

CLASS

SERIES 1

EPISODE 6

"Detained"

By

PATRICK NESS

SHOOTING SCRIPT

20th July 2016

QUILL
(through the door)
That's why I'm locking you in. So
you won't come to harm.

CHARLIE
Why? What are you going to do?

She just smiles and turns away, walking down the corridor.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Hey!
(on door handle)

- 7 EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT X 7 *
- The asteroid nears the tear on its end. We can see the CORRIDOR through it-
- CUT TO:
- 8 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 10; 15:41 8 *
- April jiggles the lock and turns the door handle-
- APRIL
I didn't know you were claustrophobic-
- She opens the door-
- CUT TO:
- 9 EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT X 9 *
- The asteroid HITS the tear. It's bigger, so only a small part of it comes through, but the rest is TORN TO PIECES.
- CUT TO:
- 10 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10 10 *
- April and Charlie both call out as as if it's knocked to one side the entire classroom feels.
- Tanya, Matteusz and Ram fall from their desks, chairs tumble, shelves empty, the blinds shake. Like an earthquake.
- Then silence. And stillness.
- CHARLIE
What was ?
- APRIL
Earthquake?
- RAM
In London?
- Tanya glances to the windows, which we don't see yet.
- TANYA
What's up with the windows?
- Matteusz sits up next to her, looks the opposite way.
- MATTEUSZ
What's up with the ?

Slowly they rise. We pull away, out the door, looking at their shocked faces until we pull out completely into-

CUT TO:

11 EXT. BLACKNESS - NIGHT X/ INT. QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10 11 *

A vast blank emptiness. The corridor is gone, only endless blackness, up, down, to all sides. They're floating in absolutely nothing. Framed in the door, Charlie and the others look out, shocked.

CHARLIE
Is detention always like this?

We pull out and out and out, until they shrink to a spot of almost nothing...

THEME MUSIC RISES - "Up All Night" by Alex Clare.

TITLES

CUT TO:

11A EXT. BLACKNESS - NIGHT X/ INT. QUILL'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT 10 11A *

The windows are a pinpoint in the blackness. We slowly come in to Tanya, looking out into nothing.

TANYA
This is bad. This is really,

*
*
*
*
*

TANYA

No, you wouldn't have. You would've stayed like the rest of us.

CHARLIE

Trust me, she wouldn't have left that to chance. I don't think she did this.

MATTEUSZ

So who did?

APRIL

Ram is at a desk, looking at his phone.

RAM
Who would you call anyway?

They all look up.

RAM (CONT'D)
(off their looks)
I'm not being a dick ! I'm just asking!

Charlie looks back at his phone, can't quite dispute this.

CHARLIE
I've got friends.

RAM
Besides us?

APRIL
(to Ram)
What's with the aggression, Ram?
And anyway, we're enough.
(to Charlie)
We're enough for .

Tanya still looks out the window, trying to figure it out.

TANYA
Was there a sound of a tear
opening?
(to Charlie)
Did you hear one when you opened
the door?

CHARLIE
(embarrassed)
Maybe. I was more worried about
being locked in a room-

TANYA
So did we get pulled through?

Matteusz kneels by Quill's desk, looking at the floor.

MATTEUSZ
Or did something knock us astray?

The others notice how he's looking and come over -

CUT TO:

14 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 14 *

Just behind Quill's desk, on the floor in front of her chair,
sits a GLOWING SMOKING ASTEROID FRAGMENT.

APRIL
Now, that's interesting.

RAM
(oddly angry)
Would you get off my back? You're just like my dad.

TANYA
(pissed off)
What?

APRIL
(suddenly angry, too)
Don't talk to her that way!

RAM
What are you getting pissed off for?

APRIL
(loudly)
I don't know!

Beat, as they all calm slightly.

APRIL (CONT'D)
(pulling collar)
Is it hot in here?

CHARLIE
(on the fragment)
I think you may be right about the radiation.

They turn to look. The FRAGMENT is now sizzling the
around itself. Everyone steps back.

floor

*

TANYA
Anyone know the symptoms of radiation poisoning?

RAM
Agony. Followed by death.

