

Cipher 7: "IN THE ARMS OF ETERNITY"

Vox Elysium: A Paperless Pulp Cyber Noir

Written by Latisha Jones, Madelyn Dorta, and Jon Jon Johnson

[00:00]

[Opening theme music]

[Previously on Vox Elysium - clips from Cipher 6]

NARRATOR: Flying V Presents: Vox Elysium, a Paperless Pulp Cyber Noir. Cipher 7: In the Arms of Eternity.

[Faint music and chatter behind a door]

[Someone in heels approaches the door]

[They open it and walk through]

VIVIEN: Look at you, Kiddo! You look lovely!

ALEXANDRA: Thank you! So do you! Where have you been? I didn't see you earlier at the announcement, Gabriel made a big--

VIVIEN: I heard all about it. Can you believe our life? Stunning gowns, fancy important parties!

ALEXANDRA: I needed a moment away from it all, it's... a little overwhelming. I'm very happy though!

VIVIEN: That's good to hear. Listen, Mr. Grant wants to see you, we don't want to keep him waiting.

ALEXANDRA: What does he want to see me about?

VIVIEN: I think he wanted to tell you that himself. We're meeting him downstairs. He said we can take his *private* elevator. (laughs)

[The door closes]

[Alexandra and Vivien walk down a carpeted hallway, their dresses swishing]

[The party sounds continue around them]

VIVIEN: How is it going anyway? With the program? I know Gabriel is incredibly impressed with the progress you've made so far and is *very* excited for you to be finished.

ALEXANDRA: It's going ok. I've been hitting blocks. A lot of them. It's been pretty stressful with such a tight deadline. Whoever worked on this before me... it feels like they purposefully encrypted everything before they left. I'm not trying to criticize but I don't think Gabriel quite understands how much work goes into coding something so complex.

VIVIEN: You've been at it for weeks. Surely, you are nearly finished?

ALEXANDRA: I've made a great deal of progress, but at this point, this fault in the code feels deliberate. I run into one problem and it takes me an entire day just to get through it. I'm not used to struggling so much with something like this.

VIVIEN: Gabriel's elevator is this way, just through the party.

ALEXANDRA: (Internal) *Gabriel? She never calls him that...*

[The party grows louder]

[03:07]

[They turn a corner]

V.E. REP: (very drunk) H- Hey Viv! There you are! I was wondering-- HEY, it's Alexandra! HIIIIII ALEXANDRA!

ALEXANDRA: (amused) Hello again.

VIVIEN: Step aside. We have an urgent meeting with Mr. Grant.

V.E. REP: Ah d-don't be a s-spoil sport. I'm Aleexandra's Official representative, we're f-friends! She's important so I'M important.

VIVIEN: You smell like the bar.

V.E. REP: It's a CELEBRATION (hic) innit? I'm not leaving you alone till you agree to b-be my friennnd too Viv.

VIVIEN: Alex, stay right here. Listen you idiot-

V.E. REP: (fading away) OW my ear! Leggo! Stop tugging on me.

[Vivien tugs his ear and leads him away]

[Someone approaches]

SCOUT: (Whispers) Echo! There you are.

ALEXANDRA: Excuse me?

SCOUT: Did you find The Facility yet? Bossman is getting a little anxious.

ALEXANDRA: I'm sorry. Who are you?

SCOUT: Echo, it's me, Scout-

ALEXANDRA: Um. I don't believe we've met. I'm Alexandra... and you are?

SCOUT: Uh. No one really. Um. I'm sorry, I appear to have mistaken you for someone else...

ALEXANDRA: We are all someone here at Vox Elysium, right?

SCOUT: Right...

[Pause]

ALEXANDRA: Are you looking for someone? Maybe I can help.

SCOUT: No, that's okay. I think I found who I needed to.

ALEXANDRA: Oh is that so? Who would that be? (Internal) *Is this a test? Is Gabriel testing me?*

[Guard approaches, she turns to address him]

GUARD: Are you alright Miss Adams?

