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Prescience

Mustafa Yasar II

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FINAL THESIS
FEATURE SCREENPLAY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Mustafa Yasar II

Thesis Logline: In a society where one percent of the population can see into the future, a stubborn man who drinks alcohol to suppress his psychic powers is compelled to use his foresight when his brother disappears.

Prescience

Title

A teleplay written and produced and presented to the faculty of
the Writing for the Screen 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 for the Screen

By

Mustafa Yasar II

Student Name


Mustafa Yasar II (May 3, 2022 05:42:10 PM)

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 for the Screen:

Mustafa Yasar II

Student Name

May 3, 2022

Date

SCWR 690 Instructor Signature

Mary Kuryla (May 3, 2022 20:31 PDT)

SCWR 691 Instructor Signature

Graduate Director Signature

Prescience

by

Mustafa Yasar II

A thesis paper presented to the

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

In partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Writing for the Screen

May 5, 2022

PRESCIENCE

Written by

Mustafa Yasar II

Address
Phone Number

INT. MUSEUM - DAY

An exhibit titled "The Precognitive Personae" A historical exhibit; animated brain diagrams, photos of people in rooms, surrounded by test-taking doctors in lab coats, and more. Of the listed donors, the most apparent name is "Prescience"

Jafa, a measured and on-edge docent of the museum wearing crystal-lensed sunglasses, keeps an almost empty water-bottle close, and leads a crowd through the exhibit spouting facts.

Jafa

It's now underestimated that just over 5% of the US population has the ability of foresight.

Jafa gestures at a series of photographs, from various angles, of a combusted coffee pot. The portrait and name of the photographer reads: Toni Patton, 2020-2059.

Jafa (CONT'D)

The first confirmed instance foresight was photographer Toni Patton. At seven years old, she had a vision of a coffee pot exploding and killing her father. She saved him, lived a childhood of experimentation, and grew up a photographer. These photos were her recreation of that coffee pot; the different angles of the same subject are meant to evoke the expanded perspective that foresight offers. She died last year.

Jafa directs the crowd's attention to a section of the exhibit subtitled: "Foremen with Foresight"

Jafa (CONT'D)

More and more people were uncovered with the power. Most visions reveal either a scene, or series of scenes, within about 2 minutes into the future. High risk jobs such as construction and witness protection were some of the first industries to hire people with precognition. Lately, however, apps like Prescience have sought to extend their abilities to a wider range of consumers.

Jafa moves to a picture of designer ANGELIQUE MERVE, holding an older model of the glasses Jafa wears. Jafa looks at Angelique's picture with clear admiration.

JAJA (CONT'D)

The foresight can be quite overwhelming for those with the power, because they are simultaneously receiving information from the present and the future. Angelique Merve created a synthetic crystal that, when worn, can filter out visions of the future for those with--

CURIOUS YOUNG MAN

How do the visions even happen?

Jafa looks at the CURIOUS YOUNG MAN, holding hands with his date, a comfortably dressed woman. His face triggers something in Jafa.

EXT. BEACH - VISION

Jafa has a sudden flash of a vision. The Curious Young Man, about four years older, happy and on a beach, marries someone completely different than his date.

END VISION

Jafa comes back to the present, shaken. He tries to hide his frustration.

JAJA

It, uh, the visions are triggered by looking at a person's face. Excuse me folks, I just need to take a quick sip.

Jafa starts to drink from the bottle, only to find it almost completely empty.

JAJA (CONT'D)

Shit.

A CONCERNED MOM with a hand on her CARING SON'S (7) shoulder frowns at Jafa's language.

CONCERNED MOM

Come on, man.

Jafa looks at the Concerned Mom.

INT. HOUSE - VISION

The Concerned Mom and her Caring Son (7) walk in to her husband having raucous sex with another woman on the family couch.

END VISION

Jafa comes back to the present. Pulls off his glasses briefly and looks them over, worried. The crowd shifts uncomfortably when he does this. Jafa puts the glasses back on.

JAJA

Sorry, folks, I'm not trying to peek into your futures. And I apologize for my language. If you guys look over here, you'll see that--

Jafa suddenly doubles over in pain, grips his stomach. A worried beat of silence from the crowd. The pain passes quick as it came.

JAJA (CONT'D)

Sorry about that everyone. I'm okay.

CARING SON

Sir, do you want to see a doctor?

Jafa looks at the Caring Son. The air starts to shift. He quickly turns away from him before another vision can start.

JAJA

There's a great ice cream place around the way you can take your son, remind me to tell you when I come back.

CONCERNED MOM

What do you mean when you--

Jafa quickly leaves his post, to the confusion of the museum guests he's in charge of.

INT. MUSEUM LOBBY - DAY

Jafa rushes through the lobby. All kinds of visions from the surrounding crowd floods his view. He shifts from the future to the present. His breathing becomes more erratic as he turns a corner and exits the museum.

INT./EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Jafa dives into his car's backseat, searches around before he finds a glass bottle of vodka. He drinks it desperately like water, down to the half-way mark.

Jafa's breathing steadies. He lets himself rest in his backseat, then turns to find a Curious Girl (11) looking at him. He sees her clear; no visions, just a girl in the present. Jafa smiles with relief.

CURIOUS GIRL

Hi.

JAJA

Hi.

CURIOUS GIRL

Are you an alcoholic?

Jafa frowns.

JAJA

No.

The girl's mom grabs her daughter's hand, shoots Jafa a judgmental look, and quickly walks away.

Jafa sighs, then starts to pour the rest of the vodka into his water bottle.

INT. MUSEUM LOBBY - DAY

Jafa heads towards the direction of his tour group when he's accosted by his manager, RUSSEL (mid 30s), whose arms pump energetically whenever he walks.

RUSSEL

What the hell happened? You can't just leave your tour, you're their guide. Do you not remember the training video?

Russel waits for a beat.

JAJA

Through calm or stormy waters, we guide our tour to the other side.

Russel nods.

RUSSEL

So please explain to me why Nala is the one guiding your tour?

Jafa looks over to see NALA, another tour guide, effortlessly taking the lead.

JAJA

I just had to take care of something, I'm good now.

RUSSEL

I hired you because I thought having someone with precognition on the team would help lend the tour some validity. But maybe I was wrong. You've been distracted and unfocused for weeks.

This wakes Jafa up.

JAJA

Russel just wait, alright?

RUSSEL

Yes?

JAJA

The eyeglasses. They haven't been working for me. Consistently anyways.

Russel looks shocked, and offput.

RUSSEL

You've been having visions of people while they're on?

JAJA

Keep it down.

RUSSEL

Is that even possible?

JAJA

I guess it is for me.

Russel thinks for a minute.

RUSSEL

Well in that case, you have to see a doctor. Get a check up for whatever's going on up there.

(MORE)

RUSSEL (CONT'D)

I know a someone in-network that has experience with people like you.

JAJA

I don't think that's really necessary.

RUSSEL

Oh it most definitely is. Don't come back until you get the all-clear, got it?

Russel quickly turns away and leaves. Jafa, frustrated, drinks from his bottle.

INT. MUSEUM LOBBY - DAY

As he approaches the exit, Jafa notices the Concerned Mom and Caring Son coming out of the restroom. He watches them, happy, comfortable, completely unaware of the betrayal that's waiting for them.

Ultimately, Jafa turns away and leaves.

INT. JAJA'S CAR - DAY

Jafa looks at his car, considers, then calls a rideshare instead.

INT. ZIP CAR - DAY

As Jafa rides, he gets a couple of texts from a contact listed as "Abdul"

He accesses the texts and sees a series of apartment and home listings. Jafa grimaces at the prices.

JAJA

These are not cheap...

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Jafa, with his "water" bottle still in his hand, stands in a light blue medical gown while DOCTOR SOTO (40) conducts a physical exam.

DOCTOR SOTO

Hold your arms out for me please.

Jafa raises his arms. Doctor Soto looks at the bottle questioningly, then looks back at Jafa.

DOCTOR SOTO (CONT'D)
Can I take this for a sec?

Jafa, though reluctant, nods. Doctor Soto carefully takes the bottle from Jafa and puts it off to the side, then continues the exam.

DOCTOR SOTO (CONT'D)
Keep me from pushing you down.

Doctor Soto starts to press down lightly on Jafa's outstretched arms. Jafa resists.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Jafa, holding the bottle again, sits upright on the patient's bench while Doctor Soto addresses him.

DOCTOR SOTO
How long have the eyeglasses been ineffective?

JAJA
About a year.

This surprises Doctor Soto.

DOCTOR SOTO
And you didn't tell anyone? Why are you only addressing this now?

Jafa quickly looks to the bottle in his hand, then back to Doctor Soto.

JAJA
It wasn't this frequent before. I had it under control.

DOCTOR SOTO
Control. I see.

A beat as Doctor Soto considers what to say next.

DOCTOR SOTO (CONT'D)
There's a few ways that people with foresight can block out their premonitions. The first is the eyeglasses. The second is, of course, closing your eyes. And the third, well--

Doctor Soto points to Jafa's bottle.

DOCTOR SOTO (CONT'D)

The third is through substances. Depressants especially. Marijuana, alcohol, opioids. And I've found that a lot of my patients with foresight have very strong tolerances for those substances.

JAJA

I'd say that's an accurate statement. But honestly, I think that once I can get these damn glasses to work, I'll level out on the, umm--

DOCTOR SOTO

The alcohol?

Jafa nods.

DOCTOR SOTO (CONT'D)

I'll be frank, Jafa. Your alcohol drinking could be a problem.

JAJA

I drink because it's the only thing that stops the visions. It's a tool.

DOCTOR SOTO

Even if you have a high tolerance, it still effects you.

JAJA

Well what the hell else am I supposed to do?

DOCTOR SOTO

Have you talked with a professional about why you'd rather suppress your foresight altogether?

JAJA

I'd just rather live in the here and now.

DOCTOR SOTO

Did something significant happen a year ago?

JAJA

My mom passed.

DOCTOR SOTO
I'm sorry. Have you considered
bereavement--

JAJA
Don't need it. Honestly, I just
need some glasses that work.

DOCTOR SOTO
Do you live alone? Do you have some
kind of support system?

This triggers some vulnerability in Jafa. He pauses for a
beat.

JAJA
My brother and I live together. We
don't always see eye-to-eye. He has
foresight too, but it doesn't
bother him. He's working for that
new psychic call-in app,
Prescience.

DOCTOR SOTO
Sounds like you don't approve.

JAJA
I don't. I think they're just
trying to make a buck off people
like us. But Abdul's his own man.

Jafa leaves it at that. Doctor Soto sighs.

DOCTOR SOTO
We're still learning a lot about
how foresight works, but it's not
just a biological thing. Your
emotions and thoughts inform your
extra-sensory perception. And if
you're constantly suppressing it,
well, it can change things.

JAJA
I'll keep that in mind Doctor. But
can you tell me why the glasses
aren't working?

Doctor Soto looks disappointed. He resigns, pulls out a
prescription pad and starts to write.

