

MUTANTS - Rough Treatment

by Toinette Terry and Vincenzo Natali

ACT I

CLIVE, JANE and JOSEF are three young geneticists employed by a large multinational corporation to conduct research into the outer reaches of genetic manipulation.

The film begins with Clive and Jane, who are involved with each other, having sex in their lab full of genetically altered animals. Their little 'work break' is interrupted by the impending birth of their latest creation.

They quickly change into protective suits and join their friend and colleague, Josef, in a hermetically sealed room full of high-tech equipment. Blistering from one wall is a large chrome and rubber contraption - the Birthing Chamber - a sort of artificial womb. From a latex slit they extract the small, but fully matured body of an animal hybrid.

Through the perspective of a home video camera that Clive carries, we see Jane and Josef walking with a small creature, the likes of which have never been seen. It is a combination of several animals: part amphibian, part bird, part monkey.

The odd looking group - scientists covered head to toe in sterilized suits and newly born mutant - stop at the top of a staircase descending into another brightly lit room. Watching them from a cage is a female hybrid. She shrieks upon seeing her male counterpart. Clive, an avid horror aficionado, is quick to note how much this reminds him of the "The Bride of Frankenstein".

At their local hangout, Clive, Jane and Josef celebrate their latest triumph. After years of hard work, they have successfully spliced together the DNA of several unrelated species. This is a personal and scientific milestone. They have opened up new possibilities in genetic

engineering. This is the stuff that Nobel Prizes are made of.

Yet, these young scientists do not fit the mold of reclusive geniuses. They belong to a new breed: scientist as rock star. They are not shy of the spotlight and they are always riding the vanguard of popular culture.

The only problem is that they are not allowed to discuss their work publicly. The company that pays them to do research also pays them to keep quiet. Genetics is the next industrial frontier, and there is a race on to see who will conquer it first. In a sense, Clive, Jane and Josef are too far ahead of their time. For now, the work and a healthy paycheck has to be its own reward.

On this particular night, none of that seems to matter. All three friends are on a high. They discuss the benefits of this experiment. Splicing genes means the potential to eliminate hereditary disease, the possibility of enhancing physical and mental prowess, and even slowing the aging process. Their work with chimpanzees brings them closer than anyone has been able to get to conquering the most complex genetic puzzle of them all: human DNA.

All the more satisfying is that they have made this leap together. Clive, Jane and Josef have been working as a team since university. Every major achievement and set back they have had, they experienced as a group. Of the three, Jane is the most ambitious, pushing the others to stretch themselves beyond what they would be capable of alone. In contrast, Josef is a moderating force, the team work-horse who keeps their more outrageous pursuits scientifically sound. And Clive is the ideas man, the visionary who is paving the way for all of them to become rich and famous. They are inextricably linked together: professionally, as friends and, in Clive and Jane's case, as lovers.

On this very same night, however, the seeds of destruction are planted. They come unexpectedly in the form of ELSA, Josef's sister. She has just moved into town to conduct her own research; Elsa is a doctor specializing in immune systems and has received a grant from a local university. She joins the threesome in the bar expecting a friendly get-together. But when she and Clive meet, there is an instant and mutual attraction. An attraction so strong that it could only be explained as something genetic.

Clive buries these unsettling feelings in his work. He Jane and Josef keep a round the clock watch on the hybrids. The mutants' health is a critical factor in the success of the experiment and convincing the company to continue bankrolling them.

After a month's time, the hybrids are still doing well and the team files a report to their superiors. The response they get exceeds any of their expectations: the company wants to carry the program a step further. They want to incorporate human DNA into the experiment.

The group discuss the morality of such an endeavour. Josef is strongly opposed to the idea. He sights the obvious ethical, not to mention, legal reasons why it could never be done. But Jane sees it as an irresistible opportunity. A chance to tackle what will unquestionably be the greatest challenge of their careers. Clive sides with Josef, but finds it a very tempting proposition.

