

James David West:

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James David West:

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Speaker 2:

Warning, this episode contains discussions of animal testing, listener discretion advised.

DiPA:

Observer Pictures presents Apollyon. Written and directed by Faith McQuinn. This is episode five, the next phase.

Board Member 1:

Doctors, please introduce yourself to the board.

Gabriel:

Dr. Gabriel Larson, experimental virology.

Theo:

Dr. Theodore Ramsey, experimental virology.

Victoria:

Dr. Victoria Kimathy, primate research.

Weiss:

Doctors Larson and Ramsey, we'll begin with you.

Gabriel:

Along with Dr. Kimathy's team, this is phase two of Dr. Ramsey's and my evaluation of the vaccine mRNA 6129. This formula was a slight alteration of the one from phase one. So, it is 6129B. The objective of phase two was to evaluate the effect of mRNA 6129B on protection against AVS as well as side effects of said vaccine.

Theo:

The study consisted of 29 monkeys assigned to three groups of seven and two groups of four. Each group of seven received 6129B, groups one and three at 50 micrograms, group two at 25 micrograms. Groups one and two were challenged, group three was not. The two groups of four were negative

control animals who received no vaccinations or treatment. Group four was challenged. Group five was not.

Gabriel:

The 50 microgram dose was protective in all animals in group one. The 25 microgram dose was protective in six of the animals in group two. None of the animals in any of the vaccinated groups succumb to AVS during the two month they were monitored. Three animals in the first negative control group succumb to AVS after six days. The final animal succumbed on day seven.

Weiss:

Let's talk more about the non-vaccinated, non-challenged group. You expose them later in the study?

Gabriel:

Yes. We use them to determine if the vaccine protected only vaccinated animals or if it provided sterilizing immunity. One of the four animals in group five succumbed to AVS while the other three showed mild symptoms, but did recover within two weeks of exposure.

Theo:

The animals that did recover showed no signs of disease during the remainder of the study. We conclude that mRNA 6129B significantly limits, but does not stop the pathogen from replicating.

Board Member 2:

While sterile immunity would, of course be preferred, I still congratulate you. This is an improvement over phase one of your study.

Theo:

Thank you.

Gabriel:

History has shown that we don't need 100% effectiveness at reducing transmission.

Weiss:

Of course, Dr. Larson, but the goal is always eradication, is it not?

Gabriel:

Mm-hmm (affirmative), absolutely.

Board Member 1:

Before we get into more specifics, let's discuss the treatment of the animals. Dr. Kimathy?

Victoria:

Rhesus monkeys between the ages of four and six years old were used in this study. The monkeys were bred and housed at the primate research facility in compliance with ICRS animal care and youth protocol. Our team used intramuscular injection of the deltoid for administering the vaccine, and all

vaccinated groups were monitored daily for any visible symptoms or side effects. Blood samples were taken 24 hours before administering the vaccine, 24 hours after administering the vaccine, and then once a week throughout the study. We performed an ELISA to look for antibodies in the blood and ICS by flow cytometry to look at specific T-cell population responses.

Board Member 1:

Did your team perform BAL as well?

Victoria:

We [crosstalk 00:04:48]-

Board Member 2:

Sorry to interrupt, but I'd like to know more about the side effects of the vaccine, while efficacy is critical, the side effects will help us determine if we can move to human trials.

Board Member 1:

You may skip ahead Dr. Kimathy. But, my question still stands, and I would like to return to a discussion of the BAL procedure.

Victoria:

Of course. So, all animals in groups one, two, and three showed signs of tenderness at the injection site. This lasted for 24 to 72 hours. The length of time the tenderness lasted had no correlation with the size of the dosage. You can find those specific numbers in the written report. One animal from group one and two in group three presented with swelling and redness at the injection site. The swelling for the two of them, the one in group one and one of group three cleared up on its own. The second animal in group three had a more severe allergic reaction and developed a rash along with the swelling.

Victoria:

She had to be treated with the Diphenhydramine, which cleared up her symptoms within two hours. All animals in group one experienced elevated body temperatures ranging from 38.4 to 38.6 degrees Celsius. No symptoms were present after 24 hours. We challenged each animal in groups one, two, and three seven days after vaccination via aerosol, and at the time of the challenge, all animals were eating and drinking normally with no signs of swelling, rashes, muscle [crosstalk 00:06:13]-

Weiss:

Thank you doctors Ramsey, Larson, and Kimathy. And, that concludes today's presentations. Thank you everyone.

