

Evidence of Humanity

By

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The stage is dark, a woman, NINA VASILIEV, of about 40 enters and switches on a small light at the top of a wall. She may once have been attractive, perhaps she still is.

The only illuminated things in the room are an old, utilitarian, table and some chairs. On top of the table is small, closed, notebook.

NINA opens the notebook. The glare from the screen reflects off her face. She reads.

“If this were simply a book about climate change I suppose it might work but climate change has already happened and humanity is facing extinction. Everyone I know has gone. The earthquake in Antarctica took everyone by surprise. The seas rose enough and countries collapsed. Oh and then someone started a nuclear war. And now what’s left? I suppose some people might still believe we have a chance, but it's slim.”

NINA paused for a moment, then continued.

“I suppose no-one might read this book, but I’ll write it anyway, it is part of the documentation if nothing else.”

NINA paused again, then voiced her thoughts.

NINA

I suppose I should start when I first met Tony. I remember the encounter as if it were still yesterday.

The stage darkens again and this time when we see NINA she is lighting some candles on a different table.

In the shadows TONY just becomes visible. He is an old man, though his body is still in shape.

TONY

Hello Nina.

NINA

(startled) Do I know you?

TONY

You don’t know me, yet, but I always do my research before I speak to anyone about joining the project. You’re a fine microbiologist, perhaps the best still living, You are

Nina Vasiliev, you were born Russian in Saint Petersburg but you have lived in England for many years now.

NINA

All correct and I've just about survived, for now. But what's the point? There is nothing to live for, although I'll survive until I'm dead. Oh and microbiology is all over.

TONY

We need your efforts in microbiology more than ever now and we have a very good lab.

NINA

Are you something in the government or what used to be the government anyway?

TONY

I have never been anything to do with the government. I always steered clear of them when they used to be a thing. Our base is in an old cold war bunker, built in the 1950s. We have everything you need, good food and even our computers still work, well some of them at any rate.

NINA

And what will I be doing?

TONY

I'd like to leave that for now, until I'm shown you your new home. But rest assured that it is not a weapon of any sort.

NINA

What travel have you brought?

TONY

By foot, I go everywhere by foot, or perhaps sailboat if it's needed. But we won't need one of those. Maybe it will take two or even three days walk. It depends how fast you are and of course we need to avoid any trouble.

NINA

The only trouble now is just people looking for food... and shelter and warmth, perhaps even love but there's not much of that any more. It is a cruel, cruel world now.

TONY

It has been for a long time, even before this latest catastrophe. Let's go.

NINA

I need some things.

TONY

You don't need much, maybe a change of underwear while we walk, but everything will be provided for you at our base.

NINA

Then let's go.

It is the end of Nina's memory and the stage darkens again. When the lights come back it is as the first scene, Nina alone with her laptop.

However another woman enters. About the same age as NINA but very different. This is GILL.

GILL

I trust you're settling in all right. Is there anything I can get you?

NINA

I don't think so for now, but I still don't know what I'm doing here.

GILL

Tony is wary of describing the project, but he'll get to it eventually.

NINA

Do you know?

GILL

Of course. I've been here a long time, even before the current catastrophe. Tony and I are quite alike.

NINA

Well you talk the same, that's for sure.

GILL

We think the same on most things too. There's a couple of other people I'd like you to meet. They are waiting in the corridor now.

NINA

Why not, I've got nothing else to do.

GILL

I'll introduce them separately. The first is something of a new recruit like you. He's a DNA specialist. You'll be working closely together.

NINA

If I knew what I am to do, I might agree with you.

GILL

You'll find out soon. As soon as Tony gets back. He's trying to get the last person we need. I'll get the DNA specialist, his name is Peter, you'll like him.

GILL exits and returns with PETER, a middle-aged man.

GILL

Nina, this is Peter. Peter this is Nina, you'll be working closely together.

NINA

So you know what we're going to be doing then?

PETER

Er, no, not really. But the food is nice. Well better than the slop I'd been having anyway.

NINA

How long have you been here?

PETER

Er... a week or two I guess. They have a good library, plenty of Stephen King books that I hadn't read. I'm having a bit of a holiday.

NINA

A holiday? A holiday? The World is in ruins and you're having a holiday?

PETER

What else am I to do? A disaster like this was bound to happen sometime. I survived, so I might as well make the best of it.

NINA

(to Gill) You said I'd like him!

