

The Strings' Machine

By

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1 BEGINNING OF CREDITS

EXT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. DAY.

3 VIDEO IMAGES OF A VERDICT ABSOLVING CEO DIMITRI FROM GUILT  
IN3

THE LAWSUIT INVOLVING OIL CONTAMINATION. PEOPLE PROTESTING  
AGAINST IT. WE SEE A LOT OF JOHN FAWKES'S MASKS.

EXT. TAHRIR SQUARE. DAY.

Video images of a huge crowd. Protesters show big cartons  
against the government's decision to clean energy projects.

Bearded guy shouts furiously against corruption in the  
system.

EXT. PAULISTA AVENUE. DAY.

Thousands of people protesting against the latest oil  
scandal. Smoke bombs explode, creating a white mist.

People run. Police squadrons chase the protesters.

EXT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. DAY.

A group of police officers, protected by shield and helmets,  
use vigorously black clubs to attack two protesters on the  
floor.

EXT. NEW YORK. DAY.

A group of people in bathing suits protest in front of an oil  
company building. They have crude oil smeared all over their  
bodies.

8 END OF CREDITS

1- EXT. FIELD. NIGHT.

Daniel climbs up alone the slope with very cautious steps. A  
white mist starts to round up the surroundings.

As he advances , the mist grows thicker and thicker.

Then comes the moment when Daniel doesn't see anything anymore. Instinctively, he begins to come down the

slope , taking extra care not to slip and break up some ribs in the process.

The mist starts to dissolve progressively in a very high speed. When the vision is practically crystal-clear, we find Daniel facing an elegant mini-cemetery rectangular-shaped, containing about thirty tombstones.

Curious, he crouches to read the inscription on one of those tombstones. Here is what is engraved in this one: DANIEL MANN- 1971-20011.

Daniel, took by a frenzy, starts walking very rapidly through the other tombstones. They're all the same. All have his name and same birth and death dates.

Daniel is attracted to a particular tombstone with a metal shovel lying beside it. As soon as he comes closer, he realizes that the ground has been properly dug up, but there is nobody buried in there.

Taking a false step, Daniel slips dramatically and finds himself inside the place where it is supposed to be the dead body.

Daniel tries to get out, but chunks of dry land fall into his eyes. Three identical Daniels are throwing dirt in his eyes.

Sadistic smiles on their faces, the three turn hellish red simultaneously. Sparks of fire replace their pupils. With his eyes covered ,our Daniel lets out a desperate howl of despair. An incandescent yellow light invades his body.

2 INT. APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Around the DNA-ladder, we find many yellow stripes, stretched all over the living room, with the title - DO NOT TRESPASS.

Moving up to the cellar, we crash into a scene of total devastation. Everything is dark, covered in ruins of a "once upon a time there was a lab science". At the back of the room, the two rods lie with half of its chords severed.

We look at the refreshments machine , unplugged from its socket. Dusty and lifeless, the frontal plastic screen is a blank. At the back of the machine, we see a little black cylinder .

The little black cylinder ignites a red light at this moment.

The machine turns on immediately. A yellow light from the display appears and blinks.

The virtual keyboard appears. The system itself types some letters, forming the words BACK-UP PROGRAM. At the completion of this particular phase, all the lights lit up at the cellar-lab.

3 EXT. APARTMENT. NIGHT.

The solar energy device starts to move. The glass panel is in full motion now. Afterwards, we see the glass sliding to the right, doubling its size.

12 4 -INT. APARTMENT. NIGHT.

The rods start to heat up and vibrate intensely. The measure of energy generated is considerably superior than any other previously used.

At the core of this heat and energy presentation, a white light takes form. We note a human figure developing itself in an obvious fetal position.

At the machine's screen, a rectangle with the estimated time for download is filled with red diagonal stripes.

5- EXT. APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Two columns of solar panels find themselves in a super-high state of tension. After a few seconds of fissures fragments the whole structure implodes.

6- INT. APARTMENT. NIGHT.

The light and heat spectacle stops suddenly. On screen we see that the red download line is complete.

7- INT. APARTMENT. DAY.

Sleepy and sit in fetal position, we see DANIEL, a man in his mid-thirties, brown hair and pale skin. He is completely naked. Sparse sun-rays penetrate the attic, illuminating the dusty and somber environment.

Daniel opens his eyes. He stretches his body lazily and finally gets up. His nakedness provoke a sincere look of bewilderment.

He observes the yellow CRIME SCENE stripes with bewilderment.

He walks tentatively. He finds his way to the bathroom.

8- INT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Daniel stares at the MIRROR above the sink. Startled, he touches his face, like he doesn't recognize his face at all.

9- INT. APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Properly dressed now, he walks towards the mini table.

There is a big bracelet lying on it. It's a digital watch with 4cm LCD screen. Daniel grabs it and puts it on his hand.

Stuck on a wall, a black and white picture of Albert Einstein. Daniel walks to the table. His shoelaces are untied.

Daniel sits on a table. There's a coffee machine with coffee inside. All of a sudden, the TV set and the coffee machine turn on.

REPORTER

Still no suspect in sight in the investigation of Daniel Mann. The brutal murder took place a week ago in his apartment. The detective in charge spoke briefly to the press.

A profile photo of the victim is shown on TV. It's a different face from our Daniel. Detective Tony appears surrounded by a sea of mikes.

TONY

We're working hard. We'll catch Daniel's killer. You can be sure of that.

Daniel sips his coffee. He puts his hand on the back pocket of his jeans. He removes a magnetic card with the inscription MICHAEL-DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH and the address below. It's an Oil company.

Daniel looks now at a second paper. It's a google map of the city's outskirts with a red pin at its center. Beside it is written Oficial Residence. He looks bewildered at it.

Daniel leaves the apartment hastily. He falls hard on the floor.

EXT. APARTMENT. DAY.

Daniel leaves the building in a hurry. We see the intercom buttons and apartment numbers until the twelfth floor. At this time, the button indicating the twelfth floor apartment starts to become transparent until it completely disappears.

He passes by Miguel, the beggar with torn clothes and disheveled hair. Miguel stretches his hand as soon as Daniel appears before him.

MIGUEL

A little spare change for food,  
please?

DANIEL

If you have something left, I'll  
take it.

The beggar, confused, doesn't get it. Daniel follows his way.

EXT. OIL COMPANY. DAY.

Daniel arrives at the scene.

From some distance, he observes a group of six people, smeared in oil all over their bodies protest in front of the building. TWO Guards, in uniform, stand still protecting the place.

Four men are wearing only shorts and two women bikinis.

They bring with them one pelican, covered with the black liquid as well. The bird becomes agitated and advances towards one guard, who tries to get rid of him by kicking the animal.

All six protesters advance towards the guard to stop him from trying to harm the animal. Guard number 2 becomes furious and attacks with his club the protesters.

Daniel inserts the magnetic card in the slot machine and enters the building.

INT. OIL COMPANY.DIRECTOR'S OFFICE. DAY.

Daniel arrives on the second floor of the local branch of a popular oil company. Two guards standing still. On his right side, a medium-sized office with a big desk, a modern chair and a computer. No one's there.

Daniel feels an urge and enters the room. He sits on the chair. He opens the top drawer. A cell phone lies there.

He grabs it and puts it on his front pocket.

He notices a photo on a beautiful silver frame. A lovely woman, that we'll call from now on DIANNA and the murdered guy look the image of happiness.

There's a woman facing Daniel right now. It's Dianna. She has lovely brown eyes, black hair. The tight formal dress emphasizes her hips.

DIANNA

Quick! Open the second left drawer!

Daniel hesitates, but he obeys. He finds a tiny red pen-drive among many papers.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

Come on! Grab everything you can.

Quick!

Daniel obeys again. He grabs the pen-drive. Two big bodyguards come in and grab Daniel and Dianna by their arms.

The pen-drive slips from his fingers and into the floor.

The guards bring them to the threshold of the oil company's door and push them hard outside.

On the floor, the red pen-drive becomes gradually transparent. And disappears.

EXT. OIL COMPANY . DAY.

The police arrives. TONY, a strong, broad-shouldered DETECTIVE orders his ASSISTANT WITH A head gesture to take Dianna away.

The assistant obeys. Daniel blocks the assistant's way. He's pushed aside violently by the assistant. Daniel lands hard on the floor Dianna refuses to go with him.

Daniel looks at Dianna being handcuffed by the assistant. A blond man in his thirties comes by and lends him a helping hand. His name is DIMITRI. He has piercing blue eyes and is dressed in an elegant imported white suit.

DIMITRI

Are you all right?

Daniel gets up. He's obviously dizzy.

DANIEL

It's not one of my best moments.

Dimitri smiles. He enjoys a good sense of humour. One of the protesters try to break into the building. He's pushed by a body guard even harder than Daniel.

Daniel is conducted by one of Dimitri's bodyguards to a black luxury car. Dimitri follows him into the vehicle.

INT. POLICE STATION. DAY.

Tony receives Dianna in his office. His assistant is also there, standing up. He motions his hand to the empty chair.

Dianna sits. Tony realizes Diana's been crying. Her look seems lost on the horizon.

TONY

I know, Mrs. Mann, that this is a very painful moment, but I need your help urgently. Could you please answer some questions?

Dianna nods her head in an affirmative way. She looks tired.

TONY (CONT'D)

You were married to the deceased for five years, right?

Dianna confirms the fact with a mere nod of her head.

TONY (CONT'D)

Did he have any enemies? Or any vice that justified an erratic behavior?

Dianna looks at Tony for the first time.

DIANNA

Just his work.

Tony rubs his hands . He demonstrates interest with the answer from Dianna.

TONY

Mrs. Mann,...

DIANNA

Dianna, please.

Toni nods his head affirmatively.

TONY

Dianna, I met your husband once in an incident at the university. I was there because the dean wanted a new security boss. I saw when he was barred from entering the campus. I tried to help, but he vanished from the place.

DIANNA

Michael was never the hero-type.

TONY

He seemed to be a very sensitive person... An idealist.

DIANNA

That's my Michael.

Toni ponders Dianna's last words.

TONY

Mrs. Mann, I mean... Dianna, your ex-husband was involved in some sort of illegal activity?

DIANNA

I don't know. He never told me what he was up to.

Toni delivers a sad look at Dianna. He scratches his chin nervously.

TONY

The truth is... without new evidence, the police is inclined to endorse suicide as the probable cause of death.

Dianna is resentful after Tony's last statement. Tony looks at her as if he were assessing her character.

DIANNA

He would never do that. I know pretty well my husband...Wait... Wait a minute! I got an E-mail saying that the poor guy with amnesia was in danger. An E-mail signed by... The President.

TONY

The President?

DIANNA

Yes. That's how he called himself.  
I can print this E-mail if you  
want. Maybe this guy knows  
something about my husband's death.

Dianna realizes this is going nowhere. She struggles not to cry.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

My husband may not have been  
perfect... But he would never kill  
himself.

Dianna hastily leaves the place. Tony keeps still, his eyes  
lost at the horizon, absorbed in his thoughts.

INT. BLACK CAR. DAY.

The black luxury car passes again through the group of people  
protesting. One protestor gets close to the window. He holds  
a sign written "STOP THE OPRESSION".

DIMITRI

Look at those poor people. They  
think they can change the world  
acting like vandals.

Daniel doesn't answer. He's still dizzy.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

Don't they know that their fate is  
sealed the moment they were born?

DANIEL

If someone helped them with their  
basic needs, they could have a  
better fate.

DIMITRI

There's no free lunch in this  
world. Nothing is going to change  
that.

Beat. Daniel is silent.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

If they accept it, great. If not,  
it's worse for them.

Daniel looks out at a building. He recognizes it.

DANIEL  
Can you stop here, please?

Dimitri signals the driver. The car pulls over near an old building.

DIMITRI  
Are you all right?

DANIEL  
Yeah. Sure.

Daniel opens the door. He gets out of the car. Dimitri reaches out his hand.

DIMITRI  
My name is Dimitri. I'm a business man... What's your name?

Daniel hesitates. He makes a mental effort.

DANIEL  
I guess you can call me a friend.

DIMITRI  
OK.

Daniel walks away. He enters the building. Dimitri looks at him with a worried look.

INT. BUILDING. CORRIDOR. DAY.

Daniel is in front of an apartment with yellow stripes that read- CRIME SCENE- DO NOT TRESPASS- glued at the door.

Daniel forces the doorknob. It obviously doesn't open. He tries to break in. The apartment door next to him opens.

A woman, in his 30's, black hair, brown eyes and deep eye bags look at him curiously. Her name is NAOMI.

NAOMI  
It's useless. It's a very resilient door.

DANIEL  
Is the apartment locked up for a long time?

NAOMI  
Two weeks.

A little girl appears next to Naomi. She's a beautiful, black hair, super pale, 9 year-old. Her name is RUTH. She smiles at Daniel. He realizes that she's holding a violin in one of her hands.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

What are you doing here? You should be in there resting!

Ruth faints abruptly. Daniel runs towards her. Naomi lifts little Ruth from the ground. Daniel helps Naomi carry the little girl inside the apartment.

INT. NAOMI'S APARTMENT. DAY.

They put Ruth slowly on the couch. Naomi caresses her hair. Ruth breathes hard through her nose. Naomi grabs a purse that lies on a low table in front of her, opens it and delivers an oxygen bottle to her daughter's tiny hands in record time. Ruth inhales it immediately. Daniel watches them.

DANIEL

What's her problem?