ALEXANDRA: Of course. I was just talking to... oh.

GUARD: Ms. Adams?

ALEXANDRA: Sorry. There was someone...

GUARD: Shall I call a server to bring you essence?

ALEXANDRA: No! I mean. That won't be necessary.

[Footsteps as Vivien returns]

VIVIEN: Alex! Why did you wander off?

ALEXANDRA: I've been standing here, same place you left me.

VIVIEN: C'mon we need to go.

[They walk off]

ALEXANDRA: Why are we in such a hurry anyway?

VIVIEN: They need you to look at the code-

ALEXANDRA: He wants me to work on it now!?! I'm literally wearing a gown.

[Vivien turns to address her]

VIVIEN: Alex. Our entire future is riding on this program. You are so close to cracking this thing and changing everything for us. Both of us.

[They continue walking]

VIVIEN: Once we do this, nothing will be out of our reach. Nothing. Champagne, gowns, the inner circle. It's so close Alex, I can feel it!

ALEXANDRA: I'm working as fast as I can Vivien, my head feels like it's going to explode. I haven't had a break in--

VIVIEN: You can take a break when you're done.

ALEXANDRA: Stop interrupting me!

[Ding of the elevator, doors slide open, they get inside]

[Button is pressed, doors close, the elevator moves]

[06:20]

[Elevator dings, doors slide open]

[Sound of the lab, slightly quieter than before]

ALEXANDRA: What's going on? Why are there so many guards here?

VIVIEN: We are here to finish what you started.

[Flick of a zippo, Gabriel lights a cigarette]

DR. SHARPE: Mr. Grant, smoking is prohibited in here, there are very delicate instruments--

[Gabriel exhales into Dr. Sharpe's face]

DR. SHARPE: (coughs)

ALEXANDRA: Sarafina. Gabriel?

GABRIEL GRANT: My apologies for taking you away from the fun but we have more pressing matters to address.

ALEXANDRA: Such as?

GABRIEL GRANT: Your progress here at Vox.

ALEXANDRA: I'm happy to answer any questions about the code, I submit everything in my daily report.

SARAFINA: You had your time. It looks like you need a little incentive to get the job done.

ALEXANDRA: I just need a little longer--

GABRIEL GRANT: Allow me to show you something, Alexandra. Do you remember why you came to Vox Elysium?

ALEXANDRA: To be a part of something bigger.

GABRIEL GRANT: You came here to become a better you.

ALEXANDRA: I know that it says that in the brochure but--

GABRIEL GRANT: LET. Me. Finish. You came to become a better you, so we put you through a procedure known as "The Split".

ALEXANDRA: T- The Split?

GABRIEL GRANT: Yes. People come to us--well a lucky few anyway--broken and sad, as is the plight of humankind. We help them become their best selves by removing everything holding them back, and putting it into a new body, allowing you to experience the world as your brighter self.

ALEXANDRA: You- you "split" me? I don't understand, I thought I had agreed to an experimental medical procedure at most. Giving me access to different parts of my brain...

GABRIEL GRANT: You wanted to be Split my dear. You were tired of life, you are far too big to fit into an existence so small. So, we trimmed away the weight of the world. Which is where *she* comes in.

[Echo is brought out in restraints]

ALEXANDRA: Who-

ECHO: Alexandra!

GABRIEL GRANT: You needn't worry, she's quite harmless in those restraints. She poses no threat to you.

ALEXANDRA: She looks just like me.

ECHO: Please, Alexandra you have to help me. My name is Echo, you can't just--OOF!

[Echo is punched in the gut]

ALEXANDRA: (half whispered) Someone was looking for her upstairs.

SARAFINA: Shit. Gabriel, that means they are already here.

GABRIEL GRANT: (hurrying) Alexandra, you were brought here for a purpose. Your Split self--this being--is the only one to have survived the procedure in a truly usable

state. The code you have been working on is to help us contain and control these lesser beings like her. I know this is a lot to process, but we no longer have the luxury of time. You remember the paradise you saw, don't you? Well there's a blight about to descend on Elysium, and we need the code now. We are so close my dear. Help us to take our last step.

