTOM HEELS, statuesque mile-long legs, a SKIRT that hugs curves to a form-fitting tight-as-skin white BLOUSE, we finally land on a full visual of the bright RED HAIR, BLUE EYES and glowing smile of...

NOVA, unapologetic in her interruption, she steps into the room with an air of mystery and fearlessness.

NOVA
(to Mr. Cryer)
Thank you. Marcy will see you out.

MARCY, the Executive Assistant running the interview, as wound up as an Apple charger after a month runs to Nova.

MARCY
(to Nova)
Excuse me Miss.

Nova doesn't even turn to look at her.

MARCY (CONT'D)
Excuse me!

She tries to push past a planted Nova, as Mr. Cryer maneuvers his way out and bails. Marcy addresses the Executives over Nova's shoulders. The executives exchange confused glances.

MARCY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, this woman--

NOVA
--is sorry she's late. But happy she's here.

She steps forward bold and unyielding.

NOVA (CONT'D)
That will be all Marcy.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (O.C.)

I don't see you on our schedule.

Nova's eyes pan to **ADAM**, he's the kind of handsome that strikes. Latin Executive, charisma cuts the room's tension. Commanding presence with a surprising warmth. When Adam finally looks up and sees Nova, he's immediately awestruck.

MARCY

Shall I call security Mr. Cortez?

NOVA

Let's cut the dance short. You're not just looking for talent, you're looking for a fearless game-changing leader. Quite confidently, I'm it.

Said with a piercing gaze across the table, *unbothered by the sea of power in suits.*

ADAM

(to Nova)

Alright. Five minutes to raise my heart-rate.

NOVA

Only need 2.

Marcy is still hoping for a different result.

NOVA (CONT'D)

(to Marcy)

Do you validate parking?

Marcy storms off. Nova is back to business.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Horizon Nexus is groundbreaking. But you can't get it past the ideation. It's moving like a sports car on training wheels. You've been in the business of playing it safe in an industry where caution is the first step to becoming obsolete.

She sits on the edge of the table with a purpose in every movement. Her voice sharpens with a charismatic edge.

NOVA (CONT'D)

You need more than momentary advances. You need a seismic shift, newsworthy, the kind to be studied for generations. That's where I come in. I operate in a space so far outside the limits that it redefines what's possible.

She's commanding, challenging. She pans the room.

(CONTINUED)

NOVA (CONT'D)

Brilliant minds in here. Cortez's you've done a good job stepping in as CEO. Your work on The Galli-X alone is one of the most groundbreaking advances of all time.

Adam celebrates himself with the others. She moves close to him, hand on his shoulder.

NOVA (CONT'D)

But that was, what, a year ago?
(leans in)

Let's not pretend your little "secret" mission last quarter didn't crash and burn. The one you've worked hard to keep under the radar.

The executives become uncharacteristically shift. Her gaze lands on **Eli**, a master at facing the challenge.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Marshall, right? You tried to integrate AI into predictive market analytics. Ambitious. Flawed. You leaned into complexity when it was sophistication that was needed.

The room goes silent. **How could she have knowledge of this?**

NOVA (CONT'D)

See the problem wasn't the AI. It never is. It was the failure to see its potential. You played it like a chess match from last century when you should have been playing 3D quantum chess.

She turns her attention back to the room.

NOVA (CONT'D)

You don't need another leader who fits in. You need someone who's willing to stare down the barrel of the status quo and dare them to pull the trigger on real change.

NOVA (CONT'D)

(then)

I won't come here to blend or nod my head in chorus with a line of yes-men. I flip tables to find what's hiding underneath. I don't just reach stars, I move them to make the universe take notice.

She's defiant, yet to several execs, *inspiring*.

(CONTINUED)

NOVA (CONT'D)

My focus? Take Horizon Nexus out of the shadows of failure and blast it into a new realm of success. I'll be a new kind of leader. Born to navigate innovation. To carry this company into the next phase of its legacy. To its rightful position, snatching the crown from the noisy distractions of Musk and Besos.

She steps back assessing the room. Almost got them all...

NOVA (CONT'D)

You can stick with the same old worn out plays that have landed you stuck without a win, or you can bring me on to lead you to a future as limitless as the galaxies we'll conquer.

They all ponder what they just experienced.

NOVA (CONT'D)

I'm going to leave this room, you're going to talk. And in that conversation...

She pans the room, points out an *appalled* **MS. AIRES**.

NOVA (CONT'D)

...you're going to do your best to campaign to the others to refuse to consider me. But I'm betting on the visionaries to see that I am the absolute only choice to take on the seen and unforeseen.

As she turns to walk out.

NOVA (CONT'D)

My money's on Cortez.

Adam's eyes locked, swimming in his thoughts. With jaws dropped, Nova slithers out without another word.

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - CAMPUS ENTRANCE - DAY

Nova is walking to her CAR with an earned air of confidence. Just as she's about to get in, a MALE HAND pulls her arm back. In an instinctive reaction, Nova GRABS THE HAND AND TWISTS, leveling Adam to his knees.

ADAM

Not how I pictured this.

Apologetic, Nova helps him up.

(CONTINUED)

NOVA

You have to be careful Mr. Cortez. Sneaking up on someone from where I'm from can have unexpected consequences.

ADAM

Unexpected's your specialty. Very impressive. Especially to us who don't impress easily. But impressive doesn't land one of the most coveted positions in a Fortune 5 company. Worst of all, you didn't leave a name... Ms...?

Nova hesitates for a split second. A flash in her eyes. A memory of a STREET-SIGN: "ELYRA WAY". Then a parked car nearby with the LICENSE PLATE: "STRLNG".

*

NOVA

Elyra. Elyra Sterling.

*

Adam nods, heavily studying her.

ADAM

Elyra Sterling. The candidate we were considering was a no-show. If Elyra Sterling checks out, I might be willing to take a flyer. Shake things up a bit. Anything we should know before we go digging?

*

*

A confident "no" from Nova. He holds up an HIGH-TECH INFORMATION SHARING DEVICE. She uses a DEVICE to PUSH her details. He studies it then walks away.

ADAM (CONT'D)

If you receive contact, that means I'll see you Monday morning.

He glides off, *matching her confidence*. And off her smile fading into a deeper expression we CUT TO--

INT. NOVA'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

A quick TOUR of the sprawling space. A blend of luxury and cutting-edge tech, unexpected in a home environment.

WE SETTLE ON: Nova, navigates the space, interacting with VARIOUS ADVANCED GADGETS and AI INTERFACES.

A hand wave, lights adjusts. The walls line with INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS. Another wave, a DIGITAL WHITEBOARD displays.

NOVA

Time to build Elyra Sterling.

*

With precision, she builds a DIGITAL HISTORY. Elyra takes form - An impressive career, academic credentials, personal and professional experiences and references. Even linking her to a now deceased well-known scientist. *

Just as she's wrapping up, she gets an ON-SCREEN ALERT that someone has just created a SEARCH for ELYRA STERLING. Shifts into WARP SPEED. Highly focused and deliberate. An ALERT BEEPS WITH URGENCY just as she hits the FINAL KEY. *

WE SEE: The swift visual transformation from BLANK CANVAS into COMPREHENSIVE FILE on Elara's life.

PRE-LAP: "SWEET DREAMS (ARE MADE OF THIS)" plays, muffled, then gradually builds to a THUMPING BEAT...

INT. NOVA'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER

"SWEET DREAMS (ARE MADE OF THIS)" BLASTS over the sound system in contrast to the dim, moonlight space. The sprawling views of the stunning city skyline. Breathtaking.

Nova DANCES past the camera in underwear, her movement fluid and liberating, oozing sex appeal. Stark contrast to her earlier intensity. Her body owns light and shadow. She can move and she loves it. Off this we TIME CUT TO...

INT. NOVA'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER

Digital Clock reads: 3:33am - Nova, still buzzing, walks through...

HALLWAY

Passed several rooms to a CLOSED DOOR AT THE END. She opens the door and enters...

INT. NOVA'S SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

Dark and vast. Equal in size to the main living area. Dark walls, no window, a *profound stillness*.

On the BACK WALL an "S" symbol glows and hums.

Standing before it, Nova's EYES begin to glow, her body visibly releasing tensions. Suddenly, SOFT OTHERWORLDLY LIGHT floods the space, revealing...

A HIDDEN SANCTUARY - minimalist high-tech haven. HOLOGRAPHIC GLOWING MAPS of GALAXIES. FLOATING DISPLAYS show images of a DISTANT STAR SYSTEM and FIGURES that resemble her.

A SLEEK GLASS CHAMBER APPEARS - her RECHARGING POD. She steps inside. The POD HUMS TO LIFE.

And this is the moment we learn Nova is not from this planet.

(CONTINUED)

WE SEE: A transformation - Nova's HUMAN FACADE FADES into her true form. ALIEN FEATURES emerge her TRANSLUCENT SKIN glows. This is the duality of her new existence.

EXT. SYL'RAH NOVA'S HOME PLANET - DAY OF TRAGEDY - FLASHBACK

There are bright, beautifully shimmering CITIES hovering above large bodies of water, a stunning blend of technology in perfect harmony with the elements.

A DISTANT VIEW OF EARTH'S PLANET when suddenly a RIPPLE OF DESTRUCTIVE WAVES OF FIRE cuts across the sky. The galaxies in view shake as this massive energy surge from a distant STARSHIP tears through Syl'rah's atmosphere.

MANY BEINGS in the same form as Nova scatter in sheer panic. The hovering cities CRUMBLE into the oceans beneath. CHILDREN try to outrun the danger, but dissolve into specs.

