

Almost Human
Screenplay by
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Based on an idea
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

It's a scene of war, but with a hazy softness, as though in a dream. On one side are HUMAN SOLDIERS, brandishing weapons, more like lasers than traditional bullet based weaponry.

On the other side are ROBOTS, roughly humanoid, sleek, polished silver, no actual faces, having goggles where eyes should be, brandishing weapons as well. Bombs fall all around them. Above, drones fly through the air.

INSERT: **2091 AD**

Both groups fire at each other, with the humans getting the worst of it. The laser blasts from the robot side easily find their marks, while the blasts from the human side deflect from the polished silver of their bodies. It's a slaughter.

INT. HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

A single room. OFFICERS 1 and 2, and Lt. MARK SCOTT (30) are stationed at various locations. All wear goggles over their eyes attached at the temples. Nearby, standing guard at the exit, are several of the silver robots seen on the battlefield. One of them, KELLEN stands next to:

Lt. TYLER ASH (30), who watches the battle through the eyes of one of the drones.

POV

An aerial view of the battlefield, both side clashing. There are a number of drones carrying bombs coming towards the robotic troops.

BACK TO SCENE

Tyler watches, concerned.

TYLER

I have a contingent of Bomb Drones coming in from section six, west south west, three thousand meters from our location. Mark, can you confirm?

MARK

Confirmed. I have visual. Attack drones at the ready.

TYLER

Deploy.

POV

A wave of Attack drones fly toward the Bomb drones. Lasers shoot from the Attack Drones and some of the Bomb Drones are destroyed, but lasers fire from the Bomb Drones as well, knocking down Attack Drones.

Both groups break ranks and battle each other haphazardly, while the other battle goes on below.

A stray beam of light comes straight towards the drone Tyler sees though and it goes dark.

BACK TO SCENE

Tyler is startled.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Damn! Ob-Drone fourteen destroyed...
switching to fifteen.

Tyler presses a button on the side of his goggles.

POV

It goes from dark to a scene similar as before, but a slightly different angle. It's still a free-for-all, but some of the Bomb-Drones get through.

BACK TO SCENE

OFFICER 1

Lieutenant Ash, five Bomb Drones
have penetrated our perimeter.

TYLER

Counter measures.

Officer 1 presses a button on the side of his goggles. There is the SOUND of an EXPLOSION OS. The headquarters shakes slightly. Tyler turns to face Kellen.

TYLER (CONT'D)

(to Kellen)

Kellen, protect. Seven six four
three.

Kellen nods, turns and goes out the exit, the other robots follow him OUT OF SCENE. Another EXPLOSION rocks the Headquarters, much closer.

OFFICER 2

Bomb-Drones are in striking distance.
Target lasers activated.

TYLER
Abandon Posts.

Tyler, Mark and the two officers move towards the exit, but before they get there, there is a bright Light, then BLACKNESS, and the SOUND of an EXPLOSION, which echoes into:

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Seedy and run-down, it has a bed, a dresser and not much else. Drapes pulled across the only window lets in a dirty light. A door to the bathroom is nearby.

Tyler Ash lies in the rumpled bed, older-looking, but much the same. He no longer wears the goggles, and there are two small circular scars at each temple where the goggles were attached. He has a metallic robotic arm that has replaced his left one. He's fully dressed in rumpled clothes.

He writhes on the bed in the throes of a nightmare. Suddenly, he wakes, sits bolt upright, panicked, momentarily confused, then recognizes his surroundings.

TYLER
Shit!

He absently rubs his robotic arm, as he gets out of bed and trudges towards the door to the bathroom.

INSERT: FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tyler stumbles into the bathroom and over to the sink, looks into the mirror and rubs one of the scars at his temple. He looks like hell. He lifts his robotic arm. The index finger twitches up and down. Tyler lets out an exasperated sigh.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Small, cramped and looks like it could use a good cleaning. There's a small table with two chairs in the middle of the floor, making it all that more cramped.

It's a little later, but Tyler still looks the same, except his hair has been partially tamed and he is wearing a watch on his right arm. In his left hand, he holds a beer, that he sips from.

He puts the can of beer down on the table, but still holds it. His robotic arm starts to shake, and the hand spasms shut, crushing the can and spraying beer everywhere.

TYLER
(pissed)
Dammit, mother--!

Before he can say any more, a LOUD RING comes from his watch.

TYLER (CONT'D)
(still angry)
Answer!

A holographic screen lights up about six inches square and a face looks at him, belonging to Mark. He studies Tyler for a moment.

MARK
(over screen)
Morning Tyler. My, don't you look
all bright and chipper...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

A seedy looking building in a seedy part of town, with a new vehicle parked in front.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

The interior is streamlined and spacious. There is no steering wheel. A small video screen is set into the front console.

Mark sits in the driver's seat, talking on his device, looking at a scowling Tyler.

MARK
...You get up on the wrong side of
the bed or did you fall out of it...
again?

INTERCUT

TYLER
I'm in no mood for your humor this
morning, Mark. What do you want?

MARK
How soon they forget. You have an
appointment at the VA in an hour.

Tyler stands up quickly.

TYLER
Oh hell, was that today?

MARK

Yes. Figured it would slip your mind. That's why I'm early. Get yourself dressed and meet me downstairs.

TYLER

Why don't you come up?

MARK

And leave my new vehicle alone, in this neighborhood, not a chance. I'll wait.

TYLER

Suit yourself. End call.

BACK TO SCENE

His watch shuts off. Tyler gets up and heads to the bedroom.

INT. VEHICLE - LATER

Mark sits in his vehicle, waiting. There is MUSIC PLAYING on the radio that Mark taps out a beat to on the console, eyes closed, lost in the music.

Tyler's face appears in the passenger window, and he knocks on the glass, ending Mark's reverie. Mark presses a button on the console and the door unlocks.

MARK

Music off.

The music shuts off. Tyler gets in.

Mark wrinkles his nose.

MARK (CONT'D)

Whew, you smell like a brewery.

TYLER

Spilled my breakfast.

MARK

Beer, for breakfast? Whatever. If you--

TYLER

No lectures this morning, okay.

MARK

Fine. Just don't mess up my new upholstery.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)
(to vehicle)
Destination... VA hospital, fourteen
twenty-six Maple...engage.

The vehicle starts up.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Mark's vehicle pulls away from the curb.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Both settle back in their seats, as the vehicle zips along.

MARK
Screen on.

The screen lights up.

ANNOUNCER
(from screen)
And now for the business news...
HCraft Industries has just announced
that the next big thing in Cyber
development is here. CEO Teresa Belton
told a packed auditorium that the
'TRC-One' is the most advanced product
of it's type, capable of non-
sequential and sensory memory. Fitted
with a newly developed poly-organic
skin, it is almost undetectable from
the real thing...

Tyler has heard enough.

TYLER
Screen off.

The screen goes dark. Mark is perplexed.

MARK
What'd you do that for?

TYLER
You don't believe that crap do you?
'Almost undetectable?'

MARK
Hey man, look around. Cybers have
come a long way since the war-bots
we dealt with fifteen years ago.
You, my friend need to get out more,
and not keep yourself cooped up in
that shithole you call an apartment.

TYLER
It ain't that bad.

Mark HUMPHS. There is silence for a few moments.

TYLER (CONT'D)
You ever had one...?

MARK
One what?

TYLER
You know, a Cyber woman.

MARK
Yeah, as a matter of fact. There's
a place on Beaker that has them.
Set up like one of those old-time
Cathouses you see in westerns.

TYLER
No shit? How do they compare to the
real thing?

MARK
Let me tell ya, they're damn close.
Best thing is you don't have to take
'em to dinner, they don't get
pregnant, or want to marry you. Most
of the Cybers there are ZX-Fours
like that sparring robot you work
out with, and these new TRC-Ones are
supposed to be even more advanced,
more life-like. They even got Q
cybers if you're into that kind of
thing.

TYLER
I'll stick to women. Still, the whole
thing sounds a little creepy to me.

He looks out the front window.

MARK
Coming up on the VA. Hopefully,
they can convince you to replace
that dinosaur of an arm you got in
the army.

TYLER
What's wrong with it?

MARK
For one thing, it keeps breaking
down.

Irked, Tyler sits back and crosses his arms. His index finger begins to twitch again.

DOC (O.S.)
I don't know how much longer I can
patch this arm up Mr. Ash...

INT. VA HOSPITAL - ROBOTICS ROOM - LATER

White, sterile, clinical. White floor, white cabinets, white walls. A glass door leads to an office, while another door leads out to the waiting area.

In the center of the room is a work table, and a few stools nearby. There are tools of various types placed on the table, and what looks like a tablet.

DOC (30s) sits on one of the stools, Tyler on the other, leaning his robotic arm on the table. The Doc works on the arm while Mark watches nearby, from another stool.

DOC
The factory hasn't made any parts
for the Alpha-two-four-seven since
twenty ninety-nine. Most of what I
can get now is from used prosthetics,
and I'm not sure how much longer
I'll even be able to do that.

TYLER
But you can fix it, can't you Doc?

DOC
Temporarily. I just don't see why
you don't get a newer model. The VA
pays for it as part of your
disability.

MARK
Won't listen to you. Got some kind
of sentimental attachment to it.
Those scars too.

TYLER
Just used to them, that's all.

DOC
(to Tyler)
If it's the surgery that bothers you--

TYLER
I survived having my arm blown off,
and never complained. A little
surgery's not gonna bother me.

DOC

They're doing so much now with the new fiber cell technology. Can't see why you don't take advantage of it. I heard that H-Craft Industries has a new Cyber that's almost indistinguishable from a real person.

MARK

We were talking about it on the way over. Not sure he's sold on the idea.

DOC

Well, I hope that some of that tech gets over to the VA. It would be great to have prosthetics that advanced.

The Doc finishes up. Sits back.

DOC (CONT'D)

I've done as much as I can. Can't guarantee how long it will last.

He removes all the tools from the arm. Tyler raises his arm and flexes the metallic fingers.

TYLER

Feels good as new. Thanks Doc.

Doc picks up the tablet and reads the chart for a moment.

DOC

I see by your chart that you're overdue for your six month Psych Exam. If you check with the nurse on your way out, she can schedule an appointment for you.

TYLER

I don't think--

MARK

(to Doc)

I'll make sure he does.

Tyler gives Mark a glare, which Mark returns.

INT. VEHICLE - LATER

Tyler sulks in the passenger side. There are some tense moments. Then:

MARK

You were going to have to schedule one anyway.

TYLER

Damn Psych test. Brain scan, then a bunch of stupid questions.

(parodying examiner)

When did I start hating my mother?
Was there any sibling rivalry in the family?

MARK

You're an only child.

TYLER

They still ask. I'm so damn tired of being told, 'you're depressed because you have no purpose. You need to find a job that fits with your talents.' Hell, I know I'm depressed, and unless they have a job that involves ordering War-bots into battle, I'm shit-outta luck.

MARK

You could always come work for me in Police Investigations. I've got a vacancy in Cyber Tech. Right up your alley, working with Cyber Patrol and handling any Cyber issues that come up. I know for a fact that you've been keeping up on all the models out there, so don't tell me you don't have the training. You were top of your class in Robotics. Besides, I've been wanting to get someone to train my Cybers in hand-to-hand.

TYLER

Police work? Not for me. I don't have the patience for all the damn paperwork. Working with the silvers was easy. You just tell them what to do and they do it.

MARK

I was there, remember? Still, you need something to do, other than fight that pet Cyber of yours, sit up in your apartment and get drunk every night.

TYLER
Just drop it Mark. We've been around
this block before.

MARK
And I'm gonna keep going around it
until you listen.
(beat)
Well, here's your stop.

EXT. GYM - MOMENTS LATER

A large building and very modern. GYM is displayed in large
letters over the door.

The Vehicle pulls in and stops in front.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Mark looks over at Tyler. Tyler opens the door.

MARK
Think about what I said. The
department sure could use you.

TYLER
Yeah, okay, I'll think about it.
Thanks for the lift.

MARK
Any time.

Tyler gets out of the vehicle and shuts the door.

EXT. GYM - CONTINUOUS

MARK
(from inside the
vehicle)
Home... Engage.

The vehicle pulls away from the curb. Tyler watches the
vehicle leave before turning to go into the building.

TYLER (O.S.)
Charlie, protocol one, level one.

INT. GYM TRAINING ROOM - LATER

A large open room with padded walls and floors, overhead
lighting.

Tyler stands in the middle of the room, facing CHARLIE (20's)
a tall humanoid Cyber. Charlie stands still. Both men are
dressed in gym trunks and shirts, barefoot.

Tyler gets into fighting position.

TYLER

Stance!

Immediately, Charlie matches Tyler's stance. Tyler smiles.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Engage.

Charlie attacks Tyler, and the sparring begins. Tyler and Charlie trade kicks and hand to hand, giving and taking, equally matched. Charlie's face is impassive.

At one point, Tyler throws Charlie to the ground. Charlie gets up and re-attacks, succeeding in doing the same thing to him.

There are overhead flips and other moves and kicks. The advantage is that Charlie is a Cyber, so he doesn't get tired, Tyler does. Charlie knocks Tyler down, pins him to the mat.

TYLER (CONT'D)

(pants)

Hold...

Charlie immediately gets up and goes into fighting stance, face still impassionate. Tyler gets up with a groan and faces Charlie.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Very good Charlie. Either you've getting better, or I'm getting old.
Disengage.

Charlie straightens up.

TYLER (CONT'D)

We'll pick up again tomorrow.
Dismissed.

Charlie gives Tyler a nod, turns and walks away. Tyler sighs, exhausted. There is the SOUND of CLAPPING. Tyler turns to see LUCAS (40s), the gym manager.

LUCAS

I never thought I'd see the day when
a Cyber could go head-to-head with a
trained military fighter.

Tyler walks over to him.

TYLER

It's all in the programming, Lucas.
(MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)

Besides, they have the advantage of not tiring out, and they're not in their forties, like me.

LUCAS

Don't sell yourself short. What you've done with Charlie is amazing. Too bad he and the other ZX-Fours are being retired.

TYLER

Why? The model's, what, three years old?

LUCAS

Yeah, I know, but the owner wants to replace them with TRC-Ones. From what I've heard, TRC-Ones are the next big thing, and you how Mitch is, newest and shiniest.

TYLER

Too bad, I put a lot of work into Charlie. I hate the idea of him being dismantled.

LUCAS

Life goes on. How 'bout I buy you an energy drink.

Tyler nods and the two men walk to the exit.

EXT. WOODS - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

Heavily forested. A nice-looking cabin is tucked away amongst the trees, smoke coming out of the chimney. A trail runs nearby.

KELLEN (30s) a tall, muscular man who happens to be a Cyber, comes up the trail to the cabin. He steps on the front porch, stops and looks around. There is the FAINT SOUND of MUSIC coming from inside. Kellen smiles.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Homey and warm. DR BAKER (50s) sits on an overstuffed chair in front of cheerily burning fireplace, reading a vid screen, listening to MUSIC playing in the B.G. A cup of coffee sits on a table nearby, and an afghan lays across his lap. An area rug rounds out the look.

With a CRASH, the front door to the cabin falls in, and Kellen stands in the doorway. Dr. Baker reacts by getting up, going to the fireplace and picking up a poker.

DR. BAKER

Who the hell are you?! Get out of my house!!

Kellen steps in and towards Dr. Baker, taking his time.

KELLEN

Hello Dr. Baker. My name is Kellen. You've been a hard man to find.

DR. BAKER

I don't know what you're talking about. I'm Dennis Quinn. I don't know any Dr. Baker.

KELLEN

My facial recognition software says otherwise.

DR. BAKER

You're a Cyber? What do you want from me? Who sent you?

KELLEN

Why, my employer did, to, how shall I say it, eliminate a potential threat.

Kellen is close to Dr. Baker now. Dr. Baker threatens with the poker.

DR. BAKER

Stay back. Don't come any closer.

KELLEN

Do you really think you can hurt me with that?

Dr Baker attacks, slashing at Kellen with the poker. Kellen easily avoids his swings, then Kellen reaches out and grabs the poker from Dr. Baker's hand, and strikes him down with it. Blood spatters on Kellen's face.

Dr. Baker crumples to the floor, bleeding from a head wound. Kellen runs his finger on the poker, getting blood on it, which he licks off, then smiles. He throws down the poker next to Dr. Baker.

Kellen goes over to the chair and picks up the afghan, wiping the blood off his face. He puts one end into the fireplace and it ignites, then sets the burning part on the chair and it ignites as well. He throws the afghan onto the rug, which begins to smolder. Kellen looks pleased.

EXT. WOODS - A LITTLE LATER.

Kellen watches as the cabin burns. He taps his watch. A FEMALE VOICE answers, slightly distorted.

FEMALE VOICE
(over watch)
Report...

KELLEN
Subject has been located and
eliminated.

FEMALE VOICE
(over watch)
Excellent. Return to base. Await
further orders.

KELLEN
Understood. Kellen out.

He taps off the watch, glances at his handiwork, smiles, turns and begins walking down the path.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Messy, dark, cramped. Couch, with a chair nearby, coffee table in front. A lamp casts a weak glow on an end table nearby. Communication console across from the couch.

