

ATOM SPLIT

Written by

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INT. COLLEGE LABORATORY - NIGHT

PAXTON, 25, skinny, in a lab coat, his glasses off to the side, examines a mineral underneath a microscope. The mineral is a rock with green gems inside of it.

PAXTON

This better not be some kind of  
soda can stuck in here.

Paxton picks up the petri dish and sets it to the side.

PAXTON (CONT'D)

If so, I'll be damned to find out  
how the hell someone shoved it in.

Paxton takes the mineral sample and puts it in a plastic bag.

He puts on his glasses, gathers papers, and exits.

The door closes to reveal a sign that says 'Students Only'.

EXT. PAXTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paxton walks up to his front door and sees a letter on the ground. He picks it up and opens it.

He rolls his eyes and tosses the letter away. The words  
"Cease and Desist" are in all caps.

INT. PAXTON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Paxton enters his home.

His house is messy with papers, food, coffee cups. His desk is clean. His Bachelor's degree in geology hangs on the wall.

He puts the mineral sample in a drawer and sits at his desk.

PAXTON

That rock-- that thing, was nothing  
like I've ever examined before.

He opens his laptop and types 'unknown materials.'

PAXTON (CONT'D)

Whatever this is, I'm gonna figure  
it out and it'll be all mine.

He gets up and walks over to his bedroom.

INT. PAXTON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paxton steps away from his laptop in shock. The mineral sits on the side of his desk. His desk is a mess of papers. All of his blinds are down.

PAXTON

Holy shit. This can't be real.

He puts his hands on his head and looks back at the mineral.

PAXTON (CONT'D)

This thing is a powerhouse. I can light up my entire neighborhood with this alone.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Paxton types away at his laptop on his lap. His screen shows his research on control and how to use electricity. His food is beside him on another table. His backpack is to the side.

Paxton opens his email. He has a message about cleaning the beach.

He shakes his head. He deletes the email.

PAXTON

Ah, I don't need no one to help me clean up a beach. I can do it all by myself.

He moves his laptop to the side and takes a bite of a muffin.

He looks over at a man who reads a newspaper. The title reads 'President gives power to security. Could you be breached?'

VALTON, 35, sophisticated, FBI agent speaks through laptop.

VALTON (V.O.)

I see you're working on a new project?

Paxton stops typing. He looks around him and at his laptop.

VALTON (V.O.)

I am to hope this project is to find a mineral that will stop you from stealing lab equipment.

Paxton glares at his laptop.

PAXTON  
Who the hell is that?

VALTON (V.O.)  
Don't worry about that, my  
inquisitive associate. I was hoping  
we could discuss this new mineral.

Paxton slams his laptop shut.

VALTON (V.O.)  
That is no way to speak with your  
new colleague. Now, as I was saying-

Paxton opens his laptop and mutes it.

The mute feature is switched off.

VALTON (V.O.)  
It has come to my attention that  
you hold a powerful mineral. You  
even know it's whereabouts.

PAXTON  
That's the last time I open my junk  
mail.

Valton laughs. PEOPLE look over at Paxton.

Paxton notices the looks and turns off his laptop.

EXT. CITY - DAY

Paxton carries around his backpack. He looks around.

Paxton hears an electric BUZZ. No one else heard.

VALTON (V.O.)  
Listen to me, Paxton. It is in your  
best interest to listen to me.

Paxton stops. He swings his head and looks around.

PAXTON  
Who the hell are you?

VALTON (V.O.)  
Your new business partner. We have  
no time for this bickering--

Paxton puts his hands over his ears and runs.

VALTON (V.O.)  
Don't you realize what you're  
doing? You are running from a  
future.

PAXTON  
Get out of my head.

INT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

The alleyway is inside a large tunnel. The alley is dark and  
has numerous shops with neon signs and screens that advert.

Paxton pants. He stands in the middle of the alleyway.

VALTON  
Take a moment to think about it,  
Paxton. Look around you. What is  
the blood of our modern age?

Paxton looks around him.

PAXTON  
Electricity?

VALTON (V.O.)  
Together, you and I can parade the  
country with power and just  
electric power.

The neon signs turn off. The screens show the president  
waving, a military sergeant saluting, and a crowd cheering.

VALTON (V.O.)  
Power against the people.

PAXTON  
What the--No, no. What are you  
trying to do?

The screens reveal a shadowy figure who sits at a desk.

VALTON  
I am putting you beside me in a new  
age. Together you and I can rule  
America, and soon the world.

Paxton picks up a rock and tosses it at the screen.

PAXTON  
I don't want this. I want to save  
the world. We're on the brink of  
demise.

Paxton grabs more rocks and throws them at the screens.

PAXTON (CONT'D)  
You're a power hungry mastermind.  
You'd take a penny for a life.

The alley way goes dark. The neon signs turn back on, red.  
The ceiling of the tunnel displays a red interference screen.

Valton's voice echoes throughout the tunnel.

VALTON  
Power comes at a price. The world  
is destined to die, so why not make  
the most of it?

