The Tomorrow People

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ACT ONE

ESTABLISHING: NEW YORK CITY. AN OFFICE TOWER. THINK NAKATOMI PLAZA (AKA THE DIE HARD BUILDING).

INT. OFFICE TOWER -- HALLWAY - NIGHT

FORTY STORIES UP, A SHADOW slips around a corner. It's after-hours. Whoever this is, shouldn't be here. TRACKING with him down the hall we ANGLE ON a motion detector TURNING RED.

INT. LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

CUT TO A SECURITY GUARD at his post. Reacting to a SECURITY SCHEMATIC ON A COMPUTER. A RED LIGHT blinking.

SECURITY GUARD (INTO WALKIE)
Code up on the top floor. Standby.
I better check it out.

Swapping walkie for his GUN, he EXITS.

INT. DARK ROOM - INTERCUT

CUT TO CARA, early 20s. Her beautiful, anxious face lit by a COMPUTER with the SCHEMATIC. She's hacked in-to the system.

CARA
Nice. You just tripped an alarm.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

BACK AS THE SHADOWY FIGURE steps into the light. REVEAL JOHN, late 20s, handsome, cool under pressure. We assume that he and Cara are talking VIA EARWIG.

JOHN
Whatever. I'm almost there.

As John reaches a perpendicular hallway. *Right or left?*

JOHN (CONT'D)
Which way am I going?

BACK WITH CARA.

CARA
(speaking to someone O.S.)
Pull up a floor plan of the tower --

CUT TO JOHN. Cara's VOICE in his ear.

CARA (V.O.)
TIM says there's someone in the East elevator. You gotta bail. Service elevator's to your left...

But John spots a sign: "Medical records" pointing RIGHT.

JOHN
(glibly ignoring Cara)
Right it is...

BACK WITH CARA, pissed.

CARA
TIM says you're an idiot...

BACK WITH JOHN, reaching the DOOR at the end of the hall. Marked MEDICAL RECORDS. Only it's locked. And not an ordinary lock, a sophisticated electronic keypad.

CARA (CONT'D)
Let me guess... It's locked?

CLOSE ON JOHN as we hear his thoughts. <u>For future reference, all telepathic conversation will be in italics.</u>

JOHN
You musta read my mind...

CLOSE ON CARA, responding telepathically... And sardonically.

CARA
I also read the mind of the guy in the elevator who's got a gun.

BACK WITH JOHN looking over shoulder at the ELEVATOR, *uh oh.*

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

CUT TO THE GUARD, READYING HIS GUN. <u>Almost to John's floor</u>.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

BACK WITH JOHN. BING. AS THE ELEVATOR OPENS BEHIND HIM. He's TRAPPED. But just as the security guard steps out...

JOHN VANISHES INTO THIN AIR...

INT. MEDICAL RECORDS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

...ONLY TO REAPPEAR ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE LOCKED DOOR. WTF?

INT. HALLWAY - INTERCUT

The guard surveys the EMPTY HALLWAY. *Huh. That's weird.* He holsters his gun. Relaxing, raising his walkie...

SECURITY GUARD (INTO WALKIE)
False alarm.

But when the guard turns around towards the elevator, he finds THREE SUITED MEN standing behind him. Dressed like government agents. *Where the hell did they come from?*

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
(reaching for gun)
Hold it right there...

ONLY TO FIND HIS HOLSTER EMPTY.

PULL BACK from his confused expression as WE REVEAL HIS GUN FLOATING IN MID-AIR. Next to his head. Just... Levitating.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
What the -- ?

CLOSE ON THE LEAD AGENT, flanked by the other two. Staring at the levitating gun... <u>Like he's controlling it</u>.

LEAD AGENT
Let me help you with that --

Before the guard can react, lead agent plucks the gun out of mid-air and CLOCKS THE GUARD in the head. He's out cold.

BACK WITH CARA. Reacting to the live feed. She goes ashen.

CARA
Something's wrong...

INT. MEDICAL RECORDS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, we CUT TO JOHN flipping through a file cabinet. He finds what he's looking for, a MEDICAL RECORD. Bingo.

CARA (V.O.)
("get out of there")
ULTRA's in the building...

BACK WITH JOHN. Cara's warning comes too late. A VOICE --

VOICE (O.S.)
I'll take that file.

John slowly turns. The agents fan out. Surrounding him.

LEAD AGENT
It’s over, John...

THAT’S WHEN JOHN TURNS AND RUNS STRAIGHT TOWARDS A WALL. About to hit it when WHOOSH, HE DISAPPEARS. But these agents know the drill. Chasing John they reach the wall and VANISH.

INT. ADJACENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

REAPPEARING on John’s heels. Arms pumping, John eyes two sets of FILE CABINETS. He runs between them. ON THE AGENTS, following. THE DRAWERS FLY OPEN. SMASH, TWO AGENTS GO DOWN.

BUT LEAD AGENT DUCKS, SLIDING UNDER THE DRAWERS, LEAPING BACK TO HIS FEET. John looks over his shoulder. Damn. This guy is good. He spots a nearby window. Runs towards it.

AT THE WINDOW, John gazes on the STREET... FORTY STORIES DOWN. A moment of focus before HE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

REAPPEARING ON THE STREET BELOW. Only it’s like he ran the distance. John staggers towards a SUBWAY ENTRANCE. WHEN LEAD AGENT APPEARS ON THE STREET BEHIND HIM. Still trailing.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - MOMENTS LATER

John SPRINTS ACROSS the empty platform as a TRAIN SCREECHES INTO THE STATION. He goes to board it when the LEAD AGENT APPEARS, HAVING TELEPORTED SMACK INTO JOHN’S PATH...

WITH A KICK TO THE CHEST, lead agent SENDS JOHN SPRAWLING. HE SPOTS THE FILE, fallen from John’s hand, reaches for it...

BUT JOHN SWEEPS HIS LEG. Lead agent falls, scrambling to his feet, but every time he throws a punch, John VANISHES, REAPPEARING on the opposite side with a BLIND-SIDING PUNCH.

WHIFF, WHIFF, WHIFF... The agent can’t connect to John who DELIVERS A FLURRY OF BLOWS, THEN DROPS HIM. John quickly grabs the file, slips on the train as the doors close.

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN - MOMENTS LATER

John looks around, making sure the train car is empty. The train enters a tunnel. And he VANISHES...

INT. SUBWAY STATION - CONTINUOUS

REAPPEARING inside an ABANDONED SUBWAY STATION. John nearly collapses. CARA approaches. We see her computer set-up in the background. We’re in some sort of secret base.

JOHN
They must have been following me.

CARA
You sure you lost them?

John checks out his bloody knuckles. Then cocky...

JOHN
Yeah. Pretty sure.

CARA
I hope this one was worth it.
(re: file)
That he is who you think he is.

JOHN
Only way to know for sure is to *break* him out...

CARA
So, what's his name?

John opens the FILE. ANGLE ON name.

JOHN
Stephen Jameson.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

CUT TO STEPHEN JAMESON, 18, a year away from being outright handsome and a decade away from realizing it. A tormented soul enjoying a moment of peace. Stephen is asleep.

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
Stephen? Stephen Jameson?

His eyes FLUTTER OPEN, THEN GO WIDE. REVEAL A SEXY WOMAN (30) in bed next to him. Sleeping. So, who's talking?

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That's your name, isn't it?

Stephen rolls over looking for the owner of the VOICE but instead finds a BURLY GUY. Asleep. Arm draped over Stephen. Stephen JUMPS. That's when SEXY WOMAN awakens and SCREAMS.

INT. STEPHEN'S APARTMENT - DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

BURLY GUY holds Stephen by the neck as he POUNDS ON THE DOOR.

STEPHEN
Please. Don't. I can explain...

The DOOR OPENS. REVEAL Stephen's mother MARLA, 40, in a robe. Sleepiness leaves her face, replaced by concern.

MARLA
Stephen -- ? What's going on?

BURLY GUY
Guess where I found your creep son this time? On the doorstep? No. In the breakfast nook? No. I found him in my bed. With my wife.

He PUSHES Stephen inside as Stephen's younger brother LUCA, 14, clean-scrubbed, ENTERS the room.

MARLA
I'm so sorry. Like I told you before, he has a sleeping disorder.

