

**THE PIT BELOW PARADISE**

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**EPISODE 1 "CREATING LOOSE ENDS"**

**By J. Evelyn Gaskell**

**[MUSIC]**

**ANNOUNCER**

**Rusty Quill Presents: The Pit Below  
Paradise.**

**Episode One – Creating Loose Ends**

**[MUSIC]**

**1. EXT. - PARADISE VILLAGE, EARLY EVENING, TREES  
SURROUNDING US ON ALL SIDES**

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

**Fields and fields of sprawling  
farmland, growing all kinds of  
sublime food, none more so than the  
basil leaves.**

**Huddled in the center of the land  
were the truly fortunate people who  
called this place home.**

**There was only one way for an  
outsider to find this village: driving  
up a long dirt road nestled between  
miles of trees.**

**The sanctuary within a sanctuary.**

**According to Mama, the wider world  
knew about me.**

**Out beyond the village, they weren't  
like us — self sufficient, strong.**

**PAULETTE**

**Next month's calendar from the  
prophets, darling.**

**YURI GRUNTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

**Outside this village, they had no faith. They were ignorant. They could only beg, weep, at thin air, their bodies wearing down. Soon, help would arrive.**

**2.EXT. - CLIFFS, A SHORT WHILE LATER. DORIAN SITS UNDER A TREE, WAVES CRASHING FAR BELOW. HE IS... AS SERENE AS HE GETS, MEDITATING, UNBOTHERED.**

**PAULETTE APPROACHES FROM THICK WOODS.**

**DORIAN**

**Guess I never should've learned how to swim, huh? What if instinct kicks in?**

**PAULETTE**

**We could put rocks in your pants if you want.**

**DORIAN LAUGHS.**

**PAULETTE (CONT'D)**

**Scoot over. Give me some blanket.**

**SHE SITS, THEN PRODUCES THE LETTER. DORIAN INSPECTS IT.**

**DORIAN**

**Is this from that school I'm not going to?**

**PAULETTE**

**Yes, but I thought you might like to see it anyway. College placement is a milestone not afforded to everybody.**

**DORIAN**

***Unless you're sitting on tons of fresh food!***

**PAULETTE**

**Dorian Charles, are you being ungrateful?**

**DORIAN**

**...No. I'm being unkind. They think that a bunch of kids can ship off to college and magically transform into "a generation of scholars" — as if that even means anything in a world with no future!**

**PAULETTE**

**You'd better find something pleasant to say. Tonight, you and I are going to draft a response and accept.**

**DORIAN**

**Fine. At least we'll get to trick them before——**

**PAULETTE**

**——Dorian. This isn't a laughing matter. You don't know how outsiders think, the kind of confusion and panic they carry——**

**DORIAN**

—And if we aren't careful, they could interfere and ruin everyone's chance at Paradise by 'saving' me.

**PAULETTE**

Precisely.

**DORIAN**

Change can't come too soon. This world's done. Let's leave!

**PAULETTE**

Okay, let's. Did you pray here today? This is a nice spot.

**DORIAN**

Yeah, I did a couple.

**PAULETTE**

Remind me to make sure Margaret and Lily if they prayed today.

**DORIAN**

Ugh, is Margaret still trying to write her own prayers?

**PAULETTE**

Alright, go easy. Some people *need* the help their Mama gives them.

**DORIAN**

They sound like people who aren't saving mortal kind on Saturday.

**PAULETTE**

**Well, you still need Mama, too. Come on, let's head back. Your father and I have special dinners planned this week.**

**THEY STAND. DORIAN FLAPS HIS LETTER.**

**DORIAN**

**Do I need to keep this, or can I drop it off the cliff?**

**PAULETTE**

**I'm afraid we'll need it as evidence for any inquiries, my love.**

**3. INT. - THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAXINE'S OFFICE. DORIAN, MAXINE, AND CARLOS SIT TOGETHER FOR A MEETING.**

**MAXINE PERUSES PAPERS/FILES.**

**MAXINE**

**Just a moment while I find the agenda I've prepared...**

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

**It is a daunting thing, destiny.**

**For some people, at least. Picture a classroom full of little ones all being introduced to the absolute basics of faith for the first time.**

**One day, she says, someone important will come along, someone who will change the world. A better**

place exists, locked behind barriers no body can pass through; but this special person will have faith so great, they can shed their body, walk along a bridge of doorways, and throw open a direct doorway to Paradise for every last person Paradise would ever welcome. Our savior.

And that's when I, a plucky five-year-old, leapt up and shouted, "Look no further!" It's weird to think there was a time when people were sceptical of me. That same day, church officials pulled me aside and asked me what I meant. They said the prophesied one would face death. Wasn't I scared? I said, 'Aren't you forgetting a whole lot of stuff after that?'

I impressed them. I could pray, showed wisdom, and most importantly, I never wavered. Mama was so excited. Within the week, our leader, Mr. Ned Ziliak himself, declared the time of prophecy was nigh. Our chosen one was found, the prophets said. And, in true fashion of faith, he had found himself.

**MAXINE**

So... You've responded your intention to attend college?

**DORIAN**

Yep.

**MAXINE**

Good, so that'll be on record. We're confident there haven't been any recent attempts to start centralizing the area, but if one of the larger

governing organizations hears of a young person's sudden death, they may try to investigate as a means of laying groundwork for a stronger campaign.

We don't know how long it'll take you to start opening doors, so while the rest of us wait on this plane, we want to ensure they find nothing untoward. If it's——

**DORIAN**

——If it's anyone from the senate, they'll focus on intercommunity transgressions, so there's a journal in my bedside table that goes back a couple of years and talks about trips we've taken around and my family's very real long-distance friendships. No trouble there. They might even send flowers.

**MAXINE**

Excellent.

**DORIAN**

If it's Road Watchmen, they'll be looking for signs of murder, so my family's preparing alibis —— including one for Ned, I think. Who else?

**MAXINE**

Those are the only two big competitors near us since Restructurist efforts petered out.

**CARLOS**

**International Aid envoys could come. They would be looking for human rights violations.**

**MAXINE**

**Unlikely, but it's possible. Thank you, Carlos. What measures are the prophets taking to ensure security of sacred documents in the event of a full search?**

**CARLOS**

**Could we not just deny them entry?**

**MAXINE**

**We could, but transparency keeps things uncomplicated and moving quickly.**

**DORIAN**

**Maxine, I have a question. What, um... What measures are being taken about the non-believers?**

**MAXINE**

**I'm afraid I don't follow.**

**DORIAN**

**Have any arisen yet?**

**MAXINE**

**Ah. No. Not that I'm aware of.**

**DORIAN**

Oh Okay... Um, could I get some basil tea?

