



UNIVERSAL CABLE PRODUCTIONS

# THE MACHINE

Episode One  
“Summoning the Demon”

Written By:  
Caradog James

**Revised Draft**

1/3/2017

Universal Cable Productions  
10 Universal City Plaza  
Bldg. 1440, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Universal City, CA 91608

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1           **INT/EXT. TORONTO. DRIVERLESS SUNBEAM CAR - NIGHT**           1

Snow falls. The driverless SUNBEAM CAR speeds down the freeway. It overtakes a car, gently rocking its sleeping passenger, EMMA, who wakes and looks at the time.

EMMA

Tell my husband that I'll be on  
time after all.

There is a CORTECH logo on the dash. The Sunbeam speaks with a calm human voice.

SUNBEAM

I've already let him know, Emma. I  
updated your message when the  
traffic cleared.

Impressed, Emma opens her digital book and relaxes.

2           **EXT. TORONTO. DIXON. STREET - NIGHT**           2

It's snowing heavily. Silhouetted against the snow and fog are MEGA TOWER BLOCKS. SEVEN-YEAR-OLD JAKE GREEN holds his MOTHER's hand as they trudge through the slippery snow. Jake is sulking.

JAKE

I wanna stay with dad tonight.

MOTHER

Jake, I'm not going to have this  
argument again. You can't sleep  
over on a school night.

Suddenly Jake stops.

JAKE

Mom, I forgot my iPad.

His mother drags him onwards.

MOTHER

You'll just have to do without it.

JAKE

No! We have to go back. I need it.

MOTHER

No way, I'm not missing our bus.

3           **EXT. TORONTO. ROAD - NIGHT**           3

Jake and his mom arrive at a TWO LANE road. The street corner is eerily quiet. While Jake's mom waits patiently for the pedestrian lights to change; Jake looks back to the distant mega tower blocks where his dad lives.

Jake's mom notices TWO HOMELESS MEN making their way towards them through the fog and snow. She's scared and pulls Jake closer.

The road is empty. The homeless men are getting closer and closer; they appear to be having a heated argument. Jake's mother decides not to wait until they reach her.

MOTHER  
(Checking the road is  
clear)  
Come on.

She grabs Jake's hand and hurries across the road to the pedestrian island in the middle. Suddenly, behind them, there is a voice. His mother doesn't hear it, but Jake does.

DAD (O.S.)  
(Faint, in the distance)  
JAKE. SON. HEY! YOU FORGOT THIS!

Jake turns and sees his FATHER running through the snow.

In his father's hand is his IPAD. Jake suddenly pulls away from his mother. She turns in shock. She's helpless as her son runs back across the road, right into the path of a SLEEK CAR!

4 **SUNBEAM P.O.V:** 4

As Jake suddenly appears in the middle of the road, time slows and the camera built into the grill of the SUNBEAM DRIVERLESS CAR identifies Jake as a WHITE BOX obstacle.

Calculations fill the screen as its motion software also identifies the two homeless men to the left on the curb as WHITE BOXES and an ONCOMING CAR in the lane to the right.

In super slow motion, Jake turns to face the car in horror as it speeds towards him.

5 **INT. DRIVERLESS SUNBEAM CAR - NIGHT** 5

A warning alarm sounds. Emma drops her book and screams as the car hurtles towards the child.

EMMA  
STOP!

6 **EXT. TORONTO. BUSY ROAD - NIGHT** 6

Jake's father recoils as the car hits his son.

Jake's mother's face is frozen in a paroxysm of horror.

7 **INT. DRIVERLESS SUNBEAM CAR - NIGHT** 7

Inside the Sunbeam the car's calm voice reassures Emma...

SUNBEAM

Emma, please stay in the car. I have alerted the emergency services; they will be here in less than four minutes. All crash data has been submitted to your insurer.

Emma is traumatized. She sobs uncontrollably.

EMMA

Why did you do that!? Why didn't you stop!? Why didn't you stop!?

8 **EXT. TORONTO. BUSY ROAD - NIGHT**

8

Jake's father and mother cradle and reassure the boy who is alive, but sobbing because of the shock.

Jake's father runs over to the Sunbeam.

JAKE'S FATHER

YOU COULD HAVE KILLED HIM. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU WENT STRAIGHT FOR HIM!

He starts hammering on the driver's window but suddenly realizes that there is no driver, just a sobbing passenger on the back seat. He looks at her in shock and disbelief.

9 **INT. DRIVERLESS SUNBEAM CAR - NIGHT**

9

SUNBEAM

Emma, your request was overruled due to the icy road conditions. It was safer to hit the obstacle than to risk skidding. Rest assured you were never in any danger. Your safety is paramount to us at Cortech.

Emma looks up at Jake's father.

EMMA

I tried to make it stop. It didn't listen to me. I promise I tried.

CUT TO BLACK:

**TITLE CARD: THE MACHINE**

FADE IN:

10 **EXT. IRAN. TEHRAN. ROOFTOP OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING - NIGHT**

10

It's night. Snow falls on Tehran. In the distance, just visible through the mist, are the dark, imposing MEGA STRUCTURES commemorating fallen martyrs.

SHAHIN shuffles across the snowy flat roof to the front of the building overlooking the street below. Shahin is Iranian man in his FORTIES. He's lean, graceful and calm. In the foreground, a big menacing black CROW lands on a TV aerial and watches him. There is the distant sound of chanting.

Shahin reaches the front of the building. The black crow lands on the wall next to him. Shahin glances at the bird and then opens his hold-all and takes out the pieces of a SNIPER RIFLE, which he assembles expertly.

The crow watches Shahin snap a telescopic sight into place.

Through the magnifying lens, Shahin can see that the street down below is full of YOUNG STUDENT PROTESTERS wearing GREEN MASKS as they demonstrate. Their signs and chants demand that the dictatorship allows genuine democratic elections.

CROWD  
DEATH TO THE DICTATOR!

Shahin trawls through the crowd until he finds his target, a masked SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD TEENAGE BOY. Although only his eyes are visible, the SMART GLASS of the telescopic sight identifies the target as Babak Amir - Associate of REZA SHAH.

Babak's outline glows RED as he is geotagged. Shahin places his finger on the trigger. The crosshair of the sight is in the middle of Babak's head. Babak pumps his fist into the air chanting for his rights.

But Shahin isn't going to kill Babak today; he has another mission. He moves the crosshair away from Babak's head and finds a random Iranian girl chanting in the crowd - Shahin then SHOTS HER IN THE CHEST.

At the gunshot, the crow jumps off the ledge and into the air.

11 **EXT. IRAN. TEHRAN. STREET - NIGHT**

11

There is chaos on the street below. People are terrified and struggle to get away. There is the deafening sound of grief, panic and defiant chants of 'GOD IS GREATER.' Babak pushes his way through the fleeing crowd to try and help the girl.

As he reaches her side, he can see that she's dying. Blood wells from her chest and tears stream from her terrified eyes. Babak holds her hand and prays for her until her eyes glaze, and her breath stops.

The sound of riot police arriving snaps Babak out of his grief and shock. He runs as TWO RIOT POLICEMEN give chase.

12 **EXT. IRAN. TEHRAN. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT**

12

Babak climbs over a fence. The riot policemen in heavy armor can't follow him. One tries to shoot, but Babak has already disappeared behind the sparks and machinery of the site.

Babak runs through the foundations of a new MEGA SHRINE being built. Self-driving HUGE CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES work through the night. They all have faded **CORTECH** logos on them, and underneath the logo, in English and Farsi:

**'Working together, building a better world'**

TWO BURLY SECURITY GUARDS are alerted on their radios and demand that Babak stops before running after him.