Speaker 9:

[crosstalk 00:06:21].

Theo:

Victoria, that was an excellent presentation.

This transcript was exported on Dec 15, 2021 - view latest version [here](#).

Victoria:

Thank you. And, I know I've already said this multiple times, but congratulations on this. Watching the study reach success is monumental and I'm delighted to be a small part of it.

Theo:

It has been a pleasure working with you and your team.

Gabriel:

Yes, an absolute pleasure.

Theo:

Well, I need to get back and debrief my team. If you need any further explanation on any of the data we've sent or anything else, don't hesitate to call.

Gabriel:

The same goes for you, if there's anything you need, please call.

Speaker 9:

[crosstalk 00:06:57].

Theo:

We also need to get back. Thank you again Victoria.

Gabriel:

Yes. Thank you. Have a wonderful day.

Victoria:

I'm sure I will.

Gabriel:

Computer, any messages?

ICRS Computer:

There are no messages.

Gabriel:

Perfect.

Theo:

What, you wanna go home early?

Gabriel:

Nope.

Theo:

Oh no.

Gabriel:

Oh yes.

Theo:

I don't wanna do this.

Gabriel:

But it's tradition.

Theo:

It's silly.

Gabriel:

Dr. Ramsey, are you ready for presentation breakdown?

Theo:

Oh, okay. Okay. If you answer one question for me.

Gabriel:

Hit me.

Theo:

Are you sleeping with Victoria Kimathy?

Gabriel:

(Laughs). How dare you assume because I'm being polite to a colleague that anything outside of a professional relationship is happening.

Theo:

So, yes.

Gabriel:

Yep. (Laughs). What, no berating?

Theo:

Of course not. You're professionally equals, we don't work in the same department. She's a lovely person and she seems into you. I think it's cute.

Gabriel:

It's not cute. It's just sex.

Theo:
Really?

Gabriel:
Yes.

Theo:
Huh. But you stayed over last night, didn't you?

Gabriel:
How did you know that?

Theo:
You keep a spare outfit in your locker. You're wearing it.

Gabriel:
We went over notes for today. It was late.

Theo:
Gabriel, it's really f- [crosstalk 00:08:28]-

Gabriel:
Okay. Okay. You asked your question, I've answered. Time for the breakdown.

Theo:
Ugh, fine. Fine, fine. Let's just get it over with.

Gabriel:
Okay. Dr. Ramsey, do you feel you articulated the success of the study to the best of your abilities?

Theo:
Yes.

Gabriel:
Do you feel that our presentation was better than everyone else's?

Theo:
(Laughs). I am not answering that.

Gabriel:
The board didn't ask as many questions this time around. Does that worry you?

Theo:

No. This was phase two. The data answered most of the questions they asked in phase one.

Gabriel:

And how are you feeling now that the study is finally done and we've presented?

Theo:

Pretty good.

Gabriel:

Really?

Theo:

Yeah. How are you feeling?

Gabriel:

A little sick to my stomach.

Theo:

Why?

Gabriel:

My nerves are shot.

Theo:

You haven't been nervous in—Honestly, I- I can't remember a time when you've been nervous.

Gabriel:

Well, I got my hopes up after phase one. I went in confident that we were gonna move to human trials and then nope.

Theo:

We had better results this time.

Gabriel:

Weiss didn't have two dozen like last time. I don't like it when he doesn't ask questions.

Theo:

I think he was confident in our data.

Gabriel:

I'm still worried that they're going to question the, uh, side effects.

Theo:

I- I don't think they will. Our results were, to steal a word from you, groundbreaking.

Gabriel:

They were groundbreaking the first time around.

Theo:

We replicated and improved in phase two, that's groundbreaking.

Gabriel:

Yeah, I'm starting to hate that word. We spent three months fine tuning that vaccine and then we had to turn around and do it all again.

Theo:

Yeah. It's what we do.

Gabriel:

I know, but I've never felt so close to success, so close to actually making a difference. And, the board just stomped on it.

Theo:

They know how big this is and they want it to be perfect.

Gabriel:

Perfect doesn't exist in our field. There will always be outliers.

