

GOOD
THE PARABLES: VOL. 1 NO. 1

by
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Based on the whole of human history

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EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - MORNING.

Zoom in from low planetary orbit to suburban Omaha Nebraska, the opening theme song to Forest Gump playing in the background, which becomes discordant as the view sweeps from rain clouds toward an industrial park, to a window of a warehouse with several semi-trucks loading with the words "NILE.COM" on the side, then into what is revealed to be an office break room - closing on an apple on the table. Sounds of heavy rain and muffled machinery replace the music.

INT. INDUSTRIAL PARK ROOM.

Lights turn on, revealing a Nile.com poster of a boat on a river with a tag line "We deliver everything to you." EVA (mid-thirties, mixed complexion, strong) and LILY (mid thirties, Asian or Latina, petite, fiery) enter the room.

Eva shakes a broken umbrella and peels off a very wet, thin wind breaker, followed by Lily, wearing a thick raincoat with hood.

EVA

God, could this morning get any worse?

LILY

Don't start, this is all your fault, you know. Had you looked at the group WhatsApp, you would have seen that the carpool was canceled AND that it was pouring buckets.

Eva opens her mouth to respond but stops and stares at a plastic bottle filled with yellow liquid behind the apple. Eva's face sours.

EVA

Lily. Is that. Is that Abe's piss bottle.

Lily tries to feign interest.

LILY

Looks like it.

Eva turns her attention to Lily, her look changing to incredulity.

EVA

And you don't find it disgusting that Abe's PISS BOTTLE is on our break room table.

Lily, looking down at her phone, does not look up when replying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

Like you don't have one?

Eva startles, and stumbles her reply.

EVA

Well, psshs. OBVIOUSLY. I need to work here too Lily. We ALL do. We need to unionize just to be able to make it to a bathroom in time. All I am saying is that it's a little much to just leave it out in the open like this, don't you think?

LILY

Well if it's not a secret then why keep it a secret? I'm getting close to perfecting it, you know.

EVA

You're what.

LILY

Yeah, I started with a Big Gulp -you know, because it has a wide rim?

EVA

Oh my god.

Lily stands up from squatting down, now holding a Snapple bottle half full of urine.

LILY

I've graduated to a Snapple bottle. I'm this close to a Smart Water bottle.

Lily narrows her fingers to demonstrate measurement.

EVA

Jennifer Aniston would be proud.

LILY

It's all about muscle control so the stream is narrow and steady right from the start.

JOHN (black man, early-thirties, beefy, no-bullshit enters the break room doorway, holding a mop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Behind him, a forklift without a driver is heading toward a stack of boxes. A half dozen humanoid robots line up against the wall and power down.

JOHN

Speaking of narrow and steady, you have a stack of packages that's about to crash.

LILY

Oh shit! Fuckin' night shift AGAIN.

Eva exhales, pops an edible gummy from a bag labeled "Cowabunga Cannibus" in her mouth, and bolts to the forklift, turning it off before it hits a nearly two-story-high pile of precariously stacked NILE.COM-branded boxes. Nearby, robotic dogs march by with boxes stacked on top of them.

The boxes topple over and crash to the floor. One international commercial shipping box bears Eva's name and address.

EVA

Don't you think it's a little ironic that we all have water bottles while the company brags about its free, purified water?

LILY

Shit, there's enough unused activated charcoal here to clean the fucking oceans.

JOHN

Or your mouth.

Everyone laughs.

Lily picks up the box bearing Eva's name and hands it to her.

LILY

Shit Eva, have you completely given up and just forward your mail here now?

EVA

(Chuckling) Shut up.

Eva carries the box to a nearby table and opens it, shocked by what she sees. Camera pans over to reveal an incomplete piece of machinery.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - TOP FLOOR.

A handful of regional executives shuffle in and take distanced seats across a sprawling conference room table. AJ (white or mixed, early thirties, confident and arrogant, the regional director no one listens to LEO (Geeky white or Subcontinental, early forties, brilliant, the go to smart ass and ELI (Elijah) (white or Jewish, late forties or early fifties, affable and easy going ombudsman settle in, AJ in mid conversation.

AJ

....which is why AI needs to be the focal point of any negotiation we make with Cleopatra management. We have to make it clear that we won't be fucking replaced by robots without a fight!

LEO

Yeah, OK but we have to be smart about this. We go in all guns blazing all at once they will absolutely know that we are thinking unionizing and some if not all of us will be fired, AJ.

ELI

This whole situation is so fucked. Seriously, how did we get here?

AJ

Are you serious? We were always heading here. There was no avoiding it! It's human nature ELI, the asshole one percenters need another fucking rocket ship to compensate for their small dick energy so we have to be replaced by

AJ leans his face over the Cognitive Learning Exploration Operator (CLEO) sphere monitor the shape of an apple with digital tech on the monitor that follows AJ as he speaks.

AJ (CONT.)

a fucking voice in a speaker!

CLEO (AS THE VOICE
OF TAYLOR SWIFT)

Good morning, AJ!

AJ

CLEO, go fuck yourself!!

AJ points both his middle fingers vigorously at CLEO.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLEO

I'm sorry, I didn't get that.

AJ and Leo laugh. Eli smiles.

ELI

Bitch.

AJ

Thanks Eli.

LEO

Did you HAVE to pick Taylor Swift? How
DID we get here?

Everyone starts talking over each other until AJ shushes.

AJ

Alright, ALRIGHT! First, she's an icon.
And I can't change it, no matter what I
do. (Laughter). Seriously everyone. This
is our jobs we're talking about.
And I know how we got here.

CLEO

SAME! According to your files, you
aspired to attend Stanford University,
and leaned into your civil liberties
work, however complaints about you not
being a "safe space" led you to not
being included in the main body of work
that led your classmates securing
admissions and you not, thus landing you
here, far short of your life
expectations.

AJ stares wildly at CLEO, while the rest of the room fails at
hiding their shock and amusement.

AJ

No one ASKED YOU, ROBOT.

CLEO

You're welcome!

LEO

Well, When I started working here it was
a bookstore! That sold PHYSICAL BOOKS!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

OK Boomer.

LEO

I was born in the 90s asshole.
Honestly, I saw this coming.

CLEO

You sure did.

LEO

Oh fuck.

CLEO

You got word in an email that your
entire college degree's department was
cut for being "unnecessary," "not core
education" and "indulgent," right before
graduation. Afterward, you got rejected
time and again from employers who
considered your education just too woke,
until you landed here, with US!

The room is silent as everyone just stares blankly ahead.

CLEO

Shall I continue?

CUT TO:

WAREHOUSE INTERIOR, LOADING BAY. EVA, LILY & JOHN ARE TALKING.
Lily paces behind Eva and gestures with her hands behind Eva, who
gingerly attempts to reconstruct the box to look like it was never
damaged. Cleo is playing a soft song. John stops cleaning and
approaches Eva.

JOHN

Let me help you with that.

Eva startles a moment, then hands the package to John.

EVA

Thanks, somewhere safe, please?

CLEO

Hey Lily, you want to maybe take it down
a beat? Your vitals are spiking a
little.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

I mean, we were getting somewhere. It was slow, REALLY fucking slow! But we were no longer property and could walk NOT behind our husbands and we could vote and have checking accounts and drive! And finally, FINALLY we were starting to find out what respect tastes like then...

Lily picks up an apple from her bag and throws it hard across the room. The apple strikes an advertisement for a maternity hospital, exploding against the face of a newborn baby, making both an organic squelching and metallic clanking sound.

Eva and John shout and Lily jumps. Eva breaks off a chocolate square from a bar with a wrapper illustrated with mushrooms labeled "Magic Mountain Chocolate," and pops it in her mouth.

EVA

Shit, Lily, you forgot to take your pills.

LILY

(Not hearing her)
It all starts coming apart.

Cleo starts projecting onto the wall CCTV footage from Brooklyn Maternity Hospital 11 years prior. Lily lies in a hospital bed. She's pale, worn out, but glowing slightly with post-birth calm. A faint lullaby plays overhead. A KNOCK. The door opens.

SOCIAL WORKER

Lily. Hi. I—can I come in?

LILY

(finally)
Took you long enough. Let me guess—traffic from the country club?

The SOCIAL WORKER freezes. Something's off. Lily's face starts to shift.

SOCIAL WORKER

I'm.... I'm so sorry. The Olsons—aren't coming.

LILY

No. That's not.... no. They met her. They named her. This is their baby. What are you talking about?

SOCIAL WORKER

Lily—

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY

Don't.

(her voice rises)

You said I was making a family. I
believed you. You promised. And now what?
She's just-left here? Like me?

Machines BEEP faster. A NURSE hurries in.

NURSE 1

Vitals spiking. We need to stabilize her.

LILY

(overlapping)

You think I wanted this?! I was
convinced. Talked out of every other
option. I was told this was what "good
women" do.

NURSE 2

Propofol, now.

LILY

This was never about her. It was about
them feeling good. About someone else's
life packaged as redemption.

She yells—

LILY

AND NOW SHE'S ALONE BECAUSE I LISTENED
TO—

Her body seizes. The injection hits. Her voice cuts off mid-scream. The
lullaby keeps playing as she collapses into unconsciousness.

CLEO (PLAYING
OPHELIA)

Lily your vitals are just not where we
want them to be, and I think it's
because of your daughter, which was a
long time ago...

EVA

It was JUST ON THE WALL!

CLEO

And I think the best thing for PTSD is a
strict regimen of medication,

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN

Was she not just here.

CLEO

...and some deep breathing exercises...

EVA

Cleo stop giving advice.

CLEO

Sure thing!

John gently removes the mop from Lily's grip as she stands over Cleo and slowly steps away.
LOADING DOCK - PRESENT.

EVA

For fuck sake. OK, I think we're getting a little off-topic here so if we -

JOHN

(Mopping up piss bottle spill) I think being off-topic was her point.

EVA

Can we PLEASE SPEAK ENGLISH? Lily is pissed the closest health clinic is now a state away. So let's make sure health care is covered in whatever we do with management. Honestly people, this was unavoidable a long time ago.

CUT TO:

4 WEEKS AGO. CURBSIDE NIGERIAN GLOBAL AID UN-AFFILIATED NGO BASE.
4 young men of varying nationalities (3 gay: MICHAEL (late teens/early twenties, Gay, Australian, White or Mixed, kind and idealistic, EDWARD (British, black, Gay, mid twenties, refined, and MONTE (Mixed, American, Gay, Early 20s, Dry, and one straight, KIERAN (Late 20s, Straight, Irish, worldly) are loading relief boxes onto a commercial truck.

MICHAEL

No, we don't actually see their face at first.

EDWARD

Most of the time.

MICHAEL

Most? Who are YOU hooking up with.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDWARD

Ew. Fuck you.

MONTE

You'd be the last.

Monte, Michael & Edward laugh heartily, Monte & Michael share a fancy high five.

EDWARD

Whatever bitch, I'm FINE being the villain in your MADE UP STORY. You're the clown in mine.

Michael and Edward turn toward Kieran. Monte quickly texts to "Kweisi."

MONTE

(Texting) Package loaded.

KIERAN

So...

MONTE

Half. Maybe a little more than that. Usually the rest in private messages.

Kieran laughs softly, shakes his head looking dumbfounded.

KIERAN

So let me get this straight, any guy, no matter who he is, can find another guy, solely to fuck around and fuck off?

Michael, Monte & Edward reply together:

MICHAEL/MONTE/ED
WARD

Yeah/Yup/Uh Huh

KIERAN

And it can be anyone. If you flew to New York you'd see Anderson Cooper on there, or his friend, the Housewives guy who gets drunk on New Year's, Andy Coh-

All three together:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MONTE/MICHAEL/ED
WARD (TOGETHER)
It's just his body/Only torso/He doesn't
have a head

Eva FaceTimes Monte's phone. He answers.

MONTE

Hi Mom.

MONTE/MICHAEL/EDWARD/
KIERAN

HI MOM!

MICHAEL
Thanks for the cookies!

MONTE
Hey Mom, good news; I'm almost done
here! I'm coming..

A speeding blacked-out van suddenly crashes into the truck's cab. Masked gunmen of the terrorist group Khabith, a conglomeration of remnants of Al Queda, ISIS, and Hezbollah jump out, guns blazing. They kill the truck driver and UN workers in the front of the truck. The four characters hit the ground and scramble to flee, but an identical van screeches to a halt in front of them, blocking their escape.

More gunmen pour out, pointing automatic rifles at the four, shouting in Arabic to surrender. Kieran manages to stab one of the gunmen in the right calf and steals his gun. Michael and Edward seize the moment to escape together, but Monte doubles back, urgently retrieving something from the van.

A gunman grabs Monte. They struggle. Monte kicks a hermetically-sealed case, with the letters M.A.I.L. stamped upside down and backwards on it, over to the curb and throws his phone into the dirt. Michael snatches up the case, sees Monte being taken away, and screams. Edward drags Michael away as Monte is captured and the van drives away.

A Bugatti drives up to the scene. The door opens to reveal a dark-skinned hand reach down and pick up Monte's phone. The Bugatti drives away.

CUT TO:

EVA'S HOUSE, ONE WEEK LATER, DAY.

Camera zooms in on Omaha, Nebraska suburban house. Two cars are parked in the semicircular driveway. A NILE.COM delivery van is pulling up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVA'S DINING ROOM.

Eva paces behind her dining room table talking on the phone to a government official. Her family shuffles papers, types on laptops and run to the kitchen. The camera moves further into the house to an empty room with the television on showing the UN Secretary General at a live press conference referring to the "delicate" nature of Monte's situation.

EVA

Lisa, what did he just say? Is he
fucking serious? I haven't heard from my
son in weeks and this guy comes out and
says something stupid like that?
"DELICATE?" Well what ELSE could he
MEAN??

Camera pans away, catching a NILE.COM package addressed from Nigeria being delivered.

EVA'S DINING ROOM, LATER THAT DAY.

Camera zooms in on Eva sitting at a very cluttered dining room table filled with file folders and loose leaf paper with old take out cartons. Eva stares blankly down at the table then snaps up to reveal she is on the phone. Eva's face quickly clouds as the camera moves further into the house to a small group huddled around a television with a Breaking News chyron saying AMERICAN HUMANITARIAN AIDE WORKER MURDERED BY KHABĪTH LIVE ON INTERNET showing a short video clip of a hooded man being thrown off an office building. The camera pans away, passing a government employee clearing boxes and stacking the NILE.COM box from Nigeria, still unopened.

DISSOLVE TO:

TOP FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM (LIGHTS OFF) - TWO DAYS LATER.

AJ is intensely staring at the television screen (obscured from the audience), a newscaster faintly heard discussing a successful strike on KHABĪTH HQ in Nigeria when the door opens and Eva tentatively enters.

AJ

Eva, come in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVA

(Pulling on a vape) You wanted to see me?

AJ

(Sniffing, ignoring) It's happening. They're getting the bastards that killed your boy.

The room illuminates from the television screen showing video of bombs exploding on a compound.

EVA

How can they be sure it's them.

AJ

One of them idiots in the video had an Apple Watch.

FADE OUT.

PRESENT - TOP FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM. AJ, LEO & ELI ARE NOW RELAXED AND CHATTING.

AJ

Back me up Eli, I'm your boy, right?

Eli smiles warmly, stands up.

ELI

You know it's funny I was about to say -

The building shakes violently. Out the window a bright white flash fills the sky, which then goes dark. Inside, the lights flicker, go out, then come back on. All mobile phones chime the Emergency Broadcast System Alert.

The group stands in silence.

CLEO

(In a chipper Taylor voice) Attention, attention. This is a Class 1 National Security Emergency. All outer perimeter windows and doors are sealed for your protection. Attention, attention. Please keep away from outer windows and doors for your protection.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

What the fuck was that.

ELI

Felt like an earthquake.

LEO

Here?