They are unable to reach an agreement, but they don't want to alienate their benefactor by refusing. In the end, they decide to stall the company until they can reach a decision that they are all happy with.

Around the same time, Elsa is moving into Josef's house. Against his better judgement, Clive agrees to help. Jane is too annoyed with Josef's stubbornness to join in.

At the front door, Clive is greeted by Josef's kids and his wife, ANNA. They are carrying Elsa's things into the cluttered space. Among her medical texts and related paraphernalia, Clive notices that Elsa has a collection of old horror films - a shared interest. This sparks a conversation. As Clive and Elsa talk about Boris Karlof and Vincent Price it becomes clear that they are falling in love.

This doesn't go on unnoticed by Josef. As Clive is leaving, Josef warns him not to get involved with Elsa unless he is really serious. Aside from what this could mean to Jane and their work, he also points out the conflict inherent between relationships and a job that they cannot discuss. He points out how fortunate Clive is to share his work with Jane; a luxury Josef will never have with his wife.

Back at the lab, the male hybrid is getting sick. In spite of the sterilized environment, he has contracted an infection. Clive is doing everything he can, but with little success.

Jane enters the room with some more bad news: the rumours surrounding their work have generated enough concern in the scientific community that the Company has organized a conference in another city to diffuse any fears or negative press. They want Clive, Jane and Josef to attend. Clive argues that they can't leave the hybrid; he won't survive alone. Jane suggests that she and Josef can go while Clive keeps watch on their sick friend.

Jane also raises the stakes of their relationship by suggesting that they should start looking for a place together when she gets back. She tells him that she needs to know that what they have is more than a work/sex relationship. She is looking for a degree of commitment.

At the airport, Clive takes his partners to their plane. Jane and Josef argue all the way there. It doesn't look promising for the conference.

Clive returns to the lab. He observes the two mutants in their cages. The healthy mutant tries to coax the sick one to eat its food. This small act of compassion affects Clive deeply. There is a conflict brewing in him. At last he gives in and telephones Elsa. It is an awkward conversation where both of them are incapable of saying what is really on their minds. Afterwards, frustrated, Clive leaves the lab.

He escapes to a dingy revival house and watches an old Universal horror movie. As he is leaving the theatre he notices a familiar face; Elsa is coming out of the movie too. He stops her, asks her if she wants to get a bite to eat. In a little restaurant, they engage in an involved conversation. Clive learns all about Elsa's background: her years at medical school, her relationship to Josef. When it comes time for Clive to talk about his career, he stumbles; he isn't allowed. But in a way, he is glad, he is much more interested in listening to her. As they part company, it is obvious that a real bond has formed between them.

Meanwhile, the forum on "Progressive Gene Therapy" is heating up. There is a lot of controversy surrounding the conference. Jane and Josef fight

through protesters and the media to enter the building.

Inside, the Company's P.R. people have organized a gathering of "experts" to discuss the ethics of bio-engineering. The whole event is clearly a sham and Josef is embarrassed and angry that he is being forced to participate. In a Q and A session with the press, Josef breaks the party line and discloses some damaging information about the Company's genetics policy. He leaves Jane alone on the stage to face the resulting frenzy of questions.

In the audience is STAN WHITE, a down and out reporter who has been looking to put himself back on the map. He leaves the chaos of the room confident that he has just found the perfect opportunity.

Back at the lab, Clive returns from his chance encounter with Elsa to find that the male hybrid has recovered. Clive runs some tests to be sure.

Later: Clive leaves the lab, smiling; the hybrid is healthy. Even JOE the security guard notices his perkiness. Clive has the aura of someone in love.

Walking down the street, Clive can't get over his good mood. Everything looks beautiful to him. As he passes antique store, an ornate music box catches his eye. He goes inside and buys it.

The following day, Jane and Josef return from their trip. They are not on speaking terms. Josef leaves the airport with his wife and kids. Clive picks-up Jane.