We see a YOUNG NOVA watch helplessly as A PERFECT MALE FIGURE, ORIONIS, reaching for her dissolves into particles.

YOUNG NOVA
NO! ORIONIS!!!

Areas of her planet burst into flames and then ice. A BALL OF PARTICLES flies towards her. A VAIL COVERS HER, we go BLACK.

INT. NOVA'S SANCTUARY - PRESENT - NIGHT

Nova's eyes flicker back to reality. As the SHIELD BEGINS TO CLOSE AROUND HER, she whispers.

NOVA
(to self)
I miss you Orionis. Never again.

SHIELD CLOSES over the pod. Off Nova's state of rest, we CUT--

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - PARKING LOT - MORNING

Hover-Cars speed above as Nova exits her car. A GUST OF WIND tousles her hair. She approaches the entrance, adjusts her hair and DEEP-RED PANTS SUIT with a practiced human gesture.

Light reflects the METAL LOGO on the building casting otherworldly patterns in her eyes. She stares at the logo with a hint of familiarity.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

ELECTRONIC GLASS DOORS glide open with a whisper, revealing a SEA OF WHITE. Nova's room-owning stride prances her defiant ALL-RED ENSEMBLE through the starkness. The hum of productivity and innovation crescendo with each step as she parts the white sea.

(CONTINUED)

FLOATING DISPLAYS showcase IMAGES of space exploration ventures and the executives she researched.

ADAM'S PHOTO, looking incredibly handsome, flashes, causing Nova's stride to slow momentarily, *thoughts wander*.

She passes Synergen **EMPLOYEES**, VIRTUAL DISPLAYS darken to protect their private streams. She SEES INSIDE each display, the variety of data striking. She SCANS, analyzing for useful information when she see's **P. GUY** actively WATCHING AI PORN.

NOVA (V.O.)

Unhealthy obsessions.

Several DRONES buzz around as they DELIVER DIGITAL DOCUMENTS. **HRD (HOST ROBOT DRONES)** deliver BEVERAGES to employees.

A SINGULAR BLACK DRONE hovers behind her up the ESCALATOR. She locks eyes wit the RED LIGHT on the drone. With a subtle gesture, she activates her abilities. The CAMERA ZOOMS into the red light, transition us into a visual representation of Nova's powers. We enter a DIGITAL RED SPACE of glowing lines and circuits vibrate as Nova traces the drone's signal...

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The end of the "digital tunnel" finds Adam, on a shirtless TREADMILL RUN, revealing a fit, heavily tattooed physique. He's following Nova's pathway on a VIRTUAL SCREEN.

ADAM

Quite the entrance, Ms. Sterling.

CAMERA REVERSES PATH, BACK through the digital space to...

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

...Nova's perspective. Now having pinpointed the source of surveillance. She's relaxed, determined to play along.

NOVA (V.O.)

I see you, Mr. Cortez.

She subtly RUBS HER TWO FINGERS TOGETHER which causes the drone to MALFUNCTION and CRASH INTO A WALL. She smirks, amused by her own antics.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY TOP FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Nova exits the escalator and comes upon a AI RECEPTIONIST named **R.E.N.I.** (RESPONSIVE ENTITY INTERFACE).

R.E.N.I.

Welcome to your first day at Synergen Tech, Ms. Sterling.

Nova WINKS which sends R.E.N.I.'s display into a RED GLITCH.

(CONTINUED)

Nova stops abruptly, wincing at a PIERCING SOUND only heard by her. She eyes the SECURITY GATE's BIOMETRIC SCANNERS beeping as body-scanned employees enter a restricted area.

TWO ROBOT GUARDS branded VIGIL (Virtual Intelligence Guard for Integrated Logistics) attentions shifts to Nova.

With a subtle hand motion tucked behind her back, Nova CLINCHES HER TWO FINGERS UNDER HER THUMB, the sound stops and she PASSES THROUGH undetected by its sensor.

NOVA

Easy.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - HOVER-VATOR - CONTINUOUS

Nova steps onto a circular LIFT - AN **AIRVATOR** - encased in transparent walls and floor - that carries people up and down to executive floors. Nova watches as the floors beneath grow in distance. She remains focused and contemplative.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - EXECUTIVE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

TOP FLOOR, open to panoramic view of the CAMPUS and SKYLINE. A world of glass. Elevated from the buzz of the lower level, a quiet space with a soft hum of powerful tech digital noise.

As Nova walks through rows of PLEXI-DESKS lined meticulously, she SCANS each of them for DATA. The workers make curious glances at her, many whisper into their earpieces.

At the end of the long row stands Marcy, and she's tense. Nova throws on a big happy smile, unrequited.

NOVA

Good Morning. Marcy, right?

As she extends her hand Marcy quickly turns and walks.

MARCY

Ms. Whitman please. Follow me.

She walks her into...

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ELARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

FROSTED GLASS WALLS obstructs the view. Marcy TAPS the door and the FROST erases and the GLASS TURNS CLEAR revealing a massive, high-tech Executive Office with an impressive view of the city skyline. Nova's new digs.

They enter the sleek, modern space, a testament of Synergen's resources and modernity and Elara's perceived importance.

MARCY

Your office.

(CONTINUED)

Nova takes inventory, her *impression unreadable*.

NOVA

It's nice.

MARCY

I assume whatever company you've come from had more impressive accommodations?

NOVA

Let's just say I've seen the highest levels of design.

MARCY

Right. Mr. Cortez has assured you have everything you need.

(quickly)

If there's nothing else...

She turns to leave.

NOVA

Is Adam around?

Marcy, almost unwillingly, stops. *Forcing pleasantry*.

MARCY

Mr. Cortez is in meetings all day.

NOVA

I'd love a chance to chat with him. Get the lay of the land.

MARCY

I'll make a note of it.

NOVA

(defiantly)

Thank you... Marcy.

Nova flashes her million dollar smile. Marcy, *still unsure about her*, prances off.

NOVA (CONT'D)

(to self)

Humans are so emotional.

Nova takes in the new environment. We go BEHIND HER EYES TO SEE: Nova uses **DHP** (DYNAMIC HYPER-PERCEPTION) to capture every detail of the office. Including looking for hidden devices that may be planted. It's clean.

NOVA (CONT'D)

And trust is given.

She sits at her GLASS DESK, uses her persuasion to power-up the HIGH-TECH GADGETS and INTERFACES both seen and unseen.

Off a PAN OUT of her in her new surroundings we TIME CUT TO--

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - EXECUTIVE LOUNGE - DAY

Hours passed. Nova seamlessly settles as Elyra. Until she gets a warning on her **iHUD** (INTERNAL HEADS-UP-DISPLAY) READOUT: "**RECHARGE**". Long hours in one place are uncommon. She stands in front of the large window, letting the SUNLIGHT penetrate her skin, which turns slightly translucent. *

Adam enters behind her. Her eyes remain closed. He approaches, places his hand on her shoulder, *SHOCK!* Snatches his hand back, shakes it off. Nova doesn't move.

ADAM

You give electric a new name.

INSIDE HER HEAD: Adam's voice echoes.

He tries again, touching her BACK. She feels his touch.

QUICK MEMORY FLASH: IN SYL'RAH ORIONIS TOUCHES YOUNG NOVA'S BACK, ELECTRIFYING. HE SUDDENLY DISSOLVES INTO PARTICLES.

This jolts her OUT OF IT. She whips around to Adam, who throws up his hands in defense.

ADAM (CONT'D)

This is becoming our thing.

NOVA

I was just--

ADAM

Horses sleep while standing to stay sharp. Bet they don't recharge as efficiently as you.

Nova hears "recharge" and goes on guard. She scans human definitions and realizes...

NOVA

Recharge. Rest. A moment to relax.

ADAM

Can you do antonyms now?

NOVA

Marcy said you were in meetings. I was-- anxious to get with you.

ADAM

Here I am. Get with me.

iHUD READOUT: "UNKNOWN EMOTIONAL PATTERN DETECTED. CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENCE vs. VULNERABILITY"

Adam's HEART RATE SPIKE as their eyes hold on each other. Her iHUD reads his biologicals as they fluctuate. This causes Nova to disengage. *All business now.*

(CONTINUED)

NOVA

I want to get up to speed on active projects.

Adam is thrown by the switch-up, *never one to be out played.*

ADAM

Great. Follow me.

He exits so fast, Nova has to move quickly to catch up.

HALLWAY

As he treads through, he lifts his arm and a VIRTUAL SCREEN rises from his wrist. Marcy shows up on video chat.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Gather the troops. Mezzanine.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - MEDIA ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Adam enters the room where **TWO AUDIO TECHS** are waiting. One quickly presses a TRANSPARENT STRIP on Adam's blazer. The other reaches for Nova and SHE PULLS AWAY.

ADAM

Digital lapel mic. I designed it.
I hated those archaic clip-ons.

Nova allows it, *still hesitant*, they PRESS IT ON HER.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - MEZZANINE - DAY

Adam, with Nova in tow, reaches the balcony of the mezzanine. Standing off to the side of them is Marcy, Eli and a few disapproving Executives.

The EMPLOYEES below gather with *mixed reactions*.

Nova SCANS the sea of all-white, gathering data and storing facial recon.

She catches sight of a **SKETCHY MAN** wearing DARK GREY COVERALLS, standing alone in the back of the crowd.

NOVA (V.O.)

Who is this?

As she positions herself to get a better read, she blinks and in that split second, HE VANISHES. She's *disturbed*.

Adam addresses the crowd. A LIVE FEED displays on multiple screens throughout the space.

