

HELL ON EARTH

"Pilot"

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HELL ON EARTH

"Pilot"

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

Lightning tears across the gloomy sky. DEMONS hide inside alleyways. The light reveals them, only for a moment.

Demons dart across the city streets in search of shelter for their CHILDREN. In the surrounding high-rises, HUMANS peer out, shut their windows and close their blinds. Some in fear, others in disgust.

EXT. HOSPITAL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

STAFF hurriedly run across the interior, past the windows on each floor. There is faint yelling from inside until BOOM --

An EXPLOSION rips through the top half of the building.

Smoke bellows into the sky as footsteps splash through puddles of water. CRACK! LIGHTNING FLASHES as SIRENS ECHO throughout the nearby city blocks. EMERGENCY RESPONDERS (EMRs) operate swiftly, shouting orders to one another.

As they try to dampen the fire, it suddenly BURSTS forth and knocks them back.

An EMR looks up and spots V (a woman, 20s, long yellow hair, in a hospital gown) with several passed out CHILD PATIENTS, her face hidden in clouds of smoke from the fire.

V places the bodies in front of the responder. They quickly check the kids' pulses. Their hearts beat -- they're alive!

V turns back to the hospital building, flames raging on.

FIREFIGHTER

Ma'am, wai-

She disappears into the smoke.

INT. HOSPITAL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

V, face still obscured by smoke, rushes down the corridors and points children to the exit.

She, however, continues down the hallway. A burst of flame blocks her but she keeps moving, her hand over her mouth.

As she scans the hallways, V hears a faint voice. She runs in the voice's direction and spots MIA's (young, stout woman, green hair) silhouette backlit by the fire.

V lingers for a moment before running towards Mia. However, a wooden beam falls from the ceiling. It knocks the two back and traps the two on opposite sides of the debris.

V rushes back to her feet and tries to move the beam. No progress. As the smoke thickens, V turns away but the fire blocks her path. She looks for a last ditch exit, until she fixates on a broken window.

V inches towards the window's frame. The window is several stories up. A fatal fall. V clenches her fist. Suddenly, two hands, obscured by the fire, push V out the window.

In slow motion, her head turns. All she can make out is a silhouette, but it looks nothing like Mia. The fire backlights the horns and disfigured stance of a DEMON.

Embers blur V's vision, until she closes her eyes. ALL SOUNDS CUT OUT as her body falls. A BRIGHT BLUE LIGHT flashes. V awakens to a semi-transparent, male FIGURE, with his hand reaching towards V.

Glass shards fall and clear a path before her.

The light, despite its harshness, feels warm. Her body still falling, V slowly reaches out her hand as her vision fades.

Mia's voice pierces through the darkness.

MIA (V.O.)
Don't worry, V! I'll be right there
when you wake up.

V blacks out.

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Face down, V awakens in a grass field. She looks around for a moment, then BOLTS upright.

V
Mia-?!

She touches her face.

She takes a bandage from around her arm, now covered in HEAVY SCARS and ties it around her face.

She stands up and watches the grass in the field ripple and wave through the wind.

She turns to see --

JACKAL (30's, Egyptian, dressed in a shendyt, has a tail).

Prolonged eye contact until...

MINSHENG (Ming Dynasty armor, Chinese, wears a long scarf) jumps in front of her.

MINSHENG

Hello!

V falls to the ground, rubs her head.

MINSHENG (CONT'D)

Agh! So sorry!

Minsheng reaches down to help her stand. V dusts off her hospital gown.

MINSHENG (CONT'D)

Are you alright? Get here okay?

V

The fire... the hospital... where's
Mia?? Where am I?

JACKAL

Stupid questions, stupid answers.

MINSHENG

Don't worry, she's fine.

JACKAL

Somehow.

Minsheng ruffles Jackal's hair.

JACKAL (CONT'D)

Stop!

MINSHENG

There are no stupid questions here!

V

What's his problem?

She gestures to Jackal.

JACKAL
One stupid question.

MINSHENG
That's Jackal! And I'm Minsheng!

V
V.

Minsheng grabs her hand and shakes it very rapidly.

MINSHENG
Nice to meet you, V! We're
Guardians of the human plane!

V
What?