As he drives, Jane tears into Clive about the terrible trip. She says that in effect, Josef has ruined any chances they had of expanding their research. When Clive tries to defend Josef's point of view, Jane explodes. She is frustrated, angry and wants to be alone. Clive drops her off at her apartment, then drives off.

Clive parks his car at the university where Elsa is conducting her research. He finds her in the library studiously making notes. She explains that she is trying to develop a drug that will reduce the rate of rejection in organ transplants. Clive lures her away from work with the promise that he is going to show her something incredible.

Clive spent years at this university in the bio-medical department. He knows all its nooks and crannies and secrets. He takes Elsa down into the boiler room, then through a boarded up hole in the wall. From there they traverse a maze of cramped passages and stairways. Finally, they emerge in a musty room full of giant gears - the university clock tower. Light filters in through the translucent clock face. It is beautiful. Clive explains that as a student, this is where he used to go to be alone. Elsa is enchanted. Clive picks up an object from the corner, blows dust off it. It's the music box that he bought recently. Elsa opens it. A pretty tune chimes as a porcelain winged fairy spins around inside. Just then, the clock tower bells ring out. Clive and Elsa are startled. As the bells stop, an enveloping silence fills the room. Clive and Elsa stare at each other a long while, then suddenly they are in each others arms, kissing.

ACT II

The next day at the lab, things are tense. The 'team' is not what it used to be. They all grudgingly do their work in silence. Even the hybrids seem to sense the tension. Jane is certain that the program is going to be shut down.

Sure enough, a rep from the Company shows up. But he is not there to close the lab. Instead, he takes Clive, Jane and Josef to a new, bigger facility. He tells them that the Company wants to carry on with the next phase of the experiment in secret. Officially, the program will not exist.

The group are back to the old debate. Josef refuses to participate, but for Clive and Jane the temptation is too much. They agree to the Company's proposal. Josef returns to the old lab to continue his study of the animal hybrids while Clive and Jane make preparations for the next experiment.

Weeks later at the new lab, things are up and running. We follow Clive as he greets Joe, his old security guard friend, and passes through a web of security systems. Clive descends into the bowels of the building where the lab is. Tension between Clive and Jane is palpable, but they are prepared to cope with it to see their work come to fruition. At the

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moment they are overseeing the construction of a Birthing Chamber similar to the old one, only a larger, more evolved design.

At Joooff's house, we see his wife Anna preparing dinner. Clive and Jane are coming over. Elsa is there, looking nervous. Anna notices and asks her if anything is wrong, but Elsa can't answer. *Elsa is nervous about seeing Jane. Make that Clive.*

Clive and Jane leave the lab and head for Josef's house. On the way, all they are capable of talking about is work. There doesn't seem to be a personal connection between them anymore. *But she sides her suspicion and tries to make Clive talk about their plans to move in together. Jane is already suspicious.*

Dinner that night is a strange affair. The growing relationship between Clive and Elsa is painfully obvious, although they try hard not to give anything away. But Josef can tell. And so can Jane. At one point, Jane talks to Elsa in her bedroom. Jane borrows Elsa's hairbrush and nonchalantly takes some strands of hair.

While this is transpiring, Josef tells Clive that he and his family have been under surveillance ever since he refused to participate in the experiment. Josef indicates a suspicious-looking van parked across the street. Josef ^{warns} tells Clive not to get Elsa involved in all this because ~~the~~ the stakes have changed.

That night, Clive and Elsa are in bed together talking about their predicament. ^{together} They decide that Clive has to tell Jane. There is no turning back as far as ^{Human} their relationship is concerned.

In the lab, Jane injects the DNA and puts the gene soup in the cooker. Clive, gently as possible, tells Jane that he is in love with Elsa. Surprisingly, Jane doesn't seem very affected. She tells him that she has known for a long time and has already come to terms with it. And although it is painful for her, she does not want it to interfere with their work. Clive is relieved that she takes it so well.

NOTE: At some point one of them (Josef?) should mention a blank about "90% genetic DNA"

Now that it is out in the open, Clive and Elsa's relationship flourishes. We intercut between Clive and Elsa spending time together and Jane alone in the lab, watching the embryo gestate.