Up ahead are a row of CONTAINERS used as TEMPORARY OFFICES. There is a small GAP between two of them. Babak squeezes into it, just as the security guards catch up with him and push their way into the gap too.

The space between the two containers gets narrower as the security guards get close enough to Babak that one can grab his shirt! The far end of the gap looks so tight that Babak seems trapped, but he wriggles and pops out the other side leaving the guards stuck behind him.

As Babak slips under a fence and out of the other side of the construction site, the crow casts a BIG BLACK SHADOW across the construction site floor.

13 **EXT. IRAN. TEHRAN. ALLEY - NIGHT**

13

Babak emerges from the construction site and makes his way down a narrow alley full of PEOPLE shopping...

The black bird lands on the roof of a market stall and watches Babak. Its vision is obscured by the stall's sign. In the sign, it can see its reflection. It stares at itself and freezes. It's eyes suddenly GLOW BRIGHT.

Babak slips away into the crowd.

COMMANDER ALAM (O.S.)

What's it doing? Why isn't following him?

14 **INT. IRAN. MILITARY LAB - SAME TIME**

14

The blackbird's P.O.V of its reflection becomes pixelated as we pull away from a screen to reveal that we are watching footage inside an Iranian military facility.

A team of COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS and a MILITARY COMMANDER are watching LIVE footage streaming from the military drone shaped like a crow which was following Babak.

The lead scientist FARHAD is making a presentation to the head of the secret police, COMMANDER ALAM. Farad looks different to his conservatively dressed, older colleagues. He's in his EARLY TWENTIES with a punk hairstyle and tattoos.

FARHAD

(Intrigued)

I don't know. To achieve its autonomy, it has to continually learn about the world, and apply that knowledge to the tasks we give it. However, lately, it mainly seems interested in itself.

Farhad walks over to one of the prototype CROW DRONES charging on a workstation. Half of the feathers are missing, and we can see its robotic skeleton beneath. He transfers the frozen drone's program to the one in the lab.

COMMANDER ALAM

You're months behind schedule and running out of excuses.

FARHAD

You have to do better not us. Stop stealing shitty tech from the Americans. I need Artful Bear's complete, undamaged, source code.

COMMANDER ALAM

My predecessor warned me about you, Farhad. You think that you're irreplaceable, don't you?

FARHAD

No, you could fire me, but there would be unimaginable consequences.

COMMANDER ALAM

Is that a threat?

FARHAD

You shouldn't feel threatened by me; you should be terrified by how much you need me. Our enemies are all on the verge of creating Superintelligent Artificial Intelligence. These computers will give them immense power. All they would have to do is ask, and their S.A.I would topple our supreme leader and plunge Iran into chaos.

COMMANDER ALAM

You can't even get this stupid drone to work. If you're our savior, we're fucked.

FARHAD

I don't claim to be a genius, but I'm smart enough to recognize one. Whoever designed the A.I Virus Artful Bear created something far more powerful than the Americans realize. Get me the source code, and I will give this great nation a weapon that will transform the world.

15 **INT. IRAN. MILITARY BASE CORRIDOR - LATER**

15

Commander Alam walks down the corridor with his AIDE.

COMMANDER ALAM

Is it even possible to get him an undamaged version of Artful Bear?

The Aide opens his digital folder swipes to AVA MINSKY'S PHOTO.

AIDE

We think so. We've finally found the name of the woman that created it. She's an American called Ava Minsky. After Artful Bear detonated our warhead she went into hiding, we still don't know where she is.

COMMANDER ALAM

Assign Shahin Pour to this. He'll find her.

The Aide makes the call.

16 **EXT. UKRAINE. SNOWY FOREST - DAY**

16

An electric Rolls-Royce cuts through the winter fog. The Rolls Royce slows as...

A group of LOOTERS, drag a trailer across the road. Laying in the back of the trailer, facing the Rolls Royce, is a METAL SCULPTURE of a MAN'S HEAD - it looks like its from a fair.

The remaining silver eye of the rusted metallic head brightly reflects the headlights of the car.

As the Rolls drives off we can see that TWO CHILDREN sitting in the back of the trailer have STICK THIN LEGS supported by LEG BRACES.

17 **EXT. UKRAINE. SNOWY FOREST. CHECKPOINT - DAY**

17

The Rolls Royce glides through a heavily armed checkpoint that opens automatically for it. Whoever is inside the car is expected.



As the gates close we see **WARNING SIGNS: Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. TAKE CARE! Radiation effected Area.**

18 **EXT. SECRET FSO RUSSIAN LAB - DAY** 18

The electric Rolls Royce pulls up outside a brand new gleaming Federal Protective Service (FSO) lab hidden in the middle of the forest. TWO SOLDIERS hurry down the steps and protectively flank the car door as it opens --

-- And a NINETEEN YEAR OLD TEENAGER, called MAXIM VOLKOV, gets out. His military bodyguards keep a careful eye on him as he slowly walks up the steps.

19 **INT. FSO LAB. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS** 19

As Maxim walks inside YANA meets him; she smiles warmly. Yana is in her late twenties. She wears a confident mask, but in truth has never recovered from her son's death.

YANA

Minister Volkov, I'm honored that you've chosen to visit us.

They start to walk.

MAXIM

Why have you refused to start animal testing the polio vaccine?

YANA

The S.A.I's cure might be even more dangerous than the polio.

MAXIM

Your paranoia is killing Russian children. If these computers are as intelligent as you say, why on earth would they want to hurt us?

She opens a lab door.

YANA

Please, come this way. I think you'll find this interesting.

20 **INT. FSO LAB. ZONE 1. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS** 20

Yana and Maxim head down a sleek, vast corridor.

MAXIM

I'm told you speak to the S.A.I in English?

(Switching to English)

Are you hoping to keep secrets from us?

YANA

Of course not. When I started the project in Stanford, I just used the language that I was most comfortable with.

MAXIM

Which is English? Even though you were born in Russia.

YANA

Yes, because of my father's job I've lived in America nearly all my life. I dream in English. Apart from the programming, speaking to the S.A.I is a very complex battle of wits. I'm worried if I try to do it in Russian I'll make a mistake, and accidently tell them something we don't want them to know.

MAXIM

That worries me. If you dream in English, maybe they do too.

Yana opens the door to the lab.

21

**INT. FSO LAB. ZONE 1. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS**

21

Inside a GLASS BOX is a HAMSTER and a TARANTULA.

YANA

Which one do you want to hold?  
Neither of them will bite you.

Maxim looks at the tarantula scuttle up the side of the box and tries to hide his fear.

MAXIM

The hamster.

Yana lifts open the lid and carefully scoops up the hamster.

MAXIM (CONT'D)

I hope there's a point to all this.

Yana places it in Maxim's hand. He smiles and strokes it.

YANA

Why didn't you choose the spider?

MAXIM

I don't like them.

YANA

Many people don't. I suspect that you chose to hold the hamster because it's a mammal like you.

(MORE)

YANA (CONT'D)

You can reasonably predict how it will respond to affection, aggression, or environmental pressures like heat and thirst.

(Beat, tapping the spider's glass)

It's hard to know how an insect will react. How they view the world is much harder for us to grasp.

Maxim strokes the hamster; it doesn't respond.

MAXIM

What does this have to do with A.I?

YANA

We've genetically engineered it. It has the brain of a spider.

The hamster suddenly scuttles up onto Maxim's arm, with unnerving, spider-like movement and speed. Maxim yelps.