BURLY GUY
Yeah? How does a kid get through two dead-bolts, then lock the door behind him, while sleepwalking?

Marla shoots Stephen a look. Stephen shrugs. No idea.

BURLY GUY (CONT'D)
I catch him anywhere near my place I'm calling the super and the cops.

He storms off, as Marla closes the door. Luca lights up.

LUCA
You slept with Mrs. D'Amico?

STEPHEN
It was an accident...

LUCA
(pound it out)
Dude. She is totally hot.

MARLA
Luca. Get ready for school. Now.

Luca exits. Marla stares accusingly at Stephen.

STEPHEN
I swear...I don't even remember getting out of bed.

But mom just stares at him. She's at the end of her rope.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
I'm not doing this on purpose...

MARLA
I can't watch you all night after working at the hospital all day...

STEPHEN
It won't happen again.
(off her look)
I know. I said that before, but I'll try harder this time. Really.

MARLA
How? How can you promise not to do something you can't even control?

STEPHEN
I'll talk to Dr. Bloom. Maybe there's something we haven't tried.

MARLA
You mean, Dr. Bloom who's no longer taking our insurance?
(off Stephen)
I'm sorry. Forget it. I shouldn't have brought it up.

STEPHEN
Is that why you've been taking all the extra shifts?

MARLA
I can handle the shifts, Stephen...
(re: Stephen's behavior)
It's this that's driving me crazy.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

CUT TO STEPHEN, opens a BOTTLE OF PILLS. Pops one, empties the rest. Finds a second bottle: "Miralax stool softener." Stephen refills the PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE WITH LAXATIVES.

LUCA (O.S.)
Quit jerking it. Gonna be late...

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

CUT TO Stephen and Luca approaching the FRONT STEPS as GROUP OF JOCKS spot Luca, waving him over. This kid is popular.

STEPHEN
See you after school...

CONTINUE TRACKING WITH Stephen through the various high school social strata. He keeps his head down. A loner.

VOICE (O.S.)
Jesus, Stephen...

REVEAL ASTRID (18). Classically beautiful, effortlessly cool. Friends with Stephen since the sandbox.

ASTRID
You look awful. Did you sleep in a ditch last night?

STEPHEN
I wish. Neighbor's apartment, three floors up. They almost called the cops... It's getting worse.

ASTRID
Are you taking your meds?

STEPHEN
Yes, Astrid, I'm taking my meds like a good boy. But, hey, maybe I need something a little stronger. A little electroshock? Maybe an ice-pick lobotomy?

ASTRID
Let me see your pills.

STEPHEN
Why?

ASTRID
I want to check to see if being a dick is a side-effect.

STEPHEN
Cute.

ASTRID
I'm just worried about you.

STEPHEN
I know. And I'm just tired of everybody worrying about me. I wish I could be like them...

He motions to their carefree CLASSMATES, laughing, smiling.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
You know? Normal.

ASTRID
I don't want you to be normal.
(taking Stephen's hand)
I just want you to get better.

ESTABLISHING SHOT: UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

ANGLE ON A SIGN announcing a "visiting lecture series."

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

CUT TO a CLASS listening to DR. JEDIKIAH PRICE (40) handsome, charismatic. ON SCREEN, the famous "Evolution of Man" IMAGE.

JEDIKIAH
What this slide suggests is that over the last two-million years we evolved slowly, from primitive man into who we are today. But our evolution has been marked by sudden genetic shifts, random mutations which happened in the blink of a eye, resulting in new species...
(re: slide of Neanderthal)
40,000 years ago, this guy was king. Until we came along.
(re: slide of a person)
We must have seemed like an evolutionary joke. Smaller, weaker, we even had smaller brains. And yet we managed to wipe them out. Because of just one unique competitive advantage. Love. Don't laugh. Love between individuals who unlike Neanderthals mated for life. Love for family. We are hard-wired to care of our own...

Just then, Jedikiah SPOTS SOMEONE -- he looks like a college TA (DAMIAN, 20s) -- standing off to the side of the stage.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
And it's because of our collective strength we survived. Excuse me.

Walking offstage to speak with DAMIAN, Jedikiah's easygoing attitude changes during the PRIVATE BEAT.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
What happened?

DAMIAN
They lost him. He was in New York.

CLOSE ON JEDIKIAH. A flash of rage.

JEDIKIAH
You're telling me John Young is operating in our own backyard?

DAMIAN
We think that he came out of hiding to track a new *break-out*.

Jedikiah sets his jaw, heads for the EXIT.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
What about your lecture?

JEDIKIAH
You finish it. I've got a *break-out* to catch.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

CUT TO STEPHEN in class. His TEACHER lecturing on genetics.

TEACHER
--for a dominant gene to be expressed the F1 generation need only inherit the trait from either the mother or the father...

CLOSE ON STEPHEN, on the verge of nodding off, when--

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
Stephen?

Suddenly, Stephen is wide-awake. He looks around to see who's speaking... BUT THE VOICE IS IN HIS HEAD.

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I know you're out there... I know that you can hear me...

Stephen tries to block out the VOICE.

STEPHEN
It's just a hallucination... You're only in my head...

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
Stop shutting me out, Stephen. I know that you're scared -- but you don't have to be -- there's nothing wrong with you, if you'll just listen to what I have to say --

It's more than he can handle. Stephen snaps. Out loud.

STEPHEN
SHUT UP!

Shocked, his teacher turns on Stephen. All eyes on him as the whole class bursts into LAUGHTER. Except for Astrid. REVEAL her sitting in the back of the classroom. Worried.

TEACHER
Excuse me, Mr. Jameson?

STEPHEN
Sorry. I wasn't talking to you.

TEACHER
Who were you talking to?

Stephen exchanges looks with his perplexed classmates.

STEPHEN
(thinking to himself)
I'm going crazy.

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
You are not crazy.

Stephen LEAPS out of his desk. Sends it toppling.

STEPHEN
I'm not feeling well... I need to go see the nurse.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Hyperventilating, Stephen finds a CORNER. That's when he's ambushed by DYLAN, your prototypical high school bully.

DYLAN
'Sup, Stevie?
(cornering Stephen)
Remember those pills you gave me last week? What were they again?

STEPHEN
The ones you stole? Thorazine.

DYLAN
They were pretty sweet on top of a few Adderals.

STEPHEN
(deadpan)
Well, that particular medication is an anti-psychotic, Dylan... So no wonder you're fond of them.

DYLAN
So, what'd you bring me today?

Dylan reaches into Stephen's jacket and yanks out his BOTTLE OF PILLS (which Stephen substituted for laxatives). Dylan pockets them, walks off

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Good luck with the crazy.

STEPHEN
(to himself)
Good luck with the diarrhea.

INT. STEPHEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CUT TO Stephen cooking as Luca ENTERS. Tosses down his gear. He's just returned from football practice.

LUCA
I'm starved. Where's mom?

STEPHEN
Stuck at work.

Luca joins his brother by the stove. A faint smile.

LUCA
Beef stroganoff? That was one of dad's specialties, right?

STEPHEN
I'm surprised you remember.

LUCA
That's about it.

Stephen pops open a can of cream of mushroom soup, dumps it into the saucepan... PLOP. Luca looks disgusted.

LUCA (CONT'D)
Take it dad wasn't much of a cook?

STEPHEN
Dad really wasn't much of a dad.

LUCA
Do you ever wonder where he is?

STEPHEN
I try not to think about him too much. I mean, why should he matter to us if we don't matter to him?

LUCA
Yeah. I guess...
(beat)
But what if what's going on with you is like genetic or something?

STEPHEN
Luca. I'm not dad, okay? I'm not going anywhere.

LUCA
Not even in your sleep?

Stephen slides the nasty-looking stroganoff into the trash.

STEPHEN
What do you say we order a pizza?

INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CUT TO Stephen getting ready for bed. He grabs an old T-SHIRT. Rips it into a strip. Ties the strip around his wrist before tying the other end to his bedpost. No sleepwalking tonight...

CUT TO STEPHEN'S SLEEPING FACE. LATER.

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
Wake up, Stephen...

STEPHEN'S EYES POP OPEN.

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I can prove you're not crazy... I can prove I'm real.

STEPHEN
How?

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
Meet me at the Flatbush subway station in ten minutes...

Off Stephen, untying himself from his bed.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

CUT TO Stephen on the PLATFORM. Feeling stupid. Of course no one's waiting for him. A TRAIN ENTERS the station.

CARA'S VOICE (O.S.)
Get on the train.

STEPHEN
You gotta be kidding...

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN - MOMENTS LATER

Stephen can't help it. He hops on the empty train car.

CARA'S VOICE (V.O.)
You're almost there, Stephen.

STEPHEN
Where -- ?

Just then the train goes into a TUNNEL. SUDDENLY a FIGURE TELEPORTS ONTO THE TRAIN, GRABS STEPHEN, THEN TELEPORTS OFF.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - CONTINUOUS

STEPHEN APPEARS OUT OF THIN AIR, JOHN STILL GRIPPING HIS ARM.

STEPHEN
What the -- ?

STEPHEN gazes around the ABANDONED SUBWAY STATION: A mix of old architecture and modern accoutrements.

JOHN
I'm John, Stephen. And I believe you and Cara have already met...

Cara steps forward.

CARA
Hi, Stephen.

CLOSE ON Stephen, realizing that not only is the voice inside his head real, she's also quite beautiful...

CARA (CONT'D)
I told you you're not crazy.

Off Stephen, speechless.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SUBWAY STATION - MOMENTS LATER

RESUME: Stephen in the ABANDONED STATION with John and Cara. As he takes in his surroundings. Amazed and confused.

STEPHEN
Where is this? How did I -- who are you?

He trails off, overwhelmed with questions. Cara looks to John. *You got this?* John responds point-by-point.

JOHN
You're 100 feet beneath the streets of Manhattan. You teleported here -- actually, I teleported you. And we're called Tomorrow People.

CARA
We didn't choose the name. Swear.

Stephen shakes his head. This can't be happening...

STEPHEN
This is insane. Or some sort of crazy dream.

CARA
(telepathically)
It's not a dream, Stephen.

Stephen wheels around on Cara.

STEPHEN
How did you do that?

CARA
You've heard of telepathy? It's another one of our powers.

JOHN
The "three T's" -- the third being telekinesis. We all possess each, but everyone has a paranormal specialty. Cara's is mind-reading, obviously, mine is teleportation --

Cara has been watching Stephen closely.

CARA
He doesn't believe us.
(with a shrug)
The teleporting usually sells it.

Her eyes sparkle. She's smart. Self-aware. A sense of humor beneath her serious demeanor. But Stephen's immune.

STEPHEN
No offense, whoever you are, but any second I'm gonna wake up and I'm gonna be someplace really awful -- like my hairy neighbor's bed --

CARA
Stephen. You're not imagining this. You're one of us. You're *breaking out.*

STEPHEN
I don't even know what that means --

JOHN
You're waking up in weird places? You're not sleepwalking, you're teleporting. You hear Cara's voice in your head? That's telepathy. Your latent powers are starting to appear, just barely. Soon you'll be able to do this...

John STARES HARD at Stephen. Stephen doesn't get it. *Huh?*

STEPHEN
Sorry. What am I looking at?

THAT'S WHEN STEPHEN REALIZES HE'S FLOATING OFF THE GROUND.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
What the -- ? Put me down!

John DROPS HIM. He pulls himself up, shaken. Reeling.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
I'm having a psychotic break. My meds are off or something...

CARA
No more pills. They're only getting in the way.

STEPHEN
Of <u>what</u>? You have no idea what my year has been like.

CARA
Stephen. Look at me.

Stephen meets her gaze. She speaks to him calmly. Her eyes warm, friendly. Soothing. Somehow he trusts her.

CARA (CONT'D)
I know exactly what it's been like. How alone you've felt. How scared. It feels like you're turning into a different person, like your mind isn't your own...
(off Stephen)
I don't just sense your voice, it's your moods, emotions, fears. When we're connected, I feel what it's like to be you.

STEPHEN
That sounds... Awful.

Cara smiles. The ice has been broken.

CARA
Compared to what I went through in high school? Think you feel like a freak? You're not... You're a dynamo, a force of nature, Stephen, you're on the precipice of turning into someone truly extraordinary.

He gives her a sheepish look, afraid of what's inside his head, of what she's seen. John clocks their chemistry. Is pretty sure he doesn't like it. He shifts, all business...

JOHN
Let's give him the tour.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Cara and John lead Stephen through the abandoned station.

STEPHEN
How many of you are there?

CARA
Here with us? You're number eleven. Out there? We don't know. Could be hundreds... Thousands.

JOHN
It's a genetic mutation that lies dormant through adolescence.
(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)
Sometimes it never *breaks out*. Someone could be a tomorrow person their whole lives and never know.

CARA
That's what we do. We find new *break-outs*, bring them in, train them, keep them safe.

STEPHEN
Safe? Safe from what?

CARA
(simple)
Everyone else.

She's not elaborating. Stephen clocks this. Unsettled.

JOHN
Until they *break-out*, tomorrow people are just regular "saps."

CARA
Homo sapiens.

STEPHEN
As in human? If I'm not human.
(beat)
What the hell am I?

JOHN
You are a homo superior... The next step in evolution.

CLOSE ON STEPHEN. Processing.

VOICE (O.S.)
Deep breath...

Stephen turns to find RUSSELL, 18, a handsome bad boy.

RUSSELL
I freaked out when I got the whole "secret superhero" speech, too. But all that matters is that you're one of us. I'm Russell.
(shaking Stephen's hand)
And you're the one my sister can't stop talking about?

Cara glares at her kid brother as she says TELEPATHICALLY.

CARA
Shut up, Russell.

He grins at her. He loves the tease. Then, to Stephen --

RUSSELL
You coming or what?

INT. SUBWAY STATION - CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Russell leads Stephen down a DARK CORRIDOR, through LIVING QUARTERS; couches, rugs. Small rooms with BEDS. We see a COUPLE TOMORROW PEOPLE hanging out.

STEPHEN
You guys live here?

RUSSELL
For now. We're taking the whole underground thing literally...

STEPHEN
Why?

RUSSELL
That's chapter two, man. We're still in the prologue. Here --

INT. SUBWAY STATION - RUSSELL'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They arrive at a large room.

RUSSELL
Pretty sweet digs, huh?

STEPHEN'S POV: The room has been outfitted with everything a teenage runaway might need -- computers, furniture, art -- the world's coolest dormitory.

STEPHEN
Where'd you get all this -- ?

RUSSELL
Heard of the five-finger discount?

Russell nods to his dresser, fixing his gaze, a ROLEX FLOATS up as he reaches out his arm, slides it onto his wrist.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
We get the no-finger discount.

STEPHEN
You steal?

RUSSELL
Only what we need.

Stephen looks inside the box of watches. Must be a dozen.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Plus a few perks. C'mon, I'll show you around the training center.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - TRAINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A martial arts gym. A PAIR OF TOMORROW PEOPLE (Stephen's age) SPAR. ONE THROWS A PUNCH, THE OTHER TELEPORTS OUT OF THE WAY, COUNTER-PUNCHES. Stephen watches them, awed.

RUSSELL
These are two of our newest *break-outs*. When they arrived they were just like you, unable to control their powers. Teleporting in your sleep is just the beginning... It's like a paranormal wet dream.

STEPHEN
So, I'll be able to close my eyes and beam myself across the world?

RUSSELL
Each of our paranormal powers has limits -- like physical powers -- but those limits can be stretched. Don't worry. By the time we're done with you...

RUSSELL TELEPORTS FROM ONE SIDE OF STEPHEN TO THE OTHER.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
ULTRA won't be able to lay a hand on you.

STEPHEN
(confused)
Sorry... Who's ULTRA?

VOICE (O.S.)
The ones who are hunting us.

REVEAL CARA, standing nearby.

RUSSELL
Chapter three.

Off Stephen, unsettled.

INT. DARK CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

CUT TO STEPHEN, trailing Cara and Russell.

CARA
There's a war going on up there. You won't read about it, or see it on the news, but it's happening. A shadow war between our two species.

RUSSELL
The 'saps' and the tomorrow people. They're afraid of us.

STEPHEN
Why?

RUSSELL
("duh")
Because we're better than them.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

CUT TO THE LEAD AGENT (who failed to capture John in the TEASER). Marched down the hall by a PAIR OF ULTRA AGENTS.

CARA (V.O.)
The government has known about us for decades. They don't want anyone else to know we exist. And they want us neutralized. That's why they started a containment program. ULTRA.

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lead agent is shoved into a WINDOWLESS OFFICE. The guards shut the door behind, EXITING.

CARA (V.O.)
Their agents aren't humans, they're tomorrow people, forced to use their powers to hunt us down.

CLOSE ON lead agent, terrified. That's when we REVEAL JEDIKIAH. Seated behind a desk. All business.

JEDIKIAH
Have a seat.

Lead agent doesn't want to sit. He's too anxious.

LEAD AGENT
I can explain --

JEDIKIAH
I said sit.
(then calm)
You had John, you lost John, end of story. That's not why you're here.

Jedikiah clicks a REMOTE CONTROL.

ANGLE ON MONITOR: The security guard from the TEASER. FOOTAGE FROM HIS POLICE INTERVIEW. The guy is freaking out.

SECURITY GUARD (ON MONITOR)
I know it sounds nuts, but it was like he was controlling it with his mind -- making my gun float like he had some kinda superpowers --

Jedikiah CLICKS off the MONITOR.

JEDIKIAH
As you know, our program cannot tolerate any loose ends.

LEAD AGENT
(re: security guard)
I'll take care of him...

JEDIKIAH
(ominous)
Already taken care of.

Jedikiah pulls out a GUN, sets it on his desk.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
You have a gift. You, and the rest of your species, you're superior to ours in almost every way. You can talk without words, travel through space, and move objects just by thinking about them... Me? I have to do things the old-fashioned way.
(picking up gun)
I must seem primitive to you.

The agent shakes his head. Eyes fixed on the gun.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
You're reading my mind now... So you know what I'm going to do.

Jedikiah reaches for gun. But before he can grab it... LEAD AGENT USES TELEKINESIS TO MAKE THE GUN FLY INTO HIS OWN HAND.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
Good. Now pull the trigger.

What the hell is Jedikiah doing?

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
It's a simple matter of Darwinism. Survival of the fittest. You're the superior species? Prove it. I'm a threat to you. Kill me.
(eerily calm)
Do it. Before I kill you. You know I will.

The agent tries to shoot.

CLOSE ON HIS FINGER, TREMBLING. SOMETHING IS STOPPING HIM FROM PULLING THE TRIGGER. CLOSE ON HIS FACE, SWEATING. SUDDENLY, A DEAFENING ROAR INSIDE HIS HEAD. HE SCREAMS.

FINALLY, DROPS THE GUN, COLLAPSES IN THE CHAIR. Jedikiah stands. Picks up the gun. Pats him on the shoulder

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
A remarkable adaptation -- your kind's inability to kill. Maybe it will help in your species's survival, but for you personally... Not so much.

Jedikiah raises the gun at his head. AND FIRES. BLACK-OUT.

EXT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jedikiah emerges to find Damian waiting.

JEDIKIAH
Do we have a name yet?
(off his head shake)
I want a list of every psych case in the city who fits the profile. This isn't just any *break-out* if John Young risked getting caught to find him...

INT. SUBWAY STATION - DAY

Stephen is led back to the main room. John is there.

STEPHEN
What do you mean, they want us neutralized? Like, killed?

CARA
All we know is that every one of *us* we've ever lost to *them*, we've never seen again. We can't feel them, can't track them, it's like they never existed.
(quick look to John, then)
Which is why we need your help.

STEPHEN
For what?

A moment of truth.

JOHN
To find someone.
(off Stephen)
As you can see, hiding out like this -- the more of us we find, the harder it's gonna get. We need to find a place where we don't have to hide from ULTRA anymore. Well, one of us went looking for it -- guess you could call him our leader.

RUSSELL
But he never come back.

STEPHEN
ULTRA got him?

CARA
We don't know.

JOHN
(shaking head)
There's no way he was caught. He was the strongest of all of us. The best. His powers are beyond what any of us could ever dream of.
(beat)
If you inherited just a fraction --

STEPHEN
Inherited -- ?

CLOSE ON STEPHEN WHO SUDDENLY GETS IT. He goes ashen. *No...*

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
Wait. You're telling me my lunatic, dead-beat dad was... Like <u>you</u>? One of the tomorrow people?

CARA
He was more than that, Stephen.

Stephen begins pacing frantically. His mind has been blown.

JOHN
He was a great man. A hero to us. You're his son, you'll have the strongest telepathic link to him. If anyone can make contact with him, find him, it's gonna be you.

STEPHEN
I don't want to find him. He bailed. He left my mom and two little kids and a stack of bills from some faraway psychiatric hospital.

CARA
He bailed so that you could have a life. So ULTRA wouldn't find you. So that you could grow up human.

This isn't what Stephen wants to hear. It doesn't sit right, doesn't compute for him.

STEPHEN
I don't believe you.

JOHN
We have a message for you from him.

STEPHEN
A <u>what</u>?

JOHN
(to someone O.S.)
Will you pull it up, TIM?

STEPHEN
Who are you talking to? Who the hell is Tim?

TIM'S VOICE
I'm a computer.

RUSSELL
A virtual intelligence program.
(off Stephen)
He's like our HAL... Just not evil.

Suddenly, an IMAGE OF STEPHEN'S FATHER APPEARS. 3-D. Stephen stops cold. Staring at the image of his dad.

STEPHEN'S FATHER (PROJECTED)
Hello, Stephen. I'm leaving this with the hope you never have to see it. If you are... Then I'm sorry. I don't want you to be like me --

STEPHEN
Turn it off... I said TURN IT OFF.

The IMAGE VANISHES. Stephen has heard enough. Trembling.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
I don't need to hear an apology from him... It's too late.
(then)
And you're wrong. I'm not like him. I'm not one of you. I'm sorry... You got the wrong guy. I have to get outta here. How do I get out?

He's spinning. John and Cara share a look. John nods.

CARA
Okay. It's okay, Stephen. I'll take you home.

She reaches out her hand. And as soon Stephen touches it, THEY TELEPORT OUT OF THE STATION.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

CUT TO STEPHEN WAKING UP IN HIS OWN BED. He sits upright, then relaxes. His face says: *Maybe last night -- Cara, John, the subway, the tomorrow people -- was only a dream.*

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Brushing his teeth, Stephen knocks his toothbrush off the counter, lunges for it, WHEN IT FLOATS BACK TO HIS HAND.

CLOSE ON STEPHEN: "*Holy shit! Did I just do that!?*"

He sets the toothbrush down, tries it again... When Luca ENTERS. Catches Stephen trying to make his toothbrush fly.

LUCA
Uh... What are you doing?

STEPHEN
Nothing. Brushing my teeth.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

CUT TO STEPHEN. Making breakfast. As his mom ENTERS.

STEPHEN
Morning.

MARLA
(relieved)
I saw your empty bed and thought --

STEPHEN
That I went on another one of my crazy sleepwalks? Don't worry.
(honest)
I've finally gotten everything under control.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Astrid closes her locker to find STEPHEN WAITING. She jumps.

ASTRID
Hey, lurker.

STEPHEN
I have to tell you something -- so promise you'll be cool.

Stephen grabs her elbow as they WALK down the HALLWAY.

ASTRID
Ooo... I love it already. What is it? Wait. Stephen. Are you...
(mock concerned)
...Gay?

STEPHEN
Way bigger.

ASTRID
Aww. That's too bad.

Stephen stops. Fixing Astrid with a sober look.

STEPHEN
I need for you to be serious.

EXT. SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

CUT TO ASTRID, reacting to Stephen's news.

ASTRID
I thought we were being serious?
(off Stephen)
You are serious.

STEPHEN
I know it sounds crazy...

ASTRID
That you're some kind of mutant or that you have paranormal powers?

STEPHEN
Just hear me out... It all makes sense. They said it's some genetic mutation I inherited from my dad.

ASTRID
They? You mean, the merry band of runaways living down in the sewers?

STEPHEN
Subway tunnels. That's why you've never heard of them -- because they -- me -- we're being hunted by a secret government program.

Astrid has heard enough. It's time for some tough love.

ASTRID
Are you off your meds, Stephen?

STEPHEN
It has nothing to do with that...

ASTRID
You need to talk to your shrink... What if you're being treated for the wrong thing? First the voices, now the paranoia. Wasn't your dad a paranoid schizophrenic?

Stephen indicates a nearby football. Raising his hand. Doing the full-on "superhero using his powers" pose.

STEPHEN
You don't believe me? Watch <u>this</u>. I can make the football fly with my mind.

HE TRIES TO MOVE IT TELEKINETICALLY... But nothing happens.

ASTRID
(scared for him)
You need help, Stephen...

STEPHEN
Why do you think I came to <u>you</u>? I thought I could tell you anything?

ASTRID
You can...

STEPHEN
What's the use if you don't believe me?
(then)
You think that I'm insane. I'm your little charity case, aren't I?
(off Astrid)
Don't pretend... We both know the only reason we still hang out is so you can feel good about yourself, like you're not the last of my friends to jump ship from my crazy.

Astrid has heard enough. She snaps back at Stephen.

ASTRID
That is bullshit. I've stuck by you and your whole year of crazy because I care about you. And just so you know, everyone didn't leave, you pushed them away. Now you're trying to do it to me. It's not my fault. You're the one who changed.

Astrid walks off. Off Stephen, knowing he has changed.

EXT. SCHOOL - FIELDHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Bummed, Stephen rounds a corner, headed back to school, WHEN HANDS GRAB HIM. It's DYLAN, the bully who rolled him for his meds. Pinning Stephen up against a wall.

DYLAN
What the hell did you give me? Those were Ex-Lax, weren't they?

Stephen can't help it. He stifles a GIGGLE.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
You think this is funny?

STEPHEN
No. I didn't mean...

DYLAN
What's your problem? Are you crazy?

STEPHEN
That, or superior. Can't be sure.

Dylan thinks Stephen is joking, but he's not.

DYLAN
Goddamn weirdo --

WHAM. HE PUNCHES STEPHEN. HE GOES DOWN. DYLAN KICKS HIM.

STEPHEN
HELP -- !

DYLAN JUMPS ON STEPHEN'S BACK, GRABBING HIM BY THE NECK.

DYLAN
Shut up, you little bitch. No one can hear you.

DYLAN GRINDS STEPHEN'S FACE INTO THE GROUND. Just when he's about to SMOTHER him... AN INVISIBLE FORCE PULLS HIM OFF.

ANGLE ON DYLAN: FLOATING OFF OF THE GROUND. LEGS KICKING.

Stephen stands, and realizes his powers are working. Narrowing his eyes, STEPHEN SENDS DYLAN FLYING INTO A WALL.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Put me down. Please. Help -- !

STEPHEN
(parroting Dylan)
"No one can hear you..."

ON STEPHEN, seeing red, he charges at Dylan who remains SUSPENDED IN MIDAIR. Stephen starts to PUNCH HIM. Pent up rage spilling out. The fight turns ugly. Primal. Stephen grabs Dylan by the throat...

SUDDENLY, A DEAFENING ROAR INSIDE STEPHEN'S HEAD. Stephen grasps his temples, collapses. THEN BLACKS OUT.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

CUT TO JEDIKIAH. A KNOCK. REVEAL DAMIAN.

JEDIKIAH
What do we have so far?

DAMIAN
Turns out there are a lotta screwed up teenagers in New York City.
(opening laptop)
We centered our search on the clinic where the *break-out* was treated, five-mile radius. Over 300 hits in the age-range, but when you focus on the patients suffering from auditory hallucinations and somnambulism -- only seven.

Jedikiah begins searching through MEDICAL FILES. A COLLECTION of teenage faces... Including a PHOTO OF STEPHEN. Jedikiah stares at it, covering his surprise.

JEDIKIAH
That's him.

DAMIAN
How do you -- ?

JEDIKIAH
I recognize the face.

DAMIAN
You want us to bring him in?

JEDIKIAH
No. I'll bring this one in myself.

INT. SCHOOL - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - DAY

CUT TO STEPHEN. Outside the office. He watches through the glass as his mom finishes talking to the PRINCIPAL. EXITS.

STEPHEN
What did the principal say? Am I suspended?

She's too mad to even look at him. Starts walking.

MARLA
We'll be lucky if they don't press charges.

STEPHEN
For getting into a stupid fight? He's the one who started it...

MARLA
No, Stephen. For dealing prescription drugs.
(off Stephen)
They found a bottle of your pills in the other boy's pocket. No wonder you've been acting... How long have you been off your meds?

STEPHEN
No. You don't understand... I didn't... Ask Dylan -- he <u>stole</u> them from me.

MARLA
Dylan is in the ER having his stomach pumped.
(off Stephen)
When they found him he was ranting about how you attacked him with superpowers -- thanks to the anti-psychotics <u>you</u> gave him.

Off Stephen, knowing he can't tell his mother the truth.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

At their CAR, Stephen's mom fumbles with her keys. Drops them. She just stares at them on the ground. Frozen.

MARLA
I'm sorry, Stephen. But I just can't do this again... What I went through with your father -- his delusions and his deception -- I know how it ends. And I just can't bear to see you go through it.

STEPHEN
I'm sorry. I didn't mean ---

He tries to comfort her. It's not working. She tears up.

MARLA
I thought that if I just found you the right doctors and medications I could spare you. But we just can't go on like this, honey. Can't you see it's breaking our family apart?

Her PHONE BEEPS. She checks it. Shakes her head.

MARLA (CONT'D)
I have get back to work.

STEPHEN
It's fine. I can walk home.
(off her hesitation)
Mom, it's five blocks... I'm sure I can manage to stay out of trouble.

As Stephen's mother gets in the car. And drives off... RACK FOCUS ON A CAR PARKED IN THE DISTANCE.

INT. CAR - DAY

CUT TO JEDIKIAH, in passenger seat, Damian at the wheel. LONG POV OF STEPHEN, alone and on foot.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Cara taking out her frustrations on John -- sparring -- kicks and punches combined with teleporting and telekinesis.

JOHN
You shouldn't have let him leave.

CARA
It was his choice. Those are the rules.

JOHN
He doesn't get a choice yet. Not until he has the whole picture.

He lays a roundhouse kick on her -- she just barely teleports out of the way.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You're getting better.

CARA
Don't patronize me.

JOHN
Learn how to take a compliment.

She flings out her arm -- a nearby 5 lb weight flies at John. He catches it mid-air.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Wow. Testy.

CARA
We shouldn't have sprung the stuff about his father on him. Did you see his face? His scars need time.

JOHN
He needed to know -- and why are you so protective of him?

CARA
Protective? Not any more than any of the others --

JOHN
None of the others were allowed to leave before they got the whole picture.

WHAM. His next kick connects with her. She stumbles.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Stay focused.

CARA
(fuming)
Stop distracting me...

But he goes to her, helps her up. Stays close. There's a connection there, hard to tell what. But it's something.

JOHN
It's good that you care. That's what makes you so good. But ULTRA knows we're looking for a new *break-out*. If they get to him first, figure out who he is...

She sighs. Knows he's right.

CARA
Fine. I'll bring him back in.

EXT. STREET - DAY

CUT TO Stephen walking home as A CAR PULLS UP, STOPS.

VOICE (O.S.)
Stephen Jameson?

ANGLE ON JEDIKIAH. Getting out of the car. Playing nice.

STEPHEN
Who are you?

JEDIKIAH
You look just like him, you know... Your father.

While Stephen is distracted with this, the henchman Damian sneaks around and PULLS A BAG OVER STEPHEN'S HEAD.

They toss him into the car. It quickly pulls out, wiping frame, REVEALING --

CARA is right across the street. She stares at the retreating car in horror.

CARA
They got him.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Back in the station, Cara paces frantically before John.

CARA
TIM, what do you have?

An IMAGE comes up on their screen. It's city-surveillance footage. Traffic cameras, etc. The images flash, as --

TIM'S VOICE
I had the car until Grand and Essex. However, traffic cams were down South of Canal...

CARA
Pull whatever SAT images you can find on the lower island.

TIM'S VOICE
Already started. Might take a minute to composite.

JOHN
It's too late. Stephen's gone.

CARA
(ignoring John)
TIM. We don't have a minute.

Cara snaps. John assumes a more gentle tone.

JOHN
Look. Cara. We lost him. We gotta move on.

CARA
(shaking head)
No, I lost him. And I can get him back.

Cara turns to EXIT, but John grabs her by the arm.

JOHN
We don't put ourselves at risk. We don't expose ourselves to ULTRA. Not for anyone. Those are the rules.

CARA
Now you care about the rules?
(off John)
He's not just anyone. You said it yourself. He's the key to finding his father. Meaning that he's our only chance for survival.

RUSSELL (O.C.)
She's right.

Russell has entered. He locks eyes with John.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Look. I know you dig this whole leader-of-the-ragtag-rebels thing you got going, but for the rest of us, living like this, always on the run? Gets just a tad tedious.
(to Cara, telepathically)
Plus, my sister thinks he's hot.

CARA
(hiding her anger)
Russell, I swear to god...

TIM'S VOICE
I found the car.

They all stop.

TIM'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Sorry to interrupt... Do you want to know where he is?

JOHN
No.

CARA/RUSSELL
Yes.

A BEAT as John stares at them. Frustrated.

JOHN
You want to walk straight into Jedikiah Price's office? Be my guest. But I've spent nine years dodging that sadistic son of a bitch. No one is worth getting caught by him again.
(pointed, to Cara)
No one.

Pissed, he walks out. A beat as Cara lets the sting settle, then she looks to her brother. Calls out to TIM.

CARA
Tell me.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

ANGLE ON STEPHEN AS THE BAG IS PULLED OFF HIS HEAD. POV: His eyes adjust. Jedikiah's face comes into slow focus.

JEDIKIAH
Sorry... Security precaution.

REVEAL STEPHEN sitting in something resembling a DENTIST'S CHAIR. BINDINGS on the armrests. STEPHEN IS STRAPPED IN.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
My name is Dr. Price.

STEPHEN
You're one of them? ULTRA? Is that where I am?

JEDIKIAH
I can only imagine what John had to say... That's why you're here... To get my side of the story.

STEPHEN
(pissed yet scared)
By tossing a bag over my head? Kidnapping me? You pretty much proved everything I heard.

JEDIKIAH
(nodding, pleasant)
That I'm some bogeyman? Systematically rounding up your kind and wiping you out. Did John tell you why I'm doing it? Or was it just to be evil?

STEPHEN
Because you're scared of us.

JEDIKIAH
I'm an evolutionary biologist. If anything, I'm fascinated by you.
(off Stephen)
What scares me is how the rest of the world would react -- if they knew a secret, paranormal species was living in our midst. Think of the pandemonium...
(MORE)

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
The human race would cannibalize itself -- out of fear and paranoia -- we'd wipe ourselves out before your kind ever had the chance to do it for us.

STEPHEN
But they don't want to be found out -- the tomorrow people -- they just want to be left alone...

JEDIKIAH
And you think all tomorrow people take their orders from John? Last I checked he had what, a dozen of you? Do you know how many more there are out there who we can't find, can't catch? Do you think all of them will choose to stay hidden? That all of them will use their powers for the good of man? Because I have plenty of evidence that says otherwise.
(then)
I'm not the bad guy, Stephen. Not by a long shot.

Off Stephen, stumped.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

ANGLE ON Cara and Russell ENTERING. Looking badass. They approach a CHECKPOINT and THREE GUARDS. Guard #1 steps out to block them. Suspicious.

GUARD
I'm gonna need to see your --

IN A FLASH, Russell lifts his hand, SENDING A TELEKINETIC SHOCK-WAVE WHICH SWEEPS THE GUARD ACROSS THE ROOM, INTO A WALL. CRUNCH. Meanwhile, guard #2 DRAWS HIS GUN.

GUARD #2
Freeze -- !

BUT CARA HAS ALREADY DISAPPEARED. TELEPORTING. SHE REAPPEARS behind guard #2 who spots her out the corner of his eye. Too late. Cara GRABS THE GUN, CLOCKS him with it.

RUSSELL
You've been practicing.

CARA
Shut up.

ANGLE ON GUARD #3, doing the sensible thing... RUNS.

RUSSELL
I got him.

RUSSELL TELEPORTS INTO HIS PATH. Guard #3 skids to a stop. Cowering. Starts to reach for his gun. As Cara walks up behind him. Whispering in the guard's ear.

CARA
Just... Don't.

The guard raises his hands. Surrendering. Smart move.

CARA (CONT'D)
Which floor are you holding him?

GUARD #3
I don't know...

CLOSE ON CARA, reading the guard's mind. VOICE: "*Fourteen.*"

CARA
He's on fourteen.
(smiling, to guard)
Thanks for the help...

AS CARA PUNCHES HIM IN THE FACE. BLACK-OUT.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

John kicks the shit out of a punching bag in the otherwise empty training room. He stops, sweating. Calls out --

JOHN
Did they get in, TIM?

TIM'S VOICE
Do you care?

JOHN
You're giving me attitude? You're a computer.

TIM'S VOICE
It was a logical question borne from simple observation. You said you did not care, but your heart rate indicated otherwise.

JOHN
They’re going to get themselves killed.

TIM’S VOICE
Causing me to repeat my question: Do you care?

Off John, his survival instincts fighting his emotions...

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

BACK UPSTAIRS WITH STEPHEN AND JEDIKIAH. Damian ENTERS carrying a medical tray with a SYRINGE. Stephen fixes on the needle. A look of horror.

STEPHEN
What are you doing?

JEDIKIAH
No one’s going to hurt you.

Jedikiah begins PREPARING A SYRINGE. Drawing from a vial.

JEDIKIAH (CONT’D)
Actually, it might hurt a little.

STEPHEN
What is it?

JEDIKIAH
I could give you a boring lecture about recombinant DNA therapy... But the short answer is this: It’s phase one of a clinical trial. My hope is, in time, it will fix you. Repair your genetic code. Return you to the way you used to be.

STEPHEN
Let me go... There’s nothing wrong with me...

JEDIKIAH
You’re so much like your father. So much promise... So much potential... But you don’t want to end up like him, do you?

STEPHEN
What does that mean?

JEDIKIAH
Look. Whatever myth John tried to spin for you about who your father was... It's not true.

STEPHEN
And I should believe you -- ?

JEDIKIAH
Your father's not gonna come back to save you or the tomorrow people.
(matter-of-fact)
He's dead.

Jedikiah goes to give Stephen, speechless, the shot... But just then, Damian BURSTS IN.

DAMIAN
There's a breach in the lobby.

Jedikiah puts down the needle. Pulls up a SECURITY SCREEN ON A NEARBY BANK OF COMPUTER MONITORS. CLOSE ON MONITOR: SECURITY ANGLE ON THE LOBBY, THE THREE UNCONSCIOUS GUARDS.

Jedikiah clouds, PULLS UP A SECOND SECURITY ANGLE. CLOSE ON MONITOR: CARA AND RUSSELL riding up the elevator.

JEDIKIAH
They must think you're pretty special.

DAMIAN
Want me to stop the elevator?

JEDIKIAH
Let them come.

Jedikiah RETRIEVES HIS GUN. Cocks it. EXITS with Damian.

Off Stephen, strapped in the chair, staring at the SECURITY MONITORS. Knowing his FRIENDS ARE HEADED INTO A TRAP.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

CARA AND RUSSELL step off the elevator as an ULTRA AGENT APPEARS. Russell raises a hand (like he did in the lobby) only this time nothing happens, no telekinesis.

The agent swings at Russell... That's when CARA GRABS HIS ARM, twists it, KICKS HIM once, twice, sends the guy tumbling onto the floor, down for the count.

RUSSELL
Our powers don't work up here.

CARA
Then neither do theirs.

Off Cara, undaunted, leading the charge to rescue Stephen.

INT. LABORATORY - INTERCUT

BACK WITH STEPHEN, strapped in chair. Watching. Helpless.

ON MONITOR: CARA AND RUSSELL RUN DOWN A HALL.

ON SECOND MONITOR: FOUR AGENTS, MOVING TO INTERCEPT THEM.

BACK IN THE HALLWAY: AS CARA AND RUSSELL RUN HEADLONG INTO THE FOUR ULTRA AGENTS. RUSSELL TAKES THE FIRST ONE OUT, soon, he's swarmed by the other three. HE TAKES A PUNCH.

CARA JOINS THE FIGHT, TAKES OUT AN AGENT, then another one. But when she turns another AGENT BLIND-SIDES HER WITH A PUNCH. Sends her down hard. Momentarily dazed.

The agent who hit her, turns, coming face to face with JOHN, who CLOCKS HIM with a vicious punch, knocking him out.

He shoots a look to Cara, who smiles through the throbbing pain in her face.

CARA
Nice shot.

JOHN
Don't patronize me.

But he gives her a sexy grin as he helps Russell to his feet.

RUSSELL
I'm good. Let's go...

BACK WITH STEPHEN. WATCHING THE MONITORS. His friends don't know what's waiting for them... PULL BACK to show A DOZEN SECURITY ANGLES: <u>ULTRA AGENTS SWARMING FROM EVERY DIRECTION</u>.

Stephen closes his eyes. Tries to reach Cara telepathically.

STEPHEN
YOU GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
PLEASE... CARA...

But it's no use. CUT TO CARA: She can't hear Stephen. She, John, and Russell, continue straight into the trap.

BACK WITH STEPHEN: Pulling on his restraints. About to rip his hands off... But it would take a blowtorch to break free.

WHEN SUDDENLY STEPHEN DISAPPEARS, REAPPEARS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM. CLOSE ON STEPHEN: *"I just teleported..."*

INT. HALLWAY - INTERCUT

With John, Cara, and Russell. A GROUP OF ULTRA AGENTS appear at the FAR END OF THE HALL. Too many to take on.

But when our trio turn around, they spot a SECOND GROUP OF AGENTS behind them. Meanwhile, an ALARM SOUNDS. This rescue mission is going seriously sideways.

RUSSELL
Building's in lock-down. What now?

For once John doesn't have an answer. As the two SETS OF ULTRA GUARDS close on them from OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.

Suddenly --

STEPHEN (O.S.)
This way.

Our trio turn to find Stephen. He has appeared out of one of the locked doors. Offering them an escape route.

CARA
How did you escape -- ?

STEPHEN
I teleported.

RUSSELL
Our powers don't work here...

STEPHEN
Just follow me.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Stephen leads the tomorrow people to an ELEVATOR. ULTRA AGENTS on their heels. Running. It's gonna be tight.

STEPHEN
(re: elevator)
Come on...

On cue, BING, the elevator arrives. *They're gonna make it!*

But when the doors open, JEDIKIAH STEPS OUT OF THE ELEVATOR. Flanked by more AGENTS. Holding a gun. Game over. Jedikiah locks on John... His white whale.

JEDIKIAH
After all this time, you decided to come back. For him...
(re: Stephen)
You thought he was going to help you find to your promised land didn't you? Doesn't exist, John.

Jedikiah raises the gun. Aiming it at John. John stares back at Jedikiah. Defiant, knowing it's over.

JEDIKIAH (CONT'D)
And even if it did. You're never gonna see it --

JEDIKIAH PULLS THE TRIGGER, Stephen leaps forward to stop him. Too late.

STEPHEN
NO -- !

BOOM, JEDIKIAH FIRES. AS TIME STARTS TO MOVE IN SLOW-MOTION.

THEN EVERYTHING STOPS COMPLETELY... Jedikiah, the bullet, the clock. It's like the world is paused. Everything except --

THE FOUR TOMORROW PEOPLE. ANGLE ON JOHN who stares at the BULLET suspended in mid-air, inches away from him.

ANGLE ON STEPHEN, hand extended. That's when we realize STEPHEN IS CAUSING TIME TO STOP!

CARA
How are you doing that?

RUSSELL
I thought you said our powers didn't work -- ?

STEPHEN
(urgent)
Move.

AS SLOWLY, TIME RAMPS BACK TO NORMAL SPEED.

OUR GUYS DASH ONTO THE ELEVATOR. TIME RETURNS TO FULL-SPEED. The bullet continues its course. Missing John completely.

Jedikiah looks around. Bewildered. *Where did he go?*

JOHN
You missed.

AS JOHN COLDCOCKS JEDIKIAH. The elevator closes. Off our gang, escaping. Thanks to Stephen... And his new powers.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. SUBWAY STATION - DARK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Russell is pumped as he tags along behind Stephen.

RUSSELL
That was killer... And we thought there were just “Three T’s.” How did you do that? More importantly, what do we call it?

STEPHEN
I have no idea... It was kind of an accident.

RUSSELL
Okay. Your training starts today. I mean, what else can you do -- other than stopping time?

STEPHEN
There’s something I gotta do first.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Stephen ENTERS the empty space. Calling out. Tentative.

STEPHEN
Uh, whatever your name is, TIM?

TIM’S VOICE
Hello, Stephen.

STEPHEN
I can’t believe I’m talking to --
(then aloud)
Look. I need a favor.

TIM’S VOICE
You’d like to see the rest of the message your father left you?

STEPHEN
How did you -- ?

TIM’S VOICE
People are predictable... Even ones like you.

And with that, TIM pulls up the IMAGE OF STEPHEN’S FATHER. A virtual projection of the man Stephen only faintly remembers.

STEPHEN'S FATHER (PROJECTED)
I thought maybe you'd be lucky and take after your mom... Guess I was wrong. You must *really* hate me... If it's any comfort I've hated me too, every moment I've been gone. Funny, I imagine I'm talking to you as a kid, but you must be grown by now. I wish I was there to see you. I'm sure I'd be proud... Of all you've done to take care of your mom and your brother.

CLOSE ON STEPHEN. He can't help it. He starts to tear up.

STEPHEN'S FATHER (PROJECTED) (CONT'D)
But if you're listening to this, it means you're like me. My only hope is that one day the powers you inherited outweigh the burden. I love you, Stephen... I'm sorry I can't tell you that in person.

Dad disappears. Stephen wipes his eyes. Feigning toughness.

STEPHEN
So... Supercomputer. What do you think? Is he still alive?

TIM'S VOICE
There are limits, Stephen... Even to my intelligence.

Off Stephen, that's what he thought.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - MOMENTS LATER

A PRIVATE CORNER. Cara and John, a private BEAT.

JOHN
Okay, so you were right. He's clearly -- whatever -- special. But can he find his dad?

CARA
You saw what he did -- when none of us could use any of our powers -- what if one day Stephen can lead us there himself?

JOHN
I get it, he's Moses. You're giving me a complex.

CARA
Don't be jealous.

JOHN
I'm not jealous...
(beat, playful)
Why? Should I be jealous?

He gives her a sexy smile. Self-deprecating. She touches his face, gentle. Intimate. Familiar.

CARA
Thanks for coming to help us.

JOHN
I didn't mean what I said. I was being a dick.

CARA
I know.

JOHN
I'd never let you get hurt --

CARA
I know.

He KISSES her. It's sweet at first, then grows heated. RACK FOCUS to Stephen in the BACKGROUND. Crushed. He turns, EXITS before they spot him. But Cara catches him out of the corner of her eye. Pulls away from John.

CARA (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NEARBY - MOMENTS LATER

Cara catches up with Stephen.

CARA
Hold up.

STEPHEN
I didn't mean to interrupt...

CARA
I should have told you.

STEPHEN
Seriously, Cara... So you and John are -- whatever -- together. I should have figured it out sooner. No big deal.

She pulls him to a stop, locks eyes. Connects telepathically.

CARA
I'm sorry if I hurt you.

STEPHEN
WILL YOU STOP THAT? I've got enough going on in my head without you adding to the confusion... Can we just give the whole telepathy thing a rest?

CARA
Yeah, of course --

He can see he's hurt her feelings, but he just wants out.

STEPHEN
Can you ask your boyfriend to give me a lift out? I need to get home.

CARA
You can't, Stephen -- not with ULTRA looking for you.

STEPHEN
I need to go <u>home</u>, Cara.

His tone makes it clear there's no fighting him. She nods.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Stephen and John APPEAR outside Stephen's APARTMENT.

STEPHEN
Thanks.

JOHN
Want me to stick around?