**MAXINE**

Certainly. I'll be right back.

**SHE STANDS AND EXITS.**

**DORIAN**

Sorry. I know you must have a lot to get done today.

**CARLOS**

No need to apologize...

(TIMID, CONCERNED) Are you *sure*, Dorian?

**DORIAN**

Huh?

**CARLOS**

Have you really thought very carefully about everything?

**BEAT**

**DORIAN**

Is that some kind of a joke?

**CARLOS**

No, no, of course not——

**DORIAN**

—Then, what? Are the prophets suddenly doubting me? Do you not have faith in my ability to do this?

*'Hear this divine promise: that the mortal key shall prosper and hold power*

*To open those thousands of thousand doorways*

*And admit all worthy souls*

*Into a Paradise which exists beyond the plane caged, it is certain.*

Sound familiar?

**CARLOS**

Yes, of course—

**DORIAN**

—So, do the prophets stand by what they've written or not?

**CARLOS**

I misspoke. I'm sorry, Dorian.

**DORIAN (GRUDGINGLY SETTling)**

...Right.

**MAXINE ENTERS AND SETS TEA IN FRONT OF DORIAN.**

**MAXINE**

Everything alright in here?

**DORIAN**

**Yes. Thank you, Maxine. Where were we?**

**SHE SITS AND RE-ORDERS HER PAPERS.**

**MAXINE**

**Right. When we take you up the cliff, you'll be the last to arrive. Ned has a short speech prepared. Do you feel confident you can go the whole day without eating? We don't want you to faint, but there are guidelines in here about purity of the body. I'm going to send you home with some written orders...**

**4. INT. - LATER IN THE DAY, IN THE KITCHEN, WITH MARGARET USING THE STOVE TO DRY OUT BASIL LEAVES ON BAKING PANS. DORIAN ENTERS.**

**DORIAN SHIFTS A PAN ON THE COUNTER.**

**MARGARET**

**Don't move that! I have to dry all this basil before two towns come for pick ups tomorrow.**

**DORIAN**

**Your pan is blocking the bread box.**

**MARGARET**

**Mama says there's no eating before dinner!**

**DORIAN**

Margaret. I have had a long day and I'm going to die before the week is out. I'm hungry. Leave me alone.

**MARGARET**

You think you're so special. "Aww, it's hard to drown!"

**DORIAN**

That is why *you're* going to be drying herbs and writing prayers while *I* master navigating the Eternal Bridge of Doorways——

**MARGARET**

——Unless your soul gets torn to shreds.

**DORIAN GASPS.**

**PAULETTE (FROM THE NEXT ROOM)**

Margaret Louise!

**MARGARET**

Ah crap...

**PAULETTE MARCHES IN.**

**PAULETTE**

Do not say such things to your brother!

(TO DORIAN, BRACINGLY) You're going to be fine, Dorian, sweetie.

Margaret go sweep the kennel. Dorian and I will finish this.

**MARGARET**

I didn't actually——

**PAULETTE**

——I don't want to hear it.

**MARGARET HUFFS, BUT GOES.**

**PAULETTE**

Things will be so much easier for our family when all of this has blown over. Just try not to make your sister too jealous in the meantime, sweetie.

**BEAT. DORIAN'S SILENCE SINKS IN**

**DORIAN**

Mama? ...What if I *do* mess up?

**PAULETTE**

Oh, sweetheart. I know it's hard, but you are so, so smart and strong. You figured out what you were born to do, and you've never faltered. I'm beyond proud of you already. I know you can do this.

**DORIAN**

What about the non-believers?

Ned's always warned that they'll rise up to challenge me at the end. There's only a few days left——

**PAULETTE**

—If anyone tries to keep you from your destiny, they'll have to go through me first. Do you trust me, Dorian?

**DORIAN**

Of course, but that's not why I'm nervous. Isn't it weird that no one *has* challenged—

**PAULETTE**

—Then trust me. Let Mama keep you steady.

**DORIAN**

But, if the prophecy isn't aligning...  
(VOICE LOWERING)

What if it isn't time? If *I'm* not the Mortal Key...

**PAULETTE**

Shh. Stop doubting yourself, Dorian. When a person is special, they know it through and through — and so do the people around. Everyone in this village *knows* you are the person to guide us into a new life. It's only when you're uncertain, you'll lose your way. I know you don't really believe you'll fail. What has this church always taught you?

**DORIAN**

Faith prevails.

**PAULETTE**

**And you've got faith like a blizzard's  
got snowflakes.**

**DORIAN  
(DEEP BREATH)**

**Okay. I trust you.**

**PAULETTE**

**Then, you're forgiven.**

**SHE HUGS HIM TIGHT.**

**5. INT. - DINING ROOM AT THE RANCH HOUSE. A BIG DINNER WITH  
SOME NOTABLE FOLKS FROM THE COMMUNE INVITED TO MARK  
THE OCCASION.**

**MEANWHILE, MARGARET HAS GATHERED A CIRCLE OF VILLAGE  
KIDS IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM.**

**MARGARET**

**We could make a symbol to tell where  
we went, like a puzzle, once outsiders  
find the village deserted. That'd give  
new people a chance to prove  
themselves worthy to find Paradise.**

**TEEN FRIEND**

**But... I thought the worthy have  
already been decided. By Paradise,  
right? It knows who will prosper  
within its realm and has only created  
doorways for a certain number of  
people.**

**MARGARET**

Well — um... Well, we don't know  
for *sure*—

**YURI APPEARS FROM INSIDE THE KITCHEN CARRYING A SERVING  
DISH.**

**YURI**

—Margaret.

**BEAT.**

Everyone, to the table.

**THEY DISPERSE. YURI FINISHES SETTING THE TABLE, INTERRUPTS  
THE VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS.**

**YURI (CONT'D)**

Thank you everyone for coming.  
Please be seated. Paulette?

**CHAIRS SCRAPE AS GUESTS SIT.**

**PAULETTE**

Yes, thank you, everyone. It is the eve  
of a monumental occasion, and we're  
honored to host you all one last time.  
(SLIGHTLY CHOKED UP)

I mean, years ago, I left everything  
behind to live here, and Harriet, you  
were the first friend I made. And Zoe,  
I can't think of someone who's done  
more to help circulate my prayer  
pamphlets. And, wow, I shouldn't  
have started naming people, because  
now I just want to go on about how  
great you all are.