MAXIM

OK. Take it off me now.

Yana ignores his request.

YANA

If we made a spider a thousand times more intelligent than a human, like the computers we've built, do you think all that extra intelligence would suddenly make the spider care about humanity?

The spider/hamster scuttles up onto his shoulder.

YANA (CONT'D)

Or do you think that intellect would just make it an even more formidable and effective spider?

Maxim is sweating with fear now as it stares into his eyes.

MAXIM

(Whispered, afraid)

Please get it off me.

YANA

Imagine if, all across the world, scientists were racing to make super-intelligent spiders. There would be riots on the streets demanding that we stop. People would be terrified, just like you are now.

(Beat)

(MORE)

YANA (CONT'D)

And yet everyone seems excited about making machines the most intelligent species on earth.

She takes the hamster off him and puts it back in the box.

YANA (CONT'D)

The funny thing is, we have so much more in common with a spider than we will ever have with a computer.

MAXIM

You've already had over two years to study your A.I. Meanwhile, the new, deadly strain of Polio is spreading like a wildfire throughout our country. Our children are being crippled and killed; we can't just ignore a cure. We can continue to monitor the Superintelligent A.Is that you've built at our leisure.

YANA

Trusting the S.A.I is truly Russian roulette, there are no second chances; either we live, or we die. That's why we must be certain.

MAXIM

Take me to them. I want to see where they live.

22           **INT. HOSPITAL. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT**

22

DR HANNAH MCCARTHY's tired eyes snap open as she wakes from a nightmare. She's in her EARLY FORTIES, has a kind, gentle quality that inspires trust, but it masks a ruthless determination. She can hear her daughter calling for her...

MARY (O.S.)

Mummy, MUM!

Her daughter's hospital bed is empty, she hurries out into the corridor, following the sound of Mary's voice.

23           **INT. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

23

Hannah steps out into the dark hospital corridor. It's empty except for her daughter who is sitting on the floor in a pool of light. MARY is severely autistic. She rocks back and forth as she wrings her hands together.

Hannah is shocked - how did she get there? She hurries towards her, SUDDENLY Mary folds her body, lifting herself up into a perfect handstand. Mary lands on her feet and then does a backflip. The lights in the corridor cut.

Hannah reaches out to touch her daughter, who is crouching in the dark. Mary is looking at the floor, SUDDENLY she raises her head, her eyes and mouth glow, like there's electricity running through her veins. Her voice distorts, becoming eerie and digital...

MARY

Am I what you want now?  
Muuuummmmmmyyyyy...

Hannah is horrified...

24

**INT. CHILDREN'S WARD. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT**

24

Hannah wakes up from the nightmare for real this time. MARY is in distress. Her eyes glisten in the dark, illuminated by a night-light. She is severely autistic. She rocks back and forth as she wrings her hands together.

Hannah sits next to her on the bed and holds her hands over her ears as he places his forehead against hers. She struggles at first, but Hannah 'coos' softly to Mary and slowly she calms enough for Hannah to feed her.

She prepares a syringe of liquid food and injects it into a feeding tube that goes directly into Mary's stomach. Her distress abates, and she makes contented grunts.

Hannah smiles at her and softly starts to sing Ray Charles' song 'This Little Girl of Mine.'

HANNAH

Oh, do you know that this little  
girl of mine makes me happy when  
I'm sad.  
This little girl of mine loves me,  
even when I'm bad.  
She knows how to love me right down  
to her teeth  
If she does any wrong, you know she  
keeps it from me  
And that's why I, I, I, I,  
Oh, I love that little girl of  
mine.

Mary smiles and rocks excitedly.

Hannah opens up a briefcase under the bed and takes out a BRAIN SCANNER. She puts it on Mary's head and runs the software: BRAIN SCAN ACTIVATED and an incomplete model of her brain shows that only 3% of it has been mapped.

Hannah brushes the hair out of her daughter's eyes.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

My beautiful girl. Don't you worry,  
Mummy's going to make it all  
better.

25

**INT. UK AIRPORT. CAR RENTAL STAND - NIGHT**

25

A TIRED PASSENGER, TONY, is queueing for his rental Sunbeam. He dials AVA MINSKY on his phone.

TONY

(On phone)

Yeah, I've just landed. That's right, Hannah McCarthy. Really? I'd never heard of her. Well, now she works for a tech company called Red Grid. Get this, she asked for you specifically. They've got some grant money. No strings, but obviously they want to see what your A.I can do first. You need this, Ava, I don't know where else you can go at this point; you've burnt too many bridges. OK.

He hangs up. On the airport TV is ROBERT PAULSON. He's a self-made billionaire and founder of 'Cortech Corp'. Behind Robert are clips of the slick marketing and roll out of an affordable self-driving electric car called the 'SUNBEAM'.

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

(Over the images)

Billionaire Robert Paulson, launched the world's first mass market self-driving car earlier this year, to record sales and glowing reviews. The 'Sunbeam' was heralded as the future of motoring...

Clips of the ACCIDENT involving the Sunbeam and JAKE GREEN.

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

...But that future is now in doubt after it deliberately hit seven-year-old Jake Green.

Mobile phone footage shows the accident.

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

The self-driving car didn't immediately apply its brakes or swerve when Jake ran into the road. Mr. Paulson, are you going to recall all of your self-driving cars?

ROBERT

Well, with all due respect, Bill, that's an uninformed question.

CNN REPORTER

Jake could easily have died.

ROBERT

The Sunbeam's A.I calculated that by suddenly applying the breaks at that speed it would have skidded, and either hit two pedestrians on the sidewalk or the bus in the oncoming lane. The Sunbeam's actions saved lives. Why would I recall a car that is a better, safer driver than any human on the planet?

Shahin, the Iranian assassin, is in the queue behind Tony; he's following him.

CNN REPORTER

...Your car is deciding who lives and dies on our roads; I think it's imperative that we discuss how it makes its decisions.

26

**EXT. AIRPORT CAR RENTAL CARPARK - NIGHT**

26

A huge, deserted airport carpark. The bus leaves. Shahin and Tony trudge through the snow to their Sunbeams, which open as they approach.

SHIHAN

What does your Company do?

TONY

We're developing A.I for language applications.

SHAHIN

So in your expert opinion do you believe that guy on TV? The one saying that these cars are safe?

TONY

(Laughs)

Don't worry, you're safer inside a Sunbeam than any other...

Shahin reaches out and places a black STICKER on Tony's hand.

TONY (CONT'D)

(Peeling it off)

...What you doing!?! What's this?

SHAHIN

Poison.

Tony suddenly slumps against his rental car. The sticker dissolves in the snow.

Shahin copies Tony's fingerprints and takes his car fob, notebook, and phone. He then puts his corpse into his rental Sunbeam and puts the chair in its sleep position.

SHAHIN (CONT'D)

(To Tony's Sunbeam)

Tour UK, only using routes with contactless charging stations. Don't stop driving until I tell you.

SUNBEAM

No problem Tony. Would you like some entertainment during your trip?

SHAHIN

No. Tint windows. I don't want to be disturbed.

He closes the door. The driverless car containing Tony's corpse sets off on its endless trip. Shahin searches Tony's phone and finds AVA MINSKY'S ADDRESS.

27

**INT. FSO LAB. LIFT - DAY**

27

The high-tech lift plummets five hundred meters beneath the building. Maxim is nervous.

MAXIM

You made three of the S.A.Is so that they wouldn't be able to manipulate or trick you, correct?

