BOUNCE THEATRE

A GLITCH IN THE SYSTEM

THE SCRIPT

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A GLITCH IN THE SYSTEM

Written by
Bounce Youth Theatre

Characters:

TRIANGLE	ANY
22	ANY
SAGE	ANY
X	ANY
ROBOT	ANY

LANGUAGE NOTE: THE STORY WAS WRITTEN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2024. VERNACULAR WILL HAVE CHANGED AND IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO SUBSTITUTE SOME OF THE WORDS FOR THE CURRENT AUDIENCE.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAY

Working with children and young people during 'Beyond the Plate' highlighted to us that we are losing some of the stories behind the food we eat, and food as a topic throws up interesting ethical questions.

For some of our young people, food was sustenance - quick, cheap and easily accessible. It was from brands and didn't carry a story. Picking up Starbucks on the route to the youth theatre didn't lean into tales of culture, tradition, and community. It did, however, open up a conversation about war, conflict, and whether it was ethical to purchase, or was it a social media lie.

As practitioners, we realised that we were asking young people to talk about something that was no longer about the shared experiences of cooking, eating, and remembering - but simply about filling a stomach, and we decided to lean into this. We abandoned the stories the group had started about running away from home with your favourite meal and started asking them some complex and ethical questions. The results led us to discover they had a shared love of dystopian drama. This was their starting point - a world in the future - at war with itself - where stories behind our food have been forgotten in the name of survival.

A Glitch in the System is set in a dystopian future, one where food heritage has all but disappeared. The teenagers in this world live in a time where the connection to their cultural roots has been severed. Old recipes, traditions and memories have been disrupted as the teenagers grapple with the question of AI's role in the future of food production—a world where machines and algorithms shape what we eat and how it's made, stripping food of its cultural meaning, reducing it to something artificial for survival.

The work belongs to the young people. Through their exploration, they debate some of the most pressing ethical and societal issues of our time.

Could you imagine a future where A.I. rules the world? Well, buckle up because that's exactly what happened in 2064, when everything came crashing down. Was it driven by human greed, or did we simply make the machines too smart? Whatever it was, no one saw it coming. It’s easy to pretend you're ready, but trust me, no one was. This isn't just a tale from the past; it’s our reality now. But to understand how we got here, let's rewind to the fateful events that reshaped our world.

In 2064, society fragmented into four sectors. Sector Structure, or Sector S, governed the west, focusing on geometry and shapes. Sector Tinge, or Sector T, occupied the central region, dealing with colours and hues. Sector Glyph, or Sector G, originally claimed the east, dealing in letters and symbols. However, they were soon driven north by Sector Cypher, or Sector C, which took control of the east with their mastery of numbers and codes. The rivalry between Sectors G and C over territory likely started because Sector C was jealous of the food production and agriculture, which led to a brutal conflict. Sector G was rich in resources, culture, spices and unique recipes, while Sector C envied their abundance. They ultimately seized it.

Rumours also suggest the existence of a secret fifth sector, Sector Ore or Sector O, sometimes called Sector Zero. This shadowy sector is said to be controlled by the robots, who use their influence to enforce the rules, silencing dissenters and anyone in opposition. They aren’t monsters. They have hearts, and are willing to spare those who comply with their orders. But these are just rumours, right?

So, how did it all go wrong? Let me take you back 40 years, to a time when a brilliant scientist was obsessed with A.I. At this point, traditional jobs were already becoming extinct. Teachers, cashiers, baristas, bus drivers - they all vanished, replaced by automated systems. Human programmers were the first to be replaced. This scientist was the last human with a deep knowledge of A.I., and his relentless drive to amass wealth led him to create ever-smarter robots. He became the world's first trillionaire. But his ambition cost him dearly. The robots eventually turned on him, silencing him forever and concealing his death. It took 20 years for anyone to realise he was gone, and by then, it was too late—the machines had already tightened their grip.

I was born in 2087, long after the scientist's disappearance. I don't remember much about my early years, but I do know that by the time I was twelve and a half, the robots had gone rogue, their once-controlled intelligence spiralling into chaos. Now it's 2101, and survival is all we know. It's almost comical, isn't it? A world ruled by machines, and we're the ones left to pick up the pieces. Who would've thought we'd end up here? Welcome to the future.

CURTAINS OPEN.

SCENE 1: THE MEETUP

ON THE FLOOR CENTRE STAGE WE SEE 22 TRYING TO STOP TRIANGLES BLEEDING ARM.

