

SYDIEN CITY

"The Return"

ACT ONE:

EXT. SYDIEN CITY - DOCKS - NIGHT

The moonlight casts down on the shimmering wet docks below. A long warehouse stretches the length of the strip adjacent to the docks.

The waves from the harbor crash into the side of a boat. HENCHMEN walk down a long wood-planked dock.

JANINA, 15, a prideful strong girl dressed in all black, creeps up to the crate. She kneels in muck and pulls out her cell phone. She snaps a few pictures.

The men walk up to HANK, 46, a sketchy crook with an even more crooked grin. She checks the coast to see if its clear and then sprints to a closer crate.

HANK

Put it over there.

Two men carry crates over to a row of empty pallets. Hank smiles devilishly over the crates. A HENCHMAN hands him a crowbar.

Hank wedges the crowbar between the wood and with one quick downward thrust; the top of the crate rips off. He reaches down and lifts up a shiny golden talisman.

She takes a few more pictures. A NOISE echoes behind her and a shadow appears over her. She turns around slowly.

BODIE, 16, a beefy hulk resembling dude takes another step closer to her.

BODIE

Oh, now look what we have here.

Janina's frightful expression snaps to a hard-core glare and she sprays her pepper spray at his face and races away.

EXT. SYDIEN CITY - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Janina flees down the alleyway. She looks over her shoulder; no one is following her. Janina slows to a jog. Whispers and cackles bounce off the walls around her.

She spins slowly and paranoia forces her eyes to dart to every dark crevice. She sees Bodie at the far end of the alleyway.

A shadow walks out of the darkness. The light from the moon lights up SHRONDA's, 16, dark wicked glare. She stands tall above her, done up in black leather and flashes Janina a sneer and she scurries away.

Bodie catches up with Shronda and together they jog after her. She rounds the corner and crashes into a EDNICK, 16, a goofy looking loose cannon.

She falls backwards and scurries to her feet. He hysterically laughs at her. Bodie steps next to the Ed. Ed starts to chase her, but Bodie puts his arm across his chest, stopping him.

They watch her as she races away turning the corner out of their sight.

SHRONDA

What was that for?

BODIE

Boss will decide what to do with our little snoop.

They grin like deranged clowns after her.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER - ALDRIK'S OFFICE - DAY

LEONARDO, 17, carefree boy with wavy hair cut just above his shoulders compliments his handsome face, sits alone in an office.

Decorative knickknacks and pictures fill the bookcase behind him. He brushes his fingers through his cooper colored hair. His right leg shakes. He anxiously glances around.

The door opens behind him. ALDRIK, 27, an attractive woman that holds herself with the wisdom beyond her years walks past Leonardo.

She sits down opposite from him. Her college degree plaques neatly hang behind her. She warmly smiles at him.

ALDRIK

Sorry I kept you waiting.

LEONARDO

It's okay. I'm used to just waiting.

Aldrik smiles again. She flips her dark hair back into a bun.

ALDRIK

So. Have you thought about our last session?

LEONARDO

Yes.

Aldrik smiles encouragingly at him.

ALDRIK

Well, do you want to explain?

LEONARDO

I just don't want to go back. Nothing is there for me. Not family. No friends.

Aldrik flips open her note pad.

ALDRIK

What about Janina?

LEONARDO

Janina.

Leonardo's smile quickly fades away.

LEONARDO (CONT'D)

Not even Janina. That city. Those people - are in my past and I'm not worrying about it anymore.

ALDRIK

Leonardo, you need to let go of your troubles. You need to face your fears, if you don't-

LEONARDO

I will never learn. I know. And I don't care I'm not going back.

ALDRIK

I was going to say if you don't you will never leave. You will never leave this self-destructive mind state you are in right now.

Aldrik looks at him with a edge in her eyes.

ALDRIK (CONT'D)

And you will never know the truth, until you go back.

LEONARDO

The truth?

The buzzer interrupts the session.

PAGER

Dr. Aldrik please report to Waden's office immediately.

Aldrik curses under her breath.

ALDRIK

I'm sorry Mr. Macolum. We have to reschedule.

Leonardo stares at her in disbelief. He stands up as Aldrik walks away from her desk.