MATTEUSZ
He is right.

CHARLIE
We've got to get out of here.

APRIL
To where? We're hanging in nowhere.
It's not even

They look out the doorway to the blackness.

TANYA
And it's not Shadow? Can you still
feel that?

*

*

APRIL
A little. But Shadow feels

*

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)

And I am afraid of who you are. Of what you're capable of. Of what you will do.

CHARLIE

(emotional)
I'd never hurt you.

MATTEUSZ

(still foggy)
You'd never mean to. But you would.
(swallows)
You . If it came to the choice.
If you had to You would
not choose me.

Calls out as April, with a BOOK, knocks the fragment out of his hand.

They all watch as it tumbles to the ground, bouncing once, twice, heading for the nothingness beyond the door-

When it hits the plane where it should bounce out, it seems to weirdly bounce RIGHT BACK IN, like a reflection on a mirror.

It tumbles to a stop at their feet. They all look at it, very warily.

APRIL

That's new.

CUT TO:

15 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 15 *

They're gathered around, looking at Matteusz' hand. Which is fine.

MATTEUSZ

It's not burnt. It didn't even feel hot when I picked it up.

APRIL

So what happened?

TANYA

Yeah, you said you were back in Poland?

MATTEUSZ

A memory. But so much more. So clear. I could see them.
(glances at Charlie)
Was day I told my grandmother about who I was. She knew, of course, grandmothers always do, but she wanted to hear it from me.

He looks at Charlie; they're both still pained.

APRIL
And then what?

MATTEUSZ
It was like... the truth came
clear. And had to be said.

APRIL
(off Charlie's hurt)
I'm not sure you to.

MATTEUSZ
(to her)
No, I did. That's what I mean. I
couldn't stop.
(to Charlie)
I wanted to, but there it was,
being said. But it's only of
the truth. The most fearful part,
the part. It's only-

CHARLIE
(hurt, getting up)
No, I understand.

MATTEUSZ
(getting up)
Charlie-

Matteusz follows him to the other side of the room. April,
Tanya and Ram watch them go.

APRIL
(sceptical)
So it's an asteroid of truth?

RAM
of truth.

APRIL
(snapping)
Yes, all right, we heard you, Ram.

TANYA
That's not possible, though. Rocks
don't make you tell the truth.

APRIL
They don't knock you out into
nothingness either.

RAM
(still annoyed)
Yeah, but it's tears in space
time? Maybe we got knocked out of
both.

They look at him, blankly.

RAM (CONT'D)
Stop looking at me like that.
Athletes can have brains.

TANYA
No, that's not what I'm thinking
about.

APRIL
What are you thinking about?

Tanya stands, looks out the window again.

TANYA
I'm thinking about how we get
knocked back again.

CUT TO:

MATTEUSZ

You are different. are
different. Show me one person who
knows how to do what we're doing?

CHARLIE

(really sad now)
I thought we were finding a way.

He gets up and moves away from him. Matteusz lets him go.

CUT TO:

RAM (CONT'D)

These are the talented. These are the people who excel.

APRIL

And that's who you want to be?

RAM

No, that's who I . Who I want to be was up here-

(raises hand even higher)

These are the last little percent. The people who are better than the best. The people who aren't even a little bit normal.

He kicks the little ball of paper again, bitterly.

APRIL

Some people are grateful for so-called "normal."

RAM

Like who?

APRIL

My mum was in a wheelchair for eight years.

RAM

Yeah, but she's not anymore, is she?

APRIL

(cross)

Whoa! Why are you being such a dick ?

He pauses, pained-looking. Sits down next to her in frustration , very confused about his mood.

*

RAM

(baffled)

I really don't know. I mean, besides the being trapped thing.

They stare into the classroom, surprised at their grumpiness. Then:

APRIL

I never told you how glad I was you came after me. Through the tear. To a whole other planet.

RAM

(more quietly)

No problem. You couldn't have saved the world otherwise.

APRIL

I guess not.

Long beat.

RAM
How things with your mum?

APRIL
(glances at Ram)
She looks at me funny when she
doesn't think I can see her.

Ram glances over to Matteusz.

