

PENUMBRA

"Episode 5"

Draft 3

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INT. PRISON CELL (SHADOW-REALM)

JOHN wakes up, gasping loudly. He's lying on the dirty cold and grimy floor of a dark cell. Like the first one.

JOHN  
Fuck! Again?

He gets up on his feet and looks around. He rubs his aching head and squints to try to see better. He calls out for help.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Jane? Hello? Anybody there?

There is no response, but after a few seconds, another voice speaks. The voice comes from a cell opposite to JOHN's cell. It's ANTI JOHN. He is hidden in his cell's darkness, so only a faint silhouette is visible. Even though JOHN can't see him, he can tell that the voice is that of a man who has lost all hope.

ANTI JOHN  
I don't think she's woken up yet.

JOHN walks to his prison bars and leans against them, trying to get a look at ANTI John, but still only managing to see a faint shadow.

JOHN seems to burst with questions, but then gives up halfway. He knows the answers already. He sighs and sits down against the prison wall.

JOHN  
They fucked us up good, didn't they?

ANTI John doesn't reply. His shadowy figure in his cell remains still.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
It's alright. I don't expect you to talk to me.

JOHN walks around his cell for a while, occasionally looking back at ANTI John for a response. After some time, ANTI John finally speaks.

ANTI JOHN  
You know I don't know how old I am.

A beat.

JOHN  
You're 30.

ANTI JOHN

By Earth time, yes. But time here is different. It's weird. I'm not even sure it exists.

JOHN

Yeah it must feel different to a human.

There is no reply - just an eerie, somewhat angry silence from ANTI John. He sits still for some time, but then his shadowy figure in the cell moves. He gets up and walks to the prison bars.

He slowly comes into the light. He looks hideous. His body is not even whole. His limbs seem to be floating about the joints, and so is his head. He has deep and long scars all over.

ANTI JOHN

What about this looks human to you?

JOHN sees him and is shocked. He gets up and stands against the prison bars to get a better look. He struggles to find words.

JOHN

Your physical human body is probably dissolving from the drain of the Shadow Realm...

ANTI John cuts him off with thunderous anger.

ANTI JOHN

I don't give a fuck! It's all over now. I was holding on to get my revenge, and now I can't even have that. My body may dissolve to the fucking force. God knows my soul already did so long ago.

JOHN looks despondent. He steps back and turns around, looking the other way, and stands like that for some time before he turns back around.

JOHN

I'm sorry.

ANTI JOHN

It doesn't matter now.

JOHN

Still, I'm sorry.

A beat.

ANTI JOHN

What all did I miss all this time?

JOHN

Hm.. LaLa land was pretty good. We had a pandemic because some guy in China fucked a bat. Or ate. I don't remember. Had to stay inside and wear masks for a year because of that. Donald Trump was our president for four years. That was pretty fucked up. And Will Smith almost knocked Chris Rock out at he Oscars. Oh and Robert Pattinson now plays Batman.

ANTI JOHN

The-Pursuit-of-Happyness-I-am-Legend guy almost knocked out the zebra from Madagascar? ..and Edward the vampire is now the Dark Knight?

JOHN

Yup.

ANTI JOHN

Wow.

JOHN

(laughs)

Certainly makes up for all that other shit.

Both of them laugh. ANTI JOHN bends over at the core, like a grandpa who using his diaphragm to laugh for the first time. (half laughing, half struggling)

Meanwhile, in cell, JANE is sitting awake. She's been sitting in on conversation for some time.

JOHN (CONT'D)

JANE?

JOHN rushes to the prison bars and looks around for JANE. He tries to get a look at her but is unable to.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm here. I'm here for you.

JANE

I'm tired. Of both of you. What's happening? Where are we?

JOHN  
I don't know. Some prison in the  
Shadow Realm.

JANE looks up and notices ANTI JOHN looking at her. She  
recoils at his sight.

ANTI JOHN  
Hi again.

JANE  
  
To JOHN  
What is he?

JOHN looks at ANTI JOHN, implicitly seeking approval to  
speak. ANTI John tells Jane himself.

ANTI JOHN  
The shadows betrayed me. I'm stuck  
here too. Nothing more to do. Looks  
like we both failed at being  
shadows.

JANE  
I'm not going to die here.

ANTI JOHN  
Theres nothing we can do.

JANE  
John!

JOHN doesn't know what to say.