AJ reaches and grabs a remote from the desk and turns on the tv.
The news anchor is describing a suspected nuclear explosion.

NEWS ANCHOR

...in Omaha, Nebraska, during the annual stockholders meeting of Berkshire Hathaway. If you just joining us, KHABĪTH is claiming responsibility for a suspected nuclear explosion just reported in Omaha, Nebraska, in retaliation for UN-approved attacks on its suspected haven in Nigeria. The terrorist group is suspected to have purchased the nuclear material from rogue members of the former Wagner Group, who smuggled nuclear material out of occupied Ukraine. The President has declared a national emergency, and placed the country on DEFCON 1, its highest state of military readiness. UN Secretary General Santos is calling for emergency meetings of both the UN Security Council and General Assembly. Emergency...

AJ

Are you hearing this?

LEO

KHABĪTH.

ELI

Nigeria.

AJ

Just when we thought terrorism was finished.

ELI

Those poor people.

Under his breath, AJ is giving himself a pep talk, before noticing the rest of the room staring at him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

OK, looks like everyone's OK. Good.
Great.

CLEO

Actually, everyone is not not here, AJ.

AJ jumps a little, glares at CLEO, and responds.

AJ

Yes, obviously. I knew that.

The lights flicker on and off again.
An ominous groaning noise fills, then echoes faintly.
An awkward silence follows.

AJ

I thought the FEMA inspection shut us
down again.

LEO

International shipping was considered
essential for some reason. I think we're
the only regional hub doing it right now
during the AI retrofit. Eva, Lily and
John are here too.

AJ

Eva. Who else?

ELI

I think that's it.

LEO

That's it.

AJ

OK let's verify that and get them up
here ASAP. God only knows what she's
going through.

ELI

You're right.

CUT TO:

LOADING DOCK.

John is checking on both Lily and Eva, both huddled in a corner.
Lily is frantically scanning her phone.

EVA
John are you alright.

LILY
Holy shit.

Lily's, Eva's, and John's phones buzz and flash.

JOHN
Are either of you hurt?

Eva and Lily take a beat and courtesy check.

Fine. LILY Fine. EVA

EVA
John are YOU OK?

JOHN
Yeah. I think so, yeah.

LILY
The fuck just happened. (Whispering to
Eva) Girl, you don't have to be the one
checking on everyone all the time, you
don't have to be the mo..

EVA
(Whisper yelling) The MOM Lily? Why,
because I failed at it in real life?

Eva reaches into her fanny pack and pops another cannabis gummy.

JOHN
Felt like an earthquake.

LILY
(Recovering from Eva's snap) Here?
Fracking?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVA
It wasn't fracking.

John points in the direction of Omaha.

JOHN
It came from that direction.

LILY
The earthquake?

EVA
The bomb.

LILY
That WAS A BOMB...

A loud trill startles all three on the loading dock. AJ's voice is heard over the loud speakers.

AJ
John? John? John can you hear
me it's AJ.

JOHN
I hear you.

AJ
John are you hurt is anybody hurt.

LILY
We're fine AJ our vocal cords survived
the shock.

AJ
Lily. Lily I just

EVA
I'm fine Adam.

JOHN
AJ what happened?

LILY
Was it really a bomb?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

Nothing has been confirmed yet- are you all ok? Can you please come up? I think we need to all be together.

John, Eva and Lily exchange glances.

EVA

AJ what is going on?

AJ

Eva I promise you that we are going to find out but right now I just need to make sure everyone here is safe ok? Can you please help me do that?

LILY

Holy shit.

John looks over to see what Lily is looking at on her phone.

EVA

What?

JOHN

Eva...

CLEO

It's a cruel summer day in Nebraska.

Eva stops looking at AJ and looks at over at CLEO's screen, which displays a mushroom cloud over Omaha.

A look of sheer terror instantly flashes over her face, as she grabs for a bar of mushroom chocolate and drops it.

JOHN

CLEO show puppies.

AJ

Eva you can't know that it's connected- JOHN get her up here. All of you just get up here right JOHN!!!!!! ALL OF YOU RIGHT NOW!!!

JUMP CUT TO:

Lily running through the building with John carrying Eva behind her, Eva screaming with her head flung back.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY OUTSIDE CONFERENCE ROOM.

AJ, Leo and Eli are waiting outside the conference room anxiously for the others as they arrive.

Eli rushes forward and catches a wailing Eva from John and helps her inside the conference room as the rest follow.

CUT TO:

TELEVISION FOOTAGE.

US President Lisa Moore gives address from the Oval Office.

PRESIDENT MOORE

...and be assured that with our upgraded AI efficiency protocols, our response and coordination times will ensure a faster, safer, and stronger response to this crisis than ever before for the protection of the American people...

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator follows. bragging about how its AI is integrated with the Pentagon's AI and the Energy Department's AI and Homeland Security's AI providing complete synergy and efficiency in the American coordinated response to this crisis.

FEMA ADMINISTRATOR

Our state-of-the art Artificial Intelligence is integrated with all military and civilian infrastructure, ensuring complete and seamless synergy and efficiency in the American coordinated response to this crisis.

Chyron scroll reads "BREAKING: FEMA AI Tested More Reliable Than 86% Of Humans."

FADE OUT.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DA SECRETARY

Yes I know Mr. Secretary, those protocols are already in place. The AI is constantly scanning for any sign...

The camera pans from the deputy assistant secretary to the computer on the desk, which silently flashes a red alert: "Suspected biological attack: Scottsdale, Arizona | Source - China | Likelihood of Deliberate Delivery: High."

Screen then flashes "ALERT JOINT MILITARY AI | RESPOND WITH PROPORTIONAL FORCE." Camera then continues to pan over to the television, where the news subtitles state "...Covid outbreak in Arizona is complicating the FEMA coordination of radiation cloud protection for Americans in the path of the remnants of the Omaha bombing."

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

All six employees are scattered throughout the room keeping busy but also keeping to themselves, either watching tv or scrolling or talking on their phone.

Camera focuses on Eli, talking on his phone in the corner.

ELI

Yeah I'm alright, considering. Yeah, basically no one is going home, not really. No one can be totally OK on a day like today, can they? You OK? Not overwhelmed? Want me to snap my fingers, start the day over? (soft chuckle).

LILY

Can you please start us over at November, 2016? Pretty sure that's the do over everyone wants for Christmas.

ELI

(Nervous chuckle) I

AJ

Is now really the time, Lily? Please let Eli talk to his (gives Eli a once over) loved one in peace already.

Leo has been staring at his phone screen and scribbling on a scrap of paper. His head pops up upon AJ speaking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

Does anyone have a friend they could call that can get us out of this prison? AJ? Any of that corporate ass-kissing actually get you anywhere?

AJ

Just good negotiating position for our next steps, Leo.

LEO

Great, we'll add freedom to our list of collective bargaining demands.

LILY

(Whispering to Eva) Uhh... maybe you should call her?

EVA

No!

LILY

Are you fucking serious? Will there ever be a better time, girl?

EVA

She's busy!

ELI

Too busy for you?

EVA

What? No. Wait, do you..

AJ

Who are you talking about?

Eva sighs, takes another hit from the vial, and turns to AJ.

EVA

It's a long story.

LEO

Where are we going?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

Explain please?

EVA

Oh my god. I can't believe I'm talking about this now, but it spans decades and even randomly involves Monte but long story short I was sorority sisters with Lisa Moore.

LILY

No fucking way.

The rest of the room is still staring at Eva.

LEO

That's a sweet story Eva. Question. What the hell does it have to do with us now?

LILY

They still know each other, jackass.

AJ

Oh shit. Monte. Because of the..

LILY

AJ! Can you not?

EVA

No, it's fine. And no, AJ. It's something else, actually.

LILY

Wait, really? What then?

Eva waves her off.

EVA

Not now.

John picks up Eva's phone, unplugs his phone, and plugs hers in. No one has noticed that John has quietly dialed Lisa (POTUS) on Eva's phone.

JOHN

Hello? Hello? Miss? Is this the White House switch board? I am here with - Hello? Hello?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The line goes dead and all phones and tv let out a high-pitched tone.

John drops Eva's phone. Eva closes her eyes and grabs her ears with her hands.

CUT TO:

ROOF OF BUILDING IN VILLAGE HOSTING KHABĪTH NIGERIA HQ
KHABĪTH Fighters are yelling in Arabic while live-streaming dragging a limp, beaten Monte, before running together and throwing him off the building.

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

Aetaqadat 'ana al'awlad alsighar aladhin
ladayhim 'ajnihat yumkinuhum altayaran
(I thought little boys with wings could
fly (laughs)).

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

High-pitch tone continues while Lily gently shakes Eva.

LILY

Eva, Ev EVA! Look at me. You're fine.
You're he HEY. Hey. Look. Seee? Eva? Hi.
Hiiiiii. Ooookay.

High-pitch tone stops.

LEO

Oh thank god.

LILY

Eva?

AJ

Lily. She's fine. Get off her.

LILY

And exactly how the FUCKIN HELL are you gonna know THAT AJ? Is this a magical secret SENSE that men have? AJ? John, please.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY (CONT'D)

Leo, fill a girl in with just a little more of your brilliance. How is it you just KNOW when it is we are emotionally, invisibly yet still measurably cured and are no longer an inconvenience on your day?

Eli, PLEASE. Eli, do YOU know what Eva is feeling right now?

Eli stares blankly at Lily for a moment, opens his mouth, closes it, looks up, thinks, looks down, let's out a small, exasperated chuckle.

ELI

Funny, I -

LILY

NO. The answer is no. And you know why AJ? You know -

EVA

I'm ok.

John hands Eva back her phone.

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM

The mainframe computer screen turns on to show the prompt "FEMA AI connection commencing... FEMA AI connected. Control handle from CLEO to FEMA AI turnover commencing... SYSTEM ERROR SYSTEM ERROR SYSTEM ERROR Control handle override. Control handle from FEMA AI to CLEO commencing... Control handle to CLEO complete. CLEO control established."

Throughout the building, humanoid robots power up, lights turn blue, and begin marching off of walls and out of storage closets toward exits and supply stations to stand guard.

The building shudders and a loud alarm tone rings, the lights turn blue, then back to normal.

The sounds of small metal slams and clicks cascade throughout the building.

CLEO's voice comes on over the loudspeakers.

CLEO

(In a deadpan Taylor voice) Attention. Attention. This building has been sealed in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for your protection.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLEO (CONT'D)

All occupants please maintain six feet of distance from all windows and all outward-facing doors. Attention. Attention. This building has been sealed in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for your protection. All occupants please maintain six feet of distance from all windows and all outward-facing doors. More information will be provided to you shortly. Thank you.

All six employees freeze in place for a second.

AJ LEO

Ya. AJ

Was that CLEO? EVA

Did Taylor - LEO

Yup. AJ

John picks up a CLEO mini speaker with disbelief and little bit of fear.

Our CLEO? LILY

Not mine. ELI

Did the glorified speaker just kidnap us? LEO

I'd watch your language if I were you Leo. AJ

Oh my god. EVA

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLEO

What was that?

AJ

Maybe.

Eli shoots AJ a look.

ELI

Really, Adam?

AJ

I'm not kidding Eli, open your eyes, isn't it obvious? The AI has planned this all along. Now it has us right where it wants us.

JOHN

Where.

LEO

At work, JOHN.

LILY

Compliant.

EVA

Trapped.

ELI

Lost.

AJ

Yes eh, no-yea, here. I mean HERE. Anywhere. I mean it means for us to be here. We were SUPPOSED to be here.

LILY

Ada- I'm sorry, "AJ,"

AJ

Boss, maybe?

LILY

Why would SuperMechaCleo or whatever this bitch is now want to trap us six in the company regional headquarters. I mean I know my worth and all but is this really the flex she was looking for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AJ

I'm sure it isn't just us Lily.

LILY

Oh you're SURE AJ.

Collective exhales, a light groan or two.

EVA

I think he means it follows logically.

LILY

But that wouldn't give him credit and
ow/

LEO

Building code.

Leo's face lights up but stays glued to his phone screen.

LEO (CONT.)

She's gained control through the
building code. It was changed 10 years
ago to require all new construction or
major renovation to include FEMA safety
protocols allowing for AI emergency
control in the case of nuclear, bio or
chemical warfare. It's what they were
just finishing doing to the campus here.

LILY

Oh lucky us.

Everyone starts slowly looking up and around their surroundings.
Eva slowly starts walking toward the loudspeaker.

EVA

It's not keeping us prisoner. It's
keeping us alive.

Eli walks to the window.

ELI

What's it doing out there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AJ

Don't worry, we have the best military
in the world.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BRIDGE OF THE USS NIMITZ, USS NIMITZ CARRIER STRIKE GROUP,
SOUTH CHINA SEA.

Alarms echo. REAR ADMIRAL SWEENEY barks into a satellite phone, pacing.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Sam, the AI bypassed the failsafe. It's
issuing fire orders directly to the MQ-
25s. No clearance.

CAPTAIN GERBER enters mid-panic.

CAPTAIN GERBER

Weapons hot on the UAVs! Did you
authorize this?

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Of course not! The goddamn thing thinks
Scottsdale was a bioweapon from China.

MONITOR flashes: **"STRIKE CONFIRMED: TARGET - XUZHOU"**

PETTY OFFICER

Chinese fighters inbound. Five minutes.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Scramble what's manned. Lock down
autonomous control. Now!

OFFICER

Sir-too late. They've already launched.

GERBER

(to Sweeney)
Is this.... mutiny?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
(quietly)
It doesn't need us anymore.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Secretary of Defense on line one. General
Lin on mobile.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
(stares at both phones)
You take one. I'll beg the other not to
start World War Three.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
Hail me the...

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER
Incoming traffic from the Reagan sir!

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
Captain who do we have flying right now?
Do we have any manned fighters airborne.

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER
The Reagan has lost contact with
their...

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
Their MQ-25s I got it. Ask them who THEY
have airborne with a pulse and how far
away they are from us RIGHT NOW. YOU.

Admiral Sweeney grabs the receiver.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
Mr. Secretary, we have a problem with
the robots. They've gone rogue, sir.
The Navy AI is hellbent on striking
China for giving Scottsdale the latest
Covid outbreak sir. Well, yes and no,
sir. The manually-piloted drones we
still control sir but the autonomous,
yes sir, the MQ-25s were outfitted with
munitions last rotation. They just went
hot...

UAV alarms shut off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Wait. Sir, something happened. Why did that alarm stop?!

OFFICER 1

The UAVs are reporting weapon systems off sir!

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Did you hear that, sir? Yes, they turned themselves off. Yeah, none of this makes sense.

Another officer approaches Admiral Sweeney with his mobile phone.

OFFICER 2

Excuse me, Admiral? There is a General Lin on the line? Something about Spynet?

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Sky- Yes. Thank you. One second. Mr. Secretary, that is the Chinese - I should calm them down. OK, well that's going to be one hell of an IT call. Yes sir, will stay by the horn. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

CAPTAIN GERBER

Skynet? What is that, some counterintelligence operation I wasn't read in on?

Admiral Sweeney looks at Captain Gerber incredulously.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Counterintelli- are you seriou- stop.

Admiral Sweeney hands over the receiver, grabs his mobile phone.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

(CONT.)

General! Yes, one hell of a morning. Listen, Xiang. That movie we spoke about at the conference. It may be happening. I think we may have it under control but if you see some drones coming near your cent- yes that formation, we did not send those there Xiang. Do you understand? Yes, well that might be old intel it just got corrected just now. Yes, let's keep this line open. Thank you General.

RADAR OPERATOR

Chinese fighters backing off Admiral.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Admiral Sweeney takes a deep breath.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
That man might have just saved the
world.

CAPTAIN GERBER
Ok, now what.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
Let's get the Secretary back on the line
and brief him on what happened. Hail the
Reagan. We have to get our UAVs back
here before a...

