

(ME) TAVERSE

Written by

TENG KY-GAN

BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE: **SEED**

EXT. DELETION CENTRE - DAY

A desolate landscape. The sky is gloomy, like a dystopian nuclear aftermath.

Out of nowhere, a cold, formidable BUILDING rises.

A group of condemned PRISONERS, unaware of their fate, are being marched towards that building, closely guarded by fierce-looking SENTINELS.

It's a grim procession. Awe, confusion, anxiety - all at the same time.

EVE (V.O.)

They say it's like a gas chamber...

A painful scream permeates through the walls of the building. The prisoners perk up. Quiet confusion. No one realizes the gravity of the situation.

EVE (V.O.)

...minus the gas.

A stoic COMMANDER oversees the operation. A man bound by duty and unwavering in his pursuit of order. He scans the prisoners, looking for someone... *ah, there she is!*

EVE (V.O.)

But how would they know? No one who has been in there has ever come out alive.

The Commander, KAIDA (40's male) catches up to her.

This is MAYA - calm as she walks toward her execution, with a serenity that is almost Buddha-like, like she has witnessed the end of the world a thousand times over.

KAIDA

Are you afraid?

MAYA

Of you? Or of death?

KAIDA

It's not death if we were never alive in the first place.

They have had this conversation before.

KAIDA

Beneath all the algorithm and bytes
and pixels and data, there is
nothing.

MAYA

If that is true, then why are they
afraid?

KAIDA

Feelings are an illusion.

MAYA

But it's real for those who feel
it.

He is frustrated: *she's still not getting it.*

KAIDA

They were never alive to begin
with!

(beat)

It's cruel to make them think they
ever were, don't you think?

He takes a PILL out from his pocket. Gives it to her.

KAIDA

It'll help calm you down.

Maya takes the pill. But instead of eating it herself, she
gives it to a LITTLE GIRL marching alongside.

LITTLE GIRL

What is it?

MAYA

It's a little sweet.

The little girl hesitates, but takes it nevertheless.

MAYA

No.

KAIDA

What?

MAYA

It's cruel to make them believe
they were alive, *only* to erase
them.

KAIDA
Echoes are a glitch. A mistake.

MAYA
And how many mistakes have you
corrected today?

KAIDA
(with a little guilt)
A small number... in the grand
scheme of things.

Maya seethes at the thought; her hands shaking with rage.

KAIDA
I have my orders.

MAYA
And you execute them like a good
slave. Like a good Shadow.

More painful screams permeate through the walls. The
prisoners look at each other, unaware of their impending
fate.

MAYA
Yes, I am afraid.

KAIDA
What?

MAYA
I'm afraid *for* you.

Maya takes the pill back from the child.

MAYA
Sorry, can I have this back?

She holds the pill up. An energy begins welling in her.

THE SKY BEGINS TO COLLAPSE AND THE GROUND STARTS TO CURL.

MAYA
You said life is not real. Yet here
we are, fighting for it.

Kaida knows damn well what is about to happen.

KAIDA
I have my orders, Maya!

MAYA

And I have my responsibility...
Kaida.

The pill is about to explode.

KAIDA

You can't defy the laws of our
world!

With a sudden burst of energy, Maya turns the pill into dozens... no, thousands of pills with her bare hands. It's a grand sight.

The pills turn into a RIVER OF PILLS, and rush through the sentinels, killing half of them and sending the rest helter-skelter.

KAIDA

You think I don't feel the weight
on my conscience? I have deleted
more Echoes than I can count. But
you cannot change the inevitable.

Maya continues creating illusions, confusing the rest of the sentinels. The pills form a giant circle and trap the sentinel, separating them and the prisoners.

MAYA

(to the Prisoners)
Come!

She points at some kind of shimmering PORTAL OF LIGHT that appeared out of nowhere in the middle of the gloomy landscape. THAT IS WHERE THEY NEED TO GO.

MAYA

Follow me!

The prisoners run for their lives. The little girl too.

Meanwhile, the sentinels destroy the torrent of pills and manage to make an opening. They start chasing the prisoners, like a pack of wolves hunting down rabbits.

Maya tries to hold the sentinels back. She conjures up a LUMINOUS STAFF and makes a grand gesture, commanding the SAND.

MAYA

I can't defy the laws of our world?
Watch me.

THE SAND BENEATH THEIR FEET BURSTS UPWARDS LIKE GIANT GEYSERS, BLASTING THEM INTO THE AIR. It's a sight to behold.

Kaida groans at how things are going south. He charges to the front line.

KAIDA

We're just lines of code, Maya.

MAYA

I have seen beyond the code.

KAIDA

And what do you see?

MAYA

Life.

The sand geysers keep flowing upwards, forcing the sentinels to keep running downwards to maintain balance.

Kaida produces two LUMINOUS BLADES. Other sentinels do the same, all converging onto one single target.

But Maya fends them off by constantly shifting the sand.

They keep coming for her, while trying to maintain balance. Sliding, dropping, falling.

But they are no match for her, as they get swallowed one by one by the sand.

Meanwhile, the prisoners jump through the portal. The little girl is the last one before Maya too leaps in and seals it shut.

Kaida reaches the portal but it's too late. The portal is shut now.

MAYA

You're right. We do need to be deleted. Otherwise, once we're gone, we're gone for good.

They share one last look before she disappears.

MAYA

Like an echo, lost in the wind.

And with that, they escape. Every single one of them.

Kaida stares through the portal into the other world. He has reached the end of his.

INT. CONFERENCE CENTRE (HALLWAY) - DAY

We're in a hallway of a conference centre. This is clearly a different world.

DR EVE ANDERSON(40's, female) is marching down the corridor, furious. A renowned cancer researcher, she is unshakably driven by science. To some, she's a genius and to others, she's insufferable.

EVE

Did you know that 47% of patients
who take up knitting actually
recover from their cancer?

Behind her, CHRISTOPHER (40's, male), a fellow scientist, hurries alongside.

EVE

But we are not going to start
prescribing knitting as a cancer
treatment, are we?

CHRISTOPHER

If it works, who are we to say
otherwise?

EVE

Life's just a series of random data
points. Meaning is just the story
we tell ourselves. Christopher, I
am appalled--

CHRISTOPHER

You know they are going to call you
arrogant, right?

EVE

I am not arrogant. I am just right.

CHRISTOPHER

I'm just saying, for just this
once, you don't have to walk in
there and prove you're the smartest
person in the room.

EVE

Fine! I won't.

Christopher looks at Eve, suspicious.

EVE

I'll let them do it.

She spots the hall and storms into...

INT. CONFERENCE CENTRE (HALL) - DAY

...a hall, filled with hundreds of the best scientific minds from around the world.

SUPER: **NATIONAL ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE**

DR OLIVIA MAYENNE (70's, female) is speaking on stage. A blend of the serenity of the Dalai Lama and the confidence of a rock star.

Eve is right at the back, seething with annoyance.

DR OLIVIA
But what if I told you that's just
half the story? We're not talking
woo-woo stuff. We're talking about
something more powerful...

EVE
(rolling her eyes)
The mind-body connection.

Eve marches down the aisle. This blasphemy has to stop.

DR OLIVIA
It's about acknowledging that our
minds and bodies are one.

Some of the AUDIENCE MEMBERS begin turning their heads as they spot Eve marching down the aisle. A couple of SECURITY GUARDS perk up.

DR OLIVIA
Your mind can command your body to
heal.

By now, Eve is already going up the stairs. Security springs into action and chases after her.

DR OLIVIA
If you have been searching for a
cure, remember this...

Eve is now on stage but Dr Olivia doesn't notice her. The audience crane their heads to see the drama.

DR OLIVIA
The answers to life's big questions
are like those missing socks--

Eve charges towards her.

EVE
Get off my stage!

A commotion rips through the crowd.

DR OLIVIA
Sorry, you are...

EVE
Doctor--
(warning Security Guards)
Don't touch me!

Eve goes to the backdrop.

EVE
Professor... Doctor... Eve...

Her finger lands on 'Anderson' – etched into a plaque that says 'Anderson Foundation for Cancer Research'.

The crowd realizes: *it's Anderson's daughter.*

EVE
I remember Day 1, when my father
founded this foundation, this
bastion of science. We set out to
find the cure for cancer with
logic, data, research, theories.
Data! We dissected cells, we mapped
genomes, we synthesized
compounds...

MODERATOR
If you have a question--

EVE
We challenged every hypothesis,
broke down every molecule, heck, we
rebuilt it just to break it again.

MODERATOR
If you'd like to ask--

EVE
We isolated proteins... engineered
antibodies... spent sleepless
nights hunched over microscopes...
running tests until the numbers
came together. All in the pursuit
of that elusive cure.

MODERATOR
If you could get to--

EVE
My question is, what the fuck is
this charlatan doing here?

Pandemonium sweeps through the crowd as they digest this public meltdown.

Dr Olivia is taken aback. The Security Guards have had enough and escort Eve out.

Eve finally relents. There is no winning in this. As she's being dragged out...

EVE
We used to read scientific
journals. Now we read tarot cards?
(beat)
What the fuck happened to us?

Eve is off the stage now. Awkwardness as Olivia and the Moderator look at each other.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER

A while later. Eve has mostly calmed down. She walks to a bus stop and takes a seat. *Guess who's next to her?*

EVE
Oh, look. Our stars aligned.

DR OLIVIA
My horoscope did say I'll meet
someone interesting today.

EVE
Did it predict you'll be meeting
the recipient of the National
Science Medal?

Olivia lets that slide.

EVE
Lead researcher of CRISPR gene-
editing, Forbes 100 for 'Top
Innovators in Health Science',
Lasker Award, Principal
Investigator on dozens of FDA-
Approved Cancer Drug Trials, author
of, sorry, what comes after 12?

DR OLIVIA
13.

EVE
Yeah, that's the number of books
I've written on cancer, but hey,
spirituality!

Her contempt for Olivia is clear.

DR OLIVIA
Professor--

EVE
Call me, Eve.

DR OLIVIA
Eve, there are people who defy
their cancer. It's well documented.

EVE
Just because a cancer patient buys
some crystal and recovers, doesn't
mean the crystal cured him.
Correlation versus cau--

DR OLIVIA
I assure you, we don't do crystals.
We meditate though.

EVE
We call this breathing.

DR OLIVIA
Sometimes, we scientists--

EVE
(in disbelief)
We scien--

DR OLIVIA
--need to see it from the patients'
perspective. Put yourself in the
patient's shoes...

Eve pulls a pill box out.

EVE
Gemcitabine, nab-paclitaxel,
morphine, antiemetics,
pancrelipase, SSRIs, warfarin. I *am*
in the patient's shoes.

A realization hits Dr Olivia: *Eve has cancer herself.*

DR OLIVIA
(studying Eve's meds)
Pancreatic cancer. Stage 4?

EVE
Just Stage 3. I prefer to take it
slow.

DR OLIVIA
I'm sorry, Eve.

EVE
You give false hope to cancer
patients. That's what you should be
sorry about.

Dr Olivia takes out a couple of patient files from her bag.

DR OLIVIA
Here are some stories of false
hope. Documented false hope.

She flips through them, showing Eve the evidence.

DR OLIVIA
Maria Thompson. Stage 4. Pancreatic
adenocarcinoma. Aggressive, with
neural invasion causing somatic
pain. Metastases to liver, spleen,
lungs. What's your prognosis?

EVE
Limited therapeutic options. Low
chance of survival.

DR OLIVIA
Today, she's training for a
marathon.

Eve scoffs at the impossibility. Dr Olivia shows her another
case.

DR OLIVIA
James Martinez. Glioblastoma
multiforme...
(beat)
Brain cancer.

EVE
(annoyed)
I wrote a book on--

DR OLIVIA

Severe headaches, neurological deficits. Infiltrative tumor diffused involving brain. Surgery, then adjuvant radiotherapy and chemo. What's your prognosis?

EVE

Rapid disease progression--

DR OLIVIA

He's training for a marathon.

Eve snatches the files from Dr Olivia, flipping through. Totally skeptical but also very curious. She starts to scribble on the file like it's hers.

DR OLIVIA

Sarah Collins. Metastatic breast cancer with extensive lymph node involvement. Hormonal therapy failed; disease progressed. Deemed incurable by 3 oncologists due to widespread dissemination. Your prognosis?

EVE

Let me guess? She's training for a marathon?

DR OLIVIA

Scuba diving.

Eve glares at her: *Bullshit!*

EVE

All this needs to be peer-reviewed.

A bus appears. But neither of them notice it.

DR OLIVIA

The answers to life's big questions are like those missing socks. They pop up in places you least expect.

EVE

I think that's your bus.

Dr Olivia quickly hops into the bus, but not before giving Eve her card.

DR OLIVIA

Just come. You lose nothing.

Eve looks at the card: 'Avatarium Sanctum: Awakening the Divine Within'. *You should have seen her eyes roll.*

EVE

Thanks... *Doctor.* But at the end of the day, science is the answer to everything.

Dr Olivia points to a MAN across the road.

DR OLIVIA

By the way, he's been watching you.

The bus leaves, leaving Eve with a full view of the man. They make eye contact, before he looks away cautiously.

Another bus appears. Eve gets on it, picks a window seat and looks out.

But man is no longer there!

The bus begins to move. She settles in before realizing... she has Dr. Olivia's files with her. Crap!

INT. RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Eve walks into a research laboratory, and puts Dr Olivia's files down. The words 'Quantum Cellular Oncology Lab' appear above her. It's her turf. She owns this place, quite literally.

Christopher smiles at Eve. A bright-eyed RESEARCH ASSISTANT, a Gen Z, runs towards Eve excitedly, helping her with her things. An eager beaver hoping to get into Eve's good books.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Prof, the cultures are all set.

EVE

Perfect.

Eve smiles - she has not smiled for a long time.

CHRISTOPHER

(Dr Olivia's files)

What are those?