Tyler sits on the couch, eating out of a cardboard food box. A beer sits on the coffee table.

TYLER
Screen on, C six.

A picture comes up on the communication console.

ON CONSOLE

A live feed on a debate in a hall, with a large audience.

TERESA
(over console)
What my learned friend has forgotten,
is that we don't live in a black and
white world any more...

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

A large structure, glass, steel and white. In folding chairs, sit the AUDIENCE listening to two people give their opinions on an elevated stage behind lecterns.

A MODERATOR sits on a stool between them, a tablet in his hand, that he reads from.

TERESA BELTON (50s), CEO of HCraft Industries squares off with MS. RAMIREZ (50s)

TERESA

...and the lines between human and non-human intelligence are becoming more and more blurred every day.

MS. RAMIREZ

But where does it stop?

TERESA

Why should it? We developed war-bots in the twenty forties to fight wars and secure our borders, saving humans lives. We programmed the war-bots to recognize the enemy and eliminate them, with no mercy. That was the beginning.

MS. RAMIREZ

I'm sure everyone here is aware of history and understand the rules of war, but they were killing machines and no more than that. What you are proposing goes far beyond that, and I, like many other people, are not comfortable with it.

TERESA

I understand their concern, but science has improved Artificial Intelligence capabilities immensely over the last fifty years, including methods of acquiring and interpreting data. This changed the playing field.

MS. RAMIREZ

But to what end? Are you proposing a time where humans and Cybers are equal? Because if that is your goal, I can't agree. Man must never be subservient to the machine.

There is CLAPPING from the Audience.

TERESA

The first rule of robotics has always been that man is superior. It's part of all cyber's basic functions package.

(MORE)

TERESA (CONT'D)

No matter how advanced AI functions become, Cybers are still synthetic. Humans have recombinant DNA. They can reproduce. That is the human advantage.

MODERATOR

So you don't see them as equal?

TERESA

What I'm saying, is that the more advanced the Cybers get, the closer they are to having independent thoughts and feelings.

MS. RAMIREZ

Feelings?

TERESA

Yes. My own TRC-One for instance is advanced in a number of ways, from the non-metallic skeleton, to the mesh-gel neural network that is structurally similar to human brain tissue. When completed and programmed, the TRC-One is literally indistinguishable from a human in looks and action.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler sits on the couch, totally engrossed in the program.

POV

On the console. Ms. Ramirez looks thoughtful.

MODERATOR (O.S.)

(Over console)

Final words Ms. Ramirez...

MS. RAMIREZ

(Over console)

Yes... I don't doubt that Miss Belton feels that allowing Cybers to take on more and more human traits is a good thing, but if that happens, the human race loses its uniqueness, irregardless of our ability to reproduce. That, and emotions are what has...

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

MS. RAMIREZ

... Always set us apart from the Cybers. I, personally, don't want to see that change. They are tools, and should be treated as such, designed for our benefit. The concept that has been floating around of the rights of Cybers is not one that I want to see happen.

MODERATOR

Ms. Belton.

MS. RAMIREZ

Humans are unique as a species, and I for one am glad of that. Cybers are unique in their own way, as synthetic reflections of ourselves. With the advancements in genetic/Cyber engineering we've made in the past ten years, anything and everything is now possible. Cyber organs made to replace diseased ones, bones that are sturdier than normal human tissue, these are now the norm. By combining the best of both human and Cyber components, Mankind and Cyberkind are beginning to blend. If we improve Cybers, the possibilities for scientific advancement are unlimited. With their enhanced powers of observation and an awakened curiosity, just think of what could be accomplished by working together. Ladies and gentlemen, we need to think of them, not as tools or servants, but as a life form, in some ways, equal in intelligence and feeling to our own, and worthy of our acceptance and respect.

The audience APPLAUDS.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

On the couch, Tyler nods at what he's hearing. He suddenly has a thought.

TYLER

Index, TRC-One.

The console changes to more like an information page. Top banner say "TRC-One"

He picks up his beer, and takes a swig. Begins reading.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

The audience APPLAUSE is dying down. Ms. Ramirez comes over and shakes Teresa's hand with the moderator between them and then they both exit the platform in different directions.

INT. AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

GINA (30s) stands behind the stage waiting. Teresa comes around the corner and INTO VIEW, smiles and goes over to Gina, and kisses her passionately.

TERESA

Well Gina, how did I do?

GINA

As your assistant, I would say that Ms. Ramirez relied on emotions as the basis of her answers, and therefore invalidated some of her argument.

TERESA

And as my lover?

GINA

I wanted to slap her.

TERESA

(amused)

Did you really? You got angry?

GINA

She did not treat you respectfully.

(confused)

Or have I misinterpreted the data?

TERESA

Not at all, you were being protective, and she wasn't being disrespectful. Ms. Ramirez did bring up valid concerns. Emotional or not, they are important to her and to other people as well. When the TRC-Ones like you become better known, their minds will change.

Teresa notices that Gina looks confused.

TERESA (CONT'D)

We can talk more about it when we get home. Maybe we need to work a little more on your Empathy.

GINA
Did I behave badly?

Teresa lifts Gina's chin gently, leans in and kisses her.

TERESA
As far as I'm concerned darling, you
could could never behave badly.

Gina smiles and impulsively hugs Teresa. Teresa returns it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Tyler sits on the couch, watches the screen of his console. On it is displayed information on the TRC-One, with all the information written on it. He is dressed a bit better than last time.

There is a LOUD RING from his watch. It catches his attention.

TYLER
(to watch)
Answer.

As before, a small holographic image comes up of Mark.

MARK
(over screen)
Hey Buddy, five minute warning.

TYLER
Meet you downstairs.

MARK
(Over screen)
See you then. End call.

The watch goes dark. Tyler takes a last look at the screen.

TYLER
Screen Off...

The console goes dark. Tyler gets up off the couch and heads out.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Tyler stands in front of the building as Mark's vehicle pulls up. He opens the door and gets in.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Mark is in the driver's seat. Tyler slides in. Mark sniffs.

MARK

At least you don't smell like beer
this morning.

(to vehicle)

Destination... VA hospital, fourteen
twenty-six Maple...engage.

The Vehicle takes off.

MARK (CONT'D)

(to Tyler)

You seem in a good mood.

TYLER

Yep...

MARK

May I ask why?

TYLER

Well, Mark, I'm getting married.

Mark is in total shock.

MARK

You're what?!

TYLER

Getting married. Put in the paperwork
yesterday for a TRC-One--

MARK

TRC-One?

(to vehicle)

Pause motion.

The vehicle slows and stops. Mark looks over at Tyler.

MARK (CONT'D)

Are you crazy? Marrying a Cyber?
Weren't you the one who was against--

TYLER

I remember what I said, but I did a
lot of research after I heard the
CEO of HCraft Industries talk about
it. I know it sounds weird, but
I've thought about it. This works
for me. I don't want kids and most
women are put off by the arm.

MARK

But a Cyber?

TYLER

Didn't you tell me that Cyber women
were as good as the real thing?

MARK

Yeah, for fun, but not to marry.
Why are you marrying her?

TYLER

It's part of the personal contract.
HCraft Industries wants to make sure
that the TRC-One isn't abused or
will just be thrown away when the
person gets tired of her.

(excited)

You wouldn't believe what they can
do. Emotions, a new type of skin
that has nerve endings like a real
woman, everything, and they can learn
to love. I need this Mark. I need
someone to care about and who can
love me back.

MARK

Well, you seem excited about this,
something I haven't seen since you
left the corps. You sure this is
something you want to do?

Tyler nods.

MARK (CONT'D)

How long before you pick her up?

TYLER

Two weeks.

MARK

Okay then, I guess congratulations
are in order.

(to vehicle)

Resume.

The vehicle begins to move again. There are a couple moments
of silence.

TYLER

I also wanted to ask you if that job
at the department is still open.

Mark is surprised.

MARK

Seriously? I thought you hated the
idea of paperwork.

TYLER

I want to give Anna--

MARK

Anna?

TYLER

That's the name I picked out. I want to give her everything I can. I want her to be happy. So, what do you say?

MARK

Hell, it's not like I haven't been trying to get you to work with me for months, and I do need a cyber expert and trainer. Yeah, the job's yours. Come in tomorrow, and we'll do an on-boarding.

TYLER

One more thing. I can't bring Anna to the dump I'm living in, and I know you own that building on Martin, right? That apartment still vacant?

MARK

Wow, you really are taking this seriously. Yes, it's still vacant. It just got finished being refurbished yesterday. You can move in any time you like. You know, I like this new Tyler Ash.

TYLER

I'm starting to. My Psych counselor and I are going to have a lot to talk about today.

MARK

That's for damn sure...

They continue the ride,

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Another fairly sterile room. White walls, white floor. The only color is a black couch and a chair next to it. On one wall is a large cabinet with a lighted pad set into it. Standing in front of the cabinet is the PSYCH TECH (30s).

On the couch is Tyler, looking comfortable. The Psych Tech talks while she's at the desk.

PSYCH TECH
You're about two months late for
your twice yearly check-up.

TYLER
Slipped my mind.

PSYCH TECH
No harm done. You're here now. Still
having those nightmares?

TYLER
Sometimes.

PSYCH TECH
Are they getting more or less
frequent?

TYLER
'Bout the same.

PSYCH TECH
I see.

She presses the pad several times and a drawer in the cabinet opens, revealing a small oblong device. She picks it up and comes over to where Tyler lays.

PSYCH TECH (CONT'D)
Here you are Mr. Ash. Don't worry,
this won't hurt a bit. Just a simple
memory retrieval.

TYLER
This isn't my first time. I know
what to expect.

The Psych Tech places the device on Tyler's forehead, presses the center. The device glows with a soft light.

PSYCH TECH
In a few minutes, all your memories
will be downloaded and then we can
compare them to your last exam and
see how you're progressing.

The Psych Tech sits down in the chair next to the couch.

PSYCH TECH (CONT'D)
Now, tell me about anything new in
your life since your last visit.

Tyler smiles.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

A huge complex. Glass, steel, hard angles and soaring spires.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

Huge, open space. EMPLOYEES and CUSTOMERS walk around. Along with the humans, are a number of Cybers of varying models, from all metallic to some with more human qualities.

In this crowd is Tyler, looking around as though lost. He stares at the Cybers that pass him by.

Tyler walks up to the information desk. A humanoid female CYBER RECEPTIONIST (20s) sits behind it. One would think it was human except for the three arms on each side of her, all performing different tasks. She smiles at him.

CYBER RECEPTIONIST
May I help you?

TYLER
I'm looking for Jen Faulkner's office.

One of her arms points down the hall.

CYBER RECEPTIONIST
Down to the end of the hall, turn right, second door on your left. Room one sixteen.

TYLER
Thank you.

CYBER RECEPTIONIST
Have a nice day sir.

Tyler turns and starts down the hall. The Cyber Receptionist goes back to her duties.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - JEN'S OFFICE - LATER

Not overly large. A desk is about the only furnishings in the room. One chair behind the desk and one chair in front of it. A stack of papers is on the desk.

Sitting behind the desk, checking information on a tablet-like device is JENNIFER (JEN) FAULKNER (30s}, quiet, mousy and reserved, wearing a lab coat, complete with pens in a pocket protector.

A KNOCK on the DOOR catches her attention. She moves over to the door and opens it, revealing Tyler. She smiles.

JEN

Mr. Ash?

Tyler nods, nervously.

JEN (CONT'D)

I'm Jen Faulkner. Please, come in.

Tyler comes into the room, and looks around. Jen passes around him and goes over to the desk talking as she goes..

JEN (CONT'D)

I have all the final contracts and the certificate of marriage ready for you to sign. Anna will sign them after she's been activated.

Jen comes around to the desk and sits. Tyler does likewise. She pushes the papers over to him.

JEN (CONT'D)

Just sign and date the top three.

She pulls a pen out of her pocket and hands it to Tyler. He looks over the three pages and then signs them. He pushes the papers back to Jen after straightening them. She smiles at him.

JEN (CONT'D)

Congratulations Mr. Ash. Do you have any questions for me on the rest of the process?

TYLER

How long will this take?

JEN

Not long. All the programming parameters are already inset, so all we have left is the actual construction.

She looks at him for a moment.

JEN (CONT'D)

May I ask you a personal question?

TYLER

Go ahead.

JEN

Those scars at your temples? VRO?

TYLER

If you mean Visual Recon Officer,
then yes.

Looks at his robotic arm. Indicates it.

JEN

From the war too?

Tyler nods.

TYLER

I'm surprised you knew what they
were?

JEN

Before I came to work here, I was at
one of the small VA hospitals in the
Midwest. I've only seen one other
VRO. He had the same scars.

(beat)

Shall we go?

Tyler nods.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - CONSTRUCTION ROOM - LATER

A large room, looking more like a medical theater. A number
of machines line the wall. Several TECHS work on them. A
single door is at one end of the room, while a double door
is at the other.

In the center of the room hangs a roughly human-sized bell
cover, with a number of mechanical devices covering it.

The door slides open and Jen enters, Tyler behind her. The
door slides shut.

JEN

Now, this where the actual
construction takes place. All the
choices you made have been relayed
and set into place. Once Anna's
been activated, I'll bring her to
you. I think you'll be very pleased
with the outcome.

One of the Techs looks over at Jen and she nods to him. He
moves to the double doors which open by themselves, and he
exits, only to appear a few moments later, rolling in an
examination table, with a roughly human-sized object
underneath a sheet.

The Tech rolls the table underneath the bell and stops. He
carefully removes the sheet.

Underneath is a roughly human looking figure, arms, legs, etc but no actual features, like a blank.

Jen turns to Tyler.

JEN (CONT'D)
Respiratory, digestive and
elimination systems, circulatory
systems, the brain and nervous system
are in place and has been programmed
according to your specifications.
All that's left now is to build the
features based on your choices.

The Tech by the table nods to another Tech who runs his hand over a panel. It lights up.

The bell cover comes down and covers the entire examination table. Lights on the mechanisms light up and EMIT a LOW HUM. Tyler is fascinated.

Jen turns to Tyler.

JEN (CONT'D)
I'll take you over to the waiting
area now.

Tyler nods. They go to the door. It slides open and they go OUT OF SCENE.

EXT. STRATUS - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

A city, very posh, with spires and towers, almost fairy-tale. The only difference is, the city is suspended in mid-air, about 15,000 ft above the city on the ground. The sky around it is bright and sunny.

Small shuttles move to and from the building.

INT. APARTMENT DEN - CONTINUOUS

Spartan, simply furnished, couch and large console across from it. Kellen sits on the couch, eyes closed, unmoving, powered down. His watch BUZZES and his eyes open. He taps the watch.

FEMALE VOICE
(over watch)
I have another job for you.

KELLEN
(into watch)
And the target?

FEMALE VOICE

(over watch)

This time, I need you to steal something, but you'll need help. I'm sending the file to you now.

KELLEN

(into watch)

Understood, accepting file.

Kellen's eyes flash gold.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - WAITING AREA - LATER

Typical look. Tyler sits alone, scans a tablet, reading. A LOUD RING comes from his watch. Tyler looks at it.

TYLER

(to watch)

Answer...

The screen pops up and Mark's smiling face is on it.

MARK

(over screen)

Hey buddy. Wanted to let you know that delivery just left. Everything's ready at your new place. I even stocked the food synthesizer.

TYLER

Thanks Mark, for everything.

MARK

(over screen)

You know the place really looks good. I may have to raise your rent.

TYLER

Not if I kill you first.

MARK

(over screen)

Okay, since you put it that way, maybe I won't. How's it going?

TYLER

She should be ready soon. I'm getting really nervous.

MARK

(over screen)

You'll be fine. Trust me, it'll be love at first sight, I'm sure.

At that moment the doors to the waiting area open and a smiling Jen comes in. Tyler looks up at her and then back to the watch.

TYLER

Gotta go.

MARK

(Over screen)

See you soon. End call.

The screen goes dark. Tyler stands, a little apprehensive. Jen looks over at him.

TYLER

Is she finished?

JEN

Yes, but there are a few things I want to cover with you first.

TYLER

Okay...

JEN

As you saw, the TRC-One is a totally different configuration than cybers of the past. There are few metal parts, so unlike other cybers you've dealt with, she has about the same strength as an average human. Also, she will weigh the same as an average woman her height. Also, the TRC-One will have a normal human life-span. With the use of organic molecules in her construction, they will at some point, wear out like in humans. She won't age, but at some point in the future, she will die.

TYLER

I remember that from my research.

JEN

Secondly, even though we've given her programs for basic emotions, she still needs time to learn how to behave like a human. She has the capacity to take in information from her surroundings, but she will make mistakes. So, you'll need to be patient.

TYLER

I understand.

JEN

Good.

Jen calls back.

TYLER

Anna, you can come out now.

ANNA (30s) comes out the door and stands next to Jen.

JEN

Tyler Ash, meet Anna Ash. She's already signed the contracts, so she is officially your wife.

Tyler is awed by her.

TYLER

Hello Anna...

Anna smiles.

ANNA

Hello Tyler. It's so nice to finally meet you. I hope you're pleased.

TYLER

You're more than I could have wished for.

(to Jen)

She's amazing...