Clive and Jane decide to get married. They have a small ceremony and go to Josef's cottage in the country for the honeymoon. It's a great getaway;

Clive doesn't let or about Jose's surveillance.

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very rustic. But their vacation is interrupted when Clive gets a call from Jane on his cellular. The new hybrid's birth is premature.

Clive barely makes it back to the lab in time. He suits up and joins Jane at the Birthing Chamber. This time the birth is difficult. They almost lose it, but Clive and Jane manage to get it into an incubator. Once there it stabilizes and begins to grow rapidly.

Finally, *emerge from the incubator.*
~~After an ordeal that lasts days,~~ it is ready to ~~come out~~. It is has a fully matured, adult form; humanoid except for two feathery wings and a serpentine tail. It is beautiful in an unearthly way, but when Clive gets his first good look at it he is horrified to discover that it has Elsa's face.

Jane has used Elsa's DNA in the experiment, taken from those strands of hair she stole at the dinner party. They have made an animal-Elsa clone hybrid. Jane has exacted her revenge.

That morning, as Josef leaves for work, he notices he is being followed. Fed up, he gets out of his car and confronts his pursuer. It's Stan White, the reporter, but Josef assumes that he is ^{the} Company mole and inadvertently gives away some information about Clive and Jane's experiment. Now Stan knows he is on to something. He takes off, leaving Josef angry and confused.

In the meantime, Clive is trying to come to grips with his own situation. He is watching a horror movie with Elsa, trying very hard to act like nothing has changed. He stares at Elsa, almost studying her. He is making her self-conscious. Elsa asks why he's doing that. She wants to play around but Clive can't do anything. He can't watch the movie or be with Elsa. He makes some excuse and leaves for the lab.

Note: How are we going to make Joe pay off?

Clive visits Elsa's Clone. On the way he greets his buddy Joe the security guard, and passes through the intricate security system. The clone is held in a sterile, hermetically-sealed room. Clive watches her through a two way mirror. All around him ^{is} ~~are~~ recording and monitoring equipment. Sensors are taped to the clone's body. She appears to be shivering. Clive checks the thermostat: just above freezing. Clive quickly returns the room to normal temperature. Slowly, the clone appears to recover. Clive begins to observe data from all the machines. He reads off the data into a little

tape recorder. His manner is very detached and clinical.

Later. Same place, Clive has fallen asleep. He wakes as Jane enters the room. Clive accuses her of turning the temperature gauge down on purpose. He tells her to just concern herself with analysing the data. He will take care of the clone's safety and comfort. He doesn't trust her around it. Jane walks calmly out of the lab leaving Clive looking troubled and alone. She has succeeded exquisitely in exacting her revenge.

Jane walks out of the building the lab is housed in. Stan White is waiting for her. He starts asking questions, all of which Jane refuses to answer. She climbs into her car and tears off down the street. Stan turns to leave, but ~~he~~ is confronted by several goons, ~~who~~ lead him into an alley and rough him up. They tell him to stop snooping around. *who work for the Company.*

Meanwhile,

In the lab, Clive observes the clone. He drops some intelligence testing toys into the room via a sterilizing chute. At first the clone is frightened by them, but she quickly realizes that they are harmless and in no time ~~she~~ has deduced their function. Clive is impressed.

At Josef's house, Anna watches a Company spy watching her children playing in the yard. She goes to Josef angry and afraid. She wants to know what he did to make this happen. Josef tells her it's what he didn't do, but he can't tell her anymore than that. In the middle of their argument, Elsa shows up. She looks very upset. She says that ~~something~~ *something* has happened to Clive. He doesn't talk ~~to~~ *to* her anymore. He is ~~cold~~ *cold* and distant. Elsa ~~asks~~ *begs* Josef to find out what's wrong. *openly with*

Clive leaves his apartment for work. On his way, he stops at the antique store and buys another music box, similar to the one he gave to Elsa. As he leaves, Josef ~~stops~~ *who has been tailing him* stops him in the street. Josef wants to know what's ~~happening~~ *bothering him*. Clive pretends that everything is fine. He can't bear to tell the truth about what has happened. Josef can tell that something is up, but Clive won't tell him anything. When Josef insists, Clive gets angry. He tells Josef to leave him alone, to stay out of it.