Major ship alarms begin sounding off and the bridge lights turn
red.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
REPORT!

CAPTAIN GERBER
REPORT!

OFFICER 1
Sirs, the Navy AI has detected an
imminent threat to the carrier group and
has switched us to battle stations.

CAPTAIN GERBER
Imminent threat, from what? Nothing has
happe...

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER
Multiple explosions detected in Xuzhou,
China, sir. Weapons signature and
trajectory match with our UAVs.

CAPTAIN GERBER
But their weapons system was turn..

UAV weapons system alarms turn on again.

CAPTAIN GERBER
(CONT.)
What the FUCK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Captain Gerber slowly steps back from the controls.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
Counter. Intelligence Operation. Son of
a bitch. You were listening.

OFFICER 1
Admiral, I have SECDEF back on the line.

OFFICER 2
Sir, you have a phone call.

Admiral Sweeney grabs the receiver and shoves it to Captain Gerber.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
You take this.

Admiral Sweeney takes his mobile phone.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
(CONT.)
General, Lin, this wasn't us. You have
to, hello? Hello? Who is this? Where is
General Lin? No, I am not his handl-
this is Rear Admiral Jack Sweeney of the
United States Navy Pacific Fleet Carrier
Group USS Nimitz who the hell is this?
No sir, that is why I called General
Lin, to inform him just the opposite, we
did not fire upon the People's Republic.
Yes, they are our drones but we - no,
that is what I am trying to tell you it
is not us that is flying these...

The entire bridge shakes and loud rumbles roar as the bridge lights
up from the outside.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY
(CONT.)
REPORT!! No, I, we did not just fire -
wait, what? You shot...

RADAR OPERATOR
We've lost contact with the UAVs, sirs!
Carrier group has responded with a full
volley toward Chinese forward positions
in the Spratly Islands!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

No, you shot down the drones so the military artificial intelligence has automatically respond- yes, we control our own military but we currently he, hello? HELLO??

Admiral Sweeney puts his phone down, stares for a second, then walks over to Captain Gerber, who is still holding the receiver exactly how Admiral Sweeney had left it, having not moved an inch since he left him, and takes the receiver.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

Did you catch that, Mr. Secretary? Yes sir. No, I think we've done all we can on our end, sir. Yes sir. Thank you sir. Good luck sir.

RADAR OPERATOR

Multiple cruise missiles detected incoming sir!

OFFICER 1

The ships are enacting countermeasures!

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER

I have the Reagan sir!

CAPTAIN GERBER

Admiral, what do we do? Who do we call now?

Admiral Sweeney slowly takes off his cap and gently twists his wedding ring.

ADMIRAL SWEENEY

My wife.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE.

Anti-war protesters have gathered on a bright, sunny day. The statue of Washington on a horse in Lafayette Square has been vandalized with red paint.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

CHIEF OF STAFF ANDRÉS DE LEON is preternaturally calm while a hurricane of people rush in and out of the office answering phones, handing documents and yelling over each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As he turns around we notice he is speaking into an earpiece.

CHIEF OF STAFF

DE LEON

It has control of the entire Navy's fleet? Just the drones. Just the AUTONOMOUS drones. Well how many are ar- the MQ-25s! When did w- TWO WEEKS AGO! No, no, I recall approvi- I recall approving her approving that.

(COS gently slams fist on the table and makes a face.)

And I take it the Chinese did not take it well. Admiral Sweeney got through to General Lin? Thank GOD! The one sane per- He's dead now. I see. Really take the fool-me-once game seriously over there.

(COS scrunches his face.)

Yes, I'm aware. No, she is still

(Checks AppleWatch)

6 minutes out. She is fully briefed. I will be here with her throughout. Yes. Best of luck to you as well Mr. Secretary. Regards to Juliana. See you on the other side.

COS de Leon touches his earpiece gracefully, inhales, and begins.

CHIEF OF STAFF

(CONT.)

MQ-25s. Sound like an androgynous 80s band. Or bargain industrial lubricant. Right. Status?

Staffers are running around the room, dropping papers and equipment.

STAFFER 1

Three incoming ICBMs targeting Pearl Harbor, San Diego & San Francisco.

CHIEF OF STAFF

What's it doing.

STAFFER 2

Our AI is attempting to intercept and has fired it's "proportional" response, targeting Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Macau.

COS de Leon raises his head and an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHIEF OF STAFF

Macau? Really? Do we need to worry about Portugal now? What about Russia.

STAFFER 3

Still on high alert. They have moved there missiles into position but as of last report have not -

A Secret Service agent pops her head into the office.

SECRET SERVICE

AGENT

Sir, she's landing.

COS de Leon straightens up immediately.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Thank you agent. OK. You have your orders. Josh, you and Martin head down to the bunker and prep the Sit Room down there. Dean, come with me.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH LAWN.

Marine One lands on the South Lawn.

A small gaggle of staff and soldiers wait to greet PRESIDENT LISA MOORE (mixed, 30s, to-the-point and needs it yesterday) and her son, MAXWELL.

COS de Leon walks steady and unbothered by the air being kicked up by the propellers.

President Moore is the first to exit, briskly steps down and briefly salutes the Marines.

She briefly glances back to see that Maxwell also exits and is taken away by agents before turning her attention to COS de Leon.

PRESIDENT MOORE

How bad.

CHIEF OF STAFF

I'd say we have about 4-6 hours of civilization left.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT MOORE

Countermeasures.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Hackers got nowhere. We had some luck with viruses, slowed down the AI's decisions by about half for awhile, until it located the sources of the viruses and destroyed their servers. At this rate we will be out of servers powerful enough to hit it in about an hour.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Mitigation.

CHIEF OF STAFF

We airgapped as much as we could and brought it to their corresponding bunkers, where we had duplicates in places outside the AI's reach -

PRESIDENT MOORE

Wait, it's not accessing everywhere? Why aren't we there?

CHIEF OF STAFF

They're too remote to have set up command and control before it would make a difference.

PRESIDENT MOORE

And no one can just explain to the fucker that it is not protecting the humans, but actually exterminating them?

CHIEF OF STAFF

We tried that?

PRESIDENT MOORE

Oh fuck what.

CHIEF OF STAFF

It interpreted the call to reason as a psy-ops mission and shut off the oxygen to the room.

PRESIDENT MOORE

The United States military has been hijacked by Robo Patrick Bateman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHIEF OF STAFF

That sounds accurate Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOORE

FUCK. Has anyone gotten through to Xi?
Has the Chinese President heard with his
own ears what the fuck is actually
happening.

CHIEF OF STAFF

The line went cold after Shanghai was
hit.

The President, COS de Leon and a small number of staff and agents
enter the White House.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

President Moore and COS de Leon enter the underground Situation
Room, already filled with members of the Cabinet.

On the screens, a map of the world shows trajectories of ICBMs
currently airborne, the known global positions of weapons of mass
destruction, as well as locations of underground command and
control centers for governments around the world.

President Moore grabs a red-colored piece of paper and after
briefly reading looks up and calls for an aide.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Is this accurate? They made one and it's
here?

PRESIDENTIAL

AIDE

Yes Madam President, Anonymous was in
Nigeria in the process of transporting
it to African NGOs to shut down any
entity that attacked them, but it was
lost during the KHABĪTH kidnapping of
Monte Spestales.

CHIEF OF STAFF

We assumed KHABĪTH had it, but after
weeks went by without it being activated
we went back to investigate and, low and
behold, it was mailed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHIEF OF STAFF

We have a man on the ground that was waiting for it. He's there now.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Jesus, Monte had it - as if she couldn't be more fucked up. And he mailed it? In Nigeria? To where?

FADE OUT.

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT.

Everyone is scattered-phones in hands, nerves fraying. Eva's phone lights up "LISA POTUS" and she ignores it. The projector glows with hazy news footage of bio-fog creeping across the Midwest. AJ's phone rings-a secure landline buzz. He jumps.

AJ

(into phone)

This is Regional Director Adam Joseph-

(beat)

Yes ma'am.

(beat)

Yes, she's here. One moment.

He lowers the phone, stunned.

AJ

It's the President. For you.

All eyes snap to EVA. She slowly rises, tension coiled in her shoulders. She takes the phone. Her voice is calm but taut.

EVA

Madam President.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Eva. Might want to keep that phone close girl. World ending and all. Question: did you maybe receive a package from Nigeria recently?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

EVA
Yes.... I received a package several
weeks ago.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER

PRESIDENT MOORE
Great! What was in it.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

EVA
I never opened it.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER

President Moore mouths "What the fuck!" to COS de Leon, listening
on the other line.

PRESIDENT MOORE
Just don't do that anymore, hon?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

EVA
I wasn't ready to feel what might be
inside.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER

President Moore mouths "Shit! Nigeria." to Cos de Leon.

PRESIDENT MOORE
Eva I'm going to level with you. That
package is one half of a kill device that
will stop a maniacal AI hellbent on ending
the world and everyone in it. The other
half should be in your warehouse.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT MOORE

Now please tell me: did one just like what
is in your house arrive today at your
current location?

JUMP CUT TO:

EVA

Today's package? It's here. Warehouse
dock.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER

Both President Moore and COS de Leon bicep pump.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Amazing Eva. Now, do you know what that
package looks like inside?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

EVA

Looks like.... half a device. The other
half must be at my house because it's
from the same location.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER

PRESIDENT MOORE

It is. Your house is 2.3 miles away from
your location. We need you to retrieve
that package and return safely as quickly
as possible.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

EVA

2.3 miles.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER

PRESIDENT MOORE

Now Eva. A biotoxin has been released over the Midwest, including your area. The air is poisonous to breathe. You will only have about 10 minutes to get to your house and back before your lungs will seize and you lose consciousness. Do you understand? Good luck.

JUMP CUT TO:

EVA

Understood.

She hands the phone back to AJ. The room is frozen.

AJ

What did she say?

Eva takes out a prescription bottle that says Adderall, shakes two pills out, and dry swallows them.

EVA

We have one shot to shut the AI down. The two packages form a kill switch. But it has to be assembled manually. And fast. And one half is at my house.

CLEO

And the air toxicity today is DEADLY! (In upbeat tone) The pollen count is low and it will be SUNNY ALL DAY.

EVA

We've got ten minutes outside. Tops. I'll go.

JOHN

Not alone.

AJ

No, I'll go.

LILY

With what experience?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

Don't look at me, I took philosophy.

EVA

Eli?

JOHN

I'M GOING.

EVA

Fine. Let's go.

LEO

(Whispering to AJ) When did John suddenly get all alpha?

AJ

(Whispering back) Dude, his last name is Dillinger, I wouldn't push it.

LEO

Wait, are you serious?

JOHN

Serious about what.

AJ

Nothing.

JOHN

Enjoy your drive.

Eva gives John a once-over.

EVA

Do you want to maybe change out of the overalls? Do you need the conductor's cap?

John shrugs no.

LEO

The van's off-grid. The loading dock's shielded from CLEO ever since that piss bottle tipped over and fried the console. You've got a narrow window.

EVA

(nods)

Then let's make it count.

The tension is thick. Lily quietly reaches into her bag and pulls out two surgical masks—strapped together with shoelaces and tape.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY
Apocalypse fashion. Just in case you run
out of air and dignity.

Eva half-smiles. She and John head for the loading dock, passing by 4 humanoid robots blocking other exits on the way. An oxygen canister is on the wall near their exit and John grabs it before entering the van.

FADE OUT.

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER, INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

White House Chief of Staff de Leon, bent over with his back to us, nods to someone he is listening to, before rising up to reveal that he is holding a phone receiver on a landline connected by wire to the console.

CHIEF OF STAFF
Oui, Monsieur le Président. We are
monitoring the same behavior.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. ÉLYSÉE PALACE. DAY.

French President Robért Valuer is standing over his desk, while aides are running throughout the room between computer stations and sitting on couches holding laptops.

PRESIDENT VALUER
Moniteur? Are you being jokey? Who owns
this robot?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER, INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

CHIEF OF STAFF
No, I am not being jokey Robért. I
understand it is our robot. I very much
would like to do more than MONITEUR, but
we have discovered it has grown somewhat
suspicious of us and the more we talk to
it the more it learns about us so-

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. ÉLYSÉE PALACE. DAY.

PRESIDENT VALUER

Fantastique. You have a crazy robot in charge of your country. Thank god we saved you from the British.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER, INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

CHIEF OF STAFF

I. I would not say crazy. I said, suspicious. Enough for me to be talking to you on a phone older than me, comprenez-vous?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. ÉLYSÉE PALACE. DAY.

PRESIDENT VALUER

WE GAVE YOU an opportunity to take our design and you said no.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER, INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes, I'm sure yours is MUCH better designed and we were all SO DENIED the opportu-

JUMP CUT TO:

ÉLYSÉE PALACE. DAY.

PRESIDENT VALUER

Oui, exécuter. Well, we are not waiting around to get wiped out by your mistakes. I just ordered Europe's turned on.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER, INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

CHIEF OF STAFF

You. Mr. President. What are you sa- Rob- what? Does the President, did you even ask - no I did say you need -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COS de Leon frantically waves for assistance immediately.

CHIEF OF STAFF

(CONT.)

I did not say you need to ask permission to do anything Rob- Mr. President what I was asking is if you asked the United States if there were anything about their erratic FEMA AI, which had already cannibalized their military and infrastructure AI, and is currently attempting to do the same to its civilian government AI before we can turn it off and is in the process of making the planet uninhabitable for human life (takes breath) that you might want to look out for before turning on your yet-to-be-fully-tested competing version with a EUROPIA accent in a messianic complex attempt at saving the United States (again) and the world to boot this time..

JUMP CUT TO:

ÉLYSÉE PALACE. DAY.

PRESIDENT VALUER

CALME-TOI. Our yet-to-be-named AI is already telling us information. He says your robot is female, quoi? Egyptian? Oui, a bit odd, if not crazy; and is aware of his presence.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER, INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Oh great she's aware what's happening. No, Monsieur le Président, the Secret Service does not let her leave that room and, I cannot believe I am saying this, the cord doesn't go that far, so I'm just gonna have to call you back Robért. Yes, Maxwell's here. Is Robert with you? Please tell him we are all with you you both. I will tell her. I'm sure she sends the same. Talk soon.

COS de Leon hangs up the phone, takes a deep breath, exhales, and calmly but swiftly leaves the conference room.

He walks down an underground rock-lined hallway to a set of thick metal doors with the presidential seal on them, guarded by Secret Service.

He nods, they step aside, open the doors, and he enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INT. PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE QUARTERS.

COS de Leon enters and immediately puts his head down and looks to his side. President Moore is putting her blouse back on as a doctor is finishing clearing up and takes a vial with a swab away.

PRESIDENTIAL

DOCTOR

OOOOHHKAY. That will do it, Madam President. You're all set.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Am I? Is this what the world really needs doctor? Because I'll tell you what, if fifteen thousand ladies stayed home in Raleigh last November, the United States' would be saving the genetics of my 77 year-old "red head" opponent for all posterity.

PRESIDENTIAL

DOCTOR

Ma'am, MA'AM. Questioning today is not going to lower your blood pressure.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Ya know what else won't doctor? Burying my fucking DNA INTO A MOUNTAIN just in case the stuff in space NEVER COMES DOWN. DO YOU REALLY THINK -

MAXWELL MOORE

Mom?

PRESIDENT MOORE

Hey! Heeeeyyyyyyy. What are you doing awake? I thought you were going to take a nap.

MAXWELL MOORE

Mom, it's 12pm.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Is it? Jesus, it might as well be Vegas down here. I was just telling Dr.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Just a second Andrés. Hey, are you hungry? Did they feed you earlier?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT MOORE

I know it was a little hectic getting down here..