DOCTOR SOTO
I'll give you a referral to
Angelique Merve.

Jafa brightens at that.

JAJA
The Angelique Merve?

Doctor Soto nods.

DOCTOR SOTO
She has a workshop in her store
where she cuts and designs the
crystal. She might make you a
custom pair strong enough to offset
the visions.

JAJA
That's perfect, thank you.

Doctor Soto pulls the prescription sheet from his pad. He also pulls out pamphlets for Alcoholic's Anonymous from his coat pocket. He hands them both to Jafa.

DOCTOR SOTO
Good luck Jafa. I hope you find
what you're looking for.

INT. ZIP CAR - DAY

Jafa's phone rings. The contact is Abdul. Jafa answers.

JAJA
Hey bro.

ABDUL
How many time do I have to text
your ass to get a response?

NADIA
Hey, Jafa!

ABDUL
Nadia's here too.

JAJA
You guys on a date?

ABDUL
We're gonna have a picnic at the
park. Did you have a chance to
check out those listings I sent?

JAJA
I peeked, but I had to go to the
Doctor today.

ABDUL
Oh, is everything good?

JAFJA
Yeah, it was just a check-up.

ABDUL
So you've got the day off work? You should join us.

JAFJA
I don't know, I should probably go back, and I have to pick up a prescription first.

NADIA
Jafa you should come, we have donuts!

ABDUL
You hear that? Donuts. Only a monster could say no.

Jafa sighs.

ABDUL (CONT'D)
Just handle your business and come meet us after.

JAFJA
Fine, I'll come down.

ABDUL
Great! I wanted to talk to you about something in person anyways.

JAFJA
Lemme guess, it has to do with those listings, and a job at Prescience.

ABDUL
Good guess! See you soon bro.

Jafa smiles despite himself and hangs up.

INT. ANGELIQUE MERVE'S SUNGLASS SHOP - DAY

Jafa enters the shop. Not busy, but full of different styles of glasses that line the walls, both for UV and premonitive protection. A few customers browse, but the shop isn't full.

Jafa approaches a QUIET RECEPTIONIST, who smiles softly when he approaches.

QUIET RECEPTIONIST
Are you here for a pickup?

JAJA
No, actually I was referred to see
Ms. Merve by Doctor Soto.

The Quiet Receptionist peeks at a screen and types. She nods.

QUIET RECEPTIONIST
She can see you today. Please step
into the back.

A click unlocks the door that Jafa passes to get to--

INT. WORKSHOP - DAY

An active workshop of wire, glass, sand, and crystal. Various glasses at different stages of completion are spread across the room.

ANGELIQUE MERVE, sprightly, sharply dressed, and observant, works a compact laser like a paintbrush, using its sharp blue, powerfully focused heat to precisely carve crystal.

JAJA
Ms. Merve, your reputation precedes
you.

ANGELIQUE
Call me Angelique.

She stands and approaches Jafa. As she gets closer, her image distorts in Jafa's eyes.

INT. WORKSHOP - VISION

Angelique picks out three crystal lenses, connects one to a plastic holder. Hands it to Jafa, who puts it in front of his face.

JAJA
This one isn't doing anything.

END VISION

His face starts to frown.

ANGELIQUE

I can see you've been self-medicated.

JAJA

You can tell?

ANGELIQUE

The discomfort's written on your face. I guess you really don't like your foresight. You just had a vision and you're annoyed. But it's good the alcohol is wearing off. We'll know whether the crystal works or not.

Angelique picks out three lenses.

JAJA

The first one won't work.

Angelique smiles, nods, attaches the third one instead.

ANGELIQUE

Try this.

Jafa removes his own glasses. He starts to lift up the new lense, but he looks at Angelique first.

INT. UNCLEAR PRISON - VISION

Jafa sees Angelique standing in front of a large containment cubicle, made out of cloudy crystal. She watches someone who is trapped inside.

END VISION

Jafa looks at Angelique, shaken.

ANGELIQUE

See something you didn't like? Am I going to hurt myself?

JAJA

No, it's nothing. Sorry.

Jafa puts the glass up to his eyes, then looks at Angelique again.

Silence. No vision. All Jafa sees is the present. An incredible sense of relief floods Jafa's face.

JAJA (CONT'D)

It's this one.

ANGELIQUE

Great. It'll take me a day to get it ready for you. Will you be okay until then?

JAJA

I can't take this?

ANGELIQUE

Unfortunately, I need it. Sorry.

Jafa reluctantly gives her the crystal back.

JAJA

Got any beer or vodka I could sip on?

ANGELIQUE

I have wine.

JAJA

I guess that's okay.

Angelique opens a cabinet, and pulls out a couple of wine glasses and a bottle of wine.

ANGELIQUE

Why do you want to suppress your power so badly?

JAJA

Nothing good comes out of seeing the future. You can never really change what you see.

ANGELIQUE

Well that's not true. People change things all the time based on their visions.

Angelique pours for the both of them, then hands Jafa a glass.

JAJA

Just delaying the inevitable. In my experience, if you stop something from happening one way, it'll pop back up another way.

ANGELIQUE

There's an important difference
between stopping something, and
changing something.

Jafa starts to drink quickly, then remembers he isn't alone.
Angelique smiles as she sips her glass.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

You ever read Through the Looking
Glass?

JAJA

No, I don't think so.

ANGELIQUE

It's the sequel to Alice in
Wonderland. There's a moment where
a white queen sees herself get
pricked on the finger before it
happens. She cries when she has the
vision, but then when she actually
gets pricked, she doesn't cry at
all. She didn't stop it from
happening, but she did change what
happened.

JAJA

Sounds like you want foresight.

ANGELIQUE

I do.

JAJA

Well you can have mine

Angelique smiles.

JAJA (CONT'D)

It's a little ironic that you of
all people want it.

ANGELIQUE

And why is that?

JAJA

Because you make the eyeglasses
that block it out.

ANGELIQUE

Not blocking. I'm offering control.

JAJA

Fair enough.

ANGELIQUE

But I admit, if I had the power, I wouldn't be so eager to push it away. Sometimes I think that not everyone who has a gift deserves it.

Jafa finishes his drink. Angelique sets her glass aside, still almost as full as when she poured it. Jafa looks over at the laser nearby.

JAJA

That thing's pretty cool.

ANGELIQUE

It's new, I'm still getting used to it. I had the same one for years but it started to sputter out on me.

JAJA

You know, I had to learn a lot about you for my job. I'm a tour guide at the Precognitive Personae exhibit.

ANGELIQUE

I remember answering some questions for them, but I'll admit that I don't like to share a lot about my personal life.

JAJA

What got you into making the glasses?

Angelique flashes a "did you not just hear me?" smile.

ANGELIQUE

Curiosity.

Angelique turns back to the project she was working on, a soft buzz from the laser.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Nice meeting you, Jafa. I'll see you tomorrow with your glasses.

JAJA

Yeah, you too.

Jafa sets the glass down, then leaves.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jafa approaches Nadia, sitting on a blanket in a field, snacking on what's leftover of the lunch.

She turns and smiles as Jafa approaches.

JAJA
Where's Abdul?

NADIA
He went to find the bathroom. Come sit, I've got a donut with your name on it.

Jafa, slightly awkward, sits down next to Nadia. He takes the donut and smiles. A beat of silence as he eats and watches passersby with Nadia. He starts drinking more alcohol from his bottle. Nadia watches.

NADIA (CONT'D)
Abdul always complains that you never stop talking. Now I see what he was saying.

Jafa smiles.

JAJA
Sorry, I've just got some things on my mind.

NADIA
You have any hobbies?

JAJA
Like what?

NADIA
I don't know, that's what I'm asking you.

JAJA
Not lately, no, but...

Nadia watches him, leaning slightly, genuinely curious. Her interest stirs something in him.

JAJA (CONT'D)
When I was a kid, I liked to take stuff apart. Clocks, radios, tablets. Something cool about digging deeper, finding out what made things work.

NADIA
Could you put them back together?

JAFa
Sometimes. Usually I'd ask my Dad
to help me. Once he was gone, I
guess I lost interest.

NADIA
That's really cool, Jafa. You
should start messing with stuff
again.

JAFa
Maybe.

NADIA
I'm serious. It's an interest of
yours. Don't deny the things that
make you unique.

Jafa seems to take that to heart. He and Nadia stare for a
beat.

ABDUL
What's good bro!

Abdul waltzes over confidently and wraps Jafa in an embrace,
then turns it into a playful wrestling match.

NADIA
Don't squish the food!

Jafa gets out of his brother's grip, panting and smiling.

JAFa
Maniac.

Abdul points to Jafa's bottle.

ABDUL
You gotta stop with that booze,
it's messing with your reflexes.

Jafa's smile disappears.

NADIA
Abdul, come on.

ABDUL
Just saying.

JAJA
Any other jabs you want to make
while I'm here?

A tense beat. Nadia looks at Abdul, he sighs.

ABDUL
Sorry, Jafa. You want to walk with
me?

Jafa shrugs.

JAJA
Sure.

NADIA
I'll come too.

ABDUL
No, you chill sweetie. We need to
talk business for a little bit.

NADIA
Ooh, business, so important, so
exclusive.

Jafa watches as Abdul tickles Nadia, then kisses her.

ABDUL
We'll be back. Come on, Jafa.

Jafa, with some reluctance, follows his already travelling
brother.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jafa then shakes his head.

JAJA
I'm fine at the museum, really.

ABDUL
I'm making a lot more at
Prescience. And you can too, if you
joined. We could live in luxury.

JAJA
I don't need luxury. Our place is
fine.

ABDUL
You aren't even curious?

JAJA

Maybe this is a sign, you know, for
you and Nadia to take things a
little further.

Abdul takes that in.

ABDUL

Maybe.

A beat. Jafa takes a drink. Abdul notices.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

I really look up to you bro. You've
been levelheaded and dependable
since we were kids. But it's okay
to branch out. To want more.
There's so much out there, you
know?

Jafa nods, but he doesn't look at Abdul. He watches the kids
and parents on the playground instead.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jafa goes to the fridge, looks inside, but he can't find what
he's looking for.

JAJA

Abdul!

Abdul comes cautiously to the kitchen.

ABDUL

Yeah?

JAJA

Where's the beer I had in here?

ABDUL

I...poured it out.

A tense beat. Jafa shuts the fridge door.

JAJA

Why the fuck would you do that?

ABDUL

I don't want you to hurt yourself.

JAJA

Oh, bullshit. You just want me to join that goddamned app.

ABDUL

You can't keep suppressing your foresight, it's killing you.

JAJA

Like hell I can't.

ABDUL

I can show you how to control it.

JAJA

Fuck off.

ABDUL

Jafa--

INT. APARTMENT - VISION

Abdul addresses a crowd in a suit.

END VISION

Jafa sits on their couch, head in his hands, eyes clamped shut.

ABDUL

Are you having visions?

JAJA

What do you think, Abdul? I can't believe you.