At the lab, Clive puts the the music box into the chute and sends it into the clone's room. Clive is fascinated and strangely touched when he sees the clone react to it in exactly the same way that Elsa did. For the first

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slips and

time in his daily tape recording he refers to the clone as "her".

Stan White pays a visit to Elsa at the University. Assuming that she knows something about ~~about~~ her husband's activities, he threatens and intimidates Elsa. ^{But} When he realizes that she really doesn't have any information, he offers to help her. Stan leaves Elsa with his card.

Clive continues to observe the clone, his fascination becoming ever more apparent. He drugs the clone's food, and while she is asleep, he dons a protective suit and enters her room.

Later: Clive in the observation room watches the clone wake up. He has added pictures and toys to the sterile room.

Clive comes home. He's exhausted as usual. He expects Elsa to be asleep, but she's up waiting for him. ^{He just can't stand the hell of the situation} She confronts him about being away at work all the time and about the changes in him and their relationship. She's furious and wants a fight to clear the air. Clive can't handle it. He ~~leaves~~ leaves.

Clive goes back to the lab and watches the clone. He starts to dictate notes into the tape recorder, but he loses his train of thought. ^{His growing obsession with Elsa's clone is overwhelming -- all power is distracting him.} ~~Something~~ ^{is} impulsively, Clive turns off the video cameras.

Clive, in ^{the} protective suit, ^{looking somewhat other - world by himself --} enters the clone's room. The clone lurches out from a corner and attacks Clive. She is ^{incredibly} powerful, but he manages to wrestle free. He speaks softly to the clone, trying to calm her. He tells her that he likes her, that he won't hurt her, that he ~~had~~ ^{has} to see her in person. He tries unsuccessfully to make her smile. ^{He has a plan.} Impulsively again, he takes off his helmet. The clone is ^{suddenly} excited to see someone ^{who} looks a little like her. ^{she} She touches his face. Clive struggles with ~~her~~ but can't help it and ^{his powerful feelings} kisses the clone.

Horrified at what he has done, he ^{going into his emotion pushes her away} ~~runs~~ ^{he} into the scrub room, ~~and~~ washes himself down. He ~~puts~~ ^{is} now tapes into the video ~~recorders~~ ^{camera} and restarts them ^{again.}

He returns to his apartment late at night. Elsa is asleep. Clive crawls into bed with her. The moonlight filters softly onto her face through the window blind. He touches her cheek, leans into kiss her -- but can't.

At the lab, we see the clone on the floor, straining to breath, her face covered in sores. She is dying from exposure to Clive's germs. The music box winds down.

On the floor beside the box,

Clive wakes up from a nightmare. Elsa comforts him. Clive apologizes to her and they make up.

if being so distant and cold lately
In the morning, the phone rings. It's Jane. Clive ~~has to~~ ^{must} come ~~down~~ to the lab immediately.

The clone is dead. Jane wants to know what happened the night before. Clive, lying, tells her ~~everything~~ ^{most} was fine when he left the lab. He ~~suggests~~ ^{argues} that there ~~might~~ ^{is} be a contamination leak in the room. Jane is suspicious, especially when she notices that there is ~~an~~ ^a ~~gap~~ ^{gap} in the video tape record. Clive ~~explains~~ ^{dismisses} this as the time period during which he had to change tapes.

~~We follow~~ Stan White ~~and~~ enters his favorite greasy spoon and opens the morning paper. The headline announces that there is going to be a government investigation into the Company's genetics program. Stan slaps the table in satisfaction. *Why? need to explain further up that as result of probe a govt investigation is launched?*

Is this Stan White's by-line?