**THE ROOM CHUCKLES.**

**PAULETTE (CONT'D)**

**(GROWING EVEN MORE  
EMOTIONAL)**

**Tomorrow everything changes! We'll  
raise our glasses in just a moment,  
but first...**

**YURI**

**Dorian will pray.**

**PAULETTE**

**(GETTING HOLD OF HERSELF) Yes.**

**DRESS SHOES SOFTLY THUNK INTO THE ROOM. NED ZILIAK STOPS  
IN THE DOORWAY.**

**YURI**

**Mr. Ziliak, welcome.**

**PAULETTE**

**Ned! We saved you a seat.**

**NED**

**Good evening, my fellows. What a  
fine meal. I hate to steal you away  
from it, Paulette. May I speak with  
you a moment?**

**PAULETTE**

**...Of course.**

**SHE GETS UP. THEY EXIT.**

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

**Ned Ziliak was not the founder of our church, but the inheritor of it — though you'd never know that given his popularity.**

**His gift as leader was not just to spread belief. He found where faith lived inside you and showed you how to tend it. With him in the house, I knew I wasn't the only one distracted during prayer, wondering what Ned might be saying just one wall over.**

**THE PRAYER FINISHES NED AND PAULETTE ENTER QUIETLY. PAULETTE RETURNS TO HER SEAT, BUT NED REMAINS STANDING.**

**NED**

**My faithful... May I speak a moment?**

**BEAT**

**Usually, my words are first polished by our intelligent and thoughtful Paulette.**

**My fellows... Are we not one? As one, are we not indomitable? Man saves man. Man teaches and uplifts man. As allies fired upon in battle do, man survives together — that's the kind of bond that no God can understand.**

**We suffer, we love, and we grapple with ideas that endure beyond us. More so than any other creature, we struggle, and more so than any other creature, we overcome. We have made a cage into a home that sings. But I ask of you — how long, the cage? Are we not worthy of more? Of Paradise?**

**We know it exists because every culture to date has conceived of some version of it. Saints and prophets have glimpsed it. Science cannot disprove it. And we, my family, are going to be the ones to reach it.**

**Looking around this table, each person seated here carries something sacred and enviable in their hearts.**

**For time untold, generations will hear stories of this moment, will imagine it and dream of it, but first, it is our great privilege to shape it.**

**This moment would not be what it is without you. And you. And you. Feel proud. Feel on your face that perfect, golden sunlight of Paradise. It's on its way. I promise, it's on its way.**

**APPLAUSE BREAKS OUT.**

**NED**

**Oh, my friends. Your love means something else to me. And I... I will have to ask your faith and forgiveness. I need just a moment more.**

**(HE SIGHS.)**

**The first of the non-believers has arisen to challenge us. Tonight, in fact.**

**GASPS, SHIFTING IN SEATS.**

**NED**

**I know this moment was foretold. However, I cannot help but feel I have**

**misguided you all. It is my responsibility to keep our community safe, and this individual was one whom I personally brought into the church, who, in the end, could not be trusted. I am happy to say, before anything else, that the non-believer has been dealt with.**

**The gentleman was an outsider who converted and became an interpreter of the future. In his time, he made several contributions to our calendars — some correct enough, and others, in hindsight, blundering lies. All of this individual's interpretations have been pulled for re-examination by the truly faithful, including a very important date. Here now, finally, is what I came to tell you:**

**We will not be able to hold our ceremony tomorrow.**

**GASPS.**

**DORIAN**

**No.**

**NED**

**I understand. Believe me, I too have been grieving. But——**

**DORIAN**

**(VERY LOUD)  
——So what, the ceremony is cancelled?!**

**NED**

**Good evening, Dorian. No, the ceremony is not cancelled, but it will be postponed a while — just until we can be sure its legitimacy has not been threatened by non-believers. Where one is found, others may be lurking. Plotting. (TO THE GROUP AT LARGE)**

**My fellows, we are going to begin interrogations. I ask that you volunteer yourselves immediately and be highly suspicious of any who don't comply. It is imperative that we weed out any who may risk the fates of us all.**

**DORIAN**

**How long?**

**PAULETTE**

**Dorian!**

**DORIAN**

**Please, Ned, how long?**

**NED**

**A while. But, when you consider how long we've waited already... a few months is breathing room.**

**DORIAN**

***A few months?***

**YURI**

**Excuse my son, Ned. Please, eat with us.**

**NED**

**Goodness! Yes, yes, I must have turned your lovely dinner stone cold. Don't let me keep you a minute longer.**

**6. EXT. - THE PORCH, AFTER DINNER. DORIAN SULKS ON A BENCH SWING WHILE THE GATHERING INSIDE UNWINDS.**

**PAULETTE EXITS THE HOUSE THROUGH THE SCREEN DOOR.**

**PAULETTE**

**Dorian Charles, you cannot speak to Ned like that.**

**DORIAN**

**(GRUMBLY) You said I was special.**

**PAULETTE**

**Nobody's that special. I expect you to apologize and make amends.**

**DORIAN**

**What am I supposed to do now? Sit around and wait? It's abs—**

**PAULETTE**

**—Even if that were the case, yes, and I'd expect you to do so with**

grace. You have an example to set, Dorian, in faith. I don't care what else you think matters. However, you're lucky that you *will* have something to do.

**FOR THE SECOND TIME, SHE PRODUCES HIS COLLEGE PLACEMENT LETTER AND HANDS IT OVER.**

**PAULETTE (CONT'D)**

You're going to go to college, just as we told the world you would. You must blend in. Give nobody reason for suspicion and this may be more convincing than we'd even planned.

**DORIAN**

You want me to actually... *go*? Out there? On my own?

**PAULETTE**

Yes. The point of accepting was to appear committed to *this* world, Dorian. It is not ideal, but keeping up appearances is how you protect your family now.

**DORIAN**

Fine. If you're sure.

**THE SCREEN DOOR AGAIN.**

**NED**

Good evening.

**PAULETTE**

**Ned! Perfect. Dorian had something he wanted to say to you. Here, take my seat.**

**NED**

**I thank you.**

**SHE GOES BACK INTO THE HOUSE. NED SITS.**

**DORIAN**

**I'm sorry, Ned. I got my own hopes up.**

**NED**

**Of course you did. I made you a promise.**

**DORIAN**

**And in return, I was ungrateful and —  
— and an embarrassment. I know you're doing everything you can to guide us.**

**NED**

**I've still got your faith, then?**

**DORIAN**

**Of course.**

**NED**

**I'm grateful.**

**BEAT**

I wanted to give you something, actually, since your mother tells me you'll be going on a bit of a journey. If I had it my way, we'd keep you right here, but... well, Paulette rarely errs. We'll trust in her, ok?

