

IT WAS FUN WHEN WE STARTED

by
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FADE IN:

INT. MARIA RAMIREZ'S HOUSE - EVENING

YOLANDA RAMIREZ is cooking in the kitchen while RAMON RAMIREZ cuts up vegetables. MARIA RAMIREZ helps at the stove.

YOLANDA

Maria, can you get me some butter?

MARIA

Sure, Mama.

Maria leaves the stove and walks past her father, Ramon, pecking him on the cheek as she passes. In the background, children scream and play in the other room.

RAMON

The natives are restless tonight.

Maria opens the refrigerator.

MARIA

Mama, we're out of butter.

YOLANDA

Not again. Ok, see if we have any lard left.

MARIA

You're not going to put lard in your Sunday meal. I'll just run to the store.

YOLANDA

No, Maria, it's fine. We'll can make due.

Maria grabs her purse and runs to the door. She yells into the living room at the kids.

MARIA

You guys calm down, or when I get back, I'll tickle all of you.

Screams come from the other room as the excitement raises.

YOLANDA

Maria, you don't need to go. Please stay and help me.

MARIA

No Mama. You're doing just fine.
I be back in a minute, Mama.

RAMON

Drive safe.

Maria runs out the door.

EXT. MARIA RAMIREZ'S HOUSE - EVENING

Gas company employees are working on the street in front of the house. Maria backs slowly out of the driveway as one of the workers waves at her. She waves back. BUCK JERGENS, the foreman looks over the hole.

BUCK

That's enough for tonight, rope it
off and set up the cones. We'll
finish in the morning.

He turns and trips over a shovel lying on the ground. Falling, his hand pushes a large pick, which falls into the open hole.

SLOW MOTION - PICK FALLING

The pick drops down the hole, striking a pipe and sending up a spark.

EXT. MARIA RAMIREZ'S HOUSE - EVENING

Flames shoot up from the hole as Buck rolls out of the way. Behind him, the sounds of children laughing come from the house. There is a loud explosion as the house is instantly engulfed in flames. Windows shatter as flames fly out of open space.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - EVENING

Maria walks to her car, carrying a bag of groceries. She sees a fire engine go by at full speed. She shutters and looks in the direction of her house. Black smoke fills the night sky.

MARIA

Oh my god!

She runs to her car and drives toward home as an ambulance and police vehicles drive past her.

INT. OLGA KERN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EVENING

OLGA KERN and BORIS BANNIK lay next to each other in bed. Olga tries to wrap her arms around him, but he gets out of bed.

BORIS

Did you get the information?

OLGA

Don't leave me again. I'm beginning to think that you are only after me for my mind.

Boris leans over her on the bed and kisses her.

BORIS

No, it's not that. It's just that I really need the information. Besides, no one man could ever satisfy your desires.

She tries to pull him back into bed.

OLGA

But you didn't even try this time.

BORIS

Did you get the information?

Olga throws the covers off, and gets out of bed.

OLGA

Yes, I got your stupid information. You know, if you are not nicer to me, I will just stop giving you everything that you want.

She pulls open the door.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - EVENING

AUGUST HAYNES meets the ambulance as they pull the first gurney out. On the gurney is Yolanda, badly burned and moaning softly. Maria hangs onto the gurney as they pull it through emergency. Tears pour from her eyes.

AUGUST

Get me an open room.

Nurse Powers looks at her computer screen.

NURSE POWERS
Room One just freed up.

AUGUST
Operating room one. STAT.

MARIA
Mama. I am so sorry, Mama. You're
going to be OK, Mama.

They pull the gurney quickly down the hall and into the
operating room.

AUGUST
Get me a burn specialist down here.

They move Yolanda onto the table but Maria is in the way.

MARIA
Mama, I am so sorry.

DOCTOR BAINS steps in pulls Maria out of the way.

DOCTOR BAINS
Move it. We're trying to work.

AUGUST
She's family. Back off.

DOCTOR BAINS
August, you're not even supposed to
be in here. Today's your last day
so take her and get out. Go play
on Blake's project.

MARIA
No, I'm not leaving Mama.

August puts her hands around Maria, and sits her down.

AUGUST
You need to leave so that the
doctor's can do their work. Your
mother is in good hands.

MARIA
But I can't leave Mama again.

AUGUST
I'll stay with you. She'll be
fine. But you need to leave.

DOCTOR BAINS
August. Get out of here.

August shoots him a look of disdain and helps Maria stand.

AUGUST
Come on. Let's go.

They step out of the room as Ramon, badly burned is wheeled past them. Maria grabs onto August and cries.

INT. OLGA KERN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Olga steps into the living room. ERIC GLYSE is seated on the living room couch. Behind him, four muscular men all turn to the bedroom door in unison. They each reach for guns at the same time. Boris steps out from behind Olga.

BORIS
Put your guns away. We have it.

Boris leads Olga to the machine and sits her down.

OLGA
Boris, what's going on? Who are these men.

BORIS
Friends of mine. Now, bring up the file.

OLGA
I don't like this.

Boris gently lays his cheek against hers and whispers.

BORIS
What you like and dislike do not matter one bit. You bring up that file or these men will kill me. So, if you love me at all, you will bring it up right now. For me.

Boris kisses her on the cheek, and she loads the file onto a thumb drive. She removes the drive and hands it to him.

OLGA
Here. Now tell them to leave.

Boris stands up and shows Eric the drive.

BORIS
I've got it, Eric. Let's go. Oh, and tell your men they can do whatever they want with the whore.

Olga jumps out of the chair and grabs Boris.

OLGA
What are you doing, Boris?

Boris shoves her down and she hits her head on the chair.

BORIS
Just make sure they kill her when
they're done.

Boris heads to the living room door and Olga scrambles to get to the bedroom door. The men grab her and rip her clothes as she screams.

ERIC
Are you sure we won't need her?

BORIS
With this information, we'll get
everything we need.

INT. RANDALL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

RANDALL BLAKE and SARA MILLS are in the office. Randall is looking over some paperwork and Sara writing on a notepad.

RANDALL
I need to staff this project.
Where can I get some cheap labor?

SARA
Interns are always good. That's
how you got me.

RANDALL
I got you because you want to make
a ton of money off the game. So
don't kid yourself about why you're
here.

SARA
I know just the person for you. My
sister Sheila. She's young, cheap
and willing to do anything to leave
where she is.

RANDALL
And where is she.

SARA
Prison.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

August brings Maria a cup of coffee and sits down next to her.

AUGUST
My name's August.

MARIA
Maria. I want to see my parents.

AUGUST
You will. But they're in surgery now. Don't worry, as soon as you can get in, they'll call us.

MARIA
Thanks for being here.

AUGUST
I have no place else to go.

MARIA
Me either.

JASMINE CRAIG, a hospital volunteer, walks up.

JASMINE
Can you get you two anything?

MARIA
My parents.

AUGUST
No thank you, Jasmine. We're fine.

JASMINE
What happened to your parents?

Maria immediately starts to cry. August pulls her close.

AUGUST
They were involved in an accident.
They're in emergency now.

Jasmine tries to hold back her tears.

JASMINE
They're going to be fine. They're
in good hands.

The tears start to fall from Jasmine's eyes. August stands up and takes her aside.

AUGUST
Jasmine, what's wrong?

JASMINE
I lost both of my parents a couple
of years back. That's why I
volunteer here now. All I have
left is my sister.

AUGUST
I'm so sorry.

JASMINE
I'll do anything to help her. I
know what she's feeling. If that
woman needs anything. You call me
right away.

AUGUST
Thanks. I will.

Jasmine looks at Maria crying on the chair. She turns and
leaves and August sits next to Maria.

INT. OLGA KERN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Boris opens the door while Olga screams in the background. A
gunshot rings out and Boris falls to the ground. HELENA
KARLSON points her gun at Eric and fires again. Eric also
falls dead to the ground. The bedroom door swings open and
Helena fires twice. A man screams and the door is slammed
shut. NATASHA GORSKY steps over Boris' body and picks up the
thumb drive.

NATASHA
I think this is all we need.

HELENA
There's at least two more in the
bedroom. I know I hit one.

NATASHA
Hired goons. Just leave them.

Olga screams in the bedroom and there is the sound of a loud
slap as the scream ends.

NATASHA (CONT'D)
Now that changes things. Big man
slapping a lady around. Take them.

The door flies open as a hail of gunfire erupts as two men
dive through the door.

Helena fires twice and they both fall. In the doorway, Olga appears with a gun held to her head. MARCUS ZELDER has his arm wrapped around her neck.

MARCUS
Move back or she dies.

Helena fires and Marcus falls back in the room. Olga drops to the ground in tears.

NATASHA
Any more in there?

HELENA
I'll go check.

Natasha walks up to Olga and extends her hand.

NATASHA
You all right?

OLGA
He said that he loved me.

NATASHA
They all do. You all right?

HELENA
Room's clear.

NATASHA
Fine. Let's go.

OLGA
Don't leave me here.

NATASHA
You'll be fine. Helena, let's go.

SASHA (O.S.)
I have a buyer for that.

Helena swings around and points her gun at SASHA KOLLAC, who is standing at the door and pointing to the thumbdisk in Natasha's hand.

NATASHA
So do I.

SASHA
Mine pays more.

Helena keeps her gun trained on Sasha as she steps over the bodies and approaches Natasha.

NATASHA
How much more?

SASHA
Doesn't matter. The real key is
that one.

Sasha points down to Olga.

INT. PRISON HOLDING CELL - DAY

SHEILA MILLS sits down with her hands on the table. Her face is bruised and dried blood is under her fingernails. The Guard Sellers steps back against the wall. The door opens and RANDALL BLAKE walks in. He sits down across from Sheila.

RANDALL
Hello, Sheila.

SHEILA
Hey.

RANDALL
Do you know why I'm here?

SHEILA
I heard bits and pieces.

RANDALL
I could be your ticket to freedom.

SHEILA
Okay.

RANDALL
Because of the valuable service my
foundation has provided this
prison, and because of the
importance of this study, the
warden has allowed me to review the
files of the inmates.

SHEILA
Can we move this story a little
faster. I'm missing my soap.

RANDALL
You're in here for computer fraud.
Computer file tampering, actually.
You think you have brains. So,
Tell me why I should choose you to
walk out of this prison with me.

SHEILA

Get rid of the guard. I hate her
fucking perfume.

Randall motions for the guard to leave, but she doesn't
budge. Randall stands up and shows her a piece of paper.

RANDALL

This allows me to interview the
inmates in private. It's signed by
the warden.

GUARD SELLERS

That could be a mistake.

RANDALL

Mistake or not. You need to leave.

Guard Sellers looks at Sheila and leaves the room. Randall
returns to the table.

SHEILA

I see you like waving your dick
around.

RANDALL

If you got it, use it.

Sheila unbuttons the top of her blouse and leans over so that
her breasts are bursting over the top of her bra.

SHEILA

Lean in, I need to talk to you.

Randall leans forward, his eyes never leaving her cleavage.

RANDALL

Yes?

SHEILA

Let me be perfectly clear here.
They sentenced me to fifteen years.
Everyday, I have to fight for my
life, and everyday I get closer to
losing. Now I've been in here for
three years of life and 100 years
of hell. I haven't even seen a
computer in all that time and even
your ratty old dick would look
good.