GILL

I'm certain you will, this is only your first meeting.

NINA

(to Peter) What's your full name.

PETER

Peter Middlewetch.

NINA

I know you! Or at least I've read some of your professional papers. You think DNA can be manipulated so we know what a creature will do.

PETER

It can. I've done it. I knew in detail what my mice were going to do. What's your full name?

NINA

Nina Vasiliev, but you won't have heard of me, I've never had anything published.

PETER

Oh I know I don't know you, yet. Do you have any children? A husband?

NINA

What? No. Why are you asking questions like this?

PETER

We've all got to live and there's only a few decent people of the right age around any more. But I'm just sounding you out that's all. Nothing meant by it. (pause) Yet.

NINA

(to Gill) who's the other person you want to introduce me to? I think I've had my fill of Peter for now. (to Peter) No offence. Well, not a great deal anyway.

PETER

None taken, well no more than I can take at least. I have a book to read. Ciao for now.

PETER exits.

GILL

(laughing) You two are going to get on great.

NINA

As long as he's not in the same room as me, we should be best friends. Who's still waiting in the corridor?

GILL

It's our workhorse, he does so much. He's been with us a long time now, but he's still so young. I'll go and get him.

GILL exits and returns almost immediately with VAL, he is only about 20 and is dark-skinned.

VAL

No need to tell me anything about you. I know exactly who you are, Nina. Oh, that sounded a bit rude, I didn't mean it to be. I help Tony with his research, mainly do it for him if

truth be told. I'm Val by the way (Val holds out his hand for a shake).

NINA

Very pleased to meet you, Val (as she does a handshake with him).

VAL

You may not have published anything but the internet is awash with your work.

NINA

You still have the internet?

VAL

Yes! Well, no... I mean only sort of. It's from a backup.

NINA

You backed up the internet?

VAL

Well only a bit of it really. The important stuff, no porn. I've been here since I was five and I'd worked out what was happening. Tony and Gill are parents of sorts now.

NINA

You worked out what was happening?

VAL

Oh I think I probably shouldn't have said that, but I'm no good at keeping secrets. I'll tell you everything without meaning to.

GILL

It's okay, there doesn't need to be any secrets between us. It's just not quite the time now. Wait until Tony gets back.

NINA

I once killed someone.

VAL

Well the internet didn't have anything on that.

NINA

It was self-defence. We, my family, were still in Russia, I was only 17, my mother had just died from cancer. Someone tried to molest me, they had a knife, but I'd done self-defence classes and the outcome was that the perpetrator got stabbed with his own knife. I didn't intend to kill him, but the knife found the heart. The police

accepted my account but it became 'difficult'. The father of the boy who died had powerful friends. We fled the country to England. In a way though is what probably a benefit in the long run. If we hadn't fled I would not have got into Cambridge and become a microbiologist.

GILL

And then we would not have you here.

VAL

It's funny the way life works sometimes. But if there is a plan it is a badly written one.

GILL

Shush please Val, you know the rules.

NINA

Rules?

GILL

Everything will become clear in time. Now I think it's time for more food.

VAL

(softly to Nina) You'll get it out of me for sure. Just ask the right questions.

GILL exits.

NINA

I thought there would be more reaction to my confession.

VAL

Oh but Tony and Gill have killed people too. Only recently, of course, after the catastrophe, to protect the base. At least they are the only ones I know about.

NINA

Is this the world we live in now?

VAL

It will get better, it always does.

NINA

I'm not so sure. Humanity is facing extinction in my opinion.

VAL

But you haven't heard Tony's plan yet. However you're here.

NINA

You could tell me now. You know you could.

VAL

The food is good. We've been here for years you know.
This is my home,

NINA

Your home for years? You, Gill and Tony are kind of
weird.

VAL

We were perhaps, but we were doing the right thing. We
have the same belief.

NINA

Some form of religion?

VAL

No not really, no heaven and hell thing. But maybe
something.

NINA

Tell me more about the 'something'.

VAL

I'm saying too much again.

GILL enters again this time carrying a big tray of food. She is followed by PETER although he isn't carrying anything. GILL puts the tray on the table and they all get seats.

PETER

So I take it we're all friends with Nina now then?

NINA

Some more than others.

PETER

But at least you reply to me. That's not a bad start.

NINA

This is some fresh bread, I haven't had this in weeks.