**NED REACHES INTO HIS JACKET POCKET AND EXTRACTS A CORN HUSK DOLL WITH A DISTINCT RATTLE. HE HANDS IT TO DORIAN.**

**DORIAN**

Oh man, I haven't seen a corn husk doll in years! I remember showing Margaret how to make these when she was little, and sweet...

**DORIAN GIVES IT A LITTLE SHAKE.**

**DORIAN (CONT'D)**

Is there a bell inside?

**NED**

It's a gift... and a challenge. See, Dorian, you're going out into a different world, a mean world that does not share your beliefs. It hunts those who do not conform. The people beyond this village will try anything to turn you away from faith. You cannot save us if they win. It is your job to resist.

Take that with you, and you've always got a little piece of home, like a shield — every time you hear it ring, think of your family and remember what's important.

**7.INT. - DORIAN'S NEW DORM ROOM, A FEW WEEKS LATER.  
PAULETTE AND MARGARET ARE WITH DORIAN AS HE SETTLES —  
— WE CAN HEAR THE GENERAL CHAOS OF MOVING DAY OUT IN  
THE HALL.**

**THE CORN HUSK DOLL RINGS AS DORIAN SETS IT ON A DESK.**

**PAULETTE**

**Now, once you're unpacked, I want  
you to make a list of everything you  
forgot and send it to me. We'll have  
me or your father make a special trip  
down——**

**DORIAN**

**——What makes you so sure I forgot  
something?**

**A DESK DRAWER SLIDES OPEN.**

**PAULETTE**

**Margaret Louise, do not snoop.**

**MARGARET SHUTS THE DRAWER.**

**MARGARET**

**It's empty, anyway.**

**DORIAN**

**My roommate isn't here yet.**

**PAULETTE**

**Try to make friends with them,  
whoever they are, alright? Reputation  
will be everything to you from now  
on.**

**MARGARET**

**Good luck. Won't be so easy outside the church.**

**DORIAN**

**(UNBOTHERED)**

**Huh. My spirit may have lost its way. I can't seem to locate Margaret's door to Paradise. Guess she'll be left behind.**

**MARGARET**

**Mom -**

**PAULETTE**

**Stop that. Now, touching as this farewell is, we do have to get going, sweetie. Promise you'll let us know how it's going soon.**

**Radio whenever. Come home for a visit first chance you get.**

**DORIAN**

**(DITHERING) Margaret, can you go outside?**

**MARGARET**

**Why?**

**DORIAN**

**You're ruining my moment to say goodbye. You should have just gone back to the car with Dad and Lily.**

**MARGARET**

Your *moment*?

**PAULETTE**

Dorian Charles, she is your sister.

**DORIAN**

(SIGHS, RESIGNED) Fine. I love you, Mama. I'll miss you. I'll talk to you soon.

**MARGARET**

You wanted me to leave for *that*?

**DORIAN**

Yes, considering you can never help commenting on——

**PAULETTE**

——Remember to have dinner tonight. Go to all your classes. Don't forget your prayers.

**DORIAN**

Bye, Mama. Goodbye——

...bye Margaret.

**MARGARET**

Do well, brother. We're all counting on you. Bye

**THEY EXIT. DORIAN TAKES A MOMENT, THEN HOPS UP ONTO HIS "NEW" BED. DUST BILLOWS.**

8. INT. - DORM ROOM, A SHORT WHILE LATER. DORIAN IS VIGOROUSLY WIPING DOWN THE ROOM.

A KEY TURNS IN THE LOCK. WILL ENTERS.

DORIAN

Take off your shoes! I already beat down your bed, and — *oh*. Hi. I'm Dorian.

WILL

Will. Hi. Thanks for cleaning.

WILL UNZIPS HIS BAG, STARTS PUTTING CLOTHES INTO DRAWERS.

DORIAN (NARRATING)

My roommate. He didn't know it, but he was the one person who had a good chance of destroying the future of the world. If he got suspicious of me, if he found me out, it was only a matter of time before he alerted some outside authority to interfere. But what were the odds he couldn't be charmed?

DORIAN

Will! What an inspiring name.

AWKWARD BEAT.

WILL

I guess...

DORIAN

You don't think so? You look... dedicated.

**WILL**

**What?**

**DORIAN**

**I mean, your arms look dedicated... t-  
to... lifting things. Is that a normal  
thing to say? Oh no. Anyway! So  
you're my roommate!**

**WILL**

**And you're mine.**

**ANOTHER AWKWARD BEAT.**

**W-what are you studying?**

**DORIAN**

**I—! Um...**

**PAPERS CRINKLE AS HE GRABS HIS FORMS.**

**DORIAN (CONT'D)**

**(TO HIMSELF)**

**Huh. Environmental science. That  
was nice of her.**

**WILL**

**Sorry?**

**DORIAN**

**Plants! Earth! The great outdoors!  
What about you?**

**WILL**

**Architecture.**

**DORIAN**

**Cool, you're gonna build things.**

**WILL**

**As opposed to the alternative, yes.**

**WILL STARTS SHELVING BOOKS.**

**DORIAN**

**...I see you like books.**

**WILL**

**Yes! Do you?**

**DORIAN**

**Uh, I - Not really. No.**

**WILL**

**Oh.**

**YET ANOTHER AWKWARD BEAT**

**DORIAN**

**Is your family bringing the rest of  
your stuff up?**

**WILL**

**It's just me, and it's just this.**

**DORIAN**

**Really? Where are you from?**

**WILL**

**Silver Falls.**

**DORIAN**

**Oh. *Oh*...That's the hospital town a few miles away. You're having population issues, thirty-three families total. Some roving stragglers beyond that?**

**WILL**

**You know a lot. Have you been?**

**DORIAN**

**Oh, I — no, actually. My family just, uh, considered taking a trip to meet the people.**

**BEAT.**

**In the end, we just thought...it wouldn't... do us much good...**

**WILL**

**"Much good?"**

**DORIAN**

**(DISTRESSED)  
I am so bad at talking! I didn't know that! I thought I was good at talking!**

**(NO RESPONSE)**

**Wow. And you don't talk if you can help it, do you?**

**A LONG BEAT.**

**WILL**

**No.**

**DORIAN**

**...Great.**

**9. EXT. - CAMPUS GARDEN, AFTERNOON. DORIAN, LONDON, SOME OTHER CLASSMATES, AND THEIR PROFESSOR ARE GATHERED BY A CHAIN LINK FENCE.**

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

**Disappointment was the running theme throughout my first week. Only one of my "environmental" classes was actually held outside, and it was just a handful of us touring the campus garden. There was no spirituality, no reverence. Nothing!**

**PROFESSOR**

**Now, please do not touch anything when we enter the garden. Most students aren't even allowed beyond the fence. I'm not kidding when I say some have been expelled for as little as making an ill-timed joke in here.**

**THE GATE SWINGS OPEN. DORIAN AND CLASSMATES ENTER AND MILL ABOUT, INCLUDING LONDON, A FELLOW EXTROVERT.**

**PROFESSOR (CONT'D)**

**You can spread out, but try to keep to the edges. After this, we'll walk through the green house and learn**

about some of the jobs offered to students.