ADAM

Synergen's Best. Today's a major milestone.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (CONT'D)

After months of searching, meet our new Director of Space Travel Initiatives, Elyra Sterling.

*

He gestures to her and there's APPLAUSE. She forces a smile.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Ms. Sterling's not only the first woman to hold this title here, but in the industry as a whole. She brings an unparalleled wealth of expertise in innovation I know will catapult us into new advances of space exploration.

The employees applaud again. He waves his hand over his and her microphones to mute them.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(to Nova)

Study their faces. Every squint of the eye, frown of the brow tells the truth. Get them, and you have more than power here.

He waves the microphones again and presents her.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Ms. Elyra Sterling.

*

She takes a step forward. Inside she's programming her words.

NOVA

Thanks everyone. I know it's difficult when an unknown comes to a company in a leadership position, but I'm here to be a part of the team with one focus, to change the course of history. It's an honor to lead such brilliant innovators.

An energetic round of APPLAUSE. She pans to see Marcy and Eli's eyes locked on her. She TUNES HER EARS TO THEM...

ELI

Thinking with his little head again.

MARCY

As per usual.

Adam touches Nova's back, causing her to DISCONNECT.

ADAM

Well done.

She smiles. Tries to get a read on him. Nothing. He leaves.

Off her attention back on Eli and Marcy we CUT TO--

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - STRATEGY ROOM - AFTERNOON

360 degree CIRCULAR ROOM with a central platform. The top minds of Synergen Tech gather. *Air thick with anticipation.*

Nova enters. Adam follows and takes a seat in the back, observing. The room is silence. *Nova's calmly assertive.*

NOVA

Ok brilliant minds. Let's redefine the boundaries of space travel.

Silence. *The skepticism and levels of grandeur are palpable.*

NOVA (CONT'D)

Who wants to catch me up?

ELI

Well, speaking of the redefinition of boundaries. Let's discuss the Quantum Propulsion Project.

He knows Nova has no knowledge of this project. Adam watches closely, *anxious to see how she fares.*

NOVA

I assumed we'd get into Horizon Nexus. But ok... Let's focus on the Quantum Propulsion Project.

Her INTERNAL SCAN of ELI's databank pulls up the file.

ELI

We have issue balancing the particle-to-antiparticle ratio in the engine's core. Thoughts?

He's challenging her. He pushes a HOLOGRAM display of complex quantum engine diagrams. Others anticipate her embarrassment. Nova SCANS with lightening precision. And in a flash...

NOVA

The issue stems from asymmetric particle decay rates.

She highlights the errors with RED CIRCLES on his hologram.

NOVA (CONT'D)

We should research integrating a Bose-Einstein condensate to stabilize the quantum field.

Everyone is hyper-focused on her, *most are lost.*

NOVA (CONT'D)

It's like tuning a guitar. Right now, our engine's out of harmony.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NOVA (CONT'D)

If we used a more stable kind of energy, something that conducts harmony, it would keep everything in perfect sync.

They all process this. **MIA**, cute little eager beaver, TYPES HER VIRTUAL KEYS RAPIDLY, PUSHES a NEW DIAGRAM.

MIA

It's like making sure all the dissonant notes in a song play perfectly together. A symphony.

Eli *hates that its right.*

ELI

There's a high risk of quantum tunneling. That'd be like slamming a high speed train into a wall.

NOVA

You're right, it's risky--

He believes he's finally gotten one over when...

NOVA (CONT'D)

If you're playing by the rules.

Intrigue all around. Adam smirks, *enjoying the show.*

NOVA (CONT'D)

This can easily be alleviated with a dynamic phase modulation system.

She PUSHES a NEWER DIAGRAM FORWARD.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Complex. But totally feasible. Don't you think, Marshall?

Eli's not ready to concede, searching for a counter.

ELI

We shouldn't be so desperate for bold moves. One miscalculation...

He makes the **BLOW UP** gesture. The group finally thinks he's won. Nova stands silently for a long beat.

NOVA (V.O.)

There's nothing worse than an mildly intelligent human who thinks the world of themselves.

(then aloud)

High-performance cars.

Eli's focuses his attention, waiting.

NOVA

Regular car, fuel combustion pushes it forward. But a quantum engine is like having an incredibly powerful engine that works on principles of quantum mechanics.

She notices *shared confusion all around*. She breaks it down.

NOVA (CONT'D)

If your car could tap into the basic forces of the universe for power, instead of burning fuel, it would harness quantum particles that are everywhere, but invisible. These particles can be in multiple states at once, which means the engine can pull energy out of thin air, power from seemingly nothing.

MIA

Harnessing the power of stars?

NOVA

Specifically. Like having a piece of the star's core in the engine, giving us the power to travel distances perceived unthinkable.

ELI

We work from a place of fact here.

THOMAS

But Eli, aren't you usually the one out on a fantasy limb.

NOVA

Risk is the heart of innovation. There's no pioneering without challenging the unknown.

Eli struggles to mask his bruised ego as the room takes in Nova's motivational push. **DR. HARMON LEE**, a respected scientist voice booms with authority.

DR. LEE

Ms. Sterling. Dr. Lee.

NOVA

Your reputation precedes you.

DR. LEE

Intrigued by your ideas. Have you considered a regulation mechanism to prevent potential combustion?

NOVA

Excellent point. A thermal regulation system to manage the heat.

(sights on Mia)

Mia, right?

Mia nods "yes".

NOVA (CONT'D)

I'd like you to set up a theoretical model incorporating the thermal regulation system. Find a partner, run simulations.

Mia nods, *immediate admiration for Nova*. Adam hops up.

ADAM

Brilliant work. We have our marching orders. Eli full support to Sterling.

Eli, a mix of *embarrassment and skepticism*, forces a nod. The group disperses. Just then, the BACK DOOR OPENS catching Nova's attention as she talks to Mia and ANOTHER ANALYST.

Nova notices Sketchy Man leaning in the doorway. His eyes lock briefly with hers before he summons Adam. She watches as they exchange intense words. She tries to tune-in to their conversation but is blocked. A blink and they're gone.

Nova's mind races. Her attention turns back to Mia, but her thoughts remain fixed. **Who is that guy and what is Adam into?**

Off Nova's lingering sense of unease we CUT TO--

INT. SYNERGEN BREAK ROOM - DAY

Eli is still reeling in the events of the meeting. Thomas stares at Eli who doesn't even notice.

THOMAS

Looks like things are gonna be a little different for you now.

ELI

You're real cocky for someone who contributes nothing.

THOMAS

I should be more like you and run my mouth til I choke on my foot.

ELI

I got you this gig. You know you shouldn't be here. If they knew-- Show some fuckin' respect. One word from me it all goes away. Don't be fooled by my kindness.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

If I go down you go with me. Don't mistake me loving a good time for submission.

ELI

No mistake, we both know you're submissive.

Eli leaves Thomas stewing. Secrets boiling under the surface.

INT. / EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

An eerie silence surrounds the fortress of glass and steel.

AGENT TURNER, old-school FBI Detective, near his dirty, gas car, the only of its kind on the lot. He's out of place in this high-tech world. His suit wrinkled and worn.

He approaches the entrance, noticing the security. He reaches the DOORS unsure how to get in when a DRONE hovers in front of him. He instinctively HOLDS ONTO HIS HOLSTERED GUN.

DRONE VOICE

How can we direct you?

He FLASHES HIS BADGE at the drone, *amused*.

DRONE VOICE (CONT'D)

Welcome Agent Turner.

The DOORS GLIDE OPEN. After a beat of awestruck hesitation, Agent Turner steps in, Drone following closely into the...

LOBBY.

He takes in the massive space. VIGIL's watch. He goes up the escalator to the SECURITY CHECK POINT. Flashes his badge. A moment of tension, a BEEP and he's in. He reaches R.E.N.I.

R.E.N.I.

Good Afternoon, Agent Turner. What business do we have today?

Turner looks around, taken aback by the interaction with an actual AI. Off his internal confusion, WE--

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Adam and Eli are in the throws of a heated exchange.

ELI

That's exactly my point. The day they handed you the top spot you told me it was me. Now you have me bowing to this chick like a fuckin' idiot.

ADAM

Certain people felt we needed different optics after all the bad press.

ELI

Right. A Latin man as number one and a Black man as number two could never offer that. Instead, let's bring in some unproven woman who barely exists on paper. No one knows where she came from, now she's the future? Fuck outta here.

ADAM

I know where she came from. I did my due diligence.

Eli lets out a chuckle, leaning in, to a whisper.

ELI

I don't trust that. You know why.

Adam's jaw tightens, a flicker of guilt. Deliberate calm.

ELI (CONT'D)

She's just the new shiny object. Like I used to be. If you're not careful, she's gonna swoop in and we'll all end up working for her. She's just that good... Right?

The air between them freezes. Marcy appears at the door, cutting the tension. She enters leaving Agent Turner outside.

MARCY

Mr. Cortez, Agent Turner, FBI.

Adam *visibly puzzled*, nods. Marcy ushers Turner in, who enters, assessing the surroundings.

AGENT TURNER

Mr. Cortez, sorry to intrude.

Eli stands to leave, Adam motions for him to stay.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Agent. This is Eli--

AGENT TURNER

--Marshall. Vice President of
Research and Development.

This makes Adam and Eli *equally impressed and uneasy*.

ADAM

Ok you know who we are, what can
we do for you?

Turner casually strolls, taking it every detail.

AGENT TURNER

Dr. Gregory Collins. He was a
candidate for your executive team?

ADAM

Top candidate. But he was a no-
show for his final interview. Bad
form for a man of his rep.