NAOMI

Besides chronic asthma? Fatigue, dizziness, lack of appetite... And an incredible rare disease that affects her bones.

DANIEL

Isn't she too young for that?

NAOMI

Fate doesn't discriminate age when it wants to make us suffer.

Daniel crouches down. He is now beside Ruth. She wakes up.

Daniel's eyes are fixed on Ruth's. She looks candidly at Daniel. He deviates from her look and observes the violin, left on the ground.

Daniel picks up the violin case from the ground. He holds it.

DANIEL

Everything is going to be all right. You're going to be fine.

RUTH

Promise?

DANIEL

Yes... I just ask you one little favor: don't let the music die.

The ring bells. Daniel and Naomi look simultaneously at the door. Diana barges in. First thing she notices is Daniel's presence. Her eyes wide out.

DIANNA

You! What are you doing here?  
You're not following me, are you?

Daniel gets up right away. It's a surprise for him too.

Ruth coughs and coughs non-stop. She tries to get up, but falls on the couch and stays there.

NAOMI

She needs to rest. I'm sorry, but you two have to leave immediately.

Diana nods sadly. Daniel looks at Ruth.

DIANNA

Come on. I'll give you a lift.

Diana grabs the violin from Daniel's hands and walks away. Daniel hesitates for a second, but follows her.

EXT. DIANNA'S CAR. DAY.

Daniel is at the passenger seat in Dianna's car. She's driving fast. She steps on gas when she sees the yellow sign.

She manages to escape the red sign. Daniel is visibly tense with her driving.

DIANNA

You knew my husband?

DANIEL

Never had the pleasure.

DIANNA

You know Naomi and the girl Ruth from where?

DANIEL

I just met them.

DIANNA

Did you know that there is a new medicine for her disease? Only it's expensive and she can't afford it.

DANIEL

The government can't help?

DIANNA

The government? Saving poor sick children is not a priority for them.

Daniel stays in silence. Dianna turns the radio on. It's a news station.

SPEAKER (O.S.)

... and the investigations about the death of the famous scientist at his house continues. The police doesn't confirm but sources believe they have a new suspect.

DIANNA

Can you turn the radio off, please?

Daniel searches for the off button but is unable to find it. He forces his view.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

You probably need glasses.

DANIEL

Glasses? Me?

EXT. STREET. DAY.

Daniel and Dianna are in front of his building. Next to him, the intercom with many apartment numbers in thick plastic.

DIANNA

What's your floor?

DANIEL

Twelfth floor.

Dianna looks at the intercom. There are many apartments, but they stop at the eleventh floor.

DIANNA

There is no twelfth floor.

DANIEL  
That is impossible.

Dianna points at the intercom. Daniel can't believe what he sees. His face suggests he's in a mental turmoil. He's now in a trance.

EXT. DESERT. DAY.

The sun begins to set. A young lady stops and joins THE PRESIDENT. A blond child also stops by their side. They close their eyes and seem to be in a kind of collective hypnosis. They listen to the sunset. But there's no music.

EXT. STREET. DAY.

Dianna is staring at Daniel. He's back from wherever he was a moment ago.

DANIEL  
I don't understand. It doesn't make any sense.

DIANNA  
Maybe it does more than you imagine.

DANIEL  
All right. You can leave. I can manage this situation.

Dianna gets serious. Obviously she didn't like to hear this.

DIANNA  
Now you talked just like my ex-husband... No, you're in no condition to be left alone. Come on, I'll take you home. But only until you get a place to stay, OK?

DANIEL  
I don't know if I should.

DIANNA  
All right. I'll leave you in the park with the beggars.

In the park, two dirty and bearded beggars fight for the same space to sleep. The stronger kicks the weaker with violence, that goes away limping.

DANIEL  
OK. I'll go with you.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. DAY.

Daniel, with his arm resting on the kitchen table, looks at a picture of Dianna and Daniel hung on a wall. They're held together. Very romantic.

On a shelf we see a violin case closed. Diana barges in with her brown purse. She puts it hastily on the table.

She searches for something inside the purse.

DIANNA  
My husband used to wear it in his science projects.

Diana takes out a black-rimmed glasses from her purse and offers it to Daniel. It has D on both rims. He holds it. He feels uncomfortable.

DANIEL  
How do you know it's compatible with me?

DIANNA  
I don't know. I just feel it's compatible.

DANIEL  
You feel? It's not very scientific.

DIANNA  
Sometimes it is.

DANIEL  
I feel a headache. Where's the bathroom?

Diana points to the corridor. Daniel gets up and leaves her.

He slips on his untied shoes and falls hard on the floor. Again.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Daniel washes his face on the sink. He dries his face with a towel. He puts on the black glasses. A second later an image of a person with a huge blue coat and a big hood appears in front of him. We are unable to discern the face. We're going to call this image THE PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT

Hello, Daniel.

Daniel takes off the glasses immediately. He's breathing hard. He washes his face on the sink once again.

Supidified, he looks at the glasses. Curiosity is stronger than fear. He puts the glasses on again. THE PRESIDENT's image returns.

THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

You must be asking yourself, is this real or isn't it? Well, I'll provide the answer for you... Yes, it's real. Only it's not your kind of reality.

DANIEL

My kind of reality?

THE PRESIDENT

There are a lot more than three dimensions in the world... This is one of them, my friend.

DANIEL

What's going on?

THE PRESIDENT

You've been murdered. You're living your fourth life right now.

DANIEL

Who killed me?

THE PRESIDENT

I'm sorry. This information is unhealthy for you to know.

DANIEL

Unhealthy? What could be more unhealthy than being murdered?

THE PRESIDENT

You're one of many. Or many of one. The fourth version, to be precise. You were redesigned like in a back-up program. The machine rebuilt you.

DANIEL

The machine is not stable.

THE PRESIDENT  
You're not stable too.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Dianna, with her arm folded, observes the bathroom door.  
She is obviously distressed.

DIANNA  
Hey, what's the matter? I can't stay  
here forever!

At this moment, the living room door opens up. Detective Tony comes in and looks surprised with Dianna's presence in the house.

TONY  
Dianna? They called me at the  
station and told me there was a guy  
who behaved oddly over here.

Dianna is unable to utter a word. She simply doesn't know what to answer. She keeps standing still, looking muted at the door's direction. Tony notices that and stands right in front of the door.

TONY (CONT'D)  
What is it? There's somebody in  
there?

DIANA  
Well, he's a guy I met twice  
today...

Dianna doesn't continue. Tony realizes her indecision and turns the doorknob. It's locked up.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM. DAY.

The glasses activates a tiny screen that displays many ascendent graphics from the left to the right.

DANIEL  
What is this?

THE PRESIDENT  
It's your energy watch. When the  
last graphic vanishes, you'll be  
out of phase.

DANIEL

Out of phase?

THE PRESIDENT

Yeah. Lost in a vacuum between two worlds. Like a non-existent matter. And the bottom line is: you have 72 hours to fix the machine if you want to stay in this world.

DANIEL

Any more good news for me, THE PRESIDENT?

THE PRESIDENT

Yes. Be careful. You can be murdered again.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT CORRIDOR. DAY.

Tony makes a gesture to Dianna to get back. He gives one step away and with a tae kwon do kick with the sole of his shoes, he pries open the door completely.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Tony enters the bathroom. He and Dianna find Daniel with his head stuck inside the sink full of water.

Tony pulls out Daniel from the sink. The head fully wet, he looks bewildered.

TONY

Who is this, Dianna?

DIANNA

He's a friend I'm trying to help.

TONY

I like to help people too. That's why I take a lot of them to the police station.

Tony shows his badge to Daniel. He takes Daniel by his arm and moves him to the door.

Daniel and Dianna trade looks. Water floods from the sink.

INT. POLICE STATION. DAY

Daniel is seated on a chair. Tony, in front of him, looks at him with utter distrust. Tony's assistant is beside him. He also gives Daniel an ugly look.

TONY

Did you know the victim?

DANIEL

Not really.

TONY

How did you find where the victim worked?

DANIEL

Pure instinct.

The assistant nods his head negatively. Tony sends him a disapproval look. The assistant stops nodding.

TONY

Did you know that the victim had made a billionaire insurance on behalf of his wife?

DANIEL

No.

TONY

What is it exactly that you do for a living?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT. ATTIC. DAY.

Flashes of Michael adjusting the strings of the machine with extreme care.

BACK TO:

INT. POLICE STATION. DAY.

DANIEL

I'm involved in the construction of a machine.

TONY

So, you're an engineer, like the deceased?

DANIEL

A science lover. At the service of mankind.

TONY

And how a simple machine can help humanity?

DANIEL

If it produces food and medicine in an unprecedented quantity, yes, it can help humanity.

ASSISTANT

This is bullshit! Let's put this guy behind bars, sir!

TONY

Shut up! I don't want to hear one more word!

The assistant becomes mute immediately. Tony raises his index finger and looks hard at Daniel.

TONY (CONT'D)

And you, don't you dare leave town for the next weeks. We may have to subpoena you any moment.

DANIEL

I don't intend to go anywhere. I must find out the biggest mystery of all.

TONY

And what mystery is that?

DANIEL

Who I am.

Tony delivers a I-don't-get-it look. He scratches his chin.

Daniel looks at his watch, worried.

INT. NAOMI'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Dianna, comfortable on the couch, reads a musical score in a book. Ruth, on her feet, holds the violin in her neck. Naomi looks seriously worried at Ruth, who is pressing hard the violin strings.

Ruth starts playing, but the sound is pure noise.

Dianna gets up and goes towards Ruth. She straightens up Ruth's violin stick.

DIANNA

Hold it gently. Gently you can  
achieve greatness.

Ruth nods gravely. She seems nervous. Dianna's hand helps Ruth move the stick. Together they play a simple and beautiful note.

Ruth smiles at her. Dianna smiles back.

The bell rings. Naomi opens the door. Daniel comes in, excited. He spots Dianna and goes towards her.

DANIEL

I need your help.

DIANNA

You again! Naomi, why did you let  
him enter?

Naomi shrugs. She doesn't see any problem at all.

DANIEL

I need to go to your ex-husband's  
apartment.

DIANNA

Forget it. It's sealed.

DANIEL

Please. It's important. I know what  
your husband was up to.

DIANNA

My ex-husband was a business man.

DANIEL

That was just a decoy. His real  
work was the improvement of the  
machine.

DIANNA

I have no idea what you're talking  
about.

DANIEL

Please. All I'm asking are a few  
minutes at the apartment.

DIANNA

No.

Daniel lowers his head. Naomi is giving a remedy to Ruth, now resting on the couch. To Naomi's dismay, Ruth raises her head.

RUTH  
Give him a chance.

Dianna looks at Ruth. The girl's brown eyes seems to plead for the granting of Daniel's wish.

DIANNA  
I don't know...

RUTH  
Please.

DANIEL  
Just a few minutes.

NAOMI  
Come on, Dianna.

DIANNA  
All right! Enough!!

The three smile broadly. Dianna nods negatively her head. She launches a fierce look at Daniel's direction.

DIANNA (CONT'D)  
Just a few minutes, did you hear?

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. DAY

Dianna and Daniel enter. They are in the living room now.

This is a beautiful spot decorated in minimalist style.

The first thing he notices is a copy of Magritte's painting Les chateau des pyrennes on the wall opposite a black leather couch. On the other side, an elegant medium-sized table made of thick glass. A laptop rests on top of the table.

Behind the table and its four chairs is a bookcase made of carved wood with many science books on its shelves.

Daniel gets closer and takes a look at it.

Daniel sits on a chair in front of the laptop. He presses some buttons. He enters the deceased E-Mail's inbox. A bewildered look runs through Dianna's face.

DANIEL

All your husband notes are digitalized. Legally speaking, your notes. If you don't mind, I'm making a copy.

Pause. Daniel looks like someone in deep reflection.

DIANNA

Who are you, man?

DANIEL

I just want to do the right thing.

Beat. Daniel stops looking at the monitor and closes down the laptop. He takes a deep breath.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

OK. Your husband knew there was a threat to his life. He knew someone was trying to destroy his work. Someone very powerful. The situation got worse when they found out about the machine.

DIANNA

How do you know so much about my husband?

Daniel ignores the comment. He's in a mental frenzy.

DANIEL

The point is: What kind of breakthrough in the machine frightened so much his enemies? I think the answer lies in this apartment.

DIANNA

Here? Impossible! If there was something unusual in this apartment, I think I'd notice.

Daniel makes a gesture with his left hand, signaling Dianna to follow him. Together, they position themselves in front of the living room.

Daniel scans the room with his eyes. He seems to be waiting for a signal. The sudden silence is unsettling.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Are we waiting for a divine revela...

Before she could complete the phrase, Daniel snaps his fingers. Instantaneously, a portion of the cellar floor slides away automatically.

In less than ten seconds, a metallic DNA-type ladder unfolds rapidly in front of their eyes. The first steps are in front of them. Diana's perplexity is evident.

Little metal handrails elevate themselves from the steps, supported by two metallic rods in each block of steps. We have now a complete and safe ladder.

DANIEL

Are you ready to change the world?

DIANNA

You first.

They climb the ladder leading to the cellar. Daniel first, Dianna following him, like an hesitant pupil.

A white and ethereal light comes from the cellar, creating a fluorescent atmosphere.

INT. CELLAR. DAY.

Daniel enters the cellar. This ceiling is unusually above the normal, allowing them to stay in a comfortable position. The lights are white and cold, resembling aseptic surgical room.