**LONDON**

These veggies are HUGE!

**PROFESSOR**

Just wait until zucchini season. If any of you are working in here by then, you'll quite literally have your hands full.

**LONDON**

(TO DORIAN) Hey, you wanna walk around with me?

**DORIAN**

Yea, sure!

**LONDON**

Yea! We can look at all the huge monster vegetables together

**DORIAN**

Sure! Whoa, look at these cabbages! If they had flowers they'd be stunning.

**LONDON**

Personally, I can see the beauty in a wrinkly cole crop, you know?

**DORIAN**

(LAUGHS A LITTLE) I like that. And your hair. What's your name?

**LONDON**

London. Like the old country that used to exist.

**DORIAN**

Oh. ...Are you sure London was a country?

**LONDON**

Yeah, why?

**DORIAN**

Nothing. Cool. Well, I'm Dorian, like... the name.

**LONDON**

Nice to meet you, Dorian. Where you from?

**DORIAN**

Oh, hold that thought! I see my roommate! This is perfect —

I've been looking for ways to get him to talk. (CALLING OUT)

Hey, Will! It's me! Come check out these huge cabbages!!

**LONDON**

He looks like he might be heading to class...

**DORIAN**

No, no, here he comes.

**(TO WILL) Heyyy!**

**WILL APPROACHES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.**

**WILL**

**Um... hi?**

**DORIAN**

**Wanna see one of the biggest  
cabbages you'll ever——**

**DORIAN LEANS DOWN FOR A CABBAGE.**

**PROFESSOR**

**(DISTANT, URGENT) ——And we're  
not touching, remember?**

**DORIAN**

**Whoops! Well, darn. I guess I can't  
show you the cabbage, but you can  
see it, right?**

**WILL**

**Yes, I see the cabbage.**

**BEAT.**

**Is... that... all?**

**DORIAN**

**You know, you could stand to be a bit  
more impressed by nature. Maybe I'll  
drag you out on a walk sometime.  
There are lots of pretty and private  
spots around campus. You could  
bring a book or something!**

**WILL**

I, um, appreciate that, but — listen,  
I have to get back to class.

**HE GOES.**

**DORIAN**

(SIGHS. THEN, TO LONDON)

Why can't *you* be my roommate?  
You're nice! We would build great  
trust!

**LONDON**

Uh, yeah, sure.

**BEAT.**

You want to get a closer look at the  
sprinkler system?

**DORIAN**

(DEJECTED) Yeah sure...

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

So, I dropped it. If Will the Roommate  
didn't care I existed, then he wasn't  
going to pay any attention to my  
secrets. Besides, I had way more to  
focus on to "keep up appearances..."

**10. INT. - CLASSROOM, JUST FOLLOWING A LESSON. STUDENTS MAKE FOR THE EXIT, INCLUDING DORIAN, STRUGGLING WITH A HEAVY, AWKWARD BAG.**

**PROFESSOR**

Dorian, before you go — let's have a chat.

**HE PAUSES, READJUSTS THE BULKY BAG. THE DOOR SHUTS, LEAVING THE ROOM OTHERWISE EMPTY.**

**DORIAN**

Uh Sure.

**PROFESSOR**

How did you like today's lesson?

**DORIAN**

Oh — yeah, no, it was great.

**PROFESSOR**

Really? It looked like you were struggling with your notes. I noticed you've been sitting at the back lately.

**DORIAN**

Ah... Yeah.

**PROFESSOR**

I have your score back from the first test.

**THE PROFESSOR'S PAPERS RUSTLE, BUT DORIAN'S BAG FREEZES.**

## PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

I'll say one thing: you can certainly argue — but this isn't a subject that *accepts* argument. A lot of this margin writing you did? It's completely useless. The answer was right in front of you, I promise, you only need to circle. *And* you had the answer already.

*Study.* I'm saying all this to you now, early, so that you don't need to have a wakeup call come midterms. When you have a degree, then you can get involved in all the million minuscule arguments out there, but until you do: sit front and center, write everything down, and listen. Alright?

11. EXT. - CAMPUS GREEN, MOMENTS LATER, AS DORIAN STORMS OUT OF THE BUILDING INTO A GRAY, WINDY DAY. A FEW STEPS OUT, HIS BAG STRAP TEARS. EVERYTHING INSIDE SPILLS TO THE GROUND.

## DORIAN (CONT'D)

KICKING THINGS IN ANGER

Ohhhh, you've got to be kidding me.

BALLING UP PAPERS

Stupid, heavy bag! Stupid, awful, stupid world full of stupid, idiotic rules! You think any of this *matters*?!

HE SINKS ONTO A BENCH AND YANKS OUT A PERSONAL RADIO. HUFFS, PLACES A CALL.

**PAULETTE (RECEIVER)**

Dorian! How are y—

**DORIAN**

—I hate it here.

**PAULETTE**

**(RECEIVER)** Oh, sweetie. What happened?

**DORIAN**

I want to leave. I can *do* faith, Mama, but I cannot keep pretending I'm one of these people. I hate them all. I miss home. I miss the family. I even miss Margaret.

**PAULETTE (RECEIVER)**

She's right upstairs. Do you want to speak to her?

**DORIAN**

No. Absolutely not.

**PAULETTE (RECEIVER)**

Honey... Oh, this is all my fault. I've sheltered you too much. I know it's hard, but listen: you're doing this for your church. We can only wait for you after your ceremony. The village's image will need to survive just a little longer than you. *And...* it won't be easy to open all those doors, baby. A Mortal Key needs a steel spine.