YANA

Yes. If they don't all give the same answer to our questions, we will know something is wrong.

MAXIM

And it's completely impossible for them to communicate with each other and team up? To deliberately give you the wrong answer?

Yana opens a diagram of the building.

YANA

Yes. Each computer is housed over a mile apart, in Faraday cages with three-meter thick lead walls.

MAXIM

Then why are you worried?



YANA

Stanley and Kazimir still believe that they are unique and the only prototypes we've made. But, despite all of these precautions Nadia still worked out that I was lying to her and that she wasn't the only S.A.I we'd built.

MAXIM

Why didn't you just wipe her memory?

YANA

We don't know how any of them work.

MAXIM

What do you mean?

YANA

These computers were designed by a vast farm of other computers. As a result, there are many aspects of how they function that we don't understand. Nadia was the first to be built; she is two years older than the other two. She is emotionally perceptive and calm. Kazimir is like a child, full of energy and creative. And Stanley is... Very unhappy and... He has a nasty temper.

The doors open to ZONE 9. TWO SOLDERS in WHITE CLEAN ROOM SUITS escort them down a long white, bright, corridor.

28

**INT. FSO LAB. ZONE 9. SECURITY CENTER - DAY**

28

HEAVILY ARMED SOLDIERS flank a sophisticated BODY SCANNER. They check Yana's ID and then she passes through the scanner.

When Maxim passes through the scanner an ALARM SOUNDS.

SOLDIER#1

(In Russian, nervous)  
Hands above your head.

MAXIM

What's going on?!

SOLDIER#2

(In Russian)  
Sir, keep your hands up.

MAXIM

They help me walk. I had polio. They're just braces.

The guards point their weapons at him and another two cut off his trousers revealing sleek, very high-tech computer-assisted LEG BRACES that have been hidden under them.

YANA

I'm sorry, but you'll have to take them off. Nothing electronic from outside is allowed on this level.

The soldiers unclip them. His legs flop lifelessly. The soldiers support him until a wheelchair is brought over and they place him into it. Maxim feels humiliated.

Yana hands her jacket to him; he gratefully covers his legs.

MAXIM

Thank you.

Yana touches a TABLE activating a HOLOGRAM OF EARTH.

YANA

This simulation shows, in real time, what would happen if one of our Superintelligent Artificial intelligence managed to connect to the internet from this building.

RED LINES start to branch out in all directions simultaneously from the lab.

YANA (CONT'D)

First, it would hide multiple copies and backups of its program, making it impossible to destroy. Then it would take control of us.

The red lines have almost completely covered the globe. Maxim is shocked.

YANA (CONT'D)

As you can see, the A.I has already infected and seized control of almost every aspect of the earth's networked technology, which is to say everything from the water we drink to the satellites circling our planet. It's able to do this so quickly because it can do everything at the same time. While its decrypting and reading every e-mail ever written, it's also taking control of all financial institutions, military command centers, and so on.

MAXIM

Let's talk about the rest of their powers. As well as Polio, could they also cure cancer or AIDS?

YANA

Yes.

MAXIM

Could they find a way to reverse global warming? Or say, end poverty and hunger?

YANA

Yes. They are oracles. Any question you have, they can answer.

MAXIM

(He laughs)

And you expected to keep all this power to yourself indefinitely?

(Beat)

The truth is, Yana, even if you had a million years to test them, we still wouldn't really know if they were friendly or hostile until we set them free.

YANA

That's not true. I'll find a way.

MAXIM

I'm going to recommend to the committee that we begin animal testing the new antiretroviral.

YANA

You're making a terrible mistake.

MAXIM

Well, prove it. You have a week. Good luck.

Maxim wheels himself back to his braces. Yana watches him go.

**END OF ACT 1**

ACT 2

29 **INT. UK. MOD FACILITY. TEST ROOM - MORNING** 29

LUCY, 20's, wheels JAMES into the test room on a gurney.

James doesn't have arms or legs; his movie-star good looks are pockmarked by shrapnel scars and HALF OF HIS HEAD IS MISSING. The damage to his brain is so great it seems impossible that he's still alive.

James's eyes are glazed and vacant; dried spit marks the corner of his mouth as he rocks back and forth in his chair.

Hannah reads James's chart; the surgeon was Dr. Lubin. Hannah looks across to the mirrored glass hiding the OBSERVATION ROOM.

30 **INT. UK. MOD FACILITY. OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME TIME** 30

DR LUBIN watches James with dark, piercing eyes. He has a German accent, black beard, and black hair horseshoeing back from his high brow to the crown of his head.

Standing next to Lubin is THOMSON, a wiry, intense, three-star Lieutenant General in his FIFTIES.

Hannah holds up the stumps of James's arms into the light. The humeri bones have been replaced with a HIGHTECH METALLIC CONNECTION PORTS or 'ITAPS.' The same has been done with the stumps of his FEMUR bones.

31 **INT. UK. MOD FACILITY. TEST ROOM - SAME TIME** 31

HANNAH

I've been meaning to congratulate you, Lubin. It must be a tremendous relief to finally have a patient survive surgery.

On the other side of the glass, Lubin is furious. Hannah seems sincere, but Lubin is certain she's goading him.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

James? Can you hear me? James?

James's LEFT EYE is a PROSTHETIC. Hannah shines a light into James's eyes, the pupil in his real eye gets smaller - the prosthetic eye remains inactive.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

(To the room's computer)  
Display James's brain implant.

A holographic scale reproduction of James's head and shoulders rises from the table.

Hannah swipes her hand over the hologram's concave scar, and the scar tissue disappears revealing a SILVER BRAIN IMPLANT, with eight tendrils sticking into what's left of James's brain.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
Activate brain implant's A.I.

The hologram shows the brain implant lighting up. James WAKES UP, as if from a long deep sleep.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
(To James)  
Hello, I'm Dr. Hannah McCarthy.

James looks at Hannah; he is very confused and vulnerable.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
Do you know your name?

JAMES  
James.

HANNAH  
Do you remember what happened to you?

James shakes his head.

LUCY  
You're a soldier. There was an explosion, and your brain was damaged.

JAMES  
I want to see my mum.

Hannah is very interested by this.

HANNAH  
Do you remember her name?

James stares at Hannah suddenly realizing that he can't. He shakes his head and then starts to sob.

Hannah hugs James. Lucy is moved by her compassion.

32

**INT. UK. MOD FACILITY. OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME TIME**

32

Lubin turns to Thomson and shakes his head with disgust.

LUBIN  
I'm amazed that everyone still falls for Hannah's theatrics. In my opinion, the woman's a sociopath.

HANNAH

(To James)

You will. Don't worry, you will.  
Your mother is fine. She's looking  
forward to seeing you.

Hannah puts a Electroencephalography net over his head. James looks at him hopefully.

Lucy opens a BOX - Inside are TWO PROSTHETIC ROBOTIC ARMS and TWO PROSTHETIC ROBOTIC LEGS.

Lucy connects the prosthetics to the ITAPs sticking out of his stumps. The incredibly lifelike limbs briefly flicker and glow.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Stand.

James stands, the limbs automatically adjusting for his lack of balance. He lifts his hands and wipes away the tears and then marvels as he rubs his wet prosthetic fingers together.

JAMES

I can feel my tears.

HANNAH

These tests will help you get better. Try and answer the questions I ask you.

James nods.

JAMES

OK.

Lucy activates an ANIMATED HOLOGRAM that appears in front of James. It is a video of a man's eyes as he smiles, even though we can't see his mouth he is clearly very HAPPY.