LEONARDO

No, you can't just leave like that. What truth?

Aldrik quickly leaves the office. Leonardo tries to chase after her, but GUARD, 47, a fed up to the brim with bull steps in front of Leonardo.

He slams Leonardo up against a wall with one full swoop and cuffs him. He rips him off the wall and pushes him out of the office.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER - LEONARDO'S CELL - DAY

The guard shoves Leonardo into his cell. The door buzzes and slides shut. Leonardo turns to his home. Two sets of bunk beds sit across from one another.

There is a toilet behind one and a sink behind the other. A small two foot space in the middle that's occupied.

SIMON, 15, a slinky looking, fast talking, plan man and KEIGO, 14, a slow, heavy set, high spirited boy sit in the center of the room arguing.

Simon has his hand over his face; his fingers messaging his temples.

SIMON

Lee, buddy, please tell this buffoon that the Milky Ways are better than the dumb Twix.

Simon stands up and walks over to him stopping just a few inches under Leonardo. His shrunken hand-me-down jumpsuit barely reaches his ankles and wrists.

He stares at him with big brown eyes and a determined countenance. Leonardo pushes past him and jumps on his bunk.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
(at Keigo)  
Was it something I said?

Keigo shrugs and looks up at Leonardo. Leonardo's arm flops off the side of the bed. Keigo pokes it.

KEIGO  
Hey buddy? What up?

LEONARDO  
Nothing.

Simon rolls up his sleeves.

SIMON  
Well, you heard him. Now Milky Ways are better, the creamy fluffy insides beat crunchy crackers any day.

Keigo silently scolds Simon. Simon lets out a heavy sign. He stands up on his bed and peers over at Leonardo.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
You know we aren't going to let you be alone until you tell us. Come on what's wrong?

Simon continuously pokes Leonardo's back.

KEIGO  
Is it cuz we are leaving Monday?

Leonardo props his head up and looks behind him.

LEONARDO  
Nah. You guys will be right back here on Thursday.

They laugh, but the silence quickly takes a hold of the boys. Leonardo rolls back over.

LEONARDO (CONT'D)  
Its just something Aldrik said. If I don't go back I will never find out the truth.

SIMON  
That baboon? Psh, she always knows  
how to get under people's skin.  
That's her job.

KEIGO  
Do you wanna go back?

LEONARDO  
No.

SIMON  
Then don't. But by God please  
reconsider your other options.

Simon looks around disgusted. Leonardo stares back up at the ceiling. Keigo looks up at Leonardo concerned.

KEIGO  
Lee?

Leonardo sighs.

LEONARDO  
I don't know.

Leonardo frowns. Another buzzer rings through the juvenile center and the lights switch off. Leonardo rolls over with another heavy sigh and pretends to sleep.

Simon and Keigo glance over at each other worried. Then retreat to their own beds.

INT. SYDIEN CITY - CITY HALL - ELEVATOR - DREAM

Leonardo stands alone in a dark elevator. The walls start to enclose on him. He's breathes heavily. His eyes focus on the numbers as they rises with the shaking elevator.

ON THE SCREEN

14. 15. 16.

BACK TO ELEVATOR

Leonardo is jittery with anticipation. The doors open, but only half of the room shows. Leonardo cries out for help.

He reaches out and tries to grab onto something to pull himself up. He feels something behind him. VINCENT, 47, a strong powerful man pushes him out.

LEONARDO

Dad!

VINCENT

Son!

When their hands lock their whole world switches around. Leonardo looks down at Vincent alone in the elevator. Leonardo tries to reach for his hand. The cable snaps and the elevator gives way. Vincent falls with the elevator.

LEONARDO

Father!

The elevator crashes below sending a cloud of dust and debris up towards him.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER - LEONARDO'S CELL - NIGHT

Leonardo jolts upright in his bed covered in sweat and his chest heaves with every heart pumping breath. With widened eyes he glances around and drops back down on his pillow.

He side punches the wall next to him then grips his head in aggravation. Leonardo rolls over and faces the wall. A tear drips onto his pillow. Keigo watches his friend in silence from the adjacent bottom bunk.

END OF ACT ONE