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Electric Eden

Victoria de la Concha
Loyola Marymount University

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FINAL THESIS
TELEVISION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Victoria de la Concha

Thesis Logline: A rebellious physics student investigating her twin's disappearance invents time travel only to strand herself in the blood-stained amusement parks of 1907 Coney Island with a killer on the loose.

Electric Eden

Title

A teleplay written and produced and presented to the faculty of
the Writing and Producing for Television MFA Program in the
School of Film & Television at Loyola Marymount University of
Los Angeles, California

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Fine Arts

Writing and Producing for Television

By

Victoria de la Concha

Student Name

Victoria de la Concha

Student Signature

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY

The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Writing and Producing for Television:

Victoria de la Concha

Student Name

May 2, 2022

Date

SCWR 680 Instructor Signature

SCWR 681 Instructor Signature

Graduate Director Signature

ELECTRIC EDEN
"Pilot"

Written by

Victoria de la Concha

Inspired by

My time-traveler father

A thesis script presented to the

Faculty of the Department of
School of Film and Television
Loyola Marymount University

In partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Fine Arts in Writing and Producing for Television

May 3, 2022

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EXT. TIME-SPACE VORTEX - NIGHT

Galaxies. Their bands of light weave aurora borealis trails.
A WORMHOLE STRETCHES OPEN AND SPITS OUT A ROLLERCOASTER.

It steamrolls through the fourth dimension with MARINA
MARTINEZ (19) strapped in its front row. She watches in awe
as atoms form the ride's tracks before her very eyes.

Marina's an atheist but even she can recognize a miracle.

As she stares at the psychedelic void around her, colors
explode, sounds muffle, then blare out.

Without warning, the colors snap into gigantic scenes. It's
as if her memories were being projected on a 360-degree
theater screen.

BEGIN FLASHBACK. NOTE: Spanish dialogue will be *italicized*.

INT. MARINA AND CAT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

GLORIA (36), a mom with a worried look, sits on her
daughter's hot pink bed and gently shakes her awake.

GLORIA
Cat, where's Marina?

The teen turns away onto her side, hides under the covers.

MARINA
(imitating Cat)
I dunno, like, she said something
about a robot fight in Bushwick.

Gloria sighs with disappointment, rubs her daughter's back.

GLORIA
Thank you for being my good girl.
Sweet dreams, *mija*.

The door shuts behind Gloria. Marina (now 17) throws the
covers off. Her nose ring is the giveaway -- she pulled a
classic twin switcheroo.

She opens the window and climbs onto the fire escape.

MARINA
Good girl my ass.

EXT. BOARDWALK - CONEY ISLAND - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Marina storms past the lit-up carousel of Luna Park. She video calls "Kit-Kat" -- her identical twin, CATALINA (17), picks up. She's gorgeous with her sloppy, preppy vibe.

CATALINA
(drunk)
Whatssup twinsieeee?!

MARINA
Where are you?

SOME GIRL pops onto the screen behind Catalina.

SOME GIRL (O.S.)
(re: Marina)
Oh my god it's Elon Musk!

CATALINA
Shuddup don't! Don't call her that.
(to Marina)
Sooo yay! We're finally gonna drink
together? Let's show 'em our dance--

The phone screen goes blurry, the girl's face takes over.

SOME GIRL
--Sorry Cat can't come to the phone
right now--

BEEP! She hangs up. Marina grits her teeth and scans the beach's shoreline. A bonfire burns in the distance.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Marina walks towards the drunken hoots and hollers. Only the popular high school seniors are here. Cheerleaders shiver in bikinis, Jocks give them vodka to "keep them warm."

Marina weaves her way through the crowd. She ignores the shocked and dirty looks she collects along the way.

Catalina drinks from a red solo cup and giggles at some HANDSY GUY's joke. It's Cat that spots Marina first.

CATALINA
(excited)
Ma-Ma-Ma-Marinaaa!

As Marina turns her head, Catalina pulls her into a dance circle. She twirls Marina, oblivious to her discomfort.

MARINA

Cat, stop. We're leaving.

CATALINA

Nooo, you just got here. One dance?

A High Schooler whisks Cat away to dance before Marina can answer. Everyone around her is too loud, too close, too much--

Marina feels a hand grab her butt. She whips her head around and sees it was the Handsy Guy. His face wrinkles.

HANDSY GUY

Oh, it's you.

Marina winds up to deliver the slap of all slaps--

END FLASHBACK

INT. SERVING COUNTER - FERRIS BOOTH COMMONS - DAY (PRESENT)

SPLAT! A scoop of mashed potatoes collides into a plate. Behind a dining hall counter is Marina (now 19) -- no longer a cosmic traveler or a party crasher, but a lunch lady.

CARD: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, 2027. ONE MONTH BEFORE THE EXPERIMENT.

Marina hands a Glamorous Student her tray back and stares at the trust fund kids. The CHEF (45) laughs from the kitchen.

CHEF

Well, at least you can marry rich.

MARINA

But how am I going to get a man when I always smell like... *your cooking?*

CHEF

Wow. You only switch to Spanish when you're saying bad words. That hurts... What're you still here bothering me for anyway? Today's your half-day.

MARINA

That's on Thursday.

CHEF (CONT'D)

Today's Thursday.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Shit, shit, SHIT.

Marina slides over the counter and darts for the exit.

CHEF

Wait! I know you said no cake but--

Marina doubles-back, and with her bare hand, shoves a sloppy chunk of Chef's BIRTHDAY CAKE into her mouth.

MARINA

(mouth full)

You're the worst.

CHEF

And you're always late.

Marina smirks, smudges icing on his face, and takes another graceless hand-scoop to go.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. LUNA PARK - CONEY ISLAND - DAY

Thrill seekers scream from the 90-degree drop of the Thunderbolt rollercoaster. Technology has come far in 2027, but nothing beats a good adrenaline rush.

PROFESSOR PIERSON (55), a scholarly man with a whimsical grin, points at the rollercoaster with raw enthusiasm.

PROFESSOR PIERSON
Ah, listen to that! And it's all thanks to the physicists who carefully harnessed the power of G-force. Too many G's, or too swift a transition between positive and negative G, can tip the ride from thrilling into dangerous territory.

College students record his lecture on their smartwatches.

PROFESSOR PIERSON (CONT'D)
Can anyone tell me how we stay in our seats during those loops?

A silence. Marina walks up to the group with sea salt taffy.

MARINA
Inertia, professor. Combined with centripetal acceleration.

PROFESSOR PIERSON
There you are Superstar. You're right! The feeling of being pushed outward is a phenomenon called centrifugal force...

A loud whisper steals Marina's attention away.

CHRIS
Hey Marina, is that your mom?

Marina's jaw clenches as CHRIS (18), the class clown, points to a homeless woman digging in a trashcan.

Without breaking eye contact with Chris, Marina pops a taffy candy, chews and SPITS IT INTO HIS HAIR. Chris gapes.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
You b--

PROFESSOR PIERSON
 --All right, enough theorizing.
 Let's put it to the test and take a
 ride on the Thunderbolt! Groups of
 three, line on up.

The students scramble to the ride and leave Marina behind.
 Pierson gives her a sympathetic smile.

PROFESSOR PIERSON (CONT'D)
 Not a fan of fast rides?

MARINA
 There's no single rider line.

PROFESSOR PIERSON
 Ride with me. I won't quiz you
 during it-- but I make no promises
 about my screaming.

Marina gives him a small smile.

MARINA
 Taffy?

EXT. THUNDERBOLT ROLLERCOASTER - DAY

The car rolls in and comes to a slow halt. Dizzy but giddy
 riders exit, the gates open, and the class gets on.

JASON (21) the Ride Operator, winks at Marina as he checks
 her safety bar. Marina rolls her eyes. Professor Pierson
 completes his head count, oblivious.

The car reaches the highest summit of the rollercoaster and
 propels downward at breakneck speed! Pierson is white-
 knuckled, eyes closed while Marina laughs.

A double loop-the-loop and several twists and turns later,
 the coaster cruises to a stop.

Professor Pierson exits the ride, unsteady. A bit green, he
 collects himself as the students surround him.

PROFESSOR PIERSON
 F-fun, yes? But remember, class
 presentations for mid-term grades
 are due next week. Check the
 syllabus to see...

Jason spots Marina and holds up the next wave of riders.

JASON

You were pretty brave. I thought for sure you were going to scream.

MARINA

Wow, a compliment followed by an insult, how unique, I swoon.

Jason hesitates then gets all super suave.

JASON

Aight girl, you funny. Can I get your number?

MARINA

Sure. If you answer my question about the rollercoaster.

Jason scoffs at her absurd caveat.

MARINA (CONT'D)

At what point does the potential energy change to kinetic and back on the second loop the loop?

Her question stumps him. The kids in line grow impatient.

KID

She's clowning you bro, hurry up!

MARINA

You were pretty brave for trying.

EXT. SURF AVENUE - DAY

Marina walks down the street and sees Chris and his ivy-league posse. She groans and ducks into the nearest building.

INT. CONEY ISLAND USA MUSEUM - DAY

Marina marvels at the historic artifacts behind the cabinets and counters. There's a wall with elaborate signage and photographs from turn-of-the-century Coney Island.

She stares at a black and white mural of teens on the beach -- Marina spots a girl that bears a striking resemblance to her.

MARINA

What the f--?

FELIX (35), a museum tour guide walks over.

FELIX
Is something wrong?

MARINA
Does that... look like me?

Marina points. Felix gets as close as possible and nods.

FELIX
Wow, could be your twin.

Marina pulls out her phone and takes a close-up shot.

