

ELENA

Revised 5/9

INT. EXECUTIVE CLUB - NIGHT

It's a busy night at the Executive Club's bar. The air is full of laughter and animated chatter.

BEN walks past booths and tables, scanning the crowd. He's looking for a familiar face among the Chrysalis executives and the male and female escorts entertaining them.

Finally, Ben notices a solitary figure sitting at the bar, a STUNNING YOUNG WOMAN in an expensive cocktail dress. Could it be her?

The Woman tucks her hair behind her ear and Ben's heart skips a beat when he finally sees her face.

It is her indeed. ELENA.

Ben takes a deep breath, gathering courage, and approaches her.

BEN
Can I buy you a drink?

ELENA
Drinks are complimentary here.
Everything is.

Ben takes the stool next to her and flashes a smile at her.

BEN
Sorry. I'm new.

Elena freezes when she finally sees him.

What the hell is he doing here? That's what she would love to ask him, but she can't. She has to keep the charade. Too many eyes and ears around them.

ELENA
I can tell. Haven't seen you
around...

BEN
Ben.

ELENA
Ben...

Elena lets the name sink in. A stranger's name with a familiar face.

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SCI
START →

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ELENA (CONT'D)
Nice meeting you, Ben. Elena.
(beat)
Let me guess. Celebrating your
promotion?

Ben nods, taking her in. She's more beautiful than he
remembered.

ELENA (CONT'D)
(to the bartender)
Charlie, be a doll. Two martinis.

The Bartender puts to glasses on the bar and pours the drinks
in them.

Elena raises the glass. A toast.

ELENA (CONT'D)
To your success. You should be
proud. You must be the youngest
exec here.

Ben raises his glass too...

BEN
It wasn't easy.

... and Elena notices Ben's WEDDING BAND on the hand holding
the drink.

ELENA
I'm sure it wasn't.

Elena takes a sip of her cocktail and...

ELENA (CONT'D)
Should we take this celebration
somewhere more private?

BEN
Sure.

Elena gets up from her stool and guides Ben past the other
guests, towards a DOOR at the back of the room.

INT. EXECUTIVE CLUB - PRIVATE BEDROOM - NIGHT

The private bedroom looks like a luxury hotel suit. A massive
bed in the center, a full bar in one corner, a stand alone
bathtub at the other.

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SCI
END

As they walk into the room, Ben, excited to at last be alone with her, eager to touch her, reaches for Elena.

But when he puts a hand on her arm and she turns to look at him, he's surprised to find... coldness, defiance in her eyes.

SC2
START

ELENA
Ben, wasn't it?

BEN
Elena...

ELENA
So, do you want another drink or should I just go ahead and get undressed?

As she says this, Elena reaches for her dress, ready to unzip it, but Ben grabs her by the wrist, stopping her.

BEN
That's not what I'm here for.

ELENA
Why are you here then?

BEN
I'm here for you.

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Elena takes his hand off her and walks away from him.

ELENA
Oh, that's cute, Ben. That's adorable.

BEN
I'm here to get you out.

ELENA
And throw away your new cozy little life? Why would you do that?

BEN
Because I love you.

Elena shakes her head in disbelief.

ELENA
Do you? Do you even know me anymore? Because I sure as hell don't know you, Ben.

BEN
It's still me, Elena. Aaron. Ben's
just a--

ELENA
I don't care who you are. Ben...
Aaron... I don't need either of
them.

BEN
Do you have any idea how long it's
taken me to get here? The things
I've done? For you?

ELENA
No. Not for me. For yourself. To
ease your guilt. I told you to
forget about me, remember?

Elena opens the door for Ben, holding her gaze to him, hard,
defiant. She's not the young girl he remembered anymore.
She's become a strong, hardened woman.

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ELENA (CONT'D)
Go back to your wife, Ben. Have a
happy life.

After a beat, Ben nods, defeated, and exits the room.

Elena closes the door behind him and leans against it,
conflicted, heartbroken. Was pushing him away the right thing
to do?

SC2
END

ACT FIVE

EXT. RED ZONE ALLEY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A WHITE SHEET is pulled away from the lens, revealing Aaron, who leads Elena past the clothes and sheets hanging from the clotheslines that crisscross the alley from wall to wall.

AARON

We're almost there.

Aaron pull the last sheet as if it was a curtain to show...

A CHAIN-LINK FENCE with razor wire on top. Past it, a DERELICT APARTMENT BUILDING looms: luxury condos that now lie abandoned, covered in graffiti, their windows broken.

ELENA

Nice building. Very pre-collapse...

AARON

It's inside, smartass.

Aaron tries to open the door on the fence when he notices the PADLOCK preventing him from opening it.

AARON (CONT'D)

Shit, someone suddenly got precious about this ruin?

(shaking the fence to test its integrity)

Maybe if I find a loose corner...

Suddenly THUMP! Something falls on top of the fence. It's a BLANKET that Elena has grabbed from a clothesline and has thrown over the razor wire.

Elena climbs the fence with agility and sits on top of the blanket for a beat to look at Aaron defiantly.

ELENA

You coming or what?

This girl's resourceful and fearless. And Aaron loves that. Infatuated, he rushes to follow her.

INT. DERELICT BUILDING - INDOOR POOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A rusty door opens with a moan and Aaron and Elena enter.

Elena gasps at the sight of the MASSIVE VAULTED ROOM with a half-full SWIMMING POOL at its center. The dust and cracked tiles have done little to diminish the grandeur of the space.

START →

WENDY SCREENCASTING

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ELENA

Wow, it's so... quiet in here.

She sits at the edge of the pool, closes her eyes, and lets her feet dangle over the water, taking in the silence. Aaron follows suit.

AARON

I don't get how you do it. Sitting there, seventeen hours a day, letting them pump you with nootropics and cognitive enhancers.

ELENA

Don't forget the amphetamines.

(beat)

Sometimes, I'm so wired I spend the night staring at the ceiling. But when things are tough at home and money's short, I eat first. Then Theo, then dad. And I get the best mattress, even if I can't really enjoy it. Anything so the straight-A student can keep getting straight "A"s. So how can I complain?

(beat)

It's just they have so much riding on this scholarship. On me.

Aaron looks at Elena. This is a girl with the weight of the world on her shoulders, eaten up by guilt.

AARON

Killing yourself over it won't do them any good. You gotta come up and breathe every once in a while. You gotta live.

ELENA

If by "live" you mean skinny-dipping in that filthy pool, you're out of your mind.

AARON

That's not why we're here.

Then Aaron grabs a piece of tile and drops it into the water. The SPLASH ripples over the surface and...

Suddenly, there's MOVEMENT in the water. Dozens of IRIDESCENT FLUORESCENT FISH come out swimming towards the surface, glowing like underwater fireflies. They're the result of some terrible mutation, but beautiful nevertheless.

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Elena lets out a delighted laugh and... **THEY KISS**, losing themselves into each other, peeling off their clothes with increasing urgency.

Soon they fall back on the tiled floor and start making love. As their hands interlace, we focus on Elena's fingers and...

... the **SILVER RING** her mother gave her.

ENDING

WENE'S FRIENDS

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