Theo:

Gabriel, they know that. Hence why you shouldn't be worried about allergic reactions.

Gabriel:

In three animals. That's significant.

Theo:

I'm the one who's supposed to be worried and questioning everything. You're the one who's supposed to reassure me that everything will work out.

Gabriel:

So, this is how you feel most of the time?

Theo:

Yep.

Gabriel:

Why not this time?

Theo:

I don't know. I just feel really good about it. My father used to tell em that I was gonna change the world.

Gabriel:

I'm sure lots of kids heard that from their parents.

Theo:

But I knew he was right. I- I know it sounds pompous, and honestly, a lot like you, but his words have been driving me my entire life. It might be in a year, it might be in five, but we are going to do this.

Gabriel:

I don't want it to be five years.

Theo:

I don't either. I want it to be now.

Gabriel:

What if it's not?

Theo:

Then it's not and we keep going.

Gabriel:

You wanna come over for dinner?

Theo:

Uh, sure.

Gabriel:

I've recently realized that cooking calms me down, so I'm gonna be doing a lot of that tonight.

Theo:

Is Victoria coming?

Gabriel:

(Laughs) What, no? Just you, Lincoln, and I.

Theo:

Okay.

Gabriel:

I wasn't subverting when I said it's just sex.

Theo:

Okay.

Gabriel:

So, dinner?

Theo:

Yeah.

Gabriel:

Great. I'll give Link a heads up.

Lincoln:

I can't kill the dragon alone!

Theo:

I- I- I don't know which sword to use. Uh, which sword do I use?

Lincoln:

It doesn't matter, just pick up one.

Theo:

Oh, dammit. Sorry.

Lincoln:

Oh, it's cool. Wanna go again?

Theo:

I- I think I need a break.

Lincoln:

You just hate losing.

Theo:

Ugh, video games shouldn't be this hard.

Lincoln:

(Laughs).

Theo:

Gabriel, do you need help in there?

Lincoln:

No, he doesn't.

Gabriel:

I'm good, you can keep playing.

Theo:

I'd rather not, your offspring is kicking my ass.

Lincoln:

(Laughs).

Gabriel:

Link, I told you to ease up.

Lincoln:

I did.

Theo:

You did?

Lincoln:

Yeah. Sorry.

Theo:

Great. And I thought I was getting better.

Lincoln:

You are. Just not that much better.

Theo:

Oh, wow. You are definitely your father's son.

Lincoln:

I don't know what that means.

Theo:

Nevermind.

Gabriel:

Uh, I'm fine. I'm fine. I'm fine.

Theo:

(Laughs). He sure is doing a lot in there.

Lincoln:

Yep. Did something happen at the lab today?

Theo:

Why?

Lincoln:

He only does intense cooking when he's had an intense day.

Theo:

We had to present today, and he's nervous about the feedback.

Lincoln:

Um, dad's nervous?

Theo:

I know, weird, right?

Lincoln:

It's about the vaccine you're working on, right? Dad said you finished the second trial with the monkeys a couple weeks ago.

Theo:

He told you that?

Lincoln:

Yeah.

Theo:

Does he talk to you a lot about what we do?

Lincoln:

Sometimes. He told me how proud he was when you two had the breakthrough right before, um, before your mom. Uh, he cooked a five course meal that night and we ended up sharing it, uh, with the Baltimore's next door.

Theo:

Wow.

Gabriel:

Duh, duh, duh, an appetizer to sate your appetite while I finish the main course. I know how much you like stuffed mushrooms, so, [crosstalk 00:14:30]-

Theo:

Lincoln knows about the trials?

Gabriel:

What?

Theo:

You talked to him about lab work.

Gabriel:

Yes, he's curious about what I do.

Lincoln:

I'm sitting right here.

Theo:

Right, but you talk about specific things we do.

Gabriel:

I don't go into great details, but [crosstalk 00:14:43]-

Theo:

What we do is confidential.

Lincoln:

Am I in trouble?

Theo:

No.

Gabriel:

Of course not, bud.

Theo:

We're not supposed to divulge details about anything we do with anyone.

Gabriel:

Can we talk about this later? I need to check my sauce.

Theo:

I'll come with you. I don't exactly want to fight in front of Lincoln.

Gabriel:

Oh, we're fighting now?

Lincoln:

I'm sorry dad, I didn't know I wasn't supposed to say anything.