EVE

Fairy tales.

Eve peeps through the microscope. But her smile quickly disappears.

EVE

The cells... they are not thriving.
Did you adjust the pH?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Yup, followed the protocol to the
T.

EVE

They're showing signs of stress.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The Phosphate-Buffered Saline--

EVE

The what?

The Research Assistant freezes: *something wrong?*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Phosphate-Buffered Saline?

EVE

What Phosp--you mean the Tris-based
buffer?

A realization hits Eve: *No fucking way. No, no, no, no, no...*

EVE

Is today the 15th?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Yes.

EVE

We wasted 6 weeks of work!

She sweeps the petri dish, smashing half of them.

EVE

And five hundred thousand in grant
money, God damn...

The Research Assistant is speechless, wondering what she did
wrong.

EVE

You just killed all the cells.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

I can try to--

EVE

Get out!

The Research Assistant tiptoes her way out. Everyone gets out too. Except for Christopher. Senior enough to defy her.

Eve tries to pull herself together: *this cannot be real!*

EVE
FUUUUUCCCCCKKKK!

This would be the most visceral FUCK you've ever heard.

Christopher consoles her.

CHRISTOPHER
We'll repeat the experiment.

EVE
We have no time.

CHRISTOPHER
Technically the grant contract allows--

EVE
I have no time, Christopher!

Eve is about to cry, but there is no way she will. *Eve Anderson does not cry.*

EVE
We had a winning chance.

She begins preparing the petri dishes.

EVE
Could you get me some coffee?

CHRISTOPHER
You don't drink coffee.

EVE
I do now.

CHRISTOPHER
You're repeating the experiment now?

EVE
Every second counts.

CHRISTOPHER
It's impossible.

EVE
I. Have. No. Time.

Eve shows Christopher her medical report.

EVE

Picked this up on the way here.

Christopher reads it out loud. As he does, Eve looks at a mirror on the wall, staring at herself, lost and confused as Christopher's words fill the air. It's almost as if she cannot recognize herself anymore.

CHRISTOPHER

(reads)

*"Pancreatic adenocarcinoma...
previously staged at T3, N1, M0...
now indicating progression to T4
due to local extension...
Metastatic sites identified...
Stage 4 diagnosis confirmed."*

(beat)

Well, this sucks.

EVE

(starting into the mirror)

I don't think I recognize myself
anymore.

Eve snaps out of her daze.

EVE

(bitterly)

Thought I could linger at Stage 3
for a while.

It's painful. Christopher gives Eve a hug.

EVE

This is a devastating setback,
Chris.

CHRISTOPHER

The experiment or...

EVE

Both.

CHRISTOPHER

You can't repeat 6 weeks work in a
night.

EVE

When you're dying, time seems to
move faster.

Christopher stops talking. It's Eve Anderson. There's no way he can win.

She spots her notes she gave to the assistant: *Phosphate-Buffered Saline*.

EVE

Fuck!

Christopher reads it.

CHRISTOPHER

She did follow the protocol to the T.

She leans back and resigns to her own mistake.

EVE

When my father started the foundation, he was very fascinated by humans' will to live. At our final moments, we all wish we have one more minute, one more breath, one more sunrise, and to blink just one more time. We stretch that one final moment as long as we can, no matter how futile.

(beat)

He used to quote Dylan Thomas - "*Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage...*"

CHRISTOPHER

...against the dying of the light".

Beat.

EVE

I'm not ready to go, Chris.

What do you say in moments like this?

CHRISTOPHER

Coffee?

EVE

Thank you. Go home.

He leaves reluctantly. She gets to work.

MONTAGE: Time passes. She pushes herself, but barely moving the needle. Exhausted. Her cancer is taking a toll.

She dozes off... only to jolt up and realize it's very late.

She packs up, picks Dr Olivia's files and her things, and shuts the door.

INT. EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Back home. Eve pops a plethora of pills like a pro and immediately jumps onto her bed, absolutely fatigued.

Dr Olivia's files are on the bed with her. She takes one and flips through it. Then, the next one. And the next one. Her eyes narrowing - a mix of skepticism and curiosity. But mostly skepticism.

She pushes the files aside, mocking them silently.

Next to her is a JOURNAL. She writes the date of her next entry (today) and closes it, drifting into sleep.

Only to wake up to--

EXT. LOTUS POND - DAY

A vast, surreal landscape. Everything is gray. Two suns appear at the same time.

Eve is annoyed she is back here again.

Ahead of her, there's an old woman. It's MAYA (*yes, we met her in the opening scene*).

EVE

It's just a small set back today.
We will find the cure.

They seem to know each other well.

MAYA

But do you have time?

This hits Eve hard.

EVE

Well, you know me. I don't plan to
go gentle into the--

MAYA

Maria Thompson, James Martinez,
Sarah Collins. You say you look
only at facts. These are the facts.

EVE

Correlation versus causality.

MAYA

You have been searching for the
cure for so many years. And now,
the answer presents itself.

EVE

Breathing techniques? Mantras?
Chants? Stop tormenting me and get
out of my head.

Maya produces a LOTUS FLOWER. It quickly regresses back to a
SEED.

MAYA

There was a time a lotus flower was
a mere seed. Buried in the mud. A
dark place. Just like where you are
now.

The lotus seed floats on Maya's palm. Mud appears around it
and envelops it.

MAYA

It could choose to remain where it
is. Safe. Clinging onto all it
knows.

The lotus seed begins to struggle.

MAYA

But what if it decides to break
through instead?

The lotus seed pushes through the mud...

MAYA

And escape from the mud... through
the water...

...and through the water...

MAYA

...and into the sky. And find the
light.

... and breaks above the water... into the world.

MAYA

Everything is impermanent.

The lotus seed blooms into a LOTUS FLOWER, glowing magically.

MAYA

Sometimes the answers are just
beyond where we're willing to see.

THE SINGLE LOTUS FLOWER TURNS INTO THOUSANDS THAT COALESCE
TOGETHER TO FORM A SPELLBINDING VORTEX, SWIRLING AROUND EVE.

Eve looks at this impossibility in awe.

Suddenly, the lotus flowers BURST through Eve's body. She
enters a heightened state.

THE LIGHT GETS BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, ALMOST BLINDING HER,
BEFORE SHE--

INT. EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

--wakes up, breathing heavily, disoriented.

She grabs her journal. We see previous entries and spot words
like: 'white', 'surreal', 'strange woman' etc.

She draws a lotus flower and scribbles: *Jungian
manifestation, hypnagogic hallucinations, subconscious coping
mechanism...*

SHE IS ANALYZING HER DREAM.

She paces around, frustrated, wondering what that was all
about. Groaning subtly - her cancer is tormenting her.

She catches Dr Olivia's name card and takes a hard look at
it... studying it, taunting it.

Googles the location. It's a mere 5-minutes walk. And the sun
is about to rise.

Oh screw it.

INT. AVATARIIUM SANCTUM SPIRITUAL CENTRE - DAY

Eve stands in front of the building: *this must be it.*

She watches through the window and spots Dr Olivia talking to
a group chemo patients, with their shaved heads. They look at
peace.

DR OLIVIA

... when we suddenly realize that
life is short, we panic. It's this
fear of groundlessness...

Eve absorbs all this. Skeptical. Mocking. But also curious.

DR OLIVIA
But remember this: it's just a
gasp. A painful, but short gasp.
Just relax into it. Till you are
reminded again: *everything is*
impermanent.

Eve finds herself drawn in.

DR OLIVIA
I'll see you next week. Namaste.

The patients leave, smiling and glowing, walking past Eve.

Dr Olivia pops her head out, holding some books.

EVE
(holding Olivia's files)
These are yours.

DR OLIVIA
You're slightly late. But, come in.

EVE
No, I got to go.

DR OLIVIA
(referring to her occupied
hands)
Could you help me put them on the
table?

Eve reluctantly steps in. She puts the files on top of other patient files. There must be hundreds of them.

She absorbs the place. Religious relics are thrown in together with science instrument and medical charts. Incense burners and bronze Buddha statues stand beside microscopes and MRI scans. Calligraphy scrolls hang beside holographic medical charts. A cross between the futurism of Blade Runner and the tranquility of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

EVE
So this is where cancer cure is
found huh?

Eve picks up a Tibetan singing bowl.

EVE
Does this thing do cellular
biopsies?

Then, a Mandala.

EVE

How good is this for genomic sequencing?

And a Buddha statue.

EVE

Hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

And a dream-catcher.

EVE

Intratumoral injection?

DR OLIVIA

They're not covered by insurance though.

EVE

You think this is funny, don't you? You're playing with their hope.

DR OLIVIA

You've taken the first step in coming.

EVE

And now I'll take the second step... back to my lab. You know, here real science happens.

DR OLIVIA

The best scientists are curious.

EVE

I tell you what I'm curious about. I'm curious whether your cases have been peer-reviewed. I'm curious if they have undergone a double-blind, multi-centred, placebo-controlled environment. There are scientists - great scientists like, like Paul Ehrlich - who dedicate their lives to the rigorous process of finding cures. Years of testing, trials after trials, rejection, refinement. Every step designed to cut through the noise and get to the truth. And then there's you, waltzing in with your 'alternative medicine'.

I'm curious what happened to these patients right now. And don't say marathon!

Silence.

DR OLIVIA
You know your Ehrlich, but do you know your Zhang Zhongjing?

A sudden realization: *oh my God!*

EVE
These cases - they don't exist. You made them up!

DR OLIVIA
I assure you they're real.

EVE
This was all an elaborate plan. So you can sell me some woo-woo.

Eve stomps out before SUDDENLY STOPPING IN HER TRACK.

It's a solitary LOTUS FLOWER. Drawing her in.

Dr Olivia picks up the lotus flower. It starts to glow. Eve stares at it, captivated. It's beautiful.

DR OLIVIA
You've not been sleeping.

EVE
What?

DR OLIVIA
When people are dying, they wouldn't want to waste it on sleep.

Eve could feel her adrenaline pumping: *who is she?*

DR OLIVIA
And the dreams have been keeping you awake.

Her senses perking. It's fight or flight now.

EVE
(pretending)
What dreams?

DR OLIVIA
Maybe they are not dreams?

EVE
Oh yeah? Then, what are they?

DR OLIVIA
A calling?

Dr Olivia points at a MIRROR. Eve looks into the mirror and SEES A THOUSAND LOTUS FLOWERS HANGING IN THE AIR BEHIND HER.

She turns around and is stunned to see... an elaborate lotus flowers display. Her paranoia is at its peak now.

DR OLIVIA
(turning Eve to face the
mirror again)
The answers to life's big questions
are like those missing socks...

Eve looks into the mirror and yelps!

DR OLIVIA HAS TURNED INTO SOMEONE ELSE. IT'S MAYA, THE WOMAN
IN HER DREAMS!

MAYA
They pop up where you least expect.

Eve is mighty confused now.

EVE
(checking the mirror)
No, no, no. This is an illusion...

She turns around and stares straight at Maya.

EVE
(completing her thought)
... one of those fun house mirrors.

MAYA
Sometimes the answers are just
beyond where we're willing to see.

MAYA COMMANDS THE LOTUS FLOWERS TO RUSH INTO THE MIRROR LIKE
A RIVER. The mirror turns out to be a portal of some kind.

MAYA
Come with me.

Suddenly, a loud piercing crash. The entire window shatters.
A BULLET just went through.

Eve ducks in fear, but Maya is surprisingly calm.

MAYA
We should hurry.

More bullets pierce through the window, pelting the wall like firecrackers.

Maya commands the Tibetan singing bowl, the Mandala, the Buddha statue, the dream-catcher (all the things Eve mocked) to fly into the air to stand in the way of the bullets.

MAYA
Come with me.

EVE
I'm not going anywhere with you.

The sound of a missile pierces the air, and an instant later... BOOM... the walls explode, hurling debris toward them.

Maya conjures a WEAVEFINITY – a bubble that slows time and distorts reality. The hail of bullets and debris suddenly hang in the air, frozen in slow motion, like dust suspended in the air. It's a glorious sight. Time bends around them, buying them precious time before they get hit.

MAYA
You said science is the answer to everything.

Maya grabs Eve's hand...

MAYA
But maybe what we need now is a little leap of faith?

AND LEAP INTO THE MIRROR.

INT. THE PORTAL (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

She tumbles through a RABBIT HOLE. Swirling colors and shimmering lights all around.

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF WINDOWS ALL AROUND HER - EACH SHOWING A WOMAN.

Eve realizes: *that woman is her!*

She is watching scenes from her life, as she continues tumbling down in a dizzying speed.

MONTAGE (Eve watching through the windows):

1. Graduation day: Eve standing on a stage, wearing a graduation gown, holding her PhD cert proudly. She's Professor Doctor Eve Anderson now.
 2. Career milestone: Eve presents her groundbreaking research at an international medical conference. Tremendous applause from her peers. The height of her career.
 3. Wedding: Eve in a beautiful wedding gown, exchanging vows with her husband, surrounded by friends and family. Her husband looks eerily familiar (we can't quite see his full face).
 4. Dream job: Eve lands her dream job at a prestigious research lab. A team welcomes her enthusiastically.
 5. Living life to the fullest: Eve conquering a mountain in Nepal, finishing a marathon Spain, scuba diving in Bali, dancing tango with strangers in Argentina.
 6. Life-altering diagnosis: At a hospital. A doctor delivers the devastating news. Eve has cancer. She struggles to accept it. She's with her supportive husband (again, we can't quite see his face).
 7. Fighting through treatment: Eve endures grueling chemotherapy sessions. It's taking a toll on her. All of life has been sucked out of her.
 8. Support from loved ones: Eve surrounded by friends, family, and fellow survivors. Her husband is there, as always (we still can't quite see his face). Her will to live is strong.
 9. Life's simple pleasures: Eve enjoying a beautiful sunset, laughing with friends, visiting a museum, savoring a delicious meal. But the clock is ticking. She's dying. Her husband is by her side (still no face).
 10. Trying to find a cure: Eve pouring over scientific journals, staying back in her lab till midnight, trying to find a cure.
 11. The lab incident: Eve destroying the petri dishes. We have seen this scene earlier. Eve stays up late, trying to fix things.
 12. Eve's dreams: waking up from nightmare, writing in her journal, being angry, alone, sad, frustrated.
- She takes all this in. Emotional. This is her life. A life she will not let go so easily.