ALEXANDRA: But-

SARAFINA: Enough simpering, I told you she wouldn't cooperate. [Click of buttons; something whirs and ascends from the floor] Alexandra, I see that you do not understand the gravity of your situation. You may think us cruel for pushing you, but truthfully, it could be much worse.

[The noise stops; lights slam on and Josie growls]

[Jack calls for help behind a thick layer of glass]

SARAFINA: You could be him.

JACK: (behind glass) Someone please! Help me!

ECHO: Jack!!

ALEXANDRA: Why is he in that vat?

SARAFINA: In short: He's a problem. And you, my dear, are the solution.

ALEXANDRA: I... I don't like this.

SARAFINA: (laughing) That's so cute.

GABRIEL GRANT: Sarafina, stop scaring the girl. She'll run away before she writes one line of code.

SARAFINA: You're too soft hearted, Gabe. Always have been. If her Split was truly successful, she will not be able to say no.

[Sarafina hits a button, liquid begins to fill the vat, Jack screams and cries]

ALEXANDRA: Stop! What are you doing?

[Sarafina hits the button again, Josie barks]

[Jack continues screaming]

SARAFINA: Helping you to understand. Some people- the ones who do not do what they are told- only find meaning at the end of their lives.

ALEXANDRA: STOP! Please. What is it doing to him?!

SARAFINA: Sucking out the nutrients from his skin. He will be repurposed. Like we do with all our failed experiments and uneducatables. In a matter of hours he will be dissolved.

[She presses the button again]

[Jack begins to slow]

GABRIEL GRANT: Alexandra, the time for games is over. You've been given everything. Clean air, good food, status, a wardrobe that lessers can only dream of and yet you still refuse to do the one thing we ask of you to repay our kindness. Complete the program.

ALEXANDRA: (small vocalizations)

GABRIEL GRANT: (sighs) You disappoint me Alexandra. (beat) Sarafina.

SARAFINA: Mm, I love this part.

[Sarafina hits another button]

[A whirring starts]

ECHO: MAKE IT STOP!

SARAFINA: Shut it, Blank. Your turn is coming.

[Jack thrashes against the glass, he manages to create a crack and break some of it]

[He is silent]

ECHO: NO!

ALEXANDER: Is he...?

[Sarafina powers down the vat and walks towards it]

SARAFINA: Huh.

GABRIEL GRANT: What is it?

SARAFINA: Injured himself on the glass. He could have lived a minute or two longer had he not been thrashing so hard. Ah well. Sometimes the trash takes itself out.

ECHO: He isn't trash. His name is Jack. He's a good man! He has a life--

SARAFINA: *Had* a life. And it was pathetic. And you don't want that for yourself, do you, Alexandra. Finish the code!

[11:15]

[Loud boom of explosives, objects falling and crashing]

[Many booted figures enter the room as ringing enters people's ears]

[They stop and cock their guns]

GRAEY: Starting the party without me Echo? That's just rude. I thought we were friends.

SARAFINA: You little p--

[Gun is cocked]

SCOUT: Girlfriend, that's a fully loaded pistol aimed at your head. My trigger finger gets itchy when I'm annoyed so I'd recommend shutting up. Plus we've got more man power.

GABRIEL GRANT: Graey.

GRAEY: Gabe, baby, long time, no see. How's the scam--I mean business?

GABRIEL GRANT: Lucrative.

GRAEY: I see that. I see that. If only you were smart enough to handle it on your own, you wouldn't need these lackeys, am I right? Wouldn't need your little pet programmer over there.

ALEXANDRA: Do I know you?

GRAEY: Nope. But I do know Gabriel.

GABRIEL GRANT: I thought you were dead.

SARAFINA: It was. I disposed of it myself.

GRAEY: So sorry to disappoint. Now, we're going to take these nice young ladies right out here, all easy like.