She leans further forward until her breasts fall out.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

So you spring me, right now, and put me back in front of a computer, and I'll screw you until you're blue, any time, any place, and any way you want. Just get me the fuck out of here. Got it?

RANDALL

I think you'll suit my needs.

She leans back, tucks in her breasts and relaxes in her seat.

SHEILA

What are we waiting for?

Randall signals for the guard to come in.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Maria lies across a group of chairs, her head resting on Jasmine's lap. Piles of discarded tissues lay around her. August walks up with a cup of coffee and Jasmine puts her finger to her lips so that August won't speak.

AUGUST

Her parents are out of surgery.
She can go see them now.

Maria immediately bolts upright.

MARIA

Where are they? Take me now.

AUGUST

Ok. Calm down. I need to talk to you first.

Maria jumps out of the chair.

MARIA

No. No more talking. Take me to my parents.

JASMINE

August, you need to report to your new job. Just tell me where the are and I'll take her.

AUGUST

They are both in the burn unit.
Maybe I should take her.

Maria begins to cry all over again.

MARIA

The burn unit? No! Are they going
to be ok?

AUGUST

It's too soon to tell. I'll take
you there.

JASMINE

I'd like to come, too.

Maria pulls on August's arm, trying to get her to move.

MARIA

Take me. Take me. Now.

INT. CAR - DAY

Sasha drives as Helena sits in the passenger seat, holding
her gun. Natasha sits in the back, holding a sobbing Olga in
her arms.

NATASHA

You sure the buyer will be there?

SASHA

It's all set up. But we have to
drop that one off first.

She points back at Olga.

OLGA

No, I'm not leaving. I'm sick and
tired of leaving.

Natasha strokes Olga's hair.

NATASHA

It's OK Olga. We'll be back for
you. It's going to be fine.

OLGA

No, you won't come back. Nobody
ever comes back. They always use
me and then leave me. You're never
coming back.

HELENA

I got it covered, boss. You stay with the brains and go with the bomb shell.

NATASHA

Fine, drop us off at my place.

SASHA

You're a trusting soul.

NATASHA

Not really. Helena will shoot you if you try anything.

HELENA

Might do it anyway, just to stay in practice.

SASHA

Trust me. With the group we are going to go see, you'll get plenty of practice.

Sasha pulls the car up in front of Natasha's building.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

Randall and Sheila walk down the hall.

SHEILA

Give me your phone.

RANDALL

My phone constitutes a computer. And I told the warden I wouldn't let you on a computer.

SHEILA

Fuck the warden. Just give me your goddam phone.

RANDALL

The way I see it. You're walking free right now. So I've kept half of my bargain. What about you?

Sheila looks around quickly, grabs the doorknob of the Janitorial closet and shoves Randall in closing the door behind them.

INT. PRISON JANITORIAL CLOSET - DAY

Sheila pins Randall to the wall with her body. She pulls her shirt off, exposing her bare breasts. Then she unzips her skirt and lets it fall to the floor. Finally, she unzips Randall's pants and puts her hands in.

SHEILA

The janitor left an hour ago and won't be back until the morning. I'm going to turn around and lean over that cart. What you do while my back is turned is up to you. Just give me your fucking phone.

Randall swallows hard and reaches into his shirt pocket, making sure to rub her breast as he does.

RANDALL

I want it back when your done.

Sheila grabs the phone, turns around and leans over the table. She tries to open a connection to the internet and Randall steps behind her, pressing his hips against hers.

SHEILA

This phone is a piece of shit.

RANDALL

Not my problem.

She winces as he thrusts against her.

INT. HOSPITAL BURN WARD - DAY

Maria steps in and sees her parents laying on the beds. Their bodies are completely bandaged. She shutters, afraid to move forward. NURSE KYLE checks the IV's.

NURSE KYLE

They're asleep. You might want to sit and wait for them to wake up.

MARIA

Will they wake up?

JASMINE

Hey, no talking like that. Of course they will.

MARIA

I just want to make sure.

NURSE KYLE
Their vitals are good.

AUGUST
Don't worry. They'll wake up.

JASMINE
I'll stay here with her. You need
to get going.

AUGUST
Thanks Jasmine. I owe you one.

August gives Jasmine a hug and leaves. Jasmine sits next to Maria and puts her arm around her. Nurse Kyle checks the other IV.

INT. RANDALL'S RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Randall and Sheila walk in. Randall shows her to a desk with a computer on it. Sheila sits down and starts typing.

RANDALL
If you get caught, it's back to
prison.

SHEILA
No shit, Randy.

Randall grabs her neck and spins her head towards him.

RANDALL
I expect you to treat me with
respect.

SHEILA
Go fuck yourself.

RANDALL
No, that's your job. Or did you
forget?

He reaches down and grabs a monitor ring that is secured around her ankle.

SHEILA
No, I didn't forget.

RANDALL
Then start doing your job.

He releases her ankle and slides his hand up her leg. She winces as it slides up her thigh.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Natasha walks to the kitchen as Olga clicks the remote control through the channels.

NATASHA
Would you like something to eat?

Olga ignores her and flips the channels. The door opens and Sasha walks in. Olga dives behind the couch.

OLGA
No, don't let her hurt me.

Natasha runs to Olga and holds her. Helena walks in, blood splatters are on her clothes.

HELENA
I get that all the time.

NATASHA
It's OK, Olga. No one is going to hurt you.

Olga points at Sasha.

OLGA
She will. Every time she shows up, I get hurt.

NATASHA
Calm down, Olga.

Olga clings to Natasha with all her might. Her fingers digging into Natasha's arm.

OLGA
Please keep her away from me.

Natasha strokes Olga's hair.

NATASHA
So, how did it go?

SASHA
Your friend here is a little trigger happy.

Helena quickly pulls out a bloody gun and points it at Sasha's head.

HELENA
I'd be happy to pull the trigger right now.

SASHA

Other than that, it went okay.

Helena presses the gun against Sasha's head, but Sasha only drinks from a glass of water.

NATASHA

Was the buyer there?

SASHA

Yes, but he forgot just how much the disk was worth.

Helena presses the gun harder against Sasha's head.

HELENA

I reminded him.

NATASHA

So, what now?

SASHA

Next step is to tap into their private account. Find out where their next buy is coming from and beat them there.

NATASHA

Can you do that?

Sasha points at Olga.

SASHA

She can.

Helena pulls the gun away from Sasha head, looks at it and tucks it away.

INT. RANDALL'S RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Randall walks in and puts a folder on Sheila's desk.

RANDALL

I'll be interviewing interns to help on this project. Call me when they come in.

SHEILA

Anything I should know about them?

RANDALL

They are all highly qualified and very professional.

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)
The best in their respective
fields. I hand picked them myself.

SHEILA
Got it. Nice legs, big tits, cute
face, likes doggy style.

Randall put his face in front of Sheila's.

RANDALL
No. That's how I pick
receptionists.

He smiles and walks into his office.

INT. HOSPITAL BURN WARD - DAY

Maria sits next to her mother's bed, careful not to touch
her. Jasmine walks in, followed by AMANDA PEELS in a
business suit. Nurse Doyle checks the IV's of the parents.

JASMINE
Maria, you have a visitor.

Amanda extends her hand.

AMANDA
Amanda Peels. Attorney at Law.
I'd like to talk to you.

NURSE DOYLE
Please keep it down. They're
resting.

AMANDA
Sorry. Maria, can we speak
outside?

JASMINE
I'll find you two a room.

MARIA
No, I want to stay.

NURSE DOYLE
Just keep it down. They're
resting.

MARIA
I promise.

JASMINE
Do you need anything else.

MARIA
No, we're fine.

Jasmine leaves and Amanda slides a chair next to Maria.

AMANDA
I called the City, and though they accept no responsibility, they are prepared to make you a sizable offer to help you cope with your loss.

MARIA
My loss? You mean the loss of my entire family? The loss of my life? The loss of everything that means anything to me? That loss?

NURSE DOYLE
Keep it down. Or I will have you leave.

MARIA
Sorry.

AMANDA
Miss Ramirez....

MARIA
Call me Maria.

AMANDA
Maria. I know you're in pain.

MARIA
No. I'm numb. They are the ones in pain.

She points to her parents laying motionless on their beds.

INT. RANDALL'S RECEPTION AREA - DAY

CRYSTAL YODER sits on the couch in a micro-mini skirt and a tight fitting blouse. Randall steps out of his office and looks her over, starting at the bottom of her long legs and stopping at her chest.

SHEILA
Crystal Yoder. About your ad for an intern.

Crystal stands and walks up to Randall, extending her hand.

CRYSTAL
Doctor Blake. It's a pleasure to
finally meet you.

RANDALL
The pleasure is all mine.

Crystal slides her hand along his cheek and across his lips.

CRYSTAL
Don't bet on it.

She then steps into his office.

RANDALL
Oh, she'll do just fine.

SHEILA
Do you ever think with anything
besides your dick?

RANDALL
Not if I don't have to.

Randall follows her into the office, closing the door.

INT. EVELYN QUAID'S OFFICE

Linda and Evelyn stand in front of the scanner.

EVELYN
The results have been very
impressive, Doctor Clark.

LINDA
Thank you.

EVELYN
In fact, I have put in a request to
ship the prototype to a field
hospital overseas.

LINDA
Really? That would be amazing.

Evelyn hits the intercom.

EVELYN
Private Knocks, can you please
bring me the folder for Ms. Clark.

PRIVATE KNOCKS (V.O.)
Right away, Ma'am.

EVELYN

Oh, congratulations on your new position with the Jules Evan Institute. That's a very prestigious firm.

LINDA

Have you worked with them before?

Private knocks enters the room and salutes. Evelyn returns the salute.

EVELYN

Not until now. If you represent what I can expect in the future, then I will definitely consider channeling more funds to their projects.

Evelyn extends her hand for the folder and Private Knocks gives it to her.

LINDA

Thank you. I appreciate your support.

EVELYN

You deserve it.

Evelyn signs the top form and hands it to Linda.

LINDA

Oh my goodness. That is a very generous contribution.

EVELYN

The first of many, I hope. Private, please escort Miss Clark to her car.

PRIVATE KNOCKS

Yes, Ma'am.

She salutes and opens the door for Linda.

INT. LAB - DAY

Randall sits in front of August and adjusts the cap on her head. Randall adjusts some wires hanging from the cap.

AUGUST

Tell me more about the project.

RANDALL

It's very simple really. We are seeing just how much control a computer program can have on a person's mind.

AUGUST

How much control do you expect?

RANDALL

With luck. Full control. We will be able to help people with psychological conditions to adjust to reality by introducing reality directly into their brain.

AUGUST

But if they are having trouble with reality, how will this help?

RANDALL

We use it like a game controller. With luck, we will have the added benefit of selling it to game companies.

AUGUST

How long will I be hooked up?

RANDALL

There's one test setting for each day. Very controlled. I'll rotate the interns so that everyone gets a chance. You should be done in a couple of hours.

AUGUST

Why are you starting with me?

RANDALL

Because you look like a good fit. You test as psychologically sound, and you don't play computer games.

AUGUST

Thanks. I aim to please.

RANDALL

I need you to concentrate on the program right now. We'll need you to be at your best. We're all counting on you.