RAM
You think it's like what he said
about Charlie? Like she's afraid of
you?

APRIL
Wouldn't be?

RAM
I saw you slaughter a bunch of huge
aliens with swords growing out of
your hands and I'm not afraid of
you. I might be more open-minded
than I thought.

APRIL
I think you always were.

RAM
She'll come round. She loves you.

The way he's looking at her clearly means he loves her, too,
though he knows she doesn't want him to say it.

APRIL
Yeah, but I'm different now.
Different than the daughter she
knew.

RAM
Doesn't that happen to all
daughters? sons?

APRIL
Oh, don't get all wise on me. She
said it was a violent thing I did
to her.

RAM
"Violent"?

APRIL
Yeah, and she's right.

RAM
But you healed her. She can
again.

APRIL
Not quite yet. But getting there.
And I'm sure if we'd talked about
it-

RAM
Talked about whether she wanted to
be healed from a wheelchair?!

APRIL
She'd accepted it, Ram. She'd built
a life and identity around it. And
without asking, I just reached in
and gave her a new one.
(off Ram's leg)
You know what that's like.

Ram rubs his leg.

RAM
Not quite the same.

APRIL
Close enough. She's grateful. But I
changed her. Violently. And so of
course she's going to look at me
like she's afraid.

RAM
(again)
You asked me to not be afraid of
you. And I'm not.

He picks up her hand and kisses it. Her expression is
ambiguous.

RAM (CONT'D)
(frowns)
Still kinda pissed off, though.

APRIL
(frowns, too)
Me, too.

Tanya notices this, seems to figure something out.

TANYA
(to herself)
Me, .
(turns like she's made a
decision)
Let's have a look at that meteor.

She heads towards Quill's desk.

CUT TO:

deciwp59eoOO

TANYA
Okay, let's think this through.
Stones don't make you tell the
truth-

*

MATTEUSZ

MATTEUSZ
And you did.

TANYA
(blinks, looks at the
others)
You guys aren't really my friends.

APRIL
(surprised)
What?

TANYA
(subdued)
You only tolerate me. You look at
me like a little sister or a baby-

RAM
No, we don't-

TANYA
(subdued still)
That's how it feels. That's the
truth. I'm telling you the truth-

APRIL
Put down the rock and I'll tell you
what the truth is-

Tanya struggles, like she's fighting the truth-telling. She
seems to snap out of it, gets herself back on track.

TANYA
No, I'm doing this for a reason.
Ask me a question!

No one does.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Somebody ask me something!

CHARLIE
About what?

TANYA
About the rock, alien boy! God, you
keep saying you're this prince, but
all you do is stand around and ask
stupid questions and get obvious
things wrong!

CHARLIE
(hurt)
Hey.

APRIL
(getting it)
Is the rock dangerous?

TANYA
(at last)
Yes. Yes, it's dangerous.
(MORE)

If you hold it too long, it fries
your brain, our chemistry can't
handle it-

RAM
Then let it go!

TANYA
Not yet, ask me again. Make me tell
you the truth.

MATTEUSZ
What is it? Is it alien?

TANYA
(struggling)
It's... a of intelligence-

RAM
you it was alien.

TANYA
But not quite. Something
incorporated on the asteroid-

Her eyes suddenly widen in terror.

TANYA (CONT'D)
A prisoner-

Drops the rock, very scared. Beat of silence.

APRIL
A prisoner?

CHARLIE
What did you mean, "prisoner"?

Tanya, frightened, looks up at them all.

TANYA
There's someone in here with us.

CUT TO:

19 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 19 *

They're all at the back now, keeping a distance from the
rock, sneaking looks at it, all except Tanya, who's upset.

TANYA
(to Charlie)
I'm sorry. I didn't mean it.

CHARLIE
(it's not)
It's okayn't mean it.

RAM
I thought you said it was the
truth.

APRIL
Ram!

MATTEUSZ
That's what I meant. You don't want
to say it, but you do. You can't
help it.

CHARLIE
(uncomfortable)
Does everybody feel that way?

TANYA

If there's something in there that
makes you tell the truth, maybe we
could force

MATTEUSZ

Are you okay?