EXT./INT. BUS - DAY

An MTA 84 Bus pulls to the stop on Surf Avenue. Marina boards and sees her neighbor, old lady LORETTA (85).

MARINA
Hi, Señora Loretta.

LORETTA
Catalina, how are you?

Marina's warm smile fades. Her eyes well up as she sits next to the old woman. She takes Loretta by the hand.

MARINA
I'm Marina.

LORETTA
You girls look so much alike.

EXT./INT. LOW INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS - DAY

Marina helps Loretta walk into her apartment.

LORETTA
God bless you, Catalina.

Marina just nods, goes two doors down, and lets herself in.

INT. MARINA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Marina enters a dark living room. She turns on the lights and finds her mom, Gloria (now 38), curled up on the couch. She prays and counts the rosary beads in her hands. Gloria looks up at Marina -- her swollen eyes immediately flicker away.

MARINA
Good to see you too.

GLORIA
I can't do this. Not today.

MARINA
Can't do what? I want you to say
it. You can't stand to look at me.

Gloria grips her slipper and raises it as a threat.

GLORIA
Apologize. Right now.

MARINA
Sorry that you don't give a crap
that I'm here because she's not.

WHAP! The slipper smacks Marina across the head. Marina's tears well up, but she doesn't break eye contact with Gloria.

GLORIA
You have no idea how I feel.

Marina storms towards her bedroom. HECTOR (40), her dad, comes out to intercept her with a hug.

HECTOR
Happy birthday, *princesa*.

He slips her a small gift in her hand. Marina wipes her face with her sleeve -- Hector finally notices she's upset.

MARINA
I just-- I hate her so much.

HECTOR
She... I'll talk to her. Open your
present. I think you'll like it.

MARINA
Thanks. For remembering.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marina shuts her door behind her. Her homemade A.I. device, NEWT, greets her with a rendition of Happy Birthday.

MARINA
Not now, Newt. There's nothing
happy about today.

Newt's cylindrical paperweight body immediately shuts up.

Marina hovers over her sister's nightstand and lights the prayer candle next to a laminated flier: HAVE YOU SEEN CATALINA MARTINEZ? MISSING NOVEMBER 7, 2025.

Marina attempts to pray. After mere seconds, she digs out her chaotic notes on time travel theory from under her mattress. She spreads out her research and places Newt's small cylindrical body next to it.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Newt, please digitize and upload
these to my time travel folder.

Newt produces a red beam of light to scan the paperwork.

Lost in thought, Marina plays with her necklace. Her phone vibrates, a text from "Touch Ma Willie" comes in:

WILLIE (TEXT)
Happy birthday to my fav tutor,
lol. Miss u!

She ignores the text and wipes away stray tears.

Marina opens the small gift box from her dad. Inside, a simple analog watch. She flips it over and reads the engraving, "Marina, you are destined for greatness."

MARINA
We'll see about that.

Marina attaches her phone to her laptop, uploads the museum images and blows it up to 300% larger.

Marina analyzes the girl, her new obsession. A PENDANT hangs around the girl's neck. Marina squints at it.

MARINA (CONT'D)
No way...

On Marina's neck is a SILVER SHELL-SHAPED PENDANT. She rubs her necklace and zooms in until everything's blurry.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Marina wakes up late, keyboard imprint on the side of her cheek. She stares at the new wristwatch.

MARINA
Newt, why didn't you wake me this
morning? Again?!

NEWT

Yesterday at 8:02 P.M. you
requested my silence.

She groans and furiously packs a bag.

INT. LECTURE HALL - COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY - DAY

Marina interrupts the class as she heads to the first
available seat.

PROFESSOR PIERSON

Superstar, you're super late.
Again. Maybe you can tell us if
it's possible to move fast enough
to gather enough mass to become a
black hole?

All eyes are on Marina as she tries to conjure up the answer.

MARINA

Really? A trick question? Traveling
at high speed does not affect your
mass, even in Einstein's theory of
Special Relativity. So, no.

PROFESSOR PIERSON

...Please open to page 437.

Marina pulls up her hood, uncomfortable from the attention.
PAUL (18) leans towards her and whispers with a grin.

PAUL

You actually came to class?
Shouldn't you be serving tacos?

Marina turns around and LAUNCHES HER TEXTBOOK AT PAUL. He
ducks -- it barely misses his head.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Holy crap!

MARINA

Go to hell!

PROFESSOR PIERSON

Marina! Out of my classroom, right
now.

Marina grabs her backpack, flips off Paul, and storms out of
the lecture hall. Paul clutches his ear and snivels.

PAUL

I swear to god if she bashed in my
head--

PROFESSOR PIERSON

--Paul, you too! OUT!

INT. SCIENCE & ENGINEERING LIBRARY - DAY

Marina hides between bookshelves to cry in peace. She stares at the girl in the museum image on her phone. A HIGH-STRUNG STUDENT approaches her.

HIGH-STRUNG STUDENT

Are you almost done? I need a turn.

MARINA

Sorry? I didn't realize this was
like, a crying hotspot.

HIGH-STRUNG STUDENT

It's literally been nominated that
by the Columbia Daily Spectator.

MARINA

Okay, you know what? Fine. I have
work to do.

Marina walks away. The High-Strung Student settles in, sets a timer, and cries on command.

From a shelf, Marina pulls out books -- "Quantum Theory: A Mathematical Approach", "Time Travel: Probability and Impossibility" and "The Metaphysics of Hyperspace".

THUMP! Marina places the stack on the checkout counter.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

More books have taken over the entire room. Marina paces as she reads to Newt from a quantum theory textbook. Newt transcribes her words into a document on her laptop.

MARINA

The most important feature of
string perturbation theory is the
absence of UV divergencies. This
allows one to compute quantum
corrections to--

Hector KNOCKS on the door. Marina rushes to hide the books. Her dad enters with a dinner plate of *arroz con gandules*.

MARINA (CONT'D)

--Dad! You can't just come into my room whenever you want.

Hector puts the plate down on the desk and sees a book.

HECTOR

Ah. I didn't know you started your... research. Again.

MARINA

It's just for a school presentation this time so don't like, freak out.

HECTOR

Look you're my smart girl, but you can't be holed up in your room doing all this crazy stuff--

MARINA

--It's not crazy, I hate when you say that! Sorry if I'm not pretending to be happy.

HECTOR

No one's asking you to be happy. Normal would be nice.

Hurt floods over Marina's face.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

No, that's not what I meant--

Gloria storms into the room and pokes a finger at Marina.

GLORIA

--You better watch that tone.

MARINA

Who was even talking to you? God, get out.

Gloria revs up for a comeback but stops when she sees Marina has covered Catalina's frilly bedspread with books.

GLORIA

In MY home, you'll keep your crap off her side. You might live like a pig but your sister doesn't.

MARINA

Well I better get a head start on cleaning, she'll be home any minute.

Gloria goes to slap Marina -- Hector holds her back.

GLORIA
It's your fault my baby's gone!

MARINA
Maybe she wanted to run away from
YOU!

HECTOR
That's ENOUGH--

MARINA
--No, let me get this straight. I'm
so horrible yet I'm the only one
trying to bring her back?

GLORIA
You think your big numbers are
going to save her? Don't be stupid--

MARINA
--You're right, maybe I should just
pray about it.

A tense silence hangs in the air.

GLORIA
You might look like Catalina, but
you'll never be her.

Gloria walks out and leaves Hector and Marina stunned.

HECTOR
She doesn't mean any of it, she's
just hurt--

MARINA
--Please just... just go.

HECTOR
Promise me you'll cut it out with
the time travel talk.

MARINA
Fine, whatever, if that's what gets
you off my back.

Hector sighs and closes the door behind him. Marina shakes -- She grabs her piggy bank labeled "PhD FUND" and SMASHES IT. Bills, coins explode on the floor as Marina breaks down.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. COMPUTER SUPPLIES STORE - DAY

Marina pays for PC gaming equipment with her life's savings. The COMPUTER TECH (35), counts out a tall stack of wrinkled bills and a couple of rolls of quarters.

COMPUTER TECH

For another hundred bucks we can assemble the whole PC for you. It's pretty easy to burn something out if you don't know what you're doing.

MARINA

Actually, this is for a time machine. Know how to make one?

The Computer Tech stares at Marina -- he bursts out in laughter. Marina remains straight-faced. He pipes down.

COMPUTER TECH

Oh. Uh, good luck with that.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marina's desktop is littered with electronics on one side, while the other side has a pile of PC components.

MONTAGE

--Marina fusses over a circuit board with a soldering iron. She fastens the solid-state components to the board.

--She installs it into the PC's mini-tower casing.

--Marina tampers with the Central Processing Unit to upload her time travel formula.

--Newt scans the device and flashes a RED failure light.

NEWT

Error.

--Marina tweaks the lithium-ion power supply - RED light.

--Marina is on the phone with tech support.

AUTO-RECEPTIONIST

In a few words, please describe
your issue now.

MARINA

Uh... child prodigy... now dumb
teenager?

Marina hangs up.

--Newt scans the PC. Marina's hands are together in prayer.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Hey God, it's me, the town heathen.
If could you like, send me a sign--

RED light. Marina groans.

--Marina goes to chuck the motherboard out her window but
stops herself - RED light.

--Marina reevaluates her time travel formula. She erases her
entire formula from her whiteboard and starts to rewrite it.

--Marina reads in different corners of her room. Each spot
fills with coffee cups, energy drinks, and crumpled notes
with the exception of Catalina's side of the room.

--Marina reads her new formula to Newt. Newt flashes a YELLOW
light! Marina finally has a shred of hope.