AUGUST

Don't worry. I understand

He makes adjustments the wires attached to her spinal column.

RANDALL

The games these days are getting more violent and more graphic. No matter how real it looks, keep on playing, it's just a game.

AUGUST

I know. I've watched Sara and Madison playing their games. It's some pretty gruesome stuff.

RANDALL

But it sure rakes in the money.

AUGUST

Let's hope.

Randall inserts earplugs into her ears, checks the wires, adjusts the cap, fixes the goggles and steps behind her.

RANDALL

Can you hear me?

August sits motionless in the chair. Crystal walks in and stands next to Randall.

CRYSTAL

How's it going so far?

RANDALL

Just getting started.

CRYSTAL

Mind if I watch?

RANDALL

Go right ahead. August, is everything okay?

There is no response from August. Randall walks back to the desk and puts on a headset.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

August, can you hear me?

AUGUST

Loud and clear.

RANDALL

I just want to express my gratitude
for your help on this project.

AUGUST

Anything for the project.

RANDALL

I love your attitude. Ready?

AUGUST

Ready.

Randall removes the headset and types into his computer.
August lets out a little gasp and then looks down at the
table in front of her. Randall picks up a tape recorder.

RANDALL

Headset check, affirmative. Goggle
check, affirmative. Brain
electrode check, affirmative.
Video check. Oh crap.

CRYSTAL

What it is?

RANDALL

I'm not getting the video feed.
Can you check the camera?

Crystal stands up and walks over to a camcorder on a tripod.
She turns it off and then turns it back on.

CRYSTAL

How's that?

RANDALL

Video check, affirmative.

Randall maneuvers a mouse near his computer, he pulls the mic
on his headset near his mouth.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Ok, let's get started. Eat.

August picks up an imaginary knife in one hand and an
imaginary fork in the other. She cuts imaginary food and
begins to eat.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Day One. Routine movements.
Subject appears to be enjoying a
meal.

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Body movement indicates that she is actually seeing the food and feeling the utensils. Also responding well to the controlled actions. So far. Success.

CRYSTAL

No wonder she stays so thin. She barely eats anything.

Randall wraps his arm around her and pulls her close.

RANDALL

What's your excuse?

Crystal turns and sits on his lap.

CRYSTAL

I only eat meat.

She bites him on the neck.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Olga sits in front of the computer with her arms crossed. She looks away from the group around her.

OLGA

I won't do it.

Helena goes to pull her gun, but Natasha stops her.

NATASHA

Olga, we need this.

OLGA

No. You need this. She needs this. I don't need this. So WE don't need this, only you.

Natasha looks at the others.

NATASHA

Can you please leave us alone for a moment?

Helena and Sasha shrug and leave the room.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Olga, you're right. I need this. My whole life I've been trying to make it on my own, and I just can't. I'm not good enough.

She turns away, and Olga turns to watch her.

NATASHA (CONT'D)
 And then you come into my life, and
 I see all that changing. I see
 that I can finally get the respect
 that I need to feel good about me.

Olga watches her walk away, tears start to well in her eyes.

NATASHA (CONT'D)
 And now, even you have turned your
 back on me. Just like all the
 others.

Natasha drops her head to the counter and begins to sob.
 Olga jumps up and runs to her.

OLGA
 No, Natasha, it's not like that. I
 would never turn my back on you.
 You saved me.

Natasha raises her head, tears are flowing down her cheeks.

NATASHA
 And who will save me, Olga? Who
 will be there for me? Nobody.
 That's who. Nobody is ever there
 for me.

She turns her back on Sasha and sobs into her hands.

OLGA
 I'll be there for you. Always.
 Just tell me what you want and it's
 yours.

Natasha turns and looks at her.

NATASHA
 Really?

OLGA
 Anything.

Natasha leans forward and kisses Olga. Olga starts to back
 away, but then holds Natasha close.

NATASHA
 At last, someone I can trust.

OLGA
 What can I do?

NATASHA

Help Sasha get what she needs. As soon as she has it, and we get paid, you and I will go away together.

OLGA

Just the two of us?

NATASHA

Just the two of us.

OLGA

I'll do it.

Olga walks over to the computer and logs on. Natasha opens the door and signals Helena and Sasha.

NATASHA

Ok, she's ready. Just get what you need and get it fast.

SASHA

No problem.

NATASHA

No, there's plenty of problems. Don't make more. Get what you need while you still can.

Sasha walks over to Olga who is typing on the computer.

INT. LAB OFFICE - EVENING

Randall types on his computer as Dana has the cap on her head, she appears to be enjoying a movie. Sheila walks in and sits on the desk, covering up some papers with her hips.

SHEILA

She needs some popcorn.

RANDALL

Knock it off. Stand up.

Dana stands up.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

I'm working here. Why don't you go home and go to bed?

Dana walks over to the couch, tests it for softness and, yawns. Sheila stands and rotates the camera to follow her.

SHEILA

Damn, just like a trained monkey.
What else can she do?

RANDALL

Sheila, I'll deal with you later.
We're under a tight deadline and I
can't deal with your crap.

SHEILA

Undress.

Dana pulls her blouse off and lays it on the table near the bed. Unzipping her skirt, she rests it on the table as well. She undoes her bra, and rests it on the table.

RANDALL

That's not part of the test.

SHEILA

No, but it should be.

Dana removes her panties, rests them on the bra.

RANDALL

Put on your pajamas.

Dana picks up a skimpy, silk teddy and drapes it over her body. Then pulls on matching lace panties.

SHEILA

Damn. I was getting turned on.

RANDALL

Get out of here.

Dana turns to leave.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Not you, Dana. You lie down.

Dana turns and lays on the couch, pretending to cover with an imaginary blanket. Sheila watches her and smiles.

SHEILA

The perfect woman for you. Does
everything you want and no griping.

RANDALL

Sheila, I'll say this one last
time. You leave now, or you leave
permanently. Do you understand?

Dana lies on her back. One leg is teetering on the edge of the couch.

SHEILA
Spread your legs.

The leg slips off the couch and her foot rests on the floor. Her legs are spread wide now.

SHEILA (CONT'D)
My gift to you.

Sheila stands up and leaves.

INT. HOSPITAL BURN WARD - DAY

Jasmine walks in and brings Maria a cup of coffee. Maria is asleep on the chair.

JASMINE
Maria. You need to go home and get some rest. You look just awful.

MARIA
Not as bad as them.

JASMINE
They will be sedated for a couple more days while they heal. Come on. Go home.

Maria bows her head and starts to cry.

MARIA
I don't have a home. It was burned in the fire. I don't have anything.

JASMINE
I'm sorry. I didn't know.

MARIA
It's ok. I'm fine here.

JASMINE
Nonsense. Come home with me. It's just me and my Sister, Kim. And we have an extra room. You can stay with us.

MARIA
I'd rather stay here.

JASMINE

Look, come home with me. Shower, change into something nice and then come back. Wouldn't you rather have your parents see you that way?

Maria looks in a mirror across the room at her crumpled clothes and matted hair.

MARIA

And we come right back.

JASMINE

Right back.

Maria walks over and kisses her parents.

MARIA

I'll see you in a little bit.

She leaves with Jasmine.

INT. LAB OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Sara stands near the table, fully clothed, firing an imaginary gun at imaginary enemies.

SARA

Die, you gravy sucking pigs.

She continues to fire, turning, dodging and weaving.

RANDALL

War Game simulation. Sara is very responsive to enemy elements. Sensors are amazing. She is responding to everything as though it were happening. She has been undefeated. Her confidence is amazing. The game companies will be pleased with these test results.

Sara continues to fire, dodge and spin as she fires. Randall watches the action on his computer as she shoots at people in a crowded area. Animated women and children running away.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Sara is completely immersed in the game. She shoots with wild abandon and never misses.

Sara suddenly falls forward on her face. Randall's screen goes black.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Damn, we lost the video feed.

He types on the computer as Sara lays still on the floor. Randall ignores her as he types on the computer.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
God Damn it. We are already behind schedule. We can't have this shit happening. Sara, stand up.

Slowly, she raises her body and rubs the back of her head. First sitting, and then standing unsteady on her feet.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Sara, sweat may have damaged the electronics. Will need to check that. Go ahead and shower. We're done for the day.

Sara peels the sweat drenched shirt off, then uses it to wipe her body. She removes her bra, and wipes her chest. She then removes her skirt and panties and tosses them on the floor, near a small table across from the couch. She walks to another corner of the room and stops. She leans over and spins a pretend knob.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Oh shit. She thinks there's a shower in here.

He watches as she soaps her body.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Now here's an unexpected perc.

He checks the video to make sure it is recording. She leaves the corner, pretends to towel off, and walks to the couch. She puts on the teddy and panties and sits staring forward. Randall walks over to look in her goggles.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Sara. Can you hear me? Is everything all right?

Sara continues to stare forward, saying nothing.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Take off your top.

Sara pulls off her top and holds it in her hand. He looks directly into her eyes.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Put it on backwards.

Sara turns the top backwards and puts it on. Randall stares in her goggles. Sara yawns, stretches and lays down.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Go to sleep.

Sara relaxes and begins to snore softly.

KIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Jasmine walks in followed by Maria.

MARIA
Are you sure you don't mind?
Honestly, I can stay in a hotel.

JASMINE
Nonsense. We have the extra room
and you need the company.

MARIA
I really appreciate this.

Kim walks out from the kitchen and past them.

JASMINE
Maria, I want you to meet my
sister, Kim. Kim this is Maria,
she's going to be staying with us
for a little bit.

KIM
Hi.

MARIA
Hi, I'm so pleased to meet you.
Jasmine is so wonderful, you must
be so proud of her.

KIM
Yeah.

MARIA
I was the oldest girl in my family.
So please tell me, are you the
older or the younger sister?

KIM
Step.

Kim walks away from them.

MARIA

Step?

JASMINE

She's my step sister from my father's first marriage. But I've always seen her as my real sister.

MARIA

Hopefully, one day, she will too.

Jasmine shows Maria to her room.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Olga sits at the computer typing. Sasha and Helena play cards at the table. Natasha walks in and sits down.

NATASHA

What's taking her so long?

SASHA

That's my question. Does she know how important this is?

NATASHA

I've told her a hundred times.

Helena pulls out her gun.

HELENA

I could tell her once.

NATASHA

Put that thing away. I think she's trying to see just how hard I'll push her.

SASHA

Then push her harder.

NATASHA

No, I think I need to push her softer. You two, get out of here for a couple of days. Give me until Friday.

SASHA

What do you have in mind?

NATASHA

You'll see. But by the end of the week, we'll have what we need.

Olga looks over to Natasha and smiles. Natasha winks to her.

INT. LAB OFFICE

August sits in a chair with the cap on and her hands on the table.

RANDALL

Check you weapons.

August pretends to check an array of imaginary weapons.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

I'll test her physical responses to outside influences. Then continue game training.

Randall stands up and walks over to her. August continues to check, assemble, and load her imaginary firearms. Randall picks up her hand and tickles her fingers.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

She doesn't respond to physical touch.

Randall picks up her knee and taps it. Nothing happens.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Nor reflex actions.