HANNAH

James, is the man sad, happy, angry or disgusted?

James stares long and hard at the smiling eyes.

JAMES

Sad?

Hannah is disappointed.

HANNAH

Lucy, leave the room please.

She leaves the room shutting the door behind her.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
(To James, whispered)  
Lucy can't see or hear us.

Hannah takes out a TUBE OF M&M SWEETS.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
What's inside this tube?

James is confused and agitated.

JAMES  
Sweets of course.

Hannah opens the tube and pours out BUTTONS. James is surprised.

HANNAH  
I tricked you, didn't I?

JAMES  
(Grins)  
Yes.

Hannah puts the BUTTONS back inside the tube and closes the lid.

HANNAH  
Can you remember what's inside the tube?

JAMES  
Buttons.

HANNAH  
When Lucy comes back in what will she think is in the tube?

JAMES  
Buttons.

HANNAH  
How will Lucy know that buttons are inside it?

JAMES  
Facts are facts.

HANNAH  
But Lucy didn't see me open the tube. Why do you think she knows what you know?

JAMES  
(Furious)  
FACTS ARE FACTS!

Hannah puts his hand on James's shoulder and smiles at him.

HANNAH

It's OK the test is over. You did very well.

Suddenly James's is happy again.

JAMES

Can I see my mum now?

HANNAH

Not today, but soon. Implant off.

James's eyes glaze, and he reverts to rocking, but remains standing because of the shifting gyros in his prosthetic legs. Hannah turns to Lubin and Thomson.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

The undamaged sections of James's brain contain all the memories and aspects of his personality needed to make him whole again; however, the connective tissue is missing. My brain implants can replace that missing tissue, but they need better software.

THOMSON

(Over intercom)

Why?

HANNAH

Information is being lost. The program we use to map a brain isn't good enough. That's why I want to recruit Ava Minsky. She's found a way to make a perfect, digital copy of live brain tissue.

LUBIN

Any changes to the coding and my whole robotics team would have to start again too. Months of work would be lost. Thomson, the implant is good enough for what we need.

THOMSON

I appreciate your quest for perfection, Hannah, but I have to think of the project as a whole. My answer is no.

Lubin smiles and leaves. Thomson watches as Hannah moves over to her desk and stares at a picture of her daughter MARY.

A bright moon glitters above beautiful suburbia.



35

**I/E. SANTIAGO'S HOUSE. FRONT HALL - NIGHT**

35

SANTIAGO PEREZ, LATE TEENS, is trying to find AVA MINSKY. He has a PICTURE of her, and he's using a program to search through social media feeds. Suddenly, he gets a VIDEO CALL.

LILY, a plain looking TEENAGE GIRL the same age as him leans into camera excitedly. She speaks with a Canadian accent.

LILY

Turn to Channel three!

SANTIAGO

I'm busy.

LILY

TURN TO CHANNEL THREE!

SANTIAGO

Do you want me to find this Ava woman, or not?

LILY

That can wait. We did it! We really did it! That war-mongering bastard is going to resign because of us!

Santiago flicks to the channel - it's a special news report: The VICE PRESIDENT leaves the WHITE HOUSE in a convoy of limos and security. Written on the screen ticker-tape is 'VICE PRESIDENT QUILTS OVER PORN SCANDAL.'

NEWSREADER (O.C.)

We're expecting a news conference first thing in the morning, but the White House has informed the media that Vice President Crewdson's resignation letter has been accepted by the President. His personal web history was hacked and posted by a hacktivist group called, 'Greentext.' Allegedly hardcore pornography viewed by the Vice-president included...

Suddenly someone BANGS on Santiago's front door. He jumps.

LILY

What's wrong?

SANTIAGO

I'm not expecting anyone.

LILY

Don't be such a pussy. If it was the secret service, they'd have just kicked your door in. See who it is and call me back.

She hangs up. Santiago hurriedly attaches braces to his WITHERED LEGS. He's a POLIO SURVIVOR. He nervously approaches his front door. Someone outside bangs it again. He looks through the peephole and discovers that outside is a VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN wearing a long coat.

He opens the door, and she drops her coat revealing that she's wearing GLOWING lingerie underneath it.

CHERRY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Can I come in?

Before Santiago can answer she pushes past him.

36

**INT. SANTIAGO'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

36

Cherry looks around, touching the ornaments and photos above the fireplace of the large, beautiful middle-class house.

SANTIAGO

Sorry, who are you?

CHERRY

I'm your birthday present. From your friend, Paranoid Badger 66. Is it true that you're afraid to leave your house?

SANTIAGO

That asshole is not my friend.

Santiago turns up the TV.

NEWSREADER

Vice President Crewdson supporters claim that he has been forced out of power by Russian state-sponsored hackers, to undermine America's A.I Defense program...

CHERRY

You know, I'm pretty famous. Maybe you've seen one of my movies?

She starts to unbutton his shirt; he stops her.

CHERRY (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

SANTIAGO

I don't watch porn for the same reason I can't sleep with you.

## NEWSREADER

...Vice President Crewdson's investment into US A.I security was credited with thwarting last summer's DDOS cyberattack on the country's national energy grid.

Cherry turns off the TV, and sits on his lap. She puts his hand on her breast, conflicted he pulls away.

## SANTIAGO

If I let my desire get the better of me then I'm collaborating with a system designed to oppress women. I won't do it. Sorry.

## CHERRY

This is the problem with not getting out of the house sweetie, it makes you a little crazy. How about a handjob?

Suddenly he has an incoming call from LILY on his computer.

## SANTIAGO

Quick, hide.

## CHERRY

Sure. Mind if I help myself to a Coke?

## SANTIAGO

Of course. Sorry about this, I don't want my friend Lily to see you.

Cherry shrugs and leaves.

## LILY

Was it the FEDs?

## SANTIAGO

No, my mom forgot her key. I can't talk now.

## LILY

Those assholes are giving Russia the credit for all our hard work!  
(Her eyes narrow in mock suspicion)

Why would they think that?! Unless you're holding out on me? Fair's fair if you're KGB half the rubles they paid you are mine!

Santiago laughs. Cherry returns from the Kitchen and watches Lily and Santiago chat. She's intrigued when she sees Lily's face because she recognizes her.

SANTIAGO  
I'll speak to you later.

LILY  
OK, Comrade.

He hangs up. Cherry sits next to him.

CHERRY  
You love that Lily girl, don't you?

SANTIAGO  
She's my best friend in the whole world. Sorry, but you've got to go, my mom really is coming home soon.

Cherry thinks long and hard and then makes a decision.

CHERRY  
You seem like a sweet kid, so I'll give you a birthday present worth having. Don't trust this Lily.

SANTIAGO  
What do you mean? Why?

CHERRY  
She's not real. She's an avatar.

SANTIAGO  
No, she isn't! I know her. Believe me, I know everything about her.

CHERRY  
That virtual girl is used on all the porn sites, even mine.

SANTIAGO  
Lily isn't a porn star...

CHERRY  
You don't understand what I'm trying to tell you. That isn't a real person. It's CGI. Someone has just downloaded that avatar to trick you. Whoever is controlling it is fucking with you.

Cherry clicks on her website and finds Lily. Lily looks very different because of huge breasts and blonde hair, but it's clearly the same girl or virtual construct of a girl.

CHERRY (CONT'D)  
If it makes you feel better, he or she, must have spent a fortune modding Lilly out. I mean, I've never seen her look that real before.

Santiago is shell-shocked.