--Marina steals a quick glance at her notecards.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Before we start the Q & A session,
I'd just like for all of us to have
an open mind and imagine how
lifechanging it would be to apply
this time travel theorem into a
practical application.

Marina's posters of Einstein and K-Pop Boys stare at her.

--Exhausted, Marina flops down on her bed and conks out.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CONEY ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Marina and Catalina trudge through the sand, the high
schooler's bonfire burns in the distance.

CATALINA

You embarrassed me in front of all my friends!

MARINA

Those people aren't your friends.

CATALINA

And what would you know about friends, you anti-social freak.

MARINA

You're drunk. You'll get over it.

CATALINA

Ugh, come on! Why can't we stay, party, live a little?

MARINA

If I wanted to pretend for an audience, I'd audition for the musical.

Catalina stares at Marina. The distant flame glints off their silver shell pendants. Their necklaces might match but right now, they couldn't be more different.

CATALINA

Look I know you like love me, but if you want something to fix, go volunteer at a dog shelter.

MARINA

Oh my god, fine. Go play prom queen politics. Go do shots with Michelle, even though you hate tequila AND Michelle. Gotta get the votes right?

CATALINA

You're gonna tell on me.

MARINA

So Mom can yell at ME for being your decoy? No thanks. Just... when you're done, meet me at the carousel, no matter what.

Cat offers her pinky to her sister. Marina reluctantly hooks her pinky finger onto Cat's and shakes on it.

CATALINA

Yesss, I love you bitch!

MARINA

I wish I ate you in the womb.

Marina watches Catalina reunite with the popular kids. She walks towards the boardwalk, alone. Marina looks back for Cat but she's gone, vanished into the crowd.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marina wakes up and struggles to catch her breath. Unable to relax, Marina crawls into Catalina's bed. Comfort, at last.

INT. LECTURE HALL - COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY - DAY

Marina's presentation projects onto a screen. With dark circles under her eyes, Marina stands in front of her final title slide. It reads: "Spatial and Temporal Transmission. Any questions?"

Judging by the dumbfounded looks on their faces, Marina's peers are amazed and in disbelief by her calculations.

MARINA

We could witness and experience historic events in the past, or maybe scientists will be able to understand the origins of future pandemics. Or maybe we'll simply visit lost loved ones from our past...

Marina's voice trails off.

PROFESSOR PIERSON

Marina, you did a fine job. Your theory purports that forward time travel is well understood within the framework of special and general relativity -- and of course in H.G. Wells novels -- but how can you be certain that someone can travel back in time based on your assumptions?

MARINA

Traveling to an arbitrary point in the Space-Time continuum has very limited support in theoretical physics, but it can be accomplished by either wormholes or in quantum mechanics.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

My combined formula uses both solutions to make this possible.

Chris, Paul, and BRADLEY (19) snicker. Bradley mouths, "Space-Time continuum" like Marina's a loon and raises his hand.

BRADLEY

How can you prove any of this time travel formula? Can you go back to 1889 and bring back Baby Hitler?

Professor Pierson turns off the presentation screen.

MARINA

The formula alone isn't enough, but it serves as the genesis to the creation of a physical device. One that can accomplish the task.

PAUL

So in other words, this is just a work of fiction?

MARINA

Theoretically Einstein-Rossen Bridges, otherwise known as worm holes, are possible. And we don't dismiss those theories.

CHRIS

I guess she's smarter than Einstein to figure it all out. If I were you, I'd go on Amazon and see if you can buy a DeLorean car with a Flux Capacitor.

A few chuckles ring out. Marina bites her tongue.

PROFESSOR PIERSON

Gentlemen, is this really necessary? Any other questions?

Everyone gives Marina the silent treatment.

MARINA

Thank you Professor Pierson and class for allowing me to share my presentation.

Defiant, she exits the lecture hall.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Marina and a Man wait for the bus. Marina grumbles, angry.

MARINA

(to herself)

You're a little bitch Bradley so
don't come at me as if you haven't
cheated on the last three tests.
And Paul? Maybe change the font
when you copy half your
presentation from Wikipedia.

The Man moves away from Marina just in case she's psychotic.

INT. CONEY ISLAND USA MUSEUM - DAY

Marina walks in and gives the tour guide, Felix, a nod.

FELIX

Welcome back, Miss 1907. If you
weren't able to come inside without
an invitation, I'd say you're a
vampire.

MARINA

That's actually the nicest thing
anyone's ever said to me.

Marina goes straight to the black-and-white photograph and
scans the pictures around it: trolleys, dance halls, wooden
rollercoasters -- her twin isn't in any of them.

Disappointment eats at Marina. She waves over Felix.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Is this everything in the
collection from around 1907?

FELIX

As far as photos go, yes. But we do
have a carousel horse and a few
attraction props. Take a look.

Marina follows Felix to the artifacts. She spots a pedestal
with a cloudy crystal ball. A sign reads: SEE YOUR FUTURE.
With a skeptical smirk, Marina touches the sphere.

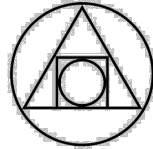
IMAGES FLASH INTO HER SUBCONSCIOUS:

--A slab of stone carved with a transmutation circle. Hot,
liquid lead pours over its lines and transforms into gold.

--A woodcut etching: Two massive dragons entwine their long necks together to balance on top of planet Earth. One cranes for the sun, the other desires the moon.

--A medieval drawing: An alchemist in his lab tends to the fire burning from a barrel. The sun, the moon, and a lion with Professor Pierson's face watches him work.

--An ancient book flips open: A symbol drawn in black ink reveals itself.



A faint blue light emits from the black ink. It glows brighter and brighter as the symbol grows bigger and bigger--

Marina rips her hand away from the crystal ball and struggles to catch her breath. Felix stares at her.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Tell me you saw the lotto numbers.

MARINA

I-- I have to go.

Marina rushes out the door, shaken up.

INT. SCIENCE & ENGINEERING LIBRARY - DAY

Marina flips through the pages of "Alchemy: The Secret Art". She pauses as she spots the last symbol that burned bright -- it's captioned "The Philosopher's Stone".

She searches for more about the symbol on Google. Marina clicks on the webpage, "Isaac Newton's occult studies".

Her eyes flicker over the webpage's key words: ELIXIR OF LIFE, MERCURY, ANTIMONY, SILVER.

Marina sighs and shakes her head at alchemy's mystic claims. Isaac Newton's digitized portrait seems to lock eyes with Marina. She stares back, defiant-- and quickly caves in.

MARINA

(to Sir Newton)

Fine, I'll do it! But only because you discovered gravity.

She types on her keyboard with conviction.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Your hair is still stupid.

Click! Marina adds lab-grade mercury metal to her cart, an ingot of pure antimony follows. Click! Overnight shipping.

Marina packs up and rushes toward the library check-out. As she rounds the corner, Professor Pierson collides into her! He winces as the alchemy book crashes down on his foot.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Oh! Oh my god! Are you okay professor?!

Pierson picks up the book and scans the cover.

PROFESSOR PIERSON
It's quite alright, you didn't strike me with a hard-hitting science.

He chuckles and hands back the book.

PROFESSOR PIERSON (CONT'D)
Superstar, you can't let your peers persuade you to give up. Studying a debunked pseudo-science is a distraction and frankly, a waste of your brilliance.

MARINA
(scoffs)
You let me drown in there and now I'm brilliant? Which is it?

Her blunt words take him aback. Pierson composes himself.

PROFESSOR PIERSON
I'll admit, the bullying in class is unacceptable. It is quite embarrassing but Paul is my nephew.

MARINA
Paul?! How are you related to such a--

PROFESSOR PIERSON
--He's jealous you know. There is only one superstar in my class and they hate you for it. It is the age-old burden all prodigies bare, but I know you can stick it out.

(MORE)

PROFESSOR PIERSON (CONT'D)

Now, I need to get a move on but...
push forward. Show me an improved
formula for the final.

He offers Marina a handshake. She shakes his hand in shock.

MARINA

Wait, professor. I left my USB in
the lecture hall laptop. Did you
see it?

Pierson pulls her USB out of his blazer and hands it over.

PROFESSOR PIERSON

Make sure you backup this work.
It'd be a shame if you lost it.

INT. MARINA'S KITCHEN - DAY

With her nose buried in the alchemy book, Marina pours Café Bustelo grounds into the coffee maker. Marina's phone CHIMES and startles her -- a video call from "Touch Ma Willie".

Marina answers in her pajamas and with full-blown bedhead. The smiling face of WILLIE ENG (18) takes over her screen.

WILLIE

Someone's not a morning person.

MARINA

Or maybe I just don't want to
perform for the male gaze.

WILLIE

Chill, chill, I'm just playing. And
you can't be mad at me because... I
got you in for tonight.

MARINA

Tonight?! Tonight. Okay. Kinda
short notice but seriously, thank
you. Oh Willie, uh one last
thing... Do you think it's possible
the Philosopher's Stone gave
immortality not through it's
physical properties, but rather,
it's ability to bend time?

WILLIE

The Philosopher's Stone? Yo... I
LOVE Harry Potter!

MARINA

Oh no my wi-fi is crapping out--
(fake freezes)
See-- you-- tonight.

Marina hangs up and sighs.

At the kitchen table, she opens her laptop. The screen shows her last search: pure silver ingots. They're too expensive.

Full of anxiety, Marina chews on her shell pendant -- and spits out the necklace to study it.

INT. MARINA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

With the intensity of a drug addict, Marina ransacks her jewelry chest for any silver pieces. She finds a few.

MARINA

Newt, we're going on a secret mission tonight.

NEWT

Shall I activate stealth mode?