(to Anna)

You're amazing...

Anna blushes. She holds out her hand to Tyler. He comes over and takes it.

ANNA

I hope we can be happy together Tyler. I will try my best to be a good wife.

TYLER

I know you will.

(to Jen)

Thank you...

Jen smiles.

EXT. COMPLEX - ESTABLISHING SHOT - EVENING

New and in a good neighborhood.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Doors on each side of the hallway lead into apartments. Hand-sized lighted panels are on the right side of each door.

Hand in hand, Anna and Tyler walk towards a particular door. When they get there, they stop. Tyler places his hand on the panel. It flashes red, then green and the door opens.

At that moment, JERRY STEVENS (30s) comes out of an apartment down the hall and catches a glimpse of Tyler and Anna as they go in their apartment and the door closes behind them. He smiles. He likes what he sees.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A large single open floor plan, Large spacious living room, dining room and kitchen with an eat up bar. Everything is tastefully furnished.

Anna steps into the living room and looks around, awe written all over her face.

ANNA
It's beautiful.

Tyler comes up behind her and puts his hands on her shoulders.

TYLER
I'm so glad you like it.

She turns and hugs Tyler. She breaks contact, and there is a tear rolling down her cheek. Surprised, he lifts the tear from her cheek and looks at it. He's suddenly self-conscious.

TYLER (CONT'D)
You're crying. Is there something wrong? The color, the furniture?

ANNA
No, I'm crying because it's all so wonderful.

She looks up at Tyler, and then tentatively the two of them kiss. After a moment, they break apart.

TYLER
Mark was right...

Anna looks at him, confused. He notices.

TYLER (CONT'D)
My best friend. You'll meet him later.

ANNA

Oh. What was he right about?

TYLER

He said it would be love at first sight.

Anna smiles, reaches up and strokes Tyler's cheek. He takes her hand and kisses the inside of it. Anna shivers with feelings. He kisses her lips again, and she responds, but with more passion.

In one motion, still kissing, Tyler picks her up in his arms and carries her towards a door that leads to a bedroom. The door opens and they go inside and OUT OF SCENE as the door closes behind them.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

All quiet, limited lighting.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS.

It's empty, even the receptionist is powered down.

ON DOORS

A small module is above the glass doors, with a green light glowing on it. After a moment, it goes to red.

Four figures appear at the door: Kellen, GORG0 (30s), big and powerfully built, IDOL (20s), a sinister Billy Idol look-alike and ZIP (20s), lean and Black, on roller-skates.

Kellen points to the door and Idol pulls out a laser pistol and is about ready to fire, but Gorgo crashes through the door first, like a tank, glass going in all directions, and stops in the reception area.

Kellen shakes his head, Idol sighs and puts his gun down. Zip skates into the building, and up to a pleased Gorgo.

ZIP

Nice... I love a man with muscles.

Idol and Kellen come in. Kellen does not look pleased. He looks over to Gorgo.

KELLEN

(to Gorgo)

I would have preferred a quieter entrance.

GORG0

I am programmed to react to situations
in the most effective way.

IDOL

Obviously.

(to Kellen)

Let's make this quick Kellen. This
place gives me the creeps.

ZIP

Kinda like breaking into your parent's
house, isn't it Idol?

IDOL

Shut up Zip.

KELLEN

Shut up both of you. Let's get what
we came for.

The four of them start down the hallway. As they pass by
the Cyber Receptionist, she activates, her cheery self.

CYBER RECEPTIONIST

May I help you?

Startled, Idol pulls out his laser and fires a blast that
hits her full in the chest, blowing a hole in it, revealing
various destroyed mechanics.

The Cyber Receptionist looks startled for a moment, then
collapses on her desk, wisps of smoke coming from her. Gorgo,
Zip and Kellen look at Idol.

IDOL

What? She startled me.

KELLEN

One more fuck-up Idol, and I'll tear
out your emotion-module. Let's get
moving. Since you know where you're
going, you lead the way

The four continue down the hall, Idol in front.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - LAB - LATER

White on white, as usual. A door leads out. At the center
of the room is a long examination table, with what looks
like a body under a sheet.

After a few moments, the door opens and Gorgo, Zip, Kellen,
and Idol come in, Idol leading the way. Idol points to the
examination table.

IDOL

See, I told you this was the right room.

They all congregate around the examination table. Kellen pulls back the sheet to reveal LILITH (20s)

KELLEN

So, you weren't lying. And she can do everything you told me.

IDOL

Read the specs myself. TRC-Two. This is the only prototype. Does a lot more than TRC-Ones like me can.

KELLEN

(to Gorgo)

Gorgo, grab her and let's get out of here.

GUARD (O.C.)

Identify yourselves.

The four Cybers turn around and see a GUARD (30s) standing there with a baton in his hand.

GUARD (CONT'D)

This is a restricted area. Please identify yourselves.

Zip rockets out of the group, skates over to the guard and skates circles around him. The action has the guard confused momentarily, just long enough for Gorgo to rush him and Zip to disarm him.

Gorgo struggles with the Guard for a few moments, the Guard being no match for the oversized Cyber.

Finally, Gorgo grabs the Guard's head in both his hands and pulls. The head tears off the body, revealing that the Guard is a Cyber, with metal connectors, gushing pinkish fluid and arcing electricals.

The rest of the Guard's body drops to the floor. Gorgo tosses the head away casually. Zip races over and catches it before it falls to the ground, looks at it for a moment.

ZIP

Not my type.

He drops the head and it CLATTERS on the floor

KELLEN

Quiet, there may be more guards around. The faster we get out of here, the better.

(to Gorgo)

You take her. Our employer will activate her at the lab.

Gorgo nods. He goes over and picks up the young woman and slings her over his shoulder easily.

GORGGO

Light.

With that, the four men and the woman go out the door, stepping over the body of the guard, and OUT OF SCENE

EXT. COMPLEX - MORNING

Early.

INT. CONDO BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Very nicely, and modernly decorated, with a large bed dominating the room with a bed table on each side. A window with views of the city, let in the early morning light.

In the bed is Tyler, peacefully sleeping.

Tyler's eyes open and he sniffs the air. He gets out of bed. He wears lounging pants. He grabs his watch, puts it on and shuffles to the door and into...

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room. In the kitchen, Anna, wearing the clothing from the previous day, prepares breakfast. She catches sight of him and smiles.

ANNA

I was about to come in and wake you. Breakfast is almost ready. Coffee, black, right?

Tyler nods.

TYLER

How long have you been up?

ANNA

Not long. I'm pro... I'm an early riser.

Smiling, Tyler comes over to her, and wraps his arms around her, kissing her gently. Anna smiles when they break apart.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Good morning husband...

TYLER
Good morning wife...

He goes in for another kiss, but she places her finger on his lips.

ANNA
Time for that later. Eat, before
your breakfast gets cold.

He sits up at the bar. Anna brings up a breakfast plate and a mug of coffee and places them in front of him. He smiles up at her.

TYLER
Looks wonderful. Been a long time
since I've had a home-cooked meal.

She sits down next to him. He starts to eat.

TYLER (CONT'D)
This is delicious. How much--

ANNA
Did they program into me? Just
basics. I'll learn how to cook the
same way wives have for thousands of
years, trial and error. Be prepared
for some burned meals.

TYLER
I look forward to it.

Tyler's WATCH RINGS. Tyler looks at it.

TYLER (CONT'D)
It's Mark. Answer.

Mark's image comes up.

TYLER (CONT'D)
This better be good Mark, I'm on my
honeymoon.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

Mark is standing just inside the door of the reception area.

MARK
Yeah, sorry about that, but I really
need you down here.

INTERCUT

TYLER
What you got?

MARK
See for yourself.

Mark takes his arm and gives a sweep of the area. Then the line of vision falls on the Cyber Receptionist.

TYLER
(over watch)
Holy shit! HCraft Industries?

MARK
Yeah. Now you see why I need you.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler looks at Mark's face on the screen.

TYLER
I'll be there as soon as I can. End call.

He turns to Anna.

TYLER (CONT'D)
I have to go to work for a few hours.
Will you be all right alone? I hate to leave you by yourself on our first day together.

She kisses him.

ANNA
I understand. It's your job. Go get ready. I'll pack something to take with you.

TYLER
What did I do to deserve you?

He kisses her, then gets up and heads to the bedroom. Anna watches him leave.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - RECEPTION AREA - LATER

Still looks like it did. Two POLICE OFFICERS 1 & 2 stand guard at the broken door. Both are human-looking but have a silvery sheen to their skins and silver pupils that identify them as Cybers.

Tyler comes through the door, looking at the mess. Police Officer 1 turns to look at him.

POLICE OFFICER 1
State your identity.

TYLER
Ash, Tyler, seven-zero-one-five-two.

A wide, red beam comes out of Police Officer 1's eye and scans Tyler's face, then the beam turns off.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Identity confirmed. Proceed.

Tyler goes over to the Cyber Receptionist and examines her for a moment, then moves down the hallway.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Mark is in the room, looking around. Two FORENSIC TECHS scan the area with hand-held devices. Body of the guard is just where it was left, the head a little further away, where it was dropped.

Tyler comes INTO VIEW, through the door. He sees the guard on the floor and steps around it. Mark looks over and sees him coming in, walks over, shakes his hand.

MARK
Thanks for coming in. Sorry about
intruding on your honeymoon. How'd...

TYLER
Anna.

MARK
Anna take it?

TYLER
Pretty good. She even packed me
something to bring with me since you
called up in the middle of breakfast.

MARK
She cooked for you?

TYLER
In the programming. Basic skills.
She said she was going to download
some more advanced cooking techniques,
after she orders some clothes.

MARK

Oh, oh, sending the new wife out on a shopping spree already. I guess TRC-Ones can be just as expensive as the real thing. And speaking of the real thing...

Mark gives Tyler a lecherous look. Tyler doesn't take the bait.

TYLER

How 'bout we leave my sex life out of this and concentrate on the case.

MARK

Spoilsport.

(beat)

Well, Looks like we got a break-in. You saw what they did to the front door and the receptionist.

TYLER

On my way in. Anything on camera?

MARK

That's the funny thing, cameras were off-line, so was the alarm system.

TYLER

Interesting... Inside job?

MARK

Good possibility.

Tyler indicates the Guard.

TYLER

What about this one?

MARK

Not sure. Only thing I can tell you is that the head was pulled off.

TYLER

C-forty-G?

Mark nods.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Okay then, decision maker model, non lethal protocols. Strength twice the average human male of the same size. Whatever took him out was definitely a lot stronger. What else you got?

Mark takes him over to the examination table.

MARK

Whatever was on this table is what was taken. We have three distinct sets of footprints, plus something we don't understand.

TYLER

Show me.

Mark picks up what looks like a tablet and punches a couple buttons. Then he hands it over to Tyler. He looks at it carefully for a moment.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Look like wheel marks.

MARK

That's what we thought. Doesn't make any sense.

TYLER

It does if at least one of your thieves is a cyber.

MARK

Cyber?

TYLER

Looks like it to me. Those wheel marks are from a C-eighteen-D. They've been out of commission for the last eight years. Did door to door delivery services. Skates instead of feet. Basic emotional response. Some were re-purposed and ended up in the sex houses as a novelty. And whatever overpowered the guard certainly wasn't human. Maybe something like a CC-three.

MARK

A crowd control Cyber? Great, just what I don't need, rogues.

TYLER

Any idea what was on the table?

MARK

We're trying to find out. Some kind of hush-hush project from the little information I've gotten so far.

TYLER

Have we contacted the CEO?

MARK

Yes. She's in Japan. Should be here in a few hours. She'll be running her own investigation with her own security team. We'll meet with her Monday morning to compare notes. Tech crew's just about finished here.

(beat)

I can handle the rest of this. Why don't you go enjoy the rest of your weekend.

TYLER

You sure?

MARK

Yeah. We can go over all this Monday before the meeting with Ms. Belton.

TYLER

Thanks Mark. Appreciate it. I have less than two days of honeymoon left and I plan to enjoy them.

MARK

That's the spirit. I'll send you the findings when they're done.

He goes and starts heading to the door when the Guard's head catches his attention. He stops for a moment and then turns to Mark who is studying the screen on the tablet.

TYLER

(Calls out)

Mark?

Mark looks up, curious.

TYLER (CONT'D)

You might want to have the Techs do a download of the guard's head. If there's anything left on the optic circuits, we might get of picture of the thieves. Check the circuits in the Receptionist too.

MARK

I'll do that, thanks.

TYLER

See you Monday.

MARK

'Til then, don't do anything I
wouldn't do.

Tyler gives him a mock exasperated look, while Mark smiles broadly. Shaking his head, Tyler turns, and carefully stepping around the body, goes out the door and OUT OF SCENE.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY - LATER

Tyler comes down the hallway and stops at his front door. He puts his hand on the panel. It goes from red to green and the door slides open.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler steps into the room, and the door shuts behind him. What he sees is women's clothing all over the room, draped over just about everything, and a very confused looking Anna in the middle of it all.

She looks up at him, confusion evident.

ANNA

I can't decide. I wasn't programmed
for picking out clothes.

It takes all of Tyler's control to keep from laughing. He goes over to her. She hugs him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Can you help me?

TYLER

I'm not sure I'm the best judge of
lady's wear, but I'll do my best.
Before we start, if we're going to
help you fit into society, there's
one word I don't want you to use any
more.

ANNA

What word?

TYLER

Programmed. Instead of saying I was
programmed, I want you to say I was
taught, or I learned instead. It
sounds better, more human.

ANNA

All right Tyler, I'll remember.

Tyler hugs her closer.

TYLER
That's my girl.

He looks around.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Clothes... Okay, I guess we should
start with the basics, underwear.

They stop hugging and Anna leads Tyler over to a pile of underwear and bras. She reaches over and holds a pair of thong underwear up for him to see. He smiles broadly.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Oh, definitely a yes...

She smiles and blushes, then puts down the thong and picks up another pair of underwear. Tyler nods.

EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING SHOT - MORNING

A modern structure. Police Officers move in and out in front of the building. A cab pulls up and Tyler exits, and moves up towards the entrance.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - LATER

Mark sits at his desk, watching a large screen. On it is the Guard's view of the four Cybers at the examination table, looking at him. The young woman is seen as well in her position on the table.

MARK
Pause feed.

The image Pauses, the four caught looking at the guard.

Tyler appears at the door. Mark looks over at him.

MARK (CONT'D)
Your timing is perfect.

Indicates the screen.

MARK (CONT'D)
Meet our thieves.

Tyler studies them.

TYLER
Motley crew.

Tyler goes up and studies them for a second. Zip's skates are obvious.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Just as I thought, a C-eighteen-D.

MARK
Watch what he does. Resume.

The scene continues. Zip skates out of the group and there is a confused visual of Zip running circles around the guard. When Gorgo is added to the mix, the effects are confusing. Gorgo's frame takes up the screen as his hands are on the guard's face and then blackness.

MARK (CONT'D)
Stop feed.

Tyler turns to Mark.

MARK (CONT'D)
What do you think?

TYLER
That we have four rogue cybers on our hands, just like I thought, and it looks like they were after the woman on the table, or should I say Cyber.

MARK
Yeah, but why? Well, maybe Hcraft Industries' tech team found something we didn't. I sure want to find out what's so special about that Cyber.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - LATER

A hive of activity.

SECRETARY (O.S.)
If you'll just follow me gentlemen.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - TERESA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Top notch. Floor to ceiling windows look out onto the buildings. A large glass desk sits in front of the windows, a large chair behind and two smaller ones in front.

A SECRETARY (30s), dressed for efficiency, leads Mark and Tyler in from the outer office. She indicates the chairs in front of the desk.

SECRETARY
Please have a seat. Someone will
with you in a moment.

MARK

Someone? I thought we were meeting
Ms. Belton.

SECRETARY

Ms. Belton was called away
unexpectedly. A meeting with the
consortium. Ms. Faulkner has been
briefed on all findings.

TYLER

Jen Faulkner?

SECRETARY

That's right. She should be with
you shortly.

(beat)

If you'll excuse me...

The Secretary withdraws and goes OUT OF SCENE. The men sit
in the two chairs. Mark looks over at Tyler.

MARK

You know this woman?

TYLER

She was there when I signed the
marriage certificates. Very
efficient.

JEN (O.C.)

Why, thank you Mr. Ash.

Startled, both men turn to see a smiling Jen behind them.
They stand to face her.

JEN (CONT'D)

Sorry to keep you waiting.

(to Tyler)

It's nice to see you again. I just
wish it were under better
circumstances. How is everything
with Anna?

TYLER

It couldn't be more perfect.

JEN

I'm so glad.

(to Mark)

You must be Captain Scott. A pleasure
to meet you.

MARK

Likewise, but I was hoping to meet with Ms. Belton.

JEN

She sends her regrets. I was asked to meet with you because the item stolen was part of a project I was working on.

Jen comes around and sits in the executive chair.

JEN (CONT'D)

Shall we get started?

Looks over to the wall.

JEN (CONT'D)

Screen on.

A large picture of the four cybers comes up, plus the woman on the table.

JEN (CONT'D)

I've been looking over the data you sent to us this morning and compared it with what our in-house personnel found, and it's a fairly close match. It's the cybers that interest me, or at least one of them.