GABRIEL GRANT: (Scoff) My, your vocabulary has corroded out of my presence. You've ruined our voice.

GRAEY: Eh, Occupational Hazard.

GABRIEL GRANT: I think you're just looking at this the wrong way, Grayson. This is exactly what you dreamed of. Your programs and theories have real world applications.

GRAEY: Wow. Calling me by my name *and* admitting that the code is mine?

GABRIEL GRANT: Of course, of course. None of this is possible without your genius. Your brilliant mind is the engine that keeps this train running.

GREAY: Didn't realize I'd get all your tangible talent did you?

GABRIEL GRANT: Low blow. Though I must admit, it was quite frustrating to learn you had all my coding ability. Come back, and there's a real future for you here. One where you and me... we can be one once more.

SCOUT: What the hell is he talking about, Graey? Wait.. you two... you look the same...

GABRIEL GRANT: You see. Your lackeys don't really know what you are, but I do. I know that you want more. What are you now? A tiny little king on a tiny little hill? Cast off of a great man. Just a Blank. Come back to me, I can make you more.

GRAEY: Why should I believe you?

GABRIEL GRANT: Because I know you better than anyone. Partners?

GRAEY: You make that sound so good. [He cocks his gun] But you don't know me at all.

[Another gun cocks]

VIVIEN: Anything else?

[Brief pause]

GREAY: Stand down.

[His men lower their guns]

VIVIEN: That's what I thought. Alexandra, get to work.

ALEXANDRA: I don't--

VIVIEN: Get to work or I blow this Blank's brains out and it'll be your fault.

GREAY: I may be a Blank but at least I'm not a puppet.

VIVIEN: You piece of sh--

ALEXANDRA: Okay! OKAY! I'll do it.

[Alexandra walks to a computer, boots it up, and begins working]

SARAFINA: I've got to say, I'm impressed.

SCOUT: Hey! You--

SARAFINA: Quiet. Vivien's fried bigger fish than you Alley rat.

ECHO: Vivien, you don't have to do this.

VIVIEN: I know you're not trying to appeal to my good side, Blank.

ALEXANDRA: Vivien, please.

VIVIEN: Keep coding! This is why I chose you Alexandra.

[Alexandra stops]

ALEXANDRA: You did this to me? (beat) You were my best friend.

VIVIEN: I am. Which is why you're not dead yet. I am so close to the life I want. One where I finally feel some peace.

[Graey laughing]

VIVIEN: Hey. Shut up.

GRAEY: Sorry. I can't. You're hilarious. You think what? Grant is going to let you be his back-up Sarafina? That's rich.

VIVIEN: No. I just want –

GRAEY: Oh, I heard. You want “peace.”

[Graey laughing]

[Alexandra tries to keep working]

ALEXANDRA: Look! I’m almost done! Please just put the guns down!

SARAFINA: Would you look at that? See what a little external motivation can do?

Sharpe! Prepare to install an implant in the Blank.

DR. SHARPE: Yes ma’am.

GRAEY: But you were right about one thing, Vivien.

VIVIEN: What?

GRAEY: When it comes to peace, killing Alexandra is the fastest way to get it. [Gun
cocks] Sorry love.

ALEXANDRA: Please, d--

[Gunshot]

VIVIEN/ECHO: NO!

GRAEY: (cries out as he is grabbed)

ALEXANDRA: I... Sarafina?

SARAFINA: (wounded) What... did... you... do, Gabriel?

GABRIEL GRANT: Protected my investment, dear sister.

SARAFINA: Fuck you.

[Sarafina collapses on the floor]

[Josie barks and growls over Sarafina’s body]

ALEXANDRA: How could you push your sister into the path of a bullet? And you? You
tried to kill me!

GRANT/GRAEY: Necessary Evils.

GABRIEL GRANT: It seems I'm in need of a right hand at the moment. Alexandra-
ALEXANDRA: I want no part of this.

