

SOPHIA: I guess. I chose not to fight against the tutors and the extra homework.

ERIS: Why not?

SOPHIA thinks and as she does, WHITE comes on stage with a chair, TIW - dressed as a tutor - brings on a table which has books and a ruler on it.

LIGHTS - blue-toned spot on WHITE and TIW, lights dimmed on ERIS and SOPHIA.

TIW: What did you say?

WHITE: I don't want to do any more, I can't! I can't do it.

TIW: Oh you will.

WHITE: I won't, I can't!

TIW: You will not talk back to me like that, you ungrateful little shit.

TIW picks up the ruler and slams it down on WHITE's hand. WHITE screams.

TIW: Shut up and do your work!

WHITE: No!

TIW slaps her hard across the face. WHITE is stunned, then recovered enough to say quietly...

WHITE: You can't... I'll... I'll !

TIW: Tell your dad? Oh he knows all about this. He's just too weak to do it himself. Now work!

LIGHTS change back again as TIW and WHITE exit.

SOPHIA: (Quietly) I didn't fight it because... my parents knew better than me.

ERIS: So since you were, what, 9 or 10?, you have been following a route that was drawn on a map by your parents almost 20 years ago based on their guess at what the world might look like in the future.

SOPHIA: I guess... Isn't that what everyone does?

ERIS: Do you think my (self-mocking) business empire came from a 20 year old plan? I barely think about it. I move from feeling to feeling. If what I'm doing doesn't give me a sense of being alive, I stop and find something else to do.

SOPHIA: That's 'be here now' bullshit. Doesn't work in the real world.

She downs her drink. ERIS refills it.

ERIS: It doesn't? (A moment of silence) It can be just a moment of joy – a 'glimmer' – like having a cup of coffee purely for that moment of the first sip.

SOPHIA: Glimmer?! Jesus.

ERIS: Then I'll shift to something else, a chat with someone who scares me, stroking a cat, telling a story, buying a chain of coffee shops, buying a sandwich for someone who lives under a bridge, smiling at a stranger just to see what happens, running away from an angry stranger who doesn't like being smiled at - anything that makes me feel.