PAXTON  
I'll make the most of it after, I  
finish a job someone forgot to do.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Paxton pants and sweats. He walks around the empty warehouse.

VALTON (V.O.)  
There's no escape, sir.

Paxton jumps. He looks around the warehouse.

VALTON (V.O.)  
The only way you are going to enjoy  
this evening is if you submit to my  
desires.

Paxton cringes and cups his hands into fists.

PAXTON  
Who are you? How do you know me?

Valton's laugh echoes throughout the warehouse.

VALTON  
A simple answer to a simple  
question. Who is this mysterious  
man who beacons to you?

The warehouse shakes and vibrates. A loud RING is heard.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The warehouse changes to a dark room. There is only darkness.

Paxton shivers in fear.

Valton fades into being. He laughs with hands behind back.

PAXTON  
You, you're the one who's been up  
to all of this.

Paxton points to Valton.

VALTON  
How clever. Have you considered  
taking a class in detective work?

Paxton stomps his foot.

PAXTON  
I've had enough of this. You start  
answering my questions or I'll--

Valton rolls his eyes.

VALTON  
Or you will do what exactly?

Paxton puts his hands on his hips.

PAXTON  
Or I will--

VALTON  
Do nothing.

Paxton steps back and glares at Valton.

VALTON (CONT'D)  
You can do nothing in my realm.

Paxton shakes his head.

PAXTON  
What? Your realm? What is this,  
some game?

Valton holds a grin.

VALTON  
Don't make me laugh, boy. Now let  
me finally explain.

A fancy chair appears behind Valton. He sits in the chair.

VALTON (CONT'D)  
I have snuck my way inside of you.  
I can only do a few things, but it  
is enough to do this.

Paxton looks confused.

PAXTON  
What the are you talking about?  
You're inside of me?

VALTON  
Remember when everyone thought  
putting chips inside of every  
citizen was a good idea?

Paxton raises his fist.

PAXTON  
I never trusted anyone with any  
kind of chip inside of me.

VALTON  
You haven't been paying attention  
to the news, have you? Everyone has  
a chip, like it or not.

Paxton falls to the ground.

PAXTON  
What?

Valton stands up. He walks to Paxton.

VALTON  
Everyone is under government  
control. You are all under one  
thumb massive thumb.

Valton holds up his thumb and looks at it.

VALTON (CONT'D)  
We need only one puzzle piece to  
complete our power. Your rock.

Paxton stands up. He turns around and runs away.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Paxton runs out of the warehouse.

VALTON (O.S.)  
Come back here, you scoundrel.



Paxton runs for his home.

INT. PAXTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paxton enters his house and slams the door shut.

Paxton runs to his desk and collects his papers.

Valton sounds like he is on the chase.

VALTON (V.O.)  
Don't try anything funny, Valton.  
You are running out of time to deny  
your future.

Paxton shivers and looks around his house.

He rushes to the door. The sound of footsteps heard outside.

PAXTON  
No, get away from me. I'll tear up  
my research if you come any closer.

Paxton tries to lock the door, but Valton opens it.

Valton is seen outside. Paxton struggles to close the door.

Paxton slams the door shut and locks it.

VALTON  
You put yourself in a corner,  
child. Surrender now and I might  
not give you hell.

Paxton runs to his desk and pulls out a pair of scissors.

CLICKS sound from the door and it opens up.

Valton walks inside and rushes to Paxton. He grabs his arm.

VALTON (CONT'D)  
How can you even think to do this?  
You are nothing without this.

Paxton struggles to cut the papers.

PAXTON  
How can you waste away the world  
while partying like an animal?

Valton grabs Paxton's neck. He chokes Paxton.

VALTON

We are constantly evolving,  
constantly in need. The planet is  
nothing more than a resource.

Paxton's loses his grip. Valton pins his arm to the desk.

Valton takes the papers from Paxton.

Valton grabs Paxton by his shirt.

VALTON (CONT'D)

I should have you put under arrest  
for getting in my way.

Valton throws Paxton to the ground.

VALTON (CONT'D)

Here you believed you were clever.  
You believed you were strong.

Valton grabs Paxton's head and forces him to look at him.

VALTON (CONT'D)

Take a good long look at me. I am  
what you thought you were.

Paxton growls and punches Valton in the face.

Valton puts his hands to his face and drops the papers.

Paxton reaches out for them, but Valton grabs his arms.

PAXTON

You have no right to be in power  
you absolute mad man.

Valton lets go of his arm.

VALTON

I have had enough of these games.  
Do as I say, or you will be put in  
prison.

Valton holds his arm out. He shows off his watch.

VALTON (CONT'D)

I can change your life with a few  
pushes of buttons. Now, listen  
closely.

Valton stands up straight. Paxton sighs.

VALTON (CONT'D)  
You will hand over the papers, or  
you will be put in a maximum  
security prison.

Valton holds his hand out to Paxton.

VALTON (CONT'D)  
Now do we have a deal?

Paxton stares down his hand. He shakes his hand.

PAXTON  
Have it your way.