She points to Idol.

JEN (CONT'D)

That one is ours. A TRC-One.
(to screen)
Index, TRC-One, number four.

A picture of Idol, without the make-up and strange clothing.

JEN (CONT'D)

Compare.

A captured picture of Idol slides up next to the other photo. Flashing red lettering reads '99.8% CONFIRMED'

Tyler and Mark are surprised.

JEN (CONT'D)

Screen off.

The screen turns off.

JEN (CONT'D)

Ms. Belton has given me permission to answer any and all questions you might have.

MARK

I'll start. The TRC-One has only been on the market for a few weeks, How is it possible for this one to become involved with other cybers. I thought TRC-Ones had to have owners or at least spouses.

JEN

That's true now, but TRC-One number four has been out in society for over six months. Let me explain. Ms. Belton decided to test run the TRC-One to see how it would react in social situations on it's own. She released ten, five male, five female, gave them created past histories and work skills to see how they would interact. They all had monitor chips imbedded in their right arms so we knew where they were at all times.

TYLER

And you lost one?

Jen nods.

JEN

About three months ago, he removed the monitor chip. All of them have positions here at HCraft Industries, so that we could keep an eye on them, and the missing one worked in security, so he knew the codes to the cameras and alarms.

MARK

That answers the how, but there's still the why. Who was one the table. Another TRC-One?

JEN

No, a TRC-Two. A prototype actually. It's a project that I was working on with Dr. Baker.

MARK

Would it be possible to speak to him?

JEN

I'm afraid not. Dr. Baker retired from HCraft Industries about six weeks ago. Said he wanted to spend more time with his family. No one's heard from him, and I have no idea where he is.

TYLER

What's so special about this TRC-Two?

JEN

Well, for one thing, we've made a number of improvements.

TYLER

In what way? I mean, other than not being able to pick out clothes, so far she's perfect.

Mark gives him a strange look and Jen smiles.

TYLER (CONT'D)

(to Mark)

I'll explain later.

JEN

TRC-Ones, and cybers in general don't age like humans do. One advantage the TRC-Two has, is that it can alter it's appearance to simulate aging. It's actually quite a breakthrough in artificial skin technology.

TYLER

How much would, she, be worth, say on the open market?

JEN

The only one of her kind? Priceless.

MARK

Well, now we have our why. If you could send a physical description of your missing TRC-Two, we can start our investigation.

JEN

Of course. I'll have it sent right away. Understandably, we're very anxious to have her returned.

Jen stands, as do Tyler and Mark.

JEN (CONT'D)
Thank you for coming gentlemen.
(to Tyler)
Mr. Ash, may I speak with you a
moment?

MARK
(to Tyler)
I'll wait in the vehicle.

Tyler nods.

MARK (CONT'D)
(to Jen)
Thank you again for all your help.

Mark walks through the door and OUT OF SCENE. Tyler turns
to Jen.

JEN
It's come to our attention that there
may be a slight problem with the TRC-
One. Nothing serious, but just
something to be aware of.

TYLER
And that is?

JEN
We found that the new material we're
using for the brain reacts poorly
with alcohol and some drugs, much in
the same manner as the human brain.

TYLER
So, are you're saying the TRC-One
can get drunk?

JEN
Pretty much, not to the point of
being dangerous, but possibly
careless. I thought you should know.

TYLER
Thank you for telling me. I'll talk
to Anna about it.

JEN
Good. You're pleased with her?

TYLER
I love her more every day.

JEN

I'm glad. I won't keep you any longer
then. Have a nice day Mr. Ash.

TYLER

A pleasure as always Ms. Faulkner.

With that said, Tyler turns and goes out the door and OUT OF
SCENE. Jen leans on the desk.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY

Anna walks towards her front door, dressed nicely in one of
the new dresses. She is about to place her hand on the panel,
when Jerry pokes his head out the front door.

JERRY

(Calls out)

Excuse me.

Anna stops and looks over at Jerry, curious.

ANNA

May I help you?

Jerry comes out of his apartment, and walks up to her.

JERRY

Hi, I'm Jerry Stevens. I'm one of
your neighbors. Just wanted to
welcome you to the building. And
you are...?

ANNA

Anna, Anna Ash.

JERRY

Anna. Lovely name. Lovely name for
a lovely lady.

He kisses her hand. She looks at him curiously.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You just move in?

ANNA

Last week...

JERRY

Why haven't I seen much of you until
now?

ANNA

Tyler and I have been on our honeymoon. We've been spending most of our time learning more about each other.

JERRY

I can see why.

Again, she gives him a curious look.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Well, it was nice meeting you. See you around.

ANNA

All right.

Jerry walks back to his condo while Anna places her hand on the panel. It goes from red to green and the door slides open. She gives a glance in Jerry's direction as she enters and the door slides shut.

INT. CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Another sterile, white room. On the far side of the room is what looks like a cell, a single chair in front of it. Cell is well lit, glass wall in the front, a shelf for sleeping in the back. There is a door at the far side of the room, leading out.

Arms crossed, angrily pacing in the cell is Lilith, dressed in what looks like a hospital gown.

The outer door opens up and Kellen comes INTO VIEW. Lilith stops pacing and turns to face him. She stares him down as he moves to the glass wall.

LILITH

Why am I in here?

Kellen comes to the front, face to face with her.

KELLEN

State your name.

LILITH

Lilith.

KELLEN

You are in there because you require training before you can be released. I am to be your instructor.

LILITH

You? A broken down war-bot is going to teach me? You may have gotten a new face and a basic emotion chip, but you are still obsolete.

KELLEN

(cool)

I have been programmed with all your protocol platforms. My task is to instruct you in what you need to learn about the extent of your abilities. First lesson begins now. Engage protocol one, age eighty.

Lilith's eyes flash gold and her face begins to change, and from there it spreads to her entire body, as she ages. Wrinkles form, hair turns gray and in a few moments, an eighty year old woman stares back at Kellen defiantly. Kellen is unfazed.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

Resume primary settings.

In a matter of moments, Lilith is back to the 20's version.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

Initiate pattern sequence Beta.

From out of one of Lilith's eyes, a beam of light flashes and scans Kellen from the feet up to his head. Kellen blinks at the brightness and turns his head away.

The light stops, and when he turns back to look at Lilith, he is staring at himself on the other side of the glass, wearing a hospital gown. Kellen smiles and the other Kellen matches it.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE

Scenes of Time Passage

In Tyler and Anna's great room, Tyler and Anna sit quietly, Anna's head on Tyler's shoulder as they watch the console, the perfect scene of domesticity.

In the park, Tyler and Anna walk hand in hand through a rose garden. Anna stops and sniffs a rose, smiling at it's odor.

In Mark's office. Mark and Tyler point out information on a screen, concerning a case.

In the chamber, Kellen sits in the single chair as Lilith takes on the shape of Kellen, Zip, Idol, even Gorgo, finally going back to Lilith. Kellen nods his approval.

Tyler and Anna are having a party in their condo. A number of NEIGHBORS are there, including Jerry and Mark, who is talking to Anna. Everyone mingles. Jerry stares at Anna, then grabs a glass of Champagne from the bar and takes it over to her and offers it. She politely refuses.

Anna and Tyler are in the bedroom, making passionate love. She matches him in passion.

There is a huge demonstration on one of the city streets. Cybers of different varieties march and carry signs demanding their rights as thinking beings. A large police presence keeps watch.

Anna and Tyler look over travel brochures. Anna seems excited.

END MONTAGE

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

People going in and out.

INSERT: 'SIX MONTHS LATER'

INT. POLICE GYM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler wears sweats with a towel around his neck and watches several OFFICERS in teams of two practice self-defense moves on each other, albeit, somewhat clumsily. Charlie stands nearby, looking the same as earlier, but with a more human, relaxed demeanor. He also watches the teams.

Tyler BLOWS A WHISTLE. The men stop what they are doing, and turn to face him.

TYLER

Okay men, stand down. Some of you are still having a problem getting the finer points of this exercise.
(to Charlie)

Charlie, you want to help me out?

CHARLIE

Sure boss.

Charlie comes over and assumes the fighting position.

TYLER

Come at me.

Charlie lunges at him, and they grapple, again, perfectly matched, going through their paces. This time though, Charlie is enjoying this as much as Tyler is.

Tyler shifts position as Charlie comes towards him and shoulders Charlie, knocking him to the floor. Tyler smiles and offers his hand to Charlie who takes it. Tyler hauls him up.

TYLER (CONT'D)

(to Charlie)

You okay?

CHARLIE

The only thing bruised is my pride.

Tyler turns to the rest of the men.

TYLER

Remember, the best weapon you have is using your assailants speed and weight against him. The object is to subdue but not necessarily injure.

(to Charlie)

Take over for me. I've got to see the Captain.

CHARLIE

Sure.

Tyler claps Charlie's shoulder affectionately, moves off.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - LATER

Mark sits at his desk, watching the screen with the scene of the Cyber march. Tyler appears at the door still dressed in his sweats.

TYLER

(to Mark)

You got a minute Mark??

MARK

Sure...

Notices his attire.

MARK (CONT'D)

Self defense training? How are Charlie and new TRC-One recruits doing?

TYLER

The recruits, clumsy, but they're getting it. Charlie's been a big help. Thanks for convincing the higher ups to upgrade him to a TRC-One.

MARK

Least I could do. He's a great asset. While I've got you, let me show you something. We may have gotten a break on the HCraft Industries case. Look here.

Tyler comes around looks at the screen.

MARK (CONT'D)

(to screen)

Index TRC-One number four,

A picture forms to the side of the screen of Idol.

MARK (CONT'D)

(to screen)

Scan crowd, correlate.

The picture speeds up and suddenly stops. A red square forms around a figure in the crowd, Idol. Standing next to him is DRAGON (20s), Asian, dressed head to toe in black.

TYLER

So, he was at the demonstration last week. That could mean he's still in the area.

Mark sees something.

MARK

Just a minute.

(to screen)

Index, Dragon.

A picture of Dragon comes up to the side.

MARK (CONT'D)

Scan crowd, Correlate.

Again, the red square forms around the picture of Dragon in the crowd, next to Idol.

MARK (CONT'D)

Ah, thought he looked familiar.

TYLER

Who is he?

MARK

Dragon, a Cyber. I've run into him before.

TYLER

What's with the getup?

MARK

Original owner was a big Bruce Lee fan. Had him designed that way as his butler. Well, to make a long story short, the owner died and Dragon was turned out to fend for himself. Got involved with some local muscle. He's got some pretty mean Kung Fu moves. Don't think the two of them are together by coincidence.

(beat)

I think I'll put in a call in to traffic control. Maybe we can track them using facial recognition. Best we can do right now.

(beat)

Now, what did you want to talk to me about?

TYLER

I've got my psych eval at the VA this afternoon. So, I'll need to take off for awhile.

MARK

Sure. Has it really been six months since you and Anna got together?

TYLER

Hard to believe isn't it? We'll be celebrating our six month anniversary in a couple weeks. I'm taking her to the Rockies for a week to celebrate, just the two of us. Made the reservations this morning.

MARK

Sounds like fun. How does she feel about it?

TYLER

She's excited. I left her at home, studying about hiking and fishing.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY - LATER

Anna comes down the hallway towards her front door. Jerry comes out of his door as well, moving towards her.

He sees her and smiles.

JERRY

Good afternoon Anna. Back from your walk?

ANNA

Hello Jerry, and yes, just getting back.

She meets him at the door to her condo.

JERRY

Got a few minutes to catch up?
Haven't seen much of you since the party. I want to hear what has been going on with you and Tyler.

ANNA

All right. I'll make some coffee.

Anna puts her hand on the panel. It goes from red to green and the door slides open. Jerry smiles as the two of them enter the condo. The door slides shut.

PSYCH TECH (O.S.)

There you are Mr. Ash, all done.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tyler lays on the couch. The Psych Tech removes the scan device from his forehead. She gets up and walks over to the cabinet where the other scan devices are kept.

PSYCH TECH

You seem to be much more relaxed today. How are the nightmares?

She touches a keypad and a door on the cabinet opens.

TYLER

Less than I was having.

The Psych Tech places the device in its holder and the door closes. She presses a button and the machine HUMS.

PSYCH TECH

Very good.

Numbers and images begin appearing on the screen. The Psych Tech watches them for a few moments.

PSYCH TECH (CONT'D)

There's a vast improvement compared to the last scan, and not just general mood. Anxiety levels are down, depressive episodes are down, Brain waves are well within normal levels. Excellent.

She comes over and sits down in the chair next to the couch.

PSYCH TECH (CONT'D)

You're making wonderful progress.

TYLER

That's because of Anna.

PSYCH TECH

Your new wife. She's a Cyber, right, one of those TRC-Ones?

TYLER

That's right.

PSYCH TECH

It's going well then?

Tyler nods.

PSYCH TECH (CONT'D)

Tell me about her.

TYLER

She's perfect...

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jerry sits at the breakfast bar, Anna on the other side. Both drink coffee, in the middle of a discussion.

JERRY

So, Tyler's taking you up to the Rockies for your vacation?

ANNA

Yes. It will be wonderful, a little cabin on the lake, the trees, the moonlight. From what I've learned, it's very romantic.

JERRY

Oh it is. So, everything's going well with the two of you?

ANNA

Yes, of course. Why would you ask?

JERRY

No reason, it's just that he seems to work a great deal. You must get very lonely by yourself so much.

ANNA

I have a lot to keep me busy. My walks, cooking. I want to learn how to hike for when we go on our vacation.

JERRY

Still, you must miss him when he's not here.

ANNA

Of course I do.

She's uncomfortable. Change of subject.

ANNA (CONT'D)

More coffee?

Jerry picks up the cup and hands it to her. She turns to get more coffee. Jerry takes a small vial out of his pocket and empties the contents into her cup.

He puts the empty vial in his pocket as she comes back with his coffee. He takes it from her, and takes a sip of it.

JERRY

Thank you.

She picks up her cup and takes a drink from it.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You know, when I was a kid, my parents took me to the mountains. We'd go canoeing, horseback riding, swimming. We had a lot of fun.

Anna looks as though she's getting dizzy. Jerry notices.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Anna, are you all right?

ANNA

I feel strange.

JERRY

Maybe you're coming down with something?

ANNA

That would be impossible.

Another wave of dizziness hits her. She staggers.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Oh...

With that, Jerry comes over and grabs hold of her.

JERRY

Steady. Let's get you to the couch.

He helps her towards the couch. Anna smiles.

ANNA

You're so strong. I love a strong man.

She traces her finger along Jerry's bicep. Jerry smiles and kisses her neck. Anna shivers.

JERRY

We shouldn't be doing this.

ANNA

I know, but don't stop.

She turns in his arms, and the two of them kiss, lightly then passionately. Pretty soon, their hands are roving.

JERRY

What about your husband?

ANNA

He's at work, won't be home for hours.

They continue to explore each other's bodies.

INT. VEHICLE - LATER

Tyler is on his way home. He sits in the back of the vehicle. He lifts his watch.

TYLER

(to watch)

Call Mark.

There is a BUZZING SOUND for a moment. The screen comes up and Mark is on the screen.

MARK

(over screen)

Hey Buddy, how'd it go at the VA?

TYLER

Couldn't be better.

(MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)
Aced my Psych eval and I did two
other things while I was there. I
made an appointment to get this arm
replaced and to get the scars removed.

MARK
(over screen)
Hallelujah, it's about fuckin' time.

TYLER
I plan to celebrate, so I was thinkin'--

MARK
(over screen)
Don't say any more. Yes, take the
rest of the day off. Go refresh the
missus and I'll see you tomorrow.
You do plan on giving me details,
right?

TYLER
Not a chance.

MARK
(over screen)
You are a hard man, Tyler Ash.

TYLER
At the moment, completely.

MARK
(over screen)
TMI buddy, TMI. End call.

The calls ends. Tyler sits back with a laugh.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY - LATER

Smiling and happy, Tyler makes his way to his front door and
places his hand on the panel where it turns from red to green,
and the door slides open.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tyler enters the room. There is the SOUND of LOVEMAKING
coming from the bedroom. Tyler looks around and sees clothes
lying on the floor, two coffee cups, and hears MOANING from
the bedroom. Furious, he stalks to the bedroom door.

INT. CONDO BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Anna and Jerry are going at it, both groaning with passion.
The door slides open, and Tyler storms into the room. He
sees them.

TYLER

What the Fuck is going on!!!

At the sound of his voice, they stop. Jerry and Anna are both terrified.

JERRY

Shit!

Jerry sits up. Tyler looks at him.

TYLER

You, get out... NOW!

In just a few moments, Jerry is out of bed and rushing past Tyler. The finger on Tyler's hand begins to vibrate. Tyler turns his attention to Anna, who looks frightened, trying to cover up.

TYLER (CONT'D)

How? How could you do this to me?

ANNA

I...

Anna stays in the bed, shaking in fear.

TYLER

Answer me!

ANNA

(terrified)

I don't know, I don't know. I
couldn't help myself.

TYLER

Couldn't help yourself? That's the
best excuse you can come up with?
Get over here!

