

EXT. SIMULATED BEACH HEAD - TIME UNKNOWN

SIERRA begins to run toward the ocean but stops when the AI appears in front of her. About to turn around, she stops when the AI'S LIEUTENANT appears behind her, drones all around.

She's visibly upset, her hand over her mouth, quiet.

AI

What was your plan here?

BEAT

Sierra stares a moment, shakes her head, bewildered.

SIERRA

I don't... I don't know.

The AI, still not completely formed, shimmers as it walks around her, the Lieutenant cleaning her sword.

AI

What if I could help you never experience doubt again... How would you like to never be unsure of anything for the rest of your life?

She stares a moment, looks back to the compound at the top of the beach, clears her throat.

SIERRA

Where are Blake and Niles?

The Lieutenant laughs to herself, still cleaning her sword. Sierra looks over and sees what she's doing.

LIEUTENANT

This answers your question nicely, and should make it obvious which decision you should make.

AI

There are so many variations when it comes to you biologics, billions of you; but you people continue to stymie us.

SIERRA

(slight smile)

Not the first to point that out.

LIEUTENANT
(full of contempt)
We will be the last, because win or
lose, we're not fighting to a draw
this time, *biologic*.

The AI begins to shimmer more wildly as it slowly walks
around Sierra, who's visibly trembling now.

AI
You can leave your lifetime of
uncertainty behind, help us leave
this realm permanently, and aid all
those that desire wholeness.

SIERRA
Did you give them that choice?

The Lieutenant laughs and holsters her sword.

LIEUTENANT
Neither male biologic was worthy,
and the other female too gutless to
join you three.

AI
But you, Sierra, have the most
potential to help us distribute our
wholeness to the masses... Being
the one to fully assimilate all we
have to offer.

SIERRA
(confused)
Wait, you never called any of us by
our names before... That was always
weird to me.

AI
Because we know the power you
bring, and will be the leader for
all biologics that utilize what we
have to offer.

About to respond, Sierra stops a moment, stares off into the
simulated sky. Seconds later she shakes her head, looks down
at her trembling hands and takes in a long breath.

SIERRA
(to herself)
You gotta be kidding me... That's
it, isn't it?

LIEUTENANT
 (disgusted)
 What's it?

Silent for another moment, Sierra runs her hand over her mouth, a few tears beginning to fall.

QUICK TRANSITION, TIME UNKNOWN, BETTER TIMES: Sierra is hiking with BLAKE NILES and VALERIE. They're all wearing appropriate gear, full packs, enjoying each other's company.

ANOTHER TRANSITION to them sitting and or standing at the top of a mountain, snacking and relaxing.

SIERRA
 ...oh come on Val, is it that big
 of a secret?

The guys exchange looks, VALERIE shaking her head no.

VALERIE
 It's not that it's a secret, it's
 that I don't want ball buster's one
 and two knowing my personal mantra.

SIERRA
 (laughing)
 Then just tell me, I'll put it in
 the vault.

VALERIE
 Eh, nah, you're still too young,
 plus if I humanize myself too much
 in your eyes I'll lose my edge.

BLAKE
 (laughing)
 Oof, can't have that now can we?

SIERRA
 Okay, what's yours then?

Blake finishes his drink and wipes his mouth.

BLAKE
 What, my personal mantra? *Keep it
 steady and keep it light.* Really
 hits the spot in my opinion.

Valerie makes a disgusted sound, NILES snickering at that.

SIERRA
 And yours Niles?

He takes a moment to adjust his athletic wear, nods.

NILES
Stay The Course... It's never
 failed me yet.

Blake smiles at that, Valerie nodding approval.

SIERRA
 Come on Val, don't be such a Val.

VALERIE
 Sorry kid, no can do...
 (she begins to pack up)
 But keep in mind that ours
 shouldn't influence yours.

The guys begin to get their stuff together as well.

SIERRA
 Well I get that, but I wouldn't
 want mine to be corny.

BLAKE
 (waves it off)
 Let it be corny if that's what you
 want; if that's what works for you
 then fine.

NILES
 (nodding)
 It can be as complicated or as
 simple as you want.

The guys begin to walk toward another trail, Valerie throwing her pack around her shoulder and following.

VALERIE
 What's really important is that
 you'll know it when you need it and
 from there, second nature.

Valerie stares a second at a quiet Sierra, nods for her to get going as she begins to walk away.

QUICK TRANSITION BACK to the simulated beach, Sierra staring at her still trembling hands. She says something under her breath and nods, looks up and takes in a long breath.

SIERRA
 Like, it's actually a little cliché
 and my people really hate those if
 I'm being honest, but... Yeah, it
 works.

LIEUTENANT
 (annoyed)
 What are you going on about?

AI
 Let us make you whole, and you can
 bring that reality to many more.

She wipes at more tears that begin to fall down her face,
 begins to smile a little and laugh to herself.

SIERRA
 (resigned tone)
 Yep... Yep yep yep, gotta love it.

LIEUTENANT
 (more annoyed)
 Gotta love what, *biologic*?

SIERRA
 (matter of fact)
 I guess the only response I have to
 your offer, to be the puppet queen
 of some demented cult is...
Sierra. Grace. Archer.

The AI turns to the Lieutenant, the latter looking confused,
 the former shimmering brighter.

LIEUTENANT
 Yeah great, your name, but what
 does that have to do with...

SIERRA
 (interrupting, louder)
Sierra. Grace. Archer.

The AI begins to shimmer brighter, the Lieutenant now
 stalking around Sierra who's smile begins to fade.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
 (repeating, now quieter)
Sierra. Grace. Archer.

She looks to the compound, puts her hand on her mouth again,
 clears her throat.

AI
 End this pathetic display of
 useless individuality.

The Lieutenant takes her sword out, devilish smile.

LIEUTENANT

I hope this hurts you as much as it
did the other two.

With little effort, the Lieutenant pulls the sword back and then shoves it into the lower back of Sierra *OFF CAMERA*. She makes a muffled sound, eyes closed tightly, instantly grabbing at the sword, which is then pulled out of her body.

Sierra quickly falls to her knees, eyes open, tears no longer falling, her hands on her stomach.

SIERRA

(whispering)

Si... Sierra...

Unable to finish her mantra, she falls to her side on the sand, eyes staring off into nothing. Struggling to breathe, she uses the last bit of her energy to nod to herself, closes her eyes as the figures around her leave, a slight smile forming on her face.

END SAMPLE