**HER VOICE FADES SLIGHTLY AS A BIKE BELL DINGS ———  
SOMEONE RIDING PAST. DORIAN GASPS.**

**NED (FLASHBACK)**

**Every time you hear it ring, think of your family and remember what's important.**

**DORIAN (NARRATING)**

**Ned. How could he do that? He couldn't have. Which meant it had to be a sign. Fate was working through us. I was on the right path ——— just being tested.**

**PAULETTE (RECEIVER)**

**Dorian? You there, sweetie?**

**DORIAN**

**No. Yes. You're right, Mama. I can do this. Your son is keeping it together.**

**PAULETTE (RECEIVER)**

**You are so mature, Dorian. I love, love, love you. Hey, have you prayed today?**

**DORIAN**

**Not yet, but I will.**

**PAULETTE (RECEIVER)**

**Soon as you can, sweetie, it'll help. And come visit, okay? Everybody misses you.**

**DORIAN**

I will. I love you, too.

**DORIAN STARTS TO PICK UP HIS THINGS, BUT STOPS SUDDENLY,  
AS IF SOMETHING IN HIS SURROUNDINGS HAS CAUGHT HIM OFF  
GUARD.**

**DORIAN (CONT'D)**

What the...?

**LONDON**

Looking for something?

**DORIAN**

Whoa! Hey, London, you snuck up on me.

**LONDON**

Let me help you with that.

**LONDON HANDS DORIAN HIS BAG.**

**LONDON (CONT'D)**

That bag going to hold up?

**DORIAN**

How kind. It's just the strap. I'm sure it can be mended.

**LONDON**

I'm sure.

So, I, uh... I saw you get called back at the end of class there.

**DORIAN SIGHS.**

**LONDON (CONT'D)**

**That's not a happy sound. Do you...  
wanna go somewhere and talk? Or  
just hang out?**

**DORIAN**

**Like where?**

**LONDON**

**There's a water shop by the arts  
building. My treat?**

**DORIAN**

**Ooh! Sure!**

**THEY START WALKING.**

**LONDON**

**By the way, Dori, do you mind me  
asking you something?**

**DORIAN**

**Did you just call me Dori?**

**LONDON**

**Is that not okay?**

**DORIAN**

**...No, I think it is. Actually, I think  
you're the nicest person I've met  
here. Sorry, what were you going to  
say?**

**LONDON**

**Uh... Do you... want help? You know, studying? I don't know what you're getting in this class so far, but I've been getting good feedback on my assignments, so I figured——**

**DORIAN**

**——Yea I did not do so well on that last quiz.**

**LONDON**

**The thermodynamics quiz?**

**DORIAN**

**Yea...**

**LONDON**

**Oh, I got a 100.**

**DORIAN**

**Oh my god, really? That's unbelievable. So, studying. Do you really like, sit down and study?**

**LONDON**

**Well, no. I don't really need to. But I figured if *you* wanted someone to study *with*, I could try to help? I-if you want.**

**DORIAN**

*Oh, Thank* you for offering! I don't know how people do this 'college' thing! Don't you find it awful?

**LONDON**

Actually, I'm really glad to be away from home for the first time. Here, let me get that.

**THEY ARRIVE AT THE WATER SHOP. LONDON PULLS OPEN THE DOOR AND WE TRANSITION TO...**

**12. INT. - MIDDAY IN THE WATER SHOP. DORIAN AND LONDON JOIN A SMALL LINE.**

**LONDON**

Yeah, my family kind of sucks, so I did everything I could in school to stand out and get my placement.

**DORIAN**

You're not a farmer? I figured you'd be catering scholarship just like me.

**LONDON**

Ha! "Catering scholarship", is that what you call it? No, I'm from Young City. Parents are mechanics.

**DORIAN**

Then how'd you get so good at this stuff?

**LONDON**

**I've always been good at school. I just figured this would be the most useful thing to learn. Hey, if you *don't* like school, what made you come?**

**DORIAN**

**Nothing like that...**

**RUTH**

**Hi, what can I get you?**

**DORIAN**

**Oh, after you, London!**

**LONDON**

**Could I get a rose seltzer please?**

**RUTH**

**I'm sorry, our carbonator is broken at the moment.**

**LONDON**

**Ah. Just regular rose water is fine, then. Oh, with a raspberry spritz?**

**RUTH**

**Sure. Cool jacket, by the way.**

**LONDON**

**Thank you!**

**RUTH**

**(TO DORIAN) And for you?**

**DORIAN**

**Do you have anything with basil?**

**RUTH**

**Yeah, we can do basil water.**

**LONDON**

**(TO DORIAN) Why don't you find us a table Dorian?**

**DORIAN**

**Alright.**

**DORIAN PAYS ATTENTION TO THOSE AROUND AS HE EXPLORES.**

**STUDENT #1**

**...I told him it's a stupid major.**

**STUDENT #2**

**Sounds like he's... trying to help?  
Marketing can help with some things?**

**STUDENT #1**

**Not as much as public health!  
Ecology! Engineering!**

**DORIAN**

**You really think *anything* will make a difference?**

**EMBARRASSED) Sorry! Shouldn't  
have eavesdropped...**

**LONDON RETURNS.**

**LONDON**

**Hey, good choice.**

**DORIAN**

**Oh! Yeah, it's... Thanks.**

**THEY SIT WITH THEIR DRINKS. DORIAN TAKES A SIP.**

**DORIAN (CONT'D)**

**Wow! This is good!**

**LONDON**

**Yeah, I like this place.**

**So, I'll admit, I'm a little nervous. I  
don't usually do this. So I don't know  
what happens next.**

**DORIAN**

**Wait, do what?**

**LONDON**

**...Ask someone on a date?**

**DORIAN**

**Oh. *Ohhhhh*. Is this a date? Wow!!! I  
never thought I'd go on one of these!**

**LONDON**

**Why not?**

**DORIAN**

**Family responsibilities.**

**LONDON**

**Responsibilities...?**

**DORIAN**

**Yeah, big things to accomplish, you know? No distractions.**

**LONDON**

**That doesn't seem very fair.**

**DORIAN**

**Well, it's not quite that simple.**

**LONDON**

**How so?**

**DORIAN**

**Doing what my family needs is a really big part of my life. They're trusting me a whole lot just by sending me away. I have a chance to prove myself now... Ugh, but it's so hard. I'm not smart, I don't fit in, and my roommate's immune to friendship. Suddenly it's like I don't even know who I am anymore!**

**LONDON**

**...What if you tried changing? That's what moving away from home is supposed to be all about.**

DORIAN

That's a *terrible* idea. If I could be any better, I already would be.