ABDUL

What'd you see?

JAJA

It doesn't matter.

ABDUL

You really want to keep working at that museum?

JAJA

Yes, it's fine. We pay the bills, sleep at night, what's the big deal?

ABDUL

Why don't you ever want to use your foresight?

JAFJA

Why? Because I don't want to keep seeing all the ways people are gonna be betrayed.

ABDUL

You can't just focus on the negative shit you see.

JAFJA

Whatever you say Abdul.

ABDUL

After Dad left, you always worked so hard. You made me want to try harder too. I just want to see that spark in you again.

JAFJA

Don't talk about Dad.

ABDUL

Jafa--

JAFJA

I mean it.

Jafa jumps up and strides to their door through squinting eyes. Abdul tries to put a hand on Jafa's shoulder to stop him, Jafa shrugs him off.

JAFJA (CONT'D)

Prescience is just capitalizing off of you, and everyone with foresight. I don't fucking trust them. But I'd never tell you that you can't work there. I don't make decisions for you because I know that you're a fucking adult.

Jafa leaves the apartment and slams the door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jafa makes his way down the street towards a nearby liquor store. He sees three people, a CROOKED NOSE GUY, a BULKY GUY, and a JACKETED GIRL, talking in front of the store. He tries squinting again.

JAJA

Hey, you guys down there, please
get the fuck out the way so I can
buy some beer.

They look at Jafa humorously, but they stay put.

JAJA (CONT'D)

I said plea--

INT. RANDOM PEOPLE'S HOUSE - VISION

The three people play poker with two other players. Crooked
Nose Guy secrets a card from his foot to his hand, making it
a full house.

END VISION

Jafa snaps out of the vision.

JAJA

Goddammit. Please get out the way.

CROOKED NOSE GUY

Or what?

JAJA

Or I'll tell your friends that you
cheat at poker.

Crooked Nose Guy looks nervous.

CROOKED NOSE GUY

What? That's not true.

JAJA

You sneak the cards up from your
shoe.

This takes Crooked Nose Guy by surprise. His friends notice
his reaction.

BULKY GUY

What the fuck, man. You've been
cheating?

CROOKED NOSE GUY

How the hell would he know?

JACKETED GIRL

He must be one of those foresight
people. He's got the glasses.

CROOKED NOSE GUY
Can't they only see up to two
minutes?

Bulky guy still looks suspicious.

BULKY GUY
How'd he know we're even playing
poker then?

JACKETED GIRL
Well if he's right, you owe me some
money.

Crooked Nose Guy looks towards Jafa with anger.

EXT. STREET - VISION

Jafa sees Crooked Nose Guy jump him out of desperation and
anger.

END VISION

Jafa anticipates Crooked Nose Guy's attack, dodges, and
punches him in the stomach.

Bulky Guy and Jacketed Girl hit Jafa from behind and knock
him down. The three of them beat him up, then run off.

Jafa passes out on the floor.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Jafa wakes up, squints and moans as the sunlight hits him.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - MORNING

Jafa lumbers in, eyes closed.

JAFa
Whoever's here, can you get mea
bottle of vodka?

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Jafa peeks into Abdul's bedroom. His brother's prayer rug is
still laid on the floor, and there's a book open on his bed.
But Abdul himself isn't there.

INT. SHOWER - MORNING

Jafa showers, tries to get a sense of focus again as the water runs over his now bruised body and face.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Jafa eats cereal, then pours the vodka into his bottle. He takes out his phone and calls Abdul. The call rings all the way to voicemail.

ABDUL (V.O.)

Yo, this is Abdul. Let me know what you need and I'll try to get back to you as soon as I can.

JAJA

Hey bro, just wanted to call about last night. I overreacted, and I'm sorry about that. I get it if you're pissed, just...call me back when you can.

Jafa ends the call.

INT. MUSEUM - DAY

A cleared out section of the museum. Jafa stands at the front of a tour group, addressing them.

JAJA

For those unfamiliar with Rodney Ali, he is the founder and CEO of the Prescience App. He donated buckets of money to help make this exhibit possible, so in exchange we let him close it out with a message. And by message, I mean an ad. Enjoy.

Jafa moves to the side as a projected video starts to play in the middle of the room.

PRESCIENCE AD VIDEO

RODNEY (V.O.)

What is the significance of two minutes?

- A woman with a backpack walks down an empty street late at night. She glances over her shoulder, nervous.

- A man stares down a bench press, the bar itself loaded with about 225 pounds of weight. The man looks unsure.

RODNEY (V.O.)

Most of the time, it's insignificant. But what about those moments when your intuition tells you that you're at a turning point of your life.

- The woman keeps walking, turns a corner, only to be accosted by a shadowy man with a knife.

- The man lowers the barbell onto his chest, tries to push it back up, but he can't. He squirms as the weight lowers to his neck.

RODNEY (V.O.)

You don't have to leave those moments to chance.

The videos of the woman and man rewind to their "turning point" moments.

- The woman takes out her phone and selects the Prescience App.

PRESCIENCE ANALYST

Hello, my name's Mai and I'll be your analyst this evening. Please look into your phone's camera.

The woman looks in. A beat, then a confirmation sound.

PRESCIENCE ANALYST (CONT'D)

A man is waiting to assault you at the corner. Please find a crowd and get to safety.

The woman turns and runs to a more well-lit street.

- The man looks into his phone as well.

PRESCIENCE ANALYST (CONT'D)

You'll seriously hurt yourself if you try that weight today, you should probably lighten the load.

The man removes some of the weight, then starts lifting, still struggling, but with a weight he can push through.

The scene switches to a comfortable room. RODNEY ALI (late 30s) stands in the middle, well-dressed, a calming presence.

RODNEY

Our analysts, blessed with foresight, can see the next 15 seconds of your future, so you can make the best decision for yourself. That is the gift of Prescience; we help you integrate your future into your present.

END PRESCIENCE AD VIDEO

The crowd claps. Jafa watches with judgment as a few people start to download the app.

Jafa starts to make his way back when his vision distorts behind his glasses.

JAJA

Damn, I just had a drink.

Jafa starts to turn only for Russel to pop out of nowhere.

RUSSEL

Hey Jafa, just wanted to check in about the glasses.

JAJA

They should be ready today, I'm heading over after this tour.

RUSSEL

Will you be good for the rest of the day?

Jafa musters up a smile.

JAJA

Yeah, I should be able to make it through.

RUSSEL

Great, well in that case--
 (to Jafa's tour group)
 Hello all, I hope you enjoyed the tour. Jafa doesn't like to brag, but he actually has foresight. Now's your chance to ask a precognitive person, in person!

Jafa freezes. Looks at Russel like he wants to kill him. Russel gives Jafa a thumbs-up.

INT. MUSEUM ELEVATOR - VISION

Russel travels down in an elevator. It reaches the bottom, opens up, reveals some kind of crystal edifice that quickly disappears when the vision ends.

END VISION

Jafa comes to, his anger now twisted up with confusion. Russel is already leaving. The crowd look to Jafa expectantly. Jafa sighs.

JAJA

Fine, shoot.

A COCKY ASSHOLE's hand shoots up first. He starts talking without waiting to be called on.

COCKY ASSHOLE

Why is it only two minutes? Do you guys ever train, really focus your minds to see beyond that?

JAJA

It takes a lot just to get over the sensory overload of seeing so many people's futures at once. That takes up most of our "focus".

A BRIGHTLY DRESSED WOMAN raises her hand yes. Jafa points her out.

BRIGHTLY DRESSED WOMAN

Can you see your own future?

Jafa looks a little surprised.

JAJA

No, actually. At least, not directly. Just in relation to someone else's, if it's relevant. Most people don't notice that--

COCKY ASSHOLE

Take the glasses off.

The crowd looks at the Asshole strangely.

JAJA

I'm sorry.

COCKY ASSHOLE

We make you wear those glasses,
right, so you won't see our
futures. But I'm not afraid. It's
just two minutes. So take them off.

JAJA

What is wrong with you?

As the man responds, Jafa unwillingly has a vision.

EXT. BEACH - VISION

Cocky Asshole is on bended knee, looking up with hope at a
LOVELY WOMAN. A large crowd waits expectantly for her answer.
Tears come to her eyes as she shakes her head no.

LOVELY WOMAN

I'm sorry, I just don't love you.

END VISION

Jafa comes back to Earth.

JAJA

(dazed)

She doesn't love you. She's going
to say no.

The Cocky Asshole looks like he's been stabbed in the chest.

COCKY ASSHOLE

What?

Jafa turns and leaves his tour group, again.

INT. JAJA'S CAR - DAY

Jafa drinks more Vodka to suppress his foresight. He looks
tired.

Jafa looks up the number for Angelique Merve's Workshop. He
tries to call, but it goes straight to voicemail. Jafa hangs
up.

JAJA

I'm tired of this shit. I've got to
get those glasses.

EXT. ANGELIQUE MERVE'S SUNGLASS SHOP - DAY

Jafa comes to the shop, only to find it surrounded by caution tape, Police Officers, and a crowd.

JAJA
What the hell?

Jafa finds the Quiet Receptionist from the day before.

JAJA (CONT'D)
What happened?

QUIET RECEPTIONIST
Someone broke in last night and kidnapped her.

JAJA
That's insane.

QUIET RECEPTIONIST
No one knows who did it, or why.

JAJA
Can I still get the glasses she was making for me?

The Quiet Receptionist looks at Jafa like he's an asshole, and moves to another part of the crowd.

Jafa approaches one of the officers.

JAJA (CONT'D)
Is there any chance I can go in to check on my glasses order?

OFFICER
No. Get out of here.

JAJA
But--

EXT. ANGELIQUE MERVE'S SUNGLASS SHOP - NIGHT - VISION

The officer comes across a door, locked with a keypad, somewhere behind Angelique's Workshop.

END VISION

EXT. ANGELIQUE MERVE'S SUNGLASS SHOP - DAY

The officer looks irritated.

OFFICER
Hey, I said leave.

JAFa
Sorry.

Jafa phone rings. The contact reads; "Nadia." Jafa answers as he turns away.

JAFa (CONT'D)
Hey, Nadia. Is Abdul with you?

NADIA
He's not with you? Now I'm starting to get worried. Have you heard from him?

JAFa
I tried calling him this morning, but he didn't answer.

NADIA
I called the Prescience office and they said he never came into work today.

JAFa
Shit.

NADIA
Did something happen between you guys last night? I know Abdul was worried asking you about trying to get a new place.

Jafa looks regretful.

JAFa
No, nothing bad happened. Maybe he just wanted some time to himself.

NADIA
I just wish he'd let us know so we don't worry.

JAFa
I'm sure he's fine, Nadia. I can check our place, and I'll let you know if he calls me back.

NADIA

I'll do the same. Bye, Jafa.

Jafa hangs up, looks back at the kidnapping scene, and drinks from his bottle.