The clone's body is disposed of. Clive and Jane file a final report to the Company. Word comes back quickly that the Company is suspending the program indefinitely. The government probe is putting too much pressure on them. *They are relieved to have an excuse.*

where?

The lab is shut down. Clive and Jane go their separate ways. Both are secretly relieved that the ordeal is over. *There needs to be show down betw. Jane and Clive. Clive would take a chance of abscond from the company.*

the company

Jane goes to work w/ Axel.

Over the next few weeks, things return to normal. Clive and Elsa are getting along. Clive is taking the opportunity to relax and do work on the house. It seems that he has put the ordeal behind him. *planning to have a baby?*

One day as Clive is involved in some domestic activity. Elsa calls him. She has made a breakthrough. She wants Clive to come to the ^{medical} university immediately.

Clive arrives at Elsa's lab to find his wife hunched over a microscope. Elsa

When she tells him that she has succeeded in developing a synthetic substance that artificially increases the strength of virus antibodies tenfold. It's too early to draw any conclusions, but Elsa is hopeful. That night they go out to celebrate.

Wishes her

Later, at home, Clive wakes from another of his re-occurring nightmares. Elsa stirs in bed, but remains asleep. Clive tries unsuccessfully to go to sleep. ~~Something is troubling him.~~ He gets up and paces around the apartment. Eventually, he goes into the bathroom and washes his face. As he searches for a hand towel, his eyes fall on something: Elsa's hairbrush.

But she's buried alive as seen in the trailer

That same night, Joe the security guard is woken up as Clive enters the lab building. After much cajoling, Clive manages to talk his old pal into letting him into the lab.

Once there, Clive pulls the plastic tarps from the equipment and empties a glass vial containing several strands of Elsa's hair.

Weeks later

At the other lab, Jane and Josef continue to study the animal hybrids. Once again, the male hybrid is sick. This time, however, the cause is unclear. As Jane is running a test on the male hybrid's blood, a team of investigators spear-headed by a Congressman from the Ethics Forum invade the lab. Against Jane and Josef's protests, they impound boxes full of records and data.

Lab. Oh. I'm not sure if people

Strange events are also transpiring at Elsa's lab. She arrives to discover that someone has broken into her office and taken some of her synthetic immunization ~~serum~~ ~~samples~~. *Clive is the public announcement - an embarrassing amount of data is missing -*

Q: important

Elsa returns home. Clive is not there. She tries his pager: no answer. She is getting spooked alone in the house. She hears a rustling sound coming from her bedroom, upstairs. Fearful but unable to stop herself, she follows the sound. She opens her bedroom door... and screams. Lying on the bed is an animal hybrid clone of Elsa, identical to the first one. Clive is sitting next to it. The clone is sick. It is only half-conscious.

1) The clone Clive. The govt. investigators are hood.

He would like to meet her. He sounds strange, or nervous. He has to meet her at their secret hideaway at the University.
Elsa arrives. It is her turn she discovers it is sick and that Clive forces her to come to terms with it. He tells her everything: the

Elsa is too overwhelmed to answer. She doesn't know what to do. Clive tells her that Jane has alerted the Company. They are looking for him. If they discover the clone, they will almost certainly destroy it. Elsa moves close to the clone. She examines it, fascinated but repelled, and ultimately, feeling pity for it.

with

At that moment, the doorbell rings. Clive pleads Elsa for her help. Finally, she relents. Clive helps her sneak out the back with the clone. He tells Elsa to go to Josef's cottage, where they had their honeymoon. It is the only safe place. He will rendez-vous with her there later.

Clive goes for their lunch to pick up supplies. Jane finds him there.

Elsa takes off while Clive distracts Jane at the door. Jane wants to know what's going on. Clive plays innocent. He tells Jane that she is paranoid and still obsessing over him. *She's the one to worry. Clive is desperate looking for him. She's responsible in some way for what has happened.*

Their argument is interrupted as Jane receives an urgent call on her cell phone from Josef. She has to come to the lab immediately. When Josef hears that Clive is there, he insists that Clive come too.