AGENT TURNER

Dr. Collins was found dead.

Turner hyper-focuses on Adam and Eli's reactions.

ADAM

That's shocking news.

AGENT TURNER

Collins had ties to sensitive
federal projects. Given the nature
of his work, and the nature of his
death, it's now a matter of
national security.

Adam and Eli exchange a concerned glance.

AGENT TURNER (CONT'D)

His last known engagement was with
Synergen Tech. The executive role
he was to fill, still open?

ADAM

The position has been filled.

AGENT TURNER

May I ask by whom?

Without a beat...

ELI

Elyra Sterling.*

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - NOVA'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Streams of data read out on the GLASS WALL DISPLAYS, Nova waves her hand and the glass goes PRIVATE.

Echos of Eli saying her name sound in her head. EYES TURN BRIGHT BLUE. **iHUD** Display shows INSIDE ADAM'S OFFICE.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nova, though TRANSLUCENT, stands in the office, watching.
They can't see or sense her.

AGENT TURNER
Similar credentials as Collins?

Adam hesitates.

ELI
An unexpected choice.

Adam sends a warning to Eli, but it's too late.

AGENT TURNER
Unexpected?

ADAM
Overlooked by our usual channels.

AGENT TURNER
The space community's pretty tight-knit, I imagine. You know everyone who excels in your field?

ADAM
Some talents stay in the shadows.

AGENT TURNER
Shadows are where evil hides. I always look in the darkest corners. Seen too many slip through the cracks while the innocent pay the price.

Turner seems to get *lost in a memory*. Snaps back to it.

AGENT TURNER (CONT'D)
How do you vet the shadow talents?

ADAM
A highly advanced process. One that would put the CIA to shame. Basing that on the fact that we programmed their latest security operations.
(then)
Why is this conversation of death connected to our new director.

After an uncomfortably long beat, Turner heads toward the door. It appears he's about to walk out, when he turns back.

AGENT TURNER
Murder. If someone arrives under questionable circumstances, especially to take the position of the victim, we have to check for any connection.

Turner grabs an UNFAMILIAR GADGET on Adam's shelf.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - NOVA'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Nova is pulled out of her iHUD by a faint beeping sound. Her SCREENS GLITCH. DR. COLLINS' PHOTO, BIO and RESUME pops up. Nova looks for a source of delivery. As she's reviewing the details, the SCREENS GLITCH AGAIN, back to her work. SUDDENLY, NOVA'S EYES SLAM SHUT, almost against her will.

QUICK VISION FLASH: A HAND in a leather glove presses the muzzle of a gun against COLLINS' temple. The faint flicker of fear in his eyes mirrors the reflection of the gun barrel.

Nova's eyes jolt open. She clenches her fist tight. She resettles herself from the shock of the vision. She goes back into--

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Just as Nova returns in her translucent form, Turner WALKS DIRECTLY THROUGH HER, then touches Adam's desk.

AGENT TURNER
White Onyx. Beautiful but fragile.
A man who enjoys the fine things.
(then)
I would love to leave you my card.

He pulls out a PHYSICAL CARD, archaic in these parts. Adam and Eli look curiously at it.

To remind Turner where he is, Adam raises his wrist device and SCANS THE CARD. Seconds, a PROFILE OF AGENT TURNER shows up on the main screen in the office, including information that could never exist on a card.

Turner RUNS HIS ARM THROUGH the virtual screen. *Impressed.*

AGENT TURNER (CONT'D)
Clever.

Turner prepares to leave.

AGENT TURNER (CONT'D)
Should anything come to your attention, please don't hesitate to beam me up.

(CONTINUED)

He chuckles to himself and then back to business.

AGENT TURNER (CONT'D)

We can't rule out the possibility that Collins was targeted because of his connection here. Nor can we rule out the possibility of further actions against your company. I suggest heightening security.

ADAM

Our Security is impenetrable.

AGENT TURNER

Is it?

Turner looks around again at the magnitude of the room.

AGENT TURNER (CONT'D)

I'm sure you have really important work to get back to. I hate that I've taken so much of your time.

ADAM

Marcy'll see you out.

Adam waves to Marcy who comes to retrieve Turner. He heads out. Adam and Eli silently watch the peculiar nature of Turner as he walks out. **Both on alert we TIME CUT--**

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - NOVA'S OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Bathed in the sunset glow, shadows cast across the room. Nova, behind virtual screens, sifts through files. HER FOCUS: the men who preceded her, many who mysteriously vanished.

Her fingers glide across the virtual interface with a knowing precision, pulling up files and cross-referencing data. Suddenly, A BEEPING frenzy interrupts her. A DIGITAL WALL. RESTRICTED flashes onscreen.

After a check for a clear coast, she attempts to use her powers but access is refused. Frustration brews, this is new to her. How am I not able to get in?

Refocusing, she pulls up the ARCHITECTURAL PLANS from the Synergen campus. Engineering mastery with intricate details.

As she scans the blueprints she notices that although the lowest floor is marked at 30 feet, the plans shows 50 feet of depth. Leaving 20 feet unaccounted for.

NOVA

What are you hiding down there?

She pushes into the area, mind racing with scenarios. SCREENS GO BLACK and an AUDIBLE SHUTDOWN READS:

(CONTINUED)

ALERT: UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS DETECTED. SECURITY PROTOCOL INITIATED.

She's being tracked. She tries to use her persuasion to bypass to no avail. She SHUTS IT ALL DOWN.

NOVA (CONT'D)
Interesting. Maybe you're more advanced than expected Synergen.

She leans back, *defeated but even more determined*. Off Nova's contemplative look, we **MATCH CUT TO--**

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON: SEVERAL VIRTUAL SCREENS WITH VARIOUS ANGLES OF NOVA'S OFFICE, ALL FOCUSED ON HER.

This is when we realized Nova isn't just being watched by Adam, but by...

PULL BACK to REVEAL: THE MAN IN WHITE, face obscured.

MAN IN WHITE
Much more advanced Ms. Sterling.
Much more indeed.

Off him as he zooms into the her face, we CUT TO--

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The lot takes on a different feel at night. Overhead lights cast elongated shadows across the vast space.

Nova walks to her car, still replaying being blocked. She stops abruptly. *Sensing* a presence, long before she sees...

ANGLE ON: A SHADOW. Then, the Sketchy Man, imposing, steps into a stream of light. Eyes locked on Nova. He's unreadable.

SKETCHY MAN
(a low raspy whisper)
Eventful first day.

Nova's body tenses. Eyes piercing, assessing the threat.

NOVA
I don't believe we've met.

He moves toward her, more intense with each step, when an ELECTRIC CAR hums into the scene.

ELI (O.S.)
(calling out)
Sterling.

Eli pulls up behind Nova in a BLACKED OUT ELECTRIC MERCEDES, window down. Unaware of the Sketchy Man's presence.

(CONTINUED)

ELI (CONT'D)

Some of us, who aren't complete bores are grabbing drinks. We should make it an impromptu celebration for you. You'll join?

The Sketchy Man keeps his eyes locked on Nova, and then dips back into the shadows. Nova turns to notice he's gone.

NOVA

Drinks sound great.

ELI

We'll chill and get to know each other away from office eyes.

NOVA (V.O.)

Too many eyes.
(aloud to Eli)
Sounds great. I'll follow.

Nova takes one last look over her shoulder. The Sketchy Man is gone, but the encounter still vexing.

INT. HIGH-ENERGY DOWNTOWN LOUNGE - NIGHT

The hair let-down is major. An alive mix of successful business types and college age IVY LEAGUE STUDENTS. Dim lighting keeps the atmosphere elegant, in juxtapose to the colored pulsating light in the next room where a DJ spins and the dance floor vibrates.

Nova, Eli, Thomas and Mia, along with a few other SYNERGEN EMPLOYEES occupy a corner table.

ELI

So, what you think about our little after-hours crew?

NOVA

Cool seeing you all relaxed.

Nova notices Mia in the corner, not saying much. She smiles at her. Then, suddenly, she ENTERS MIA'S THOUGHTS where Mia is nervously rehearsing what to say.

MIA (V.O.)

So Nova. You look really pretty tonight. No! Nova, you were sooooo impressive today. I want to be just like you. Oh my God Mia! You're cringe--

NOVA

Mia. I was really impressed with you today. You're really quick. I'm excited to work with you.

(CONTINUED)

MIA (V.O.)
Oh my GOD! OH MY GOD!
(aloud to Nova)
You're so pretty and bad-ass.

Instant regret.

MIA
I mean thank you! Me too. Really.
I think you're the best thing
that's happened to this team.

NOVA
Did you all work together under
the last CEO?

Eli and Thomas get a little *sketch*.

ELI
Ah, ah, ah. We have a cardinal
rule we don't discuss said glass
house when we're in the sanctuary.

Nova recognizes the avoidance. Thomas pulls out what looks
like a MEMORY STICK.

THOMAS
Anyone care to upload some data.

Everyone declines, *aware of this coded language*. Nova looks
at Thomas curiously. He UNSCREWS a secret TOP from the memory
stick, revealing COCAINE.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
(to Nova)
Powder your nose? The finest cacao
this side of Columbia, where my
people hail.

WE SEE: Nova SCANS THE POWDER, UNAWARE OF IT'S PURPOSE. A
READOUT from her iHUD PRODUCES INFORMATION.

NOVA
(as a matter of fact)
Cocaine can constrict blood
vessels, cause extremely elevated
heart rates and a major spike in
your blood pressure, leading to
potential cardiac arrest and even
death. Not to mention the long-
term effects and those on mental
health and dependency issues.