On their left side, a big leather white couch and a glass table with short legs. On their right side, one of those huge refrigerator machines that spit soft drinks when you push the button. Tiny difference: there's a touchscreen computer on its front.

DIANNA

Is that why you brought me here? So that we can drink poison together?

DANIEL

Not exactly.

Right in front of the soft drink machine, Daniel stretches his hand and touches lightly the plastic lid.

Immediately, a virtual computer keyboard appears. Daniel types ACAI. Nothing happens.

DIANNA

Do you think a two dollar bill will help?

DANIEL

You're very hot-tempered, did you know that? If you had more patience, your marriage wouldn't have ended.

DIANNA

My husband didn't leave me. He died, OK?

Daniel doesn't answer. He types in the virtual keyboard PLOT. He hesitates a second before pressing ENTER. He finally does it.

The drink machine agitates itself. We hear a THUD at the spot where the soft drinks are delivered. Daniel extends his hands to pick it up. Instead of soda cans, he picks up two yellow google glasses.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

Wow. You don't even know how to order a soft drink.

Two huge platinum stalk-shaped rods light up at the back of the wall. Five meters of three white wires connect one to the other.

The three barbed wires attach themselves to three different spots in the left rod.

The wires pass by the respective spot and fly away towards the second rod. The fierce sparkling sound of the high-voltage electromagnetic discharge echoes in the room.

Dianna is baffled.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

Oh, my God! What have you done? And what is this that you started?

DANIEL

I'll tell you later. Now put this on.

DIANNA

I knew this wasn't going to be my week.

Daniel and Dianna put the yellow google glasses with anti-reflex lenses.

The strings vibrates intensely. A clear icy-blue aura surrounds the field of action of this strange event.

Daniel slowly gets closer to the rods. In front of the two rods, a sticky purple substance is taking form. It's Acai!

Baffled with this vision, Daniel stares at it.

Right at this moment, everything stops like if someone had pulled the plug. The icy blue aura and the fierce sound vanish in the air.

The wires fall on the floor, completely inactive. The Acai that was taking form is no longer there. Daniel approaches the scene. Two wires come to life again and fly in his direction.

In a reflex movement, Daniel protects his face using his right arm. Both wires scratch his right arm skin.

Daniel howls in pain. After that, the wires rest peacefully on the floor. Dianna comes to help him.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

You just proved that my husband's machine doesn't work.

DANIEL

No. I proved that your husband's machine needs us.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Daniel is in front of the mirror looking at his wound. We see a scar on his right arm. It's an ancient format. He opens the drawer and searches for a medical kit.

He removes an electronic device that gives electrical shocks.

Amused, Daniel activates it. He doesn't notice there is a pigeon on the window edge. Unaware of its presence, Daniel stretches his arm. The pigeon receives the electrical shock and is ejected backwards. Daniel puts his hand in his mouth.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

In the elegant wide glass table, Daniel and Dianna sit one in front of each other. The laptop is turned on.

Daniel is putting gazes on his wound. We see a scar on his right arm in an ancient format.

DANIEL

Interesting toy you have in the bathroom.

DIANNA

You never know when you're going to need it.

Daniel nods his head. He gets up and start pacing around the room.

DANIEL

So, let me see: the wires in the house are new.

Daniel nods positively his head to himself.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

The software are with the latest upgrades?

Daniel nods positively again his head to himself.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

The strings are placed in the right places?

Daniel nods again his head to himself.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

If everything is perfect and the strings are in the right places, then the origin of the trouble is unclear.

DIANNA

I know what the problem is.

DANIEL

You do?

DIANNA

The soft drink machine. You must have forgotten to refill it with diet refreshments.

Daniel is unable to smile. She stares at Daniel. He scratches his chin a couple of times.

DANIEL

It's your husband's legacy to the world. Don't you care?

DIANNA

Let me tell you something about my late husband. He never, ever, consulted me about his troubles, OK?

DANIEL

Well, it's never too late to start.

EXT. HOUSE. DAY.

Daniel and Dianna are standing still and watching a 40 something SALESMAN install solar heaters on the house roof. It's one of those thick dark glasses that cover a rectangular structure.

The salesman sweats profusely and he's quick with his hammer and screwdriver. Daniel and Dianna just observe the modern solar heater being installed.

SALESMAN

You guys have luck. This is the last unit left in the store. It's gonna save you a lot of energy...yes, sir, it's money well spent

Daniel nods his head positively.

DANIEL

You have no idea how true it is.

INT. CELLAR. DAY.

Daniel is typing in a few words at the virtual keyboard in the soft drink machine. On screen, a 3D banana picture appears.

The strings, then, begin to vibrate. The rods heat up. A white, incandescent light begins to spread from the spot.

After a few seconds, the light dwindles and the rods cool down.

Daniel gets closer to the spot. He kneels down and stretches his hand. We see a little black banana. When Daniel tries to hold it, the banana breaks into ashes at the palm of his hand. The same we've seen before.

INT. CELLAR. NIGHT.

Daniel, crouched, moves some wires behind the soft drink machine. The rods, then, heat up right away and begin to dilate. The strings vibrate more intensely than before.

The same white incandescent light appears. Then, everything stops suddenly.

In the soft drink machine's computer screen, we see again a 3D picture of a banana. Daniel presses ENTER. The rods heat up one more time. They seem very rigid. Electric sparks appear at the center of the spot. We see the contour of a banana taking place at the exact point where the lights meet.

Daniel's eyes clearly reflect a new-found enthusiasm. He comes closer while the process is going on and a REAL BANANA is taking form right before his eyes.

Before the banana is fully materialized, an electrical spark whips up at the center of the spot. It looks menacing.

Dianna appears at the cellar. She's about to turn off the machine in the touch-screen display. Daniel runs and holds firm her arm, before she can actually do it.

DANIEL

Don't you ever do that, ever, do you understand?

DIANNA

The machine is out of control. You can get killed.

DANIEL

So what? I'm used to it... My back-up system is continually updated.

The machine is not turned off. Dianna looks at Daniel trying to figure out what he meant. Breathing hard, Daniel presses the virtual keyboard. He looks again at the center of the spot. The banana is gone. A little black ball made of ashes lies on the floor.

EXT. STREET. AROUND MIDNIGHT.

Daniel and Dianna sit in front of each other, at a natural juices' bar. Both display concerned looks. Two ACAI rest in front of them. Daniel scratches his scar.

Behind the counter, resting in a plastic armchair, an EMPLOYEE, 30 something, white, tired, sleeps on the armchair.

DIANNA

Under the circumstances, don't you think you're obliged to review my husband's theory?

DANIEL

It's too early for that.

DIANNA

The sooner, the better.

DANIEL

We didn't even start using our brain to solve this thing.

DIANNA

Exactly. Why waste our brain in mission impossible? It's better to stop right here.

Pause. Daniel frowns his eyebrow and stares at Dianna with utter disbelief.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

I'm curious... How do you know so much about this machine?

DANIEL

Your husband wasn't the only one who wanted to create matter from the vacuum.

DIANNA

You may be right, but that doesn't explain how you know so much about his machine.

DANIEL

What do you mean? You think I killed you husband?

DIANNA

I didn't say that. But all this is certainly strange.

DANIEL

I'm not your enemy, Dianna.

Pause. At this moment, the blender behind the counter lets out a shrieking noise and starts to show a thin black smoke.

A little flame appears on the upper shelf and, soon enough, a fire makes transition to the piles of fruits and threatens to burn the whole store.

Immediately, the sleepy worker wakes up, identifies the gravity of the situation and rushes to the kitchen. He comes back in record time with a huge bucket of water and throws its content at the burning shelf. The fire still goes on, but without the same intensity.

The employee repeats the procedure running as fast as he can.

The fire is finally extinguished. Daniel observes the scene fully interested. We can see through a glow of his eyes that his thoughts run deep.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
Come on, let's go back to the cellar.

DIANNA  
I haven't finished my ACAI.

DANIEL  
Your next Acai will be directly from the machine!

INT CELLAR. NIGHT

Daniel and Dianna are positioned, one in front of each other, looking simultaneously at the metal rods. Standing beside Daniel, the fake refreshment machine.

Daniel, wearing a yellow google glass, fishes for something in his pocket. He yanks out another yellow google glass and offers it to Dianna. She grabs it and puts it in her face.

The lights are turned off.

We see a 3-d banana on the monitor. Without further delay, Daniel speeds up the velocity number to its maximum in the computer screen.

The rods starts to warm up. Different from the previous times, it does not dilate. Instead, a metal humming sound is heard in the room. Incandescent lights materialize at the strings.

More incandescent lights running through the strings. A blueish triangle is formed at the center of the strings.

Two blue lines of light slides away from the strings. The heat in the room starts to mount up. Vapors come out of the center of the rods.

The strings vibrate nervously. It provokes a whisper that resembles a violin musical note.

Two golden lines merge into one. Daniel and Dianna cover their eyes in a reflex response.

When they look again at the spot, everything is perfectly still and cool. In front of the rods, a little banana rests on the floor. Daniel smiles. Dianna is baffled.

DANIEL

We made it! We made it!

EXT. PARK. DAY.

We see Miguel, the beggar, sit on the park. Still dirty and in ragged clothes, he takes a nap. Daniel gets closer to him. He carries a plastic bag with him.

Daniel crouches down and touches the poor man lightly on his shoulder. That's enough to wake him up.

DANIEL

How are you, old friend?

The beggar doesn't answer . He looks hungry.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It's been a while since your last meal, right?

The beggar barely looks at Daniel. He simply lacks the energy to reply.

Daniel begins to empty the products from the bag: tangerine, pear, orange, seeds-free grapes. The beggar advances at the direction of the food. He puts a whole orange at his mouth.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Take it easy, man. You're not supposed to eat the plastic.

Daniel, still crouched, takes out two thin boxes. He hands over a pill to Miguel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Take this twice a day. After a couple of days, you're going to wake up more predisposed. If you don't, you know where I live.

The beggar holds the boxes. His eyes shine with the news.

MIGUEL

Thank you. Thank you. You're an angel!

DANIEL

Actually, I'm the fourth version of a back up program.

The beggar makes a perplexed face. Daniel winks at him and goes away.

INT. NAOMI'S APARTMENT . AFTERNOON-DAY.

Ruth is using an old laptop. She's copying audio files named "violin lessons" to a pen-drive connected to an USB port. She manages to do it and then crawls back to her couch.

The door knocks. Naomi opens it. Daniel and Dianna come in.

Ruth gets up. She's thrilled to see Daniel.

Daniel, Dianna and Naomi sit on the table in the living room.

Ruth lies on the couch. She holds her violin to her chest, but she's too weak to play.

Daniel delivers a white package to Naomi. Curious, she opens it. Many boxes of medicine spread over the table.

NAOMI

What is this?

DANIEL

These are the medicine for your daughter.

NAOMI

I can't afford it.

DANIEL

They are a gift from me.

NAOMI

You're very generous. But I can't accept it.

Dianna holds Naomi's hand tenderly. She gives her a pleading look.

DIANNA

Take it, Naomi. Please.

NAOMI

And when it finishes, what am I going to do? Pray for more?

DANIEL

I'll bring more.

Naomi is unable to contain herself. She cries and hides her face on Dianna's shoulder. Ruth looks at them.

She's clearly shaken. Daniel gets up and goes to the couch where Ruth is. She still holds her dear violin, and smiles when he approaches her.

RUTH

Mom is crying, but it's a good cry,  
isn't it?

DANIEL

Yeah, it's a good cry.

RUTH

Are you all right, mister? Did you  
manage to remember who you are?

DANIEL

It's coming back slowly.

RUTH

That's good. A person who doesn't  
know who he is can't help the  
others. That person has to help  
himself first.

DANIEL

Yeah, I think you're right... Hey,  
what's over there on your arm?

RUTH

What?

Daniel tickles Ruth's arm. She bursts out in laughter. He too. It's a beautiful moment witnessed by an emotional Naomi and Dianna.

INT. RESTAURANT. NIGHT.

Daniel opens the restaurant's door. He walks through a corridor full of clients that sit at ease in leather couches. They eat and talk joyfully.

Daniel holds a bunch of daisies in his left hand. He goes straight to the end of the corridor. He's also wearing a white suit and a gray tie.

At the last table, Dianna, with a beautiful blue dress, awaits him. Daniel puts the flowers near her and waits for her reaction. Dianna doesn't answer.

He comes towards her and slips on his shoelaces again.

Only this time Dianna grabs him before he falls. Daniel is wearing glasses with duct tape on it.

Daniel lets a wry smile escape from his mouth.

DIANNA

What's the matter with you? Why can't you tie your shoes?

DANIEL

Because they're not symmetrical.

DIANNA

They don't have to be symmetrical.

DANIEL

From my point of view, they have to.

Dianna looks puzzled at him. Daniel puts a travel leaflet in the palm of her hand. It's a bedouin tent in the middle of the desert.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I want you to visit this place with me. I heard the view is breathtaking.

DIANNA

Interesting...I received an E-mail a couple of hours ago signed by a certain... The President.

Daniel looks at her eyes. Gosh, she's so beautiful. He tries to hold her hand. She refuses that instantly.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

The E-mail told me that you made a wonderful breakthrough in your experiment. It urged me to convince you to review your theory, because it states that your work is incomplete.

Pause. Daniel frowns his forehead and looks hard at Dianna for the first time. The romantic mood is vanished.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

The E-mail also said that we're in grave danger.