EXT. ANGELIQUE MERVE'S SUNGLASS SHOP - LATER

Jafa paces outside, looking for a way in. He sees the door he saw in the vision, locked with a keypad. Jafa looks around to make sure there aren't any cops around, then jumps when his phone buzzes.

He looks down quickly, it's a text from Russel. Jafa ignores it and hurries closer.

He pushes the keypad, which summons a four-key display. Jafa thinks, then enters a random code. It doesn't work.

JAJA

Shit.

Jafa's phone buzzes again.

RUSSEL

(text)

Get back here if you want to keep
your job.

Jafa reads the text and reluctantly turns away from the workshop.

INT. MUSEUM LOBBY - DAY

Jafa starts to enter when Russel approaches from around a bend.

RUSSEL

Jafa, what the hell is going on
with you?

JAJA

I told you, I was getting the
eyeglasses.

RUSSEL

Okay, well where are they?

JAJA

The woman who made them was
kidnapped, so I don't have them.

Russel looks at Jafa with disdain.

JAJA (CONT'D)

It's true, check the news.

RUSSEL

Jafa, you've been leaving your tours alone, mocking our guests--

JAJA

Who did I mock? You mean the dude that kept asking questions like an asshole?

RUSSEL

You aren't taking this job seriously. And, to be completely frank, I've started to wonder what's in that bottle.

Jafa moves the bottle back, tries to keep from looking caught.

JAJA

It's just water, man.

RUSSEL

Until you get those eyelasses and fix whatever's going on with you, you don't need to come in.

JAJA

Russel, come on, I can still--

RUSSEL

No, Jafa. I mean it. Go home.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Jafa comes to find his apartment door already open. Cautious, he slowly approaches.

JAJA

Abdul?

When he gets inside, a woman quickly turns around and shoots him with a taser. Jafa locks up and falls to the floor. The woman hurries over as he falls.

WOMAN

I'm sorry!

She rips the darts off of Jafa's now electrocuted body. He looks up at the woman one more time, then passes out.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Jafa comes to on his couch. He stands up, slowly, and starts to look for something to drink.

The woman, NADIA, steel-eyed and determined, (late 20s) comes in from the kitchen, hands up in a mollifying gesture. Jafa still reacts guardedly.

JAJA

Nadia?

NADIA

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to tase you.

JAJA

Why the hell do you even have a taser?

NADIA

It's a long story.

JAJA

Did you break into our place?

NADIA

Abdul gave me a key. He didn't tell you?

JAJA

No.

NADIA

Abdul's kept a couple of things from you cause he didn't know how you'd react. And I'm afraid that...that he's really--

Nadia starts to cry.

JAJA

What the hell is going on?

Nadia starts to take deep breaths to pull herself back together. Jafa's perception of Nadia starts to shift as the air around her distorts. Jafa gets up, one hand over his eyes.

JAJA (CONT'D)
Fuck, I need a drink.

NADIA
Wait.

Nadia stands between Jafa and the kitchen.

JAJA
Emma, what are you doing?

NADIA
If we're going to find Abdul, we
need your foresight.

JAJA
Abdul is fine. Move.

NADIA
Just listen to me. About a month
ago, Abdul got a raise.

JAJA
Whoop-dee-fucking-do.

Jafa pushes forward, past Nadia, towards the kitchen.

NADIA
Abdul said that he and two other
analysts were chosen by Rodney Ali
personally, because they all had
visions beyond two minutes.

Jafa hesitates, then opens the fridge.

JAJA
Shit!

NADIA
What?

JAJA
I forgot Abdul threw out my beer.

NADIA
Honestly, good. We've been worried
about you.

Jafa closes his eyes, leans against the counter. He suddenly
grunts and holds his stomach in pain.

NADIA (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

JAJA

I'll be fine, just need a minute.

Nadia looks worried, but she presses on.

NADIA

Well if you're not going to be moving around, you can listen. The other two analysts just disappeared. And now Abdul's gone too. Does that sound like a coincidence?

JAJA

Listen, Nadia, I'm sure Abdul's just sulking somewhere because I don't want to move into a new place.

NADIA

That's really what you think of your brother?

JAJA

I've known him his whole life. He's fine.

NADIA

He's in trouble. I hacked their records, and the other analysts haven't clocked in since Abdul met Rodney.

This catches Jafa's interest.

JAJA

You hacked them? I thought you work in human resources?

NADIA

It's not something I like to advertise. But yes.

JAJA

Could you hack a keypad?

NADIA

Probably, why?

Jafa holds his stomach again.

NADIA (CONT'D)

What's wrong with your stomach?

JAJA

I just get stomach aches sometimes, okay. Listen, I'm guessing you heard about Angelique disappearing too.

NADIA

That's why I came here, and why I have the taser. I wanted to see if there was proof that Abdul was kidnapped.

JAJA

Did you find anything?

NADIA

No...

JAJA

Why didn't you just call me again?

NADIA

I thought you'd be at work. And...I wasn't sure if I could trust you about this.

Jafa considers.

JAJA

I can admit I've always had a bad feeling about Prescience. But I'm not using foresight.

NADIA

I don't understand why you block off something that's a part of you.

JAJA

You don't need to understand. But, I might have a lead. Angelique's workshop has locked door with a keypad. If we go, we might find... something.

Nadia looks suspicious.

NADIA

Why are you telling me this if you don't believe me?

JAJA

Because Angelique made a pair of premonition blocking eyeglasses for me that will actually work, so I can finally open my eyes without seeing everyone's depressing futures.

NADIA

So you still don't believe me. You just want to block out the power that could help you save your brother.

JAJA

Until I see proof, I'm not jumping to conclusions. But, there might be proof at the workshop. We'll only know if we go.

A beat as Nadia, frustrated, weighs her options.

NADIA

Fine. But if we do find proof, you need to promise to take this seriously.

JAJA

Come on, we don't have a lot of time. And you're gonna have to drive.

INT. JAJA'S CAR - DAY

Inside, Jafa opens his eyes to look around the back of his car. He takes out another bottle of Vodka, eager. He starts to drink, but there's nothing left. Nadia looks at him with some pity.

NADIA

Your brother worries about you.

JAJA

He doesn't need to worry. I just use alcohol to stop the visions. Once I get those glasses, I'll stop drinking.

Nadia looks skeptical.

EXT. ANGELIQUE MERVE'S SUNGLASS SHOP - DAY

Jafa and Nadia approach the crime scene.

JAJA

If we aren't quick, the officer will find Angelique's secret room before we do. And then we won't be able to find out anything.

NADIA

How did you find out about this room? Did you have a vision?

JAJA

Yes.

NADIA

You're literally proving how helpful it could--

JAJA

I know how badly you want to make this point, but again, we don't have a lot of time. No one's around, right?

Nadia sighs.

NADIA

You're good.

Jafa opens his eyes.

JAJA

Stay out of my field of vision.

EXT. ANGELIQUE'S SHED - DAY

Jafa leads Nadia around to the keypad-locked door. Nadia pulls a small device out her purse.

NADIA

Keep watch.

The device opens a small, holographic display that connects with the keypad. Nadia manipulates the display, siphoning through shifting number combinations.

Jafa sees her go to work with interest.

JAJA

How's it work?

NADIA

I'm surprised you're interested.
Seems like the only thing you care
about are the glasses.

JAFJA

Well this helps me get to the
glasses, right?

Nadia maneuvers a cursor through cyberspace.

NADIA

There's different layers, called
frost. I've got to find my way
through it in order to gain access.

Jafa watches with trepidation as the officer starts to come
their way from a distance.

JAFJA

How much longer?

NADIA

Don't rush me!

JAFJA

The cop's coming.

NADIA

Lucky for you, you know where he's
going, so you can stop him.

Jafa sighs, closes his eyes again, and starts to stumble
around.

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

Jafa comes closer to the officer.

JAFJA

(slurring)
Excuse me, officer!

The Officer looks taken aback, then annoyed.

OFFICER

What the hell are you still doing
here? Do you want me to take you to
jail?

JAFJA

I was actually hoping to get your
advice on something.

OFFICER
Why are your eyes closed?

Jafa follows the sound of his voice, and moves too close to the officer, who pushes Jafa off of him.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
You're drunk.

JAJA
No, no, no, it's a serious question. Super serious. My girlfriend and I are looking for a nice spot to get some alone time outdoors, if you catch my drift. Somewhere to keep the spark alive, but not be arrested for public indecency. I mean public inde, umm...for fucking in public.

OFFICER
Are you serious?

Jafa nods and comes closer. The officer pushes Jafa hard to the floor.

JAJA
What the fuck?

OFFICER
Get some help, dumbass.

The officer turns and walks away. Jafa looks insulted, but tries to hide it. He stands and dusts himself off.

EXT. ANGELIQUE'S SHED - DAY

Jafa returns, and closes his eyes once he turns the corner again. Nadia's gadget confirms the correct code. The keypad corresponds, and the door unlocks.

JAJA
Wow, impressive. Does Abdul know you're so good at breaking and entering?

NADIA
We don't hide anything from each other.

NADIA (CONT'D)
Is the cop coming?

JAJA

No, I managed to get him off our trail. I just pretended to be a drunk.

NADIA

I'm sure you didn't have to try very hard.

She opens the door and heads inside. Jafa, insulted again, follows.

INT. ANGELIQUE'S SHED - DAY

Contrasted to the workshop and store's modern, meticulous organization, the shed is more roughshod. A desktop computer is surrounded by boxes of documents and miscellaneous items.

NADIA

This doesn't look like the kind of place she'd keep her eyeglasses.

Jafa doesn't answer, just starts to open boxes and look through them.

Nadia activates the desktop, tries to think of a passcode.

NADIA (CONT'D)

Did she ever tell you anything personal?

Jafa continues to look through Angelique's boxes, sifting through random documents.

JAJA

I only met her once. Can't you hack into her computer?

NADIA

I can, but it's always worth trying to guess the passcode at least once. People have failsafes that can erase data if you aren't careful.

JAJA

She talked about some book, the sequel to Alice and Wonderland.

NADIA

Through the Looking Glass?

JAJA

Yeah.

Nadia pulls out her phone, looks up the book online. She reads for a bit, then turns back to the computer and types something in. The desktop unlocks and loads its contents onto a screen.

NADIA

That actually worked.

JAJA

How the hell did you guess that?

NADIA

I just tried the year it was published.

Nadia navigates the computer.

Jafa looks around, careful not to look Nadia's way.

He comes across a small cylinder of metal, a little beat up. He presses a button and a focused laser sputters out; an older, broken model of the one Angelique used to cut through the crystal.

Nadia peeks at Jafa looking at the laser, smiles at his interest.

NADIA (CONT'D)

Something new to take apart?

JAJA

Maybe.

Jafa deactivates it, and puts it in his pocket.

NADIA

Oh my god.

JAJA

What?

NADIA

She was hired by the Prescience App.

JAJA

What does it say?

NADIA

Why don't you just look over here?

JAJA
You know why.

Nadia sighs.

