

Prologue

INT. LABORATORY - UNKNOWN TIME

FADE IN:

Fluorescent lights buzz as a scientist (DR. HANNERMAN) stands alone in a laboratory. With the fluidity of a man who has done it a thousand times, He unveils an unusual piece of equipment. To the common eye, it appears to be an amalgamation of many different smaller machines, rather than a distinct entity of its own. He looks to a shrouded box besides it, but he can only grimace before a woman enters the laboratory.

THE DOORS SLAM SHUT WITH A METAL CLICK

DR. HANNERMAN

(Turning around)

Hello, I am Doctor Hannerman.

LYSSA

Nice to meet you, I'm Lyssa, your new assistant, and last right?

DR. HANNERMAN

(chuckling)

I suppose that's one way to put it.

LYSSA

Oh are you not retiring soon? They told me-

DR. HANNERMAN

Forty-five days till I do, but who's counting right?

LYSSA

So how long have you worked here?

DR. HANNERMAN

Ooh it's been around... 35 years give or take.

LYSSA

Has it treated you well?

DR. HANNERMAN

(Closing his eyes, wistfully)

Oh yes... I'll miss this place, among other things.

LYSSA

(Confused)

What do you mean?

DR. HANNERMAN

(More than a bit surprised)

Oh! Don't listen to me- Well, you're working your way to a Ph.D, correct?

LYSSA

Uh- yes! It is my first lab assistant job

DR. HANNERMAN

It's a great place to list on your resume, you might even be employed.

LYSSA

Thanks, that is a nice thought.

DR. HANNERMAN

Well, how about we get Started?
Say hello to your first subject.

DR. HANNERMAN looks to the shrouded object besides the machine, pulling the sheet away.

LYSSA

Male, early-20s, severed and crushed skull. Will all of our subjects be severed heads?

DR. HANNERMAN

As far as I know, they will continue to come to us this way.

looks at LYSSA, puzzled.

DR. HANNERMAN

(continued)

What exactly did the higher-ups tell you about Project Aperture?

LYSSA

Not much... I was only told I'd be an assistant to a retiring scientist.

DR. HANNERMAN

Get used to that... Just keep your head low and you'll be fine.

LYSSA

Noted. Where should we begin?

DR. HANNERMAN

We must extract one of the eyeballs, but maintain the integrity of the optic nerve. Here use these.

DR. HANNERMAN Hands LYSSA an instrument, prepared.

CUT TO:

Only a few minutes have passed, but together, DR. HANNERMAN and LYSSA, are able to perform an Eucleation, removing the eye but leaving it intact. Blood flows in a river from the eye as it paints the subject's face, his mouth agape.

DR. HANNERMAN

Very good.

LYSSA

What now?

DR. HANNERMAN

Use a syringe and take a blood sample directly from the optic nerve.

With ease, LYSSA does so.

DR. HANNERMAN

(continued)

See the hole on the right side of the machine? Slip the needle and deposit the sample there.

LYSSA

Deposited. So what is the machine meant to analyze?

DR. HANNERMAN shakes his head

DR. HANNERMAN

It won't analyze. If it works, it will show us the last images the person saw before they died.

LYSSA

(astounded)

Wow. I knew we would be doing advanced research, but I never expected this.

DR. HANNERMAN

Like I said before, you'd better get used to knowing very little. Just keep your head down, follow my lead, and you'll make it. Well... Let's give this a shot. Ready?

KATIE

Ready.

DR. HANNERMAN

Project Aperture. Trial 13-gamma-6.
The timestamp is correct.
Initiating in
3...
2...
1...
Initiate.

CUT TO:

Scene I

INT. LIVING ROOM OF BELA'S HOUSE.