Randall places his finger on her lips, but she doesn't stop working. He looks over his shoulder at the camera, then shifts his body so that he is blocking the view of the camera.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

She doesn't respond to light applied pressure.

He slowly presses his finger into her mouth. Pulling his finger out, he moves his hand down to her chest and cups her breast. He gently pulls down on the edge of the bra.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Nor to skin abrasions.

He looks again to make sure he is blocking the camera. He begins to slide her bra straps down.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Nor to being tickled on the ribs.

August suddenly stands. Randall backs up quickly.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. It was just part of the
stimulation... I mean simulation...

August doesn't respond to him. She walks to an imaginary refrigerator, opens a bottle and drinks. Randall returns to his desk, wiping the sweat from his brow. He looks at the computer screen.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Is she just messing with me?
There's no refrigerator.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - MARIA'S ROOM - EVENING

August sits next to Maria on the bed. Jasmine brings them cookies.

AUGUST
How are your parents doing?

MARIA
About the same. They are almost
ready to move to a care facility.

AUGUST
That's good.

MARIA
But I don't know. Amanda has taken
the case and the first of the money
is coming in. So I'll be able to
pay for the best care.

JASMINE
You can give the best care, Maria.

MARIA
I agree. Where ever they go, I'll
make sure that I'm there.

JASMINE
Is there anything we can do to
help?

MARIA

Only if you can make it so that they can talk. That way, I know what they need.

August looks down at the bed.

AUGUST

There is something that might work, but it's still experimental.

MARIA

What? What is it?

AUGUST

Something that I'm working on. I'm not really supposed to talk about it, but it's a way to use the computer to get into people's minds.

Kim pops her head in the door.

KIM

It does what?

Everyone turns to look at her.

JASMINE

Kim, were you eaves dropping?

KIM

Shut up. Tell me about this mind thing.

AUGUST

I'm not really supposed to talk about it outside the office.

KIM

Too late. You already started.

MARIA

Why are you interested?

KIM

The same reason as you. It's a cool new technology that no one has built before.

MARIA

I'm doing it to help my parents.

KIM
Whatever. Now, how do I get in?

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Natasha walks over to Olga and rubs her shoulders.

NATASHA
You need a break.

OLGA
No, I'll keep working.

NATASHA
I wasn't just talking about the work. I mean from here. This apartment, this city, everything.

OLGA
What do you mean?

NATASHA
Come on. Let's go have some fun. We head to the airport and get on the first plane we see.

OLGA
But what about the work?

NATASHA
Fuck the work. Let's go have some fun. Just you and me.

Olga jumps up from the chair and throws her arms around Natasha.

OLGA
I love you. Let's pack.

NATASHA
Let's not.

She grabs Olga's hand and runs out of the apartment, grabbing her purse from the counter.

INT. LAB OFFICE - DAY

Sheila walks into the lab followed by Randall.

SHEILA
Tell me what we're doing again.

RANDALL

I'm testing how much control you have over a person with keyboard commands.

SHEILA

And I want to do this, why?

RANDALL

Because I need a person who hasn't gone into the game yet. Someone who has no idea what to expect.

SHEILA

And what should I expect?

RANDALL

Nothing you haven't done already.

Sheila looks at him and hesitates.

SHEILA

What I do on my own is one thing. Being told what to do, well, that's another thing.

Randall nudges the ring around her ankle.

RANDALL

And going back to jail. That's a whole nother thing as well, right?

Sheila sits down in the chair.

SHEILA

Give me the fucking hat.

Randall stands next to her and puts on the hat. He secures the wires to her temples and neck and adjusts the goggles.

RANDALL

You'll get your commands from the computer. Just relax and it'll be over before you know it.

SHEILA

It's not over yet, so it's already too long.

RANDALL

Who knows. You might enjoy it.

SHEILA

You sure will. I can tell that
already.

Randall leaves her and sits at his computer. She puts her
hands to the wire.

RANDALL

What are you doing?

SHEILA

It pinches a little.

RANDALL

You won't feel a thing, starting
right... now.

He presses a key and Sheila's hand falls to her side.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Loading sex game simulation.

Randall types on his computer and brings up the Sex
Simulation program.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Assume the ready position.

Sheila responds by standing up and turning to him.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Begin.

Sheila hesitates for a moment, then begins to kiss and caress
an imaginary person. Randall watches for a moment and then
approaches her. He slips his body into her arms and kisses
her. As she massages his back, he rubs her bottom and
caresses her chest. She dips her head back as he kisses her
neck, slowly moving down her chest. She strokes his hair as
he gently kisses her. He taps a tape recorder control in his
shirt pocket.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Sheila is doing very well in the
simulation. Believes that she is
truly in the environment. Responds
to her surroundings well.

Sheila continues to caress her imaginary lover. Randall
takes her gently in his arms and kisses her. She responds by
kissing him deeply and guiding his hands over her body.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
 She has completely immersed herself
 in the program. Has begun to feel
 the power of her character.

Sheila releases Randall, walks over the to table and turns
 her face to him.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
 She has now taken initiative
 action. She is aware that she
 controls her environment and has
 adopted a god-like attitude.

She sits on the edge of the table, and spreads her legs. She
 uses her finger to motion for Randall to come closer.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
 She can do anything without
 negative repercussions. She thinks
 it's real.

Randall watches her for a moment. She licks her finger,
 draws it across the crotch of her thong and then motions for
 him again. As he gets to the table, she brings him close to
 her and wraps her legs around him. He leans in to kiss her
 but she guides his head down to her breast.

SHEILA
 First things first.

She pulls off the cap and slips it onto his head, quickly
 securing the wires to his neck.

INT. LAB OFFICE - DAY

Sheila sits at the computer, watching as Randall has
 simulated sex with an imaginary woman on an imaginary table.
 His head is covered with a cap and goggles.

SHEILA
 Damn right I take initiative
 action.

She starts typing on her computer. There is a knock at her
 door.

SHEILA (CONT'D)
 Come in.

DAVID BARNES enters the room. He closes the door behind him
 and watches as Randall continues his sexual movements.

DAVID
Looks like he's having fun.

SHEILA
He thinks so.

DAVID
How long's he been in there?

Sheila looks at her watch.

SHEILA
About four hours.

He looks at Randall, who's erection is bulging in his pants.

DAVID
Isn't there some four hour limit on
an erection?

SHEILA
Apparently not.

DAVID
How long does he THINK he's been in
there?

SHEILA
Five days.

DAVID
You have no heart.

SHEILA
Comes from working here.

DAVID
Gonna let him out soon?

SHEILA
I'm seeing how long the batteries
last.

DAVID
There are no batteries.

SHEILA
My bad.

She stands and leaves the room, passing Dana as she enters.

DANA
Have you seen Randall?

Sheila points at Randall, having simulated sex in the corner.

SHEILA
He's all yours.

Sheila leaves and Dana walks up to David, who is sitting at the computer.

DANA
So, what brings you here?

DAVID
You have to ask?

David looks around and then gives her a long kiss.

DANA
You can't just pop in like this.
What if Madison were to walk in.
You two are supposed to be engaged.

Dana sits down at the computer and David steps behind her and massages her shoulders.

DAVID
But right now, I'm still single.
You know, watching Randall like
that has given me an idea.

He slides his hands down and unbuttons the top of her blouse, exposing her bra.

DANA
Like you need something to give you
THAT idea. Come on, knock it off.

Dana continues to type on the computer. David slides her shirt off her shoulders and kisses her neck.

DAVID
You give me plenty of ideas.

He slides her bra straps down, kissing her shoulders. Dana begins to respond to his kisses.

DANA
In fact, I can't think of anything
that doesn't give you THAT idea.

DAVID
Got time for a quickie?

DANA
Does it have to be quick?

David slides his hands to her chest.

DAVID
Not if you don't want. I don't
think he'll mind.

Dana quickly recovers and pulls David's hand away.

DANA
You really should leave.

She continues to type, trying to ignore him.

DAVID
Let's go away for the weekend.

Dana stops typing, surprised by the suggestion.

DANA
What about Madison?

He nibbles on her neck and rubs her breasts.

DAVID
My future wife-cicle? That woman
is so frigid they should name an
iceberg after her.

The door crashes open and Madison steps in furious.

MADISON
What the hell is going on in here?

David backs away from Dana. Dana does nothing.

DAVID
Madison, it's not what you think.

MADISON
Well thank God for that. Because
I'm thinking that you're kissing
another woman, holding her breasts
and calling me frigid.

Madison walks straight to David who is backing into a corner.

MADISON (CONT'D)
So, since it's not THAT, tell me
what the fuck it is!

Dana fixes her blouse and stands up.

DANA
Madison, let me explain.

Madison walks up to David.

MADISON

Fuck your explanation, I want his.
Come on, lover boy. Your tongue
was working pretty good two seconds
ago. Here, let me jump start it.

Madison slaps him so hard, he loses his balance and grabs the edge of the table.

DAVID

Honey, let's go. We can talk about
this at home.

MADISON

Home? You presumptuous asshole.
You think you even have a home
after what I just saw? If you set
one foot in MY house again, I'll
shoot you and say it was a burgler.
Don't you THINK for one second that
you have a home.

She swings at him again, but Dana holds her back. David tries to use Randall as a shield, but Randall continues his sexual motions, completely unaware of his surroundings. He holds David's head and pokes his erection into David's ear.

DANA

Madison. Calm down. We can talk
about this like adults.

MADISON

Adult? Adult? You're damn right
that there's A DOLT in this room.

She goes after David, but he scrambles across the floor.

DAVID

Honey. Calm down. You're upset.

MADISON

You think this is upset? No, this
is fucking calm. I'll show you
upset.

She breaks free of Dana and rushes at David. She slams into him and they both smash into Randall. Dana runs forward and pulls them apart.

DANA

David. You need to leave while you
still can. Go home and...

MADISON

Don't you set one foot in my house
or I'll hang your balls from the
doorknob.

Madison tries to get at him but Dana stays between them.

DANA

David, find somewhere else to go.
Anywhere. Head out for the
weekend. Just give me a chance to
talk to her.

DAVID

That sounds like a good idea.

He eases towards the door and Madison tries to get to him,
but Dana holds her back.

MADISON

Why should I talk to you? You're
going to give me more of his lies.

DANA

No, I promise. I won't lie to you.
I just want to talk.

DAVID

Listen to her, Madison. She's a
doctor.

MADISON

I'm a doctor too, asshole. And
You're going to need a fucking
doctor when I'm done with you.

DANA

David. Leave.

DAVID

Ok, if you feel that's best.

David opens the door and steps out.

MADISON

You fucking coward. Come back here
and fight like a man.

David pops his head in the door.

DAVID

Honey, I love you.

Madison screams and lunges for him, but Dana holds her back. David pulls the door closed and leaves. When the door closes, Madison's knees go weak and Dana holds her in her arms. Madison cries and puts her head on Dana's shoulder while Dana rubs her back.

DANA

It's going to be all right.

MADISON

I was so scared when I saw him come in here.

Madison pulls Dana close and gives her a long kiss.

MADISON (CONT'D)

I thought he found out about us.

Dana strokes her hair and holds her close.

DANA

It's okay. He's gone.

MADISON

You're the only reason that I joined this project. I just wanted to be close to you.

DANA

I feel the same way.

MADISON

I guess we should tell David.