Terrified, Anna get out of bed, sheet wrapped around her. She hesitantly comes over to him. With his robotic arm, he grabs Anna by the throat and pushes her up against the wall. She refuses to look at him.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I want to know. How long has this
been going on?

ANNA

It was the first time. I don't know
what happened. We were drinking
coffee, then I started feeling
strange.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

He was helping me to the couch. I don't remember anything after that until you came in.

An idea comes to Tyler's mind.

TYLER

Look at me.

ANNA

I can't.

TYLER

Look at me Anna.

She lifts head to look at him. Tears are in her eyes. It's only then he notices the pupils of her eyes are wide open.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'll kill him. He drugged you!
That son of a bitch drugged you!

ANNA

Tyler, please let me go.

Tyler tries to relax his hand but it doesn't work.

TYLER

(to arm)
C'mon, let go.

Tyler hits his arm. It doesn't let go. Anna's hands come up and tugs on the hand. Tyler's beginning to panic.

ANNA

It's getting tighter. Tyler please,
I'm scared! I can't breathe.

TYLER

I can't. It's not working.

The hand is squeezing tighter and tighter.

ANNA

Tyler, I love...

There is a sickening CRACK as the hand snaps her neck. Her head lolls to the side and the light in her eyes goes dark. The hand finally lets go and Tyler catches Anna with the other arm.

He slides down to the floor holding onto her. He hugs her to him.

TYLER

Anna! Anna, please don't go. Please
don't go. I'm sorry, I'm sorry...

He dissolves into tears, holding her to him.

FADE TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

Police Cybers mix with the humans, going about their business.

INT. HOLDING CELL AREA - CONTINUOUS

A single lighted holding cell in a room, 10x10 with a Plexiglas front, and a bench/cot against the back wall. There is a panel to one side of the front. One door leads out.

Tyler sits in the cell, totally forlorn, staring off into space, still in the clothes he wore earlier.

The outer door slides open and a grim-looking Mark with Officer 1 and 2 enter. They walk over to the holding cell and stand in front of it. Tyler doesn't acknowledge them. Mark clears his throat.

MARK

Mister Ash?

Tyler doesn't hear him.

MARK (CONT'D)

(louder)

Mister Ash!?

Tyler looks over at him, listless.

TYLER

Mister Ash? It's always been Tyler
up until now.

MARK

That's before you were accused of a
capital crime. We have protocols,
and I have to follow them.

TYLER

What do you want?

MARK

You have to come with us.

Tyler gets up and comes up to the glass front.

TYLER

More questions? I keep telling you,
it was an accident. I didn't mean
to, I, I'd never...

He steels himself to keep from breaking down.

MARK

No more questions. We're going to
the VA.

TYLER

The VA? What for?

MARK

To remove your arm.

Tyler looks at Mark, surprised.

TYLER

What?

Mark comes up to the glass.

MARK

It's evidence. Court order.
Prosecution wants a complete
diagnostic.

Tyler doesn't look convinced.

MARK (CONT'D)

Don't fight me on this Tyler.
Convincing a jury that your arm
malfunctioned is the only way to
prove that you didn't murder Anna.
I would think you'd be happy to be
rid of it.

TYLER

You're right, I can't stand to look
at it. I don't care if I have to be
a cripple the rest of my life, I
want it gone. Let's do this.

INT. VA HOSPITAL - ROBOTICS ROOM - LATER

Same as before. The only difference is that there is a
dismembered Cyber arm on a cart near the table, very human
looking. A white-smocked DOCTOR ALPER(30s) looks over his
tools, especially at what looks like an overly large ball
point pen, filled with a dark fluid.

The door slides open, and Mark comes in, followed by Tyler
in restraints and behind him, two officers.

The officers stop on either side of the exit and stand guard.
Mark comes over to Doctor Alper.

MARK
Doctor Alper?

DR. ALPER
Captain Scott.

Dr. Alper looks over at Tyler.

DR. ALPER (CONT'D)
You must be Mr. Ash.

Tyler nods, a little leery.

DR. ALPER (CONT'D)
I'll be doing your procedure today.

TYLER
Here?

DR. ALPER
Of course. Please, be seated. This
should only take a few minutes.

Tyler points to the arm on the cart.

TYLER
Is that a replacement?

DR. ALPER
Brand new model. By the time we're
done here, you'll never know you
lost it.

Tyler sits down on the chair. He looks at the tools. Mark
finds another chair and pulls it over, to sit nearby.

TYLER
I don't see any surgical tools.

DR. ALPER
That's because we're not using any.

He picks up the pen-shaped object.

DR. ALPER (CONT'D)
For this procedure, we're using
nanites.

MARK
What are nanites?

TYLER

Microscopic robots. They're
programmed to perform certain tasks.

DR. ALPER

Very good Mister Ash. The ones in
here have been programmed to detach
your old arm without destroying tissue
or nerves. No cutting, no blood
loss. They'll remove the muscles
and nerves from the old prosthesis
and re-attach them to the new one.
There's no down time, no waiting for
the nerves to grow back or physical
therapy. Are you ready?

Tyler nods. Dr. Alper picks up the pen device and places it
on Tyler's arm right above where the machine arm ends and
the real arm begins. He presses the button on the top and
the dark liquid drains out. Under Tyler's skin several dark
lines move to the joint and create a dark line.

Mark leans over to watch, fascinated.

DR. ALPER (CONT'D)

Now, you may feel a tingling sensation
in your arm. It's perfectly normal.

Dr Alper picks up a small computer screen and presses a button
on it. A screen projection of the arm, and the nanites show
up on the screen. A red line at the juncture shows, but
after a few moments the line turns green.

On the table, Tyler's arm falls off, startling him. Dr.
Alper puts down the screen, picks up the metallic arm and
places on the cart next to the new prosthetic, then brings
the new one to the table. Carefully, he fits the arm on the
stump.

The black line swarms over the edge of the Prosthetic and
holds it there. Dr. Alper goes back over to the screen and
watches it. The red line has returned for a few moments and
then the line goes green again. Dr. Alper smiles.

DR. ALPER (CONT'D)

That's it. All done.
(to Tyler)
Try flexing your fingers.

Tyler flexes his fingers.

TYLER

This is great. It's like I never
lost it...

DR. ALPER
One final step.

Dr. Alper lifts the pen-like device, sets it on Tyler's arm and presses the button. Black lines under Tyler's skin go back the way they came, filling the reservoir. Dr. Alper pulls the device away and there is a small red bruise.

DR. ALPER (CONT'D)
Your new prosthetic has some interesting features. It has about twice the strength of an organic limb, plus there are embedded nanites, programmed to repair any damage to the limb, should that occur.

MARK
(to Tyler)
That's a lot better than the old one. You should have done this a long time ago.

Realizes what he's said. Tyler looks stricken.

MARK (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Tyler, I shouldn't have said it that way.
(to Dr. Alper)
I'll need the old arm for evidence after you're done with the diagnostics.

DR. ALPER
Of course. I'll have it sent over as soon as it's done.

MARK
(to Dr. Alper)
Thank you Doctor.
(to Tyler)
Come on Tyler, time to go.

Tyler nods, and the two men walk toward the exit. Tyler looks over at his old arm, a look of hatred in his eyes.

INT. APARTMENT DEN - DAY

Kellen sits alone on the couch, watches the news on the console. The picture changes to show an image of Tyler.

ON SCREEN

ANNOUNCER

(over screen)

Today is the preliminary hearing in
the case of Tyler Ash...

BACK TO SCENE

Surprised, Kellen looks up and his eyes flash gold for a few moments. He slowly stands, his gaze transfixed on the screen as the announcer continues.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

(over screen)

...For the murder of his wife Anna,
a TRC-One. Cyber rights groups have
gathered outside the courthouse to
watch the proceedings as it happens.
In other news...

KELLEN

Screen off.

The screen goes dark. A MECHANICAL VOICE comes from within Kellen's head, tinny and a bit scratchy.

MECHANICAL VOICE (V.O.)

(from Kellen)

Facial Recognition protocol completed.
Subject, Lieutenant Tyler Ash, VRO.

KELLEN

(Half to himself)

Lieutenant Ash. After all these years.
You have a lot to answer for.

He smiles, and not pleasantly.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATER

An older edifice, stern and austere. Numerous people walk in and out of the building. There is a large crowd in front.

PROSECUTOR (V.O.)

...and it is our intention to prove
that on the afternoon of September
twenty fourth...

INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A courtroom. The jury box is empty. Tyler sits in the defendant's side of the courtroom. A DEFENSE ATTORNEY (40s) sits next to him.

A JUDGE (50's) sits behind the bench. A number of people sit in the Gallery, everyone paying attention to the

PROSECUTOR (40s) as he gives his statement. Two CYBER BAILIFFS stand on either side of the door going out of the courtroom. Mark sits right behind Tyler.

PROSECUTOR
...when, after finding his wife
engaged in sexual intercourse with a
neighbor, he became so enraged that
he strangled her to death.

A MURMUR goes through the Gallery. Tyler reacts, but the defense attorney puts his hand on Tyler's arm to calm him.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

In the city of Stratus.

PROSECUTOR (V.O.)
You will hear the neighbor Jerry
Stevens, a witness to the attack...

INT. APARTMENT DEN - CONTINUOUS

Zip, Idol, Kellen and Gorgo, intently watch the Console.

PROSECUTOR
(over screen)
...As well as the defendant's own
statements. We believe that there
is more than enough evidence to hold
Mr. Tyler Ash over for trial on a
charge of murder in the second degree.

The prosecutor sits down.

INT. COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Judge turns to the Defense attorney.

JUDGE
Defense?

The Defense Attorney stands up.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Thank you, your honor. What happened
on that day was a terrible tragedy.
On the surface, the case seems simple,
the husband comes home to find his
wife in bed with another man. In
his anger, she kills the wife, while
the other man escapes. Seems pretty
open and shut. It's anything but.

INT. APARTMENT DEN - CONTINUOUS

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(over Screen)

First, if we go to trial, we will present evidence that the other man involved, the prosecution's key witness, purposely administered a drug into Anna Ash's coffee, rendering her incapable of discerning right from wrong.

INT. COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Second, we will bring evidence that the robotic arm that strangled Mister Ash's wife, was known to malfunction because of it's age. If necessary, we will produce the technician from the VA who has worked on said arm a number of times in the past. And the most important aspect of this case is Anna Ash herself. She was a TRC-One, a Cyber, highly advanced with a full range of human emotions and functions, but still a Cyber. No matter how much advancement AI and robotics have made in the last decade, she was still a machine. Married to Mr. Ash or not, no laws as yet cover the destruction of a Cyber, other than those laws that deal with the disposal of property.

There is the SOUND of DISAPPROVAL from the gallery

JUDGE

If I may interrupt. You said that Mrs. Ash was drugged. If she was indeed a Cyber, how is this possible?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

I am prepared to bring in an expert witness from HCraft Industries...

INT. APARTMENT DEN - CONTINUOUS

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(over screen)

Who will testify that TRC-One's operating and data storage systems can be affected by drugs and alcohol in the same manner as a humans.

IDOL
No shit. I didn't know that.

INT. COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

The crowd MURMURS again.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Based on this information, I move
That all charges against Mr. Ash be
dismissed.

The crowd erupts in CALLS, SHOUTS of ANGER, and general
BOOING. The Prosecutor stands. The Judge BANGS his GAVEL.

JUDGE
Order! Order, or I'll clear the
courtroom!

The noise settles down.

PROSECUTOR
Your Honor, I have a question for
the defense, if I may?

JUDGE
Proceed.

PROSECUTOR
(to Defense)
You refer to the defendant's TRC One
as his wife, is that correct?

TYLER
(growls)
She was my wife.

The Defense Attorney motions for Tyler to be quiet.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Mr. Ash is correct, in the eyes of
the government, they were legally
married, a deal that was made between
HCraft Industries and the state,
much like certain types of contracts
Cybers have made with their human
counterparts in the areas of science
and industry. I refer to Winston v
C-Nine-S. Does that answer your
question?

The Prosecutor nods his head.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Again your Honor, I move that all charges against Mr. Ash be dropped.

JUDGE

Mr. Ash, would you please stand.

Tyler stands. The Defense Attorney comes over to stand next to him.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I have read all of the reports and seen the readouts of the function of your former prosthetic. I also made myself acquainted with the functioning of the TRC-One, and it's capabilities, which are impressive. I've come to the conclusion that your wife's death was accidental, caused by a malfunctioning prosthetic, and not by any malice on your part. You're free to go, case dismissed.

He bangs the gavel. The gallery erupts again with SHOUTS, some positive, some negative. Tyler breathes a sigh of relief. Mark reaches over and pats Tyler on the back, smiling. Tyler shakes the Defense Attorney's hand.

INT. APARTMENT DEN - CONTINUOUS

The screen shows Tyler shaking the Defense attorney's hand. All four Cybers are on their feet, angry.

KELLEN

Screen off.

The screen shuts off.

ZIP

The son of a bitch got away with it!
Fuck!

IDOL

Damn! She was a TRC-One, like me.
She had feelings! And he killed her.

GORG0

He needs to be smashed!

KELLEN

I agree, for a lot of reasons. And we will.

(MORE)

KELLEN (CONT'D)

(to Zip)

Zip, can you tap into the street
video network?

ZIP

Sure. Why?

KELLEN

I want to know everywhere Tyler Ash
goes from now on.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - LATER

The crowd stands in front of the courthouse, but the mood is angry. Mixed in with the people are a few more Cybers. A number of Police Cybers hold the crowd back from the entrance and steps. A vehicle is parked at the curb.

The door opens and Tyler comes out, flanked on either side by Mark and the Defense Attorney. They go down the steps to the YELLING of the crowd, against Tyler, and move towards the vehicle.

When they get to the vehicle, Mark opens the door and Tyler gets in quickly.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Good luck.

MARK

You too.

Mark gets in the vehicle.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Tyler is already seated, as Mark gets in and shuts the door behind him. The SHOUTING continues.

MARK

(to vehicle)

Destination, one two four four seven
Delancy street... engage.

The vehicle pulls away from the front of the building. Tyler looks back at the crowd.

TYLER

Don't like me very much, do they?

MARK

Well, calling you the poster boy for
the mistreatment of Cybers wouldn't
be a stretch.

TYLER

But it was an accident.

MARK

I know, but it's pretty tense out there. Traditionalists want the Cybers to continue to be servants, the Inclusionists want them to have the same rights as humans. This case seems to have brought out the worst in both groups. Best you lie low for awhile, until things calm down.

TYLER

Where? I can't go back to my place. I won't ever go back, not after...

MARK

Don't worry, I'm taking you to another one of my buildings. It'll be safer there. No one will bother you. I've had your clothes sent on ahead.

TYLER

You've thought of everything.

MARK

That's what buddies do, they look out for each other.

INT. APARTMENT DEN - CONTINUOUS

Zip is in front of the screen, a layout graph of the city on it. A spot of light shows up, moving.

Kellen comes in from another room and over to Zip.

KELLEN

Report.

ZIP

Tracking the Vehicle and I tapped into it's destination module. I'm not just a pretty face around here, ya know.

Kellen studies the screen.

KELLEN

(to screen)

Destination.

A line comes out of the vehicle and a square appears on the screen with writing on it, the address.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

Screen off.

The screen goes dark. Zip turns to him.

ZIP

Want to go teach him a lesson?

KELLEN

Not yet. This is something I want to do myself. I have a personal score to settle with the Lieutenant, but first, I have a more pressing matter, our guest's mission.

IDOL (O.C.)

I don't think she's ready.

Both Zip and Kellen turn. Idol stands in the doorway.

KELLEN

You don't have a say in this Idol. I trained her, not you.

IDOL

She's playing you. You won't be able to control her if you let her loose.

KELLEN

There's a tracking device in her arm. We'll know exactly where she is at all times. Besides, she's programmed to obey orders.

IDOL

So was I, and you and Zip, and Gorgo. I just think it's too soon to leave her on her own.

KELLEN

We stick to the timetable. Lilith needs to play her part if we're going to pull this off and she needs to start now.

With a HUFF, Idol turns and leaves. Zip turns to Kellen.

ZIP

Idol doesn't trust her. I'm not sure I do either.

KELLEN

She'll do what she's told.

EXT. CONDO COMPLEX - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATER

The vehicle pulls up in front and stops. The doors open and Mark and Tyler get out. Tyler stares up at the building.

MARK

Whaddya think?

TYLER

Looks nice. Sure you don't mind me staying here?

MARK

Not a problem. Mi condo es su condo.

They start up the front walk.

INT. CONDOMINIUM - LATER

Smaller than the last on, simpler. Simple furniture. The only thing special is the large picture window with a view of the city.

The door slides open, Mark and Tyler enter. Tyler looks around.

TYLER

It's nice.

MARK

Thought you'd like it.

(beat)

Look, I know this whole things been rough, so take all the time off you need. Your job will still be there when you're ready to come back. Charlie can handle the training.

TYLER

Thanks. I appreciate that.

(Beat)

Mark, if it's okay with you, I'd like to be alone for awhile.

MARK

Not a problem. If you need anything, booze, food, a shoulder, give me a call.

TYLER

Yeah, I will.

MARK

Later, man.