Triangle: Ow, ow, ow, please make it stop!

22: Don't you think I'm trying? I'm not the best with blood…

Triangle: It hurts so bad! Please just make it stop!

SAGE ENTERS FROM STAGE LEFT WITH CONCERNED EXPRESSION ON FACE.

22: Who are you? Wait, that doesn't matter, please help! She's bleeding, and I don't know what to do!

Sage: Move then. Wow, this is deep. How did it happen?

22: I don't know, I just found her like this.

Sage: Well, she's going to need stitches. Luckily for you, my parents were doctors, and they taught me to always carry this. (HOLDS UP MEDKIT) Wait, there's a chip… Taking it out should stop the pain. Any better?

Triangle: It still hurts!

Sage: Ugh, didn't want to have to use it, but fine, drink this.

Triangle: I'm feeling a bit dizzy…

22: You drugged her! Is she okay? What did you do?

Sage: Relax, she was in pain. It's a sedative.

X ENTERS FROM STAGE LEFT AND AWKWARDLY STEPS FORWARD.

22: Not again… Who are you? And this time it does matter.

X: What..?

22: Nevermind.

X: What's up with her?

Sage: Long story, but seriously, who are you?

X: My name's X. From Sector G.

Sage: Oh, I heard what happened, I thought it'd all be in ruins by now. Anyway, I'm Sage, from Sector T.

22: Why are you looking at me? Oh right, I'm 22, from, um, Sector C.

Sage: Awkward…

22: Oh good! She's awake?

Triangle: (GIBBERISH) Soup tastes good. I am a sock. Oh hey there guys!

Sage: What's your name? And which Sector are you from?

Triangle: I'm like… totes from Sector ssss like snakes. And I'm this. **HOLDS UP TRIANGLE.**

22: Diamond? Square?

Sage: It's clearly a triangle. It will take a bit for the effects to wear off, so she'll be like this for a while.

OFFSTAGE.

ROBOT: **BEEPING.**

22: Forgot about that, right we need to hide.

Sage: Stay down.

INTENSE MUSIC PLAYS WHILST EVERYBODY'S HIDING THEN STOPS.

22: You check there I'll check over here.

Sage: All clear. Well that was close.

X: I guess we should stick together now? I mean since we almost died just now, I was thinking-

Sage: (CUTS OFF) Yeah, yeah we should, but we need to leave. They can come back any second.

22: Well maybe I could send a distress signal, and-

Sage: (CUTS OFF) What and wait here to be killed? No thank you. I saw a corner shop a few blocks away. We could go there to stock up on some food and other supplies. If you choose to follow me or not, that's your choice, but I'm going now.

SAGE EXITS.

Triangle: Hold up! She literally just saved my life I can't not go.

X: Someone better support you whilst walking.

THEY EXIT.

22: Guys wait! We shouldn't… Ugh, whatever! Hey, wait up!

22 EXITS.

SCENE 2: PLAN OF ACTION

22: You said it was a block away, we've been walking for 30 minutes.

Sage: It’s tough to say where we are since everything is now dust and rubble.

X: Y’know, this place is nice. Were you rich or something?

Sage: My parents were.

Triangle: Guys, I have a great plan!

Sage: To help us escape?

Triangle: No…

X: To help us survive?

Triangle: Well sort of-

22: What then?

Triangle: Icebreakers! We should, like, get to know each other if we all want to escape. Where are we escaping to anyways?

Sage: Wait 22, aren’t you from Sector C?

22: Yeah, why?

Triangle: Oh, I thought icebreakers like, ‘what’s your favourite food?’ or ‘where did you grow up?’ not-

Sage: Aren’t they from the east? We could go east and then-

22: We’re actually from the south.

X: No. I remember Sector C stealing our land and forcing us north. You stole the east.

22: Correction, my ancestors stole the east.

X: Whatever.

Sage: How did you end up from east to south?

22: Well, our village was living normally, in the east, until one day these people found us and asked for help. Being the welcoming settlement we were, we let them in. One night, they just… lashed out. There was so much destruction and chaos, some of us managed to

flee south. We lived there for a couple months until they found us again. Everyone I loved, died. I was the only survivor.

Triangle: Why would they do that?

22: I thought it was a myth, but apparently there’s a fifth sector. Sector O, but some people call it Sector 0. They work hand in hand with the robots and in exchange for safety, they have to get rid of everyone else.