Minsheng points to the horizon, past the field, past distant TREES, until he reaches the faint blue outline of the CITY SKYLINE.

MINSHENG
All of this, everything you've ever seen, is part of what we call the human plane.

He points at her -- EXCITED.

MINSHENG (CONT'D)
Filled with humans just like yourself!

JACKAL
Until it's not.

Minsheng's finger droops to his side.

MINSHENG
Yeahh...

V
What do you mean?

Minsheng SIGHS.

MINSHENG
That's why we're here. We need your help.

V
Me?

JACKAL

You're only alive because of
Minsheng's interference. Every few
 centuries, a great evil appears
 within the human plane.

MINSHENG

It's been growing. We can feel it's
 strength. We need *your* help to
 defeat it. We ask that you join us
 as a third guardian.

V

I'm... I can't. I'm not-

MINSHENG

Don't you feel different, standing
 here?

V takes a DEEP BREATH. For once, not accompanied by pain. No
 cough, no stumbling. Peace. She holds her hand out in front
 of her -- is this real?

She sees FLASHES:

-- THE HOSPITAL, HER BED. The IV.

-- MIA (face hidden) LAUGHING BESIDE HER.

-- ALARMS BLARING. CHAOS.

-- V'S FEET hit the hospital floor for the FIRST TIME. She's
 doing this.

V

...why me?

Jackal SCOFFS

JACKAL

Yeah, 'why'?

MINSHENG

I, for one, have never seen such a
 stupendous display of bravery from
 one sole person. I watched you run
 into the fire with not an ounce of
 fear written on your face! You
 saved so many people, all of them!

V balls her hand into a fist. She looks down, away. Shame.

V

Almost everyone...

Minsheng places a hand on her shoulder.

MINSHENG

Listen, V... there are few people in this world who are genuinely good, people who risk their own wellbeing for the sake of others and don't expect anything in return. You are a kind-hearted person.

You are a kind hearted person.

MINSHENG (CONT'D)

If not you, who else?

MIA (V.O.)

I'll be back for you, I promise.

V takes a DEEP BREATH. She straightens her shoulders.

V

How do we start?

Minsheng grins, Jackal SCOFFS.

EXT. MEADOW - TREE LINE - MOMENTS LATER

V (now in different clothes, dressed in armor-esque leather and silver, similar to Minsheng) walks next to the guardians in the shade. She moves her arm around to get comfortable as she walks.

V

So... when you say 'Great Evil', what exactly-?

Minsheng stops V in her tracks.

The forest ahead of them becomes faded into ASH. LEAVES CRISP, GRASS BLACKENED AND GREY.

V picks up a dead LEAF from the ground. It turns to dust between her fingers.

MINSHENG

This.

JACKAL

Hot-spots. Areas overcome with negative energy.

SNARLS echo from the distance. V turns to face...

A CORRUPTED DEMON. Melting, oozing skin with dog-like features.

Minsheng places himself between V and the demon.

V takes a step back -- the demon lunges, going right through Minsheng, as if he were a ghost.

V throws herself out of the way. Minsheng summons A SWORD into the air, grasps it, and throws it to her.

MINSHENG
Here! Use this!

Minsheng HURLS a LARGE BROADSWORD at V. She tries to catch it, fumbles it.

The demon LAUNCHES itself at her -- then, it disintegrates into ashes.

-- Though, not before a faint RED SIGIL can be seen in the air for the smallest moment.

Jackal narrows his eyes, Minsheng pats V on the back.

MINSHENG (CONT'D)
Wow, you're better at this than I thought!

V
That wasn't me.

MINSHENG
Don't need to be so modest!

V stares at the pile of ashes, her brow furrows.

V
What even was that thing??

MINSHENG
A corrupted demon. These areas seem to allow them to enter the human plane from the Labyrinth. But they've been appearing so much as of late... which is why we need you. Jackal and I cannot handle them by our lonesome.

JACKAL
Corruption occurs when they don't right their wrongs after going down there when they die.

V
Sounds a bit... harsh.

Minsheng taps a finger against the blade of V's sword.

MINSHENG
This sword is the only thing that
can eliminate corrupted demons in
the Human Plane-

JACKAL
And normal demons.

MINSHENG
And *normal* demons.