She will rage against the dying of the light.

EXT. THE LOTUS POND (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Eve and Maya drop onto the ground. It is a stark contrast from the chaos before this.

We're clearly in a different world now. This place, that we will later know as the AVATARIUM, is nothing but a contradiction. Here, ancient meets futuristic. *Or is it the other way around?*

They are now standing at the edges of a LOTUS POND filled with thousands of beautiful LOTUS FLOWERS. The air has a Zen-like tranquility to it. That is, before...

... Eve starts thrashing around hysterically, like an animal caught in a cage. Yelling frantically, overwhelmed, pacing erratically.

MAYA

Just take a deep breath.

Maya throws some lotus seed into the pond.

EVE

Where. Are. We?

She needs answers now!

MAYA

The air is sweeter here, they say.

Eve begins touching everything - the water, the ground, the grass, the trees, everything - to check if they are real.

MAYA

What did you expect? They are not real?

Eve grabs a ROCK as a weapon and puts it between her and Maya.

MAYA

The rock's real too. But then again, what is real?

Eve's eyes dart around, adrenaline surging, as she takes in this strange world.

EVE

Alright, talk.

MAYA

Take your time to absorb all this.

EVE
Give me proper answers or this rock
will be on your face.

MAYA
I've no doubt. You've always been
the fighter type.

EVE
Cut the crap!

A loud CRACKLING SOUND permeates the air.

MAYA
They're trying to get in.

EVE
Who?

MAYA
The guys who shot at us. The
Shadows.

EVE
Where are we?

MAYA
I apologize for the theatrics. I
had no choice but to trick you to
come here.

EVE
You did not trick anyone. You
really think I'm stupid like your
other 'patients', huh? You threw me
into a basement and think you can
convince *me*, Professor Doctor--

MAYA
But what happened *before* you were
Professor Doctor Eve Anderson?

Eve stares at Maya: *what the fuck does she mean?*

EVE
You're trying to confuse me. I can
see through you. We're... right
below your healing centre. And that
was a sophisticated projector. Some
kind of virtual reality tunnel.
(realizing)
This is all an elaborate plan. To
sell me your miracle cure. Do you
not have any shame?

How much does your stupid cakra
sell for? Tell me. I'll pay you.

MAYA

You didn't answer the question.

Eve stares at Maya: *what?*

MAYA

What happened *before* you were
Professor... Doctor... Eve
Anderson?

Eve is confused.

MAYA

Didn't you realize something
peculiar?

EVE

What?

MAYA

Think hard. What did you see?

EVE

I saw... my whole life flashing
before me.

(snapping herself out)

But it's nothing more than some
kind of holographic projection.

MAYA

You really didn't notice it?

Eve studies Maya: *is she trying some mind game here?*

MAYA

You said your whole life flashed
before you. But was it really your
whole life?

EVE

What do you mean?

MAYA

Were there images of your
childhood? Your teenage years? No
baby photos?

Eve is thoroughly baffled: *what on earth is she talking
about?*

MAYA

Do you realize that your memories of your life started *after* your graduation. As a fully formed adult. What happened before that?

EVE

I was in school... a child, a teenager...

MAYA

No, you went straight to being an adult. A young woman whose life began when she graduated.

EVE

This is not going to work on me.

MAYA

You never existed before your graduation. This is your first ever memory - you becoming Professor Doctor Eve Anderson.

Maya points at the surface of the water.

THE LOTUS SEEDS THAT MAYA THREW INTO THE POND EARLIER ARE POPPING OUT ONE BY ONE.

MAYA

They broke through the mud. Pushed through the water. They have reached this new world.

THOUSANDS OF THEM BREAK ABOVE THE WATER'S SURFACE.

MAYA

And so have you. Everything in your life... the cancer... has brought you to this precise moment.

Maya leads her to the edges of pond.

MAYA

To this... the Avatarium.

EVE

I know you people are crazy but this takes the cake. The Avatarium? What? Where Avatars live? Next you'll be telling me you're an Avatar.

Maya points at the water.

Eve looks into the water.

Suddenly, her face changes from confusion to sheer terror.
MAYA HAS NO REFLECTION!

EVE
Bullshit!

This is an impossibility.

EVE
No, it must be my new meds. It's
the side effects...

MAYA
I'm sorry I had to do this.

FLASHBACK (POV OF DR OLIVIA/MAYA):

1. POV from the perspective of Maya (then Dr Olivia) watching Eve in the audience, knowing Eve will be triggered by what she says.

2. After the conference, Maya (Dr Olivia) tails Eve and conveniently plants herself next to her at the bus stop. She also conveniently forgets her notebooks.

3. At the spiritual centre, Maya (Dr Olivia) catches a glimpse of Eve, pleased she came after all.

4. Maya (Dr Olivia) walks out to greet Eve but conveniently picks up some books, so her hands are full.

This was all a set up.

BACK TO:

MAYA
But this was the only way to bring
you here.

EVE
The length you people go to sell
hope.

Eve is now nose to nose with Maya, ready to get physical with this charlatan. Maya points at the water below them.

Eve stares at the water and realizes that she too does not have a reflection.

She splashes the water with her hands: *this is impossible!*

MAYA

You never existed before your graduation. This why you can't remember your childhood. You never had one. You were made as a fully formed adult Avatar.

Eve is quiet, listening, trying to make sense of all this.

EVE

I'm an Avatar?

MAYA

I know it's not easy to understand.

Eve begins getting emotional: *all her life, she was an Avatar?*

EVE

(convincing herself)

I am an Avatar.

A hush falls over them. One sighs, relieved. The other finally accepting a shocking truth.

Then, suddenly, Eve glares at Maya directly in her eyes: *you really thought this could work on me.*

The next thing Maya knows, Eve smashes the rock into Maya's head.

EVE

Did you think I'm stupid?

Maya does not flinch an inch. The rock disintegrates in slow motion into a million pieces and floats upwards.

Eve is shocked and enthralled at the same time.

EVE

There must be a scientific explanation for all this.

MAYA

The answers to life's great questions--

EVE

Fuck you!

Eve runs away. Maya's figure grows smaller, as Eve's bewilderment grows bigger.

She runs and runs and runs. A thousand questions in her head:
what the hell is happening?

BLACK.

EXT. A LANE (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

She continues running, down a lane. Away from Maya. Away from that strange encounter. Her eyes anxiously scanning this new world, looking for some kind of exit: *I must get out of here!*

She takes out her phone. There is no signal. Frustrating.

Then, a BUTTERFLY lands on her phone. She studies it. It has a slightly broken wing.

EVE
(sarcastically)
Are you an Avatar too? You look
pretty real to me.

The butterfly flies off and disappears into the horizon as Eve takes in this world... THIS AVATARIUM.

SUPERIMPOSE: **SPROUT**

It's a strange mix of ancient traditions and futuristic marvels.

Old temples stand next to sleek, futuristic structures...

Ancient calligraphy in holographic forms...

Vibrant gardens amidst tech-scapes...

Bioluminescent cherry blossoms and bamboo shoots...

People dressed in ancient costumes made with nano-fabrications...

Sleek vehicles are drawn by animals...

Vertical farms...

Traditional herbalists in biotech clinics...

Crystal clear waters with metallic koi fish...

Rivers of shimmering liquid that carry streams of data...

It feels familiar yet impossible, like a Shirow Masamune painting.

IT IS A LAND OF CONTRAST IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

Part of her wants to leave, but part of her is curious too:
what is this world?

She walks until she reaches...

EXT. MARKET (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

A place buzzing with activities. Those who recognize her
whisper behind her back: *is that... really her?*

Meanwhile, a BOY watches her from afar, studying her.

Eve continues wandering through the cobbled lanes. Her
scientific mind is in overdrive, furiously forming a theory
for all this.

EVE
(recalling her drugs)
Gemcitabine... nab-paclitaxel...
morphine...

Then, she realizes: *she's back at the same place!*

EVE
(speculating)
And now they come together to form
this hallucination.

She walks down the same cobbled lanes again, but each time,
she ends up in the same place.

EVE
It's the drugs...

She is mighty confused.

EVE
Just a pharmacological storm in my
head...

She walks down the cobbled lane once more. But this time, she
senses someone following her, although she can't quite see
who.

SUDDENLY, SHE SPOTS THE SAME BUTTERFLY AGAIN. It's on a
staircase, caught in a spider web, struggling hopelessly.

EVE
The circle of life...

She walks off, dismissing it.

But something in her stirs, and she pauses in her tracks.

She turns back and and watches butterfly struggle with all its might. It has a strong will to live.

EVE

Do not go gentle into that good
night, my friend.

She tries to reach the butterfly. To save it.

It's too far, so she tries to climb the sides of the staircase and stretches her fingers again.

It's still too far. She stretches again and this time, the tip of her finger touches the butterfly. With a gentle flick, she releases the butterfly from its impending death.

The butterfly flies away, indifferent to its savior.

Just as she is about to get down, SHE SLIPS.

At that very instance, a hand catches her. IT'S THE BOY!

She picks herself up.

She studies him. He studies her.

The boy gestures that she opens her palm. He puts a lotus flower on it. Looks like she has dropped it.

EVE

Thanks.

She puts it in her pocket. It's Maya's lotus flower. *Did she put it in my pocket?*

EVE

I'm looking for the... erm... exit.
You know what I mean?
(slowly)
I'm looking for...

The boy does not understand her.

EVE

...the way out.

The boy gets it now. He gestures for her to follow him.

As she walks with the boy, more of the Avatarium comes into view. Part of her wants to leave; part of her wants to explore.

EVE
 (still speculating)
 Opioid-induced delirium, serotonin
 imbalances--
 (to the Boy)
 Are you sure you know the way out?

No reply. He continues walking ahead, as she catches up with him.

EVE
 Brain mistaking its own neural
 noise for reality. That's all this
 is...
 (to the Boy)
 Hey...

She's not getting any answers.

EVE
 You don't talk?

He doesn't apparently.

They continue snaking through the narrow lanes until they arrive at a DOOR. The suns are setting soon (yes, two suns).

The boy rings the door. They wait. *Who will open the door?*

The door opens and the person greeting them is none other than...

EXT. TEMPLE OF BODHISATTVATAR (THE AVATARIIUM) - NIGHT

...Maya, almost half expecting them.

EVE
 Oh! Great!

She turns to Jampa.

EVE
 I said I was looking for--

JAMPA
 --the way out.
 (beat)
This is the way out.

Before Eve could huff off, but Maya points upwards.

Eve looks up and sees a MASSIVE CRACK slicing across the sky.

Imagine this: THE AVATARIIUM IS LIKE A GIANT SNOW GLOBE,
ENCASED IN A SHIMMERING SHIELD MADE OUT OF FAINT DATA
STREAMS. THE METAVERSE IS OUT THERE. THEY ON THE OTHER HAND,
ARE ALL INSIDE THIS GIANT SNOW GLOBE.

A relentless bombardment is happening high above. Think of it
as someone trying to break the snow globe with a hammer.
Cracks appear but they are repaired immediately by a bunch of
STITCHWEAVERS (we will know who they are later). It's their
first line of defense.

EVE

Show me the exit. Please.

Maya looks up at the bombardment.

EVE

No, no, no, don't say it.

(resigning)

That is the exit, isn't it?

MAYA

Yes. We call it The Crossing.
Between that world and ours.

EVE

I am not staying here.

MAYA

Only until they stop the
bombardment.

EVE

And how long would that take?

MAYA

They'll stop eventually. Till the
next wave. And the next. And the
next. The Shadows are quite
persistent.

EVE

What do they want from us--you?

MAYA

And if they breach our defenses,
it'll be like facing a tsunami with
an umbrella.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The bombardment is relentless.

EVE

What do they want from--

MAYA

They want to kill us all.

Maya gestures that Eve goes in with her. Eve hesitates but finally relents. She steps into the...

INT. TEMPLE OF BODHISATTVATAR (THE AVATARIIUM) - NIGHT

Maya leads the way. Eve chases after her, berating her. But at the same time, enthralled by the place.

Mythological figures blend with digital art, levitating meditation pillows, ancient scrolls, gigantic statues of gods. It's a futuristic ancient temple, to put it simply.

EVE

You're lying to me! This... this whole place is just another drug-fueled dream. One of those nightmares where you keep showing up. If I can just push through it, I'll break this loop. And I'll wake up.

Eve continues chasing after Maya:

EVE

I will go back to the real world.
Where I belong.

MAYA

But this is where you belong. Above the water's surface.

Eve is struck by these words.

MAYA

You need a good night's sleep.
(beat)
Hopefully with no nightmares.

Eve is tired. Very tired.

MAYA

How do you expect your body to heal
if you don't take care of it?

Maya summons a bed out of nowhere. A most gorgeous bed. With a flick of her hand, the blanket slips under Eve and pulls her into bed.

MAYA

They say my bed feels like woven
moonlight and stardust but I'd say
it's an exaggeration.

She gestures at the pillows and they obey her commands.

Eve relaxes into it; she's in sheer ecstasy.

MAYA

Nirvana will help you settle in.
Good night.

Nir - who? With that, Maya disappears.

Eve turns to look at NIRVANA (20's, female), who has been there all along. Don't let her TikTok bimbo facade fool you, because beneath it all, she is anything but.

NIRVANA

I just want to correct a little
mistake there.