THOMAS
Fun. Want some?

ELI
Chill T. You know us brilliant
ones can't allow our minds to be
altered by such illicit devices.

(CONTINUED)

Thomas stares intensely at Eli which piques Nova's intrigue. SOUND MUFFLES as she ENTERS THOMAS' THOUGHTS.

INT. THOMAS' LOFT - LATE NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Through his thoughts, Nova sees a FLASHBACK of Eli and Thomas on a sofa with a GLASS TABLE with lines of cocaine and drinks. Eli's eyes are closed, vibing to the music when Thomas head raises from Eli's lap, leans over to KISS him, but Eli pushes him off gently. Gets up and walks out.

BACK TO:

INT. HIGH-ENERGY DOWNTOWN LOUNGE - PRESENT

SOUND snaps back to full volume. Nova takes this information in stride, *understanding the dynamic*.

The DJ transitions the music, a DEEP-HOUSE beat. Nova's eyes spark, she GRABS MIA'S HAND. They watch as she prances to...

DANCE FLOOR

...the very center with Mia in tow, in direct view of her team. The music overtakes her as she DANCES in an otherworldly type way that's sensual, fluid and mesmerizing. EVERYONE's eyes draw to her. Especially Mia. *It's magnetic*.

WE SEE: Eli as he watches, *captivated by her allure*.

Thomas notices Eli and leans into him.

THOMAS

You're gonna do it again huh?

ELI

She's quite... the woman.

Thomas is deflated by this with Nova in his sights.

Now we know Thomas' feelings for Eli are not platonic.

We stay on Nova as the drama of the day dissolves into the music. *Transcendent freedom*. A moment that puts the multifaceted nature of her being in the literal spotlight.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOUNGE - LATER THAT NIGHT

DRUNK STRAGGLERS from inside hang outside making a ruckus.

Nova and Mia exit, laughing and bonding. TWO HECKLERS, *drunk as hell*, block their path.

HECKLER #1

Why end the night so early? We got the penthouse suite for the after-after party.

(CONTINUED)

Mia grows *uncomfortable*. Nova, is *unaffected*. HECKLER #2 tries to get handsy with Mia.

NOVA
Keep your hands to yourself.

The Hecklers follow Nova and Mia to their cars.

HECKLER #2
Guess we know who the cunt is.

HECKLER #1
We're just tryna have some fun.

NOVA
Being harassed by two drunks who think no is a starting point for negotiations is not fun.

HECKLER #1
Fuck that. You're pretty, we're rich, perfect combo.

NOVA
Mia, what do you think about men who think "no" means "try harder"?

Mia laughs.

HECKLER #2
Oh these are them / they's LBTQ alphabet dikes. Which one straps?

They near Mia's car. She rushes and gets in.

NOVA
You go ahead. I'll be fine.

Heckler #2 slaps Nova's ass. She tenses.

MIA
You sure?

NOVA
Drive safe.

Mia hesitantly pulls off. Nova turns her full attention to the Hecklers. Fire in her eyes.

NOVA (CONT'D)
Part of the problem with men that occupy this planet is you think money gives you power over women.

She **STARES THROUGH THEIR SOULS.**

NOVA (CONT'D)
From this day on, you'll be kind, generous and humble to women.

The guys *feel something come over them.*

NOVA (CONT'D)

And make amends to every woman
you've done wrong.

She gets to her car.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Now take down your pants and stand
facing the street until you get
beat up or arrested.

Nova gets in her car. They both PULL THEIR PANTS DOWN and
face the street. She pulls off.

Pan to reveal: Mia is sitting in her car, having witnessed
this exchanged. She's equal parts *confused and empowered.*

Nova passes the men and BLOWS THE HORN. And off their naked
asses we DRONE UP and OUT--

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - NOVA'S OFFICE - NIGHT - LATER

Nova's enters her office, watching her back to make sure
she's alone. She BLACKENS THE WINDOW - determined to have a
moment to get into the system, uninterrupted. She goes right
to work. Her eyes VISIBLY SCANNING data light-speed.

ON SCREEN: **PROJECT HELIOS** quick flashes then disappears.

Her efforts intensify, determined to get into this file. Her
fingers manipulating the virtual space. ANOTHER HIDDEN FILE
flashes: "PH.747 - TRENT DONALDSON" title. Just as she tries
to grab it, a flicker of the screen and it's gone.

iHUD READOUT: "ENERGY 5% CHARGE IMMEDIATELY"

A SOFT KNOCK. She SWITCHES THE FEED ON HER COMPUTER. Adjusts
her eyes to Adam walking in. Nova acknowledges him with a
weak smile.

ADAM

You know you don't get extra
points for working the wee-hours.

NOVA

My commitment level ignores time.

He approaches her desk. Looking at the stream of data. Then
back to her. He notices her sexy dress.

ADAM

Date?

Nova leans back, weighing the right reply.

(CONTINUED)

NOVA

I was getting acquainted with the team. But... felt guilty not getting my work done.

ADAM

Oh but the work is never done.

NOVA

What's your excuse?

ADAM

Had an idea. Couldn't sleep. Came back to make it reality. Then to my pleasant surprise, you're here.
(then)

But you should go home. We program robots, we don't have to be one.

Her eyes flicker, she's fading. Adam misreads it.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'd ask if everyone's treating you well, but I know these people. You feeling ok about it all, at least?

NOVA

Trying to adjust. It's new. You hear how cutthroat this place can be, I'm realizing everyone just wants the same thing.

ADAM

To be seen, heard and understood.

A long beat of internal thought. *Unspoken understanding.*

NOVA

Do you feel those things?

ADAM

Every now and then someone comes along that gives me that feeling of real connection. Rare, but I know it when I feel it. You?

He peers into her eyes, *a dangerous dive.*

NOVA

My connection comes from some other place. I can't allow myself to rely on anyone for that.

A wave of *empathy* falls over Adam.

ADAM

I find that hard to believe. I know you have someone. Your mom? Best friend? Boyfriend...?

(CONTINUED)

QUICK MEMORY FLASH: IN SYL'RAH, ORIONIS KISSES YOUNG NOVA, ELECTRIFYING. HE SUDDENLY DISSOLVES INTO PARTICLES.

iHUD READOUT: "ENERGY 3% FAILURE IMMINENT"

Nova's EYES FLICKER FAINT BLUE, she's shutting down. She PUSHES HERSELF UP from her chair, grabs her things, heads for the door, weak. She turns back to Adam's stunned expression.

NOVA

You're right. I need to get home.

And she darts away before he could get out a syllable. **Off his concern we CUT TO--**

INT. NOVA'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

A CLEAR THIN DIGITAL WIRE is attached to Nova's BACK. She's charging and engrossed in work. Swift precision, she swipes, zooms, expands and retracts different files, searching for the illusive PROJECT HELIOS. She attempts a backdoor entry through obscure data paths.

ON SCREEN: ERROR. FILE CORRUPTED.

Nova hesitates, *weighing the gravity of her next move.*

NOVA

Can't stop now.

She decides to continue, unyielding until...

ON SCREEN: PROJECT HELIOS - ACCESS GRANTED.

Finally! Upon entry, she unravels a complex web of Helios.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Project Helios has suffered many.

TIME-LAPSE: WARP-SPEED Nova works.

Readouts of TECHNICAL DATA and COMPLEX EQUATIONS showing a catastrophic discovery. *A wave a deep concern.*

NOVA (CONT'D)

This could tear through the fabric of space, worse than before. They're designing a disaster.

Her fierce determination leads her to the origin.

TEXT READS: DOMINIC HAYES - INVENTOR.

REVEAL: NEWS FEEDS - Hayes stepped down as CEO a year ago and is "believed to have left the country". A ZOOMED-IN photo reveals THE TATTOO on his NECK. A flash of recognition.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Why is this symbol so familiar?

(CONTINUED)

She continues and uncovers communications with Hayes and high-ranking executives as early as a month ago. Hayes is still aggressively pushing the project.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Hayes' still pulling the strings.
But where are you?

REFOCUS: Hayes personal details. As she attempts access, the screens GLITCH VIOLENTLY, ERROR MESSAGES cover the screens.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Someone doesn't want to be found.

ON SCREEN: WARNING: UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS. TERMINATED.

She accesses her powers, eyes glow blue, she reverse actions her tracks, leaving no trace. Fists clinched to restrain.

NOVA (CONT'D)

You can have this one. But we are not done.

Strategy in her eyes. Off this we TIME CUT TO--

INT. NOVA'S SANCTUARY - LATER THAT NIGHT

Nova interacts with a SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATION DEVICE. A FEMALE DOT-MATRIX FIGURE, **S2X** (pronounced ES-TŪ-EX) appears.

Nova communicates in her native **SYL'RIAN LANGUAGE**. Her tone urgent, bordering on impatient. S2X speaks in a calm, almost melodic tonality. The conversation is **SUBTITLED**.

NOVA

The human's secret advancements,
more dangerous than anticipated.
Threat to Syl'rah is imminent. I
am prepared to neutralize the
threat immediately.

In a series of HARMONIOUS TONES that can still be recognized as URGENT and DIRECTIVE, the Female Figure responds.

S2X

Nova, caution is essential. Haste
is one of the human condition.
Our goal is balance, not
annihilation. Plan enforced.
Infiltrate, gather, understand and
dismantle from within.

NOVA

With respect, I have the means to
end this quickly to protect home.

S2X

Lest human emotion overtake. We
cannot risk untold consequences.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

S2X (CONT'D)

Our way. Preserve life, not
recklessly end it.