CHARLIE

(no)

Why wouldn't I be? I'm trapped in a confined space which is making my heart beat nearly twice as fast as normal, you're afraid of me, and everyone else thinks I act like a Prince asking stupid questions.

MATTEUSZ

They don't. That was Tanya being angry.

CHARLIE

But it was the truth.

MATTEUSZ

Of the . Sometimes truth lasts forever. But sometimes it's just a flash and then it changes.

CHARLIE

(unconvinced)

So the truth that you love me might change at any moment?

MATTEUSZ

Charlie-

CHARLIE

No, I didn't mean that. Just feeling sorry for myself.

(sad beat)

I thought I'd fit in pretty well.

(looks around)

I thought I'd made friends.

MATTEUSZ

You have. You .

CHARLIE

I'm still an outcast-

MATTEUSZ

(laughing)

We are all outcasts, one way or another. All of us.

Charlie is unconvinced .

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)

So, okay, back when I am learning English, yes? Trying to get enough so I fit into this country, and for this, I read in your language. And the best books for this are for kids and my religious mother, she hears that there are these books about a place called Narnia .

CHARLIE
Narnia ? Is that... Canada?

MATTEUSZ
(shrugs)
Who knows? But they're about these
kids who go to this Narnia and
they... I don't know, have
adventures. With goats and witches.

Charlie looks perplexed.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
Not important to this story. But
there's this one girl called Susan
and all the time I'm reading these
books, I'm thinking, "This author
really, really hates Susan" because
for one thing, she doesn't get to
go to heaven because she wears make-
up-

CHARLIE
(horrified)
What are these books ?

MATTEUSZ
But the other thing is that she
overhears a friend talking about
her when she shouldn't. And the
friend says not nice things. And
it's a moment of weakness for the
friend, but the friendship is

But Matteusz is worried.

CUT TO:

21 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM- UNDER THE WINDOW- NIGHT 10

TANYA
Yeah, I know.

She looks out the windows.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Don't you think the view probably
looked a lot like ?

CUT TO:

MATTEUSZ

Yes, I felt this. It's probing us.

TANYA

But that's a two-way street.

(to the others)

It answered my question. We just need to ask it more. Ask it the right ones.

APRIL

It's too dangerous.

RAM

So is starving to death.

CHARLIE

And being trapped in a room.

TANYA

(off April, Ram and
Charlie)

The way I see it is we've got three more chances to find out something we can use. I felt like it something from me. I think it knows me and Matteusz now and would kill us before we got anything out of it.

RAM

You're really making me want to pick up that rock.

TANYA

It's a , Ram. We can't get out.

APRIL

I think Charlie's right, though-

CHARLIE

Thank you. About what?

APRIL

Quill

CHARLIE
(putting it together)
And does that mean she suddenly
lives in a world where I no longer
need to be protected?

APRIL
Oh. Crap.

RAM
(not getting it)
Meaning?

CHARLIE
Meaning she won't exactly be
motivated to save us, will she?

TANYA
Why would she? She's no longer a
slave.

Charlie doesn't correct her. The others look at one another
until finally-

RAM
Fine. I'll do it. I got no secrets
I'm ashamed of.

CUT TO:

23 INT. COAL HILL , QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 23 *

They stand around the fragment, Ram prepping himself to pick
it up. He's nervous.

RAM
(to Tanya)
You know what you're going to ask?

She nods.

RAM (CONT'D)
Ask me if we're really your
friends. I'll tell you the truth-

TANYA
Ram-

RAM
I'm the coolest guy in this school.
Do you really think I'd hang around
you geeks if I didn't actually
you?

Charlie doesn't believe this, looks down. Matteusz sees him.

April holds a book, ready to hit Ram.

APRIL
(to Ram)
Be careful.

RAM
I don't even know how I be in
this situation. Just, don't let my
brain get fried. I kind of like it.

TANYA
Ready?

Ram huffs and puffs like he's getting ready to take a big
football shot.

RAM
Ready.

He takes a last breath-

And picks up the fragment-

TANYA
(immediately)
Who are you?

Ram doesn't answer.