DANIEL

Danger of what? Of putting an end to hunger in this planet? Of saying goodbye to all the misery and diseases that surround us?

DIANNA

Danger that your world falls apart  
quicker than you think.

DANIEL

I don't need advice, Dianna. I have  
everything under control.

DIANNA

Now you sound exactly like my ex-  
husband...Can't you see? That's  
exactly the problem. There's no  
control to what you're doing. This  
is an illusion, man!

DANIEL

And what exactly do you suggest,  
Dianna? That I give up everything?  
Throw all this research in the  
trash? Maybe I should get a job in  
the bloodsucking company? Become a  
trainee, who knows?

DIANNA

I'm not your enemy, Daniel.

DANIEL

That's not what it seems.

Dianna grabs her purse and stands up. Before leaving, she  
approaches her lips from Daniel's ears.

DIANNA

(whispering )

You may be a great scientist, but  
you're very far from being a great  
person.

Dianna leaves the restaurant. Daniel gets up to follow her.

He slips immediately on his untied shoes.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Daniel comes in. Diana is not there. He sits on the couch and  
turns on the TV. The tube shows a male nurse in white  
uniform, carrying boxes through the front door of a public  
hospital.

TV REPORTER

... in a series of events already named the medicine miracle, dozens of expensive medicine and vaccines appeared at the gates of a public hospital. robing the matter...

We see a government official scratching his head. Daniel switches the channel.

Another breaking news. A reporter stands in front of a huge truck, while behind him Miguel is delivering boxes to a group of women, who grab it and take it away.

TV REPORTER 2

... The social organization responsible for this area can't explain the sudden appearance of a ton of boxes, containing each, fruits and even chocolate. The government has been contacted, but denies involvement.

Suddenly the tv is turned off. Daniel looks back. Dimitri stares at him, using the same white suit and blue tie. Beside him, the two inseparable goons.

DIMITRI

You've always been an idealist, Michael. OK, I can get it But, at this point you should've realized: Reality is a dangerous playground for those who live for a dream.

DANIEL

My name is Daniel.

DIMITRI

Of course it is. The fourth version of the back-up program.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. CELLAR. NIGHT.

Michael, on the ground, beside a pool of blood, raises his hand. The second goon comes and shoots him right in the head.

BACK TO:

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

DANIEL  
What do you want?

DIMITRI  
What do I want? I want you to stop  
this madness.

DANIEL  
Madness? Curing the world from  
hunger and diseases?

DIMITRI  
You're provoking chaos and bringing  
unemployment to millions of people.

DANIEL  
It's not my fault your company  
can't bring hope to people.

DIMITRI  
You're doing nothing but pursuing  
wind mills.

DANIEL  
What can I do? Reality is a  
dangerous playground.

DIMITRI  
Ok, enough. This madness stops now.

EXT. OIL COMPANY. DAY.

Daniel moves towards the entrance door. The bearded uniformed guard is standing still beside the glass door.

When Daniel arrives, two guards block his way, positioning their strong bodies in front of him.

DANIEL  
I need to go in. I have important  
papers in there.

GUARD 2  
You can't come in. I have direct  
orders from the manager.

DANIEL

I understand... But I have documents from my research that I can't just let go... It won't take more than five minutes.

GUARD 2

I'm sorry. Orders are orders.

DANIEL

Man, I must get in... I just can't abandon that over there.

GUARD

Forget it. You're not coming in.

Daniel forces his entry. The guard predicted this and applies a swift knee-kick in his loins. Daniel bows howling in pain.

The guard seizes the moment and throws Daniel away with a strong thrust. He springs forward and punches Daniel in the face. Guard 2 wants to go on, but guard 1 seizes him and makes him stop.

The passers-by form a human semi-circle, totally paralyzed by the sudden demonstration of violence. One person stands out in the cluster of people and crouches in front of Daniel. He stretches a helping hand. It's Dimitri.

DIMITRI

Are you all right? I saw the whole thing. It's outrageous what just happened.

DANIEL

I just wanted to see the papers and computer files... This is very embarrassing.

DIMITRI

Keep it cool, professor. There is a solution for everything but death.

Dimitri helps Daniel to get up. Walking hurriedly, Dimitri finds himself face to face with the guard.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

Your employer will know about your unprofessional conduct.

GUARD

I'm just following orders.

With a quick movement from his right hand, Dimitri yanks out his cell phone and dials the numbers fast. Daniel watches the scene unfold from afar. Dimitri rubs the cell phone at the guard's ear, who listens with an earnest face.

DIMITRI

Your superior wants to talk to you right away. Is that clear?

The guard, clearly embarrassed, nods. Dimitri and Daniel leave the scene.

EXT. BAR DAY.

We are in the same bar specialized in natural juices.

Sitting in a metal bench, tasting his Açai in a bowl, we find DANIEL, with a lost look on the horizon. In front of him, Dimitri with his elegant suit. At the center of the table, a bunch of papers and a pen-drive.

He points something at the menu for the sleepy waiter, who nods and runs to the work the blender.

DIMITRI

Even if all the countries signed the Kyoto Protocol, it wouldn't solve the problem. Did you know that?

Daniel keeps absorbed in his own thoughts.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

Something more is needed to solve it. Just like something more is needed to make you crawl out of the black hole that you find yourself...

Daniel looks up at the man talking to him.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

...Don't you think, Daniel?

The sleepy waiter is working the noisy blender, holding its lid. All of a sudden he falls into a deep sleep. His hands keep holding the lid.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

I'm wondering. These files...  
What's so important about them?

DANIEL

They can help me solve a big crisis  
in my project... I'm trying to help  
mankind.

DIMITRI

Maybe mankind doesn't want your  
help.

Daniel releases a wry smile. His fingers are now drumming the  
table.

DANIEL

Maybe... But that doesn't mean I'm  
excused to do my part.

Daniel tastes the frozen Acai dispassionately.

DIMITRI

You're an idealist... It's OK. But  
remember: Reality is a dangerous  
playground for those who live for a  
dream.

Daniel, with his head down, maintains his fingers drumming  
nervously the table. Finally, he seems to get the picture.

DANIEL

You're not a religious freak... are  
you?

DIMITRI

No, but I've seen too many dreams  
destroyed. I don't want you to  
waste your energy.

DANIEL

Waste my energy? Energy is a  
dynamic process, not a static one!

DIMITRI

Don't you get it? You're playing  
Don Quixote pursuing wind mills!

DANIEL

I know what doesn't work. What does  
work, I need time to figure out.

DIMITRI

No! What is born broken can't be  
fixed! Listen... you're clearly a  
bright person. Why don't you give  
up this project of yours and come  
work for me?

Daniel gets up. He grabs the bunch of papers and the pen-drive. At this point, Dimitri takes out a card from his suit pocket and puts it inside his papers.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

Call me if you change your mind.

DANIEL

I prefer to pursue wind mills.

Daniel leaves. Dimitri watches him with a concerned face.

INT. STORE. DAY.

We see Daniel inside the hardware store, facing the salesman that stands behind the counter. It is the same man that installed the solar energy equipment at the rooftop. Both men don't seem too happy, judging by the look in their eyes.

Many cables of electric wires surround the man behind the counter. Daniel puts both his hands at the counter, staring at his opponent.

DANIEL

I can't take no as an answer.

SALESMAN

I already told you that it's not available at the moment. Sorry, pal.

DANIEL

And I already told you that that's completely unacceptable.

SALESMAN

Listen, my friend, this material is imported, ordered in advance. IF you want a new one, you're gonna have to wait. At least a month.

The salesman shows him the order paper, fully typed.

DANIEL

I don't have all this time to dispose of.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Tell your customer that you made a mistake. I'll pay for the damages.

SALESMAN

Please, my friend, I've got to work. If you excuse me...

The salesman starts to move away from the counter. Daniel lowers his head and closes his eyes. When he reopens it, both his hands instinctively reach the salesman's collar, holding it tightly.

The salesman's body is dragged through the counter like a ragged doll. With one of his hands, Daniel circles the salesman's neck with the loose cables of the electric wire.

The salesman's face is becoming redder in a fast ratio, in an evident demonstration of pain.

When Daniel looks at the store's entrance, he notices Dianna watching him, giving full attention to what has just happened, and obviously appalled with the brutality of it.

Daniel lets the man go. The salesman can hardly breathe.

His neck is bloated red . He returns to his place behind the counter.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)

You have one minute to get out of my store before I call the police, did you understand?

INT. BAR. DAY.

Dianna and Daniel arrive in front of Naomi's building.

Daniel stops in front of the entrance. He looks at his energy watch. Half the graphics are gone. Dianna senses the tension in his face.

DIANNA

So, that's why you called telling me that you needed to see me... Honestly, I don't get you. What's going on?

Daniel doesn't answer. He just limits himself to stare at the energy watch.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

You really remind me of my husband. The same stubbornness, the same...

DANIEL

...Idealism.

Pause. Dianna searches Daniel's face. He finally looks up at her. He's obviously embarrassed.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Look, Dianna,... I know that I look a little aggressive, but the situation demands...

DIANNA

A little aggressive? You almost strangled the salesman!

Pause. Daniel doesn't answer that.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

So, that's how you handle your problems now? Resorting to violence?

DANIEL

In this case, the end justifies the means...

DIANNA

I don't really believe that.

DANIEL

What did you expect? That a nice chat would change that salesman's mind?

DIANNA

Why not? Don't you know the saying that the pen is mightier than the sword?

At this moment, Daniel's face become tense. His energy watch graphics have diminished another green stripe.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

Why did you bring me here, Daniel?

DANIEL

There is a pen drive in Naomi's apartment that belonged to your husband. I need it.

DIANNA

How do you know there is a pen-drive over there?

DANIEL

I just know. Trust me. I need you to go to Naomi's apartment and take it from there.

DIANNA

Why don't you go yourself?

DANIEL

I have a sense I'm being followed.

Daniel looks at the energy watch again.

DIANNA

Why do you look so much at your bracelet?

DANIEL

It's my energy watch.

DIANNA

What is that?

DANIEL

If I don't stabilize the machine in 72 hours, I'll be out of phase.

DIANNA

Out of phase?

DANIEL

I'll disappear completely. Lost in a black hole between two worlds.

Dianna is in a shock. She doesn't understand it, but feels sorry for him.

DIANNA

OK. I'll help you. But you'd better be right or this is the last time you're going to see me.

EXT. STREET. DAY.

Dianna walks in firm strides. During this brief moment, a passer-by stops and observes her with an earnest face.

He's one of guard at the bank. He yanks out from his pocket a smartphone, and, nervously, types some keys. The other line rings.

INT. DIMITRI'S OFFICE. DAY.

We look at a clean and carpeted office, small bathroom at the corridor. Dimitri sits in a nice ergonomic red chair, with a large acrylic table right in front of him.

Resting on the table, a black coffee in a white porcelain cup. The other goon, with his clean face is also there, on his feet at his left side, static like a greek statue.

Dimitri is checking on his numerous E-mails in his smartphone machine. His concentration is interrupted when it rings out loudly.

Dimitri answers the phone.

DIMITRI

Yes?

Dimitri listens carefully.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

OK... Nice job. Wait for further instructions.

Dimitri ends the call. He puts the smartphone down on the glass table. Dimitri shoves the papers aside.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

The situation is getting out of control, boys. Our target is reliving old habits.

Dimitri scratches his chin several times.

GOON 2

Isn't it better to eliminate both at once?

DIMITRI

We're not murderers. Without the info in his pen-drive he can't do anything. Simple as that.

GOON 2

What if he finds an alternative way to retrieve that precious information?

DIMITRI

If it happens, my friend, we're going to act.

Dimitri faces the other goon. He hands over his smartphone to him.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)  
Your brother knows how to use a digital camera?

The goon nods positively. Dimitri shows a thin smile.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)  
Good. I have a job for him.

INT. NAOMI'S APARTMENT. DAY.

We see Naomi in the living room, giving a medicine to her daughter, that looks not very well once again.

Ruth is so weak that her mother needs to hold the cup of water in order that the medicine be taken properly. The mother smiles , but the pale girl doesn't smile back.

The bell rings. Surprised, Naomi leaves the girl leaned on the sofa and heads to the door. She opens the door slowly, as if that were a huge effort.

NAOMI  
Miss Dianna! What a surprise!

DIANNA  
Hi! How are you? Can I come in?

NAOMI  
Of course! We were so worried about you...

Dianna comes in and immediately glances at the frail presence of the little girl resting on the sofa. She smiles wryly at her.

DIANNA  
Listen, I need to talk to you. I know that it's not the proper time... But , by any chance, do you still have a pen drive that belonged to my husband?

NAOMI  
The pen drive with your name on it? I have to check it out.

DIANNA  
Could you do it, please? It has a sentimental value, you know.

NAOMI

OK. I'll be right back.

Naomi walks into one of the rooms. Dianna gets closer to the little girl, who leans back on the sofa. Dianna crouches to observe her better.

The little girl looks at her without demonstrating any emotion at all. Dianna grabs her bony hand and holds it with both her hands.

DIANNA

Don't worry. It's gonna be all right. You'll see.

The little girl closes her eyes. She doesn't feel too well.

RUTH

I miss Mister Daniel. His magic pills were my last hope.

DIANNA

He's going to help you. I mean, we're going to help you.

The little girl doesn't answer. Mother Naomi returns with a little red pen drive on her hands. Dianna gets up right away.

NAOMI

She was recovering so well... When everything seemed so fine, it returned to the previous situation. It's a mess.