DANA

After this weekend. We need some time alone.

MADISON

My place or yours?

DANA

Your place. We can finally have the house to ourselves.

Dana pulls her close and kisses her. Randall continues to have air sex behind them.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria, Kim and August sit around the table looking over some papers.

MARIA

I moved my parents to the care facility today. And I started as a volunteer there as well. I can be with them whenever I want.

AUGUST

I'm sure they'll enjoy that.

KIM

Ok, enough of the soap opera, tell us about the design.

AUGUST

It's actually pretty simple. You hook up a person to the computer and then you can control what they see and do.

MARIA

No, that's not what I want. I want them to tell me what they are thinking. I don't want to tell them what to do.

KIM

Quiet. We can change the feed. Keep talking August.

AUGUST

Well, that's all their is to it actually. Doctor Blake wants to sell it to companies as a controller for video games.

KIM

Waste of technology. Ok, show me what you have so far.

August lays out the designs on the table. Kim pulls them over and looks at them.

KIM (CONT'D)

Hmmm. This could work. But we would need some money for the equipment.

MARIA

Will it help my parents?

KIM

Maybe. If we do it right.

MARIA

I have money. Lot's of money.
What I want is a way to help.

AUGUST

Maria. You need that money to help
your parents.

MARIA

Kim says that this will help my
parents.

AUGUST

She doesn't know that.

KIM

Neither do you, so shut up. Ok
Maria, I'll put together a budget
for what we need to get started.
August, can you help us get someone
to test it?

AUGUST

I can't use anyone on the current
project.

KIM

Run an ad. I'm sure you'll find
somebody.

INT. DRUG HOUSE - NIGHT

BILL GRIMES steps over bodies sprawled out on the floor. The dark room is filled with junkies stretched out, some with needles still in their arms, others with flies on their lips. He passes one as mice eat away at her ear. He looks around until he sees YVONNE JOHNSON propped against the far wall. She is dressed in designer clothes and is checking messages on her phone.

BILL

Come on, Yvonne. Time to go.

YVONNE

(excited)

Bill. What are you doing here?

BILL

I've come to get you out of here.

Yvonne looks around, tucks away her phone and pretends to be drugged up.

YVONNE

Fuck you, asshole. Gimme some money 'cause I'm a coked up crack ho. Wanna see my pussy?

A female junkie pulls on Bill's leg.

JUNKIE

Hey man, if you're looking for some real action, I'm right here.

BILL

Yvonne, we don't have time for this shit. Get up and let's get going.

YVONNE

I'm clean. Got tested for AIDS yesterday. Gimme some money and fuck me like the wild stallion you are.

JUNKIE

Don't listen to her. She don't know shit. Come on, I'll show you a good time.

Bill pulls Yvonne to her feet and pushes her to the door.

BILL

Yvonne, why do you always get yourself into these situations? Last I heard you were going to sell tupperware.

JUNKIE

Hey, come back here. She's full of shit. She ain't never gonna fuck you.

BILL

Thank God for that.

YVONNE

But I wanna be an undercover cop. I was gonna come here and make a bust and show the cops how valuable I am to the force.

BILL

You're undercover, huh. Well it must have worked, because nobody in here thinks you're a cop.

YVONNE
How did you find me?

BILL
Your voice mail message.

He dials her number and puts his phone on speaker. Her phone rings but he stops her from answering.

YVONNE (V.O.)
Hi, You've reached Yvonne Johnson.
I can't come to the phone right now
because I'm staking out the drug
house on the corner of Sunset and
Lex. I'll be on the third floor in
the back, but don't tell anyone
because they might blow my cover.

BILL
Why don't you just get a real job?

YVONNE
I had one. I was a mobile dog
groomer and got pissed off at me.

They walk out of the house and to Bill's car.

BILL
Yvonne. Mobile Dog Groomer means
that you get a van, go to where the
dog is, bathe him and then leave.

YVONNE
But I was offering a special type
of service that they don't usually
get.

BILL
Mobile Dog Groomer does not mean
that you borrow my car, pick up a
bunch of mangy, flea-bitten mutts,
bring them to MY house and bath the
Chihuahua's in my shower while the
Rottweiler uses my stereo as a chew
toy and the Great Dane leaves his
version of Mount Everest in the
middle of my BED!

Yvonne stops at the passenger door and looks at him.

YVONNE
Well, how do you know? You've
never been a mobile dog groomer.

BILL
Get in the car.

Bill sits in the car and starts the engine. Yvonne opens the door and gets in.

EXT. CITY STREET

Bill pulls into traffic.

YVONNE (V.O.)
You know, I could have been a great
crack ho. You wanna see my pussy?

INT. RANDALL'S OFFICE

Randall sits at his desk. He has a large bandage on his head. SIMON NEWMAN sits in Randall's office when Sheila walks in with some papers. She freezes when she sees him.

SHEILA
Mr. Newman, what are you doing
here? I've been checking in.

RANDALL
Simon and I were just talking about
your work furlough program.

SIMON
Doctor Blake said that the funding
might not be extended, so we're
making arrangements, just in case
you need to finish your jail time.

Sheila swallows hard, visibly shaken.

SHEILA
Doctor Blake. Surely they'll
extend the funding. The program is
going so well.

RANDALL
Sometimes it works out and
sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes
people change their minds, and
sometimes people just screw up.
You know how it is.

SIMON
Doctor Blake tells me that you've
been a valuable asset to his team.
(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

That could help cut your jail time
by a third, for good behavior.

SHEILA

That's still ten years in prison.

RANDALL

But reduced, for good behavior.
You understand that, right? Good
behavior reduces your jail time.

Randall looks Sheila in the eyes. She nods her head.

SIMON

You'll let me know as soon as you
find out, won't you, Doctor Blake?

RANDALL

Of course. And in the mean time,
I'd like Sheila to stay. She's
helping me with some testing. In
fact, right after you leave we'll
be back in the lab, working out
some problems we had last time.

SIMON

Sheila, you should be proud.
Doctor Blake says that you catch on
quickly.

SHEILA

Thank you, Doctor Blake. It's
because you make things so clear.
Crystal clear.

She places the papers on Randall's desk and turns to leave.

RANDALL

Oh, Sheila. Can you go prep the
lab so that you're ready when I get
there? I'll be there as soon as
I'm done with your parole officer.

SHEILA

I look forward to it.

RANDALL

So do I, Sheila. So do I.

Sheila leaves the room and closes the door.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Natasha and Olga bounce through the door, laughing and giggling like little girls. Sasha and Helena look up.

OLGA
We're home.

SASHA
I was starting to get worried.

NATASHA
No need. We were out having a great time.

OLGA
I had the best time of my life.

Olga stumbles forward, obviously drunk.

HELENA
Looks like somebody had a good time.

NATASHA
Yes, we had a great time.

OLGA
Best time I ever had in my life.

SASHA
When can you start on the program again?

Olga looks up with anger in her eyes.

OLGA
Helena. Shoot her.

Helena starts to pull out her gun.

NATASHA
She was just kidding. I think that Olga just needs to get a little rest. Come on you two, give us a chance to breath.

Olga waves her hand drunkenly.

OLGA
Be gone.

Sasha and Helena get up and walk out. Natasha helps Olga to her feet.

NATASHA
Come on, little one. Off to bed
with you.

OLGA
Again?

NATASHA
You need to sober up. You have a
lot of work to do tomorrow.

OLGA
No I don't.

NATASHA
Come on. You promised me you would
do this one last job.

OLGA
It's already done. I finished it
days ago.

Natasha almost drops her and then picks her up again.

NATASHA
Really? Why didn't you tell me?

OLGA
I needed to know if you really
loved me.

NATASHA
And now?

OLGA
I'll give it to Sasha tomorrow. I
need to get some sleep tonight.

Olga collapses on the ground. Natasha reaches over to the
couch, pulls off a blanket and covers her up.

INT. BILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bill and Yvonne walk into the apartment. The place is a
complete shambles. Yvonne wades through it like is it
normal.

BILL
Yvonne. You need to move out.

YVONNE
You can't kick me out.

BILL

The health department is going to come in here and kick us both out.

YVONNE

Then we can still be together.

BILL

Look at this place. It's a pig sty.

YVONNE

It needs a little tidying here and there.

BILL

I cleaned the entire place yesterday when you were out looking for work. What happened?

YVONNE

I needed something to wear so that I wouldn't be conspicuous.

BILL

So you emptied the entire closet, right here, in the middle of the living room?

YVONNE

The light is better out here.

Bill reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out a piece of paper.

BILL

I saw this posted in the gym. You go there right now and check it out.

YVONNE

But I like living here with you.

BILL

You don't live here. I had you watch the place while I went to visit my brother for a week. That was three months ago and you haven't left yet.

YVONNE

You know they kicked me out of my other place.

BILL

Gee. I wonder why. Look, go check out this place right now, or so help me god I will toss everything you own into the street right now.

YVONNE

Ok, I'm going. I know when I'm not wanted.

BILL

No you don't. If you did, you would have been gone months ago.

YVONNE

You get so cute when you get angry.

She pinches his cheek, and walks out.

EXT. BILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Yvonne looks at the paper.

YVONNE

'Wanted roommate. Free room and board in exchange for help with project. Must be young, single and a good talker.' I think I can do that.

She reaches the street and hails a cab.

INT. LAB - DAY

August lays on a cot with the cap on her head. Randall sits at the computer controls.

RANDALL

We're doing a simple stimulation test to see how much control your mind has over your body.

AUGUST

What should I be looking for?

RANDALL

Trust me. If it works, you'll know.

August lays still and presses the control button.

AUGUST

I'm in.

RANDALL

And I'm taking control... now.

August lays rigid, then starts to wiggle on the cot.

AUGUST

Is that what we're testing today?

RANDALL

That's what we're testing.

August starts to breath heavier.

AUGUST

And just who are we planning to
sell this application to?

He presses a button and August convulses into orgasm.

RANDALL

Everybody on the planet.

Crystal walks into the room.

CRYSTAL

How come she has all the fun?

August starts to come down and Randall hits the control
again, sending her into another orgasm.

RANDALL

Hers is only simulated, you can
have the real thing.

CRYSTAL

But I heard you were running the
sex simulation with Sheila. I hate
competition.

Randall hits the button, sending August into another orgasm.

RANDALL

Trust me. She's no competition
compared to you.

CRYSTAL

I'll believe that when I have a
ring on my finger.

Crystal wiggles her finger in front of Randall. Randall hits
the button and August cries out again.

RANDALL
Don't worry, it will happen soon.
You just have to wait for a bit.

CRYSTAL
And how long will that be?

She slides her hand to his crotch.

RANDALL
As long as you want it to be.

August screams out again in ecstasy.

INT. SPECIAL CARE HOME - DAY

Maria walks up to the reception desk and looks around. CLARA REYES sits behind the desk.

CLARA
Can I help you?

MARIA
My parents came in last night.
Yolanda and Ramon Ramirez.

CLARA
You'll need a visitor pass.

MARIA
I don't want to visit. I want to
work here.

CLARA
I'm not sure we're hiring right
now.

MARIA
I'm not hiring. I want to
volunteer.

CLARA
You'll need to see Doctor Adams
about that. Her office is right
down the hall.

MARIA
Thank you.

