

NUMINA STAGE

TIW: How many has she had?
What's the status?
Ogh, give her a call, get her out of there.

OGHMA prepares the call.

LILITH: You know what? I don't see the problem. I like alcohol, it makes me all...loose...a bit...

TIW: Lilith!

LILITH: ...creative. Right. We're at about 70% across the team. Ish... Oggy, you're at 40, Ullr 50, Tiwy 60, I'm at a perky 70, Tyche 80, Vör 90 and Eris is still at 100, of course.

TIW: Where is Tyche?

LILITH: There!

TIW: Dammit. Not again.

LILITH: Ogh now at 20%. Ullr 40.

ULLR: (A little incoherent) Not a good idea to have photos taken in bars.

LILITH: It's true, you do look great.
Hot in fact.

TIW: Lilith!

LILITH: What? It's true.

TIW: No! No, no, no.

LILITH: She looks quite hot too.

LILITH: She's pretty. She might consider it as I'm famous.

REAL WORLD STAGE

LIGHTS up in the bar.
SOUND to full (but still background)

SOPHIA downs a shot and there are a few more lined up on the bar. She scrolls through her phone for a moment.

SOPHIA: Shit!

She puts her phone down and downs another shot.

VIDEO - a call from Michaela.

She looks at her phone and makes the decision not to answer it, putting her phone upside down on the bar. The call rings off. She downs another shot. She sways and taps along with the music for a while... She pulls a pen out of a pocket, grabs some paper and starts sketching - this continues throughout the scene. TYCHE approaches as if to walk past her, then notices her.

TYCHE: Hey, it's you! The doughnut lady! I saw you this morning. Wow, amazing stuff... I would love to get myself tested, but no money - spent it all in here! Hey, could I get a picture with you?

SOPHIA: I'm not sure... I'm not... I don't think... I look...

TYCHE: You look great, come on. (To the barman) Hey, could you take a picture of us?

The barman turns around and it's ERIS. In her barista clothes but with a different apron.

SOPHIA: You!

ERIS: Me!

SOPHIA: Of course it's you. Who else would it be. Do you own this place as well?

ERIS: And a thousand others. Cafes are only good for gossip until mid-afternoon.

TYCHE: Here.

TYCHE passes over a phone and ERIS takes their picture, SOPHIA very awkwardly.

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ULLR	(Quietly) The press, no stories in the press.	TYCHE:	Hey, good luck with the business - thanks for the selfie!
TIW:	Don't do it!		
TYCHE	returns, immediately woozy.	SOPHIA:	No problem.
OGHMA:	I'm not... I need to... oh...		She downs her next-to-last shot.
OGHMA	slumps. LIGHT goes out.		Fill them up.
TIW:	You want to switch to water.	ERIS:	Are you sure? I seem to remember that you're teetotal.
LILITH:	Yeah, you tell her!	SOPHIA:	I was until you fucked me over.
TIW:	Switch to water!	ERIS:	I can practically hear the voice in your head screaming for you to drink water.
LILITH:	She's smart. Annoying but smart.	SOPHIA:	You can? Well, for once I'm ignoring it. Don't think it's ever done me any good. C'pt alcohol's bad for you. Ah shut up!
TIW:	Alcohol's very bad for you.		She downs her shot, waits a moment.
LILITH:	Imagine her naked! You want her... on that table.		
ULLR	slumps, LIGHT goes out. TIW's not able to coordinate. LILITH starts giggling.		
LILITH:	You haven't had sex in ages.		Ah... peace!
TYCHE:	Noisy? Smelly? Boring?		This place is a bit...
TIW:	(Quietly) Untidy.		Noisy?
TIW:	(Quietly) No no no no no.		Do you want to come back to my place?
TYCHE:	Drink more! This is exiting!	ERIS:	I like it here - I own it!
LILITH:	Right... Behind the bar?	SOPHIA:	Right. (Moves closer)
	NAKED!		I want to... could you show me how the bar works?
TYCHE:	Ooh, never done that before.	ERIS:	Ah... Are you by any chance imagining me naked right now?
TIW:	(Passing out) Noooooo.	SOPHIA:	(Nods happily) Yes, yes I am.
TIW	slumps.	ERIS:	Hello Lil!
LILITH:	(Happily) YES!	SOPHIA:	Hi Eris... Rust... What? My name's Sophia. (Thinks) It means wisdom, I think.
	Get her back to your place... Or someone else.		
LILITH:	Hi Eris (she waves)		