DIANNA

Because of the lack of medicine?

NAOMI

It's more complicated than that. I took her to the Emergency Unit last night, and a doctor analyzed her. I told him that she was taking medicine regularly. The doctor suspended it claiming that it was not having effect anymore.

DIANNA

Not having effect anymore? How's that possible?

NAOMI

I don't know. It's as if the medicine had reduced validity every time it was used... These were the last samples that were given to us.

Pause. They look at each other . Both are sad, but deny saying it.

DIANNA

I'm sure there is a solution to your problem.

NAOMI

I hope so. Mister Daniel was trying to make a difference in people's lives. Unfortunately, intention alone is not enough.

Naomi hands over to Dianna the small pen-drive . She puts it in her pocket. No doubt it's the one Daniel talked about.

DIANNA

It takes time to fix the world.

NAOMI

And faith too.

Dianna hugs Naomi strongly. She tries not to cry. Dianna waves the little girl goodbye. The little girl waves back .

She leaves the apartment in silence. She can't contain her tears anymore.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Dianna enters the apartment and positions herself in front of Daniel, occupied reading something in front of a laptop. She closes the laptop lid without asking for permission and looks serious at him.

DIANNA

OK, I'm going to help you, but on one condition.

DANIEL

What condition?

Dianna points the finger at Daniel's face.

DIANNA

The little girl is going to be the first you're going to cure, OK?

DANIEL

You don't have to point this finger at me. I'm quite aware of my responsibilities.

DIANNA

If you were, you wouldn't need me so bad.

Daniel opens the laptop again. Dianna hands him the pen-drive in silence. He adjusts it in the proper slot.

DANIEL

So, let's get back to work!

INT. ATTIC. DAY.

We see Dianna wearing a large black goggle . She inserts a pen-drive at the USB slot. The touch-screen monitor in the refreshments machine displays the following message: waiting confirmation.

DANIEL

(off screen)

Press Enter!!

Dianna presses hard the button. The rods heat up, the strings vibrate intensely, the incandescent electric energy lights up the environments, the concentrated energy in one hot spot.

The same deja-vu show we've seen before. The only difference here is the 9<sup>a</sup> symphony of Beethoven as a smooth sound track.

A colorful and delicate object begins to take form right in front of them. The luminosity fades out slowly... and we see a bunch of daisies lying on the floor!

Daniel comes closer and grabs the daisies from the floor.

He examines the petals , closes his eyes and sniffs them.

Confidently, he walks towards Dianna, who is visibly impressed. At this moment, the petals begin to lose its color. The stalks wilt dramatically after a few seconds.

The beautiful bunch of daisies withers and becomes a mini-mountain of ashes in Daniel's hand, stretched out in a shell-format that resembles a supplication.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(wry smile)

From dust thou come, to dust thou shall return.

INT. ATTIC. NIGHT.

Another special effects show. The rods heat up, the cords vibrate, the electric humming sound, the concentrated lights.

DANIEL  
Press Enter now!!

Dianna gets confused, and instead of activating the math equations, activates another file on screen.

A bunch of bananas appear before Daniel. They are identical to real bananas. Daniel' eyes widen up.

The refrigerator's screen accuses the end of file. After a few seconds, the bananas start losing its 3D aspect.

The look on Daniel's face is pure tension.

The bunch of bananas are transformed into a vivid flame of fire. The cords vibrate once again. The flames merge and grow to the size of the wall. Scared, Dianna moves to the ladder.

The monstrous flame senses her movement and advances rapidly towards her.

When Dianna is about to be decimated, she closes her eyes.

Daniel jumps in front of her. The flames attack Daniel's forearm, more specifically, the area with Aramaic inscription. The inscription becomes pure fire, then returns to its usual skin color. Daniel howls in pain.

When Dianna opens her eyes, the flames are gone. Daniel is beside her, breathing hard.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
I need a rest. I definitely need a rest.

Dianna leaves his post and goes to Daniel, who is stretched on the floor. She hugs him carefully.

INT. HOUSE. DAY.

At the living room, we see two plates covered with sushi, sashimi and other cold fish Japanese food. Also present are two shoyo juices at both sides of the table.

Daniel and Dianna find themselves seated one in front of the other. Dianna is using the sticks to eat; Daniel's plate is full. He plays with his sticks. Beside Dianna rests her book of music scores.

Dianna fills up her plate with shoyo juice. Daniel bites his eating sticks without looking at his food.

He looks down at the floor, absorbed in his thoughts.

Daniel continues to bite his sticks.

DIANNA

These sticks were made to help you eat , and not to be eaten, did you know that?

DANIEL

Dianna... seriously. I need to know what happened.

Daniel inadvertently makes a funny face while biting the eating sticks. Dianna tries not to laugh. She doesn't succeed.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It's not funny, Dianna.

DIANNA

I'm just saying that an empty stomach makes thinking a harder task.

DANIEL

If things doesn't get better pretty quickly, I'll lose my whole body, let alone my stomach. And that will make thinking an impossible task.

DIANNA

I'm sorry. But I feel that you're pushing too hard. You need to relax, OK?... I got confused and opened Ruth's music instead of your file.

DANIEL

Ruth's music?

DIANNA

Yes. I'm sorry. Please don't be angry with me.

Pause. These words sink deep into Daniel's psyche. He seems to be processing data in a state of muted trance.

After a few seconds in self-hypnosis, he gives Dianna a childish smile.

DANIEL  
Thank you, Dianna. Thank you.

DIANNA  
You had a private brainstorm,  
right?

DANIEL  
Yes.

DIANNA  
And you discovered how to make the  
machine functional, right?

DANIEL  
Yes.

DIANNA  
And that's why you are in this  
catatonic state?

DANIEL  
Yes.

DIANNA  
I'm sorry to interrupt your moment  
of glory, Danny...

DANIEL  
Yes.

DIANNA  
...but the phone is ringing.

Dianna answers the cell phone. She becomes dead serious in a split second. She ends the call and puts the phone back in her pocket.

DIANNA (CONT'D)  
It's Naomi. Ruth got worse. She's  
at the emergency unit at the  
hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL. VISITOR'S ROOM. DAY.

Daniel and Dianna arrive at the waiting room. Naomi holds tight Dianna. Naomi cries incessantly. Dianna can't contain her tears too.

DIANNA  
It's going to be all right. It's  
going to be all right.

Daniel looks at them, extremely upset. Naomi looks at him with tears on her eyes.

NAOMI

Don't let Ruth down, Mr. Daniel.  
You promised her a better life! You  
promised!

DANIEL

I thought the machine was  
functional.

NAOMI

You promised her. You promised!

Daniel leaves them walking fast.

INT. HOSPITAL. EMERGENCY UNIT. DAY.

Ruth is asleep, lying in a metal bed, with an oxygen mask in her face and a plastic tube stuck in her throat.

Beside her, one of those machines that monitor heart frequencies.

Daniel enters without permission and stands right beside her.

He pats her hand. As soon as he removes his hand, Ruth's hand holds his arm. She opens her eyes, smiles at Daniel, and closes her eyes again. She lets go of his arm.

The heart monitor goes crazy. A nurse bursts into the room and is surprised to see him there.

NURSE

What are you doing here? Security!!

Daniel leaves hastily the place.

EXT. PARKING LOT. DAY.

Daniel reaches the car and is ready to leave. At this moment, the LCD screen in his energy watch goes blue.

Daniel looks again and he watches a group of eight children serving tea to each other in a desert. Behind them, a bedouin tent.

THE PRESIDENT, the 3-D hologram appears instead wearing a panama hat.

He waves at Daniel wholeheartedly. The picture goes away.

Too late. THE PRESIDENT snaps his fingers. He disappears. The energy watch graphic is now without the green bars. Only red bars.

When Daniel is about to open the door, he notices another hand at the car doorknob. He looks back and there is Tony the detective. He grabs him by his shirt. Daniel tries to defend himself.

DANIEL

Oh, the police. Are you here to cheer me up?

TONY

Not really. I'm here to arrest you.

DANIEL

What's the charge? Not paying my parking ticket?

TONY

We found your DNA at the murder scene.

DANIEL

Maybe it belongs to the victim.

TONY

That's impossible. Two people don't share the same DNA.

DANIEL

You never heard the expression "the exception that confirms the rule"?

TONY

You're no exception. You're just an ordinary criminal. Come on.

Tony handcuffs Daniel. Diana watches from afar Daniel being taken away to the police car.

INT.POLICE STATION.DAY.

Tony is sit at his chair in his office, revising the prison papers in his desk, while his assistant types something in his laptop.

Dianna bursts in, furious. She goes straight to the boss's table.

DIANNA

What have you done? Not only don't you solve my husband's murder, now you arrest Daniel? What's the matter with you?

TONY

Whoa, easy, lady. Take it easy.

DIANNA

I don't want to take it easy. I want an explanation.

TONY

Can't you see, Anna? This guy is behind your money.

DIANNA

What money?

TONY

The money you're going to receive from your husband's insurance.

DIANNA

This is ridiculous! Daniel is only worried about the machine!

TONY

Just like your husband, right? Can't you see? He used your husband's dream to get close to you. It's all a scheme!!

DIANNA

You're wrong. Daniel is an idealist!

TONY

From my life experience, Dianna, this is something that doesn't exist anymore.

INT. CELL. DAY.

Daniel is alone in his dirty, dark police station cell.

The scar in his arm starts to itch. It's terribly intense.

Daniel crouches in pain and cries.

When he looks at his hand, it's translucent, transparent.

This phenomenon spreads all over his arm. After a few seconds, it's all over his body.

INT. POLICE STATION. DAY.

Tony and Dianna are still facing each other. Tony's assistant is also up, behind her.

DIANNA

You're really not letting Daniel go?

ASSISTANT

He's just doing his job, lady!

DIANNA

Shut up! I'm not talking to you!

TONY

I know how you must feel, Dianna, but believe me, this is for your own good.

DIANNA

Who elected you king to order what's good or bad in my life?

TONY

You're right. You are absolutely right. I let Daniel get on my nerves...

DIMITRI (O.S.)

The lady made her point, Tony. A minimum of civility is required from a gentleman, no matter what the circumstances.

Everyone in the room turn their faces toward the entrance door. Dimitri and their two goons invade the environment with the high self-esteem possessed by the great doctors of crime.

Tony , with the hand in his waist, gives a step forward in Dimitri's direction. Immediately, the two goons also give a step towards him. They face each other for a moment as if they were in a western movie. Dimitri gives Tony's assistant a very serious look.

TONY

I don't know who you are, pal, but if you think you can come to my office and disrespect me, you're wrong.

DIMITRI

I'll handle you in a moment,  
detective...Now, where's our famous  
scientist?

The two goons start to move randomly through the house in pursuit of Daniel. When the second one passes by Tony, he, casually, delivers a diagonal kick in his leg muscles followed by a precise punch in his spleen.

When the first goon turns to react, he receives Tony's knee right between his legs and a good punch at the right side of his face.

All this action happens in a fraction of seconds. Dianna barely has the time to let out a sharp cry. When Tony finally goes for the gun placed in his waist, a 9mm automatic is now itching his neck.

ASSISTANT

Take it easy, boss. This is no time  
to play the hero.

Now, everyone stops to absorb the dramatic impact of that moment. The two knocked-down goons get up slowly with some effort. One of them still manages to stir up the strength to remove Tony's gun from him.

Tony's ex-assistant accompanies the process with the pointed gun to his old superior.

DIMITRI

Very well, after this revealing  
incident, where is Daniel?

ASSISTANT

In his cell. He didn't get out of  
there.

TONY

You won't get away with this,  
buddy.

ASSISTANT

I think you'd better shut up,  
detective.

The unbearded goon, with the right side of his face clearly bloated, directs himself to the prison cell. He receives the key from the assistant. Without waiting for the boss to bark orders, the goon assembles a silencer into the gun.

He soon returns with a bewildered look.

GOON

Daniel is not in his cell! He's gone!

His bewilderment contaminates the rest of the people in Tony's office.

GOON (CONT'D)

Now what, boss?

Dimitri doesn't hide his dead-serious face. He turns and looks at Dianna.

DIMITRI

Very well, if our friend wants to play, let's play.

With a light movement from his index finger, Dimitri points to Dianna. Without a shadow of doubt, both goons advance toward her. The bearded one tries to immobilize her. He gets a slap in his face as a response.

DIANNA

What is this? Leave me alone, you asshole! Let go of me!

In a deft movement, the unbearded goon removes a wet handkerchief from his pocket and forces Dianna to inhale it.

She faints in two seconds, and is held by the bearded goon.

TONY

You're complicating the situation, man. Kidnapping is a grave mistake. Leave her out of this!

DIMITRI

This is very romantic from your part, but I have to make sure that our scientist is going to show up.

Dimitri's goons carry an unconscious Dianna outside the house, under Tony's attentive look, that is still under his ex-assistant gun range.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

Don't worry , detective. Mrs. Mann's destiny is the least of your problems at the moment. And my new associate will take care that it may be your last, too.

Dimitri buttons up his gray suit and leaves through the same door that he came in.

Now, presently at the room, only Tony and his former assistant. The bathroom door is now totally opened.

TONY

Congratulations, associate. You found a way to advance your career... And corrupt yourself totally.

ASSISTANT

I don't give a damn for your criticism. I'm not gonna waste my whole life with a boy scout attitude and a check balance that even a street vendor would be ashamed of!

TONY

If you really were right, then there would be no reason for you to point that gun to me.