NADIA
The top of the document says
holding facilities. It has a list
of names, and a weird list of
numbers? Shit, Jack Downey and
Hanna Young. Those were the
analysts that were promoted with
Abdul. And--oh my god. It's Abdul.

Jafa looks over. He sees his brother's name. Nadia looks back
at Jafa. Jafa looks at her.

INT. HOLDING FACILITY - VISION

Nadia hurries to help a prone man. His face isn't visible;
but he is in a hospital gown, on a flight of stairs.

END VISION

Jafa shakes out of the vision, angered, and shuts his eyes
again.

JAJA
I'm so tired of this. Where the
hell are those glasses?

He turns back around, opens his eyes, dashes the box in front
of him to the side, and opens another one.

NADIA
What'd you see?

JAJA
It doesn't matter.

NADIA
Jafa, Abdul's name is on this list.
He's involved in whatever the hell
Prescience has going on. We've got
to dig deeper.

Jafa takes out his phone and calls Abdul. The phone rings to
voicemail.

ABDUL
(voicemail)
Yo, this is Abdul. Let me know--

Jafa ends the call.

JAJA

Fuck.

NADIA

Jafa, we've got to--

JAJA

I know! Okay. I know.

Nadia uses her phone to take a picture of the document.

INT. NADIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jafa fills out a short application to apply to Prescience.

NADIA

You can't write that.

JAJA

I can't write my own name?

NADIA

No. If you walk in as Abdul's brother, it won't be long before they get you next.

Jafa thinks, then writes "Jack"

NADIA (CONT'D)

Are you serious?

JAJA

It's a different name. No one will know.

NADIA

This isn't a joke, Jafa.

JAJA

I know, which is why I took your advice and changed my name on the application.

Nadia looks at Jafa for a frustrated beat.

NADIA

Abdul really admires you. He always talks about how you worked shitty job after shitty job to support him and your mom. He sees so much strength in you.

(MORE)

NADIA (CONT'D)

He doesn't deserve to be let down
by the people he loves.

Nadia leaves the room. Jafa looks at the application,
considers changing the name. In the end, he presses send.

EXT. PRESCIENCE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A modern, unassuming glass building with the Prescience logo,
an eye in the gold, black and white of the Art Deco style, an
out-of-place looking ornament to the otherwise contemporary
building.

Jafa stands with Nadia outside. Nadia hands Jafa an earpiece
bud.

NADIA

Keep this in at all times.

JAJA

I don't like the idea of you
buzzing in my ear all day.

NADIA

I need to hear what people are
saying if we're going to find Abdul
together.

Jafa starts to take the bud, Nadia pulls it back.

NADIA (CONT'D)

Listen. I know you're a loner, but
we won't find Abdul by arguing. You
be the eyes, I'll be the ears. Keep
your cool so we can find out what's
going on.

JAJA

Whatever you say, ears.

Jafa grabs the bud and fits it in his ear.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Jafa sits across from a Rodney, who looks down at a tablet,
then back up at Jafa.

RODNEY

Well, Jack, now that we've filled
out the particulars, there's just
one more thing we need from you.

Jafa has a plastered smile. His "water" bottle is right by his leg.

JAJA
And that is?

RODNEY
Do you remember your first vision?

Jafa freezes up, his smile falters.

JAJA
(stiffly)
I do.

RODNEY
Could you describe it to me?

JAJA
Is it necessary?

RODNEY
Yes. All of our analysts have shared. Is it a difficult memory?

Jafa considers for a beat, then shrugs.

JAJA
It is.

RODNEY
Well, I can assure you that it will be kept confidential.

JAJA
Why do you need it?

RODNEY
There's so much about foresight we don't understand. The more we learn, the more we understand.

Jafa squirms a bit in his seat, then sighs.

JAJA
Okay, fuck it. I was like four or five. I was playing tag with my Dad. He was chasing me when I looked back. Then I was whisked forward in time. Felt it in my stomach. I saw him kissing a woman who wasn't my mom, and then I came back.

RODNEY

So your first vision was hours into the future?

JAJA

Yeah.

RODNEY

How many, if you could guess?

JAJA

Like four or five.

RODNEY

So strange. Most people's first visions go so far into the future, and then after that, the time shrinks to two minutes for every vision after. Imagine if we could see that far every time.

JAJA

Like Toni Patton, right? Saw her Dad get blown up by that coffee pot like a full day before.

RODNEY

Right! And she was the first. I'm happy to see you know some of the history. Please continue.

JAJA

Well I followed him after that. I snuck into my Dad's car, in the trunk. He told my mom he was going out for groceries. I stayed in the back, as quiet as I could. I watched as he pulled into a neighborhood I never saw before. He pulled up, and the woman I saw in my vision came into the car, and started kissing him. I made a noise, and they both saw me. I opened the trunk from the inside and ran. He chased after me, and scooped me up. It was like we were playing tag again. Only this time, the husband of the woman my Dad was fucking on the side saw us, and told my Dad he'd kill him if he ever came back. My Dad never tried to explain himself, to my Mom, my brother, or to me. He just left one day, and we never saw him again.

(MORE)

JAJA (CONT'D)

Over the years, my mom drank
herself to death, trying to get
over his betrayal.

Jafa takes a minute to reflect.

RODNEY

I can understand why you were
hesitant to share.

Jafa just nods.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

If it's not too sensitive to ask,
how long ago did your mom pass?

JAJA

A year ago.

RODNEY

I'm sorry. If you ask me, I think--

JAJA

I didn't ask you.

NADIA

(earpiece)

Jafa, what the hell? Apologize so
you don't lose the job.

An awkward beat. Rodney laughs, then starts to write in his
pad. Jafa swallows his pride.

JAJA

Sorry, it's just...sensitive. And,
to be completely honest, that's
really why I want to be an analyst
for Prescience. So that people feel
like they can act in those moments
where you know something's wrong,
but you feel paralyzed to fate.

Rodney softens up.

RODNEY

I love that. That's very nice,
Jack.

Rodney smiles, nods, jots something in his tablet.

Jafa picks up his bottle and starts to drink.

EXT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Rodney and Jafa shake hands.

RODNEY

Welcome to the team, Jack. I'm sure you'll love it here.

JAJA

Looking forward to working with you.

NADIA

(earpiece)
Ask to go to the bathroom.

JAJA

Where's your bathroom at?

RODNEY

Down the corner, to the right.

JAJA

Thanks, I'll be right back.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jafa enters a stall.

JAJA

(to Nadia)
What?

NADIA

You brought alcohol to Prescience.

JAJA

Yep.

NADIA

You need your foresight to work there.

JAJA

I thought we were finding out what happened to Abdul.

NADIA

Yes, but you have to be a convincing cover. If you're drinking the whole time, you won't be able to do the job.

JAJA
I can just lie.

NADIA
And if you get caught before we
find Abdul?

JAJA
Nadia, relax. All I need to do is
find a way to get alone so I can
search the place. Until then, I'll
figure it out.

Jafa exits the stall, and heads out of the bathroom.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Jafa comes back out to find Rodney standing next to EMMA
(late 20s), a well-dressed, excitable pregnant woman, who
wears a pair of premonition-blocking glasses.

EMMA
Hi Jack, I'm Emma. Welcome to
Prescience, I'm so excited to meet
you!

Jafa hides his discomfort at Emma's enthusiasm, smiles but
keeps a bit of a distance.

JAJA
Nice to meet you.

RODNEY
Emma here will show you the ropes.
If you follow us, we'll show you
the Crane.

JAJA
What's the Crane?

EMMA
You'll see!

EXT. THE CRANE - DAY

A soft hum rings from inside a metallic door. Jafa can't help
but be curious. He starts to walk towards it when Emma stops
him.

EMMA

Sorry to be a stickler, but no liquids inside. We don't want to damage any of the equipment.

Jafa looks a little freaked out.

JAJA

So the whole time I'm working I can't drink anything?

RODNEY

You'll have your lunch hour, of course. And we have a water cooler over there, as long as you drink here in the office halls. But besides that, Emma is right, we'd prefer it if you kept liquid out the building from this point on.

Rodney holds out a hand to take the bottle. Jafa reluctantly passes it over to him.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

I'll make sure to get it back to you before you leave today. Now, I've got a meeting to catch, but you're in good hands.

With that, Rodney turns and walks away. Jafa turns to a smiling Emma, who opens the door with a flourish.

EMMA

Behold, the Crane.

Jafa starts to walk towards the door, but when he gets closer to Emma, the air distorts.

JAJA

(under his breath)
Shit.

INT. CRANE - DAY

The Crane hangs from a high ceiling in a dark room, illuminated by a series of headsets connected to chairs throughout the room. Other analysts look through them while speaking to their clients, and navigating tablets.

Jafa follows Emma to an empty chair, tries to keep her in his peripheral vision.

NADIA
 (earpiece)
 Keep an eye out for anything weird.

EMMA
 The eyeglasses are attached to the crane, which is basically just a big computer that connects us to people's phones so we can see their futures.

JAJA
 So you just look through here?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - VISION

Jafa watches Emma stand amongst some worried people on a stage

END VISION.

EMMA
 Jafa? Did you just have a vision?

JAJA
 What? No, I space out sometimes, sorry. What were you saying about the headset?

Emma doesn't look convinced, but she doesn't make an issue of it.

EMMA
 I said you've got to pick a client first.

Emma activates a small tablet on the side of the seat. Jafa notices a series of names, and by the names, categories: Y/N, Clarity, and Conversation.

JAJA
 What do these categories mean?

EMMA
 It's how they break up the pricing. No matter who calls in, we'll see the same vision. So our clients pay for how much time they get to parse the vision apart.

JAJA

So we charge people for interpretations of their own futures?

EMMA

Basically. Yes or no basically means they ask a question that they're anticipating in the near future. Clarity means they listen to us describe what we see as detailed as we can. And Conversation is basically people wanting to unpack, kinda like therapy. So that's the highest tier.

JAJA

Are we supposed to be trained therapists?

EMMA

No. But fortune tellers have always kind of been therapists too, right?

JAJA

Just without the years of training or official degrees.

Emma laughs.

EMMA

Look at you, smart guy, criticizing the system. You wanna try? I recommend Y/N for your first go.

JAJA

Sure.

Jaja scrolls through, selects "Jenna, Y/N."

The screen shifts to black, then a question writes its way across the screen.

JENNA

(screen)

Is Greg going to ask me to prom?

EMMA

Now, you just look inside, you'll see a live video of her, and the crystals of the glass will help induce a vision.

Emma points at the headset.

NADIA

(earpiece)

This is exactly what I meant. How can you see a vision when you've suppressed it?

JAJA

It's yes or no, I've got a 50/50 chance to get it right.

EMMA

What?

JAJA

Nothing, sorry.

Jafa looks through, sees the video feed of Jenna, a young and somewhat vulnerable high school girl's face.