NUMINA STAGE		REAL WORLD STAGE	
SOUND: Warning, team leader connection at 3%... 2...1... leader control offline. TIW LIGHT goes out.		ERIS	hands SOPHIA another drink, pours herself one and they both down them.
		ERIS:	Goodnight Lil.
		SOPHIA:	Hmmm?
LILITH	stretches and slumps. Her LIGHT goes out. TYCHE looks around.		I want to... behind the bar. If that's...?
TYCHE:	(Drunken excitement) Go Eris, go! They're all down. Go you fool. GO!	ERIS:	Look, I'm definitely not your type. I'm very, very high maintenance.
TYCHE	watches then slumps. LIGHT goes out.	SOPHIA:	Oh. OK. Sorry.
		ERIS:	Don't be. I appreciate the thought. Now... to you. How did you get here?
		SOPHIA:	I walked!
		ERIS:	You know what I mean. How did you land up running a nerdy tech company?
		ERIS	gets bigger glasses for both of them and pours drinks. SOPHIA takes a big gulp, ERIS pours more.
VÖR	watches for a while and eventually as she drifts off...	SOPHIA:	I met Violet...at a...thing... where she talked about what they were doing. I liked the idea. It's a good idea.
LIGHTS	fade to black.	ERIS:	No, before that.
		SOPHIA:	Did my MBA after finishing uni, worked at a DNA company - you know, find your ancestry and allergies stuff.
		ERIS:	Before that.
		SOPHIA:	I did genetics at Uni.
		ERIS:	And before that.
		SOPHIA:	Biology, chemistry, physics and maths at school.
		ERIS:	Why?
		SOPHIA:	Why..? Because I was good at it, I guess.
		ERIS:	Really?

SOPHIA: I had tutors. *(She imitates one of her parents)* Because it will lead to a good job and good money and a good life.

ERIS: Did it?

SOPHIA: *(Thinks a moment)* I suppose so. Better than most. I'm not living under a bridge.

ERIS: Life's good if you're not living under a bridge?

SOPHIA: You know what I mean!

ERIS: Do you enjoy it?

SOPHIA: Enjoy life? Yes, yes I do!. *(As she looks at her)*. Comparatively I do. More than the under-bridge people for sure.

ERIS: Which bits do you love?

SOPHIA: Love? *(She stares at the ceiling as she thinks, then looks at her)* I see what you're doing, you're getting me to do one of those *(mocking)* find-your-purpose quizzes. What you love doing, what you're good at, what people need...and...and...

ERIS: What people will pay you for?

SOPHIA: Yes, that. Exactly. I've done that.

ERIS: And?

SOPHIA: And I should be making guilt-free junk food.

ERIS: Making you the happiest person in the big wide world.

SOPHIA: Exactly!

ERIS: And yet you're not.

SOPHIA: I haven't made it yet.

ERIS: You won't be happy when you do. And you know it.

SOPHIA *thinks on this for a bit, swirling her drink.*

SOPHIA: No, I won't. *(Pause)* Which only goes to show that all that stuff is BS.

ERIS: It does.

SOPHIA: It does?

ERIS: *(A pause)* How old do you think you were when you started out on the journey to running the company? What was the first decision?

SOPHIA: Deciding to talk to Violet, I guess.

ERIS: You'd done your degrees before that. Chose subjects at school before that. Where did it start?

SOPHIA: Shit, if we're going that far back it wasn't my choice, was it? It was my mum and dad's.

ERIS: Do you remember choosing to do what they said?