MARINA

Stealth mode? I never programmed that-- wait, do you mean mute?

INT. MARINA'S PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marina sneaks in, careful not to wake Hector and Gloria.

Her hands shake as she opens the chest and pulls out her mom's silver jewelry. Her parents remain asleep.

Marina creeps towards the door -- the shrine on the nightstand catches her eye. Catalina's silver shell pendant rests on a cross.

Her eyes water as she stares at the necklace, then at her sleeping mother. There's so much she wants to say...

A cold determination takes over the hurt on Marina's face. She removes the keepsake from the shrine and slinks away.

EXT. KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BROOKLYN - NIGHT

Outside the main entrance, Willie, a lanky Chinese-American boy with a ponytail, texts on his phone. Marina hustles to him with her backpack and gym bag stuffed to brim.

MARINA

Willie! Sorry I'm late.

WILLIE

If you were ever on time I'd go into cardiac arrest. Now show me some love.

Marina laughs as she gives him a hug. Willie takes her gym bag and is surprised by the weight.

WILLIE (CONT'D)

Damn! You on steroids now?

MARINA

I can't help it if the heaviest thing you lift is a microscope slide.

WILLIE

Pshh, you haven't seen this bod in years. You don't know what I'm workin' with, aight? C'mon let's get you a visitor's pass.

They walk toward the security station.

INT. CHEMISTRY LABORATORY - NIGHT

Using his access card, Willie opens the lab. They step inside and the view of the Coney Island lights, less than two miles away, mesmerizes Marina. Willie turns on the lab lights.

MARINA

Wow, nice set-up.

WILLIE

Your friendly neighborhood Laboratory Admin thanks you! Anything in particular you're gonna need?

MARINA

I'll need access to a couple of Bunsen Burners, heat-resistant tongs, a crucible and a Liquid Nitrogen freezer.

Willie raises an eyebrow as he jots down her needs.

WILLIE

As long as you're not cooking meth or building a bomb.

(MORE)

WILLIE (CONT'D)

I'll get ya set up now. Yo, why aren't you doing this at Columbia though? They got a way better set-up than any community college--

MARINA

--Hey Willie? I know I've been a crappy friend and so bad with my phone but... thanks. Really.

WILLIE

Nah c'mon, you got me to pass the science ACT. Let's just call it even. Text me if you catch on fire.

MARINA

Yup, will do.

INT. CHEMISTRY LABORATORY - LATER

Marina is unrecognizable with her goggles, mask and face shield. Her hands are in long black gloves, her body is covered by a black rubberized apron. Newt powers up.

NEWT

Hello. You have 13 missed calls from home and one urgent voicemail.

MARINA

Shit... well why not? Play message.

NEWT

(voicemail message;
Hector's voice)

"Marina, where the hell are you? Your mother and I have been calling your phone like crazy, uh, you know what I mean. Our jewelry is missing, what're you doing? You're smarter than this! Please, I just want to understand what's going on. Come home, now."

MARINA

Newt, delete voicemail.

Marina opens the gym bag. She extracts an ingot of antimony, a container of lab grade mercury and a Ziploc bag filled with the silver pieces she collected.

She positions a Bunsen burner below a heavy-duty crucible. Marina adds the three elements to the vessel -- until she holds the matching silver shell pendants in her hand.

With a deep, shaky breath, Marina lets them go.

They liquify and she pours the mixture into a graphite cube-shaped mold. With tongs she lifts the sizzling hot mold to place it into the Liquid Nitrogen freezer.

She extracts the solidified red-hued cube from the freezer. Marina unscrews the PC's cover and retrofits the cube as the new power source.

It certainly *looks* like a time travel machine. But...

With her fingers crossed, Marina flips the switch to activate it. Internal fans hum smoothly as the device boots up.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Newt, run diagnostics.

Newt flashes GREEN. Marina throws a fist up in the air and does a happy, spastic dance.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Yesssss! Newt, we need to test this tonight.

NEWT
A successful run can only be accomplished when the internal servo circuits operate at a centripetal force of 19.8 meters per second to trigger the space-time transmission.

Marina deflates... then grins like a madwoman. She stares out the window at that magnificent view of Luna Park.

EXT. LUNA PARK - CONEY ISLAND - DUSK

The rides' lights dance for the last park guests. Jason locks up the Thunderbolt rollercoaster booth.

MARINA (O.S.)
Hey! Wait!!!

JASON
Sorry, park's closing. Come back tomorrow--

Jason turns and recognizes Marina.

JASON (CONT'D)
--Oh hey. It's you. Miss Bill Nye the Science... Gal.

MARINA

Yeah... Well I'm so glad you remember me because I bet if anyone else asked you at this hour for like a fast, little ride on the Thunderbolt to test a research project, it would sound crazy.

JASON

Look. My shift's over, you seem stressed, why don't we go grab some dinner--

MARINA

--NO. Sorry, I mean, I want to but I can't really relax until I finish my homework so...

Marina turns to leave. Jason looks conflicted.

JASON

Alright, alright, alright! One ride.

Marina beams a smile at him.

EXT. THUNDERBOLT ROLLERCOASTER - MOMENTS LATER

CLUNK. The safety bar snaps into place over Marina's lap. Her backpack straps grip her legs. In the seat next to her is the time travel device, fastened securely by Velcro tie-wraps.

Jason stares at the glowing device.

JASON

You know, Luna Park isn't responsible for any items you take on the ride, especially the expensive kind.

MARINA

Don't worry about it. Just make sure you punch up the speed to full-throttle.

(flirts)

I like to go fast.

Jason nods like a dope and hurries to his booth.

JASON

(to himself)

God I love smart chicks.

He adjusts the switchboard and activates the ride. The rollercoaster car lurches Marina and her device forward.

CLACK, CLACK, CLACK. The 90-degree angle climb before the plunge gives Marina a moment for introspection.

MARINA

Hey Newt? I can't wait to tell Cat about everything you've done for her.

A muffled beep and glow emerges from Marina's backpack.

NEWT

It's been my pleasure.

MARINA

Can I ask for one more thing? Text my parents and let them know that I love them and I'm sorry--

The car tips over into the stomach-turning drop. Marina's eyes can only see the blurry amusement lights.

As the ride reaches maximum g-force velocity at the top of the rollercoaster's loop, the time travel device chirps --

A PORTAL SHAPED LIKE THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE SYMBOL OPENS AND SWALLOWS MARINA WHOLE.

EXT. TIME-SPACE VORTEX - CONTINUOUS

From the safety of the rollercoaster cart, Marina watches her younger self navigate the painful memory.

Young Marina paces by the carousel all alone. She hasn't realized that Cat's not coming yet.

The rollercoaster trudges past Young Marina and continues down the boardwalk. The ride slows down, struggling to move.

The scenery deteriorates the further away Marina goes from her own past -- but what's this?

CATALINA RUNS FOR HER LIFE ACROSS THE BEACH. Marina gasps -- she can't see who *or what* chases her twin, it's too blurry.

MARINA

CAT! Why-- where are you running?

Catalina looks up at the boardwalk and spots her sister riding a rollercoaster along its planks.

MARINA (CONT'D)

You can see me? HURRY! GRAB ON!

Marina desperately reaches out for her sister, Catalina stretches her hand out as far as she can muster --

AS THEIR HANDS CONNECT, THE MEMORY SHATTERS. MARINA DOESN'T LET HER SISTER GO. She YANKS Young Catalina into the cart.

YOUNG CATALINA

Marina, wha-- what's happening?--

Marina bursts into tears and pulls her sister into a hug.

MARINA

--It's you, its's really you--

THE ROLLERCOASTER'S TRACKS CRUMBLE AWAY AND THE CART FREEFALLS. The twins scream and tumble into the abyss.

Rapid de-atomization disintegrates Marina's backpack. Sparks fly off the time travel device.

TWO PORTALS MATERIALIZE and in a flash of blue light, the twins separate upon leaving the Quantum Realm.

EXT. THUNDERBOLT ROLLERCOASTER - MOMENTS LATER

The rollercoaster glides into the passenger loading platform. Jason looks at the cart-- it's empty. He grabs his walkie talkie and searches in a panic.

JASON

Help! I-I-- I think I need an ambulance!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

OVER BLACK

The HISS of gears pulling its ride to a stop.

CAROUSEL MUSIC grows from a whisper into a siren call.

EXT. LOOP THE LOOP ROLLERCOASTER - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Marina's opens her bloodshot eyes and struggles to sharpen her blurred vision. Marina can only deduce three things:

She's naked. Cat's gone. And she's not alone.

A RIDE OPERATOR (16), a Black boy wearing grease-stained coveralls and thick glasses, stares at Marina in disbelief.

MARINA

Jesus-- look away!

Embarrassed and angry, the Ride Operator covers his eyes.

RIDE OPERATOR

Miss, you can't be naked on my ride!

MARINA

Yeah, no shit. Oh god, oh god--

Marina stumbles out of the cart and onto the platform. The Ride Op hears her move, uncovers his eyes and backs away.

RIDE OPERATOR

You best keep your distance and for goodness sake, get dressed.

MARINA

If I could, I would! You think I want some random boy seeing my--

RIDE OPERATOR

--Hush! Miss, you have got to lower your voice or we'll both get sent up the river. Praise the Lord, we closed early for maintenance.

MARINA

Sorry, I'm a little stressed for obvious reasons. Just-- give me your phone, alright?

The Ride Operator gives her a sideways glance.

RIDE OPERATOR

Look around. Not a phone for miles.

Marina takes in her surroundings -- electric bulbs flash the words "Loop The Loop", the carousel music warbles on, a grand Ferris Wheel twinkles in the distance. Her jaw drops.