Silence in the living room. The perplexed look suggests that the former assistant is absorbing Tony's last line.

ASSISTANT

OK, enough of this nonsense. Let's go to the back of the house.

At this moment, Tony witnesses a bright yellow spherical light growing exponentially until it becomes Daniel's body.

Tony's eyes are clearly mesmerized by this event.

TONY

If I were you, I'd look behind you now...

ASSISTANT

Detective, that is the oldest trick that there is...

TUUMMM!!! The assistant's neck receives a violent electric shock. He falls hard on the floor right away, totally unconscious. Tony takes his gun immediately.

Holding a very powerful electric shock mini-device, we see Daniel, standing in front of the bathroom door.

TONY

That's what I call a triumphant entry!

DANIEL

What happened here? Where is  
Dianna?

TONY

They took her. To make sure that  
you show up.

Daniel puts the electric shock device on top of the table.

His look is completely lost on the horizon. The sadness in  
his countenance is evident. Tony intervenes and stays in  
front of Daniel, a super-serious look fixed on him.

DANIEL

If there is a minimum chance of  
seeing Dianna again, we've got to  
work together. Is that OK with you?

TONY

It's OK. I can arrest you later.

Tony nods positively. The animosity between those two is  
temporarily suspended.

INT. APARTMENT. BATHROOM. NIGHT.

Daniel is in front of the mirror looking at his wound. We see  
the scar on his right arm again. The ancient scar becomes  
vivid, shining bright.

The pain is excruciating. Daniel falls on the floor, he tries  
to open the drawer to search for a medical kit.

Daniel regains his strength. When he looks again at his arm,  
the scar is not shining anymore.

INT. STORE. DAY.

We are at the same store whose owner installed the solar  
energy system at Daniel's house.

Tony comes in from the street and finds Tony and the salesman  
behind the counter, facing each other in an unfriendly way.

There is a white bandage wrapped up around the salesman's  
neck.

SALESMAN

What? Never! Go away, or I'll call  
the police right now!

TONY

What seems to be the problem,  
gentlemen?

SALESMAN

He's harassing me!

DANIEL

I just asked for a small amount of  
thermic isolation, nothing more. By  
the way, I can see some  
considerable stock over there.

Daniel points with his index finger to the back of the store.

We can see similar black materials in amounted white plastic  
boxes.

SALESMAN

No. Those materials have already  
been ordered three months ago. It's  
a new technology. Very limited  
stuff.

DANIEL

I must say that this request is  
considered a top priority by the  
NGS regulation.

SALESMAN

NGS?

DANIEL

Non-Governmental Statute.

SALESMAN

There is no such a statute. You're  
lying!

TONY

No, he's not!

TONY flashes out his badge for both of them. Everybody  
becomes silent.

DANIEL

I work for the government. These  
documents prove my identity.

Daniel hands his badge to Tony, along with a letter of  
commendation. Dead-serious, Tony analyzes it thoroughly.

Finally, he turns to face the salesman.

TONY

The documents proceed. I'm sorry, sir, but you have to comply with the... NGS regulation.

SALESMAN

What? There is no such a statute!

Tony becomes pissed off and grabs the collar of the sleepy employee, raising him slightly above the counter.

TONY

Do you want to discuss that at the central police station?

SALESMAN

No, no. Of course not.

TONY

Then, what's keeping you from attending this order?

The salesman walks slowly to the back of the store. He looks at the many shelves, verifying if they are adequate to the order. He sweats profusely.

TONY (CONT'D)

I need this material installed at this afternoon, OK?

He doesn't answer. When Tony approaches the sleepy employee to get back his police badge, he notices he's beside him, sleeping.

INT. APARTMENT. CELLAR.NIGHT.

Daniel seems to fish for something in his pocket. He stretches his hand and offers the 4-D goggle to Tony. He grabs it and puts it in his face. Tony does the same with his goggle. The lights are turned off.

Without further delay, Daniel types in the computer. We see a 3-d apple on the monitor. The rods starts to warm up.

Different from the previous times, it does not dilate.

Instead, a metal humming sound appears in a greater scale.

Incandescent lights materialize now at the strings.

In front of Daniel and Tony, a blueish light forms an inverted triangle.

More incandescent lights running through the strings.

After a while, a new blueish triangle is formed, in a normal position this time.

We see a reflection of an incandescent-blue star of David at Daniel's goggle glass.

Two blue lines of light slides away making the star of David disappear. The heat in the room starts to mount up in a significant way.

Vapors come out of the cylinders connected to the rods.

The strings vibrate nervously as if they were trying to whisper a tentative musical note.

Two golden lines merge into one. Daniel and Tony cover their eyes in a reflex response.

When they return their sight to the spot, everything is perfectly still and cool. In front of the rods, a little apple rests on the floor.

DANIEL

We're ready.

INT. HOSPITAL. INTENSIVE TREATMENT UNIT. DAY.

We see again Ruth. She rests on her bed and her tired eyes stare sadly at the heart monitor machine.

She looks at the window pane. Outside, a beautiful and sunny day. When she moves her head, a heavy and hairy hand grabs her arm.

DANIEL

Hi, little girl. Don't yell, it's me, Daniel.

Ruth is too scared to react. She looks at the cell phone left by her mother on the small table.

RUTH

I thought you were in jail.

DANIEL

Yes, but you know me...I had some pending business... so I decided to get out.

Ruth lets out an unexpected smile. It's been a long time since she heard a joke.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

All right. Now listen carefully: I know that the doctors told you that the medicine has no effect, but I want you to take it anyway.

RUTH

I don't have it. The doctors threw away the last box.

Daniel nods his head like he expected this answer. He pulls out a small package. He puts it very kindly on her frail hand. She holds it with all the strength that still resides in her.

Nevertheless, the package falls from her bed. Daniel crouches to get it. As soon as he gets it, a small wig lands on the floor. Daniel grabs it too. He gets up and takes a look at Ruth: a weak and bald child. It's no pretty view.

Daniel places the package in bed, at Ruth's arm range.

DANIEL

Here, honey. Take two every day, but don't tell those doctors, OK?

Ruth nods her head positively. Daniel hands out her wig.

Ruth stretches her arm to get it. Daniel notices red burns around her neck. He's appalled.

Tears fall from Daniel's eyes.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Don't worry. It's going to be OK. Even if it's the last thing that I do in this world, you're going to be OK. I promise you that.

Pause. Both reflect on the meaning of this last line.

After a few seconds, Daniel, in a brusque manner, grabs the violin case resting on the table, opens it and puts the instrument on her hand.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Do me a favor, little girl? Don't let the music die inside of you.

Surprised, Ruth looks fondly at the violin beside her.

She leans down her body and her little hand caresses the violin chords. When she looks up again, Daniel isn't there anymore.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Daniel is alone at the living room. He sits at the couch.  
The laptop is on. He dozes off.

EXT. DESERT. DAY.

We are in the desert. A bedouin tent. Far from our view, a group of kids sit on a rug and pour tea from a kettle.

The sun begins to set. A blond girl comes out of the tent.

They get up. They all close their eyes. They hold hands, forming a line. They seem as if listening to music. We hear nothing.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. DAY.

The TV SET is on again. 24 HOUR channel news broadcast a breaking news story. The previously tree-filled field is now once again a dry land. The same reporter appears with a mike in hand.

TV REPORTER

In an unprecedent series of events,  
the new forest appears to have  
vanished overnight. Authorities  
consider the possibility of  
biological terrorism..

We see the same employee scratching his head, completely lost at the unusual series of events.

Daniel turns the tv off. He puts once again his black googles. THE PRESIDENT logo blinks continuously.

DANIEL

What is it now? My time to recharge  
my body hasn't come yet.

THE PRESIDENT

It's a little more complicated than  
that. You have less than 24 hours  
to abandon the world you are right  
now... if you don't want to become  
a non-matter.

DANIEL

Hold it, man. I can still fix the  
machine.

THE PRESIDENT

In your case, it's no use anymore. Your metabolism is developing absurdly faster than the normal rhythm. Your cells are degenerating in an unprecedented speed.

DANIEL

What the hell, THE PRESIDENT. How did this happen?

THE PRESIDENT

You have to understand that there is a fine connection between dimensions. One reality feeds the other. Here we need truth like you need food over there.

DANIEL

So what? How does it affect me?

THE PRESIDENT

You, in particular, need our energy to sustain yourself right there. But we're not producing sufficient energy. What I'm trying to say is... You can't be kept alive in this world.

Beat. Daniel breathes heavily. The weight of these words start to sink in. He finally understands the meaning of THE PRESIDENT's speech.

DANIEL

And you can guarantee that the same thing won't happen in your world?

THE PRESIDENT

Here We control the metabolism.

DANIEL

Oh, right.

THE PRESIDENT

We can sustain you until tomorrow at night... after that you must leave if you don't want to be out of phase for the rest of your life!

DANIEL

But the machine needs adjustments! Who's going to be responsible for that?

THE PRESIDENT

Don't worry. We have a defense mechanism. And it's been activated.

Daniel approaches his face dramatically at the web-cam.

DANIEL

What defense mechanism?

THE PRESIDENT puts his hand in his ear. He nods the head positively.

THE PRESIDENT

I have to go. The President is calling me.

DANIEL

No... Wait!

Daniel listens to footsteps coming from the kitchen and looks immediately at that direction. It is Tony that arrived from the street. When Daniel looks back at the computer, THE PRESIDENT is disconnected already.

Tony sits at the table. The detective notices fear in Daniel's eyes.

TONY

Are you all right? You look like you've had your ass kicked.

DANIEL

The feeling is exactly the same.

Beat. Tony nods his head like he understood what he's talking about.

TONY

Hey, I just checked the rooftop. The double insuofilm layer has been already installed..

DANIEL

At least some good news.

Daniel resumes drinking his coffee and working at the computer. Tony taps his finger at the table, unsatisfied with the sudden silence.

TONY

Why did you kill Diana's husband?

DANIEL

I didn't kill anybody.

TONY

Your DNA was on the murder scene.

DANIEL

We share the same DNA.

TONY

That's impossible!

DANIEL

No, it's not! Look... I have to make the machine work until tomorrow night. It's all that matters!

TONY

You're not going to end people's suffering. You're going to make them suffer even more, can't you see? People need meaning in their lives!

DANIEL

That's exactly what I'm trying to do!

Beat. Silence reigns again. For a moment.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Our friend Dimitri must be waiting a call from your former assistant.

TONY

I know. We don't want to disappoint him, do we?

From the lateral door, Tony gets out of the house only to return a few moments later, escorting his former assistant, now handcuffed and with a gray dutch scotch tape covering his mouth.

Daniel gets closer and angrily removes the dutch tape, causing a cry of pain from the guy. Daniel now holds a cell phone at his right ear while maintaining the electric shock device between his former assistant's legs.

DANIEL

Now, listen. You're going to call Dimitri and tell him exactly what I tell you, or your precious object between your legs will be barbecue for the dogs outside.

Tony's former assistant realizes the strategic position of the electric shock device. He is completely terrified and his eyes demonstrate that.

INT. DIMITRI'S OFFICE. DAY.

We find Dianna with his hands tied up by layers of gray dutch tape to a black metallic swiveling chair. Facing her with a fierce expression in his eyes and holding a Glock 9mmm as an arm extension, we see Dimitri's unbearded goon.

No one is there but them.

Behind him, two digital electronic microscopes on a white table. We see a laptop connected to a data show projector.

Pretty much the same equipment in Daniel's lab.

We see three desk drawers in front of her. The first one painted in red stands out.

Dianna looks at the goon with pure contempt in her eyes.

DIANNA

So, there's no need to eliminate me anymore? You're nothing but a lousy lackey serving those who despise you, you know?

The goon doesn't answer. He only takes out his state-of-the-art cell phone from the inner pocket from his suit.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

You're waiting for the phone call from your boss from hell to eliminate me, isn't it?

The goon grabs the cell phone, presses some buttons and waits. No one answers at the other side of the line.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

What's the problem? Your little boss is unavailable? Wow, it must be painful no one telling you what to do.

The goon gives up the call and puts back the cell phone in his inner pocket. He points the gun at Dianna's left cheek.

GOON

I don't need Dimitri to waste you. I can do it anytime I want.

DIANNA

Hey, he speaks! That means that I don't need to resort to mimic!

The goon looks down at the floor, tired of hearing Dianna's smart remarks. His face is starting to reflect anger.

GOON

One day I thought like you. But power is much stronger than any foolish principle.

DIANNA

If you had any principles, you would never say that.

Silence now reigns. The goon gives her a harsh look. He gets up, approaches her and applies ether once again in her face.

She fights but is unconscious one more time.

Dimitri, wearing his shiny gray suit, comes in from the main door and seats behind the desk. Both goons are there too, silent like greek statues.

Dianna lies unconscious on the chair. At this moment, Dimitri's cell phone starts to ring. The owner stares at the cell screen for a moment, and then answers the call.

DIMITRI

How are you, police man? Did you have any trouble in dealing with our friend detective? No, excellent... yes, of course... We're coming right away.

Dimitri turns off the cell phone and gives a hard look at the bearded goon.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

Be prepared, boy, to do your work.

The goon takes off, in a second, from his inner pocket, a Glock 9mm and reload it with brand new ammunition.

Dimitri turns to the second goon.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

And you. Send the video.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Daniel, on the couch, looks intently on his smartphone.

He accesses the video sent by Dimitri. The video shows a series of pictures of the beggar in a slide show. Healthy and well-fed at the beginning, he loses weight as the pictures goes by, transforming himself rapidly in a skin-covered skeleton with a painful look in his face. It's horrible.