THUNDER ROLLS OUTSIDE.

LONDON

(LAUGHS) You can't know that! That's the point. You don't know if something might be better until you try it. You've never thought to yourself, "Hey, this might not be who I am?"

DORIAN

Of course not. I'm sorry you're full of doubt.

LONDON

I'm not, though. I don't know how to explain.

DORIAN

And I don't know what you're trying to say.

LONDON

Okay, like, my hair was fine a year ago, right? I washed it, took care of it, but I never *liked* it. Then I cut it. It was impulsive, yeah, but after, I was so *happy*. Even when my parents threw a fit and threatened to kick me out — like I said, they suck — every time I looked in the mirror, I was just... happy. It was, like, chemical, something I couldn't even handle, and that's how I knew it was right. Euphoria.

**DORIAN**

That's a dangerous word.

**LONDON**

Why? I didn't hurt anyone. In fact, there was *less* pain in the world because of it.

**DORIAN**

But it was a distraction. Now you're thinking about your hair and your clothes and going on dates, so you don't have the same dedication to — to...

**LONDON**

To acing my classes?

**BEAT.**

I'm telling you, Dori — when it comes to finding out what will make you the right version of yourself, you know best. No one should get to tell you "no."

**DORIAN**

Huh. Yea, I know what I'm doing. That's the whole point. No one should get to tell *me* "no."

**13. (EXT. - DORM BUILDING, A WHILE LATER. DORIAN AND LONDON STAND ON THE FRONT STEPS.)**

**DORIAN**

**Thank you, London. I have had a very nice afternoon with you.**

**THUNDER ROLLS OVERHEAD — BUT STILL NO RAIN YET.**

**LONDON**

**Me too.**

**DORIAN SHRUGS OFF A JACKET.**

**DORIAN**

**Oh, and here's your jacket back! You were right. Trying it on felt nice.**

**LONDON**

**You know Dorian, euphoria looks good on you. You want to swap contacts?**

**DORIAN**

**Hmm. No, probably not. This won't go anywhere.**

**LONDON**

**Oh...**

**DORIAN**

**But thank you! I really needed this.**

**LONDON**

**Okay, Wow. I don't even know what to say.**

**DORIAN**

**(ABRUPTLY, LOOKING AROUND)**

**Hold on! There it is again! Do you feel that? Like we're being watched or something? I felt it back when my bag...**

**MORE THUNDER. LONDON STARTS TO LEAVE.**

**LONDON**

**(SHAKING THEIR HEAD IN DISBELIEF) Goodbye, Dorian. Hope you *do* discover something new about yourself.**

**14. (INT. - DORM ROOM THAT EVENING, HEAVY RAIN OUTSIDE. DORIAN IS ADMIRING HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR AS WILL WALKS IN.)**

**DORIAN**

**Oh good, you're here. What do you think of this skirt? I traded the girl across the hall for it.**

**WILL FREEZES IN THE DOORWAY, VERY SOFTLY CLEARS HIS THROAT.**

**DORIAN**

**And what if I grew my hair out a little? I could be cute if I use she/her sometimes, right? Dori. Dooorrrri. "She's got a nice smile." "I love her hair." Yeah. Yeah, that's not just for other people. Can you try it for the night? (BEAT.) Will?**

**WILL JUMP-STARTS, SETS HIS BAG DOWN.**

**WILL**

**Yeah, sure. The skirt looks nice, Dori.  
Can I ask what inspired this change?**

**DORI**

**London!**

**WILL**

**Sorry?**

**DORI**

**That was their name, anyway. You  
should have seen how they dress, it's  
so cool. We went out for water. On a  
date.**

**WILL**

**Oh. You're seeing someone now?**

**DORI**

**Oh, no no no. I didn't even get their  
contact.**

**WILL**

**...Why not? You seem pleased.**

**DORI**

**Well, I—**

**PAUSE; SHE REALIZES SOMETHING.**

**Is this the longest conversation we've  
ever had?**

Anyway, I can't get involved in anything serious, so I had to blow them off a little.

WILL

'Blow them off'? Even though you liked them? Don't you think that's a little harsh?

DORI

What? It's just dating. It's supposed to be casual.

WILL

Hm.

DORI

(NOODLING) Don't you think so?

WILL

I'm not going to talk about dating with you. That's personal.

DORI

You're judging me.

WILL

I'm not judging, I just — hm. Let's drop it.

DORI

Fine. Just when I thought we might be finally connecting, we will continue to be...

**(WITH HEAVY AFFECTATION)**  
...strictly roommates.

**WILL**

Fine.

**WILL SITS AT HIS DESK AND OPENS A TEXTBOOK. DORI SITS AT  
HERS AND LOUNGES.**

**DORI**

I can picture it now, our life this semester: days and days passing in disdainful silence.

**(EVEN MORE AFFECTATION)**

"Are you making any friends at school, Dori? How's your roommate?" Oh, I wouldn't know, he pretends I don't exist.

He's crotchety and sour and thoroughly indifferent——

**WILL**

——Do you really need attention that badly?

**DORI**

*Attention?* You think I crave attention?

**WILL**

Do you hear yourself?

**DORI**

**Okay. Point taken. Well, once the rain stops, I'll go for my walk and give you peace.**

**WILL**

**It's not going to stop.**

**DORI**

**Huh?**

**WILL**

**The storm's supposed to go until morning. But you——**

**CRASH! DORI'S CHAIR TIPS AND HITS THE FLOOR AS SHE SCRAMBLES UP.**

**DORI**

**——Sorry, I —— forgot to do something.**

**SHE RUSHES INTO THE HALLWAY. WILL CHASES AFTER HER.**

**TRANSITION TO: HALLWAY, MOVING.**

**WILL**

**Dori? Where are you going?!**

**DORI**

**Outside!**

**THUNDER BOOMS OUTSIDE. DORI PUSHES PAST SOME LAUGHING STUDENTS.**

**WILL**

**Wait! Dori, please! Excuse me. Dori!**

**THE MAIN DOOR BURSTS OPEN.**

**WE SHIFT TO...**

**15. (EXT. - DORM BUILDING, AS DORI CHARGES OUT INTO THE THUNDERSTORM. WILL, SMARTER, HANGS BACK A MOMENT.)**

**WILL**

**(DISTANT) Dori, come back!**

**DORI STOPS RUNNING, TAKES A BREATH.**

**DORI**

**You have an example to set, even if  
only to yourself. (SLIDING INTO  
PRAYER)**

***The air, as it filled, could have choked  
us, and did. The waters, as they rose,  
could have drowned us, and did.***

