

SCENE NOTE: William is giving Elizabeth a tour of the research facility. It's his first day. He is trying to be charming and make her feel okay, but she has some important questions on her mind, and she isn't about to let them slide...

INT. LAB - MOMENTS LATER

While William speaks, Elizabeth eyes rows of TISSUE samples in JARS. They have labels like "DEGENERATED", "MUTATION", "TOTAL CELLULAR BREAKDOWN".

ELIZABETH

And what does playing by the rules entail?

WILLIAM

Mostly, respect the secrecy of the project, immerse yourself in your research, and everything will be fine.

ELIZABETH

You're starting to make it sound like I'm going to be a prisoner here.

William smiles again. He's very charming. Elizabeth continues to examine the rows of COLORFUL TISSUE SAMPLES.

WILLIAM

This is a fully immersive project. We all live on-site and we rarely leave. Trust me, as soon as you get started, you'll find this work addicting. But you're not a prisoner. In fact, you'll find more research freedom within these walls than you will in any other laboratory.

(beat)

But there's more to this than Dr. Walton's personal "fountain of youth". There are projects like this taking place all over the world. The first team to create a universal cell-based regenerative healing serum is going to make BILLIONS of dollars.

(beat)

Don't think he won't protect that at any cost.

Elizabeth nods, understanding completely, and slightly fearfully.

ELIZABETH

Even if we create a serum here, how will we justify the workflow. The scientific community will want to know how we did it.

William laughs.

WILLIAM

Do you really think Walton made his transplant breakthroughs in some government regulated operating room? No, no way, he did his leg work here - "under the table".

(beat)

If you make a breakthrough that saves lives, NOBODY is going to care how you did it. Or what costs it took to get you there...

Elizabeth is silent for a moment