INT. LAB - DAY

Randall brings Natasha and Sasha into the lab.

RANDALL

I would really appreciate your support on this project.

NATASHA

It sounds interesting, but I would like to see it in action. May I video tape the procedure?

She pulls a small video recorder from her purse.

RANDALL

Of course, I think you'll be amazed.

NATASHA

We will place my assistant in the machine and you can demonstrate.

RANDALL

What did you have in mind?

NATASHA

Surprise me.

Sasha sits down in the chair and picks up the hat. Randall places the hat on her head. Natasha steps behind the computer panel.

RANDALL

Don't touch anything, Doctor Gorsky. It's very delicate.

SASHA

So am I.

She rubs Randall's hand with her own. Randall is a bit surprised by the attention.

NATASHA

The interface seems simple enough. Here, let me just run the last program.

Randall turns to the computer.

RANDALL

No!

Natasha hits a key and Sasha grabs Randall. She pulls him down and kisses him hard.

NATASHA

I see. Most interesting.

RANDALL
Hit the ESCAPE key!

Sasha pulls him towards her and rips his shirt open. He struggles to get away, but she continues to pull on him.

NATASHA
So, this is the research that you have worked so hard on.

RANDALL
No, that was something the girls were playing with.

Sasha pulls his belt off and unzips his pants while he struggles to get away.

NATASHA
Doctor Blake. I hardly think that this is an appropriate use of funds. This device is nothing more than a pornographic device.

RANDALL
It runs other programs. I assure you. This one has a malfunction.

Sasha pulls his pants down and straddles him. She pulls her blouse over her head and unclasps her bra.

NATASHA
Frankly, I'm appalled at such actions. Doctor Blake, I believe that this demonstration has shown me quite enough.

RANDALL
Hit the ESCAPE key!

Natasha hits the keyboard and Sasha stops. She looks down, screams and covers her breasts.

SASHA
You pervert. What did you do to me?

She clasps her blouse to her chest and runs to Natasha. Randall stands and tries to adjust his pants.

RANDALL
I'm terribly sorry. I tried to warn you.

SASHA

Warn me that you were going to rape me?

NATASHA

I don't know about this, Doctor Blake. I think that the board would disapprove of such a device. Especially after what I just saw.

She reaches down and turns off the video recorder.

RANDALL

Please, Doctor Gorsky. This was a terrible mistake. Allow me to arrange a proper demonstration to show you just how important my research is.

Natasha looks him in the eyes, and then looks at Sasha, trying to put on her blouse without exposing her breasts.

NATASHA

Very well. But next time, I will choose the program that we use.

RANDALL

Of course, anything you want.

NATASHA

Come Sasha. Let's leave Doctor Blake to his... work.

Sasha tucks her bra in her purse and leaves with Natasha.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Natasha and Sasha walk down the hall as Randall looks on from behind.

NATASHA

How was it?

SASHA

Very interesting. I think it has a lot of potential in the foreign market.

NATASHA

How much control did the machine have on your mind?

SASHA
Would you have sex with Blake?

NATASHA
You're right. It has potential.

INT. DOCTOR ADAMS OFFICE - DAY

Maria knocks on the door and pokes her head in.

DOCTOR ADAMS
May I help you?

MARIA
I'm here to volunteer.

DOCTOR ADAMS
Very well. We always need people.
I just need you to fill out this
form.

MARIA
My parents came in last night.
Yolanda and Ramon Ramirez.

DOCTOR ADAMS
I'm sorry. Yes, I saw them this
morning.

MARIA
I want to be here with them. Can I
do that?

DOCTOR ADAMS
I'm sorry, what was your name
again?

MARIA
Maria Ramirez.

DOCTOR ADAMS
Maria, you understand that we only
take in the extreme cases. I don't
know if it would be the best idea
for you to work here. Your parents
are in a very delicate condition
and I'm not sure you could give
them the proper care.

Maria slams both hands on the desk and stands up in anger.

MARIA

They are my parents and I can give them better care than all your fancy nurses put together. They cared for me since I took my first breath, and by God I will be there when they take their last.

DOCTOR ADAMS

Please sit down.

MARIA

No, there is no sitting down. You give me the form and let me volunteer, or I will just keep showing up every day and volunteer as a visitor. But if I see one of your nurses not caring for my parents properly, I'll break her neck.

DOCTOR ADAMS

Do you really think that this attitude will help your parents?

MARIA

Do you really think keeping me out will help them more?

Doctor Adams thinks about it for a moment and hands over the paper.

DOCTOR ADAMS

But you're a volunteer here. You'll have to help other patients as well, not just your parents.

Maria grabs the paper and a pen.

MARIA

Don't worry, I'll be the best volunteer you ever had. I'll have the nurses whipped into shape in no time.

DOCTOR ADAMS

Yes, I'm sure you will.

Maria scribbles across the page, trying to fill it out as fast as she can.

EXT. AUGUST'S HOUSE - DAY

Yvonne steps out of the cab and walks up to the door. She double checks the address and reaches to ring the bell when the door opens.

YVONNE

Yvonne Johnson. I'm answering your ad and ready to move in. Where's my key?

AUGUST

I'm in a bit of a hurry right now. Can you come back tomorrow? Say around three?

YVONNE

Tomorrow? Fuck your tomorrow. I'm here today. Your ad says roommate, and I'm here. What does that have to do with tomorrow?

AUGUST

Look, I really have to get going. I appreciate you coming by.

YVONNE

It's cause I'm black, huh? You can't stand the thought of some darkie sharing a room with your lily white ass. Well let me tell you this, sister. I won't put up with your racist bullshit. Equal housing laws say that I got the right to live here and if you don't like it, I'll toss your ass out on the street. You understand me?

Sara steps through the door behind August, carrying a bag in her hand.

SARA

Well, she is definitely a talker.

AUGUST

Sara, you promise not to tell anybody.

SARA

I know. You think I want to talk to Blake about anything? Shit, Sheila blabs to him every time I fart.

AUGUST

Look, whoever you are, I'm really glad you came by, but we have to get to the lab.

YVONNE

I know all about labs. I was a mobile dog groomer. I can help you with the lab and the poodle and the great dane and all your doggy needs. Come on, I need a place to stay. Please.

Yvonne drops to her knees begging.

SARA

Ah, come on August. Give her a chance. Look at her. She seems harmless enough.

Dana pats her on Yvonne's head and tussles her hair.

AUGUST

Come with us to the lab and we'll talk on the way. If it works out, I'll give you my keys and you can move in tonight.

Yvonne grabs her hand and starts kissing it.

YVONNE

Thank you, thank you. You won't regret it.

She grabs the folder from August and runs to the street.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Taxi!

SARA

She seems like a lot of fun. It'll be fine.

AUGUST

Then let her move in with you.

The cab pulls up and Yvonne opens the door.

YVONNE

Your chariot awaits.

They all step into the cab.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The cab pulls away from the curb.

YVONNE (V.O.)

Oh, girlie. You mess up my hair
again and I'll rip your arm off.

INT. RANDALL'S OFFICE - DAY

August and Crystal are seated near the wall while Randall
sits behind the desk.

RANDALL

Tomorrow is the first test of the
two person device. Crystal, I'm
putting you in as lead.

CRYSTAL

Thanks. I appreciate it.

RANDALL

August, I need you to do the setup.
You wrote the new configuration, so
it's on you.

AUGUST

I won't let you down.

RANDALL

I know you won't. Is there
anything I need to know before I
take them in?

AUGUST

There are now two caps. The last
one to be activated has control of
any previous activations. In a
sense, you will be controlling the
other person's mind with your mind.

CRYSTAL

Is it dangerous?

RANDALL

No. It will be very controlled. I
wouldn't let you do anything I
didn't think you could handle.

AUGUST

Just remember. The last one in has
all the control.

CRYSTAL

Got it.

INT. AUGUST'S HOUSE - DAY

Yvonne walks around the kitchen, opening cabinets and drawers.

YVONNE

There's nothing to eat in here. I moved in with a bunch of rabbits.

She looks in the refrigerator and finds yogurt, tofu and energy drinks.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Enough of this shit. A girl needs food.

She drags the garbage can over and starts dumping containers.

INT. KIM'S ROOM - DAY

Maria sits next to Kim as she types on the computer.

MARIA

Have you started on August's program yet?

KIM

I would, but it's hard for me to type and talk at the same time.

MARIA

Really, I've never heard of that? Is it hereditary?

KIM

Must be, because Jasmine can't type worth shit and she can't keep her mouth shut for two seconds.

MARIA

So, what are you typing now?

KIM

It's a program to make the person next to you either shut up or go away.

MARIA

Does it work?

KIM
Apparently not.

INT. LAB - DAY

Crystal and Helena are seated in chairs facing each other with the probes on as Randall and Natasha look on.

RANDALL
If this works, I can count on your support for my nomination?

NATASHA
Of course, Doctor Blake. But it must be a very controlled test.

RANDALL
Not a problem. We can control it from here.

NATASHA
No, if you're in the room, how will I know that you are not guiding the test? I'm afraid that you must leave.

RANDALL
But, what if something happens?

NATASHA
Then I have been misled as to the safety of this project.

RANDALL
I'll be back in an hour.

Randall leaves the room and Natasha picks up the mic.

NATASHA
Find out how it works.

Helena smiles, stands, approaches Crystal and tucks some hair behind Crystal's ear.

HELENA
Tell me how the machine works.

Crystal realizes that she is tied to a chair.

CRYSTAL
What's going on here? Why am I tied up?

Though there are no ropes on her hands, Crystal struggles, believing that she is completely tied

HELENA

You were about to tell me how the machine works. I know that you were on the project from the beginning.

CRYSTAL

I don't know what you're talking about.

HELENA

Well, let me refresh your memory.

Helena stands up, grabs Crystal's hair and pulls her head back, talking directly into her face.

HELENA (CONT'D)

We don't have a lot of time. We need to know how the machine works. We know that you know how to control it, so tell me now or we'll see just how REAL this is to you.

AUGUST

What are you talking about? I don't know how it works. It's just a research project.

HELENA

Well then, let's continue the research.

Crystal struggles in her chair as Helena steps away from her. Crystal's body shakes and she pulls on the ropes.

CRYSTAL

Please let me go. I'm begging you. Where's Doctor Blake?

HELENA

He seems to have stepped out for the moment. But that's fine. It will give us more time to chat.

CRYSTAL

Look, I didn't write the program, I only worked on the project for testing as part of a game simulation.

HELENA

Fine, We'll do a little game simulation of our own, right here. Do you know that some people say that acupuncture can help with memory?

Crystal shakes her head, trying to get the hair out of her eyes.

CRYSTAL

You have to believe me. I don't know how it works.

Natasha watches as Helena goes to a table and pretends to open a small bag. Crystal watches as Helena pulls out a long acupuncture needle.

HELENA

I've never been much of a believer in the whole needle thing myself, but I figure anything is worth a try.

CRYSTAL

What are you talking about?

Helena unties Crystal's foot and pulls her shoe off. He puts her foot on the table and pins her leg. She then runs the needle across the bottom of Crystal's foot. Crystal tries to pull her foot away, but Helena holds her secure.

HELENA

I mean, how effective can a little pin be?