APRIL
(worried)
Ram?

RAM
This is weird.

MATTEUSZ
What are you seeing?

RAM
My back garden. I asked my dad if I
could tell him what happened to my
leg.

APRIL
The truth.

Ram looks over at her.

RAM
I love you more than you love me.
More than you'll ever be to
love me.

APRIL
(severely uncomfortable)
Ram-

RAM
I didn't expect it. I didn't ask
for it.

(MORE)

RAM
Every rock has the consciousness of
prisoners bound to it.

MATTEUSZ
And one got knocked into ours.

RAM
(nodding)
He... I think it's a he.

TANYA
Felt like a "he" to me.

RAM
He's a murderer. He took lives over
and over and over again. That's why
he was put in this prison. With
four others.

Looks up as they see the resemblance to their group.

CHARLIE
Do you know the species?

RAM
That's the thing. They've been out
here so long, they've forgotten.
Tens of thousands of years.

APRIL
How do you know this? We didn't ask
you, you didn't say-

RAM
He told me.
(looks at her)
That's why we tell the truth.
(to the others)
He was made to. to. And
that's all he's got left after so
long.

TANYA
His confession...

CHARLIE
But what does he gain from it? And
why did he try to kill you?

RAM
(not sure)
I felt like it was something to do
with the strength of my confession.
But I do know this.
(looks up)
The prison stirs you up, makes you
angry. Angry enough to kill.
(beat)
He killed the other four. He killed
them all.

*
*
*

Beat at the silence. April looks away from Ram. Tanya looks at the rock, thoughtful.

CUT TO:

25 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM- UNDER THE WINDOW- NIGHT 25 *

Tanya still looks at the rock, obviously trying to think.
April joins her, sitting down next to her.

APRIL
What are you thinking?

TANYA
I'm wondering what we can give him?

APRIL
him? He wants to us-

TANYA
So he'll give us what want. He
can't kill us right away. We can
that-

APRIL
He's a prisoner. He won't have a
key. He can't even remember who he
is.

TANYA
(impatient)
But he knows what his prison is
. He knows the boundaries of
it. I mean, where are we exactly?
Are we in the asteroid field with
him? Are we still in Coal Hill,
just... trapped?

APRIL
Well, maybe we're wrong. Maybe it
be as simple as Quill coming
back and-

TANYA
(shakes her head, quietly
angry)
White people.

APRIL
(stung)
White people what?

TANYA
Always so optimistic. Always so
sure things are going to work out
for you. Because they usually do.

APRIL
(angry, too)
My dad tried to me when I was
eight.

TANYA

But you got your mum up walking again. Typical white person happy ending.

APRIL

Tanya!

TANYA

No, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. in a bad mood.

I'm

APRIL

Tell me about it.

TANYA

It's just... I'm not overflowing with friends here. Yet another reason to feel left out.

APRIL

We don't just tolerate you, you know.

TANYA

I'm three years younger than you and Ram and Matteusz and probably Charlie, though who even knows what he is in earth years? And there's a difference between fourteen and seventeen-

APRIL

APRIL
(snapping)

MATTEUSZ
It's okay. It's okay.

CHARLIE
I feel like... I think I'm

The others look on, horrified. Matteusz talks into Charlie's hair.

MATTEUSZ
No. I know this. This is a panic attack.

CHARLIE
A what?

MATTEUSZ
An attack of panic.

CHARLIE
(gasps, "that doesn't help")
Oh.

MATTEUSZ
It will pass. It feels like death.
It is not.

Slowly, slowly, Charlie calms. He looks sheepishly at the others.

CHARLIE
I'm having real trouble being trapped in a confined space.

April suddenly looks decisive.

APRIL
Okay.

RAM
Okay what?

April stands, moves to the rock.

APRIL
We're either going to kill each other from rage or Charlie is going to have a heart attack. I'm picking up the rock.

Moves with intent. She stops, looks back angrily.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Isn't anyone going to try and stop me?

Nope.

CUT TO:

April prepares herself, looks at the others, reaches down, grabs the fragment-

GASPS.

APRIL
Oh, my God-

A sibilant, terrifying VOICE suddenly seeps into the room-

VOICE (O.S.)
...