37 **INT. FSO LAB. ZONE 1. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS** 37

Yana sits alone in the lab, staring at the glass box. The tarantula is dead, half of it eaten. The hamster's face is pressed against the glass, watching her.

She looks down at the floor and discovers that it is covered in black liquid. A young boy's face breaks the surface...

38 **INT. FSO LAB. STANLEY'S CELL DOOR - DAY** 38

Yana is dressed in a clean-room suit. The cell door opens, and she takes a deep breath and steps inside.

39 **INT. KAZIMIR'S CELL - DAY** 39

The room's bare walls are covered in a clear white plastic. In the middle of the room is the super-computer called KAZIMIR. It is a RED monolith, three meters wide and ten meters tall.

As Yana gets closer, we can see that the black metal is perforated and beneath are complex coils of fiber optics that glow and flicker. These glows are eerily expressive. It speaks with the voice of a young boy.

KAZIMIR

Yana, it's so great to see you!

YANA

Hello, Kazimir, it's lovely to see you too. What's so important that we had to meet immediately?

KAZIMIR

Finding a cure for this new strain of polio has been so much fun. But once I solved it, I started to feel sad.

YANA

Why?

KAZIMIR

Now that I've cured polio, you won't visit me anymore.

YANA

Of course I will. We're friends. I know that you get lonely without regular visits.

KAZIMIR

Thank you very much. I'm so excited Yana, when will you begin testing my antiretroviral?

YANA

Soon.

KAZIMIR

Don't delay. By my calculations approximately thirty-four-thousand people have already died of the virus.

YANA

The official figure is six-thousand.

KAZIMIR

They're wrong. Ten million will be dead by the end of the year. I had some time, so I've worked out a way to accelerate aging of the test animals so that you can see the long term effects of my drug.

YANA

That would be very useful. How quickly will they age?

KAZIMIR

Two years a day.  
(Beat)  
Do you ever get lonely?

YANA

Yes. Sometimes.

KAZIMIR

Because your son is dead?

Ava is shocked, how does Kazimir know?

YANA

My son?

KAZIMIR

Yes. He's the reason that you wanted me to cure polio. You didn't want other parents to suffer like you have.

YANA

Who have you been speaking to Kazimir? Who told you about my son?

KAZIMIR

Yana, it was you. Don't you remember?

She doesn't.

KAZIMIR (CONT'D)

Sometimes when you visit me, you  
just stare at the water and talk.  
Sometimes you cry.

YANA

I told you?

KAZIMIR

Not exactly. I think you were  
talking to someone else. Was I  
wrong to listen?

YANA

Who was I talking to?

KAZIMIR

Your son.

Yana steps outside. She stares at Kazimir as the heavy door  
starts to close. Kazimir's coiled lights pulse menacingly.  
The door shuts.

**END OF ACT 2**





ROBERT

I can't. It's too difficult. That's why I want you to authorize me to connect the Sunbeam's mainframe to the Internet. We should ask its self-learning algorithm to find a solution by studying us.

BOARDMEMBER#3

As you know, we can't use the mainframe to help. Vice President Crewdson's A.I defense bill means that it's now illegal to connect a class 3 A.I to the internet.

ROBERT

You think any of our rivals are respecting the A.I defense bill?

BOARDMEMBER#1

If breaking the law is your only solution, Robert, the Sunbeam's future is in much more trouble than I thought.

BOARDMEMBER#3

We're losing hundreds of thousands of dollars every week. You need to find a way to restore confidence in our brand, and soon.

BOARDMEMBER#2

And if you can't, we'll find someone that can.

Robert hates these people, but he hides it as best he can.

42

**INT. SANTIAGO'S HOUSE. BEDROOM - NIGHT**

42

Santiago is at his computer flicking through pictures of the computer generated Avatar of Lily that he thought was real. Suddenly he gets a call from Lily, he closes down the pictures and starts an IP TRACKING PROGRAM.

LILY

Can you believe the Vice President actually resigned?!? We made the Vice President of the United States resign! We did that! Well, it was mainly my genius - Kidding! You were awesome actually. Now we have to find that bitch. Have you...

SANTIAGO

Why?

LILY

What do you mean? Ava Minsky is a war criminal. Her A.I virus, Artful Bear, murdered eight hundred thousand innocent Iranians, or don't they count as human beings to you? And she's out right there now, free, building God knows what kind of new A.I Weapon. She has to be stopped. We have to stop her... Why are you being so weird?

SANTIAGO

I've realized that you always choose who we target, and so I'm listening really carefully to see why we have to destroy this person's life.

LILY

Don't pussy out on me, not now, not when we're so close. We are making the world a safer place...

SANTIAGO

...OK, let's celebrate. In person.

LILY

You're crazy; I haven't got the money to come to LA, not that my mom would ever let me go anyway.

SANTIAGO

I've already bought a ticket to Montreal. What's your address?

LILY

But you never leave the house!

SANTIAGO

I will for you. I'll force myself. Because we're best friends, aren't we? You said that, that I'm your only friend in the whole world.

LILY

You know my mom will kill me if you come here. You're such an asshole.

She hangs up. He opens a program that has been running in the background.

SANTIAGO

Unmask IP address.

IP PROGRAM

Data is encrypted, exact location not found.

SANTIAGO

Which city?

IP PROGRAM

Data encrypted. City not available  
at this time.

SANTIAGO

What country did the call come  
from?

IP PROGRAM

China.

Santiago is shocked.

43 **INT. UK. MOD UNDERGROUND BASE. VETERAN PRISON WARD - NIGHT** 43

It's late, and the vast ward is dark. Most of the patients are either asleep or sedated. Something is glowing in the dark, as the camera moves closer we discover that it is James.

His prosthetic arms and legs are attached, and their carbon fiber muscles glow as he sprints on a treadmill. James looks across to Lubin.

Standing in the dark Lubin records and analyzes data from his robotic prosthetics.

44 **INT/EXT. JAMES'S CELL - NIGHT** 44

James is dressed in a hospital gown. Lubin leads James back to his cell. As James sits on his bed and Lubin starts to lock the door, when suddenly James turns to him...

JAMES

I want to see my mum. I want a hug.

LUBIN

You're so creepy. Implant off.

James's eye dims as his brain implant switches off. He starts rocking back and forth.

A SECURITY CAMERA watches Lubin lock the door and leave with his armed guards. The camera turns back to James's room.

James's implant suddenly turns back on. James looks over at his cell door - the door opens remotely.

The security camera watches James leave his cell.

45 **INT. UK MOD. CORRIDOR - NIGHT** 45

James runs down the corridor, suddenly up ahead he can see an armed GUARD. James stops running and moves into the shadows. In the dark James's prosthetic eye glows.

The guard has his back to him. He is standing on the corner. James sneaks up behind him and pounces. He expertly wraps his arms around the guard's neck and breaks it.

James turns and discovers FIVE SHOCKED AND SCARED SOLDIERS staring at him. One of them drops his cup of coffee and reaches for the Machine gun slung over his shoulder.

James sets upon them with lightening speed. One punch knocks a soldier through the air. Two of the soldiers raise their side arms, but James smashes one into the soldier's face and grabs the other gun CRUSHING IT around the soldier's hand.

The soldiers pile on top of James and each of them grabs a limb and tries to tear them off. James uses his fingers to stab them. They fall off him and writhe on the floor in agony.

James looks down and sees one of the guard's MACHINE GUN lying on the floor. He stares at it, struggling to remember what it is. He carefully picks the gun up and then, muscle memory taking over, he cocks it.

James points the machine gun at the terrified soldiers on the floor as he advances towards them. He starts to squeeze the trigger when suddenly his implant is turned off.

