

ARCADIA

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TEASER

INT. PROCESSING ROOM - DAY

CHARLOTTE TATE(32) strong, harsh and unkempt, although flawlessly beautiful -- stands NAKED -- with folded white clothes in her hands.

The walls are concrete, cold. She is all alone.

What is this place?

A loud BUZZER goes off.

VOICE
(over intercom)
Please proceed.

Scared, Charlotte walks further down.

Through a door A NURSE with a FUTURISTIC FACE MASK and SKIN PROTECTION enters. She approaches Charlotte and takes the clothes from her. Charlotte covers her naked self.

NURSE
Please step into the shower ma'am.

She does and she is sprayed with a chemical.

CHARLOTTE
Damn! That shit burns!

The Nurse scrubs her clean. Charlotte stands still, lets it happen but with pain on her face.

INT. NEXT ROOM - DAY

Charlotte's long hair is cut off.

She sits still as someone cuts off the long locks in a random fashion. A TEAR rolls down Charlotte's cheek.

The Nurse checks her head.

INT. MEDICAL ROOM - DAY

Charlotte, extra clean, in the white clothes, leans back in what looks like a dentist's chair. She gets strapped in.

Charlotte looks scared, but not as scared as we think she should be.

A DOCTOR steps up to her.

DOCTOR

Open up.

He investigates her mouth and teeth. The Nurse takes an ELECTRONIC DEVICE to her arm and takes her blood and tests it.

NURSE

She's clean.

Charlotte is relieved to hear those words. She gets injected with a substance. The Nurse now without mask, looks at Charlotte's scared face.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Relax. It's just a local anesthetic.

That's the first time someone says something nice. She takes a deep breath.

The Doctor makes a small incision in the skin and slides in a plastic sheet right under the skin. Charlotte looks in amazement as they GLUE her skin back together.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Hold on.

The Nurse warns Charlotte for the chair ROTATING and ADJUSTING, so they can access the back of her head.

NURSE (CONT'D)

This might hurt a little.

They take an INJECTION GUN to Charlotte's neck and "shoot" something in. It leaves a mark.

CHARLOTTE

Jesus! A little?

The chair goes back to its original position. They double tap her arm and a DISPLAY goes on under her skin.

The restraints are taken off and Charlotte inspects her arm and rubs her neck.

INT. EXIT ROOM - DAY

Charlotte walks in her white outfit into another room. Her suitcase lies open and an EMPLOYEE is going through it and throwing articles away.

CHARLOTTE

Hey! You mind?

Charlotte walks up to the guy. TWO GUARDS step forward. She stops.

EMPLOYEE

Colors are reserved for the good
and the better.

CHARLOTTE

You know, saying shit like that
makes no sense to someone like me.

The guy gives her a look and throws out any bright colored
clothes. Charlotte still seems confused. When her suitcase
is half-empty he closes it and nods to one of the Guards.

They zip up the suitcase and guide Charlotte to a door.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Thanks a lot, man.

The door slowly slides open and the dark room is met with
the brightest light --

EXT. ARCADIA WALL - TRAIN STATION - DAY

Charlotte's eyes adjust to the light and for the first time,
she sees ARCADIA, an amazing futuristic city.

There are wide open roads, green wherever you see. But in
the distance. A city with the highest skyscrapers you have
ever seen. They shine in the bright light.

Flying cars, trains that don't seem to be attached to
anything. You name it, they have it. Technology and the
future seem so attractive right now.

When Charlotte focusses on what is closer to her, she sees
she is on a station of sorts.

Out of nowhere, ANASH SINGH (25) pops up with a big grin on
his face. The attractive Indian guy stands a little too
close for Charlotte's comfort.

ANASH

Hi! Welcome to Arcadia!

Anash shakes Charlotte's hand enthusiastically.

ANASH (CONT'D)

I'm Anash. You must be Charlotte.
Such an honor and a pleasure.

CHARLOTTE

(distracted)
Charlotte, yeah...
(beat)
Sorry, I'm just taking it all in.
So good to finally meet you.

A futuristic train arrives.

ANASH
That's our ride.

Charlotte is still taking it all in.

INT. CITY TRAIN - DAY

Inside the train is all white. Serenity. Peace.

Charlotte looks outside of the window.

ANASH
So, I hope they didn't treat you
too badly. I understand it's quite
the ordeal.

Charlotte is obsessed with her surroundings. She touches the
wall of the train.

CHARLOTTE
Is this all carbon fiber?

ANASH
Oh, yes, yes it is! If you think
this is cool, wait till you see
your new apartment. You can get
some rest. It all starts tomorrow!
Are you excited?

Charlotte looks at him now.

CHARLOTTE
Of course. Can't wait to start in
the PR office.

ANASH
Start?

CHARLOTTE
I mean here... In Arcadia.

For the first time now it is clear Charlotte has an accent.

ANASH
What is that accent?

CHARLOTTE
Oh, I'm Australian.

ANASH
Oh! They teach us about that place!
That's where they kept all the
criminals after--

He cuts himself off before he says anything else. Charlotte
tries not to laugh.

ANASH (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. People tell me I shouldn't talk as much as I do. Word vomit.

CHARLOTTE

Don't worry about it. You've never been outside Arcadia right?

ANASH

Nope. Not allowed to, of course, but you know that. Big commitment!

Their conversation is cut off by a hologram TV screen where an image is displayed of a WOMAN.

WOMAN

Good Morning Arcadians. It is September 21st, 2132. It is sunny and 24 degrees Celsius.