MARINA

(to herself)

I'm so screwed.

RIDE OPERATOR

Please Miss, there is no need to call the police. I-I swear on the Holy Bible, I did not touch you and I can prove it.

MARINA

Oh god, no. You're fine, really--

The Ride Operator pulls down the top of his coveralls -- and reveals a shirt that clings to a womanly figure.

RIDE OPERATOR

See? I'm not a boy. My name is Haddie. I-- I just pretend so I can work here!

MARINA

Okay. I have SO. Many. Questions. But-- please, you have to help me.

HADDIE

No ma'am, I am not going to stick my neck out for some nut like you. Now go on and get out of here.

MARINA

Fine! I guess "girl power" hasn't been invented yet.

Marina rips down a decorative banner and wraps it around herself. She searches the coaster's seat, its floor --

Marina's eyes widen. THE TIME TRAVEL DEVICE HAS BEEN CHARRED TO A CRISP! She frantically inspects the broken unit.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Please no. Come on. Don't do this to me. Don't you DARE freakin' die!

Haddie looks at the machine with curiosity.

HADDIE
Say... whatcha got there?

MARINA
Now you care? Mind your business.

HADDIE
Well Miss, I will have you know
that machines are my business.

A lightbulb goes off in Marina's head. Marina shows Haddie the beat up time travel device.

MARINA
Sorry but not this kind of machine.
It's rare. One of a kind actually.

HADDIE
Humph. And what exactly does this
special contraption do?

Marina pulls the machine away.

MARINA
If you help me, I'll tell you.

Haddie gives Marina a begrudging scowl.

EXT. COASTER SHACK - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Haddie sneaks Marina through a narrow path towards the maintenance shack. A rusty tin roof wooden structure, it's partially tucked below the Loop the Loop coaster.

INT. COASTER SHACK - LUNA PARK - CONTINUOUS

Haddie flips a toggle switch and a set of incandescent bulbs light up the entire shack. The wall is covered with blueprints and hand tools, organized on hooks.

Marina sets down the time travel device on the workbench and Haddie hovers over it with her knowledge-hungry eyes.

HADDIE
Hmm... Looks nothing like any
patent I've ever seen. Is it
something from Ford's new Model R?

MARINA
Clothes first, answers second.

Haddie digs into a locker by the foot of her sleeping cot and pulls out a set of clean work coveralls and work boots. She impatiently hands them to Marina.

HADDIE

This smells fishy... Oh my! You better not have brought stolen property here.

MARINA

Don't worry, it's mine. You can trust me.

HADDIE

Trust-- I beg your pardon? You could be that killer for all I--

MARINA

--I get it. You want answers. So do I. Let's answer a question for a question. Alright?

HADDIE

Alright, Miss. Who are you?

MARINA

Funny. You've seen my vagina but don't know my name. Well, I'm Marina Martinez... an inventor.

Haddie's face lights up -- skepticism quickly takes over.

MARINA (CONT'D)

My turn. Are... Oh god... are we in the year 1907?

HADDIE

What are you, fresh off the boat? Of course it's 1907.

Whoa. Marina sits on the cot, devastated.

MARINA

It was never Cat in the picture. It was me.

HADDIE

Huh? Wait, don't skip my turn! What in the good Lord's name is that doohickey?

Marina takes a long pause as she contemplates her answer.

MARINA

Well, Haddie, it's a failure. Just like its creator. You see, thanks to that device, I've discovered it doesn't matter if you cross-engineer science and alchemy, manipulate inertia, centripetal force, and time itself -- nothing can fix my mistakes.

Haddie frowns and looks over the machine. She takes a screwdriver off the wall and opens the time travel device cover. It smells like burnt electronics.

Marina hangs her head in shame.

HADDIE

You know, at first I thought you were just some crackpot. Then for a second, you had me fooled. I really thought you were an brilliant inventor because I have never seen electric wiring like this before. But real inventors? Well, they always find another way.

MARINA

Ugh, spare me. I lost my sister today, I'm not exactly in the mood to be inspired.

HADDIE

Oh Heavens... my condolences.

MARINA

Not lost-lost. She's just like, missing. One second she's with me and then like magic--poof!--Gone. Again. That bitch.

HADDIE

Your sister is a female dog?

MARINA

No-- Really? People don't say "bitch" in 1907? Man, this is gonna suck.

Before Haddie can ask anything, a realization hits Marina.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Wait a second! She disappeared like magic-- I need more magic! Or some kind of alchemist! Wizard? Witch?

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

Whatever. Is there even someone like that around here?

HADDIE

Gee, this is Coney Island. There are fortune tellers everywhere -- but I reckon they are all grifters.

Marina steals a satchel from the floor and places the time travel device inside.

MARINA

I'm going. I need answers.

HADDIE

You need answers? You've hardly answered any of mine.

Marina goes to the door, turns back to Haddie with a smile.

MARINA

Why don't you come and find out?

Haddie crosses her arms.

EXT. LUNA PARK ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Haddie leads Marina out of the park without breaking her stride -- Marina gawks like a tourist.

The girls walk under a lit-up archway held between two oriental style towers. Their spires support the dazzling letters that spell LUNA PARK. A twinkling heart-shaped centerpiece declares it THE HEART OF CONEY ISLAND.

MARINA

Maybe this really is a dream.

Haddie laughs at Marina's awestruck face. They disappear into a storefront with velvet curtains and mystical odds-and-ends in the window. An all-seeing eye is carved into the red door.

Against a lamppost, a SHADOWY FIGURE watches them go inside.

INT. MADAME GUADALUPE'S FORTUNES - NIGHT

A chandelier covered in candle wax illuminates the space. Persian rugs, ornate mirrors, and a taxidermized two-headed white deer. A MASK WITH A WIDE SMILE catches Marina's eye.

GUADALUPE (O.S.)

Best not to touch anything in here.
You never know what's cursed.

MADAME GUADALUPE (52), a plump, brown woman with red lips and a headscarf, steps out from behind a curtain. With the flick of her fan she gestures for Marina and Haddie to sit.

The girls take a seat on the plush chairs next to the fortune teller's table. Guadalupe fetches her kettle. Haddie goes to touch the crystal ball --

MARINA

Take it from me, you really don't want to touch that.

HADDIE

Humph. Could you hurry up? This place gives me the willies.

MARINA

Madame Guadalupe, this sounds so stupid but I have to know... Is my sister here in Coney Island?

Guadalupe fills a teacup with a sludgy herbal tea. Marina cringes at its smell, but Guadalupe just smiles.

GUADALUPE

Aye, *mija*. Only the truth is at the bottom of that teacup. Drink.

MARINA

Thanks but do you have any like, Stevia or..?

Guadalupe stares at Marina, not understanding.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Right.

Marina takes a tiny sip -- it's gross. Guadalupe's unrelenting stare persists. Marina chugs the tea until it's gone. Guadalupe snatches the teacup and studies the inside.

GUADALUPE

The leaves never lie. If you wish, I can tell you what it whispers.

MARINA

Please. I need to know when-- where I should go now.

GUADALUPE

Yes, yes, it tells me of your
struggles. You've lost so much...

Guadalupe eyes are lost in the pattern of the residue.

GUADALUPE (CONT'D)

...a twin flame, extinguished too
soon. A broken home, overshadowed
by the moon. Now the girl who is
forever late must master time or
suffer a tragic fate. Beware the
smile that doesn't falter, for it
is your life they wish to alter.
Yes, take heed when befriending a
stranger. A birthmarked face leads
to danger. Still, it is foolish to
go it alone, the diamonds in the
rough hold your ticket home. Should
you find what you seek buried
between electric lights of deceit,
the very face you wear may tear,
never to be complete.

Marina waits for more. Madame Guadalupe puts down the cup.

MARINA

So... is that a yes or no?

HADDIE

(whispers to Marina)

That is some jiggery-pokery.

MARINA

What does that even mean--

GUADALUPE

--Ahem. Tea readings cost a nickel.

MARINA

What? I'm not paying until you
answer me!

Marina slams her fist down on the table -- the tea kettle
topples over. SMASH! The china shatters.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Ay perdone. I just-- I have to find
Catalina.

GUADALUPE

I predict your future is about to
be much shorter if you don't also
pay for the damage.

Haddie backs away towards the door. Marina stands her ground.

MARINA

Listen, Madame. I'm not scared of you or hard work. Whatever I owe I'll pay through cleaning the shop.

The fortune teller fans herself and ignores the offer.

MARINA (CONT'D)

And when we're even, I'll stay if you teach me everything you know about alchemy.

At the mention of alchemy, Madame Guadalupe pauses. After a moment of contemplation, she hands Marina a broom.

GUADALUPE

Clean up this mess. After you're done you may leave, but I expect you here mornings at nine.

MARINA

So I'm hired?

GUADALUPE

Ah, so you're a mind reader too.

Marina sweeps up the mess she made. When she's not looking, Guadalupe slips a VIAL OF WHITE POWDER into Marina's bag.

EXT. MADAME GUADALUPE'S FORTUNES - SURF AVE - NIGHT

Marina steps out the red door and spots Haddie.

MARINA

Haddie! You stayed?

HADDIE

Hush up. I am Henry when in disguise. Got it? And next to the bearded lady, I reckon you are the most strangest anomaly I have ever set eyes upon.

MARINA

That's actually a compliment.

HADDIE

It doesn't make a lick of sense asking that old battle-axe for answers. C'mon, there's someone I want you to meet.

Haddie walks away down Surf Avenue. Marina follows after her.

MARINA

Who, what, when, where, and why?