**WILL RUNS UP AND TUGS DORI'S SHOULDER.**

**WILL**

**What is going on?!**

**DORI**

**Let go!**

**HE DOES.**

**WILL**

**Whoa! What's wrong?!**

**DORI**

**(BITTER LAUGH)**

**Now you want to talk? After all the time you've spent avoiding me, or ignoring me?**

**(SMALL GASP)**

**Is this on purpose? Are you a non—  
—?**

**WILL**

**—Dori, (fumbling with words) I'm trying to get you out of the rain!**

**DORI**

**Don't bother. I'm right where I want to be.**

***The Earth, as it molted, could have buried us, and did, but it did not take us all. I walk this ground still. I am...***

**(SHE GETS DISTRACTED, BUT TRIES AGAIN.) *I am...***

**(TO WILL) What are you doing?**

**WILL**

**(ANGRY, BUT NOT) I guess I'm waiting for you.**

**DORI**

**You don't have to.**

**WILL**

Yes, I do.

**DORI**

Why?

**WILL HOLDS UP HIS KEYS. THEY JANGLE.**

**WILL**

You didn't bring your keys.

**DORI**

Oh. Oh...

**BEAT.**

*I am yet strongest, and my family will  
bring to this Earth change that is  
momentous.*

(DEEP EXHALE.) Okay. Let's go.

**16. INT. - DORM BUILDING ENTRYWAY. WILL AND DORI DASH BACK  
INSIDE AND LEAN AGAINST THE WALL, CATCHING THEIR BREATH.**

**WILL**

You do some odd things, Dori, but  
what was that?

**DORI**

I didn't want to miss it today just  
because of the rain. It's a tenet.

**WILL**

You were... praying?

**DORI**

**(IMPLIED NOD)**

We pray outside, with our feet on the ground. I didn't make time earlier, so I deserved to pray in a thunderstorm.

**WILL**

That seems a little... You couldn't just open a window?

**DORI LAUGHS, STILL COLLECTING HERSELF.**

**DORI**

I'm confused, Will.

**WILL**

About what?

**DORI**

Lots of things. Basically everything. Should I leave?

**BEAT**

**WILL**

Do you want to leave?

**DORI**

(scoffs) I really don't know. But hey, if I did, maybe you'd get a normal roommate. Someone you like.

**WILL**

**You don't think I like you?**

**DORI**

**I think if you did, I would at least know your last name.**

**WILL**

**(DISBELIEVING LAUGH)**

**Dori, I don't not like you. I'm just not used to talking to people.**

**DORI**

**Really? That's all it is?**

**WILL**

**(STILL FAINTLY AMUSED)**

**Growing up, I spent a lot of time alone. I — you — I like you fine.**

**DORI**

**I really didn't think you did. Sorry, by the way. If I pushed you at all.**

**WILL**

**Takes more than a push to unsettle me. For what it's worth, I'm also sorry. I'll try to be more...friendly.**

**DORI**

**And I'll be... less. In general.**

**WILL**

**(WITH SOME DIFFICULTY)**

**No. No, don't be. It's nice to be around someone with so much — energy.**

**DORI**

**Okay, if you insist. Are you a hugger?**

**WILL**

**Um... No, but you can.**

**DORI**

**(EXCITED) You sure?**

**WILL**

**Go ahead, Dori.**

**A HAPPY, IF WET, HUG.**

**WILL (CONT'D)**

**Can we go dry off now?**

**THEY TAKE A FEW STEPS BEFORE WILL STOPS ABRUPTLY. THEN DORI.**

**WILL**

**Uhh, did you see that? Those two people left something in front of our door.**

**DORI**

**I wasn't looking.**

**WILL**

How'd they get in?

**DORI**

Looks like they *only* came up to our room.

**DORI APPROACHES AND PICKS A SMALL GLASS JAR UP OFF OF THE FLOOR, EXAMINES IT.**

**DORI (CONT'D)**

Oh!

**WILL**

What is it?

**DORI**

**(WITH A SMILE.) Basil leaves.**

**[MUSIC]**

**ANNOUNCER**

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**This series is written and created by J Evelyn Gaskell and Directed by Micah Rodriguez and Stephanie Resendes. This episode was edited by Lowri Ann Davies, Nico Vettese, Tessa Vroom, Meg McKellar, and Catherine Rinella. With Music from Sam Jones.**

**It featured Ian RQ Slater as Dori/Dorian, Phi Nelson as Will, Victoria Cheng as Ruth, Isabel Kruse as Paulette, KT Thomas as Ned, Lisa Stanley as Evelyn, Lisa Pengov as Maxine, and Tori Thomson as Margaret. A full list of performance credits is available in the shownotes.**

**Neon Inkwell is produced by April Sumner with Executive Producer Alexander J Newall and Showrunner Elizabeth Moffatt.**

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Thanks for listening.**

## **Neon Inkwell: The Pit Below Paradise 1 – Creating Loose Ends**

**Dorian thought he knew where his life was going. When an unexpected development throws him from his course, he is faced with a new reality and must adapt to the most daunting future: college.**

**This show contains recurring themes including:**

- **Religious Trauma/Indoctrination**
- **Family Conflict**
- **Gaslighting**
- **Childhood Trauma**
- **Child Neglect/Abuse**
- **Alcoholism**
- **Toxic/Unhealthy Relationships**

**Transcripts: <https://shorturl.at/pJQV7>**

**Showrunner Elizabeth Moffatt  
Directed by Micah Rodriguez and Stephanie Resendes  
Written by J Evelyn Gaskell  
Produced by April Sumner  
Executive Producers Alexander J Newall & April Sumner**

### **Featuring (in order of appearance)**

**Ian RQ Slater as Dori/Dorian  
Isabel Kruse as Paulette  
Sergio Salas as Yuri  
Lisa Pengov as Maxine  
Neil Strawder as Carlos  
Tori Thomson as Margaret  
Meg McKellar as Teen Friend  
KT Thomas as Ned  
Phi Hamens as Will  
Alex C Telander as Professor  
Clio Urqhart as London**

**Victoria Cheng as Ruth  
April Sumner as Student #1  
Tessa Vroom as Student #2**

**Dialogue Editor – Lowri Ann Davies and Nico Vettese  
Sound Designer – Tessa Vroom  
Mastering Editor - Meg McKellar**

**Music by Sam Jones  
Art by Guerrilla Communications**

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