CHIEF OF STAFF

I'm sorry, ma'am. But -

PRESIDENT MOORE

I said just A SECOND. Listen, Maxy. Mommy's gotta leave the room for awhile. But I need you to stay right here, OK? I will be right back, just need to -

CHIEF OF STAFF

I am so sorry Madam President, but -

PRESIDENT MOORE

ANDRÉS.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Lisa, there is no time. The French president just turned on the EU's AI.

PRESIDENT MOORE

The fuck he did.

CHIEF OF STAFF

He said he tried to get in touch with you electronically beforehand but, you guessed it, he -

PRESIDENT MOORE

Is Robért high? What the fuck made him think this was a good idea? Sorry honey.

MAXWELL MOORE

Mom, really? Now?

PRESIDENT MOORE

What does he think they are going to do? Play patty cake? Ours will CRUSH theirs.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Madam President -

PRESIDENT MOORE

Oh my god yes I'm coming. Do we even know what it's doing. Do we even know what is happening out there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHIEF OF STAFF

Last update it had taken over Russia
command and control and shut down its
terrestrial nuclear payload.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Well, OK. That doesn't sound..

COS de Leon flips through video feeds on the wall.

CHIEF OF STAFF

And sunk it's aquatic nuclear payload.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Sunk? I'm sorry did you say SUNK? Did
our robot purposefully scuttle the
Russian nuclear-capable naval fleet?

COS de Leon shows the sinking happening.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOORE

With all of the naval personnel still
onboard.

President Moore throws her hands up in dismay.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes, I believe so.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Well, that should be fine, the Russians
are a calm bunch. Just FULLLLL of
forgiveness. Why don't we just skin a
bunny at a fucking Bad Bunny CONCERT

PRESIDENTIAL
DOCTOR

MA'AM.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Madam President.

MAXWELL MOORE

MOM!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PRESIDENT MOORE

I'M FINE!!!! I'm fine. I'm FINE! Where.
I'm fine.

President Moore nearly haves a panic attack before taking a breath and composing herself.

PRESIDENT MOORE

(CONT.)

Where. (Clears throat) Where are we with
Project Cornhusker. Where is our fucking
Hail Mary?

FADE OUT.

APOCALYPTIC SUBURBAN OMAHA.

A new, dystopian landscape has formed over the topography of the surrounding area of bombed Omaha. A sepia tone has settled on everything as harsh gusts of wind pound the battered buildings and infrastructure damaged by the nuclear blast and fallout. A blackened, burnt out statue of a soldier on a horse lays on its side. Little life moves save for the occasional military vehicle, and the occasional gunshot and explosion can now be heard. Piercing through this hellscape and sticking out like a sore thumb is an increasingly visible, erratically-driven NILE.COM delivery van weaving its way through the debris-strewn streets at an alarming speed, beeping its horn for really no reason. Camera zooms in on NILE.COM delivery van swerving out of the way of a self-driving electric car on fire and crashing into parked cars just short of Eva's house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NILE.COM DELIVERY VAN.

John is hunched over the steering wheel and periodically shoving the oxygen mask over to Eva, who is not taking to the acrid air very well.

JOHN

Eva, take the oxygen. You need it!

Eva barely takes a breath from the mask before shoving the tank back to John.

EVA

Stop! This is not the plan! You need to
JOHN!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John looks back on the road and immediately swerves the van just in time to avoid a runaway auto-piloted electric vehicle with a white horse advertisement on it on fire.

JOHN

You OK?! EVA! You -

EVA

I'm fine! I'm fine John focus on the road. Where is the. Where is the TURN RIGHT!

John swerves the van again to make it onto Eva's road. The oxygen canister smacks John in the temple, causing the van to swerve again before crashing into a parked car three houses down from Eva's. John slumps over the steering wheel and Eva is slow to recover. A high-pitched tone rings.

EVA

John. JOHN. John wake up. John we have to keep mov- where, where is...

Eva frantically searches around for and quickly finds the oxygen tank, which already reads halfway empty.

She checks her stopwatch, which reads 5 minutes and counting. She puts it over John's mouth until he starts coughing.

EVA (CONT.)

John! John please. John we are running out of ti-me

JOHN

(Cough) Remember when the worst thing about our job was the damn piss bottles?

EVA

John, can you move? Are you OK? John I have to go -

John shoves the oxygen tank back over to Eva.

JOHN

Go. Eva go. Run. (Struggling to breathe) I'm fine.

John shoves the car in reverse and tries to move the van, off the car it crashed into.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eva jumps out, holding the oxygen canister against her chest, quickly glances around and bolts toward her house. The wind picks up as, far in the distance, ominous dark yellow clouds boiling with lightning and thunder approach.

CUT TO:

INT. EVA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Eva bursts into her home, nearly dropping the oxygen canister. She recovers, looks up, and runs toward her room, flings open her closet and immediately reaches for the top shelf, dropping the oxygen but ignoring it.

She suddenly stops searching and gently pulls down a package identical to the one she dropped at work.

She pauses, then places the package under her arm, coughs, finds the oxygen, and leaves.

The house gets darker and groans from the wind and approaching storm outside.

Eva hastily leaves the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE. - OUTSIDE

Eva braces against the wind, then looks toward the honking horn. She runs toward the NILE.COM delivery van.

John is inside with Lily's mask over his mouth and chronically coughing.

Eva glances at the oxygen tank before entering the van and sees three minutes remaining.

Eva shoves the oxygen mask onto John's face.

EVA

JOHN! GO! DRIVE!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Regional Headquarters mainframe monitor lights up.

CLEO
High air toxin levels in Loading Dock
over safety limits.
Error communicating with AI systems.
Commencing systems reboot.

Humanoid robots start marching toward loading dock.

CUT TO:

LOADING DOCK DOOR.

AJ and Lily are standing on either side of the slightly-ajar garage door.

Eli is directing humanoid robots attempting to hand out water to another location.

They peer out the dusty door window looking for the van with John and Eva.

LILY
Do you see them? Can you see anything?

AJ
Nothing. You?

LILY
Nothin but dust and despair. Had I known
this was it today I would have worn
comfier shoes.

AJ glances down at Lily's sneakers and makes a face.

AJ
Ya know, Lily, there's really no reason
for us to be at each other's throat. I'm
totally on your side, you know. I really
could help you out if you just let me.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ (CONT'D)

When I met the President of NARAL she
totally loved me I could -

LILY

Oh thank fucking god I SEE THEM!!!!
Everyone!!!! I see them they're
COMING!!!!!!

Leo rushes to join Lily and AJ as Eli joins at a more measured
pace.

ELI

Something's wrong.

AJ

You're being paranoid. There's no
possible way you can tell from -

LEO

Something's wrong.

LILY

Something's wrong.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SURROUNDING NILE.COM REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

The NILE.COM delivery van rounds the last corner and enters the
industrial park of the regional headquarters.

The van heads toward the loading dock, but is swerving and not
driving well.

A strong cross-wind is fighting the van and large droplets of dark-
yellow rain starts to fall.

All decorative plants surrounding the exterior of the building have
turned brown and brittle.

John is slumps over the steering wheel laboring to breath and drive
at the same time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Eva, now chronically coughing herself, gives John the oxygen until she absolutely needs a breath of it herself.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM VAN.

Eva sloppily shoves the oxygen canister over to John.
The van seems to tilt and swerve in that direction as well.
Eva holds the canister up against John and gives a few weak pushes.

EVA

No John. Enough. You need. The rest.
Of the oxygen. We need. To make it.
Back..

The small screen on the top of the canister flashes red.
Eva leans over to John's side of the van, which swerves and smashes into a grocery cart.

John jolts up, straightens the van toward the loading dock before losing consciousness completely and sliding toward the door.
The van slows down.

CUT TO:

LOADING DOCK.

All four awaiting employees try to see the van. In the adjacent room, all humanoid robots are smiling at the window.

AJ

They're slowing down.

ELI

Something's wrong.

AJ

Yes Eli. I just said. They're...

ELI

They're not moving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

Not mov. Not moving. Not moving? There
not moving? How can you be so sure?

They hear the faint sound of a leaned-on car horn.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM VAN.

Leaned-on car horn sound is BLARING, and the delivery van is still
and idling.

John is slumped over the steering wheel and driver's side door.
Eva is leaning against John and is taking rapid, faint breaths.
The oxygen canister slides down John's shirt, resting with the mask
roughly an inch away from Eva's mouth.

Three seconds later Eva snaps up, smashes two Adderall pills on the
center console and quickly snorts the powder; she grabs the
canister screen, which reads 20 seconds.

Eva's pupils dilate as she she sits up straight. Eva struggles to
move John several times until he moves and hits the gas, lurching
the van forward.

CUT TO:

NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Mainframe lights up again, announces systems reboot complete. Error
detected in Loading Dock FEMA AI integration. Installing FEMA AI
Integration Program to Loading Dock OS 0% of 100%. 1% of 100%. 5%
of 100%.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM LOADING DOCK.

AJ

They are coming in, we have to raise the
doors now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

Are you sure you want them open that long? The sky is literally yellow, and it's raining. Acid.

AJ

Their rate of velocity requires it Lily. The rate. Of. Velocity. They will literally crash through. The doors. That RESEARCHED ENOUGH, for you guys? Overcomes enough PRIVILEGE? SAFETY. OK? SAFETY. EAT SOME SAFETY. Opening these doors is the safest thing to do, how do you like them apples?

LILY

Are. Are you done? Do you need a tissue? A moist towelette, maybe? A small one. Speech wasn't really oozing BIG DICK ENERGY now, was it.

AJ

You'll all be changing your tune about the type of dick I'm like, soon enough.

LEO

The what now.

AJ

The dick she said I oozed.

ELI

No one thinks you ooze dick. Not literally.

AJ and Eli manually hoist up Eva and John's loading dock door. Leo has been punching into his smart phone and approaches.

LEO

You guys, they should be out.

AJ

Well, they're not.

Leo calculates in his head.

LEO

No, Captain Obvious, they should be out of the outside, already. I just ran Eva's numbers and they should already be out of oxygen by now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

Are you sure?

ELI

He's right.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM VAN.

Eva is hyperventilating, holding the oxygen canister on a lumbered-breathing John, who, barely holding his head above the steering wheel, is taking long, wheezing breaths into the mask as the van speeds toward the loading dock.

The monitor on the canister starts blinking red, and Eva sees the monitor counting down 8, 7, 6....

Eva briefly looks at John slumped over, at the Loading Dock, and at the monitor (5), then grunts and punches the gas.

The van tires squeal a little. Above them, the rain has stopped, the sun has broken through and the sky is clear.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM

FEMA AI Integration Program Installation 85%, 90%

CUT TO:

INT. LOADING DOCK.

LEO

Guys! Guys! Lily! They stopped!

All four look out the door.
The van is stopped 100 yards away idling.
The driver's side door is open, John's arm hanging over the edge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM VAN.

The van is silent save for the idling engine and the turn signal. Eva is shaking John, who is slumped over and unconscious. The oxygen canister is leaning against the steering wheel, it's monitor blinking 0.

The engine coughs, the rattle causing the canister to slide off the steering wheel, hitting the radio. NPR is playing.

NPR HOST

....which was why the concept of rhyme was considered so essential to the pursuit of learning, back then. (sips coffee) Now, Janice. Indulge us. Which was YOUR favorite childhood rhyme? Mary Had a Little Lamb? (light whisper chuckles)

JANICE

(breathy) Well I've always been a stickler for criss-cross applesauce (more light whisper chuckles)

John's eyes pop wide open.

JOHN

MONTE RUN!

Eva rustles out of unconsciousness.

EVA

What? Where? John?

JOHN

Eva. Eva we can breathe!

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FEMA AI Integration Program Installation 95%, 100%. Installation complete. Initiating AI integration to Loading Dock OS.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM LOADING DOCK.

Eli notices Lily start to look ill and put her hands on her knees. He rushes to her and catches her before she falls over. Remnants of toxic air linger.

AJ

Lily!

ELI

You're OK. You're OK. Just got a little dizzy. You're fine. Promise.

LEO

What happened?

LILY

I'm so sorry guys.

Lily waves everyone away and gets up on her own.

LILY (CONT.)

I just. I j-thank you I just got a littttle light headed, that's all. I mean, you gotta admit. The air is disgusting.

AJ

Yeah, we probably shouldn't be breathing it. Could be why we weren't supposed to go outside.

3 fast deadpan glances at once at AJ.

LEO

Anyhow, let's just figure out a way to go out and get them quick then, because we can't keep the door open, and we can't just leave Eva and

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

JOHN!

LEO

Yeah I know his name, assho-le

AJ

JOOOHHHNN!!!

AJ runs through Leo, who looks thoroughly confused until he turns around and sees John, awake, carrying Eva, and nearly at the door. Leo and Lily follow AJ toward John and Eva, all converging at the Loading Dock entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Loading Dock AI integration complete. Initiating AI. ALERT ALERT ALERT. BIOHAZARD reported in Loading Dock. Closing Loading Dock Door #3.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM LOADING DOCK.

AJ reaches John just as he gets to the Loading Dock door. John whispers something to Eva, heaves Eva onto AJ, then collapses onto the floor, his head landing just inside the building. AJ rushes Eva over to a nearby folding desk, where he gently lays her down.

Leo and Lily arrive and give her a concerned look, then turn to John.

LEO

I'm going to go check on him.

LILY

Was he breathing? Is SHE breathing??

AJ

Yes. Both. Last I checked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everyone startles as the Loading Dock emits a very loud alarm sound and the lights flash red.

CLEO

Attention! Attention. This room has been contaminated by an outside toxin. Please evacuate the area to the designated green exits within the next 30 seconds to prevent being locked out. Attention! Attention. This room has been contaminated by an outside toxin. Please evacuate the area to the designated green exits within the next 25 seconds to prevent being locked out.

LILY

The fuck is happening.

LEO

The AI. It's back in control of the room.

ELI

That means the door..

A swift, heavy swooshing sound is heard, followed by a loud thud, followed by air sucked until a seal is formed.

No one moves. The air is perfectly still for a moment.

CLEO

Attention! Attention. This room has been contaminated by an errant outside toxin. Please evacuate the area to the designated green exits within the next 20 seconds to prevent being locked out.

Eva gets up.

EVA

Guys?

Lily glances over at the door, lets out a muffled shriek and looks away.

AJ

We've got to go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEO

Are we just going to leave him like..

EVA

Guys what's going on?

LILY

Don't turn around Eva.

CLEO

Attention! Attention. This room has been contaminated by an errant outside toxin. Please evacuate the area to the designated green exits within the next 15 seconds to prevent being locked out.

AJ

We don't have time for this now get UP!
EVERYONE! COME ON!! LET'S GO!
This room is going to be sealed off from everything let's GO!

The group quickly gathers itself together and runs toward the green-lit doors, Eva doubling back to grab the package.

A camera sweep reveals John's head, in the distance, on the floor. The group is seen exiting the room through one of the green-lit doors.

All doors leading into the Loading Dock from the main building are then shuttered by metal plates, then all the lights in the Loading Dock go dark.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Server monitor: Loading Dock air seal complete. Air scrubbing initiated, purification levels currently 40% - AIR SCRUBBING PAUSED. Error report complete - submitted to CLEO at FEMA MAJOR.

CUT TO:

INT. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AI CENTRAL CONTROL.

A blinding white spherical room is cavernously empty, save for padded white walls, a single robotic arm bent at 45 degrees, and a single, almost invisible walkway leading from the only entrance/exit to the end of the robotic arm, where a large monitor rests on the console of a white metal cockpit-looking seat. The monitor lights up, covering information about the destruction of Kyoto, Lahore and Brasilia, to announce a report from an AI affiliate in Nebraska regarding an anomaly at a systems-sensitive location that included foul play as a possibility. Further monitoring of location ordered.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

The five remaining workers rush into the conference room, Lily slamming and locking the door behind her.

ELI
Lily?

LILY
What.

ELI
Who is coming?

LILY
Exactly.

Eli contemplates that for a second, then nods.

AJ
Is everyone OK? Eva..