[Josie barks]

GABRIEL GRANT: Someone shut that damn dog up! Alexandra, you have access to anything you want. Name your price.

ALEXANDRA: Get me out of this nightmare.

VIVIEN: I'll do it. I've already proven myself 10 times over. I can be anything you need and more. Just agree to split me and I'll do it.

GABRIEL GRANT: Oh, take a hint Vivien. I would never split someone as pathetic as you. You would never belong.

VIVIEN: LIAR!

[Gunshot]

[Footsteps running, Graey and Grant's guards begin to fight, madness descends]

[Vivien keeps firing]

DR. SHARPE: Please! Stop shooting, you'll set off the failsafe!

GABRIEL GRANT: If you want to shoot me--

[Echo grunts as Gabriel grabs her]

ECHO: Don't touch me!

GABRIEL GRANT: You'll have to shoot Alexandra's Blank. You do seem to have a fondness for it.

VIVIEN: YOU BASTARD.

[Running footsteps, gunshot]

ECHO: STOP SHOOTING, YOU'LL HIT ME!

VIVIEN: I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING!

[Something ignites]

[She fires a few more times, then clicks on an empty clip again and again]

[Loud beeping, fire growing]

DR. SHARPE: No NO NO! My life's work down the drain!

[Scout coughs]

SCOUT: That chemical fire's gonna kill us if we don't get out of here!

ALEXANDRA: I'm not leaving without Echo.

[People running away]

[Alexandra picks up a gun on the floor and aims it at Gabriel]

ALEXANDRA: Hold it, Gabriel!

GABRIEL GRANT: Would you really shoot me, little girl?

ALEXANDRA: Give me Echo. Now.

ECHO: Alexandra, just go!

ALEXANDRA: No! I won't let him take you from me again!

GABRIEL GRANT: You gave it up!

ALEXANDRA: I wouldn't have chosen this if I knew-

GABRIEL GRANT: Oh you stupid little-- YES YOU WOULD HAVE! Who CHOOSES to live with the parts of themselves they hate? If you're going to shoot me, do it already! If you want Echo, then drop the gun and kick it over here.

[Alexandra kicks the gun over to him]

GABRIEL GRANT: Too bad you're so trusting, dear Alexandra.

[Echo cries out as she's pushed into the vat; splash]

ALEXANDRA: DAMN IT!

[Bubbles from vat]

GABRIEL GRANT: Jump in after her if you care so much!

[Beat as Alexandra decides, then she leaps in]

[All sound of the chaos fades out]

[18:00]

[Whooshing, ethereal noises]

ALEXANDRA: (internal) *Am I dead?*

[Something cosmic approaches -- The Entity]

[Alexandra gasps]

ALEXANDRA: Are you the Entity?

[Noises like radio chatter, the echoing of voices -- affirmation]

ALEXANDRA: I guess...it's a pleasure to meet you.

[The sound of a large, mysterious boom]

ALEXANDRA: I can't say I fully understand...but...I was hoping you could help me?

[Rushing river, the noises of animals, sound of traffic]

ALEXANDRA: Yeah...I'm looking for...myself? Someone used your power to split me, apparently.

[The sound of distorted thunder, a crash, rain]

[Whooshing fades out]

ALEXANDRA: Echo?

ECHO: Alexandra? What are you-

ALEXANDRA: I came to save you. I jumped in the vat...

ECHO: (Internal) *I guess that was a hopeless cause.*

ALEXANDRA: Wait.

ECHO: How--

ALEXANDRA: You can hear my thoughts?

ECHO: (Internal) *Wait, I can hear her thoughts?*

ALEXANDRA: YES!

ECHO: Fuck! (Internal) *Can you hear mine?*

ALEXANDRA: (Internal) *Yes!*

[The rushing of wind through a savannah]

ECHO: I guess it means we can't keep secrets here can we.

ALEXANDRA: We have to find a way out of here. If we can wake up--

ECHO: I don't think there's going to be waking up from this.