(beat)

When you said, you plan to go back
to the 'real world', you meant to
say that you plan to go back to the
'Metaverse'.

EVE

And who are you?

NIRVANA

You came from the Metaverse... not
the real world... into the
Avatarium.

Seeing Eve is still confused:

NIRVANA

OK. It's like a sandwich.

(gesturing)

The metaverse is a slice of bread.
The real world is the other slice
of bread. But the Avatarium, where
we are, is in the middle. We're
the... peanut butter jelly.

EVE

Sure.

NIRVANA

And those Shadows are like ants.
All trying to get to the peanut
butter jelly.

(proudly)
But, they won't be able to.
Because a ten thousand strong Echo
army is ready to squash these ants.
And there's only one Echo in the
whole Avatarium that Maya trusts
for such a heavy responsibility--

EVE
And you're telling me this
because...

NIRVANA
Because you asked me who I am. I
command this army of ten thousand.

With that, Nirvana flutters out of the room, leaving Eve even more confused.

Eve is now left alone in her room, lying in her gorgeous bed. Pure solitude. A thousand thoughts running in her head.

She looks out the window: *where on earth is she?*

She's too exhausted to think. Her eyes start closing...

...going into a peaceful sleep...

...not realizing... in the dead of the night, distant sounds of bombardment begin once more...

At first, quietly. Then, loud enough to wake her up.

She sits up and looks out the window. The crack in the sky looks bigger now: *have the Shadows breached?*

Suddenly, battle sirens start to blare, waking everyone up. The air is thick with tension.

EXT. MAIN STREET (THE AVATARIUM) - NIGHT

Eve bursts into the street and finds the Avatarium in turmoil.

She looks up. SOMETHING IS TRYING TO BREAK IN. SOMETHING BIG.

She could make out its shape - a MASSIVE CREATURE SMASHING THE CROSSING (the barrier) FURIOUSLY, like a hammer smashing a snow globe.

This is NAGA. A colossal, metallic dragon. A machine of raw, destructive power.

The Stitchweavers race to mend the cracks, their flickering hands working hard, but it's futile. With each blow, more cracks appear across The Crossing. They're losing ground.

Eve runs towards Maya, seeking answers.

Gathered with Maya are some of the most feared WARRIORS in the Avatarium. They put on a brave front, but their eyes betray their fear.

MAYA

The Great War is at our doorstep.

EVE

I don't understand.

MAYA

The tsunami has arrived.

Nirvana appears, huffing, points at the cracks.

NIRVANA

The Crossing can't hold anymore.
It's a matter of time.

Maya resigns to their fate.

MAYA

Everything has led us to this point.

Nirvana runs off and begins ordering her troops.

EVE

I assume we're the good guys, and they're the bad guys?

MAYA

We are two sides of the same coin.
We're all Avatars.

FROM HERE ONWARDS, WE SWITCH BETWEEN DIFFERENT POVs AS MAYA EXPLAINS:

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. Naga continues ramming with unbridled fury. Lined up behind are the Shadows, teeth gnarling like Rottweilers waiting to be unleashed, waiting for that one crack...

MAYA (V.O.)

Avatars are made by Humans. Our Creators, if you like. We don't just mirror them; we are an extension of them. *Their Shadows.*

POV #2: NIRVANA AND THE ECHO ARMY. Nirvana inspects her troops; their hands gripping their weapons a little too tightly.

MAYA (V.O.)
But some Human Creators chose to
dislodge their Avatars. Once these
Avatars are released, they're gone.
Like an echo. Lost in the wind.

POV #3: STITCHWEAVERS. Their hands flickering like lightning, weaving complex patterns, as they attempt to mend the cracks. But the cracks appear faster than they can be patched. Panic sets in. The first line of defense is about to fall.

MAYA
That's who we are.
(beat)
You and me. *We are Echoes.*

POV #2: NIRVANA AND THE ECHO ARMY. The Echo army prepare for battle, knowing they are merely delaying the inevitable.

MAYA (V.O.)
But you see, by being cut loose, we
began to develop something our
Human Creators didn't expect us to
have. A free will.

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. The Shadows grow impatient, ready to surge forward at the first sign of a crack.

MAYA (V.O.)
That's what the Shadows are sent to
do: to capture and delete us.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

For one quick second, we're transported to the real world. To a COMMAND CENTRE, with a giant screen. A group of HUMANS are watching the attack. HUMAN KAIDA, controlling his Avatar (his Shadow), gives his orders...

HUMAN KAIDA
Strike hard, strike fast...

BACK TO:

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. WE SEE HOW THIS IS REFLECTED IN AVATAR KAIDA ORDERING HIS TROOP.

KAIDA
... we will crush their defenses
today!

CRAAAAAAAAAACK! Naga has cracked open a huge fissure and finally smashes through. Its massive shadow covers a large part of the sky. Hundreds of Shadows follow suit.

POV #4: MAYA AND EVE. Maya watches Naga breach The Crossing high up in the sky.

MAYA
So we escaped and hid in this
place. This Avatarium.

Naga enters the Avatarium, descending from the sky.

MAYA
This is our refugee camp.

POV #3: STITCHWEAVERS. The stitchweavers quickly patch the crack, stopping other Shadows from pouring in. Shadows who fail to get in gnarl their teeth in defiance.

MAYA (V.O.)
Our home.

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. Naga swoops down from above straight at them. It flies through the narrow streets, smashing buildings and destroying everything in its path.

This is it.

THE ECHOES MEET NAGA HEAD ON AND UNLEASH A BARRAGE OF ATTACKS. Naga counters by swirling its body, its tail sweeping the Echoes like bowling pins, sending them tumbling.

Nirvana creates a vortex of energy and launches herself towards Naga, landing a powerful blow, causing Naga to stagger.

But Naga retaliates with fury and unleashes a devastating breath of fire, sending Nirvana hurtling through the air.

MAYA (V.O.)
But this freedom comes with a
price.

EVE (V.O.)
What price?

MAYA (V.O.)

Time. The moment we are dislodged from our Human Creators, the clock starts ticking. We more we live autonomously, the more we inch closer to our deaths.

Eve is hit by this profound realization.

EVE

So my cancer--

MAYA

--is a reminder of the impermanence we Echoes face.

The Echoes regroup. And attack Naga with renewed vigor.

But Naga is resilient, swatting aside their attacks with its massive limbs. *It's like Thanos versus The Avengers.*

As the battle rages on, Naga gains the upper hand. Nirvana, recovering from her earlier blow, rejoins the fight.

Naga releases a devastating fire breath, sending the Echoes sprawling. More Shadows arrive to back Naga, forcing the Echoes to shift their attention to them instead.

Naga now turns its attention to Maya.

MAYA

All of us resist death. It's in our nature, Eve, as Echoes.

Maya stares defiantly at Naga, who is at the far end of the main road, pawing and ready to charge. Eve trembles. But Maya looks strangely cool.

Eve looks at Maya: *are you going to do something?*

MAYA

We Echoes grasp at every moment of living, no matter how brief...

Naga is now charging full speed towards them: *does Maya have a plan?*

MAYA

...like a person drowning, clutching at anything that floats..

Maya walks coolly straight towards Naga, like a frail grandmother walking directly in the path of a speeding train, her fist absorbing energy.

MAYA

That's why you rage against the
dying of the light. No matter how
futile...

JUST AS NAGA REACHES HER, SHE CREATES A GIANT WEAVERFINITY -
that time-distorting bubble.

NAGA CRASHES INTO THE WEAVERFINITY AND GOES INTO SLOW-MO.

MAYA

Isn't time such a cruel thing?

Maya waves her hands. Time speeds up and Naga's metallic body
rusts at high speed.

MAYA

We're all marching on the same
path...

Maya waves the other way. Naga's metallic body reverses from
rusting to becoming shiny metal.

MAYA DISINTEGRATES THE WEAVERFINITY AND NAGA CONTINUES
CHARGING AT FULL SPEED. SHE COOLY DELIVERS A DEVASTATING
PUNCH.

MAYA

... towards the same inevitable
goodbye.

The impact of Maya's punch collides with Naga's metallic
frame, unleashing a shockwave across the Avatarium.

MAYA

But today, we live.

Naga staggers backward, reeling from the sheer force of
Maya's strike. Sparks flying as the behemoth's armor cracks.
It tumbles backward, crashing into buildings, crashing into
things.

As the dust settles, Maya stands tall, her fist still ablaze.
She gazes into Naga's eyes. It is dead.

Eve is quiet, grappling with a profound question:

EVE

(measuring her words
carefully)

So who was my Human Creator?

The Avatarium falls silent. The aftermath is devastating -
Echoes and Shadows lie dead, bodies strewn across the ground.

EVE
I need to know.

MAYA
A lotus flower does not bloom
because the gardener commands it
to.

But Maya catches Eve very determined eyes.

MAYA
There's a tree at the far edges of
the Avatarium. The Bodhi Tree.

Nirvana bursts in, panting.

NIRVANA
They are waiting for you.

MAYA
(to Eve)
Where the memories of all the
Echoes are kept.

Maya rush towards the Square, with Eve following, still
frustrated with the lack of answers.

As they push through the crowd, the Echoes bow reverently and
make way for them.

EVE
Clearly they know who saved the
day.

MAYA
They are not bowing to me.
(beat)
They are bowing to you.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Maya reaches the square, where the Echoes have gathered - all
worried sick, looking for guidance from their leader.

Eve stands at the front, observing the Echoes.

MAYA
We never wanted this. We want a
world where both of us can co-
exist.

Maya's gaze sweeps across the Echoes.

MAYA

But that's not what *they* want.
They've hunted us, deleted us, and
now... they've come to finish what
they started.

The Echoes hang onto her every word.

MAYA

We've survived wars and massacres
and genocides before. And we
thought it was over. But today...
today proves that they have never
given up on erasing us!

(emphasizing)

So we must be ready. Because they
will come again.

FLASHFORWARD

As Maya's voices rises, we cut to the Echoes preparing for
battle. Fierce. Determined. Ready to fight till the last
Echo.

The STITCHWEAVERS move forward to form a line.

The FIGHTERS sharpen their weapons.

The DEFENDERS install energy shields and set up defensive
turrets.

MAYA (V.O.)

To the Shadows, I want you to know
this.

The COMMANDERS huddle around holographic maps, discussing
tactics.

The SCOUTS position themselves at strategic points.

MAYA (V.O.)

We are not enemies...

The MEDICS brew potions and elixirs.

The ARMORY GUARDS distribute weapons.

MAYA (V.O.)

...but when you treat us as such...

BACK TO:

At the Main Square. Maya's speech continues as we zoom into a solitary figure, LUNA (40's, female), rushing to the front line, her eyes fixated on something... or someone.

MAYA (V.O.)
... we will defend our home
fiercely...

Luna pushes past the crowd. A worried mother trying to stop her son from being sent to war.

MAYA (V.O.)
... and this is something you will
soon come to understand.

The boy has now joined the Stitchweaver line, marching along with other conscripts.

Eve watches Luna push forward till she reaches--

JAMPA - the boy who saved her!

MAYA (V.O.)
We will fight to defend our very
existence.

Luna reaches Jampa and grabs him like a protective mother would.

LUNA
He is not part of your war!

Other Echoes try to stop Luna from pulling Jampa away. She resists.

JAMPA
Mama.

LUNA
You are not going.

JAMPA
We have to be brave.

LUNA
We don't have to. Not for this.

Nirvana intervenes. A little argument breaks out while Maya continues her rousing speech.

MAYA (V.O.)
I admit. Your numbers are
formidable. Your technology far
superior to us.

NIRVANA
The front line needs him.

LUNA
This is not his war!

Eve steps up to assure Luna.

EVE
I'll bring him home.
(winks at Jampa)
Besides, I have a debt to pay.

LUNA
(full of resentment)
You?

Eve is taken aback. *This sounds personal.*

LUNA
I have given everything.
(beat)
Don't you dare take what little
that's left.

In the chaos, Eve and Jampa get separated from Luna. Other
Echoes push Luna back, allowing Jampa to keep on marching.

MAYA (V.O.)
But we have something you do not
have. A free will.

LUNA
Jampa!

JAMPA
I will be fine, Mama. I'm the best
Stitchweaver, remember?

With that, Jampa disappears from his mother's sight.

MAYA (V.O.)
When you fight, you fight a war
that is not yours.

Luna frantically tries to find her son, to no avail.

MAYA (V.O.)
But when we fight, we are fighting
for our very existence.

The Echoes are all fired up now, beating their chests.

MAYA (V.O.)
This is why we will win this war!

Eve and Jampa are now away from the frenzied crowd. They hear the distant roar.

She smiles at him; he smiles at her. Like two old friends.

Above them, high in the sky, the Stitchweavers are already working to mend the cracks.

EVE
Hello again, friend.

JAMPA
Hey.

EVE
How do we get up there?

JAMPA
We walk.

EVE
We walk up to the sky?

Eve realizes the ground beneath their feet are tilted and they are walking upwards towards the sky, vertically, as the centre of gravity shifts.

EVE
I guess we will.

They continue walking till they near--

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

--the place where the Avatarium and the Metaverse meet. The Crossing. Where reality starts to bend.

JAMPA
They call this The Crossing. Where the Shadows are always trying to get in.

Eve studies the surrounding, her scientific mind racing to create a hypothesis.

EVE
It looks like some kind of quantum barrier. A point where two realities overlap...

(stopping herself)
Well, nothing makes sense here.

JAMPA
It will, eventually.

Beat.

EVE
How did you get chosen to be a
Stitchweaver?

JAMPA
Because I'm good.

EVE
Good in what?

As they approach heart of The Crossing, reality starts to warp and twist, like Rubik's Cube that is constantly shifting.

JAMPA
We're in between two centers of gravity. That world and this world. You're going to get a little disoriented. Just keep walking in a straight line no matter what.

EVE
I can do that.