Daniel turns off the cell. He puts his hand in his face, covering the terror in his eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL. INTENSIVE UNIT ROOM. DAY.

Ruth lying on her bed, breathing with the help of the machinery.

The cardiac monitor beside her starts to beep frantically. A nurse appears from nowhere and faces the camera with fury on her eyes.

NURSE

What are you doing here? Get out!  
Now!

The video operator is thrown out of the room. The video goes black. It returns after a second.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. DAY.

Two doctors leave the intensive care room. They look down, defeated. The nurse is the last person to leave the room.

GOON 1 (O.S.)

What happened to the little girl?

NURSE

I have to deliver the news to the mother first.

GOON 1 (O.S.)

She's no longer among us, right?

The nurse doesn't answer. It's clear what happened. The camera turns and reveals the sad face of the goon. The smartphone video ends.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Dimitri and the goon 2 enter the attic. It's semi-dark.

You can barely see the environment. Tony's assistant is close to the strings and waves to them. He holds Daniel, that has his hands apparently handcuffed by a rope.

They step forward. When they pass the refrigerator machine, Tony comes from inside it and points two automatic pistols at them.

TONY  
Surprise, assholes! Don't even  
think of making a move!

Daniel unties easily from the rope. He removes the pistol from the goon. He also takes possession of Dimitri's precious smartphone.

We notice that Tony's assistant is handcuffed to one of the strings' poles.

Dimitri and the goon sit on the white couch. They are both conveniently handcuffed to each other and face their hosts.

Tony holds the Glock 9mm taken out from the holster of the faithful goon. Resting on top of the glass table is Dimitri's precious black smartphone.

DIMITRI  
Did you receive my video, Daniel?  
Tell me, that's how you pretend to  
help humanity, Daniel?

Breathing hard, Daniel grabs Dimitri by his collar. Their eyes met. Very intense. Tony intercedes and sets them apart.

DANIEL  
I'm just trying to alleviate  
people's pain.

DIMITRI  
Alleviate? It's the basic factor  
that unifies human race. Pain.

DANIEL  
It doesn't have to be like that  
anymore.

DIMITRI  
The human being always exploited  
his brother. It's part of his  
nature.

DANIEL  
We can change that.

TONY  
And who's going to change that? A  
stupid clone like you?

Tony is quick to point the gun at his forehead.

TONY (CONT'D)

OK, enough of this bullshit. Set  
Diana free.

Daniel stretches his arm and grabs the cell phone. He holds it in front of Dimitri's ear. He stares at Daniel challengingly.

DANIEL

Do your part man, and I'll do mine.

DIMITRI

That's exactly what I'm afraid of.

Pause. Daniel scratches his chin. He's evidently frustrated.

At this moment, Daniel's cell phone accuses a new text message with an acute sound. Daniel reads the message with the utmost interest. He's clearly surprised.

DANIEL

Dianna is being held hostage at  
your secret compound just below.  
Well, Dimitri, if you don't  
cooperate, your lawyers will have a  
hard time to get you out of prison.

Dimitri becomes pale when he hears that. He bits his lips and breathes hard now.

DIMITRI

Here. The key and my cell phone  
with CPS.

The cell call is disconnected. Dimitri displays a big smile.

DANIEL

Tony, get her out of there. And  
return quickly, OK?

TONY'S ASSISTANT

Hey, and what about me?

We see Tony's assistant handcuffed to the poles of the machine. He's in a state of utter despair.

TONY

I happen to like where you are.

Dimitri smiles. He seems content with the current flow of events.

TONY (CONT'D)

What are you smiling at, asshole?

DIMITRI

Nothing. Just do your job, boy.

These last words SHAKE Daniel down. Daniel's eyes reflect the two poles of the machine. He is in a deep trance pattern, proving he's having another private brainstorm.

INT. CELLAR. NIGHT.- (FLASHBACK)

When Daniel arrives at the lab, he is immediately grabbed by two sinister-looking guys. Both are wearing black leather jackets.

They are twins. One is bearded and the other has a clean face. The clean-faced guy is the guard who kicked Daniel out of the bank.

They search him thoroughly. The bearded man reaches for Daniel's pocket, grabs his wallet and puts it in the glass table. Dimitri opens it and studies scrupulously Dianna's pictures.

Resting in the white couch is a person wearing an elegant light gray suit and black shoes. Legs crossed, he merely watches as the scene unfolds before his eyes. His pale skin doesn't hide the aging wrinkles in his face. He's blond and his name is DIMITRI.

Daniel is surprised to see him.

At the center of the glass table, a wine glass and a bottle of imported beer.

DIMITRI

Hello, professor.

DANIEL

Hello, partner. Could you tell your boys to take it easy?

DIMITRI

He's just following protocol.

DANIEL

Protocol my ass. He enjoys it.

Dimitri nods his head. He lets out a smile.

DIMITRI

Did you fix the machine?

DANIEL

Remember that I told you that the elements were unbalanced.

Dimitri nods once again.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I may have found the balance.

DIMITRI

Show me.

Now it's Daniel's turn to smile.

Daniel puts up the 4-D glasses and types in some keys.

Immediately, the rods start to heat up. The concentrated rays, the heat of the electricity, the same process we've seen before. We see again the ethereal lights reflected in Daniel's pupils.

The brutish goons are too scared with the spectacle.

Dimitri looks at it with keen interest.

The money, after a few seconds, materializes in front of them. Daniel gets closer to the bunch of notes, accompanied by Dimitri. Daniel delivers some notes to Dimitri. He examines it carefully. Both goons simultaneously approach it.

The unbearded puts the money in his pocket.

Dimitri goes to the refreshment's machine, carrying a glass of wine. There's a button called champagne written on it.

Daniel presses it. Champagne falls into the glass.

Dimitri offers the champagne to Daniel.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

You made it, boy. Congratulations.

DANIEL

We made it.

Dimitri walks toward the DNA-ladder . He gazes in the direction of his two subordinates.

DIMITRI

Do your work, boys.

Dimitri leaves the lab. The unbearded goon grabs Daniel again. The champagne falls on the floor.

When the bearded goon sees this, he stands in front of his brother and nods negatively.

UNBEARDED GOON

What? You think it's not a good idea? You may be right... Yeah, I overreacted.

The unbearded goon puts back the gun in his coat. The unbearded goon smiles. Daniel watches this with relief.

UNBEARDED GOON (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here and tell Dimitri we can't do it.

The bearded goon leads the way. When he turns his back, his brother grabs him from behind. They fall on the ground.

The unbearded goon uses jiu-jitsu techniques. His brother soon loses his conscience.

UNBEARDED GOON (CONT'D)

Sorry, brother. But orders are orders.

The unbearded goon gets up. He throws a sharp look at Daniel.

UNBEARDED GOON (CONT'D)

And now time for our main attraction.

The unbearded goon takes out his gun from his coat again.

INT. DIMITRI'S OFFICE. DAY.

Dianna is in a swiveling chair with dutch tape covering her mouth and arms attached to the swiveling chair. She's alone in Dimitri's fancy penthouse.

Strong knocks on the door. Someone pries it open violently.

It's Tony. He comes running towards her. He yanks out a swiss knife and starts removing the gray dutch tape from her arms.

He also removes the tape from her mouth.

TONY

Are you all right? Did they hurt you?

DIANNA

I'm fine. They're only interested in Daniel's machine.

TONY

Daniel is with Dimitri right now.

Dianna becomes upset after hearing that.

DIANNA

Come on. Let's go!

Dimitri's cell phone starts buzzing a noisy sound.

Tony tries to shut it off, but his efforts are useless.

The ceiling starts irradiating a thin green ray. It soon starts to take over, multiplying itself into several digital greenish lines. It takes only a few seconds and the ceiling is gone!

And now the side walls start turning into digital greenish lines in fast speed.

TONY

Come on! Let's get out of here!

The sidewalls are gone too! The horizon appears before our very eyes and the floor starts transforming itself into green lines. The lines are chasing them wildly.

TONY (CONT'D)

Come on! To the stairs!

DIANNA

We're not gonna make it!

Tony stops. He puts on black-rimmed glasses. Dianna is breathing hard.

DIANNA (CONT'D)

What?

TONY

Give me your phone.

DIANNA

My phone?

TONY

Yeah. Give it to me now!

Dianna obeys. Tony grabs Diana's phone and throws it away as far as possible. Right on the spot, the lines change their direction and start chasing the device.

TONY (CONT'D)

Come on! To the stairs!

They run and finally reach the stairs. When they look back, the whole apartment is gone! But they are safe.

The green lines are gone too. Dianna looks at Tony.

She's baffled.

DIANNA

How did you know you had to throw  
the cell phone?

TONY

The glasses told me.

DIANNA

And why did you put the glasses in  
the first place?

TONY

That I don't know. I just knew.

INT. DIANNA'S APARTMENT LAB. DAY.

We're back at the white couch. Everybody continues at the same position, except for Daniel, who walks from the back of the room, carrying a black leather-made executive suitcase.

He positions it at the center of the mini-table and opens it.

We hear a metallic click.

Now, in front of Dimitri, we appreciate the suitcase's content. It is loaded with brand-new one hundred bills, summing up twenty millions dollars. Dimitri's eyes, however, are completely stuck on Daniel.

DANIEL

I have ten more suitcases like that  
down in the living room.

Dimitri doesn't answer. His face is static.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

All this could be yours, if you had  
given me more time to fix the  
machine.

Dimitri's face demonstrates an unsettling sensation. We note small movements at the arms of the bearded goon.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Now, there's nothing left to do,  
but to send you and your precious  
servants to jail.

DIMITRI

Why, young man? I'm cooperating  
with you.

Daniel pulls Dimitri by the lapel of his shirt, gets him up  
and throws him aggressively back at the couch.

DANIEL

" Do your job, boy. " Do you think  
that I'm an idiot? That was your  
code to execute my wife!

Dimitri sweats profusely. His arrogant expression is gone. He  
looks intently at Daniel.

DIMITRI

So, they activated the defense  
mechanism. It was about time. After  
I murdered you for the third time,  
they had to increase security.

DANIEL

What are you talking about, man?  
Listen, I just need more time to  
fix the machine! I can give your  
money back!

DIMITRI

You think it's about money? Well,  
it's not! It's about this  
abomination you've just built!

DANIEL

Abomination?

DIMITRI

You think you're doing mankind a  
favor producing all this food and  
medicine for free? You're not!  
You're depriving us from the hard  
work and discipline that is needed  
to build nations. More important  
than that... This machine takes  
away our free will. The very fabric  
that makes us human.

DANIEL

That's why you killed me before? To  
preserve free will?

DIMITRI

Yes.

DANIEL

Who are you, man?

The goon takes out the pen-drive from Daniel's hand and hands it over to his boss. Dimitri lets the pen-drive slip down from his hand onto the ground.

Dimitri steps furiously on the pen-drive, destroying it completely.

Dimitri is now before the touch-screen display in the refrigerator machine. Dimitri is about to press the log off icon in the touch-screen display. Daniel stares at him, horrified.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Please, don't!!!!

Too late. Dimitri presses the log off image. It takes two seconds for the crystal needles to lose its luminosity.

Goon 2 enters the room with Ruth on his arms. She's unconscious and still wearing her hospital wardrobe. Goon puts herself on the sofa. The unbearded goon watches her carefully.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What are you going to do? She's a child!

DIMITRI

She's no child! Can't you see!  
She's in control of everything! And  
must be destroyed!

DANIEL

No! Leave her out of it!

Daniel advances towards Ruth, but is clobbered hard by the goon before he can reach her. He lies unconscious on the floor.

Dimitri nods to the goon, who yanks out an automatic pistol.

DIMITRI

Do it. Do it fast.

The unbearded goon aims at her. Then the bearded goon gets in the way, and using special technique, removes the piece from his hand. The other goon reacts and a savage fight begins.

Dimitri picks up the pistol and aims at the bearded goon. Due to constant movement in the fight, he can't get a clear shot.

The unbearded goon manages to kick his brother, who lands in front of Dimitri.

The boss seizes the opportunity and shoots him straight in the chest. Daniel wakes up instantaneously.

The bearded goon crawls over to Daniel tentatively. He falls down halfway. Thick blood shows in his shirt.. Daniel comes to his aid and holds his head.

GOON  
(heavy breathing)  
Protect the child.. Promise me!!

DANIEL  
I promise.

The good goon smiles. He closes his eyes and dies.

The unbearded goon gets up, breathing hard. Dimitri points the automatic pistol at Daniel's heart.

DIMITRI  
Don't worry, you'll soon know how  
it is to be like him.

DANIEL  
I know it already.

The goon feels pain in his stomach. He gives a step back and crouches. His pupils roll over. A deafing cry of pain. The goon starts to tremble compulsively.

The machine ignites. The crystal needles begin to heat.

The strings begin to vibrate. Dimitri is appalled.

At this moment, Tony and Diana appear at the room.

They're thunderstruck by what they see.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
Dianna! Tony! Get down!

UNBEARDED GOON  
Help! Help, please!

Too late. The heat surrounds the assistant's body. A red light manifests from the strings' center point, aims at the assistant and blinds temporarily everyone in the room.

Seconds later, the bright light is gone. Surprise!

Dimitri's assistant has turned into a solid, black, natural size black graffiti statue. The look of pain on his face is pretty vivid. He is now part of the machine's miscalculations. . Then a hot bright light blinds everyone in the room. The goon's body disintegrate in a split second. The bright light is gone.