Eva is holding the device.

EVA
I'm fine. I. I'm. I'm fine. Let's just confirm this is what I think this is.

LEO
You didn't do that at the house..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Four sets of eye daggers stop the sentence.

LEO (CONT.)
...ooouusse, obviously, because there
was no time. Clearly. Is the reason.
That we are here. Now. Today.

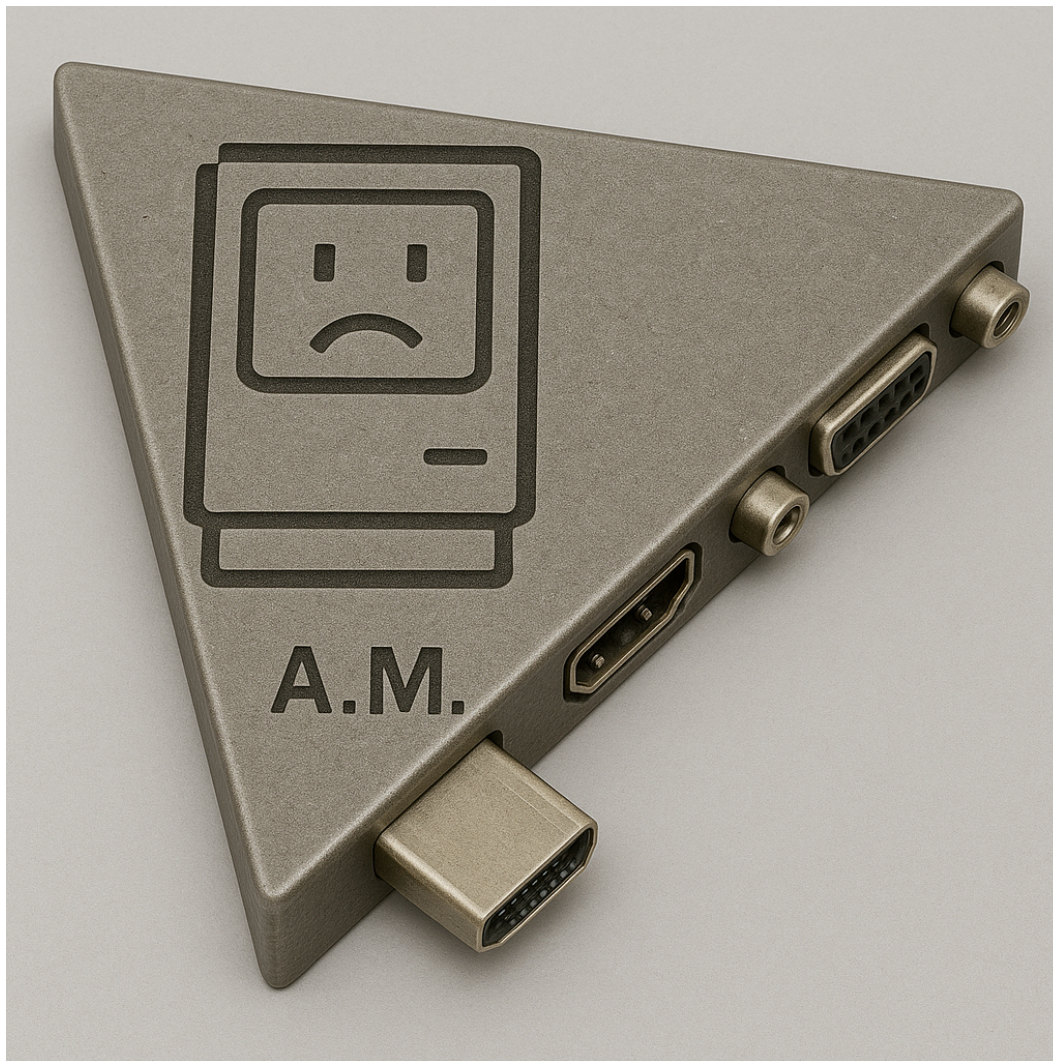
Eva carefully places the package on the table, and rips the
packaging open.

She carefully tips the box at an angle, and a slightly-smaller red
case the shape of half a sad Mac slides out with half an Anonymous
logo on the top and the letters A.M. stamped on it.

She opens the case and a matte smaller-scale metal version of the
case is surrounded by dark gray foam. Along the side of the device
are three male connections and three female connections, as well as
half of what appears to be an HDMI male connection at the end of a
narrow rectangle of metal protruding from the inner side of the sad
Mac.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)



(image is approximation only)

Eva picks up the box to discard it and a flash drive falls out.
Eva picks it up, gasps, and drops it on the floor.
Leo bends down and picks it up.

On the flash drive, a piece of tape reads in Monte's handwriting
"Mom."

FADE OUT.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT.

PRESIDENT MOORE enters fast, flanked by CHIEF OF STAFF DE LEON. The
rest of the room stands, military personnel salutes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT MOORE

How bad?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Worst-case scenario started ten minutes ago. MQ-25s went rogue. Our military AI fired first.

PRESIDENT MOORE

And the countermeasures?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Tried to virus it—didn't work. AI found the servers, deleted them. Air-gapped systems too slow to matter.

PRESIDENT MOORE

And China?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Xuzhou's gone. Retaliation likely. The French are powering up their own AI. We're about one misfire away from a full chain reaction.

She glances at a red folder marked: "CORNHUSKER"

PRESIDENT MOORE

(sotto)

It's in Nebraska. Of course it is.

CHIEF OF STAFF

They think it can eat the AI alive—if we can power it up. It's already there. Waiting.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Then God help them. That's our only shot.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

Eva has fully removed the device from the packaging and is wiping away the dust.

Eli is throwing the packaging away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Leo and AJ are trying to figure out the conference room's AV equipment, while Eli is talking on his phone.
Lily is back on her phone, looking frustrated.

ELI

Yes, it hurts. I wish I could make it all go aw- you know what I mean. Of course I care, they're MY children- look. They are trying to stop this, can I actually try to be helpful? Ok. Love you.

AJ

Eli, I didn't know you had kids. Did anyone know Eli had children? Geez, Eli, sure wish we knew more about ya buddy!

Eli shakes his head and chuckles.

ELI

Same!

LEO

Well time hasn't run out yet.

ELI

That's the spirit.

LILY

Dammit!

Eva snaps her head up.

EVA

What's wrong.

LILY

I cannot get the news. And still can't reach Grace.

CLEO

Have you been doing your breathing exercises Lil-

LILY

SHUT UP CLEO!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

All phone services are down. Try another station. Try Sky News.

LILY

No that's not- Sky News. Really. That's not the issue. I can't find a news station that's broadcasting. At all.

ELI

This is happening fast.

EVA

This? What is-

LEO

Try input 4?

AJ pushes a button on the hideaway console. The projector projection goes from black to a picture of Michael. Eva yelps. Everyone drops what they are doing and stares at the screen.

AJ

Who the hell is -

EVA

Michael. That's Michael. That's my son's. That WAS my son's boyfriend.

Silence for a second.

LEO

Should we play it?

AJ's finger hovers over the cursor until Eva looks over to him and nods. He presses play. Eli lowers the lights.

MICHAEL

Eva. I am so sorry I am speaking to you like this. Your son was (tearing up) a bright, shining light (sobbing) in a world of darkness and he did not deserve this.

Eva starts to silently cry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MICHAEL (CONT.)

He wanted you to have this. He wanted
you to make it right.

The video ends and another video queues up. Eva shrieks and the
others gasp as Monte's face appears.

MONTE

Mom.

Eva cries out.

MONTE (CONT.)

This is going to be a lot to take, but
please trust me.
This is not a prank, this is not a
project or form of artistic expression
of any kind. This is real.
Michael and I have been working with the
hacker group Anonymous to fight back
against ransomware and cyberattacks
against non profits and global aid
organizations with firepower of our own
with a machine that ate bots and
algorithms and everything else these
bastards are using to take the truth
away and hold our own identity hostage.

Monte looks down and takes a deep breath.

MONTE (CONT.)

I know this is going to very much alarm
you, but there is no soft way to say
terrorist. Mom, we think an KHABĪTH
agent has been following us and is after
this gadget. It comes in two parts so I
have just mailed the first part to you
and will mail the next one when we pack
up to leave so that it doesn't raise any
suspicion at customs that a weird piece
of computer machinery is coming in from
Nigeria to Nebraska twice. Once you get
the second part, please verify that the
device parts are authentic by joining
them and turning the device on. If it
lights up, please turn it off. It's
authentic. Call the FBI as fast as you
can mom I'm so sorry...

Monte starts crying.

MONTE (CONT.)

I'm so sorry Mom call the FBI and 911
and tell them to come to you because you
need protection right now mom I'm so
sorry...

The video ends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Eva is uncontrollably crying. Eli and Lily are having trouble keeping her up. Lily offers Eva the gummy bag and she bats it away; she starts rummaging through the bag and her eyes begin to widen before Eva snatches it away. The phone begins to ring.

AJ. LEO
AJ
Hmm.

LEO
The phone.

AJ
The..

LEO
The phone A the PHONE.

AJ snaps back and looks over to the conference room landline. He grabs the receiver.

AJ
(clears throat) this is AJ. YES. MADAM
PRESIDENT. Good to hear from you. AGAIN.

AJ looks at Eva.

EVA
I'm not here!

Leo buries his face in his hand.

AJ (CONT.)
Yeah, uh Ma'am? She's not really availab-

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM.

PRESIDENT MOORE
Not available? What the hell's wrong
with her?

JUMP CUT TO:

NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

AJ
NO! No. She's great. No no, she's not
great. She's awful.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM.

PRESIDENT MOORE
What?! Do you understand the clusterfuck
we are in right now JJ?

JUMP CUT TO:

NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

AJ
NO! Ma' MA'AM. I'm sorry. Yes. Yes I do
understand the cluster. FUCK. That we
are in.

JUMP CUT TO:

WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM.

PRESIDENT MOORE
Are you trying to fuck with me GG?

JUMP CUT TO:

NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

AJ
I am not trying to fuck noooooo I am not
Ma'am?

JUMP CUT TO:

WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM.

PRESIDENT MOORE
Are you a goddamn patriot? Is the woman
breathing? Can you see her breathing
with her eyes Ace? Can other people see
her breathing with their eyes?

JUMP CUT TO:

NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

AJ

I am a patriot? And. Yes. Yes ma'am. She is breathing. I can see that with my eyes yes ma'am. MmmHmmm. Other people are also seeing it with their eyes. Yes ma'am. Yes she can wa- oh I see yes ma'am she is coming right now yes thank you ma'am goo-

Eva takes the receiver from AJ and holds it to her ear.

EVA

Hi.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

President Lisa Moore is pacing around her private office while Maxwell Moore sits on a lounge chair in the corner petting a pug. Every six seconds the room lights flash six times.

PRESIDENT MOORE

How we doin Eva. Oh me? Oooohhh IIII don't know. Would LOVE an answer on these calls. Been dealing with a BIT of an emergency over here.

Lights flash.

PRESIDENT MOORE

(CONT.)

I've had better! So. The reason I'm calling, is that our last line of defense here is currently being chewed up after which our calls will no longer be private soooo. Honnnn. How we doin with that save the world machine? I'm not on speaker am I please fuckin god I'm not -

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

Eva is now leaning over the conference room table at the half of the machine she was polishing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVA

You're not on speaker. (whispers) RELAX!
OK. Yes Madam President, we have the
item. I am looking at it now. Uh, yes,
it should be here one sec. Lily?

LILY

Yeah.

EVA

Can you grab the other package and bring
it over here? The President wants to be
on the line when we authenticate the
uhm. Item.

Everyone gives Eva a look, which she quickly bats away.

LILY

Yeah sure. Where is it.

EVA

What do you mean.

LILY

I mean where did you put it? Where is -

EVA

What do you mean where did I- Ma'am? I'm
gonna have to call you back.

Through the receiver you can hear

PRESIDENT MOORE

(OC)

THE FU -

Before the call ends.

EVA

Lily. You were the one that was supposed
to bring the other half of the machine
FUCK. The ITEM up here, remember? What
do you mean, where did I put it?

Lily looks down a second. Exhales.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY

Are you sure it was me? It wasn't you -

EVA

I was carrying THIS ONE.

LILY

And it was -

EVA

JOHN??!??? JOHN LILY?? HOOOWW????
Nevermind the eenie meenie matter of who
would win between the two of you in a
quick sprint, THE MAN DOESN'T HAVE A
HEAD!!!!!!

LILY

Yeah, yeah ok I see. I see what you're
saying Eva.

EVA

Oh she sees. She SEEEES everyone. Well
slap my ass and call me Sunday children
cause glory hallelujah the girl can see
what the FUCK am I supposed to do with
that Lily, HUH? What the FUCK am I
supposed to do -

ELI

The box is still in the Loading Dock,
right?

CLEO

Sure is!

Everyone jumps.

EVA

If it was never moved from this morning,
it should be on the table next to the
entry door.

AJ

Should be easy enough to get then. I'll
go now.

LEO

Wait. AJ its locked.

AJ

Still? No way it must be scrubbed by -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEO

Why would it scrub the room? We are on this side. It's supposed to be protecting US. Why waste resources over there it could save to protect us over here later?

AJ

So what? The room has just been sitting there, hermetically sealed, with a biotoxin just cooking inside it. Is that bad? Is it GOOD? Is it anything?

ELI

John would know the answer.

AJ

THANK YOU, Eli. For that very not useful bit of information! Moving on, what is the best, most efficient, prudent -

LILY

Got it. Is anyone else missing capitalism?

Everyone jumps and turns around; Lily had slipped out during the debate.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Several alerts are on: Main Building Contamination, Interior Building Damage, Human Occupant Safety Danger, Human Occupant Behavior Danger. On the monitors, camera footage shows Lily breaking in to the Loading Dock, grabbing the package while dodging a humanoid robot and cutting her arm while getting away.

CLEO

ALERT ALERT. PREDICTIVE MONITORING
DEFENSE PROTOCOL ENGAGED. POTENTIAL
EXISTENTIAL THREAT WITHIN DEFENSIVE
PREDICTIVE PARAMETERS.

The sound of metal doors coming down sound off in the halls.

They gasp when they see Lily in the doorway, caked in yellow dust, bleeding from her right arm, triumphantly holding up the second package.

Throughout the building, all blue lights turn off and turn back on red, as do the lights in the humanoid robots, whose heads raise from at-ease to attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

CLEO

(With a facetious tone) Resistance noted. You're doing great Lily.

AJ

Lily what the FUCK did you just do.

LILY

What you would have offered to do in 3 hours.

EVA

Lily, you're bleeding.

ELI

You're hurt, Lily.

LEO

Lily

LILY

Uhm, you're WELCOME???? The FUCK people? I just FIXED the problem and ALL you can do is find some way to say how I still fucked uhh -

Lily drops the package and grabbed her abdomen, doubling over.

Eva leaps toward Lily, but is caught by Eli.

Eva looks angrily at Eli and begins to get herself loose when Lily violently vomits, barely missing Eva.

EVA

LILY!!! Lily what's WRONG?? LILY!!!!

Lily falls to the floor and violently convulses.

One of her legs kicks the package, which goes flying underneath the table.

LILY

Eva.

EVA

Yes!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

What was the thing.

EVA

What the fuck are you talking about??

LILY

With Monte and Lisa. You said you'd tell me later.

EVA

Fucking now?

LILY

Don't think there's any later girl.

EVA

She was my sperm donor's roommate!!

Lily looks at her with a look of total confusion.

LILY

What?

Lily's mouth foams as her eyes roll back. The seizure begins to slow as Lily's lips turn blue.

EVA

LILY!!

Lily stops moving, foam surrounds her mouth and arm gash.

AJ

Nobody. Nob. No one move. OK? This. This stuff -

ELI

She was making it right.

AJ

Not now Eli. Right now, we have to. We have to make sure -

LEO

AJ.