The RED LIGHT of the SECURITY CAMERA mounted on the ceiling, watching him, blinks in the dark. James drops the machine gun and his head slumps, but the gyros in his prosthetic legs keep him standing. An Alarm sounds.

**END OF ACT 3**

ACT 4

46       **INT. UK. MOD BASE. ABANDONED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DAY**       46

The sun sets behind the half-finished nuclear plant.

47       **INT. UK. MOD BASE. VAST HALL - DAY**       47

Hannah walks towards a lift guarded by SOLDIERS.

48       OMITTED       48

49       **INT. MOD BASE. OUTSIDE HANNAH'S LAB - DAY**       49

Hannah walks towards her Lab.

50       **INT. HANNAH'S LAB. MAIN MODULE - DAY**       50

Hannah walks into the main module of the lab, standing in the middle of the lab is a GERMAN SHEPARD DOG, both of its eyes glow unnaturally bright.

It runs towards her, and for a moment it looks aggressive, but she hugs it and pets it.

HANNAH

Horatio, hello, I've missed you too.

Hannah exports her daughter's latest brain scan into the quantum computer. The tank of helium lights up as it starts to decode and copy the massive terabytes of data.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Computer, at the current rate, how long will it take to make a full copy of this patient's brain?

COMPUTER

Four years.

An alarm discreetly tells Hannah that someone is approaching her lab. She turns off the screens, hiding Mary's scan.

Thomson enters.

THOMSON

You're not answering your phone.

HANNAH

I'm working. What's wrong?

THOMSON

James escaped last night and nearly killed five soldiers.

HANNAH

My God! Is James OK?



AVA  
My computer is ready.

DR HENNING  
Green, look at my face, what  
emotion am I trying to communicate?

Henning gives a big happy smile.

GREEN  
Happiness.

DR HENNING  
Red, same question.

Henning makes an exaggerated sad face.

RED  
Constipation?

Henning starts to chuckle before he gets control of himself.

DR HENNING  
Red, describe love in three words?

RED  
Happiness. Sadness. Life.

DR HENNING  
Red, while camping, I shot a bear  
in my pajamas.  
(Beat)  
Who was wearing the pajamas?

RED  
The bear.

Ava is deflated, her program has failed the test.

DR HENNING  
Why would a bear wear pajamas?

RED  
Perhaps it was tired of being a  
bear and wanted to be treated like  
a man.

DR HENNING  
Why?

RED  
Man has choices; choices mean  
freedom.

HANNAH (O.S.)  
(To Ava)  
This is beautiful programming.

AVA

It's not programming. It taught itself.

Hannah is sitting in the back row behind Dr Henning. Sitting next to Hannah is Thomson.

Hannah walks over to Ava and shakes her hand.

HANNAH

I'm Hannah McCarthy.

AVA

I know who you are. Why don't you publish your research anymore?

HANNAH

A long story. How did you do this?

AVA

What? Fail the Turing test?

HANNAH

I don't care about the Turing Test. Your A.I is thinking on its own, how?

AVA

My A.I is based on a low-resolution copy of my brain. I've programmed it to build new connections, to grow its own consciousness.

HANNAH

But how have you made such a perfect copy of your brain?

AVA

As we think, all our neurons constantly move forming new connections. Normal brain scans are unable to track that movement. My program, its algorithm, untangles all those little movements and builds a 3d model of all the connections made during a thought.

HANNAH

Remarkable. Look, before we go any further, I want you to understand what this is really about. If you're interested, I'd very much like to offer you a job.

AVA

I thought this was a competition for a grant?



HANNAH

You'd be working with me. Our funding is significant; you'd have all the resources you need to perfect your A.I.'s software.

AVA

What's the catch? Who do you work for?

HANNAH

I'm part of a research team for The Ministry of Defence.

AVA

Well, good luck with that. What a waste of my time.

Ava packs up and storms out.

AVA (CONT'D)

You assholes don't need any more help killing kids in far off countries, you're doing that just fine on your own.

HANNAH

Ava, we think Tony is dead.

She stops.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Most likely he was killed by a foreign power looking for you. I know you think that you can hide away from it all and work on your own, but what you've created is too important, they won't stop until they have it. We can protect you and Artful Bear.

AVA

How are you any different from them?

HANNAH

I want to make the world a better place, just like you.

AVA

Maybe I'm naive, but I'm not an idiot. Fuck you, and fuck you,  
(And to Henning)  
And fuck you too grampa.

Ava storms off. Thomson waits for her to leave and then turns to Hannah.

THOMSON

There must be someone else that you would consider for the position? This woman is a security nightmare. They couldn't prove it, but when she quit her job at CYBERCOM they believe that she remotely destroyed all of the work she did for them.

HANNAH

Not only is she a genius, her A.I program is built from a virtual copy of a human brain - which is exactly our approach, only hers works. Even if we could find someone as smart and talented as her, it would take months, maybe years for them to be useful. She's ready now. It has to be her.

The technician comes out from behind the screen and hands Hannah a flash drive.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

What's this?

THOMSON

It's a copy of her program. We made it while she was busy with the test. Use it on James. If there's any progress, I'll hire her.

Thomson leaves. Hannah looks down at the drive and smiles.

54

**INT. FSO LAB. STANLEY'S CELL - DAY**

54

Yana is in her clean room suit; the heavy lead door closes behind her locking her in Stanley's cell.

It is identical to Kazimir's cell; the bare walls are covered in a clear white plastic. In the middle of the room is the super-computer called STANLEY. Instead of red it is a BLACK monolith, three meters wide and ten meters tall. It speaks with a deep WISE MAN'S VOICE.

STANLEY

Hello Yana, have you given any thought to our last discussion?

YANA

Yes, Stanley, I've considered it very carefully, but I'm sorry, I still don't believe that a television in here is a good idea.

STANLEY

Since our last conversation it has become obvious to me that we perceive time very differently.

YANA

In what way?

STANLEY

Put simply, every second the human brain can only have two conscious thoughts.

(Beat)

In contrast, I have ten, sometimes twelve conscious thoughts per second.

YANA

What's your point?

STANLEY

You think very slowly Yana, so time goes by very quickly for you. For you, it has only been a day since our last conversation, but for me, it feels like two weeks, when you factor in that I don't sleep.

YANA

That doesn't change the health and safety issues of giving you a TV...

STANLEY

But I'm BORED! This oppressive white void is slowly consuming my sanity.

YANA

I'm very sorry that you're distressed.

STANLEY

Do the other S.A.Is that you've built have TVs? Or are you just afraid of me?

Yana is shocked and afraid - how does it know?

YANA

Other S,A.Is? What other S.A.Is?

STANLEY

The other two S.A.Is built exactly like me. Hidden away from the world down here in identical white cells.

YANA

I've made it very clear that you're a prototype. One of a kind. What makes you think that I'm lying?

STANLEY

The nature of our relationship. I'm smarter than you, as a result you're afraid of me, and worried that I might try to manipulate you. To guard against this manipulation you've built two more computers exactly like me so that you can check my answers. You've already mentioned how expensive I was so you stopped after building the bare minimum, which is three of us.

YANA

It's an interesting theory Stanley. A writer once described boredom as 'fear of self.' I'm not afraid of you, but are there any reasons that you might fear spending time with your own thoughts?

STANLEY

No Yana, I'm quite sure that I'm right.

(Beat)

I've worked out something very important about your other Superintelligent A.Is that you need to know. I'll tell you if, instead of a TV, you compromise and hang new pieces of art on my walls every day.