Helena stabs the ball of Crystal's foot with the pin. Crystal screams out in pain and tries to pull her foot away.

CRYSTAL

What are you doing? Stop it. I don't know what you want from me.

Helena pulls the big toe away from the other toes, exposing the gap and rests the point of the pin there. She holds Crystal's foot still while gripping the needle.

HELENA

Something about putting the pin on the right nerve just frees the mind up to remember the really important things in life.

Helena shoves his hand down hard, driving the pin deep into the gap. Crystal screams out in agony, trying to pull her foot away.

CRYSTAL

No! Stop! Please stop! No more!

Helena removes the pin, and twists her leg so that he is now sitting on her foot. She unties Crystal's other foot, brings it up and removes her shoe.

HELENA

Some people train for years to learn just the right spots in order to get the maximum effect, but it seems to me, that one spot is as good as another.

She runs the pin up Crystal's foot.

CRYSTAL

No, please, I'm begging you. Please, you have to stop. Please.

HELENA

But then again, maybe some spots really are better than others.

Helena slides the pin so that it is pointed between the toes.

CRYSTAL

Okay. You win. What do you want? I'll do anything. Anything at all. Please just stop.

Helena hesitates for a moment.

HELENA

Very well then, tell me how it works.

CRYSTAL

I don't know.

Helena drives the pin into the gap. Crystal screams and thrashes on the chair.

HELENA

Granted, I've never had any formal training or anything, but I'll try anything once.

She pulls the pin out and sits so that both legs are spread wide and both of Crystal's feet are pinned beneath her.

CRYSTAL

Please, please, please. I've had enough. I can't take anymore. God, I'll do anything. Please just stop.

HELENA

You don't get it yet, do you? We know that you help build this machine. And we know that it works, so start talking.

CRYSTAL

What's wrong with you? I don't fucking know how it works.

Oh, it's just a simulation, right? It's not real.

Helena jabs the needle into her calf.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

I swear to god, I was just part of the simulation.

Helena slides the needle up along Crystal's leg.

HELENA

You see, the problem that you have right now, is this. I love my job.

Helena shoves the pin into Crystal's knee and Crystal screams and thrashes uncontrollably.

CRYSTAL

No, god, no. Please stop. Oh god, please stop. Please.

Natasha looks up and sees Randall returning. She looks at Helena and then nods her head at Randall. Helena nods that she understands and Natasha gets up to leave. Helena turns her attention back to Crystal.

HELENA

Now, where were we?. Ah yes. My job. What other job in the world let's you talk so freely to people. And they are just dying to talk to me, right?

CRYSTAL

No, no! You can't. No stop, no!

HELENA

What are you worried about? Huh?
It's not real, right?

CRYSTAL

Right. It's not real. None of it
was real.

HELENA

Then you shouldn't feel this.

Helena shoves the needle into her knee and Crystal screams out in pain. She pulls desperately at the ropes securing her hands.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Natasha walks up to Randall. Randall smiles and tries to look in the room.

RANDALL

So, how's it going?

NATASHA

It seems to be going fine. We're
doing some specialized testing.

RANDALL

Great. Is it working?

NATASHA

So far. I have asked Helena to
test the limits of the device. We
want to make sure that it works as
well as you said.

RANDALL

I understand. Let's go back in and
see how it's progressing.

NATASHA

Helena has it under control. I
wanted to talk to you about another
matter.

She loops her elbow into his and guides him down the hall away from the room.

RANDALL

Of course. Anything you want.

They walk away as Randall tries to look into the room.

INT. LAB - DAY

Helena is still sitting between Crystal's legs

CRYSTAL

No, god no. Stop. I can't tell you anything. I don't know anything. I don't remember killing anyone. Please stop.

HELENA

My theory is that the more sensitive the area, the more effective the memory power and the more talkative people become. Shall we see?

Helena spreads Crystal's legs and rests the tip of the pin on the crotch of her panties.

CRYSTAL

No. Please no. What do you want from me?

HELENA

Let's test your memory and see if the acupuncture has been helpful. Or do we need one more application.

Helena holds the pin in both hands.

CRYSTAL

What do you want to know?

HELENA

Tell me how it works.

CRYSTAL

I don't know the details. All I know is that the probes make a person think it is real. They have to believe that it's real for it to work!

HELENA

And if they don't?

She pushes slightly on the needle. Crystal stops and looks at Helena, and then smiles.

CRYSTAL

If they don't. Then it doesn't work.

The ropes suddenly disappear on Crystal's hands. Crystal swings her arms forward and wraps her hands around Helena's neck. She is completely caught off guard and falls backwards. Crystal lands on top of her, still gripping her neck. Helena grabs the needle and shoves it into Crystal's side. Crystal screams and releases her grip. She rolls away sweeping her hair out of her face. The needle remains in her side.

HELENA

The experiment is a failure. If you know what's good for you, you better fucking stop, right now.

CRYSTAL

If I knew what was good for me, you'd be dead already.

Crystal launches forward and catches Helena by the knees, sending her to the floor. Crystal lands on top and tries to pin her arms to the ground.

HELENA

Get off me right now!

Crystal pulls the needle from her side and jabs it into Helena's shoulder.

CRYSTAL

Feel real enough for you? That's what you wanted right? To see how real it feels!

Crystal twists the needle wildly. Helena screams out and Crystal continues to twist and yank on the needle.

HELENA

Stop it. This test is over. The machine is a failure.

CRYSTAL

Really. Then you shouldn't feel this.

She pulls out the needle and drives it into Helena's other shoulder. She screams and thrashes on the floor.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

It fucking hurts, doesn't it? Doesn't feel like such a fucking failure now, huh? Think you can remember that? Supposed to be great for your memory.

HELENA

Stop it. This isn't part of the simulation.

CRYSTAL

Fuck your simulation. Simulate this!

Crystal twists the needle, driving it further into her shoulder.

HELENA

When we get out of here, I'll kill you for real.

CRYSTAL

What? Having a problem remembering how much you love your fucking job?

Helena screams as Crystal twists and pulls the needle.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Memory getting any better, Asshole? Acupuncture working for you?

Helena pulls her arm free and grabs the needle from Crystal. They struggle for the needle and Crystal's hair keeps falling in her face. Helena grabs the needle, and shoves it toward Crystal's chest, but spears her breast. Crystal screams, pulls the needle out and holds it in both hands.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Maybe you need you understand what pain is.

Crystal swings her arms up, holding the needle and is about to drive it into Helena's chest when Randall grabs her.

RANDALL

Crystal, what are you doing?

Randall pulls the cap off of her head and pulls her off of Helena. Natasha helps Helena to her feet.

HELENA

She tried to kill me.

CRYSTAL

Fuck you, Bitch. I still will.

Randall holds her back as she tries to get to Helena.

RANDALL
Crystal. Stop it. Stop it right now. What's wrong with you?

NATASHA
It appears, Doctor Blake, that your machine induces violent behavior.

RANDALL
No, it doesn't. It never has. Crystal. What's gotten into you? You've ruined everything we worked for.

CRYSTAL
She fucking tortured me. You don't know what I just went through.

Helena pulls Natasha aside and whispers in her ear. Natasha smiles and turns to Randall.

NATASHA
There was a misunderstanding. We were looking at the military application of the program in, shall we say, less than favorable techniques for information gathering.

CRYSTAL
Torture? You were testing torture? Well, let me show you some real world application.

She struggles with Randall, but he holds her back.

NATASHA
Doctor Blake. Didn't you tell her that this is what we had agreed to?

RANDALL
I thought it might be a more effective demonstration if she didn't know in advance.

CRYSTAL
You mother fucker. You knew? You knew this was going to happen? You bastard.

Crystal slaps Randall hard.

RANDALL
Crystal. Stop it. That's enough.
If you want to stay on this
project, you'll leave the room this
instant.

Crystal looks at him in disgust. She pulls her arm free and leaves the room.

NATASHA
I'm sorry, Doctor Blake. If I had
know that she was unaware, I would
not have asked Helena to be so
convincing.

RANDALL
It's not your fault, Doctor Gorsky.
So, was test a success?

NATASHA
I will consult with Helena and get
back to you.

RANDALL
Great. I look forward to it.

NATASHA
As do I.

Natasha and Helena nod and leave the room.

EXT. HALLWAY

Natasha and Helena walk down the hall together.

NATASHA
Anything useful?

HELENA
She doesn't know anything. He's
kept the secret to himself.

NATASHA
Good. Then we only have one person
to worry about.

HELENA
One question still remains.

NATASHA
What's that?

HELENA

What happens to the person if they believe they were killed.

NATASHA

We almost found out.

HELENA

Give me another chance, and we will.

INT. MADISON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dana and Madison lay on the couch watching television.

DANA

Are you enjoying the show?

MADISON

I'm enjoying the company.
Especially after what I went through today.

Dana moves away from her and rests against a pillow.

DANA

I think we need to talk.

MADISON

About what?

Madison turns off the television and turns to her.

DANA

Something has come up.

MADISON

What?

Dana turns away and looks into the kitchen.

DANA

I've think it would be good if we saw other people.

MADISON

Other people? Like who?

Dana stands up and walks to the kitchen.

DANA

Can I get you something?

MADISON

Don't you dare walk away from me.
People like who?

DANA

You know the game simulations that
we've been running?

MADISON

Like who?

DANA

Well, David and I have been seeing
each other.

MADISON

You're fucking kidding me, right?
You want to start dating David?

DANA

Actually, I am dating him. We
meant to tell you together.

Madison falls into a chair holding her head.

MADISON

Wait a minute. I broke up with the
bastard to be with you and now
you're telling me that you're
leaving me for him?

DANA

I didn't mean it to be this way.

MADISON

Fine, you take David. But I'll
tell you this right now, if you
think you are leaving me for him,
then you better think again.

DANA

Don't be this way, Madison.

MADISON

Oh, you haven't seen my way yet,
you bitch. It's on now. You think
David wants you because you're some
great fuck. Well guess what, I can
out fuck you any day of the week.

Dana grabs her arm and tries to calm her down

DANA

Madison. Stop it.

Madison pulls her arms free and shoves Dana back.

MADISON
Don't test me, bitch. Don't you
fucking test me.

Madison turns and walks out of the house.

EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ronald walks down the hall, carrying his briefcase. He looks in the lab windows as he passes. Reaching in, he turns off some lights, then continues on. Turning the corner, he sees the light on in Randall's lab. Helena is sitting in the chair looking at the probe. Ronald pushes open the door.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Ronald pokes his head in and waves at Helena.

RONALD
Working late?

Helena turns and is momentarily startled. She reaches for a knife strapped under her shorts.

HELENA
Yes. Working late.

RONALD
Doctor Blake works you interns too
hard. He should pay you more for
the hours you all put in.

HELENA
It's an honor to work for him.

She removes her hand from the knife and flips the hat over in her hands.

RONALD
Well, I won't disturb you any
longer. Try and get some sleep.

He turns to leave.

HELENA
Excuse me. But would mind helping
me with something?

Ronald smiles and walks toward her.

RONALD
Sure. If I can.

HELENA
I'm having trouble with one of the electrodes on this cap. I've tried fixing it by myself, it's hard to wear it and fix it at the same time.

She puts the cap on her head and fumbles with some of the wires on top. She looks comical as her fingers fumble around trying to find a wire. Ronald laughs at the display.