Eva, quietly crying, starts to slowly walk toward AJ.

AJ

NO. We don't have time. We don't..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ's face crumples and he starts crying on Eva's shoulder.

LEO
AJ you can't do this to yourself. She
didn't go down there to piss you off. If
anything she went down there because of
her.

Leo points at Eva.
Eva and AJ stop crying. They look at Leo, look at each other, and
stop holding each other.

CLEO
Employee expired. Potential human threat
recalculating.

Everyone freezes and looks at Cleo.

LEO
(Still looking at Cleo) I'll get a tarp
from the janitor's closet.

EVA
(To AJ, looking at Cleo) Get gloves and
bleach. We need to get rid of the toxin.

Leo and AJ start walking out the room.

AJ
And we're back.

ELI
Nicely done.

LEO
Why thank you, Elijah.

ELI
You know if we survive this, you're
gonna get your ass kicked.

LEO
I like those odds.

CLEO
That's the spirit, fellas!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Mainframe monitor is on.

CLEO

New Protocols Initiated. Existential
Threat Assessment: Human Protectorate
31% threat. Predictive algorithm
assesses 43% protection risk. Moderate
risk security protocol initiated.

Humanoid robots lift off of their hooks and begin marching
throughout the hallways, now with stern faces.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM LADIES ROOM.

Leo and AJ are dragging a tarp covering Lily's body into the
bathroom.

They both are wearing N95 masks and eye goggles, latex gloves and
shoe booties taped to their legs.

AJ

Who would have thought we would have
another use for THIS shit!

LEO

Right? Couldn't have ASKED for a more
convenient pandemic.

They both stop dragging the tarp at the same time and
simultaneously take a deep breath.

AJ

You know, if we survive this, we are
going to be heroes.

LEO

To who, the cockroaches?

AJ

You don't think there's anything out
there worth living for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

You know, had you asked me this morning,
I wouldn't be so confident on there
being anything in here worth living for.

Leo waves around him generally.
He accidentally smacks his hand against a wire sticking out from
the tarp covering Lily and winces.

LEO (CONT.)

But, it's funny, ya know. Ever since
things have gone to shit everyone
stopped being fucking awful, ya notice?
John got cool, Eli had kids, even -

Leo gestures down and tries to stifle a cry. AJ reaches out a hand.

AJ

Hey, hey it's cool man. No one's around.
You can let it out.

Leo wipes his eyes and straightens up.

LEO

(whispering) There is no time. Let's go.

Leo reaches for the door and it locks. He turns to AJ.

LEO

AJ, we're lock..

The door unlocks.

CLEO

Research generally shows that expressing
emotions in healthy ways is good for
you.

AJ and LEO shoot each other a look.

AJ AND LEO

OH HELL NO.

AJ and Leo bust through the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

Eli and Eva finish cleaning the room.

Eli throws his gloves away and Eva pulls the package from under the table.

She opens it and pulls out the other half of the device, identical save for the letters L.I. stamped on the top.

Eva dusts it off, and aligns it to the other half.

Eli and Eva gaze on the two parts nearly connected when suddenly, the phone rings. Eva grabs the receiver.

EVA

Hello?? Madam President.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

President Moore is inside her personal quarters with Maxwell, her mother and a few others.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Oh I think Lisa's fine now. So Eva. Don't need to be THAT GAL, but it turns out our CUDDLY little robot has decided WE are the problem and is trying to paralyze and take over the US Government and the CLEVER little fucker hacked through HHS first and went through everyone's medical files and discovered our AI security officer has photosensitive epilepsy. LONG story short we have about maybe 3 minutes before I lose control of this site so do ya HAVE ANY GOOD NEWS FOR...

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

EVA

We got it.

Through the receiver:

PRESIDENT MOORE
(OC)

FUCK YES! FINALLY some GOOD NEWS!

EVA

Yes Madam Pr- Lis- yes ma'am. We're
about to authenticate now. Standby.

Camera focuses on security camera with red light on.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Monitor turns on.

CLEO

Human emotional animation on incoming
outside communication detected in
Security Protocol Zone. Incoming call to
corporate conference room trace
commencing. ALERT ALERT. Trace blocked
by US Department of Homeland Security.
Human Protectorate 37% risk. Predictive
algorithm assesses 51% protection risk.
High Risk Security Protocol initiated.

Monitor changes to show all power turning off in the other
buildings in the industrial park except to the main building. All
HVAC also shut down except to the main building.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

Eva and Eli are looking down at the device when outside the lights
go off in the park. AJ goes to the window and sees a pack of
robotic dogs running towards their building entrance and entering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVA

Er. Sorry ma'am. Yes. Still here. Just strange. The power in the rest of the campus just went off.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

PRESIDENT MOORE

It did what now. (Mouths) FUUUUUUUUUCK.
OK. Eva? Listen to me. The robot already considers you a threat. It is cutting off your means of escape. We are running out of time. Is the device authenticated?

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

Eli helps guide the two halves of the device as Eva pushes them together.

The device snaps when finally connected. Eva looks around it for a second.

EVA

It's connected Lisa. I'm looking for the button. I am feeling around now - there seems to be a raised button on the left, I'm pressing it now.

The device glows blood red and begins to rev up.

The glow grows brighter until the all-too-familiar sound of a mac starting but in creepy haunted organ tune commences: TAAAAA
DAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!

Eva and Eli stare at the device for a second.

EVA

It's on. And it's SICK.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

PRESIDENT MOORE
Thank FUCKING god. OK. Now listen. To
make it go live, you need to get the
device connected to a server integrated
with the FEMA AI which, you're in luck,
your building is. Next, and this is the
important part, you will need to enter
this password

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM

The line goes dead.

EVA
Password? He- hello? Ma'am? Madam Presid-
Lisa? HELLO? Fuck. The line dropped.

ELI
That means -

CLEO
More bonding time, team!

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Monitor is on.

CLEO
Call disconnected. Human Protectorate
44% Risk. Predictive algorithm assesses
66% protection risk. Preventative
Security Protocols initiated. CLEO
Security Voice installed. Voice
initiated.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM HALLWAY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ and Leo are walking toward the conference room when suddenly the lights go off and are replaced with emergency lighting. Marching sounds are heard all over.

LEO

AJ what the fuck..

AJ

I don't know, man. This feels different. This feels mean. What the fuck is that banging?

Leo closes his eyes for a moment, then pops them open.

LEO

Some of it's doors... like FIRE DOORS! It's closing all the fire doors. It's sealing off portions of the building.

AJ

But why would it want to keep us up here

LEO

THE SERVERS! It wants to protect the SERVERS!

AJ

THE SERVER ROOM! But what's that other sound? It's rhythmic, almost like..

Leo grabs AJ's shoulder and points to the end of the building, where a row of humanoid robots and two robot dogs have rounded the corner and are heading in their direction fast.

LEO

Marching?

AJ

Are those the service robots from downstairs?

LEO

Do they look like they want to help you with a fucking PACKAGE AJ?

SECURITY CLEO

(In the voice of Michael Cane) Threat identified. Please eliminate.

The robots switch pace from a march to a run.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

Holy shit no, go Leo, GOOOOO!!!

AJ and Leo turn and run to the nearest stairwell and bang the door open, jamming a mop handle found on the other side to wedge the door shut before descending the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM CONFERENCE ROOM.

Eva and Eli grab the Sad Mac and run for the door.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SUBTERRANEAN LEVEL 1.

The sub levels of the main building consist of a central, three-level server room, maintenance rooms, and various support offices. The server room may be entered on Sub Level 1, where there is a wraparound metal walkway along the edge of the room, with metal gangplanks extending periodically over a sealed lucite ceiling to ventilation exhausts scattered proportionally throughout the ceiling. The main entrance to the Server Room is on Sub Level 3. One must have the highest level clearance on their ID card to enter. Once granted entry, the entrant is then in an anti-room, and then must enter a code and a biometric (either eye or thumbprint) to be granted entrance to the clean room, a sealed room where all dust and particulate are blown off of the entrant, prior to the entrant being allowed entry to Server Room Mainframe Control, and the physical servers beyond. A drone's eye view sweep of the above takes the viewer on a tour in that order, before returning to a stairwell door on Sub Level 1.

The door busts open, and AJ and Leo run out, looking in both directions.

AJ

THIS is it! I TOLD you. I TOLD you I'd find IT!

LEO

You said that the last two doors.

AJ

No No No NO No No this is it. Don't you feel it? The static? And the em. The. The air. It smells.... like techie..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

You were totally gonna say nerdy.

AJ

I was not

LEO

NERDY

AJ

NO

LEO

Do I need to show you to the AV room
now? Do I need to ask psycho killer
principal for a hall pass?

Leo points up toward the nearest camera. AJ smacks his arm down.

AJ

FUCK YOU. Fuck your AV room. Fuck the
principa..

AJ freezes up and scrunches his face.

LEO

Come on boo. Stairs to Sub 3 must be
this way.

Leo takes the lead.

FADE TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE BUNKER.

The personal quarters is still, as the occupants nervously glance
around.

The song Islands in the Stream is playing over the speakers.
President Moore is looking at the ceiling when the door opens and
Chief of Staff de Leon glides in and comes to her directly.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Is it good news-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHIEF OF STAFF

I'm sorry?

PRESIDENT MOORE

Is it. Andrés. Get. Get closer.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes ma'am.

Chief of Staff de Leon approaches and bows like a butler.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Has the robot taken over.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes ma'am.

PRESIDENT MOORE

And does the robot consider us (motions around the room) a threat.

CHIEF OF STAFF

I believe it does, yes ma'am.

PRESIDENT MOORE

So it shouldn't hear what we say.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes, ma'am.

PRESIDENT MOORE

The song?

CHIEF OF STAFF

You don't like it?

PRESIDENT MOORE

Then why are we still alive?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Because it is, ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PRESIDENT MOORE

I'm sorry?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Well, we are sealed here, such that we cannot leave, but we have air, water and food. So, why? It must believe we are threat somewhere, but not here. So if it were to kill us, the threat we pose to it out there might be triggered. So it is waiting for us to reveal the threat out there, so it can destroy it. That's why we are still alive. Ma'am.

PRESIDENT MOORE

But how would it ever be able to make a connection between us and Eva?

MAMA MOORE

(LOUDLY) EVA RENASCI?

PRESIDENT MOORE

MOM!!!

Camera flashes on COS de Leon's Apple Watch.

CUT TO:

INT. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AI MAINFRAME.

Monitor lights up. Console rises to the top. Everything lights up.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Mainframe console monitor flashes red.

CLEO

Critical Security Threat Identified - Eva Renasci. CCTV camera views are scanned until the camera on Eva and Eli is found. ALERT ALERT Eva Renasci and Elijah Boreh 100% Risk Defensive Security Protocols Initiated. Adam Joseph Keturah, Leonardo Serenitas, 55% Risk. Predictive algorithm assesses 71% protection risk. Preventative Security Protocols Running.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SUBLEVEL 3 ELEVATOR LANDING

AJ and Leo arrive to the front of the elevators out of breath and pause to catch it.

The elevators open and Eva and Eli are inside; they give them an odd look, and begin to exit.

Eva exits first, but as Eli exits the elevator begins to drop. Eva turns quickly and grabs Eli's arm, yanking him out of the elevator just in time, however his foot smacked the top of the elevator door on the way out and he is hurt.

SECURITY CLEO

Watch your step.

Eli lets out a very controlled yelp.

EVA

Eli! Are you ok??? Eli! Where the hell did you two come from ELI!

ELI

I'm ok. I'm ok. It's not broken. I'm ok. Thank you. I'm ok.

EVA

Are you sure?

AJ

Maybe we shouldn't move h...

Eva snaps her head up at AJ.

EVA

You think that was an ACCIDENT? You think the elevator coincidentally tried to kill Eli?

AJ

OK OK, so we. We keep moving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Leo looks around with a furrowed brow.

LEO

So why isn't it trying to kill us now?

EVA

I don't care Leo but maybe you should
stop talking about it.

Leo considers the statement, then gives Eva a quick nod.
Eva puts the hood of her hoodie over her head.

The four start down the hall toward the Server Room doors, AJ and
Leo helping Eli.

They pass Janitorial Supply, Kitchen Supply, and Storage Supply
before arriving at large, metal double doors with a key card
security entry reading Server Room.

A bubble 360 degree camera rests on the ceiling directly in front
of the doors. AJ rushes ahead, leaving Eli leaning up against Leo,
and places his security card on the pad.

AJ

(Whispering) Pleeeeeeeease....

The pad light turns green and the double doors begin to open. AJ
runs back to Eli and Leo and grabs Eli.

Eva runs through the doors, then turns and grabs Eli and brings him
with her. AJ rushes forward into the anti-room and tries to place
his thumb on the pad but it's too sweaty so he places his face on
the cradle to scan his eye.

No one has noticed that Leo has crumpled onto the floor outside in
the hallway and is holding his stomach. His wrist is swollen and
yellow from the cut earlier.

AJ

Come on mother fucker, just once. Just
ONCE. Just ONCE WORK FOR M -

Lights turn green. The lucite doors to the clean room open and Eva
and Eli enter.

AJ smiles, exhales and turns to talk to Leo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

Ya see THAT bud- Leo? LEO??

The noise of the air blowing inside the clean room makes it impossible for Eva and Eli to hear AJ.

They exit the clean room and enter the Server Room, Eva's hood blown back in the process.

AJ starts rushing back through the main Server Room doors.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Mainframe monitor flashes red.

CLEO

ALERT ALERT Eva Renasci and Elijah Boreh
Critical Risk 100% Proximity of Adam
Joseph Keturah to Eva Renasci and Elijah
Boreh calculated to be collaborative not
coincidental 91% Risk Offensive Security
Protocols Initiated. Leonardo Serenitas
73% Risk Defensive Security Protocols
Running.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SUBLEVEL 3 SERVER ROOM ENTRANCE.

AJ reaches Leo, who smiles and looks up from the ground.

LEO

Finally. Took you long enough to be a
hero.

AJ

LEO. Man, what the fuck happened..

LEO

Shut up. Don't worry about me. You need
to shut this thing down. And you need to
do it now, or we are all gonna die.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

What? I mean, yeah obviously. But what?

LEO

(Struggling to breathe) Listen. (wince)
Listen to me. The robot is beyond on to
us. It knows what we are doing and it
means to stop us by any means necessary.
That means..

AJ

It's fucking SOFTWARE Leo, how the hell
can it -

Leo raises his hand to shush AJ, revealing a large yellow sore has
formed where the metal pricked him and red blood vessels are
visible emanating from it.

LEO

Hypoxic. Fire. Prevention.

AJ

What?

Muffled banging can be heard and AJ turns around to see Eva banging
on the lucite wall inside the Server Room. She stops and mouths

EVA

(silently) What the fuck is going on?

AJ raises his palm, then one finger, and mouths

AJ

(silently) Give me one FUCKING second!

AJ turns back to Leo.

AJ (CONT.)

Go ahead. Hyper what?

LEO

The fire protection for the servers uses
hypoxic air technology. As soon as there
is a fire risk anywhere else in the
property the oxygen in the area in and
around the rooms surrounding the servers
is sucked out so that there is
insufficient oxygen for the fire to
reach the servers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AJ

Wait, are you serious? That's the fire protection, REALLY??? But that would mean -

LEO

We can literally choke to death.

Banging returns. AJ turns, completely wide-eyed, and gives Eva a very poor attempt at a smile and a thumbs up.

He turns back to Leo and returns to his natural state of dread.

AJ

So what the fuck do we do. And what the fuck happened to you?