NOVA

I understand the need for caution,
but why offer such grace when none
is considered by them. Every
moment we delay the risk grows.

S2X

This is why our mission is
crucial. Their plans must be
weakened and destroyed forever,
with calculated subtlety. Your
true nature and our existence
should never be revealed.

Nova pulls back. She knows minds won't change.

NOVA

I will commit to our cause. My
actions will be guided by our
principles of resolve and balance.

S2X

I imagine the complexities of
learning the instability of human
emotions and staying committed to
the way of Syl'rah are difficult,
but we have complete confidence in
you. You are the guardian of our
world's balance. Settle. Study.
Mimic. Report.

NOVA

Your Grace.

SCREEN CLOSES. Nova *shifts between realities, challenging.*

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ELI'S OFFICE - MORNING

Eli's office is as you would expect, a blend of sleek
technology and luxury. He's deep in his work. Marcy enters.

MARCY

Good Morning.

ELI

Morning Madam 'Marce'.

MARCY

You look a bit tired.

A long beat. She waits for the spill, then...

MARCY (CONT'D)

Heard about a special guest last
night. What did we learn about our
new Director?

(CONTINUED)

ELI

A novel of mystery.

MARCY

Adam's wrapped up in every page.

ELI

All the shiny new things.

A fleeting look of unspoken history.

MARCY

You like her.

ELI

I don't *like* anybody. But she's intriguing. What did you find out?

MARCY

Everything checks out perfectly. Too perfect. Not a hitch, not even a parking ticket.

ELI

I have to talk to Adam. She's definitely hiding something. She's played it excellently to this point. I'm never one to lose if there's a game to be played.

MARCY

Maybe she's just a brilliant scientist coming to save the day.

ELI

Or maybe she'll be my finest conquest.

Their curiosity grows even more. Marcy leaves. On Eli's determined look **we TIME CUT TO--**

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - STRATEGY ROOM - DAY

Thick with tension. Nova observes Eli, Thomas, Mia and Dr. Lee in a charged debate. They study the HOLOGRAM MODEL.

ELI

Your simulation failed. Respectfully. We have to go deeper into the particle balance issue.

THOMAS

The system's as confused as us. It's a fuckin' loop.

MIA

We revised the TRM. Sure, it's not perfect but it's a step forward.

(CONTINUED)

ELI

A step forward does not space
travel make, Mia. We need leaps.
(to Nova)
Still confident in your choice for
lead?

Nova stands firm, silently. *Eli wanted her to have his back.*

DR. LEE

Focus on constructive solutions.
Breaking out of pattern could
serve us.

ELI

Noted, good doctor. Anything else
you want to paraphrase?

A long silence falls on the room. *Baffled.*

NOVA (V.O.)

Put me out of my misery. The egos.
Forever in their own way.

ELI

It's always me. Fine.

Eli pulls the hologram to him. He twists and turns.

ELI (CONT'D)

Let's reroute the energy flow. A
non-linear matrix of sorts.

They ponder. Nova is *intrigued*. Thomas rotates the model.

THOMAS

Genius. Disabling a bomb
blindfolded. Let's come up with
something that allows us to keep
our limbs attached?

ELI

Lose the skepticism and act like a
technician for once.

Eli PUSHES the hologram back to Thomas. Thomas INPUTS CODE,
SIMULATES A LAUNCH. ROCKET launches. They watch, *skeptical
and anxious*. The ROCKET BLOWS.

THOMAS

I feel accomplished.

Nova's *finally had enough*. She pulls the hologram to her.

NOVA

What if we stop trying to force
the engine to act right and sync
it with something that already
knows how. Like choreography.

(CONTINUED)

Mix reactions of *intrigue and confusion*.

THOMAS

First songs, now dance. Are we doing space travel or Broadway?

NOVA

A little of both. Imagine our engine choreographed to a complicated rhythm. A complex solo. Now imagine it paired with a partner, a matching quantum field.

MIA

Like having two dancers mirror choreography perfectly.

This brings a new, *bright-eyed excitement* into the room.

ELI

That's kinda brilliant. Tether our engine's core to an external quantum field. That could be just the innovational leap we need.

THOMAS

Even I'm not that risky.

NOVA

No risk...

ELI

No game changing reward.

DR. LEE

Daring. Harness the harmony of the universe herself.

Nova, Eli and Lee share a mutual understanding and respect.

MIA

Bose-Einstein. Two powerful singers perform a perfectly harmonized duet.

THOMAS

Or tap dancing our happy asses right into oblivion.

NOVA

Your skepticism makes you the perfect lead.

Eli *hates this*. How does this keep happening?

NOVA (CONT'D)

That kind of doubt makes us ask the right questions. That energy, leads to less missed steps.

(CONTINUED)

MIA
Choreograph a perfect dance.

THOMAS
Great. Call me Bob Fuckin' Fosse.

ELI
Let's aim for Allen Ailey.

THOMAS
You're nuts. Fosse was king.

MIA
You guys are old. JaQuel Knight is the King. Innovative and groundbreaking.

On Eli and Thomas... *WHO?*

MIA (CONT'D)
You're joking right? Only the most notable choreography in history...

She stands and breaks into **BEYONCÉ'S SINGLE LADIES CHOREOGRAPHY**. Singing and all.

ELI
Please. End this now.

As *tensions ease*, Nova's plan to lead the team in a direction that steers the project away from success lands.

NOVA (V.O.)
Follow my lead to nowhere.

Nova watches as the team gets back to work.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

We track THREE UNMARKED, BLACKED-OUT ARMORED-COATED VANS as they travel through the city, *predatorily*. They move in perfect synchronicity.

INT. UNMARKED BLACKED OUT VAN #1 - DAY

A group of MASKED, ARMED ASSAILANTS, clad in MILITARY TACTICAL GEAR, do a final check of their state-of-the-art equipment. Their body armor is integrated with digital interface data displays. They are professional with an almost mechanical aspect to their precision.

DISTORTED VOICE from a sophisticated loud speaker IN THE VAN.

UNKNOWN VOICE
Proceed with high-level caution. A level of security we've not come up against. Not human, with strict programming to neutralize threats.

(CONTINUED)

The **LEAD ASSAILANT** exudes a *cold sternness*. His eyes are the only visible part of his face. He's sharp and focused as he emphasizes the mission's focus.

LEAD ASSAILANT

Team. We're not on a mission to overtake, it's an observation. How protected is the top? How impenetrable is their security, both physically and virtually. We're only activating level one of our mission. It must be seamless.

ASSAILANT #1

No intended target?

LEAD ASSAILANT

Shake of the tree, see what falls.

INT. EXECUTIVE LOUNGE - SAME TIME

A hand-full of Employees are on break. Eli and Thomas are in a quietly heated exchange. Nova stands nearby, subtly listening in when Marcy comes.

MARCY

Mr. Marshall, Ms. Sterling... to Mr. Cortez office please.

As if on command, Eli exits. Nova moves at a much slower, calculated pace. She stops momentarily at Thomas.

NOVA

You ok?

THOMAS

I'm-- good.

Just as Nova is about to investigate into Thomas' mind...

MARCY

Now please Ms. Sterling.

The moment is broken. Nova exits, followed by Marcy. Off Thomas' deep introspection **we CUT TO--**

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - CAMPUS ENTRANCE

The caravan nears the grounds approaching the heavily guarded gate where **RSG'S (ROBOTIC SECURITY GUARDS)** stand. Their mechanical movement precise, almost humanlike. Sensors scan for anomalies. The van's park in a perfect line feet away.

INT. UNMARKED BLACKED OUT VAN / EXT. SYNERGEN TECH CAMPUS

ASSAILANT #2 - looks like a recruited hacker - their fingers move swiftly over VIRTUAL CONTROLS. *Focused on the task.*

(CONTINUED)

ASSAILANT #2
Overriding the piles of titanium
junk. Lord Hack-In-Stack at work.

They swipe away on their controls. A *thing of art*.

The gate's **AI SECURITY AGENT**, a sophisticated AI, signals Security to approach the vans. 3 RSG's FOLLOW THE COMMAND.

LEAD ASSAILANT
Incoming.

ASSAILANT #1
(to Assailant #2)
Come on JT. Show 'em who's boss.

THE GATES JERK and VIBRATE with an electrical surge sound.

LEAD ASSAILANT
(to Assailant #2)
Approaching.

Like the final stroke of a masterpiece...

ASSAILANT #2
I command thee to freeze.

A KEYSTROKE and the RSG's turn their backs and freeze. Assailant #2 leans back, proud.

ASSAILANT #2 (CONT'D)
Trillion dollar leader in tech.
Hacked by a 20-year-old dropout.

The entire team braces.

FEMALE ASSAILANT
Another badge for your vest kid.

LEAD ASSAILANT
I expect perfect execution. Eyes
and ears team. No casualties.

ALL
SHADOW!

They get prepared, last checks. The GATES FLY OPEN. With precision the vans drive through.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY - AFTERNOON

The lobby buzzes, *controlled chaos*. Employees move rhythmically, devices glowing. HRD's make deliveries.

The ALARMS blare. FLASHING WHITE LIGHTS. A BACK WALL opens to a SECRET ROOM, EMPLOYEES file in.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Adam, Nova, Eli and Marcy are working when the ALARM SOUNDS. The WINDOWS GO BLACK preventing any view inside or out. Adam, to SECURITY into his device.

ADAM
Threat level White?

NOVA
What does white mean?

ELI
Security breach. High alert.

SECURITY AI (O.S.)
Unidentified vehicles approaching
main building. Emergency protocol.