Gabriel:

You didn't do anything wrong.

Theo:

Right. This is on your dad.

Lincoln:

I'm going to my room.

Theo:

You don't have to do that.

Gabriel:

No, you will stay right here and enjoy the stuffed mushrooms I made.

Lincoln:

Fine.

Gabriel:

Please chew, it's not a race.

Theo:

Don't walk away from me.

Gabriel:

I'm not walking away. I mean, I am, but I really do have to check the sauce.

Theo:

Gabriel.

Gabriel:

You're really mad about this.

Theo:

A little, yeah.

Gabriel:

We'll talk about it after dinner. Please, eat the mushrooms. I made them especially for you and Link has already finished three.

Theo:

All right.

Gabriel:

Oof. Either I didn't cook as much as I thought or we were all really hungry.

Theo:

(Laughs). I think maybe Link was really hungry.

Gabriel:

He's 15, he's always hungry.

Theo:

(Laughing).

Lincoln:

Gee, thanks dad.

Gabriel:

Not an insult, simply an- an observation. (Laughs). You wanna get the ice cream?

Theo:

You have ice cream?

Lincoln:

Yeah. I made it.

Theo:

Color me impressed.

Lincoln:

It was for school. I decided to take a culinary science elective, and we get to bring home our work.

Theo:

Oh, you really are your father's son. Your dad took a culinary science elective when we were in college.

Gabriel:

Two, in fact.

Theo:

Oh yeah.

Lincoln:

You never told me that.

Gabriel:

Eh, it wasn't anything.

Theo:

Um, I beg to differ. I barely saw you outside of class, and you were so into it I thought you might switch majors.

Gabriel:

Nah. It was just for fun.

Theo:

You thought a heavier class load was fun?

Gabriel:

(Laughs).

Lincoln:

So, was this before or after you two dated?

Theo:

We never dated. Did- did you tell him we dated?

Gabriel:

I didn't say anything.

Lincoln:

So, you never dated?

Theo:

No.

Gabriel:

No dating.

Lincoln:

Oh. Should I get the ice cream?

Theo:

Yes.

Lincoln:

I'll get it. I'll get the plates too.

Theo:

Thanks Link.

Lincoln:

No problem.

Theo:

So, you tell him confidential information about work, but keep your personal life private? Nice.

Gabriel:

Shit.

Theo:

Oh, you thought I forgot?

Gabriel:

No, I figured you got over it.

Theo:

You violated a major institutional policy and you figured I got over it?

Gabriel:

He's my son Theo, not some rogue spy.

Theo:

He's a teenager who might like to impress his friends at school or something by talking about what his dad does at work all day.

Gabriel:

What I do at work doesn't impress any teenager, plus, he wouldn't do that.

Theo:

Did you explicitly tell him not to?

Gabriel:

No. But he knows he's not [crosstalk 00:17:45]-

Theo:

You know you're not and yet here we are.

Gabriel:

He's not going to say anything.

Theo:

How do you know?

Gabriel:

I just do. You don't understand. You don't have ... He's curious and I know my son. He wouldn't divulge information, or brag, or whatever.

Theo:

I don't have what?

Gabriel:

Nothing, I misspoke.

Theo:

No, you didn't. You stopped yourself. What don't I have?

Gabriel:

It's been a stressful day, can't we just relax?

Theo:

You were going to say children.

Gabriel:

I wasn't. I really wasn't.

Gabriel:

You don't have anyone you fully trust. No one that you feel comfortable talking to.

Theo:

I have you.

Gabriel:

Besides me Theo, someone disconnected from work.

Theo:

Reece.

Gabriel:

Yeah, you two are close, but she's not someone you fully open up to.

Theo:

No, I guess not.

Gabriel:

Shit. See, this is why I didn't wanna say anything. I'm sorry.

Theo:

Uh, my parents used to talk about work all the time. My dad would describe his lectures to me even. After he was gone, mom didn't do that anymore. She never asked me about the lab or anything really. Mostly, she just wanted me to get out of it and anything Savreen said to me was like a researcher, not a friend. So, you're right. I don't- I don't have anyone like that.

Gabriel:

You have me.

Theo:

Right. But, besides you.

Lincoln:

Um, do you both want toppings on your ice cream?

Theo:

Yes please. What do you have?

