

SCENE NOTE: Elizabeth is a young and talented research scientist and this scene is when she first meets the members of "The Prometheus Project". She is nervous, but she is strong. Victoria is icy and very serious about her work. She is testing Elizabeth in this scene...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The room is fairly empty except for a series of large DRY-ERASE BOARD that line three of the walls and a LONG TABLE in the center of the room.

Elizabeth and Marcus sit at one end of the table. One by one, the other members of the Prometheus Project enter: DR. WILLIAM McKENNIN (Handsome, mid 30's), DR. NEERAJ SAHIR (East Indian, late 30's), Ira, and Victoria (who closes the door behind the others and sits across from Elizabeth and Marcus).

MARCUS

Introductions please...
(points to Victoria)
Victoria?

VICTORIA

Dr. Victoria Travelle. I interned with Dr. Walton after graduating from Columbia. I've been head of research on this project since its inception. In a month from now, I'll have been on this project for two full years.

(beat)

Let me ask you a question now Miss Barnes...

Elizabeth readies herself.

VICTORIA (cont'd)

Currently, our government has prohibited unregulated stem cell research. Each one of us understands completely that what we are doing here is illegal - that we are taking a significant risk to our lives, reputations, and personal freedoms because we believe that what we can do in this room and in that lab will lead to results that will benefit humanity as a whole...

(beat)

To us, that's an ideal that negates our personal risk entirely. Without question...

(MORE)

VICTORIA (cont'd)

(beat)

That is why WE are here... Please
tell us why YOU are here...

Elizabeth takes a moment to compose herself, having not anticipated an attack on her first day. She speaks:

ELIZABETH

Dr. Travelle, with all due respect to your position as the head of this project, I don't believe I was asked to join because my work is outdated or unimaginative. I firmly believe that this type of unregulated research is the only way that we as doctors and scientists will discover the full potential of our own inherent biology...

(beat)

That's one answer...

(beat)

As for my personal reasons, well, those are mine and mine alone.

(beat)

The fact is that we have the opportunity to heal the sick and eradicate disease... So I agree that this principal is paramount to your life, as well as mine.

(beat)

I also know that doing this work unlawfully like this may ostracize me from the field for the rest of my life...

(beat)

But I also know that we may accomplish great things here, so, like all of you, I've decided that - that end, justifies this means...

Victoria has no reply. She eyes Elizabeth carefully.

VICTORIA

Fair enough, Miss. Barnes.