JENNA'S LIFE MONTAGE - VISION

- Greg doesn't ask Jenna to prom. He asks the friend standing next to her.
- Jenna cries, is comforted by a kind friend.
- Jenna and the kind friend graduate high school together.
- Jenna and the kind friend get married, high school sweethearts.
- Jenna, now a few years older, and the kind friend/spouse argue often.
- Jenna sits in one chair, kind friend in the other. A lawyer serves them both divorce papers. Jenna bursts into tears.

END VISION

Jafa is shunted back to reality, stunned.

EMMA

Everything okay?

Jafa takes off the headset, starts to breathe heavily.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Jack?

Jafa stands and backs up. The room starts to fill with small visions of the other analysts in the room speeding through their tasks; extensions of them that move faster than their original bodies, completing tasks before they complete it.

Jafa looks completely overwhelmed.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Jack, you need to calm down.
Remember, you exist in the present.

JAJA

I need to get out of here.

Jafa starts to turn again, his breath gets faster. Emma calmly, but firmly grabs his arm.

EMMA

Imagine a brown autumn leaf. Your breathing is the wind. Try to keep the leaf floating, don't blow it all around. Breathe steady with me.

Emma guides Jafa to steadier breaths. Jafa calms down, but he keeps his eyes closed.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Jack, can you open your eyes?

JAJA

No.

EMMA

Why not?

JAJA

I don't want to see anymore. I saw that girl's life, I saw way more than I should have been able to see.

EMMA

It'll be okay. Just keep breathing. Open your eyes.

NADIA

(earpiece)

Jafa, you can do this. Abdul's counting on you.

A beat as Jafa takes a few more deep breaths. Then, he opens his eyes.

He sees Emma's face, calm and patient. He looks around the room; some analysts stopped and came over to make sure he was okay. It seems like he's okay. Then, the air shifts again.

Jafa closes his eyes again, stands quickly, and starts pacing around the room.

JAJA

Fuck the future! I'm not opening my eyes again.

Jafa runs into one of the chairs and hurts himself. A blind man walking. Emma sighs, crestfallen. She picks up her phone and calls Rodney.

INT. RODNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Rodney sits across from Jafa, curious.

RODNEY

It sounds like you've had quite the first day.

Jafa keeps his eyes closed.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

So, I have some questions. First of them being, why are your eyes closed? You're wearing a pair of premonition blocking eyeglasses.

JAJA

They haven't worked for me in a year.

RODNEY

So since your mother died.

A silent beat. Jafa doesn't address that.

JAJA

I had a new pair custom made by Angelique Merve, but she was kidnapped before I could get them.

RODNEY

I see. I met her a few months ago, very bright woman. I hope they find her soon.

A pair of security guards walk quietly into the room. Rodney holds up a hand, telling them to stay put, then turns back to Jafa.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

You told Emma that you saw way beyond two minutes of your client's future. That you saw her life unfold before her.

JAFJA

Yeah, it was pretty intense. I don't know how to stop it.

RODNEY

Stop it? Why would you want to stop it. It's a great gift that you've been given, Jafa.

A tense beat.

JAFJA

What did you just call me?

RODNEY

Oh, I knew who you were the minute you came through my door. As soon as I learned that Abdul had a brother with foresight, I've been dying to meet you.

JAFJA

Where the hell is he?

RODNEY

You'll see him soon enough.

Rodney gestures to the guards, who rush Jafa and grab him. Jafa struggles in their grasp, finally opens his eyes. Before he can use his foresight, one of the guards puts a bag over Jafa's head, then injects a sedative into his neck.

Jafa stops struggling and goes limp in the guards' arms.

INT. HOLDING CELLS - DAY

Jafa wakes, alone. He looks around, finds he is trapped in one of a series of cubed cells, made up of opaque crystal.

Jafa tries to peer through a neighboring cell. It's unclear whether the unclear images he sees are other prisoners like him.

In his own cell, there's a toilet and a sink with a small mirror, and a bed.

ANGELIQUE

Hello, Jafa.

Jafa shifts to the voice, watches as a distorted figure approaches from the other side of the cell. The voice stirs recognition in Jafa.

JAJA

Angelique?

Angelique waves.

ANGELIQUE

You must have thought you were pretty clever, breaking into my little shack. But even then, you weren't seeing as clearly as you could have.

JAJA

I thought you were kidnapped.

ANGELIQUE

A ruse, so I'd have time to finish my work here.

Jafa realizes that he isn't having any visions looking at her. He moves closer to the edge of his cell to look at the glass.

JAJA

Is this...?

ANGELIQUE

You got it. The same crystal I've been using for the eyeglasses.

JAJA

Why? What the hell is going on?

ANGELIQUE

There are lots of wealthy people who would love to use the talents of people like yourself, whose foresight can project hour, days, even years ahead into the future. Rodney asked me to build premonition-blocking cages, to keep you here while we orchestrate a mutually beneficial arrangement.

JAJA

You want to sell us.

ANGELIQUE

Not so crude a thing as that. We're just expanding the app's range of consumers to people who actually appreciate the value of knowing the future.

JAJA

So this is where you've been keeping the people that disappeared. Where you've been keeping Abdul.

Angelique smiles at the mention of Abdul.

JAJA (CONT'D)

What about the glasses? The ones you made for me?

ANGELIQUE

Oh, Jafa. I'm sorry, but I never finished making them.

JAJA

We'll make them now.

ANGELIQUE

You care more about the glasses than your brother. Why are you so eager to suppress your gift?

JAJA

Get me out of here.

ANGELIQUE

We want to see how far your foresight might stretch when you aren't constantly trying to numb it. So you're not going anywhere. No glasses and no alcohol, Jafa. Just you.

Angelique's muted figure turns and walks away.

JAJA

You can't keep me in here! Get me those glasses and get me the hell out of here! Angelique!

She's gone.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - DAY

Jafa paces around his cell nervously. He looks over the crystal walls of his cell, searching for openings, cracks, something.

He bends down, then spontaneously vomits onto the floor. Jafa grasps at his pained stomach.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - CONTINUOUS

Jafa washes his face and mouth out in the small sink. A sudden stomach-ache causes Jafa to grunt, hold his sides in pain. He looks up at the mirror; he's haggard, sunken in the eyes.

The image in the mirror distorts. Jafa, confused, looks closer.

MIRROR VISION

Jafa watches himself, his own future, play out in the mirror like watching a TV.

The mirror Jafa looks even worse for wear, shivering in the bed, shaking, soaked in sweat from alcohol withdrawal.

Three figures approach from outside his cell. One types a sequence in somewhere on the glass, and a section indents and then opens. Angelique and Rodney walk in; the third figure stays outside.

ANGELIQUE

Jafa?

Angelique and Rodney come closer.

THIRD FIGURE

I think he's ready.

END MIRROR VISION

INT. JAJA'S CELL - DAY

The vision is replaced by Jafa's lone reflection. He sees fear in his own eyes.

Movement and sound from outside his cell catches Jafa's attention. He snaps around and sees a figure approach.

The figure stands outside the dark crystal. A hand presses a sequence into the glass, opening a door like in the vision.

An armed guard, wearing a visor of similar crystal, walks in with a plastic platter of food. Jafa doesn't see any visions looking at the guard. Jafa comes closer, desperate.

JAJA

You got any beer, or vodka? Hell
I'll take rubbing alcohol.

The guard says nothing. The crystal door closes again. Jafa is left alone with the food. He looks at it with distaste. His stomach growls. Jafa leaves the food alone, and goes to his bed.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa rolls over in his bed from discomfort, then pauses when he feels something. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the small cylinder of a laser he picked up from Angelique's shack.

He tries to press it. It sputters a little, then goes out. Jafa looks at the crystal that surrounds him.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa paces back and forth in the room, his movements more erratic and nervous.

JAJA

'Stop drinking, Jafa' 'Join
Prescience, Jafa' 'Use your
foresight, Jafa, it's a gift.' Some
fucking gift.

The guard comes in as Jafa talks to himself. Notes the monologuing Jafa, the uneaten food in the corner. He places the tray of new food down, eyes on Jafa the whole time.

JAJA (CONT'D)

What?

The guard says nothing.

JAJA (CONT'D)

What!

Jafa angrily upends his mattress. The guard leaves, the crystal door shuts behind him.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa watches the mirror again. The same vision plays. Jafa's face, still worried, is now tinged with desperation.

He pulls out the laser again, tries to activate it. Another sputter of useless light. He looks closely at it, untwists something, opens the cylinder up, trying to find a way to even out the stream.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa sits on his disrupted mattress, watches closely as the figure of Angelique approaches his cell again.

Jafa watches as she presses the sequence onto the crystal indentations, and comes inside the cell, wearing the same premonition-blocking crystal mask as the guard, carrying a new tray of food.

ANGELIQUE

Hello, Jafa. I just wanted to check in on you. Have you adjusted to your accommodations?

Jafa, haggard, looks at Angelique with venomous disdain. Angelique sniffs, grimaces, and looks at the trays of uneaten food, before turning back to Jafa.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

You should eat something. You're no use to anyone if you starve to death.

JAJA

Where are you keeping Abdul? The others?

ANGELIQUE

The other candidates are in these cells, same as you. But they've been eating their food.

JAJA

Don't patronize me. How long are you keeping me here?

ANGELIQUE

Just until we feel that you'll be open to the opportunity we're presenting to you.

JAJA

And what opportunity is that?

ANGELIQUE

To use your gifts for the good of mankind.

Jafa spits in Angelique's direction, but not much spittle comes out. Angelique looks at him with pity.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Nadia eats her food.

This surprises and angers Jafa.

JAJA

Leave her out of this!

ANGELIQUE

So you do care about someone besides yourself.

JAJA

She doesn't even have foresight.

Jafa stands, tries to move to Angelique, then stumbles and falls out of weakness. Angelique watches him with interest.

ANGELIQUE

You remember that character I told you about from Through the Looking Glass? The White Queen?

A weak Jafa looks at Angelique with anger.

JAJA

How could I forget?

ANGELIQUE

She tells Alice that she believes six impossible things before breakfast, and encourages her to do the same.

JAJA

You aren't making any fucking sense.

ANGELIQUE

Your powers should open you up to what's possible, not close you off from it. Stop struggling, Jafa.

Angelique sets the tray down, smiles, and exits the cell.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa hungrily eats the food Angelique left. He picks up the laser and activates it; a steady stream of light shoots out the cylinder. Determined, Jafa stands and looks at the mirror.

MIRROR

The image of the mirror starts to distort, then stops. Jafa stares cleanly at his own, present reflection. Tired, sunken in the eyes and face, but focused.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa's laser extends a small, but steady stream. He approaches the part of the glass where Angelique pressed indentations in a sequence, and recreates the sequence using the laser stream to activate the keys from inside his cell.

Nothing happens for a beat. Then, the larger section of the crystal opens up.

INT. JAJA'S CELL - LATER

Jafa sleeps in his upturned mattress. The door remains wide open.

GUARD

What the hell?

The guard comes to the door, inspects the crystal. He then looks at the sleeping Jafa, comes inside the cell and approaches Jafa.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Hey, get up!

