

INT. HIGH-SOCIETY FUND-RAISER - NIGHT (1944)

A professorial type, Thomas Crawford stands with a group of colleges. Suddenly, a woman appears -- we will call her MANTIS. She's stunning -- Vivien Leigh/young Joan Crawford -- dressed in an elegant sequined gown. She's blushing with enthusiasm and dangerous sex appeal.

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start

MANTIS

Are you professor Thomas Crawford?

She speaks with lively, yet perfect diction, like the well-polished starlets of the time. Crawford turns, shocked to be addressed by such a beautiful woman.

CRAWFORD

Yes...

MANTIS

Might I have a word with you?

He approaches her and she gushes sweetly, then recomposes perfectly. Crawford can't keep his eyes off her.

MANTIS (CONT'D)

(suddenly smiles
bashfully)

I'm sorry, forgive my
embarrassment.

CRAWFORD

Embarrassment?

MANTIS

My name is Vivian LeRouche.

(extends her hand)

I'm a great admirer of your work,
Professor Crawford. I'm a student
of bioengineering here at Columbia.
I found your recent dissertation on
viral decomposition quite
enlightening.

CRAWFORD

Viral decomposition... Surely there
are other topics we could find more
pleasure discussing...

MANTIS

What could be more pleasurable than
science, Professor Crawford?
Biology? Chemistry? The inner-
workings of our bodies?

(MORE)

12 MONKEYS - EP 201 - MANTIS

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MANTIS (CONT'D)

(gets closer, more
seductively)

The ways in which every cell
integrates with another.
Synchronized. A rhythm.
Harmoniously...

CRAWFORD

You make it sound like *romance*.

MANTIS

Is it not?

(a beat, smiles, playfully
swats his chest)

Professor Crawford... you tease me.
I'm afraid I'm quite *sincere*.

She's pulsing with a kind of energetic sexuality and the
promise of infinite possibilities. He's transfixed.

CRAWFORD

I am due to give a toast -- perhaps
we could continue this in later?

MANTIS

I'd be delighted, Professor
Crawford.

Crawford bows his head and walks away. She watches him exit
with predatory eyes. WASP, her male companion approaches
her. Her eyes never leave Crawford as the superficial
playfulness vanishes. Her new tone is icy and businesslike.

WASP

Well?

MANTIS

It's him. There's something off.
He couldn't keep his eyes off me.

WASP

Wasn't that the point?

She looks at Wasp as if he was an imbecile.

MANTIS

If Crawford can focus on a single
thing at a given moment, it could
mean only one thing...

(beat)

He's not *Primary*.

end

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INT. JERSEYVILLE SANITARIUM - DAY (1944)

SEE
Mantis sits across from Ramse, who is bound on the floor across from her. She's all menace, coiled around a powerfully sexual nature. Her eyes are fierce but it's hard to tell if she wants to kill Ramse or fuck him.

MANTIS

You shouldn't be here, Traveler.
Your cycle is complete.

RAMSE

The cycle changed. Things haven't gone according to plan.

MANTIS

(considers then)
The plan does not alter.

RAMSE

You're making a mistake. I'm here to put things right.

Ramse is convincing. Mantis has no way of knowing if he's telling the truth.

RAMSE (CONT'D)

The Witness sent me... He asked me to come and warn you.

Mantis looks at him quizzically. Then, a realization:

MANTIS

You're lying. The Witness does not ask.

RAMSE

He did this time.

MANTIS

You're still lying. You're looking for your friends. James Cole. Dr. Raily. You don't know where they are, do you?

Ramse doesn't answer.

MANTIS (CONT'D)

If the Witness sent you -- I would know.

RAMSE

How can you be sure?

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Mantis smiles --

MANTIS

If you have to ask that question - he didn't send you. I've always wondered about you. Since you're here, tell me: why did you betray him?

Ramse gives up. Might as well try the truth now.

RAMSE

Because he lied. About everything. To me. And to You.

The idea of this unnerves Mantis -- but she covers the fear quickly.

MANTIS

If that's true, then my entire life is a mistake. But I have faith. And we all have to live with the choices we make.

RAMSE

And what choices will you make?

Mantis leans forward, calm. The self possession of the zealot.

MANTIS

I'm going to leave you here. Then I am going to kill the Primary. And then I will find your friends, and kill them as well. You're not the mission. So you will live.

Ramse pulls at his binds -- he's helpless and frustrated. Mantis watches a moment.

MANTIS (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Traveler. I hope to see you again.

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