

I'll tell you about her when the time is right.  
 And I'll let you take lead on cases when the time is right,  
 And I'll turn this whole operation over to you when the time is right.  
 Today is not that day.  
 I'm not going to harvest you before you're ripe.  
 I will tell you how you came to me, but not yet.

**Fade** "Today is not that day."

**Rue** Do you understand?

**Fade** Sure.

**Rue**

**Fade** I said sure!

**Rue** I'll take it.  
 I'm going to drop off Hannah's next dosage of tea before I  
 Well. Before the rest of my day. Rounds over?  
 (**Fade** *nods her assent.*) Be safe, young blood.

**Rue** *departs.* **Fade** *waits until she's far enough away, then pulls out the Voynich Manuscript.*

**Fade** "Rescued . . . by Wade Johnson, M.D."  
 Mom.

*She hugs the book, then begins to read. She reads and reads.*

~~Start~~  
 Scene Five

*Wednesday evening, when Mars starts to shine*

**Fade** *continues to read. You'd think she'd be bored by now, but she's not. Her notes cover several planters. She's intent.*

*The crunch of gravel. Car door slams. Harrison walks up, escorting Hannah.*

**Harrison** Hi there.

**Fade** Oh, shit!

*She slams the book shut and begins to gather up her papers.*

**Harrison** You wanna try that again?

**Fade** Hello, Sheriff. Welcome to Doctor Voynich's.

**Harrison** (*teasing*) Why, hello to you too.

**Fade** Hannah.

**Hannah** **Fade.**

**Fade** What's going on? Is everything okay?

**Harrison** Everything's fine. Just fine.

**Hannah** Sheriff Harrison saw me heading this way, so she gave me a ride. Because I'm supposed to pick up those seed packets from you.

**Fade** Yes, right, the seed packets, let me just

**Harrison** What are you working on, here?

**Fade** (*cleaning her papers up, trying not to look frantic*) Just notes.

**Harrison** Notes on what? That looks like

**Fade** They're just plants. Ma'am.  
 Botanical illustrations.

**Harrison** Now, I'm no expert, but that looks like a  
 Well, you know what it looks like.  
 It's like one of those paintings by that Georgia lady that's a flower but it's actually a

**Fade & Hannah**

**Harrison** I've seen paintings.

**Fade** Really, they're just plants.  
 I'm thinking of putting them in a book.

**Harrison** (*eyeing the Voynich Manuscript*) Like that one there?  
**Rue** says hello, by the way.

**Fade** Where is she?

**Harrison** Oh, she's fine. She asked me to come out here and check on you. Make sure everything's okay.

**Fade**

**Harrison** She's at my house. Getting ready.  
 You know how women are.

**Fade**

**Harrison** (*so sly*) Now you two ladies behave yourselves. I'd offer you a ride back into town, but I know how long it can take to find good seed packets.

**Fade & Hannah**

**Harrison** I don't expect that Rue will be home tonight.  
 But you're . . .

Old enough to look after yourself, aren't you?

**Hannah** We'll behave, Sheriff. Actually, Fade was going to

We wanted to look at the stars, and it's so much darker out here on the road

**Harrison** Sure is.

**Fade** Yeah.

**Harrison** Hannah, could I have a word with you?

**Hannah** Anything you want to say to me, you can say in front of Fade.

**Harrison** Alright, then.  
I just wanted to remind you.  
Make good choices.

**Hannah** I am, Sheriff.

**Hannah** *takes Fade's hand. Harrison and Hannah stare each other down.*

**Harrison** Listen you little wiseass. I didn't get to be in the position in life, in this job, by flaunting it. Be more careful.  
"Seed packets?" Come on. I get it. You're teenagers. But you're lucky I'm me instead of, well, just about any of the other officers in this county.  
Be smarter. You think you're brave, but you're just stupid.  
(*To Fade.*) Best be off.  
I'll be sure to tell Rue you said hello.

*She exits.*

**Fade** God what a cunt.

**Hannah** I hope I didn't just make it worse

**Fade** What? By holding my hand?

**Hannah** I thought it would be better if she just thought we were a bunch of  
Well, like her  
I wanted her to think it was cute  
You know, nothing to see here, just gals being pals,<sup>9</sup> nothing else to be suspicious about

**Fade** I mean, if I were her, I'd buy it.  
We were pretty cute.

**Hannah** *kisses her.*

**Hannah** So what have you learned?

**Fade** You're kind of a babe.

**Hannah** *flounces.*

**Fade** Anyway, yes, I've started interpreting the section we saw, and it's slow going  
but . . .

9. If you're playing Fade as nonbinary, "just gals being pals" can be cut, or not, at your discretion.

It's Wade Johnson's guide to performing abortions without a hospital.