JOHN  
I don't know, Jane.

JANE is unable to accept this.

JANE  
No. No... there has to be a way.  
This can't be it.

ANTI JOHN  
Lady this is it, like it or not. My  
body is dissolving. It's only a  
matter of time before yours starts  
to too. I'm pretty sure this place  
will fuck your shadow hubby up too.  
At least he can't go around  
bodysnatching and stealing other  
peoples' lives.

A beat.

I've hung on for a long time. Don't  
make my mistake. It's hopeless.

JANE looks to JOHN and collapse sitting down in despair. She holds her head, unable to process the information and that this is the end. She starts to tear up.

JOHN hears her cry and tries to console her.

JOHN

It's true, I never told you  
everything.

A beat.

We'll think of something, Jane.  
This is not the end.

A beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Long ago I replaced JOHN.

A beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

...And my crossing was really part  
of this invasion you see around  
you.

A beat. No response from Jane. JOHN waits for her to speak. When she finally does, she speaks crisply in a monotone.

JANE turns away in disappointment.

JANE

(JANE looks around)

All this...it's too much..  
I wish you'd told me.

JOHN is heartbroken yet continues. He begins tearing up yet stops. He stares into the wall.

A beat.

JOHN

I made a promise to you. I'm sorry  
I couldn't keep it while we were  
together above. You know everything  
now. I understand what it means to  
be human; to grow from  
imperfection; to live in the light  
despite having darkness at the  
seams.

A beat.

In the background, ANTI John retreats back into his shadowy cell, similar to how he was earlier.

FADE OUT.

INT. PRISON CELL (SHADOW-REALM) - LATER

The cells are silent. JOHN is sleeping. ANTI John is still in his shadowy corner in his cell, absolutely still.

Jane is sitting with her back against the wall, awake.

She calls out to ANTI John.

JANE

Psst... Psst... John number 2? OG John?

A beat.

ANTI JOHN

Yes.

JANE

What do I call you?

A beat.

ANTI JOHN

Shaun.

JANE

Ok, Shaun. If you don't mind me asking, how old were you when these shadows kidnapped you?

ANTI JOHN

Jane is shocked.

JANE

Wow. 19. I remember being 19.

ANTI JOHN

I was actually 18. I was supposed to turn 19 the next month.

JANE

That sucks.

ANTI JOHN

Well at least I don't have to be human much longer. Living alone is overrated.

A beat.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. PRISON CELL (SHADOW-REALM) - LATER

The prison cells are still silent. The halls are empty since the shadow hive minds display of power. Sounds above them suggest the shadow population is now all above ground.

JANE is still awake.

JOHN is standing in front of a prison wall, staring into it. However, there seems to be a purpose behind this. He seems to be examining something. He moves forward and touches the wall. It is solid. He closes his eyes and concentrates. The intensity of his face increases steadily, and is intercut by flashes of his perspective when he had taken ANTI John's place in the real world. The frequency of the intercutting increases steadily, until JOHN finds himself in a different place altogether.

EXT. VORTEX

JOHN is in the vortex he had earlier been in when ANTI John was torturing him on Earth. It is completely silent and dark except for a silvery glow of the outline of the vortex, a giant orb-like dome.

This lasts only for a few moments and JOHN finds himself back in his cell.

PRISON CELL (SHADOW-REALM)

JOHN pants heavily, and a sense of victory and happiness slowly overcomes him. He celebrates silently for a bit. He looks over to ANTI John's cell to find him standing at his prison bars, looking at JOHN.

JOHN

It worked.

ANTI John looks even more dilapidated now than he was earlier.

ANTI JOHN

You know you won't make it out.



JOHN

I know. It doesn't matter anymore.  
All that matters is her. And you. I  
want to do right by you this time.

ANTI JOHN

(smiles)

I am done, buddy. I was done a long  
time ago. This is how it ends for  
the two of us. This is how it was  
always going to end.

JOHN acknowledges this truth he had been denying himself with  
a sad nod.

ANTI JOHN (CONT'D)

She still has time. Save her.

JOHN nods and walks over to the prison bars and calls out to  
Jane.

JOHN

Jane?

He hears shuffling on the other side as Jane wakes up but  
doesn't speak to him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I don't expect you to talk to me. I  
just want you to know that I'm  
sorry. I was selfish and I put you  
in danger. You deserved someone so  
much better than me.

A beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

But for all my lies, I have always  
loved you, and nothing will ever  
change that. I want you to remember  
that. You saved me. You are what  
made me human.

A beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I've ruined both of your lives. I  
stole JOHN's life and lied about  
myself to you.

A beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I tried my best and ruined all  
three of our lives. I can't end it  
here.

A beat.

JANE sits up as he speaks, but doesn't say anything back.

JOHN stays there for a few moments and then looks towards  
ANTI John, who is still at his prison bars.

JOHN gets up and walks back to the prison wall. He puts his  
hand on it like last time and concentrates. After a moment he  
suddenly vaporizes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTRAL COURTYARD

JOHN floats in a void for several moments before the silver  
outline of the massive vortex glistens above him. He floats  
upwards towards it, wind rushing around him. He comes face to  
face with his reflection on the vortex.

He reaches out and passes his hand into the chaos before  
submerging himself into the vortex.

SHADOW HIVE MIND

How are you here, traitor?

JOHN

I'm ending this madness.

SHADOW HIVE MIND

You cannot stop us.

JOHN

Oh but I can. I've learned how to  
be warm and cold - how to exist  
alone with my light and dark side.  
Us JOHNS have learned what it is to  
exist as an individual. Now what if  
you learned the same.

JOHN dissolves into a shadow form, sucked into the vortex and  
becomes one with the shadow hive mind.

SHADOW HIVE MIND

What are you doing? Don't be  
foolish?

JOHN  
I'll do whatever it takes.

Screams echo within the vortex. There is a constant buzz. Countless shadows hover and swish around, distorted like ghosts sucked by a central vacuum.

EXT. CENTRAL COURTYARD

It is silent. A marbled shadow-light infection permeates the vortex. Suddenly the vortex implodes with shadows clawing their way out of the vortex.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON CELL (SHADOW-REALM) - CONTINUOUS

The ground shudders and shakes. ANTI John feels the tremors and gets up, his joints clicking loudly as they move. He looks out of the prison bars and sees a light rushing down from the top.

JANE looks out of her cell at the light down the hall.

JANE  
What's happening?

ANTI JOHN  
He did it.

JANE  
So we can get out of this shit hole now?

ANTI JOHN  
You can.

JANE  
What does that mean? What about you?

ANTI John smiles.

ANTI JOHN  
My life ended a long time ago. I have been a soulless heap of nothingness for as long as I can remember.

A beat.

Besides no point holding a grudge against dead man.

(MORE)

ANTI JOHN (CONT'D)

What used is revenge when he's  
already lost? This is it for me.

The light floods their corridor. It is blinding.

JANE

But...

ANTI JOHN

I'm fading too. I'm a part of this  
world.

Jane starts to get gradually absorbed by the light.

ANTI JOHN retreats back into his cell and lies down.

ANTI JOHN'S POV

The white light is blinding. He smiles as he sees it coming.

EXT. VORTEX

JOHN is getting torn apart along with the shadow hive mind.  
We can see them scream but not hear them.

JANE'S POV

The light shines brightly on her. Her body slowly starts  
dissolving, becoming one with the light.

We intercut between these three POVs for some time, and  
eventually the screen becomes fully white.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT/EXT. JOHN AND JANE'S HOUSE

Jane wakes up on her couch in her living room. It's dawn.  
She looks around, unable to comprehend what just happened;  
unable to accept for some time that she escaped. She walks  
around her room, examining it. Much of it is overturned and  
in shambles.

She finds a picture frame lying in the rubble. She picks it  
up. It is a picture of her and JOHN. She runs her fingers  
across it with sadness. She hugs it and stands there for some  
time, the frame stuck to her chest in her arms.

She notices her shadow on the wall in front of her. She is scared, but soon collects herself and reaches her hand out to the shadow and touches it. Nothing happens. She sighs with relief and brings her hand back.

She walks out to the balcony. The neighborhood is blacked out. The power lines are absolutely destroyed. She looks around at the electric debris.

There is a crackling sound in the distance. She looks out towards the source of the sound. It is a man running through the rubble and street. He runs looking back at his shadow, afraid of his own movement. Hundreds of others follow suit along the street.

Jane keeps looking at him. As he walks, he looks up and sees her. The man still has a look of trauma and fear. Jane lets out a sigh of relief.

JANE looks behind her.

SMASH TO BLACK.