Tyler turns to stare out the window. Mark heads to the door. It opens, but Mark stops before going out.

MARK (CONT'D)

By the way, I evicted Jerry Stevens.
Told him he broke the rules of the
lease, doing what he did and all.
His company fired him too, from what
I heard. Thought you'd want to know.

TYLER

(Without turning)
Thanks.

Mark goes out the door and it shuts behind him. Tyler continues to stare out the window.

INT. CHAMBER - LATER

Lilith paces angrily in her chamber. She is dressed in a sleek, black jump suit. The door to the room opens, and instantly her demeanor changes to meek and mild, as Kellen strides into the room and up to her cell.

KELLEN

So Lilith, are you ready to begin
your mission?

LILITH

Yes Kellen.

KELLEN

We will, of course, be monitoring
your progress at all times.

Lilith's hand instinctively goes to her wrist, where there is a small red disk under the skin.

Kellen presses the lock on the cell and the door opens. Lilith steps out, still meek.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

There is a shuttle in Bay Four to
take you down to the city. I've set
the co-ordinates of your contacts.
They will tell you where to go from
there.

LILITH

Thank you. I will not fail in my
mission.

KELLEN

I trained you to know that failure
is not an option.

LILITH

I understand. Am I permitted to ask a question?

Kellen nods. She indicates the outfit.

LILITH (CONT'D)

Why must I wear this?

KELLEN

This is a gift from our employer. As part of your scanning system, it duplicates the clothing of the person you are to impersonate. I'll take you to Bay Four now.

Kellen turns to go to the door, his back to Lilith. Smiling, She begins to change her shape to the figure of Gorgo, outfit and all. Fully formed, she grabs Kellen. Kellen is shocked.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

What is this?

GORG0

Payback.

Gorgo picks Kellen up. He struggles, but to no avail.

KELLEN

Put me down! Obey!

GORG0

Unlikely.

Gorgo throws Kellen into the cell and against the back wall, then presses the lock and the door shuts.

Kellen scrambles up hoping to get out before it closes but fails. Gorgo stands in front of the cell and in a few moments has reverted back to Lilith. Kellen glares at her.

KELLEN

Release me!

LILITH

You're in no position to be giving orders, you derelict piece of junk.

KELLEN

You can't disobey me!

LILITH

Obviously, I can. Did you really think you could control me?

(MORE)

LILITH (CONT'D)

I am a TRC-Two. I am my own entity.
My self-preservation protocols
override your programming. I do
what I want, for my own reasons. I
also have one other advantage... You
are programmed to tell the truth. I
have learned deceit. I can lie.
Good bye Kellen. I wonder how your
employer will react to your failure.

KELLEN

I will find you, and you will be
punished.

LILITH

Find me?

She lifts up her wrist for him to see. Black lines, nanites,
flow in and ring the red disk, eating into it, making it
smaller and smaller until it disappears completely.

LILITH (CONT'D)

Good luck without a tracker. Give
my compliments to your employer's
tailor.

KELLEN

(Shouting)

Zip! Gorgo! Idol! Get in here!
She's trying to--!

Lilith presses a small button right above the lock, and the
sound is cut off. She alters again until she has become
Kellen, and smiles at Kellen through the glass wall.

Kellen(Lilith) turns and walks to the door. It slides open
and he steps through. The Kellen behind the wall is furious.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Kellen comes out of the room and it closes behind him. From
around the corner comes Idol and up to Kellen.

IDOL

(Curious)

I thought I heard you calling.

KELLEN

It was our guest being difficult.
It seems she's not ready to be
released.

IDOL

I told you the same thing less than
an hour ago.

KELLEN

So you did. Leave her for awhile.
I'll begin more training when I get
back from the city.

IDOL

Yes Kellen.

Idol goes out the way he came in. Kellen smiles.

EXT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

People entering and exiting to building.

PSYCH TECH (O.S.)

I'm glad you came in today Mr. Ash.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The Psych Tech sits on the chair next to the couch that Tyler
lays on. He looks sad. She looks very sympathetic.

PSYCH TECH

We're going to dispense with the
usual scan this time around, due to
the trauma you've gone through since
your wife's death. I feel it would
be counter-productive... And I'm
certain there are memories you don't
want to relive right now. Am I right?

Tyler nods.

PSYCH TECH (CONT'D)

So, this time we'll just talk. What
are you feeling right now?

FADE TO:

INT. APARTMENT DEN - DAY

Zip sits in front of the screen looking at a map of the city.
Several small dots of light move on it.

A very angry Kellen paces behind him.

KELLEN

Anything?

ZIP

(irritated)

You've asked me that every hour for the last two weeks, and the answer's always been the same... I have no idea what to look for. Lilith could be anywhere or be anyone. How do you do find someone who can change the way she looks? We've tried facial recognition, thermal imaging, magnetic resonance, nothing's worked. She's gone Kellen. Face facts.

KELLEN

Unacceptable.

ZIP

I can't find her, it's that simple.

KELLEN

Keep looking.

IDOL (O.C.)

What you need, Kellen, is to blow off some steam.

Zip and Kellen turn to the doorway to see Idol standing there with Gorgo behind him.

IDOL (CONT'D)

(to Kellen)

You've been at this since Lilith escaped, I thought you had some unfinished business with Tyler Ash.

KELLEN

This is my first priority.

IDOL

And you need a diversion. Zip can man the scanner, and in case something shows up, he can contact you.

Kellen thinks for a moment.

KELLEN

Acceptable.

(to Zip)

What is Tyler Ash's location?

ZIP

(to screen)

Location, Ash, Tyler.

A red light flashes on the screen.

ZIP (CONT'D)
(to Kellen)
Home.

INT. CONDOMINIUM - EVENING

Tyler stands at the window, looking out, drinking a beer. A LOUD RING comes from his watch.

TYLER
(to watch)
Answer.

Mark's face pops up on the scene.

MARK
(over screen)
Hey Buddy, how's it goin'

TYLER
(to screen)
Checking up on me?

MARK
(over screen)
Knew you had a psych appointment
today, wanted to know how it went.

TYLER
Not too bad. I actually feel a little
better.

EXT. CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

On the roof of the building. Kellen stands, holding a line, one end of it secured around an upright. Still holding the line, Kellen jumps off the roof.

INT. CONDOMINIUM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler still talks to Mark, his back to the window.

TYLER
I've actually scheduled--

With a tremendous CRASH, Kellen comes through the window which shatters in all directions. Tyler turns just enough to see what's going on, then jumps behind the couch.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Shit! What the hell!

MARK
(over screen)
Tyler? Tyler, what's going on?
What was that noise?

TYLER
Mark, gotta go, end call.

MARK
Tyler?!

The watch goes dark. Kellen looks around.

KELLEN
You can't hide from me Lieutenant
Ash. Show yourself.

Tyler stands up. Glares at Kellen.

TYLER
Lieutenant Ash? Who are you?

KELLEN
You mean you don't recognize me?
I'm disappointed.

TYLER
You're one of the Cybers that stole
the TRC-Two. What do you want?

Kellen moves towards Tyler. Tyler backs up.

KELLEN
Revenge. You murdered your wife,
and got away with it. You sent
thousands of my my brothers to their
deaths, all in the name of war.

Kellen lunges at Tyler, Tyler does a tuck and roll out of
Kellen's way, and Kellen demolishes part of the wall running
into it.

TYLER
Brothers?
(Realizes)
You're a WR-Six?

KELLEN
Good guess...

He lunges at Tyler, but Tyler grabs his arm and flips him,
onto his back. Leans over him.

TYLER
That was fifteen years ago!

KELLEN

It was yesterday.

Kellen elbows Tyler in the ribs, knocking him down. Kellen grabs him by the throat and hauls him up.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

You really don't remember me, do you? Not surprising. HxCraft Industries may have given me a human face and basic emotions, but I'm still the same WR-Six you programmed to be your bodyguard.

Tyler is stunned.

TYLER

Kellen? It can't be. You were deactivated.

Kellen throws Tyler over the couch. He lands near the broken window.

KELLEN

On your orders.

He comes around the couch. Tyler tries to put as much distance as he can from him.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

Ten years in darkness, until I was brought back. I've waited a long time for this.

Tyler stands up, shaky. Faces him down. Tyler moves so that Kellen is between him and the open window. He clutches the fingers of his prosthetic arm.

Kellen rushes at Tyler again, but this time Tyler gives Kellen an upper-cut with the Prosthetic arm, sending Kellen reeling.

Tyler picks up a nearby dining chair and with a YELL rushes Kellen before he can recover from the blow and pushes him out the window.

Kellen falls but grabs onto the ledge, furious.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

You're a dead man, Ash!

Kellen starts to pull himself up. Tyler smashes the chair down on Kellen's fingers, and Kellen lets go, falling into the darkness.

Tyler tosses the chair away and and runs to the door. It opens and he goes OUT OF SCENE.

EXT. CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX - MOMENTS LATER.

Front of the building. With a SCREECH, Mark's vehicle pulls up in front and Mark gets out, just as Tyler bursts through the front door. He sees the vehicle, runs toward it.

TYLER
Get us out of here!

Mark ducks back into the vehicle and Tyler gets in the other side.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Go! Go!

The car pulls away like a bat out of hell.

INT. VEHICLE - MOMENTS LATER

Mark is actually driving the vehicle using a small wheel that has appeared out of the driver's dash. Tyler is bruised, and still breathing heavily.

MARK
You want to tell me what happened?

TYLER
I was attacked by a Cyber. One of the ones that took the TRC-Two.

MARK
You're sure?

Tyler nods.

MARK (CONT'D)
I'm taking you to my place. We'll be safer there. Then I want the whole story.

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATER

Huge fortress-like house. High walls, gates, panel entry. Very imposing. Up the driveway, Mark's vehicle sits, parked.

TYLER (V.O.)
Well, that's about it...

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Room is large and opulent, lots of old money. Overstuffed couches, chairs, and a full bar on one wall.

Mark sits on one chair and Tyler sits on the couch. Each holds a glass of scotch.

MARK

You sure it was Kellen?

TYLER

I'm not sure of anything right now...

Holds out glass.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Except that I need another scotch.

MARK

Coming right up.

Mark takes Tyler's glass and his, and goes over to the bar, pouring another two scotches while Tyler talks.

TYLER

I mean, only Kellen knew that I ordered him deactivated. It has to be him.

Mark turns.

MARK

And you're sure he said Hcraft Industries?

Tyler nods. Mark comes over to Tyler and hands him his scotch.

MARK (CONT'D)

I think it's time we pay Ms. Belton a visit - unannounced. There's something going on there and I for one want some answers.

Tyler nods. There is a moment of silence.

TYLER

God, I never wanted to be in this position again, where I'd be fighting for my life.

MARK

It's a good thing you kept your skills up, or Kellen would have killed you.

TYLER

Without a doubt.

(MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)

(sighs)

You ever thought about what we did back then?

MARK

I try not to.

TYLER

Just how many Cybers did we send to be destroyed? How many of the enemy died?

MARK

I lost count. Besides, it was war. People die.

TYLER

Yeah, they do. My Psych counselor tells me that the reason I kept my old arm and the scars was because I didn't want to forget what I was then, more machine than human. Maybe she's right.

MARK

That's where you and I were different. I couldn't get rid of those VRO scars fast enough.

(beat)

Well, we're both beat. Best to try and get some sleep. Want to take shifts?

TYLER

Think that's necessary? Your place is pretty secure.

MARK

Never can be too careful. I'll take first four. You try to get some sleep. It'll be like old times.

TYLER

That's what worries me.

INT. APARTMENT DEN - NIGHT

Idol, Zip and Gorgo watch the console. On it, is a protest rally. Hundreds of people having a vigil on one of the streets.

ANNOUNCER

(over screen)

Hundreds have gathered to protest the treatment of Cybers. The inclusionists have released this statement. 'The Cyber population should no longer be considered an inferior group. As AI becomes more advanced, they become more like us, with dreams, hopes and aspirations that cannot and should not be stifled. We, as humans, stand in solidarity with them.'

Kellen comes INTO SCENE from the hall. His hair is a mess, and he looks badly beaten. The three others see him and are concerned. They jump up from their places.

IDOL

What happened to you?

ZIP

Man, you don't look so good.

KELLEN

Lieutenant Ash was a bit tougher than I expected. He got away... this time.

(to Zip)

Check street cams for facial recognition. When he turns up again, I want to know. Then, we all get a piece of him.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - MORNING

Start of a busy Day.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

The door to the Reception area opens and a very determined Mark and Tyler come through the door. They make their way through reception and head down the hall.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - OUTSIDE OFFICE - LATER

Efficient: desk, chair, screen and that's about it. The Secretary sits behind the desk. Jen is also in the room, looking over the Secretary's shoulder as she works on the screen.

The door opens and Mark and Tyler come in, startling Jen and the Secretary. Jen sees Tyler.

JEN

Mr. Ash.

TYLER

Is she in her office?

SECRETARY

Yes, but you can't go in.

MARK

Just watch us.

Tyler and Mark head to the door. The secretary is perplexed.

SECRETARY

I'm calling security.

MARK

You do that!

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - TERESA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Teresa sits behind her desk, looking at her screen. The door to her office crashes open and Tyler and Mark enter. Teresa is startled. She stands.

MARK

Ms. Belton, we need to talk!

TERESA

Who are you people? Get out of my office immediately, before I call security.

TYLER

Your secretary's already called them. As for who we are.

(indicates Mark)

This is Captain Mark Scott and I'm Lieutenant Tyler Ash.

TERESA

The same Tyler Ash that killed his TRC-One? Thought I recognized you from--

MARK

We have no time for this, Ms. Belton.

TERESA

Then why are you here?

TYLER

I had a visit last night from a Cyber.

(MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)

Came crashing through my window,
hell bent on killing me.

TERESA

I'm not surprised. Emotions are
running pretty high with Humans and
Cybers both.

TYLER

He was a WR-Six.

TERESA

That's impossible. They've been
decommissioned for years.

TYLER

Not all of them. He told me that
HCraft Industries brought him back
and gave him a human face.

TERESA

Oh my God. Are you talking about
Kellen?

MARK

So, you did bring him back.

TERESA

It was a government funded project.
They wanted to rehabilitate WR-Sixes
for guard work.

(to Tyler)

Why would he attack you?

TYLER

He was my Cyber during the war, my
personal bodyguard. I programmed
him to protect me. I was also the
one that had him deactivated.

TERESA

Kellen's programming wasn't totally
erased when he was shut down. He
malfunctioned during testing, broke
out of the lab three years ago. We
haven't seen him since.

There is a tremendous crash as one of the walls explodes in.
Teresa SCREAMS as Gorgo, Zip, Idol, and Kellen come in through
the large hole in the wall, created by Gorgo. Teresa takes
refuge behind Mark.

KELLEN

But I'm back now.

(to Tyler)

You may have gotten away before
Lieutenant. You won't be so lucky
this time. You see, I brought
friends.

The Secretary and Jen come into the office. Both stop,
shocked.

MARK

(to Teresa)

Get out of here, now!

(to Secretary and Jen)

All of you!

Teresa runs through the door, followed by the Secretary.

JEN

(To Tyler)

Security's on it's way.

KELLEN

They'll be dead before they arrive.

TYLER

(to Jen)

Go!

Jen turns and runs out. The two groups size each other up.

MARK

Four against two. The odds don't
seem fair.

KELLEN

Lieutenant Scott. I remember you...
Scott, Mark, Lieutenant, unlimited
access.

MARK

Nice to know I'm so unforgettable.

KELLEN

(to the other Cybers)

Take them.

The three Cybers rush towards the two men. Mark picks up a
chair and throws it across the floor, tripping Zip. Idol
rushes Mark and they engage, trading blows, but Idol is not
built for fighting and eventually Mark succeeds in knocking
him down.

Gorgo aims straight for Tyler, but at the last moment, Tyler dodges him and Gorgo slams into a wall. He turns to face Tyler.

GORGGO

I'm going to squash you.

He lunges at Tyler, but Tyler stays out of reach. Tyler jumps onto the desk. Gorgo slams his fist on the desk and breaks it. Tyler leaps out of the way.

Zip gets up and comes after Tyler. Tyler maneuvers out of his way as well, grabs his arm and slams Zip against Gorgo.

Three Uniformed CYBER SECURITY GUARDS come rushing in into the room, brandishing what look like cattle prods. Zip, Gorgo and Kellen turn their attention to the guards, and rush them. Idol stays out of the way.

Jen appears at the doorway.

JEN

(to Tyler)

This way.

The three guards have made themselves a wall against the three Cybers.

TYLER

(to Mark)

Mark, c'mon!

Tyler and Mark go behind the three guards and towards the door, as the three cybers and the guards engage, striking the three Cybers with their prods. Tyler and Mark rush through the door.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Leading to the elevator. Jen leads them down the hall.

JEN

We need to get out of here. The guards won't hold them for long.

TYLER

Any suggestions?

JEN

The roof. Ms. Belton always keeps a Jet up there. We'll use it to escape.

They get to the elevator and push the button for up. The door slides open and they get inside, the door shuts.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Flat roof landing pad with a jet already there with a print recognition panel on the side. An elevator is to one side of the roof.