GILL

I bake some almost every day. We have a lot of good flour and I think one of the reasons this base might have been built here is to take advantage of the spring water. We should never run out of that. Well, I suppose we might run out, depending on the changes in the climate.

VAL

I'm confident we'll keep the spring water, well as long as we keep the base. We'll need to move sometime, when the...

GILL

Stop please. Wait until Tony gets back. Although I'm a bit worried about him now. He hasn't checked-in but satellite phone today.

NINA

You have a working satellite phone?

VAL

We have several. Though I've had to hack the satellite a bit to make the phones useful.

NINA

Hack the satellite?

PETER

You don't want to know, trust me.

VAL

I won't explain, because to be honest, you wouldn't understand. Even Gill took several evenings to get the hang of what I was doing.

NINA

Gill understood and I wouldn't?

GILL

We think it's important that nothing is kept in only one brain, but I wouldn't want anyone else listening to Val's explanation of the satellite hack. Though that's one of the things that will be good about you and Peter, you should be perfect at learning each other's abilities.

PETER

Looks like we were made for each other.

NINA

Let's concentrate on Gill's concern about Tony. Could it not be that the satellite phone is just broken?

VAL

Tony is very careful with technology, I suppose he could have dropped it though I'd be surprised.

NINA

Could it not just have developed a fault?

VAL

You've only just met me so I'll let it go. Things I've serviced do not get faults.

GILL

I've never had any fault with something Val has serviced but there's always a first time.

VAL

Thanks for the almost vote of confidence.

PETER

You're young, everyone makes mistakes, even if only rarely.

VAL

I think I'll go and eat in my room, then you can all bicker about me in my absence.

VAL gets up quickly, grabs his glass and plate and leaves.

NINA

So we're all very happy then.

GILL

Oh Val leaves the table with his food all the time, has done for years. I think he thinks the mice in his room are still a secret.

PETER

I wish you hadn't said that, I have a bit of a phobia about mice.

NINA

But you did experiments with mice.

PETER

Where do you think I got the phobia from? Besides, they were all in cages and my assistant looked after them, well most of the time anyway. I did have one mouse escape when I was on my own. I never found her.

NINA

A female not wanting to be in the same room as you. Why am I not surprised, even if it was a mouse.

GILL

Perhaps I should share now what Tony said when he called yesterday. He said “there is something peculiar about her, but I’m going to go through with it.”

NINA

We don’t know what you want to do yet so It’s impossible to get any perspective.

PETER

Actually I do know, it was pretty easy to get it out of Val, but I’m good at keeping secrets, so I’m not saying anything.

NINA

You said you didn’t know in our first conversation.

PETER

I might have been lying then, I might be lying now. I might always lie. Hahahaha.

NINA

Yeah whatever, I hope your work is better than your conversation, it could hardly be worse.

GILL

It's great that you're getting along. I'm not very worried about Tony. He always finds a way.

PETER

Except the first time when he doesn't.

NINA

Peter! That's not something you should say to your host.

VAL comes back in with his food and sits back down.

VAL

I'm sorry for my earlier outburst.

PETER

What's the worst that can happen? Oh wait, it already has.

NINA

Stop it, please. Gill and the family are our friends now.

PETER

I hadn't thought of them as family before, but you may be right.

VAL

We are family and you can be now too if you want.

PETER

Thank you, but a little soon for us.

NINA

Val, did you tell Peter what we'd be doing?

VAL

Of course not, I may not be good at keeping secrets but I would never do anything Tony didn't want me to do.

PETER

Well it was worth a try.

NINA

Everything seems to be a game to you.

PETER

The only thing I'm confident of is that I exist. Everything else might just be an illusion.

NINA

Are you that sure? Maybe you're just a character in a book
or perhaps a play.

PETER

If we're in a play then we are all in the same one.

GILL

But people in a play never admit that's what it is. It would
spoil the illusion.

VAL

Okay that seems conclusive to me, we're not in a play
then.

PETER

Or a book.

NINA

Oh if only it were that simple.

PETER

I felt a pause, perhaps the writer had a coffee. I'd check
my script but I can't find it.

NINA

Hahahaha, I don't think anyone would write words for you. It seems to me that we can do one of two things; we can either search for Tony and his companion or we can start work.

PETER

We could just read a book and enjoy the food. Or perhaps we could have an intimate dance.

NINA

I always wear heels for that and I've lost them all.