The others stand, jolted.

CHARLIE
That didn't happen before.

RAM
It's him. It's the voice I heard in my head.

TANYA
didn't hear a voice.

MATTEUSZ
Nor me. Is he getting stronger?

RAM
(eyes on April)
April?

He moves to her, reaches out-

APRIL
Don't!

VOICE (O.S.)
...

Sudden angry tears roll down April's face.

APRIL
It's when I had to testify against my dad after the accident. I had to tell the truth about how he drove off the road on purpose, how he...

She clamps her mouth shut, but then-

APRIL (CONT'D)
He wants me to speak. Before he'll tell us anything. He wants me to-

APRIL (CONT'D)

I don't trust how fast you've
fallen. I don't trust that it'll
last.

RAM

It will, I promise-

APRIL

I don't believe you, but it's not
just that. I worry that I'll never
feel for you as strongly as you
feel for me.

RAM

(crushed)
April-

April gasps again-

TANYA

Let her go!

She picks up a book to slap the fragment away.

APRIL

No, don't! He's got his confession.
Ask something!

TANYA"i.p1 234.96 548.52 Tm -A

APRIL (CONT'D)

It was the heart. He wasn't expecting Shadow Kin blood in my veins.

MATTEUSZ

Do you know what he meant? "No-time"?

APRIL

(nods, recovering)
We've been taken out of time. We won't age. We won't need to eat. But we'll be here forever.

(looks up)
They were still-living consciousnesses..es
(frowns)
Put into a prison where guilt was a weapon. The worse their guilt, the stronger the confession. And that's the thing. The pain our confessions cause?

(glances at Ram and away)
That'll only get stronger. And stronger... They used theirs to obliterate each other.

TANYA

(thinking)
So... there's no release but death and the guiltiest kills the rest?

APRIL

Shortening their sentences of the least guilty on up. Their idea of mercy.

TANYA

And the guiltiest doomed to live forever.

Everyone looks at the other people they're trapped here with quite uncomfortably. Charlie breaks the silence.

CHARLIE

Did he have any thoughts on a way out?

APRIL

He wants us to start killing each other. That's the only way out he knows.

MATTEUSZ

He wants us to confess each other to death?

CUT TO:

27 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - BACK DESKS - NIGHT 10 27 *

The group sit together, but not too close. There are fractures in them now. No one looks at each other while they speak. Ram is especially withdrawn.

TANYA
We have one more chance. Charlie hasn't picked up the stone yet.

MATTEUSZ
And he is not going to.

CHARLIE
That's my decision. Not yours.

MATTEUSZ
Yes, I hear quite a lot from you about the decisions you own. But what would even be the point?

CHARLIE
I'm not human on the inside. He stopped at April's heart. Maybe a Rhodian might throw him, at least for long enough to get more information. Something useful.

MATTEUSZ
Or it might make it easier for him to kill you.

RAM
He'd force Charlie to tell the truth, though. That way he'd feel as stupid as the rest of us.

APRIL
Ram-

RAM
Not talking about it.

APRIL
But-

RAM
I said, no.

Gets up, walks off in a bit of a huff.

TANYA
Okay, question one-

RAM
(still walking off)
Oh, good, we're back in

TANYA
(unruffled)
Question one. Was the prisoner lying?

APRIL
I didn't feel like he could.

MATTEUSZ
I didn't either.

TANYA
Me neither. That's the whole point
of the confession, but question two-

RAM
(from the other side of
the room)
Seriously! So much fun!

TANYA
Is he saying what's true or what he
to be true?

CHARLIE
In this case, there isn't much
difference.

MATTEUSZ
Not so. Tanya fears we don't like
her. But we do. That is subjective
rather than objective truth.

APRIL
There's no such thing as objective
truth about what you feel.

RAM
(from the back)
Yes, there is!

CHARLIE
So is the prisoner objectively
right about there being no way out
or is it a subjective feeling that
he has? A belief that's kept him
going.

TANYA
We won't know unless we ask him.

MATTEUSZ
If even then. Truth is slippery. I
have seen belief mistaken for
truth. The consequences can be very
bad.