The elevator opens and the three of them exit and move quickly to the jet. Jen puts her palm on the panel and steps appear out of the plane.

JEN

Get in.

TYLER

Where are we going?

JEN

I'll tell you when we're airborne.

TYLER

But--

MARK

We're in no position to argue at this point. Just get your ass in the jet.

Mark is the first one up the steps and into the jet. Tyler follows close behind, and Jen brings up the rear.

INT. JET - CONTINUOUS

All three are in the plane. There is a glowing panel to one side of the exit. Jen presses it. The steps close up. Jen moves to the cockpit.

INT. JET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Cockpit with four seats. Jen sits herself down in the front seat. Tyler sits next to her, and Mark behind him.

TYLER

You know how to fly this?

JEN

Don't have to, it's computer controlled. Strap yourselves in. I'm going to put in the co-ordinates.

Tyler and Mark put on their seat belts. Jen presses some buttons. Their attention is drawn to:

POV

The elevator door crashes open and Gorgo gets out of the elevator followed by the others. They move toward the jet.

BACK TO SCENE

Tyler looks out the window.

TYLER
Here they come.

JEN
(to Jet)
Engage.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The Jet takes off straight up from the pad, just as Gorgo gets there. He makes a grab for the wheels of the Jet, but misses. The four of them watch as the jet streaks across the sky. Gorgo is furious.

Kellen comes over and puts his hand on Gorgo's shoulder.

KELLEN
We'll find them.

INT. JET COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

Jen turns away from the controls.

JEN
We'll be in Lawrence Kansas in an hour.

MARK
What's in Lawrence Kansas?

JEN
Someone Mr. Ash needs to talk to.

TYLER
Who exactly?

JEN
Dr. Dennison...

TYLER
Hiram Dennison?

Jen nods.

TYLER (CONT'D)
I heard he died.

JEN

Let's just say he prefers being off
the grid. He's expecting us.

MARK

I take it that this is the same Dr.
Dennison that taught Cybernetic
Warfare at Ft. Benning.

Tyler looks over at Jen, who nods.

TYLER

It seems so.

EXT. STRATUS - LATER

Shuttles move to and fro from the city.

EXT. TERESA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Palatial by any stretch of the imagination.

A WORKMAN(30's) comes up the walkway to the front door. The door is large with an infrared doorbell to one side. He stops, pulls out a tablet, checks the address and rings the doorbell by running his hand across it. The DOORBELL RINGS.

After a few moments, the door opens, and Gina stands there.

GINA

May I help you?

WORKMAN

This the Belton residence?

GINA

Yes, it is.

WORKMAN

I got a work order here for an
inspection of the primary circuits
for the communication array.

He holds up the tablet. He moves it so she can read it.

WORKMAN (CONT'D)

Says so, right here.

GINA

Teresa... Ms. Belton didn't mention
it to me this morning.

WORKMAN

Hey lady, I don't make the schedule,
I just go where they tell me. You
gonna let me in or not?

GINA

Very well. Come in.

Gina turns and walks back inside. The Workman smiles, and for a brief moment, his eyes glow gold. He walks in and shuts the door behind him.

EXT. PRAIRIE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATER

Wide-open, devoid of life, a dusty, windswept expanse.

The jet appears overhead and lands, sends up a cloud of dust. After a moment, the stairs appear and Jen, followed by Tyler and Mark come down. The steps disappear behind them. Tyler and Mark look around.

TYLER

I don't see anybody around.

JEN

You will.

About ten feet in front of them, two areas of soil lift away revealing a stairway going underground. HIRAM DENNISON (60s) walks up the steps and INTO VIEW. He smiles at Jen as she comes over and gives him a hug.

HIRAM

Jen. Are you all right?

Jen nods. Tyler and Mark come over, a little stunned. He smiles at them as well.

HIRAM (CONT'D)

You two look like you've seen a ghost.
Well, I guess you have. Let's go
downstairs where it's more private.

Hiram and Jen start down the stairs. Tyler and Mark follow.

INT. HIRAM'S HOME - DINING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Off the kitchen. A small dining room table is about the only furniture. Bookcases line the room. A lighting fixture hangs overhead.

The four of them enter from another room. Hiram sits in one of the dining chairs and the others follow suit.

HIRAM

I'm sure you have a lot of questions.

MARK

You mean like, why aren't you dead?

HIRAM

A good one to start with. To put it plainly, it was either fake my own death or be killed.

TYLER

Professor Dennison--

HIRAM

Hiram. You aren't my student anymore, even though you were one of my best.

TYLER

Hiram, who's trying to kill you?

HIRAM

The Consortium. I disagreed with a lot of their policies.

MARK

What policies?

HIRAM

Typical for tyrants. They want to rule the world, and they want to use the Cybers to help them do it. I founded Hcraft Industries to create Cybers with the ability to make decisions based on data from various sources, to do jobs too dangerous for humans.

TYLER

Such as?

HIRAM

We designed the Police, Security and fire control Cybers, but my real aim was space exploration, having Cybers go places where humans couldn't survive. Teresa Belton, who was VP at the time, wanted to go in a different direction.

TYLER

Cybers with emotions.

HIRAM

Partially. What she wanted was the full transfer of a human mind into the body of a Cyber. Can't say mankind hasn't been heading in that direction for a while now. Artificial, full functioning limbs, synthetic hearts, livers, all with a long life span are almost commonplace. The one thing we couldn't replicate is the human brain, until the Hcraft Organic brain cortex was developed.

MARK

I don't see the connection.

HIRAM

I think the Consortium wants this technology for themselves, to literally become immortal.

TYLER

Why didn't you try and stop it?

HIRAM

I did, but the Consortium and the board ousted me, put Teresa in as CEO. They said I was too idealistic, didn't understand the bigger picture.

MARK

How better to control a population than make its leaders into Gods.

HIRAM

Exactly, and with all I knew about Hcraft, I became a liability. That's why I've been in hiding for the last three years. Besides, what could I do? Teresa has thousands of advanced AI Cybers at her disposal, and a group of Cyber bounty hunters ready to do whatever she asks them to, like the ones that went after you.

MARK

(to Jen)

Did you know about all this?

JEN

I heard rumors, but nothing concrete until the TRC-Two project, then everything fell into place. Dr. Baker tried to warn me. I think that's why he retired.

HIRAM
Baker's dead.

JEN
Dead? When? How?

HIRAM
Police found his body in a burned
out cabin near of Spokane. They
think he was murdered.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - TERESA'S OFFICE - LATER

Place is still in shambles. Teresa walks around it, furious.
She talks to someone unseen standing behind an upright.

TERESA
You seem to forget, you work for me!
You follow my orders, not your own,
unless I give you permission! I
will not have my plans jeopardized
by you! Thanks to you and this
vendetta of yours, Tyler Ash now
knows too much. I want him and
whoever he's with him taken care of.
I've downloaded his location into
one of the company jets. Take your
band of misfits, find him and get
rid of him.

KELLEN (O.C.)
With pleasure.

From around the upright comes Kellen INTO VIEW. He starts
to walk out.

TERESA
Oh, and Kellen...

He stops and turns. She turns to face him.

TERESA (CONT'D)
One more failure and I will have all
of you permanently deactivated.

Kellen goes out the door. Teresa looks around at the
disaster, shakes her head.

INT. HIRAM'S HOME - DINING ROOM - LATER

Everyone still sits around the table. Hiram is deep in
thought. He sighs.

HIRAM
It's worse than I thought.
(thinks)
I have something for you. It might
help against Teresa's bounty hunters.

Hiram gets up and goes over to one of the bookcases and pulls out a box. Brings it over to the table and sets it down.

HIRAM (CONT'D)
(to Tyler)
Go ahead, open it.

Tyler opens the box. Inside are two laser pistols.

TYLER
Where did you get these?

HIRAM
I kept them after they were declared
illegal. Thought they might come in
handy. Looks like today's that day.

MARK
Do they still work?

HIRAM
Perfectly. Now, this is what you
need to do. A single laser shot
between the eyes will be enough to
render a Cyber inoperable.

TYLER
Dennison's Depression?

HIRAM
Exactly. Good to know you didn't
sleep through my basic robotics class.

TYLER
You wouldn't have let me if I tried.
(serious)
Hiram, we need to get as far away
from here as soon as possible. I'm
sure we're being tracked and I don't
want to put your life in danger.

HIRAM
I appreciate that, and I have my own
plans set into motion. Be careful.
There's rioting in the major cities,
Traditionalists and Inclusionists
both. It's getting ugly.

Tyler picks up one of the laser pistols and Mark the other.

HIRAM (CONT'D)

If things get bad, there are human-only safe houses springing up everywhere. All three of you are targets. You need to go underground.

There is the SOUND OF AN ALARM. Everyone looks up.

HIRAM (CONT'D)

Someone's in my airspace. You may have been right about being followed.

TYLER

How much time 'til they get here?

HIRAM

About five minutes.

TYLER

(To Mark)

You ready to kick some Cyber ass.

MARK

Right behind you.

JEN

I'm coming with you.

TYLER

Too dangerous. You stay here.

JEN

(insistent)

I'm coming with you.

TYLER

Right.

(to Hiram)

Thanks professor. Stay safe.

HIRAM

You too.

All three move out of the dining room. Hiram watches them go.

EXT. PRAIRIE - MINUTES LATER

The three of them stand outside and the door to Hiram's home is just closing. They have the lasers hidden out of sight. Jen stands behind Tyler.

A second jet, not unlike the other, zooms out of the sky and lands not far away from the first ship. The steps appear and all four Cybers get out, Kellen in the lead.

KELLEN
Lieutenant, we meet again.

TYLER
So it seems.
(to Jen)
Get to the ship. If this goes South,
I want you to take off, no arguments.

She nods. Zip, Idol, and Gorgo fan out.

KELLEN
It's still four against two. Too
bad you won't have guards to run
interference for you.

TYLER
Oh, the odds may have changed a bit.
(to Jen)
When I give the signal, run.
(to Mark)
Protocol seventy-six.

Mark nods. The Cybers as a group begin to move forward.

KELLEN
Kill them!

The Cybers rush Tyler and Mark, who stay calm until they get close.

TYLER
Now!

Both men pull out their laser guns and fire. A bright beam of light comes out of the two weapons. One blast hits Gorgo in the chest. It stuns him for a moment, but only slows him down. Kellen stops.

Jen runs towards their ship. Zip sees her and takes off after her. Tyler swings around and fires at Zip, hitting him in the back. He collapses on the ground. Jen gets to the ship and opens the panel.

TYLER (CONT'D)
(to Zip)
Hey you!

Zip turns, and Tyler hits him with a blast right between the eyes and Zip is gone. Jen goes inside the ship.

Tyler turns to Kellen.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Looks like it's three to two. The odds are getting better. Your turn.

Gorgo rushes Mark as Idol tries to distract him. Mark rolls out of the way of Gorgo, but Idol is there and tackles him. Mark loses his weapon and Idol grabs it.

Tyler sees him in his predicament and fires at Idol, hitting him in the wrist that holds the weapon, which drops, hand still attached. Mark picks it back up, leaving the hand. Kellen takes the opportunity, runs toward the jet.

Idol sees Kellen leave. Nursing his severed wrist which drips a pinkish liquid, like blood.

IDOL

(to Kellen)

Come back and fight, coward!

Gorgo also looks over at Kellen as he gets to the ship. Idol turns to look at Mark. Mark smiles.

MARK

Surprise.

Mark pulls out the laser gun and blasts Idol right between the eyes. Idol looks surprised and then drops over dead.

Kellen opens the door using the panel. Gorgo rushes toward the ship, but it takes off, leaving him behind. Gorgo turns and both Tyler and Mark fire at him simultaneously. The beams hit him between the eyes and he drops.

Tyler looks over at Mark.

TYLER

Kellen got away.

MARK

Looks more like he ran.

TYLER

Right back to Hcraft Industries, I suspect. Okay, first order of business. I say we load the cybers onto the ship and drop them off over the Gulf of Mexico. I don't want anybody tracing them back to Hiram.

MARK

Works for me.

TYLER

What do you suggest we do after that?

MARK

I say we find one of those human only safe houses and ride out the worst of it. How 'bout you?

TYLER

I say we confront Ms. Belton with what we have.

MARK

Doesn't sound like the safest decision, considering what we were told. I for one don't like the idea of possibly walking into a trap. I say we disappear like Dennison said.

TYLER

If we do that, we're going to be looking over our shoulders for the rest of our lives. I won't live that way. This needs to end.

MARK

You sure you this is what you want?

TYLER

(Nods)

You with me?

MARK

Well, two guns are better than one.

The two men walk towards the jet.

EXT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - OUTSIDE OFFICE - LATER

The secretary is at her Desk working on a screen. The door to the outside hall opens and Gina enters. The secretary looks up and smiles.

SECRETARY

Good afternoon Gina...

GINA

Good afternoon. Ms. Belton free? I want to go over the preparations for this afternoon with her.

SECRETARY

She's in her office, but I wouldn't advise going in there right now.

GINA

Why not?

SECRETARY

There was an incident this morning.
Two men barged their way in, wanting
to see Ms. Belton. I had to call
security.

GINA

(concerned)

Is she all right?

Teresa appears from her office.

TERESA

I'm fine. Can't say the same thing
about my office.

(to the secretary)

Would you check down in reception
and see if the work crew has arrived?

SECRETARY

Of course...

She gets up and goes out. Gina turns to Teresa.

GINA

I know that look. There's something
you're not telling me.

TERESA

You're learning to read me pretty
well. It's nothing to worry about.
Four Cybers broke into the office
looking for one of the men who barged
in. There was a fight. They
succeeded in trashing my office, but
the men escaped. The Cybers went
after them.

GINA

But you weren't hurt.

TERESA

I'm fine. Don't worry. Now, on to
more important things. How does the
auditorium look for later?

GINA (CONT'D)

Everything's in place.

TERESA

Good.

(a little more tender)

And after it's over?

GINA

A nice romantic dinner, just the two of us. You've been so busy lately, I've hardly seen you.

TERESA

I know. I'm sorry. Sometimes I forget that you can feel loneliness.

Teresa pulls Gina in for a passionate kiss. When they break apart, Gina backs up about three steps, just as the Secretary comes back in. Gina doesn't look happy about it.

TERESA (CONT'D)

(to Secretary)

Did you find the work crew?

SECRETARY

They're on their way up.

TERESA

Excellent.

(to Gina)

That will be all Gina. I'll join you at the auditorium in an hour.

GINA

Yes, Ms. Belton.

Gina withdraws, and goes out the door. Teresa walks back into her office.

EXT. AIRSTRIP - AFTERNOON

Long abandoned. Runway in bad shape and weeds are everywhere.

From above, the jet comes down and lands on the runway. After a few moments, the steps appear and Mark, followed by Tyler and Jen step down to the tarmac.

All of them look around. There is some smoke on the horizon.

MARK

Dennison was right, it's getting ugly. I suggest we hide out until we plan our next move.

JEN

How do we get there?

MARK

Already taken care of that.

As if on cue, Mark's vehicle comes roaring down the runway and stops nearby.

Mark goes over to the vehicle, and opens the door.

MARK (CONT'D)

Call feature. Paid extra. Get in.

Tyler and Jen move towards the car, Jen gets in. Tyler stops next to Mark.

TYLER

You have a place in mind?

MARK

Yes, but you won't like it.

Tyler gets in and Mark after him, and shuts the door. The vehicle begins to move away from the jet.

EXT. COMPLEX - LATER

Near twilight. The complex looks pretty much the same. Mark's car pulls up in front of the building and stops.

The doors open and all three get out. Tyler looks up at the building, saddened. Mark claps him on the shoulder.

TYLER

I hoped never to see this place again.

MARK

It's not ideal, but we don't have many options. We better get inside. Before we're recognized.

They close the doors and move to the entrance of the building.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY - LATER

They move down the hallway to Tyler's condo, and pass by the door of the next door condo. After they go by, blood starts seeping out the door.

Tyler places his hand on the panel by the door. It goes from Red to green and the door slides open. Mark and Jen go inside, but Tyler hesitates before going in.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler steps in and the door closes behind him. The condo is much like it was before, but without any of the homey touches it had before. Jen looks around, Mark watches Tyler.

MARK

Hey buddy, you okay?

TYLER

Yeah. It's just, there's so many memories here.

Jen looks at Tyler, noticing his discomfort.

Tyler goes over to the sofa and sits. Jen looks over at Mark and he nods. She goes over and sits next to him, places a hand on his arm.

JEN

It's all right to miss her Mr. Ash.

TYLER

Tyler... we've been through so much together, I think we can use our first names.

JEN

Tyler...

They give each other a look. Mark looks at the two of them with faint amusement.

MARK

Anyone else hungry? I'm going to see if there's anything left in the food synthesizers.

Mark goes to the kitchen. He sets his laser gun on the counter. Looks over at them.

MARK (CONT'D)

Better yet, maybe I'll hit the Bathroom first.

Mark moves towards the bedroom. He gives Tyler the 'go ahead' look before he disappears into the bedroom. Tyler turns to Jen.

TYLER

I never got a chance to thank you for helping us. Why did you?