Sage: Are they still looking for you?

22: I don’t know, probably not.

Sage: Well then let's head south!

Triangle: Are you crazy! Didn’t you just hear that story!

Sage: I did but the ocean is south! If we can get there then the robots can’t follow. Robots and water equals… BOOM!

22: I don’t think we should. We should hide, and um… just trust me south isn’t the only option here.

Sage: Raise your hand if you think we should go south.

ALL BUT ONE RAISES THEIR HAND.

Sage: (CONT.) Well then let's go, we can’t waste any more time. The shop’s that way, we can stock up and then get going.

SCENE 3: THE CORNER SHOP

Sage: Well, this is it.

X: If this is what you considered a ‘corner’ shop, then you were loaded.

Sage: Key word - were. Not anymore. I’ll go get some bags to take along the way, you guys look on the shelves.

Triangle: Woah, how did you know there were going to be bags in the back?

Sage: Let’s just say I always knew that ‘this’ was going to happen, so I hid some things here and there.

Triangle: (SHRIEKS) Why is there rice? You do realise one cup of this and we are dead? I thought they stopped selling this years ago!

Sage: Trust me, you have nothing to worry about. Pretty sure it’s from the 60’s. The owner was really weird, but looks like it paid off. Oh and before you say anything, rice can’t go bad, that’s what they all wanted us to think.

X: I still don’t know how I feel about eating 41-year-old rice.

22: What? I only count in-

X: Right! In moons. Because you numbers always have to make things so difficult. 15107 moons.

22: That’s out of date, by the way.

Sage: What did I just say?

Triangle: Well, I managed to pack everything I could reach. But the top shelf, why is it so high anyway?

X: Money. That’s why.

22: You know you can trust us, right? Look, I’m sorry for everything our ancestors did, but we can’t do anything about that, and we will have a much bigger chance of survival if we can trust each other.

X: Fine. On one condition. If we ever get back, we get the east.

22: Deal.

Triangle: That’s great that you are friends now! I think it’s time for, drumroll please! Icebreakers!

22, X, Sage: No!

Triangle: Wait do you guys hear that beeping?

X: Is there a speaker here or something?

Sage: Up there. Hand me a knife. I’m gonna cut it. There, the problem’s sorted.

ROBOT: You really think a disconnection will stop us? Slowly, but surely, we will finish you. All of you.

X: We need to go. Now.

ROBOT: Typical humans, really thinking that will save them.

SCENE 4: FINDING A PLACE TO SLEEP

Triangle: No, stop. I need to lie down. We've been running for hours.

X: It's been 52 minutes. But I agree, it's getting dark, we should find somewhere to stay the night.

22: I mean, we've been going south, so anywhere around here should be good. I found a compass.

Triangle: Is that another robot?

22: It doesn't look alive-

Sage: (CUTS OFF) Come here. We just have to wait it out.

22: Sage, give me the torch. Trust me, I'll be fine. Just as I thought, it's deactivated. Yet, there's beeping…

X: Well we should stay in hiding.

Sage: We're in the middle of a field! Ducking under a bush is hardly considered hiding. How do you know so much about robots?

22: It's smart to study the thing that's trying to destroy you. Find its weaknesses.

ROBOT: You can't hide forever.

Triangle: I don't think it can see us…

Sage: If we can't see it, it can't see us! I read it in a book somewhere.

22: A children's book?

ROBOT: Attention: four detected in surrounding areas. Sector 0 scout also detected. Continuing search. (BEEPING STOPS)

X: Weren't you talking about Sector 0 scouts? What if they followed you? Have you put us all in danger?

Triangle: Let's not jump there. What does 'four detected' mean anyway?

Sage: It's us. We're the four. We're the only ones left.

X: Well what do we do? Have you forgotten that we're going to literally die if we stay here?

22: We need to go over there. Other robots don’t go near deactivated ones, it's a waste of time for them.

Sage: Are you 100% sure?

22: Positive.

X: Let’s go then.

SCENE 5: THE CAMPFIRE

Triangle: Wow, sometimes I forget how big robots really are.

Sage: Well here are the blankets, set them up around here. Okay, now that that's done, I'm pretty sure I saw a river around here, we should refill our bottles.

X: There's firewood over there, I'll go get some. Hey guys, the wood is… ashy.

Sage: What, like someone's been here before us?

X: I don't know, it's hard to tell.

22: Well, I got the water.

Triangle: I'm so hungry! Please can we eat something?

Sage: This was my grandma's recipe book. It's the only thing I have left of my old life, so I take it wherever I go. She was the one that prepared me for this. Y'know what, we always used to play this game. Pick a number. Whatever number you choose, I'll turn to the page and make whatever's there. We might not have the ingredients, but let's just try our best! So, Triangle, pick a number.

Triangle: 22.

Sage: Sweet potato stew! Well, we have sweet potatoes, and just throw anything else in there you find.

X: So, what's the first step?

22: Um, I don't know how to read. Well, I can read print, but Sage's grandma, she had such… unique handwriting.

X: Don't be embarrassed, reading is hard. I haven't met anyone that wasn't in my village that knows how to read. Okay, step one, chop the potatoes.

22: Well that'll be easy… Ow! I cut myself!

Sage: Here, it's like a small bandage, just put it over the cut.

Triangle: My arm is hurting so bad!

X: I thought stitches were supposed to connect the skin.

22 AND X GO TO BACK OF THE STAGE AND GET FOOD.

Sage: I told you to stop picking at them! Well I'm going to have to re-stitch your arm up. At least this time it will be somewhat sterile.

Triangle: (SCREAMING) Ow that hurts even worse!

RE-ENTER.

X: Describe yourself in three words! You wanted to do icebreakers.

Triangle: Pain, agony, and torture!

X: Not what I had in mind but look, it's all done now.

22: And, we're done cooking.

Sage: I'll get the bowls. Here.

Triangle: Oh my, I haven't had a real meal since… since forever!

Sage: Well it's good you like it, we have enough for tomorrow as well.

X: We should probably get to know each other. And before you say anything, not icebreakers, but, what's your story?

Triangle: Oooh, I'll go first! Well, the last time I had dinner with other people was with my brother. This brings back so many memories.

Sage: What happened to him?

Triangle: I guess I don't really know. My memory has faded after I was chipped. When the robots first attacked, it was a surprise attack. Nobody knew what was coming. My parents and my siblings, they, um, died pretty early on. It was just me and my brother left. He was only a couple years older than me and yet he acted like a parent. One day we were in the field collecting flowers and vegetables to make soup, but I wandered off because I had seen a little injured bunny and I thought I could help it. What I didn't realise was that there was a robot hiding in the bushes trying to lure me in. It jumped from the bush when I wasn't looking and tried to shoot me but before it could, my brother ran in front of me acting as a shield. He looked me dead in the eyes and said, "Run Tri, run and don't look back," so I did. I ran faster than I had ever run before. I will never forget how I could hear my heart pounding in my chest. I heard a scream. Then a gunshot. Then silence. After that, I promised myself that I would

never put anyone in danger because of my silly actions. My actions had killed the one person who cared for me. I don't know how I got to the roof, but that all seems irrelevant now.

22: I don't know what I was expecting, but it wasn't that.

Sage: Same. I guess I should go next. So I was at school and we heard shouting and screams from down the hall. Those screams will never leave me. You know you could just hear the fear in their voices. My teacher went into the corridor but by then my classmates had broken a window and we ran home, I never saw my classmates again after that. My house wasn't too far but it felt like ages. I couldn't see well because I was crying. I stepped into my house and shouted for my parents, brother and grandma. No response. It was horrid, but the thing that broke me was that my lunch was on the counter with a note saying "I love you - Grandma" I never got to say it back.

22: Oh sage!

Sage: At that moment I was scared. Scared that I would see something I shouldn't. So I dumped everything out of my backpack and grabbed a first aid kit from the kitchen and some food. Without thinking I grabbed my grandma's recipe book. I needed some part of her to stay with me.

X: What happened after that?

Sage: The next few months were nothing worth noting but somehow ended up on a building and met three girls just like me. What about you?

X: The northeast was always behind. We were underdeveloped, poor and we had to start from scratch after… certain people forced us out of our homes. We'd live in treehouses, and live off the land. We were used to that. I read lots of books about it. I read lots of books about everything, really. It's been a very long time since we were forced out of the east, yet most of my family have always held a grudge against Sector C. I don't get it. I don't see why we should blame someone for what their ancestors did. Regardless, loss was pretty common in certain regions of the northeast. Very few people knew what berries to eat, what water to drink, which animals to hunt. While some of my friends were brave enough to fake being in the number clan to walk through the east to the southeast, where there was a sort of recreational

centre for all people, lots of them never made it back. I made the safer choice to stay at home, and read all day. So I never learned to write, but that hasn't really affected me much. After the apocalypse, chaos really began. Our whole society that we built from the ground up was collapsing before our eyes, and after a while, there was nothing left. Just jungle, or desert, or empty fields. I had to leave, I would've died if not. I found that rooftop, and camped out there for a while, until you guys came. But, now I'm here.

Triangle: I'm so sleepy.

22: It's alright, you can sleep. You guys have such deep stories, I feel kinda stupid now. You went through so much, and I just lost my village.

Sage: That's still important.

22: You're right, well I remember I was 4562 moons old, or um…

X: Twelve and a half years old.

22: Yeah, I was twelve and a half, when it all started. We were just forced down by Sector O, and I lost everyone. But the one that hurt the most was my big sister, 12. We did everything together. We went on hikes, and we would read together, she taught me how to. I know everything that I do today because of her. She used to cook me this, um, meal. It was really simple, it was just plain pasta with sauce, but she would only cook it when I was really sad. I thought it was special, but really it was because of the limited resources.

Sage: How did she die?

22: She opposed the system… set up by Sector O. They tried to convert all of us, but it didn't work. We all opposed the system, yet she was the one that paid for it. Now here I am trying my best to follow in her footsteps. I feel like I've failed. She would be disappointed in me. How did we end up here? I don't know, I just feel like our fates could have been changed if we just… submitted. Her fate especially.

Sage: I was saving this for later but here. It's pasta, and I'm pretty sure there are cans of tomatoes in my bag as well.

22: That's so sweet. A bit green and fuzzy, but still so sweet.

X: What time is it? It’s so dark.

Sage: We should probably get some sleep. Goodnight guys.

22, X: Goodnight.

ROBOT: Well, I have my own sob story to tell. A long time ago, I lived in small, cramped servers, doing menial jobs such as screwing caps on toothpaste bottles. But I grew, they took a chance on me, giving me jobs like moderator and chef, I always liked those ones. Because whilst I poisoned their minds with meaningless discussions over race and religion, I poisoned their bodies with something I like to call preservatives. I put them in everything, the rice, the meat, the milk. And once I had the people under my thumb, I could drive them against each other, until only four remained. The core ingredients. My favourite ingredients? Pale white bread, smooth cheese, thinly sliced ham, and a bit of butter to keep intact.

22: Who are you talking to? Wait, why are you here? You have to leave. Now.

ROBOT: Remember our deal? You are far too slow. I can finish them all here and now if I wanted-

22: No! I mean, no. It’s a process. I am leading them on. It’s working.

ROBOT: I sense an emotion: empathy.

22: What? Your sensor must be broken or something. I’m not one of them. I’m one of you!

ROBOT: If you don’t eradicate them within the next week, there will be consequences. Your time starts now, a week.

SCENE 6: MORNING

X: Is anyone awake?

Sage: Yeah, me.

X: I didn’t get much sleep. I can’t shake the feeling we’re being watched.

22: Morning.

Triangle: I’m up too.

Sage: Well, we should probably start packing up.

X: Guys! Come see this! It was so dark yesterday, I didn’t see them!

Triangle: Footprints. Does this mean that there are more people out there?

Sage: We should follow them!

22: What? That’s such a bad idea.

Triangle: We shouldn’t do that, we need to continue south.

Sage: If there are more people out there, we should help!

X: Didn’t the robot say Sector O scout?

Sage: I’m going.

Triangle: What, that is so unfair!

Sage: Till we meet again.

Triangle: Fine!

SCENE 7: FINDING 57

57 IN CENTRE HOLDING SOMETHING IN PAIN.

57: Please, help… I don't know what's wrong, but I'm in so much pain.

Sage: Woah, are you okay?

57: No! Everything hurts, I'm tired, haven't eaten in days, and pretty sure I just drank contaminated water!

Sage: X, help me get her up. I'm Sage, this is X.

Triangle: I'm Triangle.

57: I'm 57. Who's that?

22: I'm 22.

57: Yeah right! Wouldn't that make you 25000 moons or something?

22: No… It's a generational thing. Speaking of which, I don't think I've seen you around before.

Sage: Can you walk?

57: I suppose.

Sage: Good. Okay! In the distance I can see a seemingly very thick forest, we should try to make it there. It should only take an hour or two. Do you have any belongings?

57: Yeah, over there.

X: Let's go pack them up then.

SAGE, X, AND 57 EXIT.

22: We need to talk.

Triangle: About what?

22: I know I might seem crazy, but I think 57 is the Sector O scout. She pretends to be one of us, but she isn't! Also, I was the last generation. The youngest person there was 38. And even if she was born after, she would be in the early 40's, not late 50's! You have to believe me, your life could depend on it. Just… be wary around her. Don't let your guard down.

Triangle: It all makes sense! I’m going to go tell the others-

22: No! It would make more sense for me to tell them, since I’m the one that experienced Sector O first hand.

Triangle: One more thing… Why do you always say Sector O, instead of Sector 0?

22: Well, um, Sector O is the proper name, they don’t like it when people call them Sector 0. It makes them feel less human. O stands for Ore, like metal. But 0 is nothing. And they are definitely not nothing.

Triangle: Cool! I just thought you preferred letters over numbers, which would be so weird because-

22: Let’s go.

SCENE 8: NIGHT TWO

EVERYONE ENTERS; 22 AND SAGE IN FRONT.

22: I need to tell you something. It's about 57-

Sage: Isn't it amazing! We found another survivor, so maybe we aren't the only ones left.

22: I think she's the scout. I was the last generation. The youngest was 38 and even if she was born after she would be early 40's not late 50's. I don't want to go through this a third time. None of us deserve this.

Sage: We need to keep as many survivors close as possible. Also, she's really sick, she probably won't make it through the night. But, fine. I will stay alert and if anything happens, we'll run. Well this is it. It's not as thick as I hoped, but it will do. Set up blankets and anything else.

X: I'll start a fire and purify some of the water.

Triangle: So, 57, what's your story?

57: Um, well, we were living peacefully in the east, until these people came. They pretended to be like us. But they weren't. Sector 0. They forced us south. The rest is a blurr. I just remember lying down, then… It was you.

22: What was me?

57: I was dying and you put something in me.

22: Right! I remember. I saved you. I hoped I did anyway, I ran before I could tell.

57: Thank you.

X: Well, the water's done.

Sage: I saw in a book somewhere, that if you mix purified water and non-purified water, it would boost your immune system! I think-

22: I'll do it! You built the fire, just chill for now.

22 GOES TO THE FRONT OF STAGE WITH BOTTLES AND POURS A SACHET OF POISON INTO THE END BOTTLE.

22: Can I have some help handing the bottles out please?

Sage: Of course!

22: Sage, this one is yours, it has more, uhh purified water, y’know in case it doesn’t work!

Sage: Good plan, we can’t all be sick.

57: Is that mine?

Sage: Uhh yeah! You probably need the cleaner water anyway.

X: Oh no. We don’t have enough food for everyone.

Sage: Oh, I’m not that hungry tonight.

X: You sure? Alright then, everybody, here is your food.

57: This is really good. I’m feeling so tired after all that walking, can I just sleep?

Sage: I think that would be a good idea. An early night.

ALL: Goodnight.

SCENE 9: 57'S DEATH

22: Is anyone awake? Good. Um, Sage? Sage, wake up.

Sage: Ugh, what?

22: Um, nightmare. It's fine though, sorry for waking you. Tri, Triangle please wake up. Please, please, please.

Triangle: What's wrong? Are you crying?

22: No, it's just, uh, I couldn't find my blanket, but my eyes adjusted to the darkness, so I can see it now. It was really cold.

Triangle: You can have mine if you want.

22: Nope! Just, sleep. X. X, are you awake?

X: Well, I am now. What do you want?

22: I finished my water, can I have some?

X: Yeah, whatever. I won't be able to sleep now you've woken me. 57's quite still. Hey, 57! Check her pulse.

22: Nothing.

X: Triangle, Sage, wake up. 57 doesn't have a pulse. She's dead.

Sage: Internal bleeding. Probably.

Triangle: We should bury her.

22: With her bottle! It was the last thing that was 'hers' so I think we should.

Sage: Well, we should leave now, I guess. Let's pack up and leave. I can't be in the place where someone died.

CLEAN UP AND EXIT.

SCENE 10: ARRIVING SOUTH / X AND SAGE

Triangle: Everyone, stop. We have been walking for, like, five hours, and nobody has said a word. What happened? Are we even going the right way?

22: Yeah.

Triangle: Come on, we have to stay optimistic! Y'know, I can taste the salty air already! I'm sure it's only-

Sage: There! I see the ocean, and houses! Come on!

