

INT. SHADOW GALLERY
V steps from the shadows.

V
Welcome home, Evey.

EVEY
You...
Her mouth hangs open.

EVEY
You did this... to me.

Evey's rail thin figure begins to shake.

EVEY
You did this to me!

She stumbles against the wall, unable to support herself.

EVEY
You -- You hit me and -- and cut my
hair. It was you. It was just you
all this time.

She doubles over, covering her face as she bursts into tears.

EVEY
You tortured me. You tortured me --

Evey looks up at him, body shivering as he quietly glides
toward her.

EVEY
Oh god, why?

V
Because I love you, Evey. Because
I wanted to set you free.

EVEY
Love?

A look of horror twists her starved face.

EVEY
Set me free? Don't you realize?

Slender fingers ball into fists.

EVEY
Don't you realize what you did to
me? You nearly drove me mad!
Disgust and anger light up her eyes.

EVEY

I hate you.

Her little, wiry body coils tight as she circles him.

EVEY

I hate you! Set me free? You put me in a prison to set me free?!

V

You were already in a prison. You've been in a prison all your life.

EVEY

Shut up! I don't want to hear it. I wasn't in a prison. I was happy! I was happy here --

V

Happiness is the most insidious prison of all, Evey.

EVEY

That's warped! That's evil and it's wrong! What gives you the right to judge? Who are you to say what's not good enough?!

V

You were born in a prison, Evey. I didn't put you there. I just showed you the bars. You've been in a prison so long, you no longer believe there's an outside world.

She wheels away from him, covering her ears, trying to get away from his voice.

EVEY

Shut up! You're mad! I don't want to hear it!

V

That's because you're afraid, Evey. You're afraid because you can feel freedom closing in on you. You're afraid because freedom is terrifying.

Evey falls, stumbling through the labyrinth of the Shadow Gallery.

EVEY

I can't feel anything! There's nothing left to feel! Don't you understand?

V

Don't back away from it, Evey.
Part of you understands the truth
even as part pretends not to.

She collapses, head pounding.

V

Woman, this is the most important
moment in your life. Don't run
from it.

EVEY

I don't know what -- Oh god -- I
can't breathe --

V couches next to her.

V

Good. You're almost there. Go
closer. Feel the shape of it.

EVEY

What are you doing to me? I can't
breathe --

V

You were in a cell. They offered
you a choice between the death of
your principles and the death of
your body.

He cradles her as she hyperventilates, tears streaming down
her face.

EVEY

I feel -- I feel like I'm going to
burst.

V

You said you'd rather die. You
faced the fear of your own death
and you were calm. Try to feel now
what you felt then.

EVEY

Oh god -- I felt --

The mask hovers over her.

EVEY

Like an angel --

He squeezes her shuddering body.

EVEY

Oh god, V, I'm so scared. What's
happening to me?

V

The door of the cage is open, Evey.
All that you feel is the wind from
outside. Don't be afraid.

Gently, he lifts her.

V

Try to walk. The lift will take us
to the roof.

EVEY

The roof? Outside?

He helps her to an open elevator.

EVEY

I -- I don't want to be
blindfolded.

V

No, Evey. No more blindfolds.

The cage in the elevator rattles shut.