STEPHEN
For when I come home six hours late? Trust me. You don't want any part of this...

Stephen heads for the door.

JOHN
Hey. Just for the record... I haven't forgotten about how you saved my life today, so...

STEPHEN
("get over it")
You're welcome.

JOHN
Look, I know it's messed up. But this is who we are. We're different, and we're not gonna apologize for it, you know? If we stick together, we have a shot...

STEPHEN
I know what you want from me, John. I just need time to think about it, all right?

John nods. He's not gonna press any further. For now.

INT. STEPHEN'S APARTMENT - DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Stephen goes to slip his key in the door when it suddenly FLIES OPEN. REVEAL Stephen's mother Marla. Anxious.

MARLA
Where have you been -- ?

STEPHEN
(bracing himself)
Look. I know I said I was coming straight home after school--

MARLA
Later. We have a visitor.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Stephen ENTERS. Finds JEDIKIAH.

MARLA
This is your dad's brother, Jedikiah... Your uncle.

STEPHEN
My <u>what</u>?

JEDIKIAH
Hi, Stephen. Call me Jed.

Off Jedikiah, smiling. And Stephen, staggered.

<u>END OF ACT FIVE</u>

ACT SIX

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

RESUME Stephen in the doorway. Frozen. As Jedikiah beams.

JEDIKIAH
I know. It's weird. We met once -- you were in diapers.

Stephen looks to his mom. Is this true?

MARLA
Jed and your dad had a falling out before your brother was born.

JEDIKIAH
Sorry to drop in like this. I told your mom, I've had quite a time tracking you guys down.

Stephen snaps to attention.

STEPHEN
Mom, could you give us a minute?

Marla nods, EXITS. As soon as she is gone, Stephen freaks.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? What did you tell her?

JEDIKIAH
I told her the truth.

STEPHEN
No. No way it's true.

Jedikiah pulls out an old PHOTO. ANGLE ON PHOTO: Two school-age boys, grinning, arms wrapped around each other.

JEDIKIAH
Me and your dad. Recognize him? We look like twins, don't we? Only I was born human and he was born like you. The reason I became a scientist was so I could understand him... Maybe one day help him.

STEPHEN
Like you tried to help me? Is that why you're here -- to try to stick another needle into my arm?

JEDIKIAH
(point-blank)
I'd like for you to come work for me, Stephen.

STEPHEN
(long beat)
You're joking?

JEDIKIAH
I underestimated you. Clearly. We've only glimpsed what you're capable of... But if you let me hone your abilities, you'd be quite an asset to ULTRA.

STEPHEN
ULTRA hunts down people like me. Why would I help them?

JEDIKIAH
(motioning to next room)
Simple. For them... Your family.

STEPHEN
Are you threatening -- ?

JEDIKIAH
No, <u>you're</u> threatening them -- if you don't help contain the spread of your species. I'm offering you the chance to protect the ones you love, Stephen....

STEPHEN
The chance to be a traitor?

JEDIKIAH
A traitor to who? A bunch of rebel runaways you met two days ago, or to your mom? Your brother, your friend -- Astrid, is it?
(off Stephen's surprise)
Therapy records... Very illuminating.
(then)
Sooner or later, you're gonna have to choose a side.

Just then, Stephen's brother ENTERS. Feigned nonchalance...

LUCA
So, we've got an uncle Jedikiah... How random is that?

He holds out his hand to shake. Jedikiah takes it.

JEDIKIAH
You must be Luca. I hear you got your dad's athletic genes...

LUCA
Hope that's all I got.

JEDIKIAH
Yeah, let's hope.

Off Stephen, his mind whirling with anxiety.

INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON STEPHEN ASLEEP. A rustling noise. The silhouette of someone in his room, outlined by his window.

STEPHEN
Cara?

The light flips on. REVEAL Astrid. As she shuts the window behind her. She's climbed through his window.

ASTRID
Who's Cara?

STEPHEN
No one.

ASTRID
One of your new friends? Whatever you called them, the tomorrow --

STEPHEN
About that... You were right. I was off my meds. I must have sounded like a real crazy person before... I'm okay now.

ASTRID
You sure?

STEPHEN
Positive.

ASTRID
Good. Move over.

Astrid hops in bed with him.

STEPHEN
What are you-- ?

ASTRID
I'm making sure you don't sleepwalk. Why? Is that weird?

STEPHEN
No... No, it's cool. Thanks.

Astrid snuggles down beside him. Their faces are close as they stare at each other. Comfortable. A long history.

ASTRID
I'm not gonna jump ship on you, Stephen. But you're not allowed to jump ship on me either, okay?

He smiles, nods. Enjoying laying there with his friend.

ASTRID (CONT'D)
(telepathically)
I wish you would just kiss me, already.

STEPHEN
(startled)
What?

ASTRID
(more startled)
What, what? I didn't say anything.
(suddenly worried)
Why?

Stephen realizes he read her mind.

STEPHEN
No. I...
(playing it off)
Guess I'm just hearing voices.

ASTRID
Not funny.

STEPHEN
A little funny?

Astrid closes her eyes. Off Stephen, wide-awake.

INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM - HOURS LATER

MATCH CUT to Stephen's face. Sound asleep.

VOICE (V.O.)
Stephen?

He opens his eyes to Astrid but finds she's asleep. Huh?

REVEAL CARA. She has TELEPORTED TO HIS BEDROOM. Cara WHISPERS in Stephen's other ear -- to not wake up Astrid.

CARA
(re: Astrid)
She's cute...

STEPHEN
(whispering, defensive)
She's... a friend.

CARA
Mind if we talk somewhere else?

Cara reaches out, takes Stephen's arm. THEY DISAPPEAR.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

REAPPEARING on top of the apartment building. Manhattan sparkles in the distance. It's peaceful, romantic.

STEPHEN
What are you -- ?

CARA
You don't want to talk to me telepathically -- fine -- then we have to do it like this.

STEPHEN
Why didn't you tell me that he -- Jedikiah -- was my uncle?

She looks surprised that he knows, but recovers quickly.

CARA
He's not your family. Technically, you're related, but you're not like him. You're one of us --

But Stephen cuts her off. Blurting out.

STEPHEN
He wants me to come work for him.

CARA
(panicked)
What? You wouldn't do that.
(MORE)

CARA (CONT'D)
Can't you see, Stephen? He only wants to use you --

STEPHEN
Yeah? Well, so do you.
(off Cara)
You say you're fighting some "shadow war," but what are you fighting for? I mean, what's the worst that will happen if we all turn ourselves in and give up our powers and live like normal human beings? What if Jedikiah's right? What if it makes the world safer?

CARA
You want to admit that we're mistakes, freaks of nature who need to be "cured?"
(shaking head)
Nature doesn't make mistakes. Yet Jedikiah will stop at nothing -- turning evolution on its head -- driving us extinct -- just to preserve the human race.

STEPHEN
Which -- I'm sorry, Cara -- I still consider myself a part of.

CARA
Of course you do. But to them... We're not.
(off Stephen)
The tomorrow people -- the ones we've found and the ones we're going to find, they're my family. I won't let anything happen to them. And I won't let anything happen to you. Come with me, Stephen. Please.

She reaches out her hand. He looks at it, struggling with his choice.

STEPHEN
When you first started talking to me, the mysterious voice in my head, I trusted you. I don't know why, I just did. But now I need you to trust me.
(meeting her gaze)
I'm gonna find out what happened to my dad, Cara.
(MORE)

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
I'm gonna make my choice -- I'm gonna pick a side. And if you trust me in this, then I'll never let anything happen to you, either. Okay?

A long beat, then Cara finally nods. *Okay.*

INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Astrid opens her eyes. Bolts awake. Stephen is gone. In his place, a NOTE: "*Had to duck out. Don't worry. Xo S.*"

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NEARBY - MOMENTS LATER

John finds Cara awake. Clothed. She's been up all night.

JOHN
What happened? Where is he?

CARA
Stephen made his decision.

INT. OFFICE - HALLWAY - MORNING

CUT TO STEPHEN stepping off an ELEVATOR. The same elevator he used to escape ULTRA. Now he's walking right back in.

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Stephen ENTERS Jedikiah's office. Finds him at his desk.

STEPHEN
I'm in.

END OF PILOT