**Hannah** So you know how to help me now.

**Fade** Take a look at this.  
This is a diagram of your

**Hannah** I got it.

**Fade** And that duck bill thing you were using yesterday, that goes there. Then you take something long and pointy and it passes through the

**Hannah** I don't want the details.

**Fade**

**Hannah** It's gross.

**Fade** Hannah . . . do you want me to do this or not?  
Because it's important to me that you know what you're signing up for.  
I'm not going to just . . . zap you and it's all better.

**Hannah** I know, I just  
I wouldn't ask a dentist for all the details either.

**Fade** I'm not a dentist. And we're not extracting a tooth.  
We're extracting a fetus.  
Or, well, we sort of damage the fetus and irritate your uterus and your body takes it from there.

**Hannah** It comes out on its own?

**Fade** If it's not too far along, yes.

**Hannah** What if it is too far along?

**Fade** Then you say you had a miscarriage and the med-techs take it out.

**Hannah** Absolutely not. No way. Mom would find out that I've  
She would lose her shit if she knew I'd actually had sex, it's not—it's just not acceptable, okay, so, just, do better, okay, and

**Fade** This is happening.  
You are pregnant.  
You can become not pregnant one of two ways: you can give birth, or you can  
Not give birth.

Either way, there's something in there that's coming out.  
There's nothing I can give you to just make it dissolve.

**Hannah** No, you're right, you're right. Okay.  
So you take the long pointy thing, stick it through the little spout thing, stab the baby,  
wha-bam.

**Fade** Wha-bam?

**Hannah** Yeah. Let's do it.

**Fade** What? Just like that?

**Hannah** Yeah. I understand everything.

**Fade** Hannah, I barely understand the basic anatomy. I started learning this shit last night.

**Hannah** I caught my mom snooping around my room this morning. She's suspicious. Sheriff Harrison is suspicious. Rue isn't here and isn't coming back tonight. There is never going to be a better opportunity.

**Fade** I haven't had time to read all the instructions. The translation—

**Hannah** You could study for the next week. But that's just words. You just study the pictures, Trust your instincts and do it.

**Fade** I haven't earned your faith.

**Hannah**

**Fade** I will hurt you.

**Hannah** kisses her.

**Hannah** You might hurt me.  
But no matter what I'm going to stop being pregnant.  
With or without your help.  
I want it to be with, but I'm out of time.  
If you can't have faith in yourself, have faith in Wade Johnson, M.D.

**Fade** That I can do.

**Hannah** gets up on the bed and prepares. **Fade**, consulting her notes, uses the speculum on her. Then, she takes an archetypical coat hanger and bends it into a straight rod.<sup>10</sup>

**Hannah** I need to go home after.

**Fade** What? No, you should stay Rest.

**Hannah** No. If my mom sees that I'm not home, she'll know something's up. She's like a shark. She smells blood in the water. I need to be home tonight.

**Fade** You could bleed out. I need to monitor you . . .

**Hannah** If it gets dangerous, I'll I won't, but if it does I'll be good. I'll deal with it. If my mom finds me here with blood in the sand, it's all over.

10. You can overlap this with the following dialogue, or play it in silence.

**Fade** I don't

**Hannah** We.

**Fade** Okay.

*The two women share a moment. Hannah grips Fade's hand very, very tightly. Fade extracts her hand. She removes Hannah's underwear. She begins the procedure.*

**Hannah** arcs her back with a violent inhalation—pain and pleasure sound the same. Eventually, **Fade** helps her put her underwear back on. **Hannah** says a nonverbal goodbye, and leaves. **Fade** wants so badly to go, but she can't, so she doesn't. She goes into the Ambulatory.

~~STOP~~  
Scene Six

*Thursday afternoon, with the dark on the horizon*

*Jess runs in. She carries Hannah's bloody underwear and smears bright blood across the illustration of Rue on the side of the Ambulatory as she kicks and smacks it.*

**Jess** PIECE OF SHIT  
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE  
COME OUT  
YOU GODDAMN COWARD  
MURDERING BITCH  
OPEN UP

**Fade** emerges from the Ambulatory.

**Fade** What the hell?

**Jess** YOU!

**Jess** comes at her. **Fade** fends her off.

**Fade** (overlapping) //Step the hell back  
Calm down

What's wrong?  
What did you do to our  
I don't understand

**Jess** (overlapping) YOU PIECE OF SHIT  
SHE TRUSTED YOU  
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS  
SHE TRUSTED YOU  
MY BABY GIRL//  
My Hannah . . .

**Fade** What happened?