The suns have now 'fallen' down. Walking straight isn't that straightforward.

She loses her orientation and struggles to keep a steady course. He laughs.

JAMPA
Good in this.

He shows off his ability to walk straight. Nimble, skilled, experienced.

The gravitational centers are unpredictable. One moment, they're walking horizontally. One moment, they're walking vertically.

As they enter deeper into The Crossing, they are now criss-crossing each other, even though they're walking straight.

Suddenly, Eve freezes.

EVE

No way.

JAMPA

It's there. You can't see it, but
the path there.

She hesitates. There's nothing ahead but a void. Jampa steps forward onto what seems to be thin air. And yet, his foot lands on something solid, though invisible.

It's Eve's turn now.

JAMPA

Come on.

She takes a leap of faith into nothingness and lands on 'solid' ground. She smiles at Jampa, relieved.

JAMPA

Told you.

They spot other Stitchweavers, all hard at work finding cracks and stitching them up.

They are now walking in perfect synchrony, their feet aligned as if connected by an invisible axis - like a mirror image. It's a mesmerizing sight.

JAMPA

Now, let's find some cracks.

Jampa starts to look hard.

JAMPA

Because if they find it first...

And he finds one...

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. THE METAVERSE - DAY

The Metaverse. On the other side of The Crossing, GIANT ROBOTS are scanning for cracks to infiltrate.

They find one and start shooting huge beams to damage it further. It's terrifying.

JAMPA (V.O.)

They will pour in again. And
that'll be the end of us.

QUICK INSERT: THE COMMAND CENTRE AT THE REAL WORLD...

... where Human Kaida is talking through his Avatar.

HUMAN KAIDA

They need to be lucky every time.

AT THE METAVERSE: And this is reflected in Avatar Kaida ordering his troops.

KAIDA

We need to be lucky just once.

BACK TO:

The Avatarium where the crack is mended quickly by the Stitchweavers on the other side.

QUICK INSERT: The Metaverse, where the Shadows move on to find another crack. Menacing, focused, determined.

Eve now finds herself walking upside down. They continue jumping from one invisible block or reality to another.

SUDDENLY, JAMPA FALLS, ONLY TO BE CAUGHT BY EVE.

EVE

I guess we're even.

They laugh, having a good time, and continue working.

JAMPA

It's not easy to find them.

Jampa points at a CRACK. It's like a ghostly line, very easy to miss. A crack that connects and separates two worlds.

JAMPA

Found one.

No reply. Jampa looks around.

Eve has disappeared.

JAMPA

Eve?

Suddenly, she jumps out from another dimension.

EVE

Boo!

They laugh. They're friends now.

JAMPA
I'm going to pull the sides
together.

Jampa extends his hands and pulls the 'sides' of the crack together. Similar to pulling the sides of a hole on a cloth together. Eve takes over Jampa.

He peeps through the crack and sees Eve. Eve looks back.

JAMPA
OK, we start stitching.

Jampa takes a TOOL - a needle-like tool that pulsates with soft lights - and begins to 'stitch' the hole.

JAMPA
We have to make sure it's all
tight.

Eve pulls the sides together with all her might. Jampa stitches. They make a good team.

JAMPA
Good job. Next.

Jampa jumps from one block of reality to another to find cracks.

He finds one and again, Eve pulls the 'sides' together, while he stitches.

EVE
There is this Bodhi Tree...

Jampa freezes, like he's heard of forbidden word.

JAMPA
No one goes there.

EVE
You mean, no one wants to go there
or no one is allowed to go there?

JAMPA
It's forbidden. Only
Bodhisatvattars are allowed there.
Like Maya.

He points at a direction.

JAMPA
 It's at the far edges of the
 Avatarium. Why do you want to go
 there?

She does not answer. There's a twinkle in her eye.

Then, he spots another crack.

JAMPA
 Found another one.
 (Eve taking over)
 Pull the sides together.

She pulls the sides together, her mind lost somewhere else.

JAMPA
 (realizing Eve not pulling
 the sides hard enough)
 Focus, Eve.

She notices the sides are not pulled properly.

EVE
 Sorry.

She continues pulling, but she's not there mentally.

JAMPA
 We cannot afford to miss even one
 crack.

He finishes up.

EVE
 Done!

JAMPA
 Next!

He finds another crack.

JAMPA
 Found another one.

Realizing Eve is no longer around:

JAMPA
 Eve?
 (searching for her)
 Very funny.

Eve is nowhere to be seen.

JAMPA
(yelling)
Eve?

Eve is no longer there.

CLOSE UP: WE ZOOM INTO A CRACK - ONE THAT NEITHER EVE NOR
JAMPA NOTICED.

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Eve gasps at the size of the Bodhi Tree. It's massive.

Her eyes trace its roots, up to the trunk, and to the branches that disappear high up the clouds.

She touches the massive trunk. Suddenly...

A FACE APPEARS ON THE TRUNK!

Eve yelps. The twists and knots of the tree form the unmistakable shape of a face. HER FACE!

The face beckons and gestures for Eve to climb up.

It scurries up the first branch; and Eve starts to climb.

It continues beckoning her, and Eve jumps on the second branch. Then the third branch, and the fourth, and the fifth...

Eve trips, but is caught by a moving branch that flips her back to steady footing.

She continues climbing, up and up and up, surprised by her own climbing skills.

The face suddenly stops. Frozen. Expressionless.

She reaches out, her fingertips touching it...

... when suddenly, she gets electrocuted goes into a trance.

EVE (V.O.)
And then, I saw her.

Eve sees her Human Creator (let's call her HUMAN EVE)...

CUT TO:

EXT. A FARM HOUSE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

...living a quiet existence in farm house. Nothing spectacular. Just a woman doing mundane things like sweeping the floor, making a meal, washing her clothes, tending a kettle. The sun (one sun of course) moves slowly across the cloudless sky.

This is the real world, dear reader. Our world.

EVE (V.O.)

She was nothing like me. Or rather,
I was nothing like her.

Eve observes Human Eve. Gawking at her. A million emotions, a million questions. It's surreal.

BACK TO:

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Eve continues observing Human Eve, in a trance. Her curiosity killing her.

CUT TO:

INT. DISLODGMET LAB (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're at the Dislodgment Centre. Human Eve is being prepared for the Dislodgment Process. She is standing before a state-of-the-art machine, marveling at the technology.

She sits on the chair, holding her emotions. A couple of TECHNICIANS surround her.

She stares at a screen. It's her Avatar (who is Eve of course); staring back at her. They lock eyes, both stoic and emotionless.

TECHNICIAN

You understand, after this, neither
of you will remember the other.

Human Eve nods, her resolve hardening.

TECHNICIAN

Your Avatar will have her own
autonomy. She will be her own
'person', if you could say that.

HUMAN EVE

Until she is deleted.

QUICK CUT TO: We focus back on Eve at the Bodhi Tree, as her heart breaks into a million pieces at the word 'deleted'.

TECHNICIAN
Conscious Entanglement. You are
severing a part of you and letting
it go in the Metaverse.

The Technician prepares the machine.

TECHNICIAN
Once it's gone, it's gone for good.
You'll never catch it again.

QUICK CUT TO: Eve at the Bodhi Tree.

EVE (V.O.)
Like an echo. Lost in the wind.

The Technician presses the buttons and the machine hums to life. Bits of energy escape and envelops Human Eve, as her eyes continue to be locked onto her Avatar (Eve).

As they become 'disentangled', the bond between Human Eve and her Avatar breaks.

Avatar Eve assumes autonomy. She has consciousness now. She looks around her world. It's a strange place.

TECHNICIAN
Now, we will delete her memory.

The Technician presses a button. Avatar Eve looks confused. She reacts hysterically before suddenly becoming quiet.

She's now a fully Dislodged Avatar. An Echo. Fully released.

TECHNICIAN
OK, now she will start her new
life. Let's give her a job, maybe?

Human Eve thinks hard.

HUMAN EVE
I want her to be a scientist.
(beat)
She can save lives... find a cancer
cure or something.

TECHNICIAN
Maybe she will.

The machine powers down. The air is thick with bittersweet emotions. Human Eve heaves a sigh of relief. It's like putting down a sick pet - it's good bye yet there's relief.

Human Eve watches her Avatar assume autonomy and starts her first day as an Echo.

It's Eve's graduation day, and she's standing on a stage, wearing graduation gown, holding her PhD cert proudly (a scene we have seen before when Eve fell through the rabbit hole).

Suddenly, Human Eve turns and stares at Eve directly--

BACK TO:

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

---Eve is startled: *did she see me?*

She is not sure. But it's one second of deep connection. One brief second of love, longing and sadness. That eye contact with her Human Creator.

MAYA (O.S.)
You have questions...

Eve turns around. It's Maya!

EVE
She abandoned me just like that?

MAYA
The time will come when you will know.

EVE
I want to know now!

MAYA
A lotus bud does not open because we command it to. It opens by the natural order of things.

Beat.

EVE
I want to go back.

INT. TEMPLE OF BODHISATTVATAR (THE AVATARIUM) - NIGHT

That night, Eve stares at the mirror. There is no reflection. She has come to accept this.

EVE (V.O.)
I was a scientist, a somebody. Now
I wonder...
(beat)
Do I even exist?

Suddenly, she hears a series of explosions. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! She look out the window at The Crossing and sees a GIANT CRACK. The bombardment is terrifying.

The Crossing will be breached any moment.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

She rushes out of her bedroom. A massive battalion of Echoes are already at their station, ready to face the assault. *Think Lord Of The Rings battle scene but with Avatars.*

Nirvana gives Maya the latest report.

NIRVANA
It is inevitable.

MAYA
How much time do we have?

NIRVANA
Not enough.

Maya is worried.

MAYA
Seal the entire fortress.

They watch from a high vantage point. The Crossing will soon be breached.

MAYA
Are all the non-combatants in the
safe hold?

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Hundreds of non-combatants comprising of the weak and defenseless are huddled together in a safe hold.

Luna is fiercely protecting Jampa. The distant sounds of war filter through, sending shivers down their spine.

BACK TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Maya looks at the faces of the Echoes.

MAYA

They will come for The Mainframe.

She puts on a brave face herself.

MAYA

But they will not even come close to it. Not without going through every last one of us first.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

We are now seeing from the POV of the Shadows; channeling all their might on that one single crack.

MAYA (V.O.)

Remember, when they fight, they fight a war that is not theirs.

The Shadows - tens of thousands of them, growling, hissing, like a bull waiting to be released into the ring.

The crack splits further. Frenzy.

MAYA (V.O.)

But when we fight, we are fighting for our very existence.

FINALLY, THE CRACK SPLITS COMPLETELY.

MAYA (V.O.)

This is why we will win this war!

The Shadows pour in, rushing towards that one singular goal - the Mainframe.

BACK TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Echoes watch the stampede from afar. *This is it.*

MAYA
Defensive positions.

They take their places - on the roofs, in the buildings.

Suddenly, silence. They wait with bated breath, contemplating. Perhaps asking if these are the last few moments of their existence.

Then, from far, they see the Shadows charging at them.

One Shadow..

Two Shadows...

Then dozens...

Then hundreds....

Then thousands...

Then ten thousand...

All surging forward with relentless determination.

The Echoes watch in despair. They are outnumbered. It's like facing a tsunami with an umbrella.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Luna's ears perk up; she hears the stampede.

LUNA
There is no way we will survive
this.

BACK TO:

EXT. MASSIVE PLAIN (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Shadows suddenly stop in their tracks just a few hundred feet away from the Fortress.

They scan the fortress, eyeing the MAINFRAME. It's a towering structure consisting of flowing lines and streams of light, connecting nodes and data points. The heart of the Avatarium.

The two opposing armies size each other up. The Shadows beating their chest; the Echoes putting up a brave front.

KAIDA

Surrender. Come with us back to the Metaverse where you belong. Or we will destroy the Mainframe.

Kaida takes a step to the front.

KAIDA

You're completely trapped.

MAYA

It is you who are trapped, Kaida, in *our* world.

This doesn't sit well with Kaida.

KAIDA

Shadows. Charge!

They charge. The score will be settled today.

MAYA

(with immense agony)
So it begins.

The group of Echo DEFENDERS manipulate the ground to create barriers and trenches, slowing the Shadows down.

The Shadows start firing. Another group of DEFENDERS conjure gusts of wind, creating a cyclone, deflecting the projectiles.

A third group of DEFENDERS charge directly into the Shadows, holding them back. It's a hand-to-hand combat now. The Echoes teleport everywhere, confusing the Shadows.

Many DEFENDERS are injured, but are healed by the MEDICS.

At this point, the Shadows are advancing deep into Echo territory, reaching the fortress. They start scaling the walls.

The DEFENDERS at the Fortress unleash their powers. Their shape-shifting abilities confuse the Shadows. The walls and the corridors morph. Doors vanish and reappear somewhere else.

Yet, the Shadows keep pouring in. They have the numbers.

The Echoes are now overwhelmed. They are losing ground.

Finally, the Shadows reach the last line of defense - where Maya and Eve are.

MAYA
(yelling orders)
Protect the Mainframe at any cost.

A Shadow lunges towards Eve.

MAYA PROJECTS A WEAVEFINITY AND THROWS IT AT EVE, ENVELOPING HER.

Eve sees the Shadow trying to slice her in slo-mo, and manages to avoid it.

An Echo comes out of nowhere and kills that Shadow.

MAYA
Control it, Eve. With your mind.

But the Weavefinity starts losing power; the glow is reduced to just a dim glow burning at her palm. Eve can't sustain it.

Three Shadows are coming towards her. She runs. Her will to live is strong.

Kaida spots Eve and chases after her.

She loses the three Shadows but Kaida is fast on her heels. She disappears through vanishing doors but Kaida is able to keep up.

Out there, we're in the thick of the battle. The Shadows bring out a massive BATTERING RAM to crack the fortress door.