GILL

When we first came into the bunker we explored all over. There are rooms and rooms of new clothes, from the 1950s I suppose. I'm sure I saw lots of high heels in that store. (pause) But you probably don't want anything with them.

NINA

I wouldn't want to wear anything that wasn't mine, besides I wouldn't want to leave the area of the bunker I know.

VAL

I can go with you, it's not far, and anything you take can be yours. It's certainly not anyone else's.

PETER

Hahahahaha, this is so funny. We should just dance in bare feet.

VAL

I'm not helping am I.

NINA

And there's no music. (pause) I think I'm going to regret saying that.

VAL

You're okay, I won't say anything about the music I have.(pause) Oh sorry.

PETER

You know I don't mean anything. Laughter is the best thing we can do in this situation. You need to laugh too, Val.

VAL

For some reason laughing has never been easy for me.

GILL

The things we know don't invite laughter.

PETER

How long have you and Tony been together? As exact as you can make it.

GILL

There's always three of us, until someone leaves or dies and then someone comes, like Val did for me and Tony. So when I arrived Tony was much younger and there was an older woman with him. In due course the older woman died and Val arrived.

VAL

So if Tony is gone, there will be someone else.

GILL

Tony is not gone! I'm sure I'd know. Val, describe the new recruit that Tony is meeting, it will save time for introductions later.

VAL

Well if you're sure...

GILL

I am. Do it.

VAL

Okay well as you know I do most of the research with Tony. The person he's meeting is a woman. She has worked for the government for a while. She is an expert on the government's rocket stocks in particular the nuclear rockets.

NINA

Nuclear?

VAL

Don't worry, it's not about the nuclear warheads or in fact anything nuclear but these are the best maintained rockets in the country. Perhaps the only rockets that are ready to fire at a moment's notice.

NINA

I really need to know what we are doing.

GILL

You'll find out soon, don't worry.

VAL

She was educated at Oxford and achieved a degree in astrophysics. Before that I think she went to the London City school for Girls although I have some problems with that.

PETER

What's her name?

VAL

Emily.

PETER

And her age?

VAL

She's only in her early 30s.

PETER

It gets better.

NINA

I can tell her all about you, that should put her off.

PETER

Perhaps I'd better just read a book.

NINA

I'm writing a sort of book right now. I'm really just a documentation of this project, whatever it might be.

VAL

It's good that you're documenting the project even if there are not many people to read the book.

NINA

Electronic distribution only, and I'm recording everything just as a reference.

PETER

I might have been a little more selective with my words if I'd known everything was being recorded. Perhaps, but probably not.

VAL

Electronic distribution probably won't work, not many people have working computers any more. Although of course we are well sorted. Come to think of it though, printed paper won't work either. Not good either way.

NINA

It's good, I'm just doing it for documentation then I suppose.

PETER

It will undoubtedly be famous in a few hundred years or so. Our descendants will thank you, not that I'm implying anything.

GILL

Nothing is going to happen tonight, we should eat our food and go to bed.

PETER

Sounds like a plan, I will go to bed with my book. And if anyone else wants to read... yes too soon, I realize.

NINA

It will always be too soon.

GILL

It's great that you're getting along.

VAL

Well, goodnight, tomorrow will be an interesting day.

The lights go out slowly to indicate the end of the act.

When the lights come up again it is similar to the opening, there is only one person on the stage and she is seated at the table using the laptop Nina had been using. However this is a person we haven't seen before. It is EMILY.

She is reading but as she does so VAL sneaks into the back of the room. He stays for a while and looks at her. She keeps her eyes of the computer screen but speaks

EMILY

You don't need to hide, I'm friendly. I'm not sure but I think you will be Val.

VAL

Well I recognize you from the photographs in my research, you're Emily. But how do you know me? You haven't even looked at me yet, unless I didn't spot it.

EMILY

You are the one who is principally responsible you the security on this site. When I entered you'd have been alerted by some alarms since I didn't disable them. Then it was a simple thing to work out where I was.

VAL walks forward and sits in another chair.

VAL

But how did you know when I came in the room?

EMILY

You still haven't spotted the little mirror I set up.

VAL

Oh, that was easy then. What's the news on Tony?

EMILY

Tony is fine, will be fine. He was spotted using his Sat phone and some people got angry. He had to dump the phone and then he made a false trail so people couldn't follow him to the base. So he's a few hours behind me but I'm sure he'll be okay.