On the spot where the goon was positioned, we see grays of dust. Silence reigns in the room for a brief moment.

Dianna runs towards Daniel. She hugs him with intensity.

DIANNA

Could you please tell me what just happened?

DANIEL

He turned into a non-matter.

(SIGHS)

The essence of nothingness. When his brother was killed , his death sentence was signed.

DIANNA

I thought that only you had this problem.

DANIEL

Yeah... Only resynthesized matter face this dilemma...

TONY stands still on the door. He is the image of anxiety.

Right after that, both poles vibrate quickly and violently.

Before our very eyes, a black hole is formed between the string's poles. A mighty wind starts to suck the air in the lab. Gravity is suspended.

Dimitri feels the thrust of air move his body.

Immediately, he grabs Daniel's hand. Tony comes to his aid.

He holds Daniel's leg and a tag of pole takes place.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Dianna! Get Ruth out of here!

Dianna obeys. She takes Ruth from the sofa, holds her tight and runs downstairs.

The tag of pole continues. One hand of Tony holds firmly the top of the DNA ladder, while the other keeps glued at Daniel's leg.

The black hole increases its power, sucking everything in the lab. The sofa disappears between the poles. The three of them are above the floor, fighting for their lives. Dimitri is gaining this game. Daniel's legs slip from Tony's hand. He holds now only his foot.

DIMITRI  
You're coming with me!

INT. NAOMI'S APARTMET. DAY.

Dianna puts Ruth gently on her bed. She is cleaning her forehead with a handkerchief. She looks worried. At this time, the Aramaic inscription on Ruth's forearm starts to glow and becomes red fire. Dianna notices that.

DIANNA  
No! Please, no!!

INT. LAB. DAY.

Daniel closes his eyes. His body starts to become golden and glowing. He also becomes more and more transparent.

Until he disappears completely! Dimitri, in despair, is sucked to the black hole and is received by the stars in the shape of a skull.

Gravity returns. Tony falls on the floor with an anguish look on his face.

Dianna appears on the spot. She grabs Tony by his collar.

DIANNA  
Where is Daniel? Where is he?

Tony motions his head negatively. He holds Dianna, trying to comfort her. She cries hard.

EXT. DESERT. DAY.

Daniel lies asleep on the uneven ground composed of little gray stones. In front of him there is an asphalt road with yellow signs. He wakes up.

He gets up and removes the dust from his clothes. Still on the ground, he sits with his knees joined together.

Behind him, we see perfect bedouin-style tent made of ragged cloth.

At the beginning of the road, a military jeep turns up.

We notice its wooden benches occupied by children.

The jeep stops near. THE PRESIDENT, in a normal adult length, gets out of the wheel with a large smile and a funny panama hat. He walks joyfully towards him, bringing an old little kettle in his hand.

THE PRESIDENT

Did you like the car, kid? They have zero percent carbon emissions!

DANIEL

(GETTING UP)

What's going on, THE PRESIDENT? Where are we? And, frankly, how did I survive the resynthesis process?

THE PRESIDENT

So many questions. We'd better sit down and have a cup of tea.

Two children bring some pieces of wood. Other two collect some stones.

Daniel observes the young lady that helps the other boys produce fire for the kettle. After a couple of tries, a successful fire is produced. She spreads an oriental rug they brought with them. Daniel observes her with such an attention it seems like he's known her for a long time.

He joins her.

DANIEL

May I help?

LADY

Don't worry. It's almost done.

DANIEL

How long do you live here?

LADY

This is classified. We can't reveal our identities from the inferior world.

DANIEL

I see. It would spoil the pleasure to start a new life.

LADY

Sort of. It would cancel our merit of having overcome the conflicts of the inferior world.

DANIEL

So, I'll never know who you are, I mean, was, in the inferior world.

LADY

No, but I'm glad you came over to talk to me.

DANIEL

Why?

LADY

It shows I was not wrong about you.

She leaves him to help the other boys. THE PRESIDENT puts the little kettle on top of the fire. He sits very calmly on the rug.

Daniel joins him.

THE PRESIDENT

You have to understand that this world is a more balanced vision of the one you've departed. No distortions or big paradoxes around here.

DANIEL

I see. What about the little paradoxes... Is it possible around here?

THE PRESIDENT

These are an integral part of life... I'd say they are essential.

DANIEL

That's why the machine doesn't work like it should? Because it lacks the capacity to improvise?

A pretty blond girl wearing glasses comes and offers two cups to THE PRESIDENT and Daniel. She pours carefully the tea from the burning kettle. She leaves.

THE PRESIDENT

Everything in life has its proper boiling time. The machine is no different in that way.

THE PRESIDENT drinks the tea to half of its content. Daniel keeps holding the cup.

The lady, on the other side of the rug, combs the hair of the sweet blond girl. The lady looks at Daniel and smiles. He drinks his tea in a single gulp.

DANIEL

Now explain to me: Who was Dimitri?  
Why couldn't he accept the machine?

THE PRESIDENT

Dimitri's an older version... Of yourself. But he became a nihilist. And started to think the machine was a mistake. He refused to see it as man's search for balance.

DANIEL

I see. And he tried to kill you too?

THE PRESIDENT

We disagreed. I tried to prove my point by creating two helpers based on his DNA. One turned out to be moral. The other was cynical and violent.

DANIEL

You're talking about the goons, right?

THE PRESIDENT

Exactly. He became, then, even more convinced that the machine was a mistake. One day we had a fight... He burned the house down and destroyed the machine. But I managed to escape with the software.

DANIEL

Speaking of that, you said that a defense mechanism had been activated to help me. What were you talking about?

THE PRESIDENT

Forget it. You're here now. This is not important anymore.

DANIEL

It is to me. I need to know!

THE PRESIDENT

OK... Did you really think that after you were murdered for the fourth time, that We wouldn't take any precautions? We needed to create an aggressive anti-virus, not just a defensive one.

DANIEL

I see. And this anti-virus, by the way, used a badge and started to dispute with me the affection of Dianna?

THE PRESIDENT shrugs his shoulders and opens his arms in a typical " how could I know?" gesture.

THE PRESIDENT

Well, in order to defend you, we had to install full DNA identification .

DANIEL

Who is this we that you're always talking about?

THE PRESIDENT

All the decisions must be pre-approved by the President.

THE PRESIDENT points his index finger to the north . From that direction , emerges Miguel, the philosopher beggar. He is dressed with typical bedouin clothes. He comes riding a donkey with books in its bags.

He dismounts the animal and waves to Daniel joyfully.

MIGUEL

Easy, dean! Easy! We've already found our friends, Dean!  
(turning to Daniel)  
It feels really good to meet you again, Mr. Mann!

DANIEL

You! But you're a beggar!

MIGUEL

That is an undeniable fact. And I'm also the instructor of these children.

DANIEL

You're an instructor of what?

MIGUEL  
Social harmony and naturalistic  
interaction.

DANIEL  
This is a profession?

MIGUEL  
Here it is.

Pause. Daniel stares friendly at him. Suddenly his eyes become wide-opened with excitement.

DANIEL  
You're the one who sent me the text  
message that Dianna was in the lab,  
right?

MIGUEL  
No. I'm just a messenger. The  
president himself helped you.

The young lady approaches them holding her cup of tea. The  
lets out a shy smile. She looks like an older version Ruth.

The only difference: the hair. Daniel notices that her  
shoelaces are identical. Daniel is still holding his cup,  
without drinking.

LADY  
You know, it's not the same taste  
after it gets cold.

DANIEL  
Your shoelaces are symmetrical.

GIRL  
Yes.

DANIEL  
How did you do that? It's  
impossible.

GIRL  
In this world, nothing is  
impossible.

THE PRESIDENT makes a gesture with his hand calling all of  
them.

They join the children. Everybody join hands. The sun begins  
to set. We hear for the first time the music that accompanies  
it. Their eyes closed, Daniel and the lady listen to the same  
violin sound that came from Ruth's violin. It's beautiful.

Daniel opens his eyes. The kids smile. The lady lowers her head in his shoulder.

Beside them, THE PRESIDENT holds a sleepy child in his arms. His sleeve is up, and we notice in THE PRESIDENT's upper arm the same ancient scar that Daniel possesses.

The sky is beautiful. The stars in the space shine with all its bright splendor. Looking closer, we notice the stuff the stars are made of: vibrant and colorful violin strings.

INT. NAOMI'S APARTMENT. DAY.

We hear the same violin sound from the beautiful sunset.

Naomi is in the living room reading a book on the couch.

She's preparing a snack with tea and biscuits. Naomi gets up and puts the snack on a tray.

We follow the mom in a mini-corridor. Naomi revolves kindly the doorknob of the wooden door.

INT. RUTH'S ROOM. DAY.

Over there, we see the girl, Ruth, in a black skirt and a white blouse. She is practicing her violin and the harmonious notes echo through the opened window.

When Ruth notices Naomi's presence, she lets out a smile capable of melting the most resilient heart.

She rapidly puts the violin in its case. Beside the violin case, we realize there's an old music book of classical musical scores. It's Dianna's music book.

She gives her Mom the warmest hug possible.

EXT. STREET. DAY.

Tony walks on the street and arrives at the entrance of Dianna's building. He has the key. We notice he's using the same glasses Daniel used to wear, with adhesive tape and all.

He tries to open the door. The lock has been changed.

When he's about to walk away, the sleepy employee, now with a blue trendy T-shirt, big shorts and running shoes waves to him.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE

Wait up for me, please!

Tony waits. The old man walks in strides and stands next to him. He holds a plastic cup with Acai inside it. The sleepy employee has a key and opens the door.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

Thank you... Hey, you have an appointment with our executive director, don't you?

Tony nods his head.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

Nice... Come on in. I'm an engineer. I'm helping those kids to rebuild the house.

While Tony agrees with a nod of his head, a young woman, also wearing sporting wear, arrives, panting, breathing hard.

She's the nurse that took care of the old man during his stay at the hospital and talked to Daniel when he paid a visit to Ruth.

NURSE

Honey, why did you run so fast? You know that I can't follow you!

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE

Dear, this is a friend of Mr. Daniel. He's living in his old apartment.

NURSE

Nice to meet, you. I'm Tina. Mr. Daniel changed our lives.

She stretches her hand. Tony shakes her firm hand.

TONY

I know exactly what you mean.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE

Thank you for holding that door. I'm helping to rebuild the house. It's now a foundation destined to stimulate new scientists. Come on in!

INT. APARTMENT.. DAY.

Tony walks in the reformed apartment. He's in complete silence. The DNA-formatted ladder is rebuilt and permanently fixed now. No furniture, just the floor and the Magritte painting.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE

We have a lot of volunteers helping us. They are very excited.

Two volunteers climb down the DNA ladder. A boy with the cell cam and the girl that listens to music in her Ipod device climb the ladder together.

The boy's cell phone starts to ring. He answers that immediately.

BOY

...No, I don't care if your client ordered the solar panel three months already. I can't take a no for an answer. Well,... Tell your client that you made a mistake.

Tony smiles for a moment. He's heard that before.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE

We even have a mascot, did you know?

TONY

A mascot?

We hear an insistent squeaking sound coming from the top of the DNA ladder. Tony walks towards it and pushes aside the painting.

A pelican comes flying out of it and goes straight at the girl's direction. She runs away, yelling exactly like she did before at the university. The boy records everything with his cell cam.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE

That's our mascot.

Tony watches Dianna climb down the DNA ladder. He smiles broadly. She's never been so beautiful.

The animal calms down when she arrives on the floor.

Dianna pats the animal's head.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)  
 Oh... This is our executive  
 director... And musical supervisor.

DIANNA  
 The machine's stuck.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE  
 What?

DIANNA  
 It refuses to play our music.

SLEEPY EMPLOYEE  
 OK. I'll check it out.

The sleepy employee speedily climbs the ladder. The nurse  
 accompanies him. When she looks at him, he fell asleep in the  
 stairs.

DIANNA  
 I just talked to Naomi.

The doctors, at first, did not believe in Ruth's recovery.

Later, they found out the medicine she took secretly started  
 to function massively and to build up her immunological  
 system. A miracle!

TONY  
 So... You took a leave from your  
 job to work here?

DIANNA  
 Yes. I feel a need to do whatever I  
 can to keep Daniel's legacy alive.

TONY  
 I can understand that.

DIANNA  
 The problem is... Sometimes I feel  
 I'm not really qualified for that.

TONY  
 All the beginnings are hard.

DIANNA  
 I know but I'm also sad Daniel is  
 not among us.

TONY  
 You're going to be all right. I  
 feel it. Just do me a favor.

DIANNA

What?

TONY

Don't let the music die inside of you.  
Tony smiles for a flimsy moment. Dianna smiles too. Tony's smartphone accuses a new text message. He accesses it. We see the following text message: You'll be visited by the President. Don't be misled by appearances-Daniel. Tony's face becomes serious. Dianna notices that.

DIANNA

What happened?

The bell rings twice. It attracts Tony's attention. He rushes to open the door. The pelican follows him.

Tony opens the door. At the threshold, Naomi and Ruth, violin in hand, stand before him.

NAOMI

Hi! Ruth insisted on coming here. She said that Daniel appeared in her dream and told her you're going to need her help.

The pelican comes flying towards Ruth. The pelican reaches her and becomes surprisingly quiet. Ruth pats the animal tenderly. She flashes out an enigmatic smile.

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