RONALD
Okay. I see what you mean. How can I help you?

Helena pulls the cap off.

HELENA
Oh, I really appreciate this. Just sit down. I'll put it on you.

Ronald takes a seat and Helena hooks him up. She presses the activation button and Ronald freezes.

HELENA (CONT'D)
Oh, this will be a great help.

She sits down and puts on her own cap.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Olga works on the computer while Sasha watches television.

SASHA
That Natasha is something else.

Olga shoots her a look, but keeps working.

SASHA (CONT'D)
I usually have to work with nasty smelly old men. But she's hot.

OLGA
She's taken.

SASHA
Oh I know. All the good ones are. But it doesn't hurt to look.

Olga stands up and pins Sasha against the couch.

OLGA
I will hurt you if you look.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Ronald watches, unmoving, as Helena stands before him. She walks up and presses him down to the floor.

HELENA
Lie down, like a good little boy.

He lays down on his back as Helena straddles his hips.

HELENA (CONT'D)
Now, let's see just how strong your heart is.

She begins to gyrate on him, fully clothed as he watches in disbelief. He breathing gets heavier and he slowly pumps his hips up and down. His heart is pounding and he begins to sweat.

RONALD'S POV

Helena is nude on top of his nude hips and he reaches up to caress her bare breasts.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Helena continues to gyrate as Ronald's hands caress her covered breasts. She reaches to her left, picks up something invisible and holds it with both hands over her head.

RONALD'S POV

Helena is holding a large knife over her head.

HELENA
How strong is your heart?

She swings the knife down, full force into his chest.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Helena's empty hands are pressed against Ronald's chest. He struggles as she twists and turns the imaginary knife. He tries to pull her hands free, then finally goes limp. Helena gives the knife a final twist. She stands up and checks for a pulse.

Flipping his body over a rolling chair, she pulls him out to the hallway. Two labs down, she rolls the chair in and props him over the keyboard on a desk. Then she leaves, returns to her lab, straightens up the work area and leaves.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Karen Greer sits down at the long table in the board room. She looks over at the Randall and Linda across from her.

KAREN

As you may have heard, Doctor Pascal was found dead last night.

RANDALL

Oh my god. What happened?

KAREN

Apparently, a heart attack. He was working alone, late last night, in one of the labs.

LINDA

That's awful.

KAREN

And a loss to this institution. As head of the board, he led us to some of the greatest discoveries to date. And he did that by hiring great minds, like yourselves.

RANDALL

Thank you.

KAREN

What you don't know is that he was planning on having one of you replace him. Not just on the board, but as head of the board.

RANDALL

Head of the board? That would be great. It's more than I expected.

KAREN

Not so fast, Doctor Blake. The rest of the board still needs to vote.

RANDALL

Well, I'm the obvious choice. My project is must further along than any other project here.

LINDA

With his passing, wouldn't it be best if you took the position?

KAREN

No, not me. He was very clear with his wishes. One of you will assume that role.

RANDALL

It'll be my honor.

Both women look at Randall. He fumbles for a moment and then recovers.

KAREN

I beg your pardon?

RANDALL

I mean, it'll be my honor to serve on the board if I'm the one selected. When will you know?

KAREN

Soon. Both of your projects show great promise and we are evaluating them now.

LINDA

Is there anything we can do to help?

KAREN

Not just yet. We board members were once young, like you, but those days are past. We need to turn over the reins to someone with a fresh mind, who can better control the projects. Are there any further questions?

Both of them shake their heads.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Very well then. Good luck.

Randall and Linda stand and leave the room. Randall extends his hand to Linda.

RANDALL
May the best man win.

Linda looks at his extended hand, and hesitates for a moment. She then takes it and shakes it firmly.

LINDA
May the project that benefits the institution most, win.

She releases his hand, turns and walks away.

RANDALL
Bitch.

Randall watches her leave then walks the other way.

INT. RANDALL'S OFFICE - DAY

Randall walks into his office and sees Crystal sitting there. He steps in and closes the door.

CRYSTAL
I've been waiting for you.

RANDALL
I'm really sorry about the other day. The torture thing.

CRYSTAL
How could you let them to that to me?

RANDALL
I didn't know how far they were going to take it. They were way out of line.

CRYSTAL
But why did you let them do it at all. I thought I meant something to you.

Randall opens his desk drawer and pulls out a ring box.

RANDALL
You do.

Crystal looks down in disbelief. She begins to shake with excitement.

CRYSTAL
Is that for me?

RANDALL

I was waiting for a better time to show you, but I think you need to know my feelings now.

He opens the box, revealing a ring, but closes it again.

CRYSTAL

What? What's wrong?

RANDALL

Not like this. It's all wrong. I want to do it right. Not in the office, and talking about torture.

CRYSTAL

No, it's fine. Now is good.

The phone rings and Randall picks it up.

RANDALL

I'll see her now. Send her in.

CRYSTAL

Who? What's going on now?

Randall puts the ring box away, puts his arm around Crystal and walks her to the door.

RANDALL

It's Susan, from the funding board. She will be fighting for the finances we need to continue the project.

CRYSTAL

But what about my ring?

RANDALL

Don't worry. It'll still be here.

The door opens and Susan walks in.

SUSAN

Oh, I'm sorry. I thought we were meeting.

RANDALL

Crystal was just leaving. Thank you, Crystal. We'll talk later.

Crystal stands there dumbfounded and looks at the desk. Susan extends her hand to Crystal.

SUSAN
Nice to meet you.

CRYSTAL
Um, you too.

Crystal shakes Susan's hand, looks at Randall, who winks at her, and leaves. Susan closes the door.

SUSAN
Another one of your interns?

RANDALL
Lab assistant. That's all.

Susan wraps her arms around him and kisses him.

SUSAN
I've heard about your interns. And I must say, I'm a bit concerned.

RANDALL
Did you get the additional funding?

SUSAN
Of course.

She reaches into her purse and grabs an envelope. Randall takes it, opens it and pulls out a check.

RANDALL
Great. It's exactly what I wanted.

SUSAN
And when do I get what I want?

Randall walks behind his desk, pulls out the ring box and opens it, revealing a big ring.

RANDALL
Sooner than you think.

Susan rushes the desk and looks at the ring.

SUSAN
It's beautiful. Can I try it on.

Randall slams the box closed.

RANDALL
As soon as the other one is off your finger.

SUSAN

I'll file for divorce next week.

She leans in and gives him a long kiss.

RANDALL

Not next week. Wait until I get elected to the board.

SUSAN

But that could be weeks.

RANDALL

Not with you and Gorksy swaying the votes.

He pulls her close and kisses her.

EXT. LAB - NIGHT

Madison and David stand outside the lab door. Madison is kissing and fondling him as he enjoys the sensation. She pulls the door open and they enter.

MADISON

I know about you and Dana. I just want you to know that I'm okay with it. In fact, I'm thinking that a threesome would be great.

DAVID

She said you were pissed. I was surprised when you called me.

MADISON

Oh, at first I was livid. But then I thought, 'Hey, I can have my cake'...

She rubs his crotch with her hand, leans her body in and whispers in his ear.

MADISON (CONT'D)

... and EAT it, too.

She bites her teeth together and then nibbles on his ear.

DAVID

Where do you want to start?

MADISON

How about, over there?

She points to a chair.

DAVID
You want to have machine sex?

MADISON
What better way to make sure we
both have fun? If it works, we'll
invite Dana in.

DAVID
That works for me. Sit here and
I'll hook you up. Then I'll go in.

Madison sits down.

MADISON
Why do I go first?

DAVID
The last one in controls the game.

MADISON
That's why I want to go in last. I
love having control.

She leans forward and unzips his pants.

MADISON (CONT'D)
Unless you're afraid of what I
might do?

She spreads her legs and pulls his head down towards her
hips, stopping when his head is about chest high but so he
gets a clear view of her crotch.

MADISON (CONT'D)
Or have you do to me.

She releases his head and sits back. David loosens his
collar and sits down.

DAVID
Ok, I go in first.

He places the cap on him head and hooks it up. She slips her
hand inside his pants.

MADISON
I may be a moment.

DAVID
See you on the other side.

He presses the control button. She pulls her hand out, puts on her cap and presses her control button.

MADISON

Stand up!

David stands and moves to embrace her, but she pushes his hands away.

MADISON (CONT'D)

You no longer have the right to touch me!

David's arms fall to his side. He looks surprised.

MADISON (CONT'D)

You should have learned to keep your hands to yourself. In fact, that's what you're going to learn to do right now. Keep your hands to yourself. Grap your nuts!

David's hands involuntarily slide inside his pants.

MADISON (CONT'D)

How's that for a threesome? Two balls and one dick. So come on you big dick, squeeze. HARD!

David's hands clench, and he screams in pain. He falls to the floor in agony, but continues to squeeze.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Not what you were expecting, huh? Well I have to tell you, I'm having a blast. Take your right hand and grab your throat.

David's horrified face is a mask of disbelief. But his hand moves to his neck while the other continues to squeeze.

MADISON (CONT'D)

All that sweet talk you used to give me. Telling me I was the only one. Bet you said those same words to Dana, didn't you. Well, you'll say those words again. Or any others. Now, hold your windpipe closed until you stop breathing.

David squeezes again, and the air immediately stops. He thrashes around on the floor, gasping for breath, but none comes.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Maybe Dana will join you, soon. In Hell.

Madison removes her headset, steps over David as he thrashes around and leaves the room.

INT. RANDALL'S RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Randall walks in as Sheila sits behind the desk.

SHEILA

Linda wants to see you right away.

RANDALL

Did she say what it was about?

Sheila pulls out a notepad and reads.

SHEILA

Nope. She just said "as soon as he fucking shows up, he needs to get his ass to the boardroom or he's fucked."

RANDALL

Her exact words, huh?

SHEILA

More or less.

RANDALL

I'm sure.

INT. BOARDROOM - MORNING

Randall and Linda sit in the boardroom across from Karen. She shuffles some papers around and pulls out one page from each file.

KAREN

After careful consideration of both projects, the board has reached a decision.

Randall and Linda both involuntarily lean forward a little.

KAREN (CONT'D)

We feel that both of you have contributed substantial time and effort into your projects, and both have the potential to generate the necessary revenues to fund further projects.

Randall and Linda are both riveted to every word.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Doctor Blake, as the senior staff member here, we felt that, if you can show that your device can be mass produced, at minimal cost, and with a stellar safety record....

RANDALL

I can. I can.

KAREN

Then we are prepared to offer you the seat at the head of the Board of directors, as soon as you...

Dana and Crystal burst into the room screaming and crying.

DANA

He's dead.

CRYSTAL

David's dead. He's strapped to the machine.

DANA

He choked to death.

Everyone jumps to their feet and rushes out of the room heading to the lab. The sound of sirens is heard in the distance.

INT. LAB - MORNING

Randall pulls open the door and sees David on the floor. His body is contorted in a grotesque position.

RANDALL

Crystal, get me a blanket to cover him. Dana, you help me move him.

LINDA

Doctor Blake. You shouldn't move the body until the police arrive.

RANDALL

Who that fuck are you to tell me
what to do in my own lab? Dana,
grab his feet.

LINDA

Doctor Blake, