

*Life with Lucia* Issue #0 (Version 2 -- Exposition Revealed Over Time)

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**PAGE ONE** (six panels)

PANEL 1: A wide-shot of a futuristic city. The streets are busy with people heading where they need to go, all dressed as if they were in the early 1950s. A man and a woman, Roger and Anna, are small in the center of the frame, but we can tell it's a man a woman, the bustling city life happening around them.

ANNA: Slow down, cowboy!

PANEL 2: Medium-shot of Roger, early thirties, dressed in a slick suit and fedora, shaking his head and smiling at Anna, mid twenties, stunning blonde, short and fit, in a gorgeous dress, as they hurry along the street.

ROGER: Come on, Anna. You're the one that always talks about marriage. Aren't you excited?

PANEL 3: Anna grins.

ANNA: Uh, duh, Roger! But why the rush? Why now? It's so...

PANEL 4: Anna's grin fades.

ANNA: It's just unlike you.

PANEL 5:

ROGER: I love you-

ANNA: (cutting him off) I know.

ROGER: And I realized I wanted to spend the rest of my life with you.

PANEL 6: Anna stops.

ANNA: When? During the meeting? And the rest of our lives is one thing, but why Lucia?

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**PAGE TWO** (nine panels)

PANEL 1: Roger looks around nervously.

ROGER: Yeah, during the meeting...

PANEL 2: It's a FLASHBACK, wide-shot, we're inside a luxurious conference room. Roger is sitting at one end of a table, looking terrified. We're looking as if seated at the other end of the table. All around the rest of the table, men and women in business suits lie sprawled out, bloody and dead and slumped forward on the table, blood leaking from their seats.

CAPTION R(oger): ...it was right after Mr. Basern had shut down everyone else that was working on a project like ours.

PANEL 2: Wide-shot from Roger's view – we see the bodies slumped around in the other direction and MR. BASERN, a big brute in a suit and circular-framed sunglasses, grinning at us with his hands interlaced.

CAPTION A(nna): So tell me about it!

CAPTION R: Okay, but on the way. We need to get to Lucia.

CAPTION A: Ya, ya.

PANEL 3: Medium shot of Mr. Basern, leaning in toward the dead body seated closest to him.

CAPTION R: Mr. Basern was telling me that just because he hadn't shut me down in the meeting like everyone else...

PANEL 4: Mr. Basern pokes the lifeless body, grinning.

CAPTION R: ...didn't mean he wasn't about to.

MR BASERN: So, Mr. Derenick...Roger, sorry, you prefer the first name. Your peers are dead already, whereas you have been poisoned.

PANEL 5: Mr. Basern leans back in his chair, reaching into his coat pocket.

CAPTION R: I started thinking about life...

MR. BASERN: You will be dead soon, Roger.

CAPTION R: And you.

PANEL 6: Mr. Basern pulls out a cigar and lighter.

MR. BASERN: I kept you alive longer to tell you -- we will get your research partner too. Your girlfriend, yes?

CAPTION R: What effects me effects you too.

PANEL 7: Mr. Basern lights the cigar.

MR BASERN: You have a few hours. You will die before you have to see us kill her. So do not worry yourself trying to stop us.

PANEL 8: Back in the present, Roger and Anna are about to round the corner of a street.

ANNA: So why Lucia?

ROGER: Because maybe I want to be there for you even if I die. Just in case.

PANEL 9: Roger and Anna round the corner to the Lucia building. Roger is horrified to find themselves at the end of a long line of couples spewing out the door, a billboard out front reads: TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE ENDS IN LIFE. A LUCIA MARRIAGE IS FOREVER.