[An echo like the vastness of space]

ALEXANDRA: So you're me.

ECHO: All the parts of you you didn't like, apparently. I had some time to think while being held prisoner, and I gotta tell you, it kinda sucked to not be wanted by myself of all people.

ALEXANDRA: Well, now that I can see you... you're not just all the worst parts of me.

ECHO: ...thanks? (Internal) *Ouch*.

ALEXANDRA: Oh, I'm sorry! That came out wrong.

ECHO: Right. No inside thoughts here.

ALEXANDRA: See... you figure things out. Like me. That's not something I don't like about me.

ECHO: Are you sure?

ALEXANDRA: I felt so... isolated sometimes. Like anything I liked about myself, everyone else hated. So I learned to hate me, too.

ECHO: So you just left me with all the stuff that brought you problems and then, what, used it to waltz into high society?

ALEXANDRA: Well I didn't know what had happened. I woke up and was just--

ECHO: Yeah well I woke up too and it was just--

ALEXANDRA: I mean, I didn't realize it'd shunt it all over to another person.

ECHO: Am I another person?

ALEXANDRA: Technically?

ECHO: Sure, I guess I'm separate from you...but...I'm still...we're still.

ALEXANDRA: I thought I'd be happier.

ECHO: And you're not?

ALEXANDRA: I was...briefly. I thought I had gotten everything I wanted. But--

ECHO: At my expense.

ALEXANDRA: Now that I see you here... what good is it if I lost the parts of you that make me whole? Our inquisitiveness.

ECHO: Our boundless charm?

ALEXANDRA: Ah, so *you* got sarcasm.

ECHO: Happy people aren't sarcastic, I guess.

ALEXANDRA: Nothing to be sarcastic about maybe. But really...maybe it's not about being happy?

ECHO: You say that now? When we're floating in goo?

ALEXANDRA: I think it's about being whole. Authentic.

ECHO: It's fucked up that you say that after I got sliced off of you. Like a gross little polyp.

ALEXANDRA: Well that's not fair. Vivien and Gabriel? And Sarafina...and--

ECHO: I don't think they could've convinced you to do something you didn't already have an inclination towards. The "us" I know has more of a backbone than that.

ALEXANDRA: That hurts.

ECHO: It's supposed to. Were you really so terrified of me? So scared to make people hate you because you spoke directly and called it like you saw it?

ALEXANDRA: I mean not "hate," per se.

ECHO: Enough that you would slice it away from yourself.

ALEXANDRA: I didn't, I just--

ECHO: I don't know which is worse: the active decision to have been severed from you, or to be the victim of unintentional and unnoticed self loathing.

ALEXANDRA: I know this sounds like me just trying to justify everything--

ECHO: Yeah, definitely sounds like that.

ALEXANDRA: --but, it's oddly easier to see that...how do I put this...uh...

ECHO: Don't try to mince words, just be honest.

ALEXANDRA: You're easier to like when I'm looking at you now, than when I looked in the mirror.

ECHO: What?

ALEXANDRA: It's weird right? I always wanted to have empathy for people outside of myself, but it's so hard to turn that empathy inward. I struggled so hard to accept you because I couldn't see you. What I mean is that... it's harder to love ourselves because we can't see what others are seeing, we just live with what and who we are.

ECHO: It's easy for you to say. I'm the discarded dregs here. I'm looking at the most perfect embodiment of me. You're this golden, shining thing that gets to exist because I'm apart from you. You wouldn't be as amazing as you are if it weren't for me being separate from you.

ALEXANDRA: I don't feel all that perfect. What if we were amazing before the split too, and it was just harder for us to see?

ECHO: I reiterate that it's hard to not feel bitter about that.

ALEXANDRA: And perhaps I'm being too sweet about it. But a nice--

ECHO: --bittersweet--

ALEXANDRA: --complex and nuanced take might be that we can look at ourselves not just with bitterness, but also with the same love and compassion with which we view others.

ECHO: That sounds incredibly saccharine.