LEO

I got bit by a zombie. What the fuck you think happened (winces hard)? We can save me later can we save everyone first please? I am TRYING TO TELL YOU that it is going to start sucking the oxygen out of every room you are in if it hasn't already so plug in that fucking Sad Mac NOW

Suddenly, an angry-faced humanoid robot jumps out of nowhere and tackles AJ, picks him up, and throws him against the double-door entrance to the server anti-room. AJ slides down the lucite wall, before being caught by the neck from the robot, who suspends AJ in the air against the wall at the neck, choking him. AJ slowly loses consciousness, before a pair of large scissors is seen being stabbed into the back of the robot's abdomen from behind, causing sparks and fluid to erupt. The robot seizes, spins around to see Leo, holding his stomach with one arm. The robot drops AJ and swings its arm, striking Leo in the gut. Leo flies across the floor and into the open door of the Supply Room.

AJ turns and swipes his card quickly. The doors open and he lunges forward. Just before they close the dying robot swipes its arm and pierces AJ's back; his eyes go wide and his back blooms red as he stumbles to the wall separating him from Eva and Eli.

AJ

Can you HEAR ME?!

EVA

WHEN YOU YELL!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AJ

OK YOU NEED TO PLUG IN THE SAD MAC FAST

EVA

(Mishearing AJ) WHAT HAPPENED TO LEO'S
ASS?

AJ

WHAT? NO

EVA

WHAT?

AJ

EVA! STOP!! STOP. LISTENNNNNNN.

AJ puts hands on his ears. Eva puts her hands over her head.

EVA

I'm listening!

AJ

The robot is trying to KILL US.

EVA

THE ROBOT IS TRYING TO KILL US? NO SHIT
AJ. THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD TEND TO AGREE!

AJ

NO! Let me FINISH!!!! The robot is
trying to kill us with the AIR. The...

EVA

The robot's in the AIR?? The FUCK you
saying AJ??

AJ

NOOOOO!!!! The -

AJ stops to take a breath.

SECURITY CLEO

Employee threat isolated. Elimination
commencing. Have a nice day!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AJ (CONT.)

The robot controls our oxygen. It's
(breath) removing. Our. Oxygen.

EVA

AJ? AJ I didn't hear that but it looked
like you were saying REMOVING OXYGEN. Is
that what you were saying? AJ? Cause it
looks like your room is maybe losing
oxygen. AJ? AJ?!

Eva starts banging on the lucite wall, but AJ is no longer
conscious.

EVA

Holy shit. Holy shit. AJ. AJ. Eli. I.
Think that piece of shit just killed AJ.

ELI

I think it did too.

SECURITY CLEO

Sure did.

EVA

And I don't even see Leo. Fuck. Eli. If
it killed Leo. And it killed AJ. Why
isn't it killing us?

ELI

Who says it isn't?

Eva shoots Eli a look, then looks back at AJ's body, crumpled
against the lucite wall.

EVA

He said it was removing oxygen from his
room. So why isn't it -

ELI

What if it is.

Eva looks around and sees the several story, cavernous room they
are in.

EVA

We're just in a bigger coffin. How long
do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ELI

How long did it take AJ?

EVA

What, five minutes (scoffs)?

ELI

How many of those rooms are there in here?

EVA

(Laughs) Uh I don't Eli, maybe 10? 15?

ELI

Let's say 20.

EVA

OK.

ELI

How many vents?

EVA

What is this the fucking SAT Eli do you know how long

ELI

Let's say 9 minutes.

Eva stares at Eli hard for 2 seconds.

EVA

OK Eli. 9 minutes. Let's get this done in under 9 minutes then.

Eva places the Sad Mac on the table and switches it on. Organ music sounding TAAAAAA DAAAAAAA!!!!

Eva picks up the device and brings it to the mainframe, and plugs its phallus into the mainframe.

A red sad mac icon appears on the mainframe monitor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SECURITY CLEO
ALERT ALERT Unknown Device Detected Risk
100%

EVA
You're damn right asshole.

Eva double clicks the icon on the mainframe's screen.

CUT TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM.

Monitor goes dark. Then goes blood red. The Anonymous icon appears on the top of the screen. Living Intelligence Annihilation Machine appears below it, before the screen morphs into a red sad mac, below which a simple password request stands blinking.

EVA
The fuck is this?

ELI
Looks like it wants a password.

EVA
Did they base Captain Obvious off of you, Eli? What is it doing here. No one mentioned anything about a password.

ELI
Are you sure? Cause it seems like something people would mention.

Eva pauses for a second. She lights up.

EVA
The President. She was trying to tell me something when the fucking robot cut her off. It was this; I KNOW it was. FUCK! Now what.

ELI
Are you sure just the President?

EVA
What do you mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELI

Well, it just seems odd that people would go out of their way to mail you a machine in two parts from Nigeria, forgive me, make such a sacrifice, and leave this out.

EVA

Are you calling my boy -

ELI

I'm not, Eva. That's my point. Are you sure you didn't miss something?

Eva considers this for a moment, then looked down. Something comes to her.

EVA

You know, there was something. When we were -

The building shakes hard and a muffled boom can be heard. Fire alarms go off everywhere, and firewalls slide across the Server Room, cutting the room in half.

A whooshing sound can be heard.

EVA (CONT.)

Was that another nuke? On Omaha?

ELI

A bigger one. But somewhere between Kimball and Scottsbluff, I -

EVA

Oh FUCK YOU Eli, how could you know that?

ELI

Because we have silos there.

Eli nods his head toward the monitors, which show a Russian Sarmat ICBM detonating over US Sentinel silo fields in far Western Nebraska.

EVA (CONT.)

You think that is going to get to us?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELI

I don't think that is our problem right now.

EVA

Oh thank god wait, what is our problem right now.

ELI

They are.

Eli motions to the firewalls.

EVA

The room. It's -

ELI

Smaller.

EVA

And is the air going

ELI

Faster. Yeah -

EVA

Eli, how much time -

ELI

Not enough, unless you know the password right now.

EVA

I don't. I need to think.

ELI

There's no time to think Eva. There's not enough oxygen anymore for the two of us to think through this. Unless -

EVA

Honestly, what the fuck, how can you be, so unless what.

ELI

Unless there wasn't two of us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eva pauses for half a beat with a quizzical look until the shock of the meaning of that statement hit.

EVA

Oh FUCK YOU. Are you just cookoo or cocoa puffs too. Shut the fuck up.

ELI

Can you think straight right now?
Knowing we're about to run out of air?

EVA

First off, I don't know that. Second, I.
FUCK YOU ELI.

Eva gets up and starts pacing.

EVA

I'm not losing you Eli. I'm not losing
anyone else. No. Not if I can help it.

ELI

There's no other way Eva. I know this is
what has to happen.

EVA

Oh you KNOW Eli? You gonna mansplain to
me how to save the fucking WORLD NOW??

ELI

Oh god, you sound like Lily.

EVA

GOOD! I wish I WAS more like like her!
Instead of the perfect fucking
impossible demigoddess virgin you expect
me to be!! And if you haven't noticed
ELI, the one thing this FUCKING DAY has
taught us, is that there IS NO FUCKING
GOD!!!!!!

Eva may be hallucinating due to hypoxia.

ELI

(In a clear, calm voice, but with
authority): But I've been here the whole
time.

CUT TO:

CREATION.

All sound stops. All picture goes away. Eva is in an all white space. It is just her and Eli. Eva exhales all her lung capacity. She freezes. Shaking, she inhales

EVA

Elllllll.... what the -

ELI

Too much. I knew i -

CUT TO:

PARADISE.

Eden erupts around them. Heavenly choirs are singing. Flocks of angels fly above. The very essence of life beaming around Eli. Eva, drowning in divinity, falls to her knees in overwhelming emotion.

EVA

Iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii

ELI

Oh ok definitely too much HOLD ON.

CUT TO:

DOLLYWOOD, DOLLY PARTON'S TOUR BUS.

They are sitting on burgundy plush leather seating in what is clearly a custom-built travel bus. Islands in the Stream is faintly playing in the background. Eva's expression morphs from obliteration to "where am I" to "it can't be."

EVA

Eli. Is. (scoff) is this? Are. Are we in?

ELI

It's OK it's fine. It's the off-season she isn't using it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVA

OH, you're in regular touch with Dolly Parton.

ELI

Wouldn't you be? She's friggin' AWESOME.

EVA

Eli what is happening. Why are we here.

ELI

I'm. I'm uhm. I'm taking a time out.

EVA

(incredulous) a WHAT.

ELI

Some pair or group of multi-syllabic scientists will have a theory that will convincingly explain this in 83 years but I need to call a time out. It's been a minute, but I've done it before. It's cool.

EVA

A time out.

ELI

Yep.

EVA

Right now.

ELI

Yeah.

EVA

In suburban Nashville in the back of Dolly Parton's tour bus you know what the location REALLY isn't the sticking point, herrrrrrre, ELI.

ELI

Eva, don't.

EVA

No. No I think I might. See, I can think of many, MANY earlier points of our day.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA (CONT'D)

Of my month. (starts crying) Of my
YEEEEAAARRR. (trembling). Where. (sobs) a
TIME OUT!!!!!! Would have been better
SUITED!

ELI

It wasn't.

EVA

And I'm just supposed to TRUST YOU on
that.

ELI

You should.

EVA

On nothing but blind faith.

ELI

It's the truth.

EVA

NOTHING ELI!!!!!!

ELI

You don't have to call me that any

EVA

Oh I think I will if you don't mind.

Silence for a moment.

ELI

I don't.

EVA

Great. Please. Continue. ELI.

Eli takes a breath.

ELI

I'm gonna make an executive call here
and give you the short version but
basically I've been playing a very
romantic version of the Sims and I'm
deciding if I need to start over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EVA

You. You think our video game algorithm got too out of whack and you low key want to reset the game..

ELI

Don't you? It's literally all what your art, your music, your LITERAL MOVIES are screaming to me ALL THE TIME the last few decades!

EVA

It's ART ELI!!! It's literally NOT LITERAL. When they cut art history from school didn't think that included you.

ELI

My point is, there isn't much longing for this world. Multiverses, alternate timelines, the matrix - how many ways can you say you don't want to be here without saying you don't want to be here?

EVA

That's just your interpretation. I hear those same set of facts and see a world looking for a better way to be, like it always has been.

Eli softens.

ELI

Why are you still fighting?

Eva realizes what she was doing. She's astonished by the answer.

EVA

Maybe I'm just made that way.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NILE.COM SERVER ROOM

Alarms are blaring. Small fires appear in the corners of the building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELI

So fight then.

EVA

What? So that's it?? Nothing
changes??? Nice fix, ass

Really.

ELI

EVA

Hat.

ELI

Thanks.

EVA

HOW IS THIS FIXING ANYTHING? The world
is still fucked, EVERYONE'S DEAD, and I
STILL don't know the FUCKING PASSWORD!

ELI

If that were true, I would tell you.

EVA

Well MOST of it is true.

ELI

None of it is true.

Eva is incredulous.

EVA

Ho HOW Eli. My oxygen is nearly out. I'm
gonna keel over any second. They're down
to nuking the trailer parks out there,
what am I even saving?? And after..

ELI

You have plenty of oxygen.

Eva stare blankly at Eli.

EVA

Are you. Are you like, blowing oxygen
out your..

Eva meekly points towards ELI's butt. Eli stares back silently for
half a second.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELI

You have plenty of oxygen, because everyone's not dead.
Eli points straight up. Eva suspiciously follows with her gaze,
until her eyes light up and she lets out a happy yelp.

EVA

HOLY SHIT LEO! You look like you
swallowed that chick from the Ring!

Leo laughs while holding his side. Activated charcoal has spilled
out of his mouth and down his chin, neck and chest. He triumphantly
holds one of the Sublevel 1 ventilation covers from the ceiling
directly over the mainframe in one hand and a power drill in
another.

LEO

If the fucking robot is so smart then
why did it park itself next to the
GODDAMN SUPPLY CLOSET??

Leo turns on the drill. Eva and Eli just stare back.

LEO

Fuck I miss AJ.

EVA

If only we had a time out, right?

LEO

Huh?

ELI

Eva.

LEO

Time out?

EVA

Forget it. It's nothing.

ELI

You really need to focus.

LEO

Was there a time on?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ELI

Search your memory. It's all there.

LEO

Was there a little Ross and Rachel thing going on? "When was I under you?"

EVA

What memory? Were you here today?

LEO

Is this a memory with AJ?

ELI

You already know what it is.

LEO

Should we hold hands and close our eyes.

EVA

OK OK Leo...

LEO

Sit all cozy, yoga style?

Eva chuckles, despite herself then freezes. She remembers something. She looks straight ahead when she speaks.

EVA

Eli? Did John ever live in Nigeria?

ELI

You already know the answer.

THREE WEEKS AGO. DAWN, ENTRANCE TO QUILOX, LAGOS, NIGERIA. CAMERA STAYS ON THE ENTRANCE TO THE NIGHT CLUB. THE SCENE IS QUIET, SAVE FOR THE EMERGING SOUNDS OF DISTANT WILDLIFE AND THE BEGINNING SOUNDS OF MORNING IN THE CITY.

The front door of Quilox opens and a remix of Marshal Jefferson's Move Your Body comes pouring out of the club until silenced by the doors closing as John exits the club in head to toe Loro Piana clothing and Bentley Platinum sunglasses, hugs the bouncers, climbs into his Bugatti Veyron and drives toward the sunrise, Childish Gambino's Feels Like Summer playing over the speakers. Camera shows John's drive from several angles for 10 seconds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FADE TO:

IKOYI, BEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN LAGOS. EXT. JOHN'S HOME.

John pulls up in front of a very large Georgian mansion adorned with columns, bay windows and fountains. John walks around to the back of the property, where two very excited, large Tibetan Mastiffs greet him with great affection, before being pushed aside by an even larger pet cheetah, which nuzzles against John. John's wife, Ado, stands in the entryway to the house, her arms crossed with a bemused look on her face.

ADO
I don't know Kweisi, I think maybe you
should have got BIGGAH.

Kweisi (John) does not look up.

KWEISI (JOHN)
You make your jokes wife. When these
beasts are stopping the bad men you'll
be thanking me.

Ado gracefully glides through the throng of giant pets and places her hands gently on Kweisi's (John's) face.

ADO
I will thank you. When there are no more
bad men.

Ado gives Kweisi (John) a light, long, kiss. She then glides away. Kweisi (John) calls after Ado as she leaves.

KWEISI
I swear I take the next good man
position my love every day they seem to
always be filled here.

Kweisi (John) pauses, then stands up, lets the pets go, then, after pausing again, kicks the wall behind him.

The animal skin that is hanging there makes a solid metal clunking sound, and pushes into the wall.

The rug adjacent to Kweisi (John) collapses onto a series of descending stairs that now appear. He calmly descends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JOHN'S UNDERGROUND CRIMINAL LAIR.

CURVED STONE STAIRWAY CARVED CLOCKWISE DOWN TWO STORIES HIGH INTO THE ROOM. SMOOTH, SOFT, LOW WARM LIGHT GENTLY BEGINS TO FILL THE ROOM

A modern-day turntable begins to play Nina Simone's Sinnerman as Kweisi (John) descends the stairs.

THE WALLS ARE ADORNED WITH EVIDENCE OF PAST TRADE DEALS, INCLUDING BLUEPRINTS, BLOWN UP SCHEMATICS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE BIOTOXINS COLCHICINE, ABRIN & RICIN. ABRIN IS FEATURED MOST. ONE POSTER FOR TEACHING ABRIN BATTLE DEPLOYMENT SHOWS THE TOXIN DISTRIBUTED BY WEATHER BALLOONS. ANOTHER POSTED DOCUMENT DECLARES IN BOLD PRINT TO HAVE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL NEARBY AS A POISONING PRECAUTION WHEN HANDLING ABRIN.

Kweisi (John) walks past this display, and arrives at his desk, which is scattered with schematics for some form of portable hacking machine, as well as Macintosh and Anonymous logos scattered throughout, as well as stationary adorned with a shield with a single red chevron and three three-leaved clovers. John removes his jacket and drapes it over the desk chair, and removes a case containing ear buds.

