

# CHARLIE

10.

Flora smiles weakly. Miles notices that one screen flashes a small red warning: "Levels exceed safe limit". Miles calls out to Quint.

MILES (CONT'D)

Hey! Better get here, quick!

Quint is annoyed by the disturbance. Miles points to the flashing machine.

MILES (CONT'D)

What does that mean?

Engrossed in Flora's charts, Quint ignores Miles.

MILES (CONT'D)

What's going on?

Quint is irritated. He stares absently at Miles.

QUINT

I need something more malleable. I need real embryos.

INT. QUINT'S LAB - DAY

Quint video-calls DR. CHARLOTTE "CHARLIE" GOVERNESS (late 20's/early 30's) - an accomplished scientist and an attractive woman.

INT. CHARLIE'S LAB - DAY

Tight talking head COMPUTER CAMERA shot on Charlie.

INTERCUT QUINT'S LAB & CHARLIE'S LAB - VIDEO CALL

Charlie answers the call. Below an embroidered "HSL" logo, the tag on her lab coat reads: Dr. Charlotte Governess - Research Director - Harley Street Labs.

CHARLIE

Quint. It's like you went off the grid. Where have you been?

QUINT

Not important.

CHARLIE

I called you... a million times, went by your house.

Charlie peers straight at the camera.

CHIMERA

Sc. 1

Reader

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CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Quint doesn't answer. He looks away and nods.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I hope you know that I'm really sorry about Jessie.

QUINT

I couldn't save her.

CHARLIE

I wanted to help... but you shut me out. I wanted to be there. For you. For the kids.

QUINT

They have it. Like their mother. But early onset.

Charlie nods. Her eyes moisten but she holds back her tears.

CHARLIE

It was in her genes.

QUINT

Now it's in their genes.

CHARLIE

How are they doing?

QUINT

I have a plan.

Charlie takes off her glasses and rubs her eyes.

QUINT (CONT'D)

I'm going to cure them. But I need stem cells... from embryos.

CHARLIE

Didn't you learn anything? Are you out of your mind? Just let the doctors do their work.

QUINT

This time... no doctors.

Charlie puts her glasses on and sits upright in her chair.

CHARLIE

Where are the kids? Which hospital?

CHIMERA

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CHIMERA

QUINT

Hospitals couldn't help Jessie.  
They can't handle her disease.

CHARLIE

And you can?

QUINT

I just need access to HSL's stem  
cells cultures.

CHARLIE

What planet are you on? Check the  
news. No more embryos in research.  
They took all our lines. Masterson  
was furious.

QUINT

Masterson? Is she still alive?

CHARLIE

She's hanging on. We're doing our  
best.

QUINT

She must be like a hundred and  
twenty.

CHARLIE

One-twenty-two. I just replaced her  
windpipe and bladder.

QUINT

How did you grow them without stem  
cells?

CHARLIE

That was before the ban.  
Everything's changed. Our stem cell  
cultures are gone. We have nothing.

QUINT

How did Masterson allow that?

CHARLIE

Nothing she could do. It's the law.

QUINT

So you won't help me?

CHARLIE

Did you try calling Griffin?

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INT. SECURITY ROOM - DAY

A buzzer rings. Quint enters. He sees something on one of the security monitors.

EXT. MAIN GATE - DAY

Charlie stands by her racing-green sports car. She waves.

CHARLIE  
Is this thing on?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Does this even work? Hey!

QUINT  
Charlie, what are you doing here?

CHARLIE  
You called me, all frantic, last night. Begging me to help, to bring you these pills.

Charlie digs into her bag and pulls out two boxes.

QUINT  
See that box, to your left?

CHARLIE  
Why do you need these pills? Have you read the label - the side effects - hallucinations, hair loss, impotency, it goes on.

QUINT  
Just leave them in the mailbox.

CHARLIE  
Do you have a dependency problem?

Charlie puts the pills in the mailbox.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
I have your stuff from work - notebooks, drives, everything.

QUINT  
You stole my work?

CHIMERA

Sc. 2

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CHARLIE

I saved your work. Masterson had Mrs. Grose search everywhere.

QUINT

What did you tell her? Does she know where I am? Were you followed?

CHARLIE

Relax, Masterson doesn't know anything.

Charlie reconsiders her statement.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

But, I may have to give it to her - all your stuff.

QUINT

No. Please bring it to me.

CHARLIE

I don't think I can.

Charlie gets in her car, ready to leave.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Especially not if you treat me like some delivery service.

QUINT

Bring me those boxes and I'll buzz you right in.

Charlie perks up, and at last she smiles.

CHARLIE

I'll buy some wine. Cook us dinner. Like old times.

INT. QUINT'S LAB - DAY

A glass beaker lies broken on the worktable. The newt (all limbs intact) has hopped out. Quint lies prostrate on the worktable. The newt hops onto his face.

Miles runs up to him - panicked. Shakes him awake.

MILES

Dad! It's happening again.

Quint wakes up. He grabs the newt and stares at it.

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CHIMERA