Lincoln:

Uh, we have syrups and chocolate chips I think.

Theo:

You know what, I'll come look.

Lincoln:

Dad, you coming?

Gabriel:

No, I think I'll let you two have at it. You know what I like, so surprise me.

Lincoln:

Sure thing.

ICRS Computer:

Admittance requested for Larson, Gabriel and Ramsey, Theodora.

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Weiss:

Admittance granted. Good afternoon, Gabe, Theo, take a seat, please. I know it was short notice, but I needed to speak with you right away.

Theo:

It's no problem.

Weiss:

I won't keep you too long, I know that your days are full or they should be.

Theo:

We've been working on our proposal for the next phase.

Weiss:

Wonderful. Are you working on phase three with monkeys or phase one with human subjects?

Theo:

Well, Gabriel didn't think it was worth the effort, we are writing the proposals for both.

Gabriel:

Should it be worth the effort?

Weiss:

You'd like me to get right to the point, would you?

Gabriel:

If you don't mind, sir.

Weiss:

Then yes.

Gabriel:

Yes?

Weiss:

Yes Gabe. The board came to a decision about an hour ago. You've been approved to move to human subjects. It was a unanimous vote in fact. The first in at least a decade. A feat like that would only happen in my department of course. I'm extremely proud to have you both working for me.

Theo:

Thank you, sir. Thank you.

Weiss:

Of course.

Gabriel:

So, what's the next step?

Weiss:

You and Theo need to schedule a meeting with Felicity Milgrim. She's our liaison at the Department of Human Health. She'll be giving you all the details for preparation. Understand that your entire team will need to go through a Responsible Conduct of Human Research training.

Theo:

Great. We'll contact her as soon as we get back the the office.

Weiss:

Ah, she'll want to see that proposal you're preparing. Make sure to send a final copy to me as well. Everything for your study still goes through me. Any questions?

Gabriel:

Will we have access to additional help?

Weiss:

I know that DHH will conduct the screenings for your test subjects per your guidelines. How much help they'll provide during the trials is something you'll need to speak with Felicity about. Anything else?

Theo:

Not that I can think of. I- I'd like to get back and inform the team.

Weiss:

Yes, of course. Let's get this ball rolling. At the beginning of all of this, I told you both that I needed you at the top of your game, and you took it to heart. You've both exceeded my expectations and my expectations were extremely high. Keep it up.

Gabriel:

Oh, we plan to.

Theo:

Level two.

ICRS Computer:

Level two security verification required.

Theo:

Ramsey, nine, five, Zulu, six, tango.

ICRS Computer:

Ramsey, Theodora, clear.

Gabriel:

Larson, oh, four, Charlie, seven, Oscar.

ICRS Computer:

Larson, Gabriel, clear.

Gabriel:

How long are we not gonna talk?

Theo:

I don't know. I'm still processing.

Gabriel:

Are we going straight to the team or do we need to prepare a statement first?

Theo:

(Laughs). Prepare a statement?

Gabriel:

What? I don't know.

Theo:

I think we can just go tell them.

ICRS Computer:

Level two.

Gabriel:

Right. But, which one of us is going to say it? You wanna do it?

Theo:

Yes. But, d- do you wanna do it?

Gabriel:

Hell yeah.

Theo:

We could do it together on the count of three?

Gabriel:

(Laughs). That is a little childish. Rock, paper, scissors.

Theo:

Oh, that's far more mature.

Gabriel:

Come on.

Theo:

Fine.

Gabriel:

Dammit.

Theo:

(Laughs). We can still do it together.

Gabriel:

No, you won fair and square.

Horatio:

Hey, Dr. Ramsey, Dr. Larson.

Theo:

Horatio, can you grab Annabelle and Elliott?

Horatio:

Sure, is everything all right?

Theo:

Yep.

Anabelle:

No need, we're here.

Theo:

Great. So, Gabriel and I just got out of a meeting with Dr. Weiss. And, well, we've been approved to move onto human subjects.

Elliott:

Holy shit.

Gabriel:

Ha.

Elliott:

Sorry, I mean, just wow.

Gabriel:

No- no, I'm pretty sure holy shit was more appropriate.

Theo:

(Laughs).

Anabelle:

You aren't messing with us, are you?

Theo:

No. This is happening. Phase one with human subjects is officially a go.