JACKAL
If you want to prove yourself, to
be a guardian, you need to learn
how to use the sword to protect
this plane.

V looks down at the sword. HER REFLECTION stares back at her.

SEQUENCE: V's Training Montage

-- Minsheng discusses proper sword stance with V.

MINSHENG
Remember to keep your weight evenly
distributed. A lack of balance
leads to a lack of coordination and
a lack of coordination leads to-

V rolls her eyes.

-- Jackal stands opposite to V.

JACKAL
Come on, try slashing through me.

V
You sure? Seems dangerous.

Jackal smirks.

JACKAL
Trust me, anything you do, I've
been through worse.

V readies her stance.

-- V finally lands the correct stance with Minsheng.

MINSHENG

Great job! Now, let's talk the main form of attack for any swordfighter...

-- V dashes towards Jackal and swiftly swings her sword. It narrowly misses him.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

The slash.

V continues with a sequence of careful, yet unskilled swings.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

Controlled swings should expose the weak points of your enemy.

SLASH.

MINSHENG

However, the key word is control. The sword is heavy, so slashes will require effort. Keep that in mind.

SLASH.

MINSHENG (CONT'D)

Your opponent will notice that, so you'll need to anticipate their movement.

Jackal avoids each of V's swings expertly. V swings especially hard and the sword flings out her hand, past Jackal. He smirks.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

One way to remain unpredictable in combat is to use one of your sword's innate abilities: recall.

V sprints toward Jackal and holds out her hand. The sword stops its forward momentum, surges with yellow energy and flies back to V like a boomerang. Jackal looks back for a second and quickly dodges.

JACKAL

Ha! That wasn't half bad for baby's first recall.

V remains focused on the combat, mixing slashes with recalls to catch Jackal off guard.

-- Grass blades fly into the air as the two dance across the battlefield.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

Finally, should the odds feel
insurmountable, you can focus all
of your energy into the connection
between yourself and your sword.

As V attacks, her sword pulses with a yellow energy.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

This energy will surge through the
sword, representative of all you
feel. Your struggles. Your resolve.
Your focus!

V's eyes spark yellow. She continues fighting.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

Then and only then, can you use
your pen ultimate ability-

V recalls the sword. Jackal dodges, but V pivots. Energy
crackles from her body into the sword. She swings.

MINSHENG (V.O.)

UNLEASH!

A beam of energy shoots out the sword, phases through Jackal
and explodes upon contact with some trees across the meadow.
V falls to her knees as sparks of yellow light sprinkle down.
She looks up at Jackal, and he down at her with a smirk.

END SEQUENCE.

EXT. MEADOW - TREE LINE - NOON

Minsheng jumps up and down, excitement plastered all over his
face.

MINSHENG

Jackal, this is so exciting!

JACKAL

Utterly.

V swings the sword over her shoulder, where it lands.

Minsheng CLAPS as he walks over to V.

MINSHENG

You're a pro!! Nice job! Let's try
unleash oneee~ more time.
Let it ALL out at Jackal, over
there!

Jackal shrugs.

JACKAL
Yeah, whatever.

V lowers the sword and stares at it.

MINSHENG
Ready?

V
I mean, sure...

V readies herself -- she shuts her eyes and concentrates hard.

THE WORLD AROUND HER DIMS AS A YELLOW LIGHT ENVELOPES HER.

Minsheng waves his hands and Jackal's eyes widen.

V grips the sword hilt tightly, takes a step back. She reels the sword in, steps forward to strike--

The sword slips from her hand.

V (CONT'D)
Oops.

Minsheng YELPS, ducks, and the sword flies straight through Jackal -- the heavy scowl returns to his face.

The sword FLIES through the tree line, causing several TREES to CRASH down.

V's shoulder's sink. Minsheng quickly pats her on the head.

MINSHENG
It's- it's alright! Remember
recall?? Try that! It'll come back.

V holds out her hand to recall the sword -- nothing.

Jackal's eye TWITCHES.

JACKAL
It's probably stuck on something.
Go. Get it.

V SIGHS and heads towards the tree line.

Jackal crosses his arms and turns to Minsheng.

JACKAL (CONT'D)
I'm picking the next one.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

V searches for the sword -- in bushes, in trees, around flower patches.

The DIMMING SUNLIGHT peers through the FOREST CANOPY.