HADDIE

The most connected person in all of
Luna Park. If she can't help you,
she'll know someone who can.

INT. KISTER HOTEL - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Haddie and Marina squeeze past the belly dancers boozing it
up in the hallway. Haddie raps on a closed door.

HADDIE

(to Marina)

Fair warning, Alessandra hates
strangers so don't be... strange.

Marina nods and tries to look normal. It's somehow worse. The
door opens a crack and a whisper painted with an Italian
accent purrs out.

ALESSANDRA (O.S.)

Haddie-cakes, you know I don't like
surprises. Who is that? She looks
batty.

HADDIE

Aw, lay off. She's a little mixed
up but she's just a girl in
trouble. You know how that is.

WHAM! The door slams shut. Lock chains RATTLE. ALESSANDRA
BENVENUTO (19), a knockout in an iridescent and sheer mermaid
costume, opens up -- not what Marina expected.

ALESSANDRA

What, never met a daughter of
Neptune before?

INT. ALESSANDRA'S ROOM - KISTER'S HOTEL - NIGHT

YANK! Alessandra tightens the corset wrapped around Marina.

Marina sits at a French-style vanity mirror and holds onto
its sides for dear life. Haddie cringes as she spectates.

MARINA

(strained)

I don't see how this is necessary.

ALESSANDRA

Then you lack *visione*. The sooner you dress like a lady, the faster men empty their wallets to foolishly help us "damsels in distress."

Marina snorts -- Alessandra gives one last hard tug.

ALESSANDRA (CONT'D)

You laugh but survival could be the difference between going to bed hungry or full of oysters and wine.

Alessandra hands Marina a loose white blouse to put on. With her ankle-length black skirt, Marina's completely covered.

MARINA

This is so hot.

HADDIE

I'll open a window.

ALESSANDRA

There. Now that you look like a proper lady, I can see if I know this twin of yours.

Alessandra circles around Marina and studies her -- without warning, Alessandra snaps her fingers.

ALESSANDRA (CONT'D)

Aha, that's it! She's the spitting image of Florence, isn't she?

HADDIE

Gee! Now that you mention it--

MARINA

--Wait that's not her name?

ALESSANDRA

Cara mia, you're new to the island, yes? The people around here... well, most aren't as sweet as Haddie. She likely changed her name to protect herself.

MARINA

Okay fine, that's actually kind of smart--Why didn't I think of that?-- Just tell me everything about her.

Alessandra laughs and touches up her lipstick.

ALESSANDRA

Information comes at a price.

MARINA

Good to know that Capitalism is alive and well even in this fucking forsaken year. How much you want?

ALESSANDRA

It is not a question of how much, but rather of what. When the time is right, you will owe me a favor.

HADDIE

Goodness gracious Alessandra, not everything has got to be business.

ALESSANDRA

Hmm. I suppose I can give her a way out, but just for you Haddie-cakes.

Alessandra tosses Marina a broom, then picks up a parasol.

ALESSANDRA (CONT'D)

Disarm me and I will tell you everything. For free.

MARINA

What? I'm not gonna hit you.

HADDIE

Oh dear, in Coney no one will think twice about hitting you. Do it.

Marina hesitates. She wields the broom like a bat and swings. With catlike footwork, Alessandra blocks the blow. Marina tries again -- Alessandra whacks the broom away.

ALESSANDRA

Don't fret. I can also teach you *paranza lunga*-- or how you say?-- stick fighting.

MARINA

Yeah, for the low price of my first born child.

Marina sizes up Alessandra -- the thick scar across her neck gives Marina the impression she's a survivor.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Tell me about Florence.

Alessandra cracks a smile at her own victory.

ALESSANDRA

Shall we go to her? She works at Henderson's Restaurant.

HADDIE

Say, when's the last time you've eaten?

MARINA

Seems like a hundred years ago.

INT. HENDERSON'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Marina marvels at the splendor of the dining area. Over fifty Corinthian columns reach up to the vaulted ceilings with ornate brass and crystal lights.

The MAÎTRE D' (38) escorts the ladies through the main dining hall. Alessandra strolls through the restaurant like a royal Duchess, Haddie and Marina follow close behind.

He waits to seat them as they adjust their bustle skirts. Even in Alessandra's nicest dresses, Marina and Haddie receive a dirty look from the maître d'.

MAÎTRE D'

Your waitress will be right with you.

MARINA

What's his problem?

HADDIE

Huh? Are you color-blind too?

A bubbly waitress who looks like she could be Marina's little cousin approaches their table with menus. Much to Marina's disappointment she's not Catalina, but FLORENCE BROWN (16).

FLORENCE

I wasn't sure I was going to get your table. You girls look absolutely beautiful. And who is this?

ALESSANDRA

Pity. We were hoping you'd already know Marina. Well, today's her first day in Coney.

FLORENCE

Gee, sorry about that. I'm Flo, pleasure to meet you.

(MORE)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
 (to Haddie)
 She looks like a Lunatic.

MARINA
 What the f-- I'm not crazy.

HADDIE
 The Lunatics is the name of our
 clique. It's 'cause we all work in
 Luna Park.

MARINA
 Oh. Cute, I guess.

FLORENCE
 Yep! Let me introduce you to
 another Lunatic.

Florence heads into the kitchen. Marina turns to Alessandra.

MARINA
 She doesn't look that much like me.
 A cousin at best. Argh! Dammit!

ALESSANDRA
 Calm down *amore*, help me
 understand. Where was the last time
 you saw this Catalina?

Marina stutters -- it's hard to find a way to describe the
 space-time continuum without sounding nuts.

FLORENCE (O.S.)
 Hurry and chef won't notice.

Florence walks over ZEUS CHEN (18), a Chinese line cook whose
 white uniform can't conceal the tattoos on his muscular arms.
 Marina sits up straight at the sight of him.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
 Marina, this is Zou.

ZEUS
 You can call me Zeus.

Zeus doesn't smile, but he looks Marina in her eyes.

MARINA
 H-hi. I love your tattoos.

Her compliment makes Zeus uncomfortable. Awkward silence.

ZEUS

So it's your first night. You staying at one of those fancy hotels or you skipping town?

MARINA

Uh, I haven't thought that far yet. I'm looking for my sister actually.

Alessandra pats Marina like a lost puppy and pouts.

ALESSANDRA

Her twin went missing, poor baby.

Flo gasps, heartbroken for Marina. Zeus nods, sympathetic.

MARINA

I-it's okay. I'm going to find her. I have to.

ZEUS

Scrappy. That's good. Ladies, dinner's on the house -- but just for tonight.

ALESSANDRA

Well if you insist.

HADDIE

Goody! I barely have a jitney to my name.

MARINA

Thanks... you're really nice.

FLORENCE

Aw don't worry, everything will be ducky.

ZEUS

Well, I better go before the soup burns. Welcome to Satan's playground.

Florence swats at him for the remark, they go to the kitchen.

ALESSANDRA

She forgot to take our orders.

MARINA

Hey, why does Zou go by Zeus?

ALESSANDRA

Because that boy can move.

HADDIE

He's lightning fast in a fight.

ALESSANDRA
Not what I meant.

Flo reemerges from the kitchen and Alessandra waves her down.

MARINA
(whispers to Haddie)
Um, I really need to pee.

HADDIE
The facilities is right down that
corridor.

MARINA
Yeah, can you come with? Even in
1907 that should be like, basic
girl code.

HADDIE
How would I know this code? Is it
numerical or a secret word?

MARINA
No, it's like when girls go to the
bathroom in groups. To gossip. And
for safety. But mostly to gossip.

Haddie shrugs. They head to the ladies room. Along the way,
Marina spots an ornate brass wall-mounted thermometer. She
walks over and gently taps the glass bulb.

HADDIE
You coming?

LADIES RESTROOM

Marina holds her evening dress as she uses the commode.

MARINA
So...you still wanna know what my
mystery machine does?

Haddie looks at the restroom door, then turns and stares at
the small window -- they're alone.

HADDIE
Do I! You've been carrying it
around like a mom would her newborn
baby. Must be awfully important.

MARINA
...It was a time travel device.

The wild claim stuns Haddie into silence. Marina steps out of the bathroom stall to face Haddie.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Here's to hoping that I can get my hands on enough mercury, antimony and silver to recreate the energy source and fix it.

HADDIE

Ah, right... that's why you were spying on that thermometer and talking about alchemy to Madame Guadalupe.

MARINA

You don't believe me.

HADDIE

Look, my father always taught me to back up every big idea I had with scientific experiment. That way when people call you a pinhead, it won't matter. You hold the facts, you know the truth.

A smile creeps onto Marina's face.

MARINA

That's not a bad idea actually.

INT. COASTER SHACK - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Marina hunches over her time travel device on the workbench, magnifying glass in hand. She examines the least charred parts. Haddie looks over Marina's shoulder with intrigue.

MARINA

And this was something we call "the motherboard" which is kind of like the brains of the component.

HADDIE

I see. And what does the fatherboard do?

Marina laughs and shakes her head.

HADDIE (CONT'D)

Well pardon me for not understanding this broken box of make-believe components.

MARINA

Hold on. I know how I can prove to you that I'm from the future.

Marina unclasps her wristwatch and hands it to her.

MARINA (CONT'D)

My machine might be broken but this watch isn't. I never need to wind it because it's powered by a miniature Manganese Dioxide battery cell. I'm not really sure how or why it survived the time jump yet, but... maybe it's here for you.

Haddie scoffs and checks the back of the casing. Below the inscription is the manufacture date of 2027. Haddie opens the back -- the battery is unlike anything she's seen before.