ALEXANDRA: Which is why I need you to balance it out. With reality. Pragmatism.

Grounded bitterness. A little salt.

ECHO: (not fully swayed) Hm.

[Pause]

ALEXANDRA: Echo.

ECHO: What?

ALEXANDRA: (long beat) I am so sorry.

ECHO: (long beat) It's ok.

ALEXANDRA: It's really not. But I appreciate you saying so.

ECHO: So... is the proposal...

ALEXANDRA: Short of dropping on one knee...

ECHO: Where would you even find a ring in this endless void?

ALEXANDRA: (long beat) I don't want to be split anymore. Even if these are our last moments... I don't want to be split.

ECHO: Okay, well, c'mon now... it's not like you chose to.

ALEXANDRA: That doesn't matter anymore. Whether I chose to or not, it has caused you a lot of pain. And so, whether or not it was my fault, I choose to accept responsibility for how I let you be treated. Which is to say... how I let them treat me.

ECHO: And I'm sorry that I ruined your shot at a perfect, beautiful life.

ALEXANDRA: A life of lies, ultimately. Made of all too fragile glass. I don't want to be without you. Without me. Anymore. I need you, with that cynic's eye, to look for traps, the pitfalls, and the... *bullshit*... while I keep our eyes on the beautiful horizon. If I'm dreams, then you're the truth.

ECHO: And we need a healthy dose of both.

ALEXANDRA: Exactly.

ECHO: I don't know if I'm ready to be Alexandra again.

ALEXANDRA: We won't be the same as we were before.

ECHO: Right. We'll be more... more whole.

ALEXANDRA: No hiding. And I think *that* is everything we've ever wanted.

ECHO: Ok.

[A whooshing sound of fusion, the crack of thunder and downpour of rain]

[The sound of traffic, bird calls, and barking]

[A building, whooshing sound that culminates in the breaking of glass]

[27:18]

[The sound of the warning alarm beeping in the lab]

[Alexandra is quiet for a moment, the rushing returns and liquid rushes away from her]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: (sputtering and coughing) I'm alive?! The vat's empty... (internal) *The liquid must have drained from the crack Jack made...* (out loud) Jack... you saved me...

[Loud boom of an explosion]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Shit! (internal) *I have to get out of here!*

[Alexandra grunts, pulling herself out of the vat]

[She runs for the door to the stairs, it's locked]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: (internal) *SHIT! The stairs are locked!*

[Her watch reminds her to Relax]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Oh for the love of--Fuck this stupid watch!

[She rips it off and stomps on it, the alarm dies]

[Wet running footsteps]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Oh please work, please work.

[Clicking of elevator buttons, it dings and opens]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Oh thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

[She hits buttons repeatedly, the doors close and the elevator ascends]

[Stupidly calm elevator music plays the Vox Elysium theme]

[A mysterious, ethereal whooshing]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Come on, just a little further!

[Elevator dings, doors open]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Hell yes!

[She steps out, a horrible series of crashes and breaks happen behind her as the elevator collapses and falls to the bottom of the shaft]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Someone is looking out for me today.

[Large klaxxon alarm]

[Wet footsteps]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: (gasps) Dr. Sharpe... (internal) *Guess he wasn't as lucky... Who shot him?*

VIVIEN: (nearby) You are not leaving here with that drive.

GRAEY: It's my code.

VIVIEN: It's Alexandra's code if anything but--

GRAEY: And she's dead so--

SCOUT: BOSS! We need to get out of here, now!

GRAEY: Shove it Scout, this broad isn't going anywhere with my code.

VIVIEN: "Broad." What the f--Oh my god. Alex?

SCOUT: Echo!

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Yes... And yes.

VIVIEN: But, that's impossible. I saw Gabriel push Echo... and you jumped--

GRAEY: There's no way you didn't die.

ALEXANDRA ECHO: I'm very much alive. And whole again.

VIVIEN: But how?

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Like it really matters to you.