Then--

The birds stop their CHIRPS, the bugs stop their BUZZES.

Silence.

V freezes, looks around. Right, left...

SAMUEL (demon, large horns, red coat, black t-shirt) hangs upside-down from a low TREE BRANCH, a wide smile plastered over his face.

SAMUEL
Be thou hale!

V JUMPS, falls over.

V
Ugh...

Samuel helps her up with an extended hand.

SAMUEL
Sorry, didn't mean to startle you.

V
It happens.

V dusts herself off.

Samuel extends his hand again, this time for a shake.

SAMUEL
I'm Samuel.

V looks him up and down.

V
...V.

A tail, horns...

Samuel gets inches from her face -- still smiling.

SAMUEL
I think I found something of yours.

The sword appears in his hand, like a card trick. He stabs it into the dirt between them.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
You should be a little more careful
with it, you almost took my head
off!

V pulls the sword from the ground. Now, on the metal blade, SAMUEL'S SIGIL is embedded in a DEEP RED. Stained, scratched, unremovable.

The same sigil from before -- the one that killed the corrupted demon.

V
Right... sorry about that.

She raises an eyebrow at Samuel.

A beat.

SAMUEL
Something wrong, doll?

Still plastered with that grin.

FAINTLY, JACKAL AND MINSHENG ARGUE.

V
I should... go.

She runs off.

Samuel watches as she does, still, with his grin. He does not follow her.

MINSHENG (PRE-LAP)
Are you CRAZY??

EXT. MEADOW - CONTINUOUS

Minsheng paces. Jackal TAPS his foot, arms crossed tightly.

JACKAL
Rule number 1: Never turn your back
on a demon.

V
What's rule number 2? Rules of
what? What?

Jackal JABS his finger at her.

JACKAL

No one cares about rule number 2.
Rule number 1 CLEARLY-

V

He didn't do anything. Just stood
there and kind of... smiled at me.

MINSHENG

Of course. Of COURSE he did!

He flails his arms in despair.

JACKAL

What should she have done instead?
Attack *HIM*? She just started
training.

V

What?

JACKAL

She'd be turned into paste on the
sidewalk if she tried to fight him.

MINSHENG

I thought we had more time! Do you
know how long it'll take to find a
replacement?

V steps between them.

V

Stop. Wait. Explain to me why he's
such a problem? He seemed...
creepy, but not world ending.

JACKAL

King of Hell. He calls himself
Samuel.

BEGIN CUT-SCENE - ANCIENT PAINTING STYLE

The scene shows the story as **Jackal explains it.**

JACKAL (V.O.)

There have been many changes to
hell's throne-line through the
ages. But he is the most notable.
His father was the longest-reining
king, he survived for millennia.
Yet somehow was killed in battle by
his eldest son -- Samuel.

(MORE)

JACKAL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Samuel is the youngest to take the throne, and is more powerful than all of his ancestors combined. There's a reason demons have come to the human plane - running, desperately, daring to disobey their monarch. They'd rather die here, at your blade, than be subject to his eternal damnation.

END CUT-SCENE

As we were.

V
...he seemed a little weird, sure,
but-

JACKAL
But *nothing*. You think it's a coincidence he 'ran into' you?
Everything about him is calculated.
A predator on the hunt for prey.

V's brow furrows.

JACKAL (CONT'D)
You *have* to avoid him, be alert. He knows what you are, *who* you are. It won't be long before he kills you, allowing the human plane to be free-game for any demon thirsting for human blood.

Minsheng nods.

MINSHENG
Right... right. We... we need to think of a plan...

JACKAL
WE?? This is *YOUR* fault!

They delve into a thick ARGUMENT.

EXPLOSION in the distance.

V turns to face the city-line on the horizon.

Smoke.

She bolts towards it.

JACKAL (CONT'D)
--hey! Wait! Where are you going??
Get BACK here!

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - EVENING

PEOPLE flee from a bellowing smoke cloud. Light flashes periodically inside of it. V approaches, arm over her eyes.

The smoke clears and V looks up. A HELLHOUND with a wounded leg meets her gaze. It tries to walk, but crashes into a building. Lightning erupts around it as it lets out a haunting roar. Jackal and Minsheng reappear next to V.