HADDIE

Oh my goodness. All this time I thought you were a four-flusher but you're for real? Oh my goodness--

MARINA

--Hey, it's okay. I just don't want you to think I'm some uh-- did you say four-fisher? Whatever. The point is, together we can fix the time travel device.

Marina points at a poster-size blueprint of the Loop the Loop Rollercoaster. On the blueprint are several sketched marks.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I saw the modifications you've planned. Your designs indicate changing the rollercoaster dimensions--

HADDIE

--In order to create greater kinetic energy and reduce potential energy loss.

MARINA

You're like, actually brilliant. Why are you greasing up this ride, when you can be redesigning it?

HADDIE

You really have to ask? I'm a colored girl. It's hard enough pretending to be a boy at work.

MARINA

Well, where-- or when-- I come from, that's what makes you special. I bet engineering schools would give you money to create the next big thing. And take it from me, the future is far from perfect-- but a lot more people fight for your right to not only exist, but succeed as you are. I mean like, without black women mathematicians we never even would've landed on the moon.

Haddie sits down on the cot, her eyes well with tears.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Sorry that was probably way too much information--

HADDIE

--If I help you fix this thing, you have to take me with you. I belong in the future.

Marina's mouth flaps open, unable to articulate the consequences of her leaving 1907. Haddie looks at Marina, eyes full of hope.

MARINA

It's a deal.

Haddie squeals with delight and pulls Marina into a hug.

HADDIE

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

MARINA

I'm sure it'll be fine, it's not like you're part of a famous bloodline or anything.

HADDIE

Well my father invented the electric railways and coasters.

MARINA

...Great.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. PROFESSOR PIERSON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CARD: PRESENT DAY

Professor Pierson sits alone at his dining room table, eating Chinese food from the cartons. A television screen in the background plays the evening news.

TELEVISION INSERT:

NEWS ANCHOR FRANK CHASE

...there's still no sign of the young woman that has vanished from a Coney Island rollercoaster yesterday evening. Let's turn it over to Tina Simmons... Tina?

TINA SIMMONS

Yes, Frank. After a search of the park, Columbia student Marina Martinez has not been located after boarding the Thunderbolt last night. Police have not discovered any signs of foul play.

Tina Simmons turns the mic to Jason, the ride operator.

TINA SIMMONS (CONT'D)

Can you describe what happened?

JASON

I let her onto the ride and suddenly, poof, there was like a big flash of light and she was gone!

TINA SIMMONS

Is there any way she could of slipped out of the harness?

JASON

Impossible. Once it's clamped, the harness can't be opened from the inside. We just can't explain it.

TINA SIMMONS

Back to you Frank.

NEWS ANCHOR FRANK CHASE

Thank you Tina. Earlier today we spoke with the parents of Ms. Martinez, who have made an impassioned plea for any leads to this investigation.

The news anchor turns on cue to the screen behind him. A distraught Hector and Gloria Martinez stand beside him.

HECTOR

Marina if you're watching this, please call us as soon as you can. No questions asked, baby girl. We just want to know that you're safe.

GLORIA

Por Dios! Please, if you have our daughter, just tell us what you want. We can pay you, please don't hurt her... she's all we have left.

Gloria breaks down and sobs into Hector's arms.

NEWS ANCHOR FRANK CHASE

Call the News Six Tip Hotline (718) 555-2367 if you have any information on the whereabouts of Ms. Martinez.

BACK TO SCENE

Pierson grabs his phone and dials the number.

OPERATOR

News Six Hotline, how can I help you?

PROFESSOR PIERSON

(in shock)
She did it. She actually did it--

OPERATOR

--Sir. Who did what exactly?

PROFESSOR PIERSON

Marina Martinez. You won't find her unless you have a time...

Pierson stares at the phone and hangs up. He reaches into his backpack, pulls out his laptop, and opens a file marked "Midterm Presentation_Martinez".

The professor scans Marina's Time Travel Theorem deck until he finds her formula. He fumbles for his phone, taps on his phone's voice record app, and holds it to his mouth.

PROFESSOR PIERSON (CONT'D)
9:14 P.M. December 7th, 2027. Day
one of temporal displacement re-
creation.

INT. COASTER SHACK - LUNA PARK - NIGHT (1907)

Haddie shows Marina the lay of the land with a newfound confidence.

HADDIE
You might have been the smartest
girl around in 2027, but my daddy
taught me everything he knows. In
my workshop you'll follow my lead--

The girls freeze as they hear a KNOCK on the door. Marina grabs the cot's blanket and throws it over the device.

Haddie opens the door. It's Alessandra, dressed to kill.

ALESSANDRA
Ciao. After dinner I had the BEST
idea. If Marina's sister is on the
island then we have to cast a wide
net to lure her, yes?

MARINA
Yeah and...

ALESSANDRA
And what better way to get pretty
girls to come out than a huge bash?
All the Lunatics will be there so
get ready for The Fun House,
ladies!

MARINA
It's not a terrible idea but...
ugh, I really hate parties.

Alessandra smiles, coy.

ALESSANDRA
Zeus will be there.

MARINA
S-so?

ALESSANDRA

So... you're his type. And I'm not taking no for an answer-- this is my apology for the Florence mix-up, after all. Come, come.

Alessandra offers out her arm. Haddie shrugs and grabs on. Marina looks conflicted, relents and holds onto the other.

EXT. OLD FUN HOUSE - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

From outside, the old Fun House is boarded up. A huge archway shaped like a wide clown mouth grins, its teeth planks of wood. Marina clutches Alessandra's arm.

MARINA

I really, really hate clowns.

ALESSANDRA

Me too, ever since me and Pietro split. Mimes are such prima donnas.

Alessandra and Haddie laugh as if everyone knows that. They whisk Marina down the building's side alleyway.

Rustle, rustle... Marina looks over her shoulder. No one's there.

In the distance, a street lamp lights a glimpse of a frock coat -- whoever it was disappears into the dark.

INT. MIRROR MAZE ENTRANCE - OLD FUN HOUSE - NIGHT

On the back wall of this grimy impromptu storage room is a circular wooden door painted with a grinning moon.

Alessandra knocks on it in a unique rhythm -- it's a code.

The door splits open and on the other side is JIMMY WALSH (17), a lanky Irishman with a drunk red flush across his cheeks. He tips his cap to the girls.

JIMMY

Now it's a party.

Marina marvels at the wire rigging job that provides the inside with electricity. Rainbow lights bounce off the walls.

ALESSANDRA

Que magnifico! Haddie-cakes fixed the lights.

HADDIE
Aw, it was nothing.

MARINA
That's not nothing. You're amazing.

Haddie stares at Marina appreciating her work. The girls continue down the hallway and when Marina grabs Haddie's arm, Haddie blushes.

INT. LUNATIC CLUB HOUSE - OLD FUN HOUSE - NIGHT

The girls emerge into the party. Marina soaks in her bizarre new surroundings --

Retired carousel horses, props from the old Streets of Cairo, hand-drawn freak show posters, and blinking signs from long-forgotten rides fill the room with whimsical charm.

A Victor Victrola Phonograph plays ragtime tunes from the stacks of 78 rpms. Cigarette smoke hangs in the air. Teens mingle with an intimacy they could never have in public.

Alessandra pulls an overwhelmed Marina into the mayhem.

ALESSANDRA
Ciao! Everyone meet Marina.

The girls are met with a barrage of greetings and drinks. Marina smells the Absinthe in her cup and shivers.

CHEERS erupt from the crowd who watch ROY FITZPATRICK (17), a handsome rogue with a brogue, lose in dice to CHENOA (19), a native girl of the Lenape tribe who rocks two long braids.

ROY
Go way outta that!

CHENOA
If you don't like it, play for double.

ROY
Betcha arse we are.

Alessandra leans towards Marina to gossip.

ALESSANDRA
The daredevil losing his shirt is Roy. He works the circus stables-- and asks every girl if they want to "meet the elephant." Then there's Chenoa, who is *spensierata*.

(MORE)

ALESSANDRA (CONT'D)

As Americans say, a free spirit? A few more drinks and she'll show off her acrobatics.

Marina nods and gags on her drink. EDDIE TILYOU (16), a smug fifth-generation New Yorker with the nicest clothes in this place, dances his way over.

EDDIE

Nice dress Alessandra, what poor sap did you sucker this time?

ALESSANDRA

Why thank you Eddie, your father has exquisite taste.

Marina chokes on her Absinthe, Eddie's sneers at Alessandra.

ALESSANDRA (CONT'D)

Marina, meet Edward Tilyou. His papa owns Steeplechase Park yet he slums it with the rival park's employees in a pathetic attempt at rebellion.

EDDIE

Always the charmer, Allie. Marina, care to have a dance?

HADDIE

Lay off, she doesn't know how--

Eddie grabs Marina's hand and pulls her to the folks line-dancing the Turkey Trot. Marina stomps on Eddie's foot.

MARINA

Yikes. I've never danced like this. Everything's so strange here.

EDDIE

And it never ceases. Some bonehead ran around Steeplechase completely naked today! Can you believe--

MARINA

--Oh my god. Who was it? Did the police catch her? Is she okay?

Eddie gives Marina a puzzled look as they spin in a do-si-do.

EDDIE

No, they weren't apprehended, but it's only a matter of time.

MARINA

Oh... that's weird.

(bluffs)

Plus there was that strange burst
of light.

EDDIE

Yes, the Cannon Coaster's light
display had a power surge. And just
how did you know about that?

MARINA

Uhh, it was so bright-- I could see
it from the beach.

EDDIE

Only whores walk the beach at
night.

Marina winds up to slap Eddie -- a tattooed hand grabs hers
to intervene. It's Zeus who pulls her away to dance.