Jafa waits for the guard to get even closer, then springs out of his bed and latches himself onto the guard. Jafa wraps his legs around the man's head, holds tight. The guard struggles, tries to stand, falls.

Jafa rips the guard's crystal mask off his face, and throws it to the other side of the room. The guard strikes Jafa, hard. Jafa cries out in pain; the guard gets free of Jafa's grip.

Jafa grabs one of the leftover plates of food and smacks the guard with it. The guard, disgusted, punches Jafa across the face. Jafa falls back to the ground, looks up at the guard, and activates a vision--

INT. HOLDING FACILITY - VISION

The guard takes out a baton, smacks Jafa to the ground, and violently strikes him over and over until he passes out.

END VISION

Jafa quickly lunges forward, and grabs the guard's arm before he can pull out the baton. Both men struggle again to the ground.

The guard punches Jafa, then gets on top and straddles him. He reaches for the baton, and pulls it out. The guard winds his arm back to hit Jafa, whose arms are held in front of his face in an involuntary defensive gesture.

Just as the guard brings the baton down, a focused beam of heat and light extends through his face in a flash. The guard doesn't even react, he just slumps onto Jafa, dead.

Jafa, holding the laser, pushes the now dead guard off.

Jafa pants for a beat on the ground.

He stands, looks at the dead guard, unsure how to even process the man's death.

JAJA

Shit.

Jafa, though haunted, keeps moving. He grabs the dead guard's legs and pulls him back towards his cell.

INT. CELLS - NIGHT

Jafa, now dressed in the guard's clothes and crystal mask, approaches the outside of another of the cells. He tries to type the same sequence into the keypad, but a short error beep rings out.

NADIA

Forgot your own code? It's not surprising that you're as incompetent as you are cruel.

Jafa, excited, tries to peek through the opaque glass.

JAJA

Nadia?

The figure inside the cell looks with interest?

NADIA

Jafa? You're a guard in this place?

JAFJA

What? No, I broke out of my cell and lifted this off one of the guards. Just wait, I'll get you out.

Jafa tries the same sequence again, to no avail. He takes out his laser and considers just burning the keypad altogether. Nadia approaches the "door" of her cell.

NADIA

Wait. I've watched the guard every time he comes in. Follow my finger.

Nadia presses her finger to the crystal from her side, and Jafa presses his finger to correspond with hers. Together, they finish the sequence. The crystal door unlocks.

Jafa watches with relief as Nadia walks out.

JAFJA

I'm glad that you're okay.

NADIA

Have you heard from Abdul? Or seen him?

Jafa's face twists at the mention of his brother. He shakes his head.

JAFJA

No, I've been stuck in that cell for who knows how long. You?

NADIA

No. The guards have been taking prisoners upstairs one by one for whatever Rodney and Angelique have going on, but none of them have been Abdul.

JAFJA

I'll pretend to be your guard. We can get out of here, and get some kind of help for this shit show.

Nadia considers and then nods.

NADIA

For once, I agree with you. Are there handcuffs or something in that uniform?

Jafa looks in the different pockets before finding a pair of handcuffs. He pulls them out. Looks at Nadia.

JAJA

You sure you're cool with this?

NADIA

If it gets us out of here, yeah. We've got to let people know what's happening here.

Jafa nods. Nadia turns and puts her hands behind her back. Jafa steps forward, grabs Nadia's hand and, with a surprisingly soft touch, starts to lock her wrists in the handcuffs.

JAJA

I told you both that app was just exploiting people with foresight.

NADIA

Really? You want to brag about how right you were?

JAJA

You guys thought I was crazy. Now we're trapped in underground crystal prisons.

NADIA

We didn't think you were crazy. We just wanted you to try.

Jafa, taken aback, finishes attaching the handcuffs. He steps back.

JAJA

Come on, let's go.

NADIA

Do you even know where you're going?

Jafa looks at the cells with hate.

JAJA

Away from here.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jafa, baton in hand, walks behind Nadia. An elevator looms down the end of the hall.

NADIA

Do you hate your brother?

Jafa keeps his step, but the question impacts him.

JAJA

No, I don't hate Abdul.

NADIA

Most people would do anything they can to find their brother. But you've dragged your feet from the start.

A beat as they continue to walk to the elevator. Jafa doesn't answer. Nadia stops and turns.

NADIA (CONT'D)

What is it about him that bothers you so much?

JAJA

Nadia, now is not--

NADIA

He looks up to you, he's always worried about you. So why? Why are you so distant?

JAJA

Look, I had to work, for a long time, to keep us from losing everything. And the whole time I could hardly look anyone in the face without getting hit by all the details of their life that hadn't even happened yet. So I guess it's been easier to keep distant, okay? Now come on.

Nadia turns back around and continues to walk.

NADIA

I heard what you told Rodney about your Dad. I get that he left a hole in your family, and that you had to pick up a lot of the pieces. But you were only a kid.

(MORE)

NADIA (CONT'D)

And if you keep shouldering the blame for his mistake, you'll destroy yourself.

JAJA

Shit.

NADIA

I don't mean to be harsh, I just--

JAJA

No, it's Angelique. Rodney too. Come on.

Jafa pulls Nadia to a corner of the hall to hide in.

NADIA

Why are they down here?

JAJA

They've been trying to break me down. They think they finally got me. They'll be surprised by what they find in my cell instead.

Nadia looks at Jafa's "borrowed" uniform.

NADIA

The guard?

Jafa nods, then puts a finger to his lips to signal Nadia to be quiet.

ANGELIQUE

He's been resistant, but I'm confident we'll find him at his breaking point soon. And since he hasn't been able to dull his abilities with alcohol, who knows how far his limits go?

RODNEY

It's important we clean him up and bring him on board. Any skeptics will be blown away when they see what he's capable of.

The figures and voices pass as they head towards the cell prisons. For a brief moment, Jafa takes out his laser, looks towards the retreating figures, and considers for a beat whether or not he's capable of killing again.

Nadia, confused, looks at the small cylinder in his hand, then at him. Jafa looks at Nadia, sighs, replaces the laser.

JAJA

Come on. We don't have much time
before they realize we're gone.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Jafa and Nadia meditatively ride the elevator up. Jafa looks
perturbed as they get closer to the top.

NADIA

Did you have a vision? Is something
up?

JAJA

No, I just...something about this
elevator's familiar to me.

NADIA

What the hell does that mean?

JAJA

I don't know yet.

The elevator approaches the ground floor from the
underground.

JAJA (CONT'D)

Okay, we just need to play the part
well enough to get through the
door, then we can call for help.

NADIA

Got it. But we should still pay
attention, find out what's going
on.

The elevator stops at the ground floor.

INT. MUSEUM LOBBY - NIGHT

Jafa and Nadia come out and find themselves smack in the
middle of a bustling, high-end affair. A poster framed high
in the hall reads: Prescience Premium Black Tie Gala.

NADIA

Wait, is this...?

JAJA

The museum.

NADIA

They must bring us here after
knocking us out at Prescience.

The guests, elegantly dressed, all wear decorated crystal masks. Guards line the walls, maintaining close protection of the wealthy clientele. Realizing they're standing around gawking, Jafa starts to move again.

JAFJA

Walk like you know where you're
going.

NADIA

Says the only guard with his baton
out.

Besides an occasional idle stare, most of the crowd continues to mingle. Jafa and Nadia keep moving towards an exit door.

Jafa stops when he sees a nearby tray full of champagne flutes. Nadia keeps walking, unaware of Jafa's temptation.

Finally, she turns back. She looks at Jafa and starts to call to him, but then she's interrupted by an announcement.

RUSSEL

Ladies and gentlemen, we are going
to start the auction soon. Please
make your way to the West Wing of
the museum, where you may bid for
our top analysts.

Nadia hurries back to Jafa.

NADIA

I need you clear. We should check
that out. What if Abdul is there?

JAFJA

It's possible, but I doubt we'll be
much help rushing the stage. We
need to leave and get help.

Nadia looks around and shakes her head.

NADIA

If these people are as wealthy as
they look, I'm afraid that there
might not even be any point to
getting help.

A spotlight shines on Russel and a woman on a stage. Jafa recognizes her; it's Emma, nervous, and dressed in a jumpsuit..

RUSSEL

The young lady has been seen up to one hour into the future. One hour. Let's start the bidding at \$100,000.

Jafa and Nadia continue toward the exit, moving opposite the flow of the crowd, when the click of a loudspeaker fills the halls of the museum.

RODNEY

Attention guests, this is Rodney the event coordinator. The museum is being placed on lockdown, someone is trying to escape. If you see anyone suspicious, please point them out for security to detain them.

NADIA

Shit, we're too late.

JAJA

Just keep moving.

Too late, the crowd and the guards turn to Jafa and Nadia, who stick out amongst everyone else. Jafa grabs Nadia's hand and starts to run to the exit. A trio of guards blocks the way.

Jafa and Nadia back up. Jafa's breathing gets heavier, his eyes nervous behind the crystal mask. He doubles over and vomits onto the floor.

NADIA

Jafa! Are you okay?

Jafa closes his eyes and shakes his head as more guards come closer.

NADIA (CONT'D)

Jafa! Jafa, open your eyes. Please.

A beat as Jafa stays still. The handcuffed Nadia, in the heat of the moment, kicks off Jafa's crystal mask, knocking him down in the process.

NADIA (CONT'D)

Jafa!

Jafa opens his eyes from the floor, then quickly rises to his feet. A complex vision comes to life in Jafa's eyes, similar to the moment in the Crane.

The room starts to fill with small visions of the guards and guests in the room speeding through their movements; extensions of them that move faster than their original bodies, doing things before they do it.

Jafa's eyes go wide with amazement and focus.

JAJA

I can see.

Jafa takes out the laser, dual-wielded with the baton. With the pacing and forward momentum of his temporary omniscience, Jafa cuts a swath through the defending guards, dodges their attempted attacks, and uses the baton and laser to maim and disable as he leads Nadia to the exit.

The nearest guards dispatched, they get close, when suddenly a lone man stands in their way.

ABDUL

Jafa, Nadia. Stop.

Jafa, completely surprised, is shunted out of his foresight. Nadia halts completely in her tracks, stunned. Jafa and Nadia both just stare at Abdul, dressed in a full suit, immaculately groomed. He even has the nerve to smile.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

I can explain. This--

Abdul gestures around the room.

ADBUL

This is all my doing.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Abdul sits in front of Jafa and Nadia.

ABDUL

(to guards)
Leave us alone.

GUARD

Sir, I don't think--

ABDUL

This is my family. I owe them an explanation. Please.

The guard nods. He looks pointedly at Jafa and Nadia as he says.

GUARD
We'll be right outside.

The guards leave the room. Abdul sighs, looks at Nadia, then Jafa.

NADIA
Explain. Now.

ABDUL
You inspired me, Jafa. Growing up, mom was either the strongest, most reliable woman in the world...or a living ghost. But you, you were always there, always striving to survive. To keep us safe. I realized when I was a kid that I needed to add to my value in the world. And when I started seeing further into the future than most, I realized there was a chance to do something unprecedented, but necessary.