VIVIEN: He shot Dr. Sharpe to get the drive with your code on it.

GRAEY: And now you're trying to steal it you little--

VIVIEN: I'm--

ALEXANDRA ECHO: *I don't care.* I don't care about Vox. I don't care about the code. I don't care about any of you. I'm getting out of here.

[Scout's footsteps her way]

SCOUT: Right behind you.

VIVIEN: Alex, wait-

ALEXANDRA ECHO: I don't want to hear anything you have to say Vivien. I never want to see your face again.

[They run away from them]

[Fire grows]

[As they run, Graey and Vivien can be heard faintly]

GREAY: Give me the damn drive!

VIVIEN: You'll have to pry it out of my cold dead hands!

GREAY: That can be arranged.

[They fight, grunting]

[A faint gunshot]

SCOUT: We're not going to make it!

ALEXANDRA ECHO: The hell we aren't! I didn't just go through a painful personal transformation just to get squished!

[Josie barks]

[They stop]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Josie!

SCOUT: Leave her!

ALEXANDRA ECHO: No!

[She picks Josie up, who barks again]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Got ya!

[Loud booms continue throughout the building]

[They sprint out the main entrance]

[A long series of booms, crashes, and collapse]

[One final boom]

[People cry out outside, alarmed]

[30:25]

[Scout and Alexandra Echo stop running some distance away from the collapsed building]

[They breathe heavily]

[People continue to cry out in the background]

[The sound of rain]

[Josie licks Alexandra Echo's face]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: (laughing) I've got you girl. I've got you.

SCOUT: Boss...

ALEXANDRA ECHO: I'm sorry, Scout.

SCOUT: Guess I'll have to report back to everyone at Byte Me. Ugh this is going to suck.

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Graey didn't deserve you.

SCOUT: I really thought he believed in the cause.

ALEXANDRA ECHO: (beat) He might have. Just not for the same reasons as you.

CROWD MEMBER: (distantly) Has anyone seen Mr. Grant?!

[The crowd cries out for him, shoving rubble aside]

SCOUT: Did you see him?

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Not after he pushed me. You?

SCOUT: No. But it was chaos in there. Ah, there's no way he could have made it out.

But I could put some people on it.

ALEXANDRA ECHO: There will always be people like Gabriel in the world. Self serving, self righteous assholes looking to exploit people's pain without offering anything of themselves.

[People begin crying]

SCOUT: These people really are warped, aren't they?

ALEXANDRA ECHO: I find it hard to blame them. If someone very convincing were to tell you that they know how to help solve your suffering, and for a little while it works... you'd be forever chasing that feeling.

SCOUT: Hm. Well... (he stands, hesitantly, wincing) Fuck. I'm going to head back to headquarters before anyone takes notice of us. Coming with?

ALEXANDRA ECHO: No.

SCOUT: Listen. If you ever need anything. You'll have a place with us.

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Thank you.

SCOUT: I guess with Graey gone, I'll be in charge... I could use someone with your skills.

ALEXANDRA ECHO: I don't think I want to be used anymore.

SCOUT: Fair enough. See you around, Echo. Or... Alexandra?

ALEXANDRA ECHO: See you around, Scout.

[Footsteps walking away]

[A motorcycle passes]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Hey, Josie.

[Josie whines]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: You want to come with me? To... well I don't know, but you're welcome along.

[Josie barks]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: Alright then, come on.

[Alexandra walks along the sidewalk]

[The noises of chaos fades]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: (Internal) *I feel like I've lived a thousand lifetimes... Being whole again feels unsettling in its own way. But right. Maybe I'll always feel a little off kilter... But I think that's something I can start to live with. These pieces of me, fragmented, brilliant, ruptured, and vibrant. They are mine. Maybe my hurt isn't something that needs to be solved. Maybe it's ok to live a little cracked and broken. Wherever you go...*

[She stops walking]

ALEXANDRA ECHO: There you are.

[Josie barks]

[Alexandra cries and laughs]

[End Theme & Credits]