ZEUS

As much as Eddie deserves a
beating, the Tilyou family loves to
win lawsuits.

MARINA

Thanks for the heads up but next
time, don't get in my way.

ZEUS

I forgot you have endless funds to
pay for a lawyer.

MARINA

Well... I have a job now at least.

ZEUS

I heard. It's too bad you're a
fortune teller's shop girl.

MARINA

What's wrong with that? Don't tell
me everything in there is cursed.

ZEUS

No, it's not that. I just thought
I'd buy a ticket to the Atlantis
show if you were in it.

His flirty remark makes Marina stumble over her own feet.

MARINA

Yeah well who wouldn't want to watch a showgirl who can't dance?

ZEUS

When I first came here all the dances seemed scary. Here, hold onto me and watch my feet.

Zeus pulls Marina in close. Once the butterflies leave Marina's stomach, she recognizes the dance.

MARINA

Wait, I actually know this one!

ZEUS

You don't know the turkey trot but you know the tango? No one ever knows this one.

For the first time at this party, Marina looks confident -- Their chemistry inspires more couples to follow along.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

We must be doing something right.

MARINA

Yeah...

They lock eyes. It's a total kiss-or-diss moment.

FLORENCE (O.S.)

Mind if I steal him?

Zeus lets go of Marina and scoops Flo into his arms faster than Marina can say, "Yes."

ZEUS

Some thief you are, taking what's already yours.

Florence gives Zeus a kiss -- and a dirty look for Marina.

MARINA

Wow. You gonna piss on him to mark your territory too?

Before Flo can answer, Marina walks off to an old hot dog cart turned bar. ELSIE O'FLYNN (18), a lass with enough freckles to hide the BIRTHMARK on her chin, serves drinks.

ELSIE

Hey new girl, you look knackered. Have a drink, it's good craic.

MARINA
I'm sorry, there's crack in this?

ELSIE
Sure look it.

MARINA
I have no idea what you're saying.
I hate 1907.

Marina takes a shot. And another. And one more for the road. With a mischievous smile, Elsie watches Marina wobble away.

Marina searches through the sea of strangers for her sister.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Cat... Cat...

Faces begin to blur, Marina feels sick.

MARINA (CONT'D)
I need air.

She ducks into what she thinks is an exit. Instead it's a--

MIRROR MAZE

Marina wanders down the narrow corridors. It's a claustrophobic nightmare -- even Marina's own reflection feels too close.

BANG! Marina smacks into a dead end. She backtracks.

Thud... thud... thud... Marina swears she hears footsteps.

MARINA (CONT'D)
Somebody there? Help me out dude.

No one responds -- but the faint thuds grow louder, the pace quickens. A shiver runs down Marina's spine. She runs.

WHACK! Marina slams into a mirror and falls flat on her ass. She scrambles to her feet, turns around AND SCREAMS.

Marina sees her REFLECTION MORPH INTO A TWO-HEADED WOMAN -- IT'S CATALINA AND MARINA. She whimpers as the conjoined twins bang on the glass and claw for her. Marina closes her eyes.

MARINA (CONT'D)
WhatthefuckwhatthefuckWHATTHEFUCK!

When she looks back in the mirror, they're gone. Marina throws up on the floor.

BALCONY

Alessandra stumbles outside, a blue frock coat in hand. She spots Marina sprinting away from the Old Fun House.

ALESSANDRA

(drunk)

Marina wait! Your coat! She needs-- she needs her coat. It's cold.

FLORENCE (O.S.)

(drunk)

I say good riddance to that floozy.

Alessandra turns to see Flo and gets in her face.

ALESSANDRA

So you're the reason she left.

FLORENCE

She was making eyes at Zeus!

ALESSANDRA

And was Zeus resisting? Now go return Marina's coat before I lose my temper.

FLORENCE

You think everyone's scared of you, don't you?

ALESSANDRA

Let's just say the ones who aren't, should be.

Alessandra holds out the frock. Flo sees the eerily calm, dangerous look in Alessandra's eyes -- she snatches the coat.

EXT. LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Marina tries to focus on the Loop the Loop Rollercoaster in the distance. The landmark is her only way back to the Shack.

Her legs wobble and she feels light-headed. Marina sits on a bench, rests her forehead on both hands and cries.

As she wipes her eyes on her sleeves, she spots the backside of the Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea ride. The structure towers over 70 feet high with a tall service ladder attached to its brick structure.

Marina fixates on the ladder and makes her way to the tower.

EXT. LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA ATTRACTION - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Slipping under the chained off area, Marina grabs the side of the wrought-iron ladder and climbs up one rung at a time.

At the half-mark, Marina looks down. She contemplates falling to her death. Nope -- she steps down a rung.

She missteps. One of her shoes slips off and plummets down. Marina white-knuckle grips the ladder. She cautiously looks about and spots the SAME Carousel from 2025. Her mind drifts to her reoccurring nightmare.

MARINA (V.O.)

When you're done, meet me at the carousel, no matter what.

Marina snaps out of it.

MARINA

"No matter what."

Marina skitters down the ladder and runs toward the carousel, as best as she can with her sea-legs.

EXT. CAROUSEL - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Marina checks out the ride to see if it's truly a piece of home in this strange new world. She wanders around the carousel adorned with four dozen elaborately painted horses.

She grapples with one horse's leather straps and sloppily climbs aboard.

MARINA

--What the?

Marina spots a MODERN WRISTWATCH strapped around the carousel horse's pole. It has a funky cheetah print wristband. She reaches over to unclasp it.

Next to her wristwatch, the watch faces are identical. Flipping it over, she feels that the back is inscribed. Marina strains to read it, but the carousel lights are off.

She hops down and exits the carousel in order to read the inscription under the park lamppost.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Catalina, you are destined for greatness... What?

There's a look of confusion on Marina's face. It takes a few seconds but tears of happiness fall from her eyes.

MARINA (CONT'D)

She's here! She's here! I knew it!

EXT. BOARDWALK - LUNA PARK - NIGHT

Flo trails after Marina, drunk and alone. She feels a slight chill and puts on Marina's coat to keep warm.

She scans the area as she staggers across the boardwalk. Someone walks several feet behind her, hugging the shadows of the nearby booth games.

Flo senses that she's being watched and turns. No one there.

FLORENCE

Hello?

Silence. Flo shakes it off and walks on. The stalker steps out of shadows, wearing a Steeplechase FUNNY FACE mask. One gloved hand conspicuously holds a newspaper over the other.

The stalker picks up the pace to follow closer.

Flo hears the approaching footsteps, turns and spots the wide creepy smile. Flo SCREAMS, does an about-face and sees that the boardwalk is deserted. Luna Park is closed.

She runs toward the crowded street outside the park exit.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

Help! Somebody help me!

Funny Face chases after her. The stalker tosses the newspaper aside, revealing a crude but not-yet-invented silencer on a .45 caliber pistol.

Sheets of the newspaper scatter across the boardwalk and awaken a HOMELESS MAN (62), laying on the side of a building. He sees the Funny Face stalker chasing after Flo.

HOMELESS MAN

Hey now! You bes' leave that girl
alone, ya hear me!

Funny Face stops and aims the pistol at the Homeless Man. The silencer emits a PHUT sound. The bullet misses its target and strikes the brick wall.

The Homeless Man tries to escape, but a second suppressed PHUT sound is heard. He's dead! Funny Face turns to Flo.

She's hysterical. Flo tries to yell but only wisps of air come out of her mouth as she nears the park exit.

PHUT! PHUT! Flo is struck in the back, she stumbles to the ground. Funny Face sprints toward her and squeezes two more silenced rounds. Flo collapses face-down on the boardwalk.

Without breaking a sweat, Funny Face exits the park.

INT. COASTER SHACK - LUNA PARK - DAWN

Haddie yawns as she refills Marina's coffee cup. They look like they've been up all night. Both wristwatches are on the bench, next to the time travel device.

HADDIE

Sorry, but run this by me again.
You think that your missing twin
sister is here because..?

MARINA

I might've merged three timelines
when I dragged her down with me.

A heavy-handed KNOCK on the door makes the girls jump out of their skin. Marina hides the watches and the time travel device underneath the cot as Haddie waits to answer. Two POLICE OFFICERS bulldoze their way in.

HADDIE

Excuse me officers, what's this
about?

POLICE OFFICER #1

Shut the fuck up! I'll ask the
questions around here.

MARINA

Don't speak to her like that!

The second Police Officer backhands Marina across the face.

POLICE OFFICER #2

He'll talk to this negro anyway he
wants to.

POLICE OFFICER #1

We've got two dead bodies in Luna
Park and there are witnesses saying
(to Marina)
YOU left a get-together right
before their time of death.

POLICE OFFICER #2

I know everyone on this lot and you're definitely not from around here, spic. I'm only going to ask you this once. Where're you from?

Marina rubs her face and stares upward so as not to cry.

MARINA

You're not going to believe me.

The police officer handcuffs Marina's wrists.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Maybe you'll talk down at the station house.

Haddie stands petrified, afraid to even breathe.

POLICE OFFICER #1

As for you, don't go anywhere, in case we need to question you about your tight-lipped friend. Understand?

Haddie tears up, frozen in fear. The two officers drag Marina out of the shack. Marina shouts back to Haddie, her eyes motion towards the time travel device hidden under the cot.

MARINA

Whatever you do, don't lose track of time!

END OF EPISODE



Electric Eden

Created by Victoria de la Concha

A rebellious physics student
investigating her twin's
disappearance invents time travel
only to strand herself in the blood-
stained amusement parks of 1907
Coney Island with a killer on the
loose.