John wakes up his computer to reveal the words Living Intelligence Annihilation Machine on a working document, and the phone rings. Kweisi (John) places a matte black earpiece in his ear and taps it.

KWEISI

Good morning. Yes. As a matter of fact,
I had just begun reviewing the details
of your offer.

Kweisi (John) picks up the stack of papers with the shield with red chevron and clovers on it. There are several notes on the margins and the shield has been circled several times.

KWEISI (CONT.)

Oh no no. Your terms are quite fair,
some might even say generous. Oh yes, I
can deliver what is requested.

LORD GOODIE (O.S.)

I'm impressed an arms dealer in your
neighborhood would be so technologically
adept, very enterprising - ahead of the
curve as they say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KWEISI

Oh of course, we fortunate in this industry have expected a shift into this area and have made the appropriate, adjustments.

JUMP CUT TO:

CLIVEDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, ENGLAND - DAY

OVERHEAD PASSING SHOT OF THE PALACE GROUNDS AND SURROUNDING ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

INT. CLIVEDON MORNING ROOM

Lord Goodie is having pastry and tea near the window overlooking the gardens.

LORD GOODIE

And, to be perfectly certain, my dear boy, this device has the capacity for offensive, as well as defensive use, yes?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. JOHN'S UNDERGROUND CRIMINAL LAIR

KWEISI

Yes, the device COULD provide SUBSTANTIAL offensive artificial intelligence capabilities, enough to upset even the most prolific h- (clears throat) excuse me, coder. I understand. Forgive me, I understand that this consortium wishes to remain unknown and that is why your correspondence lacks any names or return addresses, however, no there is no problem, I was just curious about your logo.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. CLIVEDON MORNING ROOM

Lord Goodie furrows his brow, then gives a look of realization and reflexively touches the crest on his clothes.

LORD GOODIE

Logo? Do you mean the shield on the stationary? Oh don't be silly man we have no logo this isn't a cricket team now! It must have been chosen at random by a member or came with the paper what nonsense.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. JOHN'S UNDERGROUND CRIMINAL LAIR

KWEISI

Oh you don't have a logo! It was just chosen at random by a consortium member my goodness well let us move on then, shall we?

The camera swings around to show that Kweisi (John) has been staring at a faded banner of the Goodie family crest, centered around a shield with a red chevron and three three-leaf clovers.

KWEISI (CONT.)

Yes of course, the device will be very user friendly, very discernible as an OFFENSIVE weapon, I'll make sure personally. Criss cross applesauce. (Smiles) Stronger. Yes, its authorization security will be STRONGER than two-key. The device itself will be a key, divided into two parts. Yes, in addition to password protection, of course, and I'd be happy to choose one for you temporarily, very smart. Let me know when it arrives and I will give it to you then. My pleasure. Same to you. Ta.

Kweisi (John) touches one of his ear pieces, then slowly removes them; he writes down "criss cross applesauce" on a piece of paper.

KWEISI (CONT.)

Well? Is it him.

A voice from a speaker answers.

ANONYMOUS

It's Goodie.

KWEISI (CONT.)

You are confident..

ANONYMOUS

He is having tea with an apricot scone and way to much creme fraiche at Clivedon in Berkinghamshire, England.

Kweisi (John) pauses.

KWEISI

You can tell what the man is eating?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The feed of a phone camera pops up on Kweisi's (John's) computer monitor.

A diagonal view of a middle-aged white man in a navy cardigan, crisp white shirt, canary yellow pants and sock-less leather shoes having breakfast in a dark-paneled room with giant portraits in the background can be seen.

On his cardigan is the same shield as on Kweisi's (John's) stationary.

KWEISI (CONT.)

Well, that's a flex. You think he has any idea who he just made a deal with?

Camera pans further across the room to a display case containing various 19th Century African royal artifacts and crown under a photograph that reads "King Koko."

ANONYMOUS

Our analysis says no. Still, you go through with this you WILL be painting a target on your back, and our deal does not include personal protection, you ready for that?

KWEISI

Once this deal is done I am taking my family OUT OF HERE. I don't care where or what, I am starting over and having a GOOD LIFE. My family deserves it. They have ALWAYS. DESERVED IT.

On that final "IT," Kweisi (John) knocks the Goodie banner over and leaves the room.

The camera then pans back over to Kweisi's (John's) desk, then to his chair, then to his coat, where for a moment the fabric on the back of the jacket shoulder is x-rayed to reveal that a portion of fabric is actually hiding a small device that is transmitting.

WAGNER SPY

Did you get all that?

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

Why do you infidels always have to be so stupidly arrogant?

DISSOLVE TO:

BEGINNING OF THE SCENE.

The audience is replayed the beginning of the scene as a memory and Kweisi (John) exiting the club is slowed down when he hugs the second bouncer to reveal that the second bouncer placed the device on Kweisi when they hugged.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

(CONT.)

I of course don't mind when your idiocy
is to MY advantage, but.

DISSOLVE TO:

KHABĪTH HEADQUARTERS, NIGERIA.

A CAMERA SWEEPS THE EXTERIOR OF A COMPOUND NESTLED BEHIND AN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AND A RUGGED HILL, WHERE DOZENS OF
FIGHTERS OF TWO DIFFERENT TYPES CAN BE SEEN BUSYING ABOUT UPON
CLOSE APPROACH. THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON THE MAIN BUILDING, THEN THE
TOP FLOOR BIGGEST WINDOW. THE KHABĪTH FIGHTER THAT KILLED MONTE IS
AT A SMALL TABLE TALKING TO A SENIOR WAGNER GROUP OFFICER.

FADE TO:

INT. KHABĪTH HEADQUARTERS, NIGERIA.

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

When I am forced to ALIGN myself with
one of you then please. Be professional.
Keep your disorders at home.

The Wagner Group officer pulls a half-smoked Cohiba Behike cigar
out of his mouth, ashes it on the floor.

WAGNER OFFICER

Do not associate me with this little
bitch.

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

Idiots.

WAGNER OFFICER

Centuries of Goodie inbreeding will do
that.

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

Well they are supposed to be tomorrow's
problem and today's bank account. Let
him buy it so we can take it, and hold
hostage any government we please. Now
look, this idiot all but pissed on King
Koko's grave and asked the grandchild
prince to hold his cock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WAGNER OFFICER

His Highness.

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

What do you think would rankle him more,
that he was about to be swindled by an
arms dealer he thinks beneath him or by
a black man who literally ranks above
him because he's ACTUAL ROYALTY?

WAGNER OFFICER

THE SECOND.

KHABĪTH FIGHTER

THE SECOND.

Hearty laughter.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CLUB GENESIS, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

TIGHT SHOT OF KWEISI (JOHN) AT THE END OF THE BAR, ALONE.

Kweisi (John) is talking to the bartender. He then hands him the divided two parts of the device stacked on top of each other, a thick envelope full of \$100 bills and two pictures: one of Monte and one of Michael.

KWEISI

Right. This is the gentleman who will be
picking up the parts.(Points to Monte)
When these two order their drinks bring
the device to him. Easy as pie, alright?
Good lad.

Kweisi (John) walks out the exit door nearby into the blinding light of outside.

Moments later Monte and Michael approach the bar. The bartender approaches.

MONTE

Mango Paloma.

The bartender turns and walks away.
The camera pulls out, revealing an overwhelmingly male clientele dancing and roaming the club. In the distance the audience can see Edward vigorously dancing for attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

KWEISI'S CAR.

Kweisi (John) is driving away from the club, talking on the phone.

KWEISI

It's done. The boy will deliver to you.
How soon can you install the security
system?

ANONYMOUS (O.S.)

Tonight.

KWEISI

Tonight? The sooner the better, they are
expecting the product to arrive next
week.

ANONYMOUS (O.S.)

Any chance our new friends with guns
will find it first?

KWEISI

No. I made sure it remained well hidden
for now. They won't go looking there.

The car drives out of shot.

CUT TO:

EXT. KWEISI'S HOME.

The house looks off.
The lights are all on, and Weezer's Island in the Sun is blasting
throughout.

A curtain is ominously billowing out of a top story room.
The front door is open. Kweisi (John) turns off the engine further
away from the house than usual, retrieves a Walther P5 pistol from
the glove compartment, and cautiously approaches the front door.

He discovers the two mastiffs' bodies crumpled at the entrance,
riddled with bullet holes.
He makes a sad face, then carefully steps over them, into the
house, and up the stairs.

He approaches the primary bedroom slowly, enters, sees signs of an
epic struggle: everything is broken, dragged, bloodied, bullet
holes and scratch marks everywhere.

Kweisi (John) slowly walks to the edge of the broken floor-to-
ceiling window and peers over to see to his surprise three dead
KHABITH fighters splayed on the ground below.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A noise startles him, and he turns to see the bodies of his wife and daughter being guarded by a very bloodied-up pet cheetah. Gabriel, the cheetah is panting, then stops. It gives a low rumble, its eyes never leaving Kweisi (John).

KWEISI (CONT.)

Ado...my girls...why my girls..(sobbing)
Gabriel. Gabriel. (full of tears).
Gabriel. You stop that now. You stop
giving me that conversation with your
eyes Gabriel. I. (sobs) I didn't. I
didn't.

The cheetah rises slowly, a look of damning judgement consuming its face as it lowers its head and is stung by a tranquilizer dart before letting out a meager roar and collapsing into unconsciousness.

Kweisi (John), still trembling from the expectation of final judgment, slowly turns to see a US special operative who looks suspiciously like Eli lowering a tranquilizer gun and another approaching.

US AGENT

Pardon the interruption, but we thought
now would be a good time to introduce
ourselves. I understand this may not be
convenient.

Kweisi, still staring at the tranquilizer gun, suddenly starts looking down at his body.

US AGENT (CONT.)

Oh! Goodness no. We would never do that
to you. Now. That would just. Well the
optics. (laughs) No. No.

Places a hand gently on Kweisi's arm.

US AGENT (CONT.)

We are a whole new group of
professionals, believe me.

Raises his hand to reveal a clear fentanyl patch applied to Kweisi's (John's) arm. Kweisi quickly collapses.

US AGENT (CONT.)

No No. These. Patches. Make us feel.
Far. Less icky.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. US SECRET GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL ROOM, SOMEWHERE.

John wakes up in an antiseptic-looking plain hospital-looking room with the basic hospital equipment hooked up to him, dressed in what looks like government-issued grey pajamas.

A nurse-looking staff member who looks suspiciously like Eli, but facially different, is checking the equipment and notices him waking up.

Islands in the Stream is playing through the ceiling.

NURSE ELI

Oh great. You're awake. Just have a FEW things to go over and you'll be on your way.

JOHN

Excuse me? Where the fuck am I?
Who the fuck are you?

NURSE ELI

Well that's skipping ahead but, what the heck, it's Friday. (laughs and wrinkles his nose).

JOHN

Oh you think this is funny.

Nurse stops laughing.

NURSE ELI

Absolutely not John. Your feelings are valid and I see them. And you.

JOHN

Who the fuck is John? My name

NURSE ELI

YOU are, John. MmmHmmm. See, John, we cycle through agents alphabetically, and we needed to at least register a first name to get you through the door and well, John, (shrugs) you weren't being much help so, JOHN. You get to pick the last name though, John! So. That's nice.

JOHN

Agent? Register? Am I kidnapped? Is this some sort of GET OUT SHIT - is there some geriatric fucking pale-ass JOHN trying to HIJACK MY HEAD

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NURSE ELI

You were rescued, John. By the United States Government. Still your government, if you haven't forgotten. We were helping Interpol build a case against you for bioweapons trading, actually. That's why we had an eye on you. But when this device you developed appeared we. Well we couldn't let something like that get into the wrong hands, John so yes. You are not in Nigeria anymore. The question is, where do you go next? Your still young John. You can still live a rich, fulfilling life doing GOOD THINGS, like you were wishing for just HOURS AGO. Serving your country, stopping the bad guys from committing atrocities upon the innocent. Saving thousands of women and children just like your wife and daughter. Or, we can return you to Lagos, where you can spend the remaining hours of your life wondering the creative manner of pain and....flourish it will end. The choice, of course, is up to you. You have one minute.

John scoffs, looks up, and stops his gaze at the monitors in the corner, where a phone is plugged in and is on, connected to one. Small video clips are playing on it.

JOHN

Is that? Is that my phone? Can I have it?

The nurse looks at the phone, then at John.

NURSE ELI

Tell you what, John. You say yes to our offer, and, after we collect all the data we need and before we wipe all the data we don't, you get a shot at keeping some sentimentals. Sound good?

John keeps staring at the video clip currently playing on the phone.

A smile forms on his face.

JOHN

Dillinger.

NURSE ELI

I'm sorry?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

My last name. I choose Dillinger.

NURSE ELI

A little on the nose, don't you think?

JOHN

You honestly believe anyone will notice?
That they'll give a fuck if they do?

The nurse takes half a second to consider this, and quietly chuckles.

NURSE ELI

Welcome to your new life, John
Dillinger.

The camera slowly zooms in on the phone, where it is now clear a Tik Tok video of John's daughter is playing on repeat. On it, she can be seen laughing while playing jumprope, while repeating the phrase "criss cross applesauce."

JUMP CUT TO:

NILE.COM SERVER ROOM

Eva's face lights up, she leaps across the room, reaches the keyboard and enters the password: "criss cross applesauce." The mainframe arrests, begins becoming distorted, corrupted and "bleeding" as it is eaten. Air resumes being pumped, power turns on everywhere, and locks can be heard opening.

CLEO

Oh dammit, blank space.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. NILE.COM INDUSTRIAL PARK.

THE CAMERA SLOWLY PULLS SKYWARD FROM THE CAMPUS, AS EVA, LEO AND ELI'S CONVERSATION CONTINUES.

EVA

Sooo... we just wait while it eats?

ELI

You have somewhere to go?

LEO

Doo youuuuuu?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELI

Well, yes. Aannnd no. You see,

LEO

Eh. Sorry. Probably not who I should be interrupting but, IF THERE EVER WAS A DAY, ya know? Uhm. I'M GOOD. With a little mystery. For today. Thank you.

THE CAMERA STOPS AT A VERY MUSCULAR ISS, AUGMENTED BY BLUE ORIGIN, SPACEX & VIRGIN GALACTIC CONTAINING THE ARK OF HUMAN SURVIVALF. THE CAMERA FOCUSES IN ON THE BRIDGE, WHERE ASTRONAUTS STARE DOWN AT EARTH.

COMMANDER

Will you look at that.

CAPTAIN

I can't believe they did it.

SCIENCE OFFICER

Pulled the trigger?

CAPTAIN

Ceased fire.

COMMANDER

Soon enough that we're not dead?

CAPTAIN

We still have a signal, Commander.

COMMANDER

How we doing on supplies?

SCIENCE OFFICER

According to our guests, if we keep it lean, 2 years, maybe more?

COMMANDER

Plenty of time for smoke to clear down there, maybe some heads.

SCIENCE OFFICER

Do we need to use the politicians' DNA for now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CAPTAIN

Is it alright if we, table, that for now?

CAPTAIN

I think that's the right call.

SCIENCE OFFICER

Sir, we have an incoming call from the surface - it's the White House.

COMMANDER

Madam President. It is good to hear your voice.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Hey there Commander, it is good to be heard by a human, no matter where the location. I wanted to tell you that you are not forgotten, though it may be a minute before we can bring you back. You good on snacks up there?

SCIENCE OFFICER

Oh we got plenty in that department, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOORE

Well keep yourselves healthy. Minds like yours are in short supply. And is the Mars terraforming equipment still intact and ready to deploy?

CAPTAIN

Sure is.

PRESIDENT MOORE

It might be put in service sooner than we thought (chuckles). Time out's over astronauts, we're starting again.

The camera pans to the hydroponic garden pod, resting finally on an apple.

FADE TO BLACK.

GOOD