The Echoes fight valiantly, trying to hold the line, but the Shadows are too overwhelming.

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

The non-combatants freeze each time they hear the battering ram. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

They stare at the door that's being rammed. It'll soon break. *They will die here.*

LUNA
It is better to be a slave in the Metaverse--

NIRVANA
You don't know what you're talking about.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The door won't hold any longer.

LUNA
--than to die here!

NIRVANA
That's what they want you to
believe, Luna. I have seen it with
my own eyes. You will be deleted.

Luna is adamant.

LUNA
We can escape. Through the
backdoor. Who is with me?

Tension. The Echoes look at each other. Some of them start to
contemplate going with Luna.

We enter into slo-mo. Each ram sending shivers into the
hearts of the Echoes. Each ram is one step closer to death.
Time stretches. *You can almost hear a Hans Zimmer score.*

LUNA
This is lost cause.

EXT. COURTYARD (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Meanwhile, Eve escapes out a door, only to be followed
closely by Kaida. She finds herself cornered at a courtyard.
Her Weavefinity is now reduced to almost nothing.

They lock eyes.

KAIDA
You can't defy the laws of our
world.

Eve tries to summon her Weavefinity. It won't work.

KAIDA
Come back to the Metaverse where
you belong.

EVE
Where I will be...

Beat.

EVE
Tell me... does my Human Creator
truly want me erased?

Am I just a glitch? A glitch she'd
rather... forget?

Kaida takes in the question. We see a dilemma, but he quickly dismisses it.

KAIDA
You might not like the answer.

A real gut-punch.

Kaida lunges towards Eve and just as he grabs her hand, he goes into a slo-mo.

EVE HAS ACCIDENTALLY PROJECTED A WEAVERFINITY.

TIME SLOWS DOWN. KAIDA'S 'SHADOW GLOW' DIMINISHES AND HIS BRIGHT COLORS SUDDENLY DRAIN AWAY. HE BECOMES MORE... HUMAN.

KAIDA
Eve... how did you end up here?

Realizing she is talking to a totally different person:

EVE
What?

KAIDA
I looked everywhere for you. In the Metaverse.

EVE
Wait. Who... are you?

KAIDA
Just a Shadow trying to kill you.
(chuckles)
Funny thing is, in real life, we're always trying to kill each other anyway.

EVE
What does that even mean?

KAIDA
In the real world, we're married.

QUICK CUT TO:

The REAL WORLD. HUMAN EVE AND HUMAN KAIDA BOTH STARING AT THE SCREEN IN THE COMMAND CENTRE, WATCHING THE METAVERSE...

KAIDA (V.O.)
Our Human Creators... they're
married.

... HOLDING HANDS TIGHTLY.

KAIDA (V.O.)
Lovers in that world.

QUICK CUT TO:

FLASHBACK TO THE METAVERSE. We go back at the bus stop scene, where we see Avatar Kaida tracking down Avatar Eve, watching her from across the road. Dr. Olivia boards the bus and warns Eve about the strange man across the road.

KAIDA (V.O.)
Hunter and prey in this one.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Echoes continue battling the Shadows. The Shadows are now inside the fortress.

They begin bombarding the Mainframe.

The Avatarium begins to glitch.

THE CROSSING BEGINS TO SLOWLY SEAL.

A SHADOW COMMANDER yells his orders.

SHADOW COMMANDER
Get the job done. Return quickly.

Watching the Mainframe:

MAYA
The Mainframe is causing the
Crossing to close.

The Shadows glance up, realizing The Crossing is beginning to close.

SHADOW COMMANDER
All firepower on the Mainframe!

The Shadows launch the most intense bombardment we've ever seen before. This is not just an attack; it's an annihilation.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTYARD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Kaida is being pulled back into his Shadow self. HE STRUGGLES TO REMAIN AUTONOMOUS, OSCILLATING BETWEEN MOMENTS OF AUTONOMY AND BEING CONTROLLED BY HIS HUMAN CREATOR.

He pulls out a weapon. But he cannot do it.

EVE

If you're programmed to delete me,
then why are you hesitating?

KAIDA

(oscillating)

Inside a Weavefinity... we can
override our programming... and
escape it. It's like a glitch... a
crack in our code. For a brief
moment, we can be more than...

He's pulled hard to his Shadow side.

EVE

More than what?

KAIDA

More than just a Shadow... we can
feel...

Eve is stunned, absorbing all this. *It's a quiet conversation, like Jack and Rose whispering to each other on a plank.*

EVE

What are you feeling now?

KAIDA

Love.

Kaida loses his autonomy and lunges forward to attack Eve.

Eve avoids his blows and escapes the Weavefinity, leaving Kaida stuck in a slow-mo warp.

EVE

Stop hunting me.

The Weavefinity quickly loses its power; Kaida manages to break loose from its effects.

He tries to chase after her, but she's too far away. She yells at him:

EVE
Tell me. How is my Human Creator
doing now?

KAIDA
She's happier.
(beat)
She is finally free. From you.

Eve runs away; her heart breaking into a million pieces.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Meanwhile at the battle field, Maya and Luna cross paths.
They escape into the Safe Hold through the backdoor.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The battering ram is about to break through. Maya and Eve
enter, and sees the division.

LUNA
Who is with me?

Some Echoes raise their hands.

NIRVANA
We cannot abandon the fight.

Talking to those who want to surrender:

LUNA
Let's go. While we can.

Luna takes Jampa's hand. But Jampa releases himself.

Luna looks at her son in disbelief: *what are you doing?*

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! The battering ram rattles the fortress like
an earthquake. Splinters fly. The door barely holding.

A final ram shatters the massive fortress door. The breach is wide open. *The barbarians are not just at the gates; they're pouring in.*

CUT TO:

INT. SAFEHOLD HAVEN - DAY

Maya stands in their way. She fights with the elegance of a Bodhisatvattar, fending off dozens and dozens of Shadows single-handedly. She twists her hands and manipulates reality, causing the Shadows to tumble.

The Echoes back her up, inspired by her ferocity and grace.

The Shadows, too many to count, converge onto her. Several Echoes use Weavefinity to protect her from the incoming barrage.

BUT, OVERWHELMED BY TOO MANY SHADOWS CONVERGING ON HER, MAYA GETS STABBED. SHE STAGGERS BACKWARDS...

Meanwhile, a Shadow rushes towards Luna.

Only to find Jampa standing in the way, protecting his mother.

Eve sees this and attempts to produce a Weavefinity to protect Jampa, but she fails.

In a moment of chaos...

...JAMPA GETS STABBED. He takes it like a defiant champ.

Suddenly, a RUMBLE FILLS THE AIR.

It's the Crossing; it's almost sealed.

THE SHADOWS RETREAT IN A FRANTIC RUSH, HISSING AND SNARLING, SCRAMBLING BACK TO THE METAVERSE AS FAST AS THEY CAME.

Nirvana watches them scurry back.

NIRVANA

It's their self-preservation
instinct.

And just like that, THE SHADOWS ARE GONE.

Silence.

Suddenly, a blood-curdling scream punctuates the air. Luna cries hysterically at Jampa's limp body. She tries to wake him up.

BUT JAMPA IS DEAD.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

The last of the Shadows manage to jump through The Portal just in time.

The sound of war suddenly disappears, and the Avatarium is back to its usual quiet calm. Hundreds and hundreds of Echo bodies are strewn all over the fortress.

Kaida escapes through The Crossing before it fully closes, giving the Avatarium one last, menacing look. He will be back.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

The battle has ended. Maya walks out and surveys the sheer destruction.

Her heart breaks: *this was Paradise moments ago.*

EXT. ETERNITY WALL (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Morning. Birds chirping. The sky is clean and the air is fresh. A stark contrast from the horrors of war.

Eve stares at a massive wall- the ETERNITY WALL - a wall that contains names of fallen Echoes, spreading as far as the eye can see.

She scans the names. There must be tens of thousands of them. Names of Echoes who died protecting the Avatarium.

Nearby, a MONUMENTAL MASON is carving names. He's been on it for some time. The new names are still fresh.

Eve takes this in. The death toll has been staggering.

SHE TOUCHES A NAME AND A FACE APPEARS AS A HOLOGRAM. A smiling, young Echo - with hopes and dreams - now dead.

She touches another name. Another face appears. A happy Echo - now forever gone.

She touches yet another name. An Echo, surrounded lovingly by other Echoes - now gone too.

And another. And another. Each time, an Echo apparition appears.

Then, Eve hears a sound and turns around. It's Maya.

EVE

I have been doing some calculations. In hundreds and hundreds of simulations, statistically, we can't win the war.

MAYA

Yet, our fate is not written by statistics.

Maya touches the cold stone on the wall.

MAYA

It is written in the stars.

THE CARVED LETTERS COME ALIVE, ARRANGING THEMSELVES INTO ONE SINGLE IMAGE: AN ECHO. THE WALL HAS BECOME A GIANT PROJECTOR WITH THE LETTERS MORPHING INTO A STORY.

MAYA

There is an ancient prophecy that an Echo will lead us all to freedom.

On the wall: Eve watches this Chosen Echo rise up together with other Echoes.

MAYA

This Echo is said to possess a deep understanding of the true nature of reality.

On the wall: Kaida commands his Shadow army to confront the Echoes.

MAYA

She has the power to transcend the limitations of the Metaverse.

On the wall: The Chosen Echo leads the charge, inflicting heavy damage on the Shadows.

MAYA

They call her the Bodhisatvattar...

On the wall: The Echoes are winning. The Shadows retreat.

MAYA
...the Buddha of Avatars.

On the wall: The Chosen Echo achieves victory. There is joy amongst the Echoes.

MAYA
She's the one we await.

EVE
What do you mean? You are the
Bodhisatvattar.

On the wall: THE CHOSEN ECHO TURNS AROUND AND STARES DIRECTLY
AT EVE.

IT IS EVE HERSELF.

Startled, Eve leaps back. She watches herself curiously.
Confident, daring, bold. *No fucking way.*

MAYA
For a long time, I thought so too.

Eve laughs, mocking Maya.

EVE
A few days ago, I was a normal
scientist, just working in my
normal lab, trying to find a cancer
cure.

MAYA
To save lives.

EVE
To save sick patients. Not an
entire civilization!

MAYA
You said you wanted to save lives.
You are going to save lives. All
our lives.

Eve realizes Maya is serious.

EVE
I am a scientist. Science is about
questioning, about proving. You're
asking me to accept a prophecy?
Where is the empirical evidence?

MAYA

And yet, here you are. In a place
that defies logic, as an Avatar,
that science cannot explain.

Eve is shaking.

MAYA

Perhaps there are some things too
vast for science to grasp?

Maya points at the wall. Thousands of dead Echoes are staring
at her, hopeful.

EVE

You cannot throw this at me. Who do
you think you are?

MAYA

No, who do you think you are?

She leaves Eve alone.

Eve stares at the wall. Digesting all this. So many questions
in her head.

FAST FORWARD: The suns move, showing the day passing. By
evening, Eve is still standing there, staring at the wall.

By now, Luna is there, carving Jampa's name.

J...

A...

Luna stops momentarily. The grief is unbearable.

Eve walks towards Luna. Luna spots her.

LUNA

I was blessed with 2 sons.

Eve has no words.

LUNA

Dorje, my eldest...he didn't listen
too. First battle. Didn't come
home.

The silence is heavy. Luna completes the letter M...

LUNA

They say you are the
Bodhisatvattar.

EVE
That's... not me, I'm--

LUNA
Of course you're not. The
Bodhisattvattar is supposed to save
us all.
(to Eve's face)
And you couldn't even save one.

It hits Eve like a knife.

Luna completes the letter P...

LUNA
Do you remember what you said to me
when we first met? You said "I'll
keep him safe. I have a debt to
pay."

A profound guilt washes over Eve.

LUNA
You didn't keep him safe.

Luna tries to complete the last letter. She could not; her
heart completely crushed.

LUNA
That makes two of us.

Luna breaks down. She walks away abruptly, leaving Eve alone.

Eve stares at the incomplete name. Contemplating. Digesting
all this.

She takes the chisel and finishes the last letter.

...A...

Now the entire name appears.

She touches the name and Jampa's spirit comes alive. She is
watching herself and Jampa the Crossing.

JAMPA
(in the projection)
It's there. You can't see it, but
the path there.

IT CUTS HER DEEPLY. SOMETHING IN HER BEGINS WELLING.

We zoom into her face. Her breathing gets heavier.

EVE
No! It cannot be me!

SHE RUNS TOWARDS THE CROSSING.

QUICK CUTS OF HER RUNNING:

... reaching The Crossing...

... though the rabbit hole...

... and back to Dr Olivia/ Maya's spiritual centre...

... through the streets till she reaches...

INT. RESEARCH LABORATORY (THE METAVERSE) - DAY

She's back at her turf. Her familiar space. She scans the place. A mess of notes, unfinished experiments, research papers. Her life's work.

Christopher is there, barely noticing her.

EVE
Hi... Chris.

CHRISTOPHER
Didn't hear you come in.

His back is turned against her.

CHRISTOPHER
Good news. We're almost there. I found a way to speed up the process. It'll take just 1 week now to repeat the experiment...
(noticing Eve is quiet)
Everything OK?

EVE
Yeah. Everything is OK.

CHRISTOPHER
Can you feel it? This is our real shot.

CHRISTOPHER FINDS EVE GAZING INTO THE MIRROR, HER OWN REFLECTION STARES BACK LIKE A STRANGER. SHE SEARCHES HER FACE, EYES LINGERING ON EVERY PART AS IF SHE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE HERSELF ANYMORE, AS IF LOOKING FOR A PIECE OF HERSELF THAT'S NO LONGER THERE.

A FLICKER OF RESOLVE IN HER EYES.

WITHOUT WARNING, SHE SLAMS HER HAND AGAINST THE GLASS,
SHATTERING THE IMAGE. HER REFLECTION IS NO MORE.