JACKAL
THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, RUNNING
OFF LIKE THAT?!

Minsheng tilts Jackal's head to put the Hellhound in view.

JACKAL (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Of course one found its way here.
(to V)
Well, V, here's your first test.
Try not to screw it up.

Minsheng looks over to V. Her attention is unwavering. The Hellhound roars as it stomps its foot down in front of her. V dodges -- a claw only slicing a tuft of hair -- and scales the Hellhound's leg.

MINSHENG
Good luck.

V rushes across the Hellhound, from its leg to the back of its head. V grabs the hilt of her sword. The Hellhound roars in defiance and desperately shakes its body to get V off.

V loses her footing but clings to the side of the beast. The Hellhound turns its head to her and she leaps onto its ear.

V climbs atop the beast's head and raises her sword up. The sword reflects in the Hellhound's eye and it helplessly roars. Suddenly, the Hellhound disappears.

V
Huh?

She falls but sticks the landing. As the dust settles, V sees SETH (demon, broken horn) on the ground, slumped over.

SETH
(whisper)
Just do it...

V pauses. The demon turns to face her, a nasty cut along his arm. Blood trickles down onto the floor. Minsheng and Jackal reappear next to V. Jackal is stone-faced, but Minsheng looks at the demon somberly.

SETH (CONT'D)
I said, do it.

V sheathes her sword and approaches the demon slowly. Seth stares at her for a moment. He clenches his fist.

SETH (CONT'D)
JUST DO IT ALREADY!

V
No.

SETH
Wh- what?

Minsheng and Jackal reflect the demon's shock.

SETH (CONT'D)
You serious? I said-

V
You're hurt.

She motions towards Seth. He scrambles backwards. She sighs.

V (CONT'D)
I don't want to hurt you.

SETH
This must be some sick joke. You're toying with me to kill me when I least expect it! That's it!

V sits back and looks out towards the rubble. She sighs.

V
I don't think you meant to do all this. I know what it looks like when someone wants to hurt others-

She points at him.

V (CONT'D)
And you're not it.

SETH

You know nothing about me.

V

I know that you weren't trying to kill me. You slammed your hand down *in front* of me and never tried biting me. Your leg was hurting and you just wanted me to go away.

Seth stares at the ground momentarily. He looks at V.

SETH

Aren't you supposed to be a demon killer?

V

Aren't you supposed to be a ruthless killing machine?

V reaches her hand back out, offering a handshake.

V (CONT'D)

Listen, I've got a lot to figure out and it seems you could use some help, so let's work together here.

Seth's gaze softens.

V (CONT'D)

I'll help get you patched up and you can give me a bit of info. You know, favors for favors.

SETH

Why? Why would you waste your time on me?

V

Because I don't think you're all bad.

Seth looks at V, then her hand. He takes it and the two stand up together. Seth rushes in for a hug. V stiffens but reciprocates the hug. Minsheng smiles and disappears. Jackal follows suit.

V (CONT'D)

Uh... you're getting blood on me.

SETH

Shit, my bad.

Seth backs off and quickly rubs a tear from his cheek. V notices and smiles.

EXT. CITY OUTSKIRTS - DUSK

V and Seth walk away from the city. Seth, with a new wrap for his arm, looks back every few paces.

V

Hey, didn't catch your name earlier.

SETH

Oh, uh, I'm Seth. You?

V

I'm V.

SETH

Like... the letter?

Awkward silence.

V

I used to know someone who owned a cabin somewhere up here. It's away from the city and quiet.

SETH

That's good. I think I could use some quiet.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

REAK! V opens the door and the two step inside. Its dusty with scarce furniture with grass in between the flooring. Seth throws himself on a couch. It coats him in dust.

V

How is it?

SETH

It's a step above my, state of the art, cardboard box.

He buries his face in the couch. V continues walking, quickly flipping down an old picture frame. Suddenly, a large metallic clank comes from the kitchen. Seth perks up.

SETH (CONT'D)

Holy shit! Food?

He hops onto the kitchen counter then pounces on something. V follows behind him.

SETH (CONT'D)
Whoa! I've been all throughout the city and I've never seen a rat THIS big.

He holds up something covered in dust bunnies shaped like a giant rat. It sneezes and PEGGY (young woman, orange, curly hair, green poncho) emerges from the dust.