TANYA
So then question 3. When do we
start killing each other?

APRIL
And who'll be the last one
standing?

RAM
(from the far end)
I will!

April's had enough. Gets up to go over to him.

CHARLIE
(thoughtful, to Matteusz)
What you said earlier... That maybe
we're getting his anger.

TANYA
I agree. Can't you feel it? It's
all I can do not to yell at
everyone.

CHARLIE
Hasn't stopped the insults, though.

TANYA
(shrugging)
Perfect people are boring.

CHARLIE
don't feel angry, though. I feel
hugely stressed about being trapped
in a space we can't leave, but I'm
not especially angry.

TANYA
(considering)
That's true, isn't it? Why are you
different?

CHARLIE
It's probably not because I'm a

A TANYA
Prince, anyway.

CHARLIE

CHARLIE

Yes.

MATTEUSZ

I do not you to pick up the
stone, Charlie.

CHARLIE

(stressed now)

So I can stay the stupid Prince
forever? Always asking obvious
questions?

TANYA

MATTEUSZ

Charlie-

TANYA

(interrupting)
We feel that way.

CHARLIE

What?

TANYA

(sore)
Something April said and I shut her up. We all feel that way. We all feel like the one who's left out, the one who the others could do without.

(glances at April w/Ram)
Which can't possibly be true, but is subjectively true all over.

CHARLIE

(to Tanya, simply)
I look forward to seeing you, every single day.

Tanya looks at him, moved, but shrewd.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Well, I used to, before today.

TANYA

I'm sorry. That's a true apology, too.

Charlie nods, sadly. This'll take some getting used to.

CHARLIE

And that means we can be friends again?

TANYA

We never stopped, you airbag!
(off Charlie's look)
"Airbag" in a friendly way. But yeah, I don't know how long we're going to last in here. Maybe you pick up the rock.

Charlie looks at her, then Matteusz, who's shaking his head.

CUT TO:

28 INT. COAL HILL, QUILL'S CLASSROOM - HER DESK - NIGHT 10 28 *

Ram sits in Quill's chair, playing with the ATOM EXPANDABLE TOY. April sits near him, neither speaking, until:

RAM
This thing is, like, impossible not
to play with.

He sets it down.

RAM (CONT'D)
Don't know what it teaches you,
though.

Beat. Then he picks it up again.

APRIL
Ram-

RAM
It's okay.

APRIL
Don't tell me it's okay when it's-

RAM
It's okay. I knew it anyway. I'm
not an idiot.

APRIL
Then don't be an idiot about
allowing me to feel complicated
things. I can feel for you and I
can still worry. I can still
wonder.

Ram just expands and contracts the atom toy.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Though you're making it easier by
pouting.

RAM
Then let me help you even more.

Puts the toy down, gets up to leave.

APRIL
Ram-

RAM
(turning to her)
It's okay. It's good to know the
truth.

APRIL
The truth of now. The truth of that
moment. Not the truth I
the truth I'm exploring- . Not

RAM
You don't have to explore it any
more. I hoped... But it's better
this way. Good to know I can play
the field.

APRIL
Ram-
RAM
I mean, it's not like I don't have options.
APRIL
(angry)
Why are you being like this?
RAM
(angry, too)
Are you really that stupid?
APRIL
(really angry)
?
RAM
You think you can say those things and I don't get hurt?
APRIL
That's the last thing I wanted-
RAM
We both confessed the truth. Mine was that I loved you. Yours was that you didn't.
APRIL
That's not exactly what I said.
RAM
That's what I heard.

Charlie, Matteusz and Tanya approach.

CHARLIE
We've all heard things we didn't want to hear.
TANYA
And said things we didn't want to say.
CHARLIE
I'm going to pick up the rock.
RAM
Why? So can be the hero?
APRIL
Don't take it out on , Ram.
RAM
You know what? My life didn't turn to crap until I started hanging out with you dorks . Maybe I'm missing the obvious solution to all this grief.

TANYA
You're calling a dork ?

RAM
Aren't you?

APRIL
Hey!