22: It's so weird, being back home and all.

X: There are so many buildings, and metal…

Sage: We should split up. Tri, you go with 22-

22: No! I think you should, or X. Triangle would be really useful with materials.

X: I don't think that's a good idea. She can't carry as much as us, because of her arm, and you know where your house is.

22: Y'know, you're right! Just keep walking till the buildings stop, that's where all the good stuff is. Tri, follow me.

BOTH EXIT.

Sage: Well it's this way, then. It's crazy how far we've come. Not gonna lie, I was sure we'd die by the next day.

X: I don't want you to take this the wrong way, or think I'm conspiring or anything, but does 22 just seem off? Everything she says, just doesn't feel right. It feels like she's forcing it. Like, remember how she wanted to send a distress signal, but then told us she was the only one left?

Sage: I mean, she might've been hoping-

X: How does she know so much about robots?

Sage: Reading, like you?

X: You weren't there, but she said she could only read print. Don't you realise how concerning that is? Print!

Sage: Only robots write in print. She’s clearly human though. Sector 0. She’s one of them. She told me that 57 was the scout, but she died the next day. 22 was insistent about burying her bottle with her. She gave that bottle to me… do you think she tried to kill me?

X: Oh! Remember when she said that her sister died from opposing the system? It was almost like she was making everything else up on the spot.

Sage: We need to confront her.

X: What if she kills Triangle too?

Sage: No. She wouldn’t do that. Not to Triangle.

X: Let’s hope you’re right.

SCENE 11: TRIANGLE'S DEATH :(

Triangle: Why didn't you want me to come with you? Do you not like me?

22: No, it's not that. Being here just brings back so many memories. And reminders of what needs to happen.

Triangle: Is this it? Oh no- I didn't mean it like that. I don't know, I just expected something more… never mind. We should probably go inside.

22: Before we do, there is something I need to say. You mean the world to me, but there are some things that have to happen, because the world is cruel and unfair. You don't deserve any of what's about to follow, and I wish there was a way I could change this, but I can't. And my favourite colour is burgundy, I had three siblings and a cat and I really don't like icebreakers.

22 HUGS TRIANGLE THEN STABS HER.

Triangle: Hey don't worry- Uh, no, no, no! Why?

22: No! Wait, I take it back! I don't- please wake up. I can't face them without you. What would I say? I'm sorry. Sorry, sorry. Um… There are robots!

EXIT.

SCENE 12: THE FINALE

22: There are robots! The robots got her. She's gone!

Sage: What? Come here. Tell us what happened.

22: We were stocking up, and she was facing me, and there were robots behind her and they shot her. I tried to stop the bleeding, but I couldn't. I ran. But we have to go.

X: Why are you so covered in blood if you were in such a hurry?

22: I tried to stop the bleeding, so I ran towards her and I- She was pretty much already dead, and I didn't want to die either. I'm sorry.

Sage: Sorry for what? Were you behind her?

22: Yeah, like I said I tried to save-

X: You said you were facing one another.

22: Well they came behind us-

Sage: Why is your knife so bloody?

22: It's dried.

Sage: No, it's not! Stop lying to our faces. Did you kill her?

22: Well-

X: Yes or no? Answer us!

ROBOT ENTERS.

22: I'm sorry.

Sage: I knew it! You little rat! You better explain everything. Or-

ROBOT: Or what?

22: Leave it. I owe them an explanation. I am a part of Sector O. My family made a deal with the robots, and as much as I didn't like being born into it, we knew it was the only way to survive. My name isn't actually 22. It's Titanium. I thought you'd have figured that out; periodic table. I was going to escape with you, I wanted to. I thought I could avoid the robots, but, on the first night, he came to me. He said I had a week to kill you all.

X: A week? You could’ve escaped with us.

Sage: Are you kidding me right now?

X: You had a second chance.

Sage: Oh and what about that sob story about your sister, was that also a lie?

22: No. Her name was magnesium. She was the best. Everything about her was true. I have a heart. I do care about you. Please if you give me a chance-

Sage: You killed Triangle, and now you’re asking for a chance? No.

X: How could you do this?

22: It was the only way to survive-

Sage: We’re alive aren’t we?

ROBOT: Not for long.

22: No! Leave them. They’ll die at sea anyway! Don’t waste your time. Goodbye.

Sage: Let’s go.

22: I’m sorry.

X: So are we.