Anabelle:

(Laughing).

Elliott:

Yeah!

Theo:

Yeah. All three of you have been incredible throughout this entire process. I would not, we would not trade any of you for anything. I wouldn't wanna be on this journey with any other team.

Horatio:

We feel the same.

Anabelle:

Thank you for trusting us.

Elliott:

This is the best internship on the planet.

Anabelle:

(Laughs).

Gabriel:

Okay- okay. Enough of this lovey dovey shit. After work tonight, we're meeting at Sky Lounge, first round of drinks on me.

Theo:

Okay.

Anabelle:

Yes!

Theo:

(Laughing).

Gabriel:

Drinks! Margarita for Theo.

Theo:

Thank you sir.

Gabriel:

I don't know what everybody else likes, so I got you all beer.

Elliott:

Thanks Dr. Larson!

Gabriel:

Elliott, you cannot call me Dr. Larson when I'm handing you a beer. Gabriel, please.

Elliott:

Oh, uh, okay. Gabriel.

Horatio:

Aw. The little intern's growing up.

Theo:

(Laughs). Can you have a beer?

Elliott:

Yes Dr. Uh, Theo.

Theo:

Oh, no. I'm still Dr. Ramsey.

Elliott:

Sorry Dr. Ramsey.

Anabelle:

Elliott, she's messing with you.

Theo:

(Laughs).

Gabriel:

Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay. A toast to the best damn team in the experimental virology department.

Elliott:

Yeah!

Horatio:

All right!

Anabelle:

Yes.

Horatio:

Woo!

Reese:

Damn, I'm too late for free drinks?

Theo:

You made it!

Gabriel:

Hello, Reece.

Reese:

Hi Gabriel.

Gabriel:

Mm, mm.

Reese:

You obviously got started without me.

Gabriel:

Actually, this is my first drink. I'm just very- very happy about [crosstalk 00:26:21]-

Theo:

Our funding.

Reese:

Well, congratulations to you on your funding.

Theo:

Uh, let me introduce you to everyone. Everyone, this is Reece Williams. One of my best friends. Reece, this is Elliott.

Elliott:

Hello.

Theo:

Annabelle.

Anabelle:

Hi.

Theo:

And Hor [crosstalk 00:26:37]-

Horatio:

Hello there, I'm Horatio. It's a pleasure to meet you.

Reese:

And you as well. I'm gonna go get a drink.

Horatio:

Here, let me get it for you.

Reese:

I would love that.

Gabriel:

You're barking up the wrong tree my man.

Theo:

Gabriel.

Gabriel:

What? He should know that nothing is gonna come of him being nice.

Reese:

Oh, there's the Gabriel I know.

Gabriel:
(Laughs).

Reese:
Horatio, shall we get that drink?

Horatio:
Absolutely.

Theo:
Thank you for driving me home.

Reese:
No problem.

Theo:
(Laughs).

Reese:
Looks like you have a package.

Theo:
What?

Reese:
There's a box by your door.

Theo:
Oh, huh. I wasn't expecting anything, I don't think. Oh.

Reese:
What is it?

Theo:
It's from Savreen. It's- it's, uh, it's the last of the things from my mom's house.

Reese:
Oh. Do you want me to come inside?

Theo:
What? Oh, sure.

DiPA:

Good evening, Theo. A parcel arrived at oh eight, 25. A visual record is available. How would you like to proceed?

Theo:

Um, archive.

DiPA:

Visual record archived.

Theo:

Would you like a night cap?

Reese:

Oh, no. No. I have to drive home, remember?

Theo:

Right.

Reese:

you- you should skip it too. I think you've had enough.

Theo:

What? I'm fine.

Reese:

Just the same.

Theo:

Uh, some water then?

Reese:

I'm good.

Theo:

Well, I need water.

Reese:

I thought you were fine.

Theo:

(Laughs). Shut up. I'm so happy you could come tonight.

Reese:

Oh, of course. I had a great time. I know it's a school night and all, but I really did wanna see you. We haven't really gotten to spend much time together in the past couple of months.

Theo:

I know.

Reese:

We couldn't really hear each other at the bar either, so. Catch me up.

Theo:

Are the boys still coming?

Reese:

Yes, um, the plan is for them to come right before Christmas and stay through the new year. Three whole weeks,

Theo:

Oh, wow.