PEGGY
Hi there~!!

She smiles brightly at V and Seth. V furrows her brow and Seth's excited gleam turns into a grimace.

SETH
Oh, what the fuck? LAME!

He drops her and turns around to face V. Peggy's already examining V's arm and outfit.

PEGGY
WHOA!! What are you? Some sort of soldier?

V
Wh-

PEGGY
No, that can't be right, your outfit's too exciting. A ninja??
No, a KNIGHT!!

Seth scoffs.

V
No, I-. Wait a sec, who are you?

PEGGY
Oh, silly me! I'm Peggy!

Fireworks erupt behind her spelling: PEGGY! She promptly kneels in front of V.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
It's an honor to meet you, my liege.

SETH
(to V)
I thought it was supposed to be
quiet here.

V
Ok, Peggy. Are you some sort of-

PEGGY
Witch? Well, of course I am! Look
at my outfit, ya goof!

Seth opens his mouth, but Peggy quickly puts her finger up to
it to silence him. He tries to bite her.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
I already know what you're
thinking. 'What powers could this
"witch" possibly have?' First of
all, rude.

Peggy flicks Seth on the nose. He tries to bite her.

PEGGY (CONT'D)
Second, I'm happy to inform that
I'm not your standard, run of the
mill witch. I happen to be the most
♦ powerful ♦, conniving~, and
GRANDEST witch *OF ALL TIME!!*

She teleports onto the kitchen counter, ending her
performance.

SETH
Never heard of ya.

PEGGY
Well, duh! It's because I'm
elusive~

V
Well, if you're the powerful witch
you claim to be, heal Seth's arm.

PEGGY
Why of course, my liege, but only
if he says *pretty please*.

SETH
Kill yourself.

PEGGY
Close enough!

She slaps her hands on his broken arm.

SETH
THE HELL ARE YOU-

Green sparkles appear from her hands and shimmer around Seth's arm. Seth unties the wrap. There's only a scar. Peggy crosses her arms smugly.

PEGGY
Well?

Seth looks at V. She shrugs her shoulders.

V
Good enough for me.

SETH
What? That's nothing! I could've healed up by morning.

Peggy slaps her hands on the sides of his head.

PEGGY
But what if you were to become ill, my fellow homunculus?? You were but a tadpole but my healing powers have helped you blossom into a wonderful SPRING TOAD, good prince!!

Seth shoves her off.

SETH
Don't call me that.

PEGGY
Homunculus?

SETH
Prince.

The two argue more as V walks over to a WINDOW.

She looks out to the MAJESTY OF THE NIGHT SKY. A loud CLANK is heard off to the side. V springs up.

PEGGY (O.S.)
YEOWCH!

V
HEY!

The night sky coats the cabin in beautiful blues and purples as SHOOTING STARS fly across the sky.

INT. OFFICE - DEPTHS OF HELL

A woven, medieval-esque TAPESTRY, hangs on the wall across from a CHAIR. On it -- eyes.

CAINE (demon, white hair, white suit, red tie) sits in the chair. In front of him, a FIREPLACE. In his grasp, a SEVERED HUMAN FINGER. His face, not visible. ADAM (white snake, red eyes), sits curled around Caine's shoulders

Like a carpenter to a wood block, Caine uses a DRAWKNIFE to shave pieces of the skin off.

He flicks them off with his pinky, and they flutter to the carpeted floor -- as wood shavings might.

FLICK.

FLICK.

VANESSA (demon, grey hair, glasses, wears a doctor's coat) stands behind Caine's chair. She holds a sword.

VANESSA
You hate my fun.

CAINE
I know.

VANESSA
He wasn't there. You said he would be.

CAINE
Because he found something more interesting than you could ever offer. It takes a lot to peak the King of Hell's interest.

Caine lifts the now fully flayed finger to Adam, who then eats it whole.

CAINE (CONT'D)
You should step up your game.

VANESSA
Step up my-?! What could POSSIBLY-?

Caine holds out a small portion of BLONDE HAIR, singed at the ends.

Caine turns around, though not moving his chair, to face Vanessa.

A beat.

Vanessa LAUGHS.

Caine tosses the hair to the floor with a...

FLICK.

END