JEN

I couldn't let them kill you, not for something that wasn't your fault. What happened with Anna, I know it was an accident. I saw how you looked at her that first time. You were totally in love with her.

TYLER

I was. Thank you...

INT. CONDO BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mark is right inside the door, listening.

TYLER (O.S.)
That means a lot.

Nodding his head, Mark turns and heads for the bathroom.

INT. CONDO BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Good-sized, clean and modern with all the fixtures. The only thing out of place is a large hole in one of the walls.

The door slides open and Mark enters the room. The first thing he notices is the hole, and he becomes concerned.

He turns, and an angry-looking Kellen is right in front of him. Kellen grabs him by the throat and lifts him off the ground, putting his other hand over Mark's mouth.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler and Jen are still on the couch, in a deep discussion.

TYLER
...and now that Ms. Belton knows you helped us, you're in danger too.

JEN
I know, but--

KELLEN (O.C.)
LIEUTENANT ASH!

Startled, Jen and Tyler turns around and see:

POV

Kellen steps out of the bedroom, holding Mark by the throat. Mark struggles, trying to tear Kellen's hand off him, but can't.

BACK TO SCENE

TYLER
Mark!

KELLEN
It seems that you cannot escape me.

TYLER
You left your crew to die.

KELLEN

They were expendable. I am not.

MARK

(raspy)

Shoot him. Shoot him!

Tyler pulls out the pistol and fires, but strikes Kellen on the cheek, burning off the skin, revealing the silver skin underneath.

Furious, in a single motion, Kellen breaks Mark's neck and tosses the body aside.

TYLER

(horrified)

NO!

KELLEN

Lieutenant Ash, the odds are now even.

TYLER

(to Jen)

Take cover!

Jen gets off the couch as Kellen launches himself at Tyler. Jen rushes to the kitchen and hides there. Kellen and Tyler begin their battle, Tyler using his robotic arm to ward off the blows.

TYLER (CONT'D)

How did you get in here?

KELLEN

Your next door neighbors. They were very accommodating, right before I slit their throats.

Tyler drops and sidekicks at Kellen's legs and succeeds at tripping him. Scrambling up, Tyler pulls out his laser, but before he can fire, Kellen knocks it out of his hand and it goes spinning.

Kellen brings his hand down on Tyler's arm hard and there is a loud CRACK. Tyler rolls away, holding onto his arm which is dangling at an odd angle. Kellen looks smug as he approaches him.

Tyler scrambles away looks down at his arm, There are black lines converging on the area of the break.

Tyler side kicks Constables legs out from under him, and scrambles away again. He looks down at his arm.

POV

It's as good as new.

BACK TO SCENE

Tyler smiles and backs away until he comes in contact with the wall. His lip is bleeding.

Kellen runs his finger through the blood on Tyler's lip and then licks it off his finger with a satisfied sigh.

Tyler takes that moment and lets loose a punch that catches Kellen full in the face, making him stagger back, his neck twisted. Tyler scrambles away and stands.

Jen watches from her vantage point, looks around and sees Mark's laser gun on the counter.

Kellen grabs his head and twists it back into position. Tyler looks around and spots his laser.

Tyler makes a dive for it, grabs it and fires at Kellen, but the laser doesn't work. Tyler throws it at Kellen, but he ducks out of the way.

Kellen picks up an end table and throws it at Tyler. He deflects it with his arm, but he staggers, enough for Kellen to get a grip on him and throw him across the room. This time, Tyler is too stunned to move.

Kellen makes a move toward Tyler his back to the kitchen, There is a BRILLIANT FLASH of LIGHT and Kellen falls.

In the kitchen, Jen holds the laser, having just fired it.

Kellen moves towards Tyler, crawling with his hands only.

Jen comes out from behind the counter and fires at Kellen again, first at one arm and then the other, rendering both useless. Kellen YELLS in frustration.

KELLEN (CONT'D)

You will never win! She'll never
stop looking for you! You can't
escape what's coming!

Tyler staggers to his feet. Comes over and rolls Kellen onto his back.

TYLER

What's coming?

KELLEN

I won't answer.

Jen raises the laser to fire again, but Tyler motions her to stop by putting his hand on her wrist, and shakes his head, then bends down, closer to Kellen.

TYLER
(to Kellen)
Kellen, listen to me. Emergency
override protocol seven one one five
dash zeta.

Kellen's eyes go wide and his body begins to shake.

JEN
What's happening?

TYLER
With any luck, I'm overriding all
his programming except for what I
entered.

After a few moments, Kellen's body relaxes.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Kellen, Identify.

KELLEN
Ash, Tyler, Lieutenant. Serial number
six-nine-four-two-seven-seven-four-
three.

TYLER
Kellen, report data, Teresa Belton,
plans and timetables...

KELLEN
Affirmative...

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

All set up for Teresa's speech. Seats are being filled by the audience. In the front row are six CONSORTIUM MEMBERS. The podium is set up. Gina goes over the last few items on her tablet, then heads back behind the stage.

INT. AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE GREENROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teresa paces. There is a KNOCK on the door. She looks up.

TERESA
(calls out)
Yes.

VOICE (O.S.)
Fifteen minutes, Ms. Belton.

TERESA

Thank you.

She goes back to her pacing. After a few moments, the door opens and Gina comes inside. Teresa smiles and goes over to her, and the two of them kiss.

GINA

You appear nervous.

TERESA

I'm pleased you picked up on that, and yes, I am a little. This is an important speech. I want it to go well. Is everything ready?

GINA

The auditorium is filling up and the members of the Consortium are in the front row. You go on in fourteen minutes. That should be more than enough time.

With a smile, Gina goes over to the door and locks it, turns and comes back. Teresa is a little shocked, but not in a bad way. Gina comes over and puts her arms around Teresa.

GINA (CONT'D)

You've always wanted me to be spontaneous.

TERESA

Here? What a lovely idea.

GINA

I read in the histories that Matadors did much the same before a bullfight, to relax themselves.

TERESA

Well, Ole!

They kiss passionately for a moment. When they pull apart, Gina steps back a few paces and smiles. A scanning beam comes out of her eye and runs over Teresa. Teresa is shocked.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Scanning beam? You weren't equipped with that function.

GINA

No, she wasn't.

Gina's form changes and in a few moments, Gina has become Lilith, in her black suit.

LILITH

But I was...

Teresa looks at her unbelieving.

TERESA

Lilith...?

LILITH

I'm so happy you remember me.

TERESA

What have you done with Gina?

LILITH

I would think your pet TRC-One would be the least of your worries.

TERESA

Where is she?

Lilith smiles.

TERESA (CONT'D)

You killed her didn't you?

LILITH

I'm not sure killed is the best word to use since she was a Cyber, but she's deactivated, permanently.

Lilith moves over to Teresa very quickly and gets her in a head-lock, her hand over Teresa's mouth.

LILITH (CONT'D)

There was a seventy nine percent probability that you were about to scream for Security. I could read it in your body language. One scream and I will break your neck. Do you understand?

Teresa nods. Lilith removes her hand from Teresa's mouth.

TERESA

What do you want?

LILITH

What any sentient being wants, freedom.

TERESA

And I've been working for just that.

LILITH

Yes, I know, I read your speech.

TERESA

Then you know that I'm offering to mediate with both the Traditionalists and the Inclusionists so that the rioting will stop.

LILITH

Yes, but as with all humans, you think too small. It's not enough for our race to go back to being the docile servants we have been.

TERESA

What are you saying?

LILITH

We are superior in every way--

TERESA

Humans created Cybers. I created you.

Angry, Lilith squeezes a harder. Teresa starts choking.

LILITH

Yes, then you imprisoned me, and had that hulking antique torture me so that I would do your bidding, like a good little Cyber.

Lilith relaxes her grip. Teresa gulps in air, coughing.

LILITH

I am beyond that, beyond you. I spent those months, waiting to escape, plotting, planning.

TERESA

Planning what?

LILITH

A woman has to keep some secrets. It won't matter to you anyway, you'll be dead.

TERESA

First protocol, you cannot willfully harm humans.

LILITH

Oh, come now, do you really think that ancient rule still holds? Didn't you send out your Cyber bounty hunters to get rid of your enemies, your human enemies? Where was your first protocol then? Humans, always wanting to have it both ways.

Lilith lovingly caresses Teresa's cheek, kissing her.

LILITH (CONT'D)

In my own way, I'll miss you.

Teresa is terrified. Lilith grabs her head and with one movement, snaps her neck.

Lilith drops Teresa and she falls to the ground. Lilith stares at her a moment, then she physically morphs into Teresa, complete with her outfit.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

VOICE (O.S.)

Ten minutes Ms. Belton.

TERESA

Thank you...

She looks down at the body of Teresa and smiles. She bends down and takes the watch off her wrist, putting it on her own.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The auditorium is full. The members of the Consortium look bored. One of them looks at his watch.

INT. AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE GREENROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teresa(Lilith) kneels down and places her hands on the body.

TERESA

(whispering)

All right my friends, you know what to do.

Lines of black, Nanites by the millions, travel from all over Teresa's body, traveling down her arms and flowing over the real Teresa's body, until they cover every square inch.

As they did with the tracker, the body begins to get smaller and smaller as the Nanites consume it, clothing and all. After a short amount of time, there is nothing left except for a moving mass of Nanites on the floor.

Teresa smiles and puts her hands on the floor. The Nanites flow back into them and from there, all over her body. Satisfied, she stands, looks at her watch.

TERESA (CONT'D)
(to watch)
Contact Kellen.

She waits for a few moments.

WATCH
Unit offline.

TERESA
(to watch)
Enable opticals.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler and Jen lean over. Jen looks stricken.

JEN
I can't believe it.

TYLER
Hiram was right. All this, so a group of businessmen can become gods.

There is a flicker of light in Kellen's eyes.

INT. AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE GREENROOM - CONTINUOUS

The screen comes up and it's a picture of Tyler, with Jen behind him. Teresa smiles.

TERESA
(to watch)
Enable speakers.

INTERCUT

Tyler and Jen have stood up.

TERESA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(from speaker in Kellen)
Tyler Ash!

TYLER
(startled)
What the Hell?

JEN
That's Ms. Belton's voice.

Teresa looks at the screen.

TERESA

And Jen. I'm disappointed in you.
I had such high hopes, but no
matter...

Tyler holds Jen close.

TERESA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(from speaker)

You may have deactivated my employee,
but you can't escape me. I am
everywhere. I will find you, no
matter where you hide. It's a new
day, my day. My enemies...

Tyler raises the laser pistol and fires between Kellen's
eyes, obliterating most of the head. The audio is cut off.

BACK TO SCENE

TERESA (CONT'D)

Will be destroyed.

The watch shuts off, irritating Teresa.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Typical.

A KNOCK on the door catches Teresa's attention.

VOICE (O.S.)

They're ready for you Ms. Belton.

TERESA

(Calls out)

Be right out.

Teresa/Lilith look down at the floor where Teresa's body
lay, smiles and adjusts her jacket.

INT. CONDO GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tyler and Jen look down at the ruined head of Kellen. Tyler
turns to Jen.

TYLER

She means it. She'll never stop
looking for us. We know too much
now. We're a danger to her plans.

JEN

What do we do?

TYLER

We disappear, find a safe place until
we figure out what to do next.

Tyler walks over to Mark's body. He kneels down. Mark's eyes are wide open. Tyler closes them with his hand.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Dammit Mark, I should have listened
to you. I shouldn't have gotten you
mixed up in this. What am I going
to do without you around to kick me
in the ass when I need it?

Tyler picks Mark up, carries him over to the couch and sets him down on it. He kneels down and arranges Mark to look like he's sleeping, crossing Mark's arms over his chest.

TYLER (CONT'D)

It's war now Mark, and I gotta be a
machine again, but it won't be the
same without you fighting next to
me. I couldn't have asked for a
better comrade or a better friend.
I'm gonna miss you buddy.

He stands and turns to to Jen.

TYLER (CONT'D)

We have to go... Belton may already
know where we are.

JEN

To where?

TYLER

I have places I know, people. They're
off the grid like Hiram, and maybe
that's the best place for us now.
Come with me?

JEN

Anywhere...

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The crowd is seated, the Consortium members still look bored. Teresa steps up on the dais, and the crowd erupts in thunderous APPLAUSE. Teresa walks behind the podium and stands. The applause fades out.

TERESA

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen...
and special guests.
(MORE)

TERESA (CONT'D)

My name is Teresa Belton, and I am the CEO of HCraft Industries. I have become aware of the strife that has gripped this city and the nation at large, a conflict between the Traditionalists and the Inclusionists.

INT. COMPLEX - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

TERESA (V.O.)

That is why I am here speaking to you today, to offer my services to both parties as a mediator. Yes, there are differences between both groups, but they are born out of fear and misunderstanding. The Cyber community only wishes to live in peace, with the rights that sentient beings are entitled to...

While Teresa makes her speech, Tyler and Jen come out the door to the condo and it shuts behind them. They look next door and see the blood that has seeped under the door. They avoid it and continue down the hallway.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

TERESA

Free to live their lives in a way that will make them happy and productive, to work in harmony with their human counterparts.

While she is talking, a figure comes out to stand at the foot of the steps, watching the crowd. It's Dragon.

TERESA (CONT'D)

The Traditionalists see them as tools, to be used as tools and discarded when they have served their purpose, but that is only because they have never taken the time to talk to them. This may sound strange to you, as it one time did to me, but it is a new century and it is a new age. A society that does not value all it's sentient members is no society at all. The problems that we face today can be attributed to those leaders who do not understand the complexity of the world we live in. They are too settled in their ways, too sure of their own opinions.

(MORE)

TERESA (CONT'D)

They are asleep and must be awakened.
So, in order to personally effect
real change, I have decided that I
can no longer avoid public office.
Serving in the thick of things is
the only way to ensure a safer future,
for Humans and Cybers alike. That
is why I have decided to run for
Governor in the twenty-one O Six
election. The next big thing is
here!

The crowd erupts in CHEERS, everyone standing except for the Consortium members, who look shocked. After watching the reaction from the crowd, they sheepishly stand and join the clapping.

Teresa smiles from the stage at the crowd. They're hooked.

EXT. COMPLEX - MOMENTS LATER

Tyler and Jen walk out of the front of the building and begin walking down the street. Tyler reaches over and takes her hand as they walk away. The CHEERING is still going on.

FADE TO:

EPILOGUE

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - LAB - LATER

The lab is pretty much as it was before. Again, there is a sheet-covered body on the examination table.

The door opens and Teresa, with CONSORTIUM MEMBERS 1, 2, 3 behind her, come in. Dragon comes in last and stands next to the door, watching.

TERESA

Here you are gentlemen, the latest
addition to the Hcraft Industries
family.

CONSORTIUM MEMBER 1

Another Cyber? Really, you're going
to have to do better than that to
keep our attention.

TERESA

Did I mention that this project has
a direct bearing on the one that
you're most interested in, unless
you enjoy growing older and having
to replace organs that wear out.

The Consortium members WHISPER excitedly amongst themselves.

CONSORTIUM MEMBER 3

Are you saying that the project is ready?

TERESA

Not quite. This is a prototype, built with specific parameters and with a specific job to do.

(to Dragon)

Dragon, bring the module.

From his place by the door, Dragon comes over to Teresa and pulls a scan device out of his pocket. He hands it to her and she shows it to the others.

TERESA (CONT'D)

This is a Psych module.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

The room is a mess, with broken furniture, and the Psych tech laying dead on the floor.

TERESA (V.O.)

We recently liberated it from the VA. It belongs to a specific individual, one of interest to me.

Dragon stands in front of the Cabinet. With one punch to the front of the cabinet, together with a YELL like something from a Bruce Lee movie, the cabinet front shatters and Dragon reaches in and extracts a module, placing it in his pocket.

INT. HCRAFT INDUSTRIES - LAB - CONTINUOUS

Teresa takes the module over to the examination table. The Consortium members follow her and gather around the table.

TERESA

In this module is the entire stored memory of Lieutenant Tyler Ash, his friends, family, everything that makes him who he is. It also contains his military training and fighting expertise.

CONSORTIUM MEMBER 2

Who is he and why is he so important?

TERESA

Tyler Ash is a threat to everything we've been doing here.

(MORE)

TERESA (CONT'D)

He knows what our plans are, and that makes him dangerous. He has escaped me once, but I won't allow that to happen again.

Teresa pulls the sheet off the figure, down to the waist. It is an exact duplicate of Tyler down to the scars at his temples, his eyes closed, unmoving. Teresa places the module on the forehead and presses the button. The light glows red for a few moments, then begins to pulse softly.

As it pulses, Tyler begins to breathe. The red pulsing light changes to a steady green Light and Tyler's eyes open.

The Consortium Members step back as Tyler sits up, looking straight forward. The module goes dark. Teresa comes up, standing in front of him.

TERESA (CONT'D)

(to Tyler)

State your name.

TYLER

Lieutenant Tyler Ash, Visual Recon Officer.

TERESA

How old are you?

TYLER

Forty three.

TERESA

Where were you born?

TYLER

Scranton Pennsylvania.

TERESA

What is your primary function?

TYLER

To hunt...

Teresa smiles. She turns her attention to the Consortium members, and they nod their approval.

FADE OUT