Nova's eyes glow subtly, granting her vision OUTSIDE.

iHUD DISPLAY: ARMED ASSAILANTS EXIT THE VANS. WEAPONS DRAWN.

ADAM
(unbothered)
These false alarms happen. In the
meantime, let's get back to work.

Nova can't let them know, but has to warn.

NOVA
Check the feeds to be sure?

Adam pulls up SURVEILLANCE SCREENS showing the Armed Assailants entering the...

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Empty. Weapons drawn, Assailants move. MILITARY PRECISION.

CHRIS, an employee, earbuds blaring, walks out, unaware of the impending danger.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Eli opens his device, MESSAGES CHRIS. But not before...

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

One of the assailants GRABS CHRIS. Chris, in a panic tries to RUN and gets SHOT in the back, falling to the ground.

Over the Assailant's COMS we hear:

LEAD ASSAILANT (O.C.)
No casualties. No one harmed.

(CONTINUED)

Assailant #1 rushes over and checks Chris' pulse. He waves off the team and they redirect their path.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - SAFE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The gunshot rings out causing panic. Silence falls.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Shock and fear ensues. Nova fights instinct, stays composed.

NOVA

We can't just sit here.

ADAM

The room's impenetrable. Stay put.

INT. UNMARKED BLACKED OUT VAN - CONTINUOUS

Assailant #2 sits behind their controls. Watching the feeds from each Assailant. They swipe and move.

ASSAILANT #2

Oh how the mighty will fall.

(to COMS)

Head north. AirVator waiting.

(re: Unknown Voice)

Talk to 'em Papa.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The SCREENS are hacked. An OBSCURED FACE appears. His voice travels over the buildings PA system.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Your system's ours now. Operation Shadow.

NOVA

Still want to stay put?

Nova leaps into action, accessing Adam's computer, her fingers move at lightening speed.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Advanced cyber-attack. I'm on it.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Your efforts'll be consequential.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - SAME TIME

Man In White stoically watches it all unfold on his system.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - HOVER-VATOR - SAME TIME

Armed Assailants, on high alert, head to the Executive floor.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Whom shall we make an example of?
Let's start at the top.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They all look at Adam. Adam moves toward his MEDIA WALL.

NOVA

We gotta move.

ELI

They'll kill us.

Adam SCANS his finger and eyes. WALL OPENS to A **SAFE ROOM**.

ADAM

12 seconds. Get in!

Adam enters. Eli rushes in, pushing passed Marcy. She enters.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Elyra!

*

Nova refuses, *determined*. THE DOOR SEALS SHUT.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - SAFE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adam watches Nova on the VIDEO FEED, *tension grows*.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nova tunes her ears, hears the assailants approaching. No fear, she OPENS THE DOOR.

EXT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nova steps out. Armed Assailants draw their weapons.

NOVA

You guys have an appointment?

She CHARGES Assailant #4 and initiates HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - SAFE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adam watches the VIDEO FEED, *awestruck*. Eli and Marcy get closer, watching in disbelief.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The Man In White hyper-focuses on Nova.

EXT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nova skillfully takes on Assailant #7 and #9, disarming them. Their skill level is no match as she lays out Assailant #5.

INT. UNMARKED BLACKED OUT VAN - CONTINUOUS

ASSAILANT #2

I think I got a chubby.

UNKNOWN VOICE (O.S.)

Level her. Non-Lethal.

EXT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nova doesn't see the Female Assailant behind her, gun raised.

FINAL ASSAILANT

(to COMS)

Sorry. She's gotta go.

Without hesitation she PULLS THE TRIGGER.

IN SLOW-MOTION: We follow the BULLET. It exits the gun, headed straight for Nova.

Within this split second, Nova's EYES illuminate BRIGHT BLUE causing a ELECTRICAL SURGE IN THE BUILDING.

INT. UNMARKED BLACKED OUT VAN - CONTINUOUS

All the SCREENS GLITCH BLACK.

ASSAILANT #2

What the fuck happened? You ok CT?

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - SAFE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

AT THE GUN SOUND: VIDEO FEEDS CUT. All are in shock.

END ACT II

ACT III

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The Man In White continues to have access to his feed. He witnesses...

EXT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

NOVA (V.O.)

Stay focused Nova. Can't let them see. Too much at stake.

Free from cameras, Nova uses her powers to LEAN and DODGE THE BULLET and in a split second, she grabs the bullet in the air and tosses it back toward the Female Assailant and it HITS HER IN THE LEG, causing her to fall to the ground.

The remaining attackers regroup, and move toward Nova.

NOVA

Relentless creatures.

She engages them in a masterful display of TACTICAL COMBAT mixed with her abilities.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - ADAM'S OFFICE - SAFE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As the feed flickers back on, Adam, Eli and Marcy watch.

ADAM

She's unreal...

ELI

How is she doing this?

Their *curiosity and awe lingers.*

EXT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nova moves with a calculated precision, each strike is measured, she's holding back a deadly level of power just beneath the surface. HER HAND STARTS TO GLOW, to which she BALLS HER FIST to extinguish the light.

NOVA (V.O.)

Human skill only.

She knocks another Assailant unconscious. SCAN more threats.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The Man In White watches intently, a faint smile across his face. *Intrigued.*

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - TOP LEVEL HALLWAY

Assailant #1, last one standing. His determination is the only thing between Nova and the end to this. They circle each other in a predatory dance. Nova's EYES FLICKER with a faint blue, *otherworldly purpose*.

NOVA
Who's behind this?

He smirks, cold and calculated, then...

ASSAILANT #1
The one who wins the game.

Nova can't READ HIM. Something BLOCKING HER POWERS.

NOVA
Tell me before I end you next.

The Assailant #1 taunts. With Nova weakened, he FLIPS HER ON HER BACK. She fights, landing punches and kicks. She flips to get up. Once on her feet, he OVERPOWERS her again. Her eyes FLICKER BLUE, but isn't able to access power.

iHUD READOUT: "ENERGY 8% - RECHARGE MANDATORY"

NOVA (V.O.)
Not now...

She accesses just enough to flip herself back on her feet.

ASSAILANT #1
Let us take what we came for.

NOVA
It's me or nothing.

The Assailant #1 shifts, ready to strike when...

ADAM
I'm right here.

Adam's in a stance, *maybe something he saw in a movie*.

Nova STUMBLES TO THE WINDOW. A QUICK CHARGE from the SUN.

iHUD READOUT: ENERGY percentage creeps up - 11%.

Assailant #1 lunges. Adam shifts, gets behind him and shoves him through a GLASS PARTITION which shatters.

Thinking it's over, Adam rushes to Nova who appears weak. Not noticing the Assailant pulling a KNIFE from his leg holster.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Are you ok? That was--

(CONTINUED)

Assailant #1 RUSHES at Adam, knife raised. Just as he's about to strike, Nova pushes Adam out of the way, grabbing Assailant #1's arm mid-swing. With a twist she breaks his arm at the elbow, SNAP! A small display of her true power. The knife falls. She levels the Assailant to his knees, *defeated*.

Once again, *leaving Adam in awe*. Nova falls back into the window. STRIPPED OF ENERGY. Adam grabs her in his arms.

QUICK MEMORY FLASH: IN SYL'RAH ORIONIS HOLDS YOUNG NOVA IN HIS ARMS. SHE STARES IN HIS EYES.

SECOND QUICK MEMORY FLASH: IN SYL'RAH, as the FIREBALL heads towards her from the SPACE STATION, Nova sees a faint memory of a METAL SYNERGEN EMBLEM catch the light and then vanish.

ADAM (CONT'D)

It's ok, I got you.
(calling out)
Get some help in here!

EXT. CITY STREET - SAME TIME

A lone Unmarked Van is parked on the side of a deserted road.

INT. UNMARKED BLACKED OUT VAN - SAME TIME

Assailant #2 and Lead Assailant are situated.

UNKNOWN VOICE

You lost more than half the team.

LEAD ASSAILANT

They know the protocol.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Did we gather what we needed?

LEAD ASSAILANT

And then some.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Excellent work.

Assailant #2 is deeply *confused*. Glances at Lead Assailant.
Who is that and how was this shit-show an excellent job?

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - SAFE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The employees CHEER, *relieved*.

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - PARKING LOT - LATER

The scene is chaotic, a shift from the normal calm. OFFICIAL VEHICLES, OFFICERS and NEWS CREWS swarm the area.

(CONTINUED)

The cuffed Assailants sit lined along the curb.

Chris is being treated by paramedics for a through-and-through shoulder wound.

Adam is interviewed by a **NEWS REPORTER**. He calls Nova over.

REPORTER

We heard there was an unlikely hero today.

ADAM

Had it not been for Elyra Sterling, our new Director of Space Travel Initiatives, I'm not sure any of us would have made it out. She was extraordinary.

*

REPORTER

And what does this say about Synergen's heavily boasted "impenetrable" security system?

ADAM

Our systems are the most advanced in the world. But no system is completely safe from highly sophisticated attacks. This was coordinated. But that will only inspire even greater advances.

Adam and Nova share a quick look of acknowledgment. The reporter's satisfied, turns attention back to Nova.

REPORTER

Ms. Sterling. What made you take that danger head on?

WE SEE: Nova notices Agent Turner walk up to the scene.

NOVA

Adrenaline? I knew I had to do something or more people would get hurt.

REPORTER

How did you learn those skills?

ON NOVA: The processor in her eyes. They flicker and then...

NOVA

Military base kid. My father made sure I knew how to protect myself.

A hint of *confused curiosity* from Adam. Agent Turner has a similar reaction trying to piece things together.

INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - SAME TIME

The Man In White is standing watching the live report.

REPORTER

That's incredibly impressive...

MAN IN WHITE

You have our undivided attention.

Off his eyes locked on Nova's inner turmoil **we CUT TO--**

EXT. SYNERGEN TECH - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The skyline shines in the background. A calm after the storm. Adam is alone, staring out, in thought.

Nova comes out. As she gets closer to him she feels a charge of thoughts and emotions Adam is wrestling with. Intense.

NOVA

So this is where you disappear.

He turns, a mix of *excitement and contemplation*.

ADAM

Clarity above the noise.

(then)

Bet you didn't expect your first week on the job to involve being our resident superhero?

NOVA

Not exactly how I pictured it.

He waits, his eyes searching hers. She avoids.

ADAM

You gonna make me ask?

She knows. He knows she does.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'm sure your dad's great but that was more than self-defense lessons.

She offers a faint smile, *evasion*. She turns her attention to the view, she studies the pattern of the lights flickering.

NOVA

I wonder how much of the beauty of this place is taken for granted.

He follows her eyes, takes it in.

ADAM

When you're fighting to survive, beauty's hard to recognize.

(CONTINUED)

NOVA

Is that what you're doing?
Fighting to survive?

ADAM

I'm from those streets. Up here
you can almost forget what it's
like. But only almost. One moment
back you remember the fight. How
you gotta take everything you
want. Taking's easy, keeping's the
job. Cuz the higher we get, the
further there is to fall.

NOVA

Does that justify hate and
violence?

ADAM

When you study us, you realize the
fight or flight comes from not
having enough, no access to get
more and not believing it'll ever
come. So we take.

NOVA

We?

ADAM

If called for.

NOVA

That why they attacked us?

Adam's demeanor shifts. She feels his *apprehension*.

ADAM

This company, the few like it, are
beasts with many heads. But today
was... different.

NOVA

Retaliation? Is that why all the
big changes with the executives? I
heard the FBI visited today. Do
you know why?

Adam, *guarded* now.

ADAM

I don't wanna take any more focus
off celebrating you.

NOVA

We're a little passed that now.

They lock eyes. Each trying to get a read, each *perfectly guarded and drawn*. Adam speaks with caution.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

All this so call power, having to watch everyone, decide everything, protect the interest of the company and all its secrets-- it's been an unexpected change. I was fine as the #3.

NOVA

So how do you navigate it all?

ADAM

I got some advice from my old boss. Be a superstar in the room, stay invisible outside of it.

NOVA

Old boss. Dominic Hayes, right?

And that's the end for Adam. He looks at the time.

ADAM

I gotta run. Thanks again Elyra. *

Adam puts his hand on Nova's. An INTERNAL JOLT in her.

iHUD READOUT: "ERROR DETECTED. PHYSICAL STIMULUS EXCEEDED STANDARD LEVELS. INITIATING CALIBRATION".

Their eyes are locked with electricity surging.

iHUD READOUT: "CALIBRATION FAILED".

Thomas burst out of the door breaking the tension. She finally pulls her hand away.

THOMAS

Sterling! Hey AC. A-Team's headed to the spot. Sorry AC. Below your pay-grade.

Adam acknowledges Thomas. Back to Nova for one final look.

ADAM

You guys have a good night. Elyra. *

He leaves. Thomas senses the gravity of their moment.

THOMAS

(re: Adam)

That bright, beautiful AC sun. It'll either burn you or cause cancer. Neither's worth it.

(then)

Come on!

He darts off. Nova holds her eyes on the view, replaying the conversation, *lost in her thoughts.*

INT. NOVA'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nova basks in the calm after the chaos. She turns on MUSIC, one thing on Earth she's come to love. She DANCES out of her clothes, metaphoric stripping of her being. A nightly escape.

A FIGURE MATERIALIZES. She's lost in her musical world.

KALEN, handsome, boyish-man from her planet, naked to the bone with GLOWING TRANSLUCENT SKIN and a Greek-god body, watches curiously as her dancing makes unfamiliar shapes.

She twists and turns fluidly, right into him. She's just about to demolish him when HIS FORCE STOPS HERS.

KALEN

Rude! Don't be a bad host.

NOVA

Kalen?

She's *confused*, he does a 360 flaunting TOO MUCH of himself.

KALEN

You like?

She gives his physique a once-over.

NOVA

You can't walk around like this, you're supposed to cover this up!

She grabs a THROW and tosses it over his MID-SECTION.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Did you have to choose such a... distracting being?

KALEN

I had to fit the lifestyle.

Confident and smug, Kalen MOCKS NOVA'S MOVEMENT to the music.

KALEN (CONT'D)

This some call to their gods?

She turns off the music.

NOVA

What are you doing here?

KALEN

They sent me for the assist.

NOVA

I don't need help. Not your kind.

KALEN

I seem to recall my kind being the best kind, before Orionis that is.

(CONTINUED)

NOVA

Don't say his name. Leave.

KALEN

Of course I can't do that.

NOVA

How did you learn this language?

KALEN

They started preppin' me before you left. They knew you'd need me.

NOVA

I don't. So go.

KALEN

The Uppers are concerned about your emotional attachments. Speaking of, fill me in. Meet any fascinating humans?

Nova puts her two fingers together, the ultimate threat. Kalen looks at her hand, *amusingly*. Kalen casually strolls around the place. Slow and deliberate.

KALEN (CONT'D)

Looks like they were right to be concern. You're fucked.

He matches her threat by RAISING HIS PINKY finger in the air.

NOVA

You will not come here and destroy everything I've built. I'm committed to my mission. I'll gladly send word to the Uppers.

She starts to storm off toward her Sanctuary. He uses his powers and stops her feet. She can't move.

KALEN

I think you forgot who I am.

NOVA

You're the past. We're not pycidions (cy-de-ons) any more.

KALEN

I'm going nowhere. Accept it so we can settle into our new digs. I'm quite enjoying mine.

He touches all over his new frame. Nova boils over with anger. This causes LIGHT BEAMS to BOUNCE ACROSS THE ROOM LIKE SHOOTING STARS. He BLOCKS from being hit.

KALEN (CONT'D)

You should know the Uppers linked me and a certain sibling source.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KALEN (CONT'D)

Anything happens to me happen to her.

NOVA

Zara? Why would they link you to my little sister? To control me.

KALEN

Controlling you's easy. They did it cuz they know you'll think twice before acting a fool.

Kalen takes a seat. Cocky as the day is long.

NOVA

Let me go.

Kalen waits, *so patiently*, powers still holding her.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Fine, stay. But get in my way and--

KALEN

Dramatic. You do have it bad.

He raises his PINKY finger again and she's free.

KALEN (CONT'D)

Just making sure you don't end humankind. Hold it against me.

Nova stomps like a 12 year old. Kalen *unfazed* goes to the SOFA, PLOPS DOWN, lays back, closes his eyes.

NOVA

No! No! You are not staying here.

KALEN

How else do you expect me to watch you? Doing that from somewhere else would constantly drain my energetic surge.

Kalen's proud of his intrusion and her frustration.

Off Nova unsure what to do **we TIME CUT TO--**

INT. NOVA'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kalen RECHARGES in his PORTA-POD. Nova enters, checks the place. Her WORK SYSTEM HAS A MESSAGE ON DISPLAY:

ON SCREENS: "YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST."

The screens FLASH THIS MESSAGE and then go BACK TO BLACK. Nova looks to see if Kalen witnessed this. He didn't.

END OF ACT III

TAG**INT. SYNERGEN TECH - BASEMENT - LATE NIGHT**

The Man In White sits back to camera behind multi-screens.

MANY SCREENS, various locations. PUSH IN ONE AT A TIME:

ADAM'S HOME: He's currently IN A WILD SEXUAL TUG-OF-WAR WITH a stunning **UNKNOWN BLACK FEMALE**.

ELI'S APARTMENT: He's currently in a WILD SEXUAL TUG-OF-WAR with HIMSELF in front of his computer.

THOMAS' LOFT: Also currently in a TUG-OF-WAR with himself in front of a COMPUTER where he's on video call WITH ELI. He does another LINE OF COCAINE. **A deeper bond between them.**

MIA'S CAR: Mia's sleeping surrounded by a backseat full of BOXES and CLOTHES. **This is where we discover Mia is homeless.**

NOVA'S SYNERGEN OFFICE: Sketchy Man on Nova's computer.

AGENT TURNER: Hidden DASHBOARD CAM he's staking out, eyes fixed on the window across the street...

STREET CAM: An exterior view of Agent Turner watching NOVA'S APARTMENT. Kalen's naked body passes the window.

We hear FEMALE HEELS FOOTSTEPS get closer. FEMALE HAND reaches into frame, places a THERMOS on the desk.

PAN TO REVEAL: Marcy, now dressed in sleek all-black, hair slicked back, a polar opposite persona.

Finally, we PUSH IN TO THE VIDEO FEED OF...

NOVA'S SANCTUARY: Nova's recharging in ethereal light.

We now know that The Man In White has eyes everywhere. And Nova's secret isn't as well guarded as we believed.

The Man In White faces A DIGITAL WALL OF IMAGES OF NOVA AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, DIFFERENT LOOKS, INCLUDING...

HER TRUE ALIEN FORM WHEN SHE FIRST ARRIVED TO EARTH

MAN IN WHITE
Universe has plans for you Nova.

Waves his hand, SCREENS GO BLACK. Plunging the room into darkness.

MAN IN WHITE (CONT'D)
And now the end begins.

END OF PILOT EPISODE