

Mara

Scene 24 · Simulation chamber — grief and the choice

Ethan has angrily challenged Mara's understanding of being human. She acknowledges her limits and explains what he can choose now.

The excerpt includes the other characters' reader lines and the original action.

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Exact excerpt: source lines 2920-2986 | Screenplay by Adrian Humphrey

SCRIPT EXCERPT

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So no, you do not understand. You cannot. You do not lose sleep. You do not lose people. You do not know what it is to want five more minutes so badly you would tear your own chest open for them. I do. And All I do know, is I was wrong. I know I want it back. And I know wanting it back does not change a damn thing.

MARA (V.O.)

You're right.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

I do not feel loss. I do not fear tomorrow. I do not bleed when a choice breaks something.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

That is why you built me.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Not to be human. To hold still where you could not. To show you what grief kept erasing.

Beat.

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Every version ends where it ends, Ethan. The question was never whether you could change it.

ETHAN

So This was never about changing it.

MARA (V.O.)

No.

Mara

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SCRIPT EXCERPT

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You wanted it to be. I could give you
those days again. I couldn't change
what happened to her.
Beat.

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She died once. The rest of the pain came from all
the moments you left before they were over.

Ethan lowers into the chair.

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You are not only mourning Emily. You are mourning
the version of yourself that might have stayed.
The version that listened when she laughed. The
version that let joy finish before fear
interrupted it.

Beat.

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That is why losing her feels endless. Not because
love ended. Because regret and grief keeps
replaying it.

ETHAN

So what now?

MARA (V.O.)

Now you choose what to do.
You can keep this lesson. Close the laptop. Walk
out of this room. Grieve her honestly. Miss her.
Love her. Remember her without turning the rest
of your life into a monument to the day you lost
her.

Beat.

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Moving forward would not betray her. It would
honor the part of her that kept trying to pull
you into the moment you were already in.

Beat.

MARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Or you can run the simulation again.