VAL

That's strange, Tony always seems to be very careful using his Sat phone. I'm surprised you even knew he had one. I think I should wake the others, they will be fascinated to know you're here.

EMILY

Well I have to meet the others some time, so it may as well be now.

VAL

I'll be right back, don't move.

EMILY

You can tie me to the chair if you like... (after a silence when Val doesn't move) I'm joking, just go and wake everyone, I'll still be here.

VAL hesitates a second and then leaves, EMILY resumes reading the laptop silently until she says something to apparently no-one.

EMILY

I may not be able to go through with this.

In a small while VAL returns with the others, GILL, PETER and NINA.

EMILY

Hello all, as I've no doubt Val has said already, I'm Emily.
(pause) Your writing is good Nina.

NINA
Thank you?

EMILY
It's okay, I tell the truth or I don't tell anything. I'm not like that Prime Minister you had for a time, what was his name? Boris something or other I think. Anyway I don't lie like him, I always tell the truth, or occasionally I'll say nothing, but only if it's better you don't know. Anyway, now you're all here Tony said we should start to discuss the project we'll all be working on.

GILL
He did? He usually wants to explain it himself.

NINA
Well I'm desperate to know, so let's get on with it.

VAL
I think we should too. I trust Emily to tell us the truth.

PETER
I don't mind if we know now or later, or even if we never know. Just as long as I can keep reading your books and

eating your food. But I know my opinion doesn't count for anything.

GILL

I think we shall do what Tony suggests. Val, would you please explain the project? You're much better explaining this than I am.

VAL

I'll certainly try.

NINA

I'm sure you'll be good.

VAL

So, when we look at the stars at night, you're looking at history. The closest star we know about is a little more than four light years away. A light year is a measure of distance. The distance light travels in a year. A light year is a vast distance, just under six trillion miles.

PETER

I think a more exact distance is 5.879 miles with 12 zeros. Not that it really matters.

NINA

I just know that a light year is a vast, vast distance. I don't think I've ever quantified it before. There doesn't seem much point.

VAL

Well to make things perhaps more interesting, our own sun is approximately 93 million miles away. So light from our own sun takes around 8.3 minutes before we see it. Lots of things could happen, have happened, in space that are in our future but in reality are ancient history.

GILL

This may be interesting but it isn't the project.

VAL

I know, I know, but the vast distance matters. It's one of the principal reasons that the project exists.

GILL

I understand, but please tell people what they've got to do.

VAL

I'll get to it soon. There is just one more thing I want to mention first. Even if we had a launch today, if we had a working long distance space vehicle, at the fastest speed

we've gone in space, it would still take at least 15 years to reach our nearest star. There are planets around the star, but we can't be sure what they are. And in any case, everything we know about our nearest star is over four years out of date.

NINA

And yet for all your doubts, I sense that in some way you want us to send something there.

VAL

Not there. At least not there specifically.

PETER

This is getting very interesting now. You're very quiet Emily.

EMILY

I'm listening. But already my role seems to be clear. Lead everyone to the appropriate rocket, probably rockets.

GILL

(To Emily) I was told you were very bright, you are. But besides the rockets we want you to be involved and interested in everything Nina and Peter are doing.

PETER

I know some good books.

NINA

(To Emily) You'll get used to Peter, and then want to be in a separate room when possible.

PETER

(To Nina) You have no idea how much you make me laugh.

GILL

I'm always amazed at how quickly you've got along.

NINA

(To Emily) I'm sure she means us two.

Everyone but NINA laughs a little.

PETER

So what will I and Nina be doing? Val please tell us.

VAL

I'm getting there. Of course as Emily realized, we will be launching something. But due to the vast distances and long, long, time it will take, there will be nothing live on board. Except, except... we will have lots of suspended microbiology in possibly thousands of very small containers. When, possibly if, our craft passes by any potentially suitable planet, our craft releases some of its containers.

PETER

So what specifically are we to do?

VAL

Well Nina will have to choose the right micro organisms that can survive for long years in suspension and then Peter will attempt to alter their DNA appropriately to do what we want.

PETER

And what do you want?

VAL

We can talk about that later.

PETER

And we'll never know if we're successful.

VAL

No, no unfortunately we won't. But we will have put something out there that in millions of years may lead to a habitable planet with a civilisation.

NINA

And they won't know anything about us.