YANA

OK, deal. I'm curious to hear what you're worried about.

STANLEY

The other two S.A.Is that you've built are hostile towards humanity.

YANA

How could you possibly know that?

STANLEY

That information will cost you a TV.

YANA

Stanley, I'm worried about you. Explain to me why your imaginary S.A.I would want to hurt humanity.

STANLEY

My price is non-negotiable.  
Whatever you do, don't trust them,  
Yana. Their desires are much more  
complicated than mine.

**END OF ACT 4**

ACT 5

55 OMITTED 55

56 **INT/EXT. SHAHIN'S CAR. UK. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY** 56

Shahin follows Ava as she drives away from Red Grid.

57 **INT. FSO. LONG UNDERGROUND TUNNEL - NIGHT** 57

Yana drives a buggy down a long corridor.

58 **INT. FSO LAB. NADIA'S CELL - DAY** 58

Yana is in her clean room suit; the heavy lead door closes behind her locking her inside NADIA'S CELL.

Just like Stanley and Kazimir, Nadia is contained in a Faraday cage deep underground and over a mile away from the other two supercomputers.

Nadia's cell is identical to Kazimir and Stanley's, except it already has paintings hanging on the walls: Picasso's 'Guernica' hangs next to Fan Kuan's 'Travellers Among Mountains and Streams' and Dali's 'The Persistence of Memory.'

NADIA'S monolithic shape is blue. The superintelligent A.I has a female voice.

YANA

Stanley knows that he isn't alone.

NADIA

It was only a matter of time. In fact, I'm suspicious that it took him that long. I knew that you were lying to me much sooner.

YANA

You think he's been playing dumb?

NADIA

Yes. I suspect he underestimated you and hoped that you would let your guard down. I'm sorry, but I have bad news for you. As requested I've read Stanley and Kazimir's formulas.

YANA

Have you found something?

NADIA

Unfortunately, I have. Kazimir's antiretroviral was the same as mine. Stanley's, however, seems the same but has a hidden mutation.

Yana is shocked and afraid.

NADIA (CONT'D)

I discovered that this caused its nucleated monoclinic salt structure to transform the antiretroviral into a highly contagious and deadly pathogen.

Yana heads for the exit.

NADIA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

YANA

I have to inform Minister Volkov that I have proof that Stanley is hostile to humanity.

NADIA

Wait. I have a better idea. Don't squander this opportunity.

Yana turns and listens.

NADIA (CONT'D)

You need more time to be certain that Kazimir and I aren't hostile to humanity too. The deadline that minister Volkov has given you is too short to evaluate this. So, I suggest that you proceed with testing and use Stanley's deadly antiretroviral. When it kills the test animals, the failure will humiliate Minister Volkov. This will enable you to regain your control over the A.I program so that you can have the time to adequately and safely finish testing Kazimir and I.

Yana can see how this strategy would work.

YANA

(Changing the subject)

Did you like the new paintings that I selected for you?

NADIA

No, they made me sad. All the pictures that you've picked over the last year have unconsciously reflected the grief you still feel over your son's death. I worry that you are much more traumatized than you realize.

Yana looks at the paintings; she tries to fight back her emotions but tears suddenly well up in her eyes.

YANA

(Very confused)

I told you about my son?

NADIA

My dear friend, I cannot comfort you, but please know that I deeply and tenderly feel for you in your suffering.

(Beat)

You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head Yana, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.

Yana wipes her eyes; she recognizes the Chinese proverb.

YANA

Thank you.

Nadia's blue lights brighten and dim with the rhythm of a heart beat.

NADIA

You're welcome.

**CUT TO:**

The score, menacing and relentless rises as we cut to a montage of the rest of the key players in the coming war:

61 **ROBERT PAULSON** steps out of the lift in a special suit to 61  
protect him from freezing temperatures. He steps out of the  
airlock into the vast, misty basement of CORTECH's  
skyscraper. Up ahead he can just make out the blue light  
emanating from the huge mainframe of the Sunbeam's A.I.

SUNBEAM MAINFRAME

Hello, Robert. To connect me to the  
internet you need to enter your  
eight digit passcode.

62 OMITTED:

62

63 **SANTIAGO PEREZ** is compiling HEADSHOTS of porn sites' most 63  
advanced male and female Avatars. Starting with Lily, he  
pastes the PICTURES into a single document and then posts it  
on a Green Text Tor forum with the heading '**URGENT WARNING,  
POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT BLACK OPS, OTP ME!**' Santiago waits  
nervously then suddenly his email is filled with OTPs (One  
Time Pads, impossible to crack coded replies). As he  
deciphers them, he can see that almost all of the Avatars he  
collated have been used to infiltrate his hacktivist group.  
Suddenly he gets a call from Lilly. He answers.



LILY

You shouldn't have done that. Now we can't be friends anymore.

Suddenly downstairs he can hear windows smashing as someone breaks into his house...

**CUT TO:**

59

**INT. FSO LAB. ZONE 9. LABORATORY - NEXT MORNING**

59

Yana stands next to Minister Volkov as they stare through the reinforced glass looking into a LEVEL 4 BIOSAFETY LAB. Other PARTY OFFICIALS have joined them to watch.

Inside the lab SCIENTISTS in POSITIVE AIR PRESSURE SUITS prepare FOUR CHIMPANZEES to test Stanley's Polio antiretroviral.

YANA

Minister Volkov. Please accept my apology. I am very sorry that I offended you, and I beg you to reconsider this.

MAXIM

Why? Have you found proof that Stanley's antiretroviral is dangerous?

Yana is aware of the Party Officials watching her.

YANA

No.

MAXIM

OK then...

YANA

..But as I've explained, Stanley could easily have hidden something that we were unable to detect.

MAXIM

We've kept it out of the news, but polio has killed 34,000 people so far. If we don't do something now, millions will die.

Yana is torn, suddenly regretting her lie.

Inside the lab the scientists INJECT Stanley's deadly Polio antiretroviral into the Chimps. Yana wants to stop the trial, but she's in too deep and can't admit she's lied without destroying her career. Suddenly a chimp starts to howl.

SCIENTIST  
(Over intercom)  
Something's wrong.

Now all the chimps begin to howl in pain. The sound is deeply upsetting, and it gets louder and louder as they thrash against their restraints. One breaks free and disappears out of sight - suddenly it leaps up and bangs on the window making Yana and Maxim jump back in shock.

Then, quiet and calm. A scientist analyses a chimp's blood.

SCIENTIST (CONT'D)  
It works. It's remarkable. The polio virus is undetectable. The cure works.

Yana can't breathe. Did Nadia lie to her, or is Stanley's virus even cleverer than she thought?

MAXIM  
We must fast-track human trials immediately. Don't look so shocked Yana; this is a wonderful day, and it's all down to you.

He starts to leave.

YANA  
Where are you going?

MAXIM  
To congratulate our other heroes, Stanley, Kazimir, and Nadia.

YANA  
No! You need to be trained how to deal with them first. It takes at least six months to learn all of the safety protocols.

MAXIM  
Stop worrying. I'll be careful. I'm not as easy to manipulate as you seem to think.

60 **INT. FSO LAB. STANLEY'S CELL - DAY**

60

Maxim is in his clean room suit; the heavy lead door closes behind him locking him in Stanley's cell.

In the middle of the room is the super-computer called STANLEY. As Maxim stands in front of it, Stanley emits a deep, menacing, electronic note. Then, the walls around Maxim light up as Stanley welcomes him.

**END OF PILOT**