Her image fades and images of Arcadia play. PEOPLE laughing in clean restaurants, the SKYLINE at night, a MAN throwing a FRISBEE to his SON in the bright sunlight, a WOMAN in a SPA, a MAN going into a SCAN MACHINE that gives the notification "healthy".

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Arcadia, the ultimate state of peace, serenity and personal wealth. Be kind to one another, make good choices and be rewarded with a lifetime of happiness. This month, come in for massages and earn extra points towards your count. Take care of your body, and we will take care of you.

CHARLOTTE

They play these back home too. Is everything here this bright and positive?

ANASH

Yep, pretty much...

The train makes its first stop. Some fancy LADIES in bright RED and YELLOW step in. They immediately see Charlotte and turn to each other to speak in hushed tones.

Anash sees, but ignores them. Charlotte is oblivious.

ANASH (CONT'D)

That's what made you come here? -- The ads?

CHARLOTTE

No. I -- ehr... I got send here, by my boss. But I'm happy to start over, you know.

ANASH

Well, I don't have the balls to do that.

(beat)

I mean, not that I don't actually have-- You know what I mean...

It is clear Anash is a little nervous. Charlotte smirks.

More ARCADIANS get in. Charlotte looks at them now. CHILDREN in GREY and BEIGE walk in. Their PARENTS with more colors. Some look poorer in GREY or BLACK.

ALL seem to notice Charlotte. She looks out of place, still.

ANASH (CONT'D)

Don't mind them. You are special. We're not used to new people.

CHARLOTTE

I don't mind. It's all so different. We don't have division by color. It is very interesting.

ANASH

Before we get there, I should get you activated.

Charlotte shows Anash her display'ed arm and he resets her "counter" on her wrist. Charlotte keeps touching her short hair.

The counter starts counting up. Charlotte is fascinated by it all.

ANASH (CONT'D)

Now. I know you've probably heard this before... Everything you do, all the decisions you make, the system will register it, and give you positive or negative points. More for good decisions, less points for the bad ones.

Anash tells this like it is the most logical thing in the world. Charlotte takes it all in. The counter now shows 80,000 Points, Level 5.

ANASH (CONT'D)

Think of it like a video game. The more points you score, the sooner you can get to the next level. You'll start in level 5.

(MORE)

ANASH (CONT'D)

It's pretty low, but you'll notice it'll go up quickly. So you can go to all the stores, areas and restaurants for level 5 and below.

Charlotte nods. She gets it.

ANASH (CONT'D)

Makes sense? Let me know if you have any questions.

CHARLOTTE

I think I got it. We'll find out how much of a good of a person I am.

The train goes into the downtown area now.

ANASH

Oh! We need to get out here.

Anash stands up and grabs Charlotte's hand. Charlotte, uncomfortable, looks at her hand and quickly has to grab her suitcase while they get out.

EXT. CITY TRAIN PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Charlotte looks at all the wonders of Arcadia. She realizes she still holds Anash' hand and quickly retracts it. Anash blushes and coughs awkwardly.

ANASH

This way.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Charlotte and Anash walk through the door of a modern apartment. It is small, but more technologically advanced than anywhere else in the world.

CHARLOTTE

This is neat.

Charlotte touches her hair again. When she does she still gets surprised when she sees her own reflection.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Oh this is gonna annoy the hell out of me.

She touches the kitchen counter and a hologram pops up.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Wow. What the hell is this?

Anash stands next to her and scrolls through information on the hologram.

ANASH

Oh, it can show you the way and it has an alarm set for tomorrow. It'll show your vitals signs and gives reminders. You have any questions?

CHARLOTTE

So, to eat, I just go to the nearest restaurant?

ANASH

You can. There is a level 5 restaurant in your building here, but your fridge has been stocked just in case.

CHARLOTTE

Can't cook. So...

ANASH

Oh, you'll find easy-prep-kit foods.

Charlotte goes through the room, she looks at the computer, the kitchen and finally bounces on the bed.

CHARLOTTE

And if I want to contact my family?

ANASH

Just use the computer. There is a call app.

CHARLOTTE

And the lines are secure?

Anash frowns.

ANASH

Yes. Should be. No one can intercept the call, if that's what you're worried about.

CHARLOTTE

Thanks Anash, for everything.

ANASH

I'll leave you be. Good luck tomorrow!

Anash wants to go in for the hug just as Charlotte turns around, away from Anash.

Anash just decides to leave instead and as the door closes behind him Charlotte looks outside of the window and smiles.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte takes a shower. She touches her skin. It looks red and irritated from the chemical wash.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER

Charlotte looks in the mirror. With scissors, she re-cuts her short hair. It looks a lot better now.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Charlotte unpacks her bag. She hangs some clothes up and takes out a few picture frames. One with what seems like her parents and one with a handsome man.

She then inspects the room. Top to bottom. What the hell is she looking for?

Charlotte sits down at her computer and confused by the HOLOGRAM SCREEN, she goes through the applications. She finds the telephone.

She gets a knife and takes her suitcase. She cuts into the fabric and hidden there, a BOTTLE OF PILLS. She definitely wasn't supposed to have those.

She also gets out an envelope. She opens it. In it, a HANDGUN and smaller envelope that reads, AGENT TATE. She opens it and finds a bunch of numbers and instructions.

She dials the number. It is clearly encoded. The phone rings and someone picks up.

CHARLOTTE

Verification number F8762JS. Please check if line is secure.

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)

Line secure. Please hold.

The line goes silent. But soon, another click.

AGENT HARLEY (ON PHONE)

Agent Tate...?

CHARLOTTE

Yes. I'm in.

END OF TEASER