Reese:

They're hoping for snow. Not much of that in Phoenix. I told them there wasn't much of that here either, but they're hopeful.

Theo:

(Laughs).

Reese:

I, on the other hand, am a bit anxious. I wish Kelsey hadn't decided the holidays were the best time. I don't do anything for Christmas, and now I'm thinking I'll need a tree and possibly make Christmas dinner, and- and what did teenagers do on New Year's Eve?

Theo:

I'm sure Gabriel is fine with two more at the table.

Reese:

Right. I should probably ask.

Theo:

It's gonna be amazing though. Having them here for three whole weeks!

Reese:

(Laughing). Oh. Thank you, by the way, for helping us push through the thesis.

Theo:

Oh, no problem. I was glad to do it.

Reese:

They are very excited to meet you in person.

Theo:

Oh, I really can't wait to meet them. Does Lincoln know? I'm sure he could show them all the cool things kids do now, (laughs).

Reese:

Gabriel was suppose to tell him. I don't know if he did.

Theo:

Um, I'm sure he did.

Reese:

The box isn't gonna open itself.

Theo:

I know.

Reese:

Do you know what's in it?

Theo:

Not specifically. But, Savreen said it was things my mother would absolutely want me to have.

Reese:

Savreen's still mad at you for selling?

Theo:

Uh, she says she's not, but um.

Reese:

I'm a little mad at you for selling.

Theo:

What was I gonna do with a house all the way in Denver?

Reese:

I don't know, but it was your mom's.

Theo:

I had no connection to that house outside of her. Everything in the house is what mattered, and all of those things are safe and sound in storage.

Reese:

Except for what's in the box.

Theo:

Right. I wonder what it is.

Reese:

You could open it and not have to wonder at all.

Theo:

I could.

Reese:

But you're not going to.

Theo:

Not yet.

Reese:

Why?

Theo:

I just don't want to.

Reese:

Okay.

Theo:

If I open the box, that's it. It's the last bit of her I get to see. The last bit of her I get to touch. And if it just stays in that box, I get to hold on for a little longer and I'm not ready. I'm especially not ready when I've had such an amazing day. God, it was such a good day. Oh, and the first thing I thought about when we went to the bar was how happy mom would be that I didn't go straight home. But, also sad that I went out with people from work.

Reese:

(Laughs).

Theo:

Oh.

Reese:

I honestly haven't seen you or Gabriel that happy about funding ever.

Theo:

Yeah. Actually, it wasn't funding. We made a huge vaccine breakthrough. And today, we found out we get to start testing on humans.

Reese:

What?

Theo:

Yeah.

Reese:

Oh my God.

Theo:

You can't tell anyone.

Reese:

O- of course not! I- I would never. But that's- that's amazing! I can't believe it.

Theo:

Gabriel and I are still processing it ourselves.

Reese:

I can imagine.

Theo:

I know I never talk to you about these things, but I really- I trust you Reese, and I love you.

Reese:

I love you too.

Theo:

And I'm gonna work on being better at, I don't know, opening up.

Reese:

Okay.

Theo:

I need to sleep.

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Reese:

Yes, you do. And I should get home.

Theo:

Drink the rest of that water and take a preemptive Aspirin.

Reese:

(Laughs).

Theo:

I will. Will you come back when I finally decide to open this damn thing?

Reese:

Of course, absolutely. Thank you. Good night Theo.

Theo:

Good night.

DiPA:

This episode featured the voices of Marquita Richardson as Theo Ramsey, James David West as Gabriel Larson, Marisha Tapera as Reece Williams, J.K. Robbins as Xavier Weiss, Kyle Nishimura as Lincoln, Marina Verlaine as Victoria Kimathy, Meg Biddle Smith as Annabelle, Will Candelaria as Horatio, Mauricio Ortiz-Segura as Elliott, Rue Dickey as Board Member One, Marta da Silva as ICRS Computer and Board Member Two, and me, Drea Silvertooth as DiPA. Producer, Amanda Lorraine. Sound Design and Mix, Joshua Suhy. Sound recordist, Karl Huber. Original theme, Katharine Seaton. Additional music provided by Soundstripe Music.

DiPA:

Virology consultants, Lindsay B. Crawford, Ph.D, and Peter Krug, Ph.D. For more information, please visit Apollyon.observerpictures.com.