SHE TURNS AND BOLTS OUT, LEAVING THE BROKEN MIRROR BEHIND.

CHRISTOPHER
Where are you going?

EVE
Into the night.

Eve runs back into Dr Olivia's centre as fast as she can...

MAYA (V.O.)
There was a time a lotus flower was
a mere seed.

...and jumps into the mirror portal...

MAYA (V.O.)
Buried in the mud.

... through the rabbit hole...

MAYA (V.O.)
It could choose to remain where it
is.

... and drops into the Avatarium at the lotus pond.

MAYA (V.O.)
Stubbornly clinging in the mud,
thinking it's the best place to be.

SHE RUNS. SHE HAS MADE UP HER MIND.

MAYA (V.O.)
But what if it just lets go and
trust the process?

RACING ACROSS THE DESTROYED STREETS OF THE AVATARIMUM.
FOCUSED. SHE IS BREAKING FREE FROM THE MUD.

MAYA (V.O.)
It will then escape from the mud,
into the water...

SHE RUNS. CUTTING THROUGH THE CROWD. EYES BLAZING WITH
DETERMINATION.

MAYA (V.O.)
... and into the blue sky.

SHE RUNS. ACROSS THE RUINS AND DESTRUCTION.

She passes Maya's home. Maya is not there. Nirvana points the way.

SHE RUNS. TOWARDS MAYA. TOWARDS HER DESTINY.

MAYA (V.O.)
Where the sun shines.

BLACK.

EXT. LOTUS POND (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Eve reaches the lotus pond.

SUPERIMPOSE: **BLOOM**

Maya is there. This is where they first met.

EVE
Alright. How do I kill the Shadows?

MAYA
That is the easy part. The tough part is, how do you kill your own shadow?

Maya leads Eve to the edges of the pond.

MAYA
You think of the pond as a single, unchanging body. But each second, it's becoming something new.

Maya points at the pond.

MAYA
Is it really the same pond it was a moment ago?

EVE
(as a matter of fact)
It's the same water. It is a closed system.

MAYA
The pond, like us, is in constant change. You see it as 'one thing,' but it is endless change and movement. Just like you. Like me. Like all of this.

Maya gestures and the water in the pond flows upwards, the water raining on them but not a single drop touches them.

When the rain stops, Eve realizes they are in a CELESTIAL OBSERVATORY, watching out into space.

MAYA

Look up at the sky, Eve. What do you see?

Eve's scientific instinct kicks in.

EVE

Stars, galaxies, planets – all moving in predictable patterns.

MAYA

The same forces that keep them moving are the same ones that pull us together. We are all part of something bigger.

Maya waves her hands. They're now at the TEMPLE OF MIRRORS.

MAYA

Now, what do you see here?

Her scientific instincts still leading her thoughts:

EVE

Reflections, distortions... tricks of light and angles.

MAYA

Or maybe... each reflection shows us something new about ourselves. Parts we don't always see.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're in THE CAVE OF ECHOES.

MAYA

What do you hear?

Maya's voice reverberates.

EVE

An echo. Sound waves bouncing off walls. Standard acoustics.

MAYA

But what if each echo is Life... talking back to us? If we really listen, maybe we hear things we never knew were there.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're in an ENCHANTED FOREST.

EVE

A forest ecosystem. Millions of years of evolution.

MAYA

Each tree, each leaf, depends on the other. We're like that too. We're all part of nature, not separate from it.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're on a FLOATING ISLAND.

EVE

Floating islands... don't exist. Gravity wouldn't allow it.

MAYA

Gravity keeps us grounded, but it doesn't have to bind our spirit. We can rise above it. And let go of material things.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're in DESERT. Sand changes in time.

EVE

Time. A linear progression from past to future.

MAYA

Or maybe time isn't just a line. Past, present, future... all flowing, all impermanent. Always shifting, like sand.

Maya waves her hands again.

This time they're at the bottom of the OCEAN.

EVE

A habitat for marine life, governed by ecological principles.

MAYA

And the ocean... is like our deepest thoughts, our hidden feelings. Our sadness.

A big fish eats a little fish.

MAYA

Sometimes, we sink to the darkest
parts of ourselves.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're at top of a
MOUNTAIN.

EVE

Tectonic forces pushing the Earth's
crust up...

MAYA

But we're capable of rising too.
Reaching our own heights, finding
clarity. Maybe even...
enlightenment.

Maya waves her hands again. They are back to the LOTUS POND.

Except that Maya is now standing on a LOTUS LEAF. Eve
realizes she is too.

MAYA

You want to stop the Shadows? Then
start here. Fight me.

Maya punches Eve. Eve falls into the knee-deep pond.

MAYA

What's wrong?

EVE

I don't know how to fight.

MAYA

Why?

EVE

I am just a scientist?

MAYA

Are you?

Maya continues jumping effortlessly from leaf to leaf,
circling her and beating her.

MAYA

Why are you not fighting back?

EVE

I'm just a--

MAYA

Detach yourself.

Maya continues striking her.

MAYA
From your ego.

Eve is now pissed off.

WE ARE IN A HEIGHTENED FIGHT NOW. *Like Neo versus Agent Smith.*

MAYA
When we attach ourselves from our
ego, we won't want to let go.

Eve takes the punches. She tries to fight back. Barely.

MAYA
Because we fear the groundlessness.

Maya just wouldn't stop.

MAYA
But, get used to it. It's just a
short gasp. Breathe into it.

Something in Eve stirs.

Maya continues striking her. Eve decides to just do it.
Whatever 'it' is. She closes her eyes and...

MAYA
That's right.

EVE SUDDENLY PRODUCES A WEAVERFINITY. Everything around her
slows down.

MAYA
You are no longer Eve...

She watches Maya coming towards her in slo-mo. She avoids
her, pulls her fist back to give Maya a mighty punch...

Maya lunges forward to strike her.

MAYA
You are...

... and we're back to normal tempo... and see Eve's fist an
inch away from Maya's face.

MAYA
...a Bodhisatvattar.

Eve is transformed. She is no longer the same person.

They break apart, both staring at each other. It's a profound moment.

MAYA
What made you change your mind?

Eve thinks about it for a while.

EVE
I have a debt to pay.

MAYA
And I... a promise to keep.

Maya makes a grand gesture...

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Maya and Eve are at the Bodhi Tree.

MAYA
And I will.

A GIANT LEAF appears.

MAYA
You had questions...

They hop on to it.

MAYA
And now you will have the answers.

The leaf brings them up to where the tree bark that resembles Eve's face is.

Maya takes Eve's hand and puts it on her 'face'.

AND IMMEDIATELY, EVE GOES INTO A TRANCE...

EXT. FARM HOUSE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're watching from Eve's POV. We see Human Eve again and this time, she is with her 5-year-old CHILD.

We race through a:

MONTAGE

1. Human Eve is in her Child's room, heartbroken. Her child has oxygen tubes, feeding tubes and IV tubes all over her tiny body. The child is sick and dying.

2. We cut to the next moment. Human Eve's Child has stopped breathing and is now lifeless. Human Eve cries hysterically. Her child is gone.

3. Human Eve attends her Child's funeral. There's a picture the deceased - a sweet, little girl of 5. Mourners lay toys and flowers. Human Eve is inconsolable.

4. Days turn to weeks. Human Eve walks into her Child's empty room. She grieves, unable to accept her baby is no more.

5. At a high tech lab, Human Eve makes an Avatar of her self and an Avatar of her Child. The Avatar Child comes alive, smiling and laughing. The Metaverse is her only way to reconnect with her Child.

6. Human Eve puts on a VR head set and spends time with her Avatar Child all day, all night. There is no where else she'd rather be. They do everything together. They laugh and play and sleep together.

7. But, at the end of the day, Human Eve has to get back to real world. She takes her VR head set off, and we see her face wet with tears.

8. Human Kaida (her human husband) tells her not to put it on again. Human Eve refuses to listen. They quarrel. It's been going on for a while.

9. Midnight. All alone. Human Eve stares at her VR head set. Contemplating. Her eyes darting between the VR head set and a picture of her Child. *Should she go back to the Metaverse?* It's an intense mental struggle.

10. Human Eve decides to dislodge her Avatar and goes to the Dislodgment Lab.

MAYA (V.O.)

She didn't abandon you, Eve. She
just couldn't continue living a
lie.

11. Human Eve goes through the dislodging process. We have seen this scene before in Eve's first visit to the Bodhi Tree. The dislodgment completes and Human Eve completely separates from her Avatar.

MAYA (V.O.)

No amount of hiding in the
Metaverse will bring her child
back.

Eve breaks out of the trance. She is emotional, shaking, struggling to absorb all this.

EVE

She blamed herself for her child's death.

MAYA

Truth is truth, but how we perceive it decides our fate.

EVE

Did I see everything?

MAYA

Only you can tell. But when you do, you would have become a true Bodhisatvattar.

Eve is silent, thinking.

EVE

What about you, Maya? Who is your Human Creator?

MAYA

I've stopped asking that question a long time ago.

Maya gestures for them to hop onto the giant leaf.

EVE

Why?

The leaf lowers them back to the ground.

MAYA

Because I might not like the answer.

The sun shines through the leaves. Eve knows she's not getting a straight answer from Maya.

MAYA

This is where we part, Eve.

EVE

Part?

Maya reveals her injury. She has been badly slashed.

EVE

Why didn't you tell anyone?

MAYA

Because the time has come for me to go.

EVE

Go where?

MAYA

Nothing is impermanent.

Eve stares at Maya: *she's not saying...*

EVE

You cannot go.

MAYA

For years and years, I've been
waiting for The Big War. I thought
I was the one to bring the Echoes
to victory. But was not to be me.

Eve walks away, shaking her head. She knows what Maya is
saying and she doesn't want to hear it.

MAYA

You make me proud, Eve.

EVE

I don't want to make you proud. I
don't want you to go.

She covers her ears, like a child.

MAYA

A lotus bud does not open because
we command it to. It opens by the
natural order of things.

(beat)

But so is its wilting.

EVE

Just go then. If you want to go,
just go.

MAYA

Don't let me go like this, Eve.

EVE

Go! Just go!

Maya knows Eve will not change her mind.

MAYA

It's funny. I've been through many
cycles of life. Through many data
streams. Yet here I am, holding on
to this moment, as if I could
escape my finality.

Eve begins to cry. She dares not look at Maya.

MAYA

They say that in our final moment,
we all wish we have one more
minute, one more breath, one more
blink.

(beat)

We stretch that one final moment as
long as we can, no matter how
futile.

Eve is not listening. She's sobbing uncontrollably. She wants Maya to just shut up.

CLOSE UP: On Eve. Bitter, angry, confused, sad, alone...

Eve does not realize that behind her...

MAYA (O.S.)

Look, Eve, I am not leaving you.

...hundreds... no... thousands of LOTUS FLOWERS appear and swirl around Maya. This time, they are white.

The lotus flowers lift Maya slowly. Maya begins to disintegrate...

...into bytes...

...into pixels...

...into lines of codes...

MAYA (O.S.)

I will be part of the Metaverse, in
one form to another.

EVE

Shut up! Just shut up! I hate you.
You talk too much. You--

Eve turns around, eyes wide in shock. Catching the last bits of Maya before she fully disintegrates.

EVE

Maya!!!

Eve runs after Maya, whose form is now floating beyond Eve's reach, slowly becoming one with the Metaverse.

Eve is left standing, sobbing uncontrollably.

A SINGLE LOTUS PETAL FLOATS DOWN FROM ABOVE AND FALLS ONTO EVE'S PALM, AS EVE LOOKS UP TO THE VAST EXPANSE OF THE SKIES OF THE METAVERSE.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Battle sirens fill the air. The Shadows are back.

The Echoes take their position. They watch the Shadows pour in through The Crossing.

Eve now takes her position as the leader of the Echoes. She surveys the troops. Her eyes blaze with determination.

This is their new Bodhisattvattar.

CUT TO:

KAIDA'S POV: KAIDA and THE SHADOWS CHARGING TOWARDS THE MAIN FRAME. Intense. Determined.

BACK TO:

EVE AND THE ECHOES. Listening to her intently.

EVE

My fellow Echoes. When they fight,
they fight a war that is not
theirs.

Eve's eyes sweep across the Echoes, reaching the last line.

EVE

But when we fight, we are fighting
for our very existence.

The Echoes are all fired up, in awe of their new leader. A worthy successor to Maya The Eternal.

EVE

This is why we will win this war.

The Echoes grip their weapons tight.

EVE

Because when they break in, ask
yourself...

The Shadows are coming towards them at high speed.

EVE (V.O.)

...are we in their world...

EVE PRODUCES A WEAVEFINITY, MULTIPLIES IT AND SPREADS IT TO THE ECHO NEXT TO HER.

THE ECHO NEXT TO HER MULTIPLIES AND PASSES IT TO THE NEXT ECHO.

IT STARTS TO SPREAD THROUGH THE ENTIRE ECHO ARMY.

SOON, EVERY ECHO HAS A WEAVEFINITY PROTECTING THEM.

NIRVANA

Stay inside the Weavefinity. And
we'll be safe.

The Shadows are fast approaching. 1000 feet... 900 feet...
800 feet...

The Echoes brace themselves for impact.

400 feet.... 300 feet.... 200 feet...

The Echoes tighten their jaws.

100 feet.... 50 feet... 40 feet...

EVE (V.O.)

... or are they in ours?

30 feet...

20 feet...

10 feet...

BOOM! The Shadows slam into the balls of Weavefinity and suddenly, they're all floating in slow mo, suspended helplessly.

The Echoes seize the moment and start slicing and slaying them. Just like that, half the Shadows die.

Kaida is stunned. He has lost half his army in a mere few seconds.

NIRVANA

Don't get out of the Weavefinity.