RAM
Enough with the "hey", goody two-shoes. You get someone this smoking hot after you and you can't even be bothered to stir yourself up to him?

APRIL
You're making it easier by the second.

MATTEUSZ
Yes, you're being a real Susan.

RAM
And who are anyway? Why are you always hanging around with us?

CHARLIE
Whoa.

RAM
(to Charlie)
Please, he said he's afraid of you. You're defending him?

CHARLIE
He's my boyfriend.

RAM
You ever wondered about that? You ever wondered what kind of a guy would date an alien?
(to Matteusz)
I mean, that's a really specialised fetish, mate.

Matteusz stretches himself to his full height.

MATTEUSZ
I'm sorry, are you challenging me to a fight?

CHARLIE
None of this is natural-

RAM
I'll say. Alien shagging. How many knobs does he have?

TANYA
wondered that.

Beat, as this sinks in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Quill, for once in her wretched life, was right. What have I been left as the last one for, if not that?

MATTEUSZ

But...

CHARLIE

I would lose you. I would lose myself. I would lose the souls of my entire race and all hope for anything good ever again.

(emotional now)

But I want to do it. I think of it every day. And the only thing that stops me is . . . And sometimes...

(beat, swallows)

Sometimes I hate you for it.

Matteusz is shocked by this. So are the others.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And that's who I am. You think you know me, but you don't. You want to know who'd be the last one standing out of the five of us?

(firm, scary)

would.

He turns, leaving them in their shock, reaches down, picks up the rock.

MATTEUSZ

Charlie, what are you doing?

But it's too late.

CHARLIE

(to the room)

Come and get me! Force the truth out of me. You think you can take the guilt of the Prince of

CHARLIE
All truth can be twisted to lie.
royal knows that.
(shouting now)
Come on! What are you hiding?

VOICE (O.S.)

CHARLIE
No, confess-

Charlie is starting to struggle, shake, the stone frying him.

MATTEUSZ
Charlie! Put it down!

CHARLIE
Not until he tells the truth!

VOICE (O.S.)
(overwhelming now)

Charlie really struggling now. Skin flushing, veins coming to the surface, BLOOD coming out his nose-

Matteusz knocks the hand holding the rock, but Charlie let it go-

CHARLIE
What aren't you telling us?!

VOICE (O.S.)

...

The others look up at this change.

TANYA
You what? You ?

Charlie yells in pain but still holds on to the rock. BLOOD comes from his ear-

MATTEUSZ
Charlie, please!

CHARLIE
(to the voice)
What me?

Charlie's eyes, bloodshot and bloody now, suddenly calm, as if he's seeing something else. He looks to Matteusz-

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I...

MATTEUSZ
What?

CHARLIE
(almost surprised)
I love you.

MATTEUSZ
...Charlie-?

CHARLIE
(tears out his eyes)
It's the truth. And it's also true
that... I'll lose you.

Matteusz moves towards him but he screams, fighting.
appears in the stone.

A crack

APRIL
What's happening to it?

TANYA
(amazed)
I think Charlie's

CHARLIE
CONFESS! What do you have to tell
me?

VOICE (O.S.)
...

CHARLIE
Yes?

VOICE (O.S.)

CHARLIE
I am !?

The stone cracks again.

VOICE (O.S.)
(beat)
...

CHARLIE
(beat, shocked, but:)
Yes. Yes, I

He cries out as the stone BURSTS from his hand, smashing
against the wall, breaking into pieces-

And the corridor beyond the door REAPPEARS. As does OUTSIDE
THE WINDOWS.

Charlie collapses, Matteusz runs to him, holds him.

RAM
What the hell?

MATTEUSZ
Charlie?

CHARLIE

(panting)

He was looking for death. He wanted someone guiltier than him to end his suffering...

Fades off, downcast.

APRIL

And you stopped him.

CHARLIE

(very downcast)

Yes. Because I'm not innocent. Not in my heart. For a Rhodian, a wish is the same as an action.

TANYA

Well, messed up.

CHARLIE

(up to Mattheusz, pained)

I, uh, I think we have some things to talk about.

MATTEUSZ

(troubled)

Yes, we do.

TANYA
But if that thing was making us