Abdul stops and takes out Jafa's laser, looks it over.

ABDUL (CONT'D)
This was clever, fixing up this broken thing, giving it focus. You broke out of that cell yourself. You demonstrated your value. I'm glad, I was afraid you

NADIA
How could you us locked up in cages?

Abdul's face fills with genuine sorrow, and regret.

ABDUL
I'm sorry. But this has been too important a task. I had to make sure that I had everything under control.

NADIA
Control? We're not puppets, Abdul, we're your family.

Nadia's eyes sting with frustrated tears. Jafa stays quiet.

ABDUL

I can't say that everything I've done is right. But it's necessary. World leaders, the most important voices in law, in government, the hands that decide the fates of millions, have all come here because of the potential to break that final barrier of action; time. We can do so much, stop so much of the world's problems, if we gave that power to people who could actually use it the way it's meant to be used, and not just the random people who waltz through life.

JAJA

Knowing the future doesn't stop it from happening. It just reveals how powerless you are to stop it.

Jafa's voice and demeanor, weighted with existential dread, disappoints Abdul. He sighs.

ABDUL

You've changed the future with your foresight, and you can't even see it. It's sad, but I get it. I know you, Jafa. Better than even you know yourself, damaged by alcohol, a walking husk of the brother I've loved my whole life.

JAJA

You're playing with innocent people's lives, Abdul.

ABDUL

Which is why I know that, as hard as it is, you're going to accept what I'm about to propose to you.

Abdul activates a monitor, that floats above the desk. A hologram of a brain floats.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

Neuroscientists have studied the brain of people with foresight intensely. Neurons in the hippocampus, neocortex, and thalamus are all especially active. Memory, imagination, and abstraction.

(MORE)

ABDUL (CONT'D)

But they couldn't figure out what about those brain centers were special in people with foresight. There weren't any discernible differences.

Abdul switches the image to that of a human stomach.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

After months of effort, investing in private research, we've discovered the secret. The enteric nervous system. The average person has around 100 million neurons in their stomach, a second brain in their gut.

The image of the stomach lights up with neurons that shoot from the gut up to the brain.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

But people with foresight?

Abdul summons a corresponding "foresight" stomach.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

Have at least three times that amount.

The foresight stomach lights like a christmas tree, basically glows from its display of the neural complex.

JAJA

What are you trying to tell me, Abdul?

ABDUL

A surgery can be done, to remove most of the neurons in your stomach most active in your foresight, and transplant them to someone else. That's what we're selling. We're giving foresight to people who can truly use it for better. Which means I can take away your foresight, Jafa, forever. You'll have the life you've always wanted. A life without the future.

Jafa is floored. He looks at Nadia, who shakes her head.

NADIA

You can't let them do this. Once they start exploiting people, trying to control them, manipulate them with your gift, things will only get worse. It'll never stop. You have to take control. It's a part of you, you can't just give up.

JAJA

Who will you give my neurons to?

ABDUL

Angelique.

Jafa looks at Nadia's worried face, and turns away in shame. His voice is a shadow as he answers his brother.

JAJA

Do it. Do the surgery.

Nadia turns to Abdul.

NADIA

You're just going to let him give up? I thought you wanted Jafa for his potential, for the strength of his foresight.

ABDUL

If the power can be granted to a more willing and driven host, it's worth doing. It's clear to me now, Jafa, that the only thing that's ever motivated you is the possibility of cutting yourself off from your gift.

Jafa doesn't answer. Nadia, her last tactic employed, sits in exasperated disbelief. Abdul, though certain, seems disappointed in his brother. The glowing holograms haunt the quiet, fractured room.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Jafa lies on an operating table. Half conscious, he watches the surgeon and surgical nurses prepare their instruments of removal. The last thing Jafa sees is his reflection in a nearby mirror, before the operating room fades away.

INT. JAJA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jafa, alone in a modest apartment, watches the news.

NEWSCASTER

Experts are calling it, the war of time. The break into the 4th dimension, with world leaders all relying on the foresight of those hired out by Prescience company, has led to an eternal chess game, a climate of paranoia where the future is constantly--

Jafa shuts off the TV. Takes a deep breath.

INT. JAJA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Jafa rinses his face in a bathroom with no mirrors.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A jogging Jafa stops to take a breather. A little girl looks his way, waves. He waves back, smiling. The little girl's mother approaches; she's the splitting image of Nadia. She gives Jafa a coy smile as she grabs her daughter's hand.

INT. RESTARAUNT - DAY

Jafa and the woman laugh at a candlelit dinner, warm with each other's company.

INT. THE WOMAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jafa and the woman make passionate love.

EXT. ZOO - DAY

Jafa and the woman both hold the little girl's hand as they walk through the Zoo, pointing at animals. Casually surveying the crowd, Jafa locks eyes with another woman. She's the splitting image of Nadia.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jafa and the other woman have spontaneous sex in the Zoo's bathroom.

INT. THE WOMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The woman screams at Jafa. Gestures excitedly for him to get out. As he exits, he looks back, catches a last glance of the little girl's devastated face, then leaves forever.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Jafa wanders the city streets, self-hating, devastated. Alarms suddenly ring out in the city; patrols constantly roam the night.

INT. HOLE-IN-THE-WALL - NIGHT

Jafa tries to eat, but he has no appetite. He watches the food, when he's randomly approached by a woman. She's the splitting image of Nadia.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Jafa and the woman kiss excitedly in the alley when the barrel of a gun is suddenly levelled at his distracted head. The woman calmly detaches herself from Jafa, aligns herself with the thieves. They beat Jafa down to the ground.

A police siren rings out before they can do more damage. They steal his shoes and run.

EXT. CITY NIGHT

Jafa, bloodied, shoeless, comes across a bar.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Jafa watches carefully as the bartender empties a bottle of vodka into a glass, and slides it Jafa's way. He starts to bring it to his lips when a hand grabs his arm, stops him. He turns. It is Nadia. Tears spring desperately to his eyes.

INT. HIDEOUT - DAY

Nadia and a group of resistance fighters, surveying blueprints searching for entry points, plan a break into the Prescience facility.

EXT. PRESCIENCE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Jafa and the rest follow Nadia as she hacks into the building, opens the door. They break inside, only to be met by a waiting Angelique, flanked by armed guards.

INT. PRESCIENCE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

A one-sided battle. Angelique uses her foresight and lasers to tear through the resistance fighters. Jafa and Nadia are captured.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Jafa and Nadia are brought to Abdul. He looks older, tired.

ABDUL

My family.

Jafa and Nadia, defeated, have nothing else to say. There is no recourse.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

When I was about five years old,
Dad came home one night.

Jafa looks up with surprise. Abdul nods.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

While you and Mom were asleep. He was desperate. He told me how important it was that I act. That a man's only as good as the last thing he's done. Then he wrapped a bunch of Mom's things in a pillowcase. I looked him in the eyes as he left a thief and saw the whole of his future in an instant. Our Father lived a hard, sad life, Jafa. He died alone.

Jafa, stunned, doesn't know what to say.

JAJA

Abdul--

ABDUL

No. We're beyond reconciliation now. I've done too much.

Abdul reaches into his pocket, pulls out a metal circle, and places it in front of Jafa.

ABDUL (CONT'D)

I wish you could have seen how hurt I was. How much I needed you to really see me. But I know you did the best you could. And now, at least, I won't die alone like him.

Abdul pulls out a gun, unceremoniously puts the barrel to his temple, and pulls the trigger.

JAJA

No!

NADIA

No!

Abdul dies, shattered by his own hand. A beat as Jafa and Nadia look at each other, hurt beyond words, stuck.

Jafa looks at the metal circle placed by his brother. Nadia watches as he turns it in his hand, finds a clasp, then opens it.

It's a mirror. Jafa sees his own reflection. Hears beeps, the drone of a surgeon's voice.

INT. OPERATING TABLE - DAY

Jafa's eyes shoot open. He sees his own reflection in the mirror he'd seen before the vision.

To the surgeon and nurses' surprise, he stumbles wildly off of the table.

Looks around, then up, where Abdul, Angelique, and Rodney watch in shock from a surveillance room above.

JAJA

Abdul!

Jafa trips, stands, makes his way near-naked and disoriented to a staircase.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Jafa stumbles up towards the surveillance room. Abdul comes into the staircase, meets his brother halfway. Rodney and Angelique wait and watch at the top of the stairs.

ABDUL

Jafa, what the hell--

JAJA

You saw Dad. When you were five. He came when me and mom were asleep, stole some stuff and left. He told you a man's only as good the last thing he's done.

Abdul can't believe his ears.

ABDUL

How?

JAJA

I'm sorry, Abdul. It's too late but I'm so sorry. I've been so afraid to look you in the eye and see you for who you are. But I see you, little brother. I do. And what he did to us, to Mom, wasn't either of our faults.

Tears come to Abdul's eyes. The child inside him springs to his face, and for a moment he's vulnerable.

ABDUL

Thank you. I...thank you, Jafa.

JAJA

You can still stop this. There's got to be other people like me, like us. Overwhelmed by this gift. We could guide them. You could guide me. We can make this something that helps people.

Abdul smiles, nods his head in appreciation.

ABDUL

That would have been nice. But, it's too late. I know the path, and I'm unafraid.

Abdul stands.

JAJA

Abdul, no. Please.

Abdul starts to turn back to Angelique and Rodney.

ABDUL

Get the guar--

The soft hum of a laser hovering in front of his throat stops Abdul in his tracks.

JAJA

Nadia!

Jafa stands and looks past his brother and Nadia; Rodney and Angelique are slumped, unmoving, across the stairs.

NADIA

Jafa, I need you to look at me.
Look me in my eyes.

ABDUL

Nadia--

NADIA

No! Jafa.

Jafa looks at Nadia's face.

VISION

- Jafa and Nadia break out Emma and the other captives of Prescience

- Abdul, with guards, chases after them as they make their escape.

- Jafa and Nadia get away with some, not all of the people there.

- Jafa helps a struggling Emma breathe steadily like she helped him.

- Jafa and Nadia go to the authorities.

- Abdul denies what they claim in a court room.

- Jafa and Nadia cry at losing the case.

- Jafa and Nadia set up a camp for young people with foresight, struggling with substance abuse, to help them get through

END VISIONS.

The vision ends and Jafa sees Nadia's face. Determined, unafraid, incorruptible.

NADIA

Can you see it?

JAJA

I can see it.

NADIA
Are you afraid?

JAFJA
No.

NADIA
Will you go through with it? Will
you come with me?

Jafa looks at his brother, looks at Nadia. He nods.

JAFJA
Yes.

Nadia retracts the laser, pushes Abdul down the stairs. He
tumbles, and breaks his arm before catching himself.

Jafa and Nadia sprint up the stairs, rush towards an exit.
Jafa pushes the door open and they run into the light.

FADE TO BLACK.