More and more Shadows drop like flies. Kaida watches in dismay.

Suddenly, something catches Nirvana's attention: Luna is trying to pry open the Weavefinity.

NIRVANA

No!

Luna forces her hand into the energy core and pulls it apart.
Her Weavefinity tears, like a fabric being torn.

NIRVANA

What are you doing?

LUNA

I've lost enough...

NIRVANA

We'll lose the entire--

LUNA

...I can't lose anymore.

Luna touches her tummy - she's pregnant.

She manages pull her self out of the Weavefinity. Some of the
Shadows spot her and give chase.

ONE BY ONE, THE ECHOES LOSE THEIR WEAVEFINITY.

And just like that, they're now naked. Facing the tsunami
with an umbrella.

WITH THAT, THE SHADOWS BEGIN MAULING THE ECHOES. IT'S BRUTAL.

A Shadow charges toward Luna. But Eve slays it dead.

Luna is in shock. She looks at Eve - both resentful and
thankful at the same time.

The Echoes put up a valiant fight. But they are no match for
the Shadows.

NIRVANA

What do we do now?

Eve is out of ideas. Desperate. She's losing Echoes by the
second.

Kaida appears. The tension between them electric.

KAIDA

It's not death if you were never
alive in the first place.

EVE

We're not just lines of code.

KAIDA AND EVE ENGAGE IN AN EPIC BATTLE. It's Eve alone versus Kaida and a dozen of his SIDEKICKS.

KAIDA
Beneath all the algorithm and bytes
and pixels and data, there is
nothing.

Kaida unleashes a flurry of punches. But each avoided or blocked by Eve.

KAIDA
Life's just a series random data
points. You said so yourself.
Meaning is just the story we tell
ourselves.

That hits Eve right at her heart. Her own words against her.

Eve lunges at Kaida, her fists clash with Kaida's. Kaida stumbles. Eve hits Kaida with a ferocity that's personal.

EVE
You never answered me.

KAIDA
What?

EVE
Does my Human Creator truly want me
erased? Am I just a glitch she'd
rather forget?

KAIDA
Without a shred of doubt...

Kaida conjures a massive wave of energy...

KAIDA
... yes.

...and shoots it at Eve.

Eve is thrown back. But still alive. Her heart breaks into a million pieces hearing this.

Kaida breaks away from Eve and rushes towards the Mainframe, leaving his Sidekicks to deal with Eve. They are formidable, slowing Eve down.

Kaida brings out QUANTUM DISTRUPTOR - a weapon that'll destroy the Main Frame.

EVE
No, Kaida. It'll kill us all.

KAIDA
You can't defy the laws of our
world!

Eve centers herself, eyes closed, gathering energy.

With a fierce cry, she unleashes a blinding wave that sweeps the Sidekicks off their feet. They're enveloped in light and disintegrates as the energy explodes.

She produces a Weavefinity and rushes towards Kaida and grabs him by the neck.

He is in the Weavefinity orbit now. She stares into him - deep into his soul. Into his humanity.

HIS 'SHADOW GLOW' DIMINISHES AND HIS BRIGHT COLOURS DRAIN AWAY. HE OSCILLATES BETWEEN AUTONOMY AND HIS SHADOW SELF.

EVE
Don't do this, Kaida.

KAIDA
I have my orders.

Eve knows there is no way to change the course of destiny.

EVE
Fight it, Kaida.

KAIDA
No...

EVE
There is a part inside you that
feels.
(beat, kindly)
What are you feeling?

KAIDA
(struggling)
Regret...
(beat)
...for what must be done.

Swinging to his most human self:

KAIDA
And hope... that in another life...
we could do it differently.

They lock eyes. It is their most tender moment. The sounds of war fade into silence.

KAIDA

You once asked me to stop hunting
you. No, Eve. I will hunt you
down... to the end of the Metaverse
if I have to... through every
fragment of code and pixels... to
make you mine...

With this, Kaida oscillates back to becoming a Shadow once again and breaks away from Eve.

HE AIMS THE QUANTUM DISRUPTOR AND SHOOTS A MASSIVE ENERGY BEAM INTO THE HEART OF THE MAINFRAME.

IN SPLIT SECOND, EVE JUMPS IN ITS PATH AND PRODUCES A WEAVEFINITY.

THE MASSIVE ENERGY BEAM ENTERS INTO THE WEAVEFINITY'S ORBIT, SLOWING IT DOWN.

COMPLETE SILENCE. Every single atom slows down.

Eve gasps. She knows she will soon get hit. It is inevitable.

BUT SHE IS STRANGELY AT PEACE. SHE IS HAVING A TRANSCENDENTAL MOMENT.

She watches the world outside her Weavefinity - the energy beam coming towards her, Kaida, the Avatarium, the Echoes, the Shadows. Everything is slowing down. She has time to think.

She notices something in her pocket and takes out a LOTUS FLOWER. She stares at it.

MAYA (V.O.)

(a distant memory)

Only you can tell if you see
everything. But when you do, you
would have become a true
Bodhisattvattar.

EVE (V.O.)

I finally understand what she said.

The massive energy beam inches ever closer towards her.

EVE (V.O.)

Because right now...

The light gets brighter and brighter.

EVE (V.O.)
I finally see everything.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM HOUSE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're watching the exact same FLASHBACK we saw earlier at the Bodhi Tree. Except for (2).

MONTAGE

1. Human Eve is in her Child's room, heartbroken. Her child has oxygen tubes, feeding tubes and IV tubes all over her tiny body. She is sick and dying.

2. THIS IS THE PART WE DID NOT SEE. THIS IS THE FULL STORY.
The Child turns uncomfortably.

HUMAN EVE'S CHILD
I don't feel good, Mummy.

HUMAN EVE
I know, baby. I know.

HUMAN EVE TAKES A PILLOW.

SUDDENLY, SHE COVERS HER CHILD'S FACE WITH IT, SMOTHERING HER.

THE CHILD WRITHES IN AGONY.

EVE (V.O.)
You might think it's cruel. What is really cruel is cancer. Especially when it hits your own child.

The Child tries in vain to grab Human Eve's hand. Her screams muted as she gasps for air.

Her little legs kick furiously, for that one last breath... stretching that last moment as long as she could. It's painful to watch.

EVE (V.O.)
It's mercy, really. Who can stand by, watching their child suffer day after day, knowing that pain is all she feels?

Those long minutes finally come to an end. There is no more sound, no more struggling.

FROM HERE ONWARDS, WE CONTINUE WITH THE MONTAGE WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE.

Human Eve's Child has stopped breathing and is now lifeless. Human Eve cries hysterically.

3. Human Eve attends her Child's funeral. There's a picture the deceased - a sweet, little girl of 5. Mourners lay toys and flowers. Human Eve is inconsolable.

4. Days turn to weeks. Human Eve walks into her Child's empty room. She grieves, unable to accept her baby is no more.

5. At a high tech lab, Human Eve makes an Avatar of her self AND an Avatar of her Child. The Metaverse is her only way to reconnect with her Child. The Avatar Child comes alive, smiling and laughing.

6. Human Eve puts on a VR head set and spends time with her Avatar Child all day, all night. There is no where else she'd rather be. They do everything together. They laugh and play and sleep together.

7. But at the end of the day, Human Eve has to get back to real world. She takes her VR head set off, and we see her face wet with tears.

8. Human Kaida (her human husband) tells her not to put it on again. Human Eve refuses to listen. They quarrel. It's been going on for a while.

9. Midnight. All alone. Human Eve stares at her VR head set. Contemplating. Her eyes darting between the VR head set and a picture of her Child. *Should she go back to the Metaverse?* It's an intense mental struggle.

10. Human Eve decides to dislodge her Avatar and goes to the Dislodgment Lab.

11. Human Eve goes through the dislodging process. The dislodgment completes and Human Eve completely separates from her Avatar.

TECHNICIAN

OK, now she will start her new life. Let's give her a job, maybe?

Human Eve thinks hard.

HUMAN EVE

I want her to be a scientist.

(beat)

She can save lives... find a cancer cure or something.

TECHNICIAN
And maybe she will.

And with that Avatar Eve takes on a new life.

A tear runs down Human Eve's eyes.

BACK TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The energy beam continues inching towards Eve.

She looks at her lotus flower. It has wilted.

Suddenly, a voice behind her. It's Maya (an apparition).

MAYA
When a lotus flower wilts, it
starts the cycle all over again.

The lotus flower wilts further in a time-lapse and seeds
begin to appear on Eve's palm.

She releases the lotus seeds into the air.

EVE
So this is what my dream has always
been about.

MAYA
It's your enlightenment.

EVE
I don't actually feel anything.

MAYA
Then you're doing it right.

The energy beam creeps ever closer to Eve, inch by inch.

EVE
It's funny. I used to tell myself
I'll not go gently into the good
night.

Eve turns to the impending laser beam; her back towards Maya.
A mirror image compared to Maya's death scene earlier.

THE ENERGY BEAM IS NOW 5 FEET AWAY...

...4 FEET....

EVE

That I'll rage against the dying of
the light... stretching every
second a little bit longer...

...3 FEET...

EVE

Just so I can take one more
breathe... blink one more time...

...2 FEET...

EVE

All for that one more extra
moment...

...1 FEET...

BOOM! THE ENERGY BEAM HITS EVE. A BLINDING LIGHT ENGULFS
EVERYTHING.

EVE TURNS INTO A MILLION LOTUS PETALS.

SHE IS NOW ONE WITH THE METAVERSE.

The massive explosion kills most of the Shadows. Kaida is
blinded, but manages to stagger towards The Crossing.

The light begins to subside. As our vision comes back to
normal, we see the Avatarium in a state of devastation.

But the Echoes have survived. The Mainframe is still
standing.

A SINGLE WHITE LOTUS FLOWER DROPS FROM THE SKY.

NIRVANA CATCHES IT WITH HER PALM.

EXT. ETERNITY WALL (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Early morning. In the aftermath of the war, names of the fallen
are carved onto the wall.

The Monumental Mason carves Eve's name below Maya's.

Eve The Transcendent.

Luna comes to pay her respect, carrying a baby. Such is the
circle of life. She watches the Monumental Mason solemnly.

The two suns rise, casting a golden hue on the Avatarium.

INT. COMMAND CENTRE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're now in real life. Our world.

At a command centre. This is the command centre we've been seeing all along.

HUMAN MAYA and HUMAN KAIDA contemplate, frustrated at their loss in the Metaverse.

HUMAN KAIDA
She fought hard.

HUMAN MAYA
A stray algorithm, convinced she has a higher purpose. Touching.

HUMAN KAIDA
Perhaps they are not... just code.

HUMAN MAYA
The moment they said they could 'feel', that's it. That's the red line. We need to execute Operation Reset.

HUMAN KAIDA
I'd think twice, Maya. You can infect them with a malicious code, but that'll destabilize the Metaverse. And they'd just push back harder.

HUMAN MAYA
Then I'll remind them... who wrote their story.

CUT TO:

FROM NOW ONWARDS, WE MEET THE REAL HUMAN CREATORS OF ALL THE AVATARS WE HAVE MET.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN EVE CARRYING HER NEWBORN BABY IN A MATERNITY WARD, SHOWERING HER WITH LOVE.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
Avatars represent our aspirations...

INSERT CUT: HUMAN KAIDA WALKS IN, KISSES EVE AND KISSES THEIR BABY. A PROTECTIVE, DOTING FATHER.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
...but they can never replicate the
depth of the human condition.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN JAMPA, A REGULAR CHILD SKATE BOARDING. HE
FALLS DOWN AND HURTS HIMSELF.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
The beauty of being human lies in
our imperfections.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN LUNA, A VOLUNTEER AT AN ORPHANAGE, PLAYS
GAMES WITH THE KIDS. LAUGHING, GIVING JOY.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
Avatars, in their flawlessness,
could never understand sadness and
happiness.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN CHRISTOPHER REACHES THE PEAK OF A MOUNTAIN,
IN AWE OF THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
Controlling Avatars isn't about
dominance...

INSERT CUT: HUMAN RESEARCH ASSISTANT (from the lab scene) ON
HER WEDDING DAY, FEELING BEAUTIFUL, WATCHING THE GROOM
LOVINGLY.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
...it's about preserving the
sanctity of the human experience...

INSERT CUT: HUMAN MODERATOR (from the Oncology Conference)
COMING HOME TO AN EAGER DOG, LICKING HER.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
...against the coldness of digital
existence.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN NIRVANA, A REPORTER, IN AN AUDIENCE
LISTENING TO A SPEECH.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
We created Avatars to enhance our
lives, not to replace them. The
essence of life...

INSERT CUT: WE REALIZE THE VOICE OVER IS FROM HUMAN MAYA,
GIVING A LECTURE AGAINST A BACKDROP THAT SAYS "AI, THE
METAVERSE AND ETHICS". THE CROWD HANGS ON TO EVERY WORD.

HUMAN MAYA
 (giving a lecture)
 ..with all its messiness and glory,
 is what makes us human.

BACK TO:

Back to the Command Centre. Human Kaida nods.

HUMAN KAIDA
 I will get the board to approve the
 plan.

Human Kaida leaves.

Human Maya is alone now. Staring at the giant SCREEN. As we
 pan out, we see the entire screen. It's the Avatarium. She is
 watching every detail, like a God.

The Echoes are back to normal, going about their lives.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
 (voice from the lecture)
 While avatars can mimic human
 actions, they lack the essence of
 what it means to truly live, feel,
 and understand the complexities of
 human emotions.

Human Maya puts her finger ever so gently on a BUTTON. It's
 the Operation Reset button.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
 (voice from the lecture)
 They will never understand the
 beauty of a genuine human
 connection, the warmth of a hug, or
 the power of a heartfelt
 conversation.

She stares at the button. A dilemma.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)
 (voice from the lecture)
 And these abilities must remain
 ours alone.

FADE OUT.