Elsa pulls up the dirt road to Josef's cottage. She helps the clone inside. Once there, Elsa immediately tends to the clone's fever, makes a cold compress for its forehead. The clone responds to her. They seem to have a mutual, unspoken understanding; almost like sisters.

The copy gone show up at Clive and Elsa's. Run back into plot.

Clive and Jane arrive at the observation room in Josef's lab. Josef is watching the animal hybrids. The male one has disappeared into a cocoon. The female looks very upset. Clive asks what's going on. Josef explains that the male hybrid had become very ill for no explainable reason. And now it has enclosed itself in a cocoon.

As Josef gives the details of what has transpired over the last few weeks.

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Elsa receives a call from Clive. He sounds strange - scared. He asks her to meet him at their secret hideaway at the University. She arrives. It is her that she discovers the clone as you described all sick and how Clive forces her to come to terms with it. He tells her everything: the experiment, Jane using Elsa's DNA, that he became obsessed with the clone, accidentally killed it and then made another. Clive confesses that he stole Elsa's immunity drug in the hopes that this new creature would be able to survive outside of its sterilized environment. He was wrong. The clone is sick and he needs her help to save its life.

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As Josef ~~gives~~ ^{begins to give} the details of what has transpired over the last few weeks,

the male hybrid emerges from its cocoon. The female ^{suddenly} becomes very upset, screeching in her cage. ~~Suddenly~~ the male attacks her. Josef searches for a tranquilizer, but he gets to the cage too late. The hybrids have killed each other.

Clive and Jane are shaken by what they have just witnessed, Clive especially so, because he realizes what this implies - the same thing could be happening right now to Elsa's clone. There is no way to reach Elsa; the cottage doesn't have a phone. Clive is deeply afraid. He can't keep the secret anymore. He needs help.

Clive tells Jane and Josef about the clone and Elsa. Shocked as they are, Josef and Jane agree to help, if only for Elsa's sake. Clive and Josef head to the cottage. Jane stays back at the lab to study the hybrids. As Clive and Josef leave, they are tailed by the van that has been keeping watch on Josef's house.

At the cottage, Elsa watches the clone cocoon itself. She doesn't know what to do. She leaves the house in search of help. She gets in the car and starts down the drive, but she doesn't get far: the fuel gauge reads 'empty'. Can we help her?

Jane performs an autopsy on the hybrids. She makes a discovery and rushes out of the lab.

Clive and Josef speed toward the cottage but make a wrong turn and waste precious time trying to get back on track.

Elsa abandons her car and heads down the dirt road on foot. The clone shows up behind her.

Some Company men approach Josef's house, ominously. Anna answers the door. They move quickly past her and inside. Shut the door.

Clive and Josef reach the cottage. They catch a glimpse of the clone, but it runs away from them. They can't find Elsa anywhere.

The Company people show up. They get to the house to help. ^{Ken} They hunt the clone down, and as Clive and Josef watch horror stricken, they kill it and torch the body.

(9)

Jane arrives on the scene. She tells Clive and Josef what she discovered: the animal hybrid attacked because it changed its sex.

Is the importance of this clear?

Some distance from the cottage, Elsa walks out of the woods, disoriented. She sees a commotion in the distance.

The Company people have turned their weapons on Clive, Jane and Josef. They systematically kill each one of them, then burn down the cottage. Elsa sees the whole thing and escapes unseen. Satisfied that they have contained the situation, the Company people leave.

part. Some months later: Stan White is watching the results of the investigation into Company's genetics program. They find that the Company has done nothing wrong. Stan turns off the TV, disgusted. He takes all the tapes and notes he has made in his investigation and throws them in the trash. The phone rings. Stan reacts - It's Elsa.

We cut to Elsa at a payphone in another city. She has Stan's business card in her hand. She rubs it against her swollen belly, as she explains that she is pregnant and she needs his help.

THE END

CLARITY OF WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ELSA AND THE CLONE.