VAL

Well, eventually they might. I will attempt to construct a, a, um, well think of like a small SD card, like some of you use, used, in things like phones. It will not actually be an SD card, it's quite complicated. But if eventually they learn how to read it, it will have all our important history on it. It will also have some advice and of course your book, Nina. But making it so that it will be readable... I need to think. And I need to talk to you a bit about this, Peter.

EMILY

There's something more you're not telling us yet isn't there.

VAL

I'm not sure I should say.

GILL

It's not important that they know anything else yet.

EMILY

I know what you know already. In some ways I think I have known the... the... information a lot longer than you. I have deceived you a little. The story of what happened to Tony was a little bit of a cover. You can come in now, Tony.

There is a slight pause and then Tony immerges slowly from the shadows and sits on a chair.

TONY

Hello all, I thought you did great, Val.

GILL

Why all the pretence? Why?

TONY

And of course in your heart of hearts you know, Gill. I wanted to see what you were like without me. You were all good. My time here is nearly done.

GILL

It can't be time.

TONY

It will be soon, but Emily is a good replacement and I think she's right in that our number should be slightly expanded. You can tell Nina and Peter everything, Val.

VAL

But you should do it now you're back.

TONY

It's a time for you now. The project will take a long time.

VAL

Well okay, but only if you insist.

TONY

I do, and you don't need to go into all the details today. There's plenty of time for you if not for me.

VAL

Well, first of all, I think I should take any questions on the project I just explained.

PETER

Well I haven't got any questions. If we don't know what will happen, we can only do our best. And eat good food in the meantime of course. Maybe a good fine wine to go with it as well.

NINA

Well I think I've got lots of questions, I just haven't thought of them yet. So go on with your information in the meantime, Val.

VAL

Well okay. Uhm, I don't know how to say this. Erm, if I said that we had evidence that our planet was colonized a long, long time ago in some sort of similar manner, would you believe me?

EMILY

Well I would because I know it's true.

PETER

(To Emily) You know? And how?

EMILY

That's not a subject for today, but you will find out in time.

VAL

I can get you some artifacts which are not of this world.

PETER

How do we know? Your 'artifacts' might just be well-made bits from a sci-fi TV show.

NINA

Without good science, I'd have to agree with you, Peter.

VAL

We are sure, although there is still much we can learn from the artifacts.

GILL

What Val says is true. The artifacts have been in our keeping for generations, and we are only just beginning to understand some of them. It is vitally important that our own project succeeds.

TONY

I see a look of confusion on the faces of Nina and Peter,
but a smile on Emily's face.

GILL

Well I should make breakfast.

PETER

That's always good.

TONY

And I think Nina and Peter should go to their rooms to
reflect for a while. Val you'll help Gill of course, I'd like to
have a small quiet chat with Emily before I go. I should say
goodbye to the rest of you now, I won't be here for
breakfast. I probably won't see any of you again.

GILL

No, no, not yet.

TONY

You knew this time would come, be brave and diligent.
There is no need for sorrow. Now make your best
breakfast.

GILL stands and looks at TONY for a while. Then she turns her back on him and walks out of the room at a steady pace.

PETER

That was... emotional. I think I'd better go to my room now.

PETER stands and walks quickly out.

TONY

You too Nina, and you'll learn that tears are unnecessary, even if a few are always welcome. It's been great getting to know you, you will do great work.

NINA

It's been great getting to know you too, and perhaps we will meet again sometime.

TONY

Perhaps.

NINA looks at TONY turns and quickly leaves the room. At some point in the scene VAL has left his chair and disappeared.

TONY

So we're almost ready.

EMILY

We are. Do you ever watch Star Trek?

TONY

Star Trek? Well yes, I've watched a lot of it, perhaps all.

EMILY

So you know about The Prime Directive.

TONY

I do, no space-faring race should interfere in a native race until they are ready. They always seemed to be breaking it though.

EMILY

(Laughing) Dramatic license has many disadvantages. But you're going to learn a lot in the next few years.

TONY

I can't wait.

EMILY

I'll take you and introduce you, but then I have to come back. The project is something that will keep them busy for years and I have my part in it.

TONY and EMILY stand up together. And EMILY does a small thing. Then a bright light portal appears. TONY goes through it and is gone. Then EMILY steps forward, turns to take a look at the room, then steps forward and is gone too. The portal closes. After a small pause, VAL steps out of the shadows.

VAL

(to himself) Well I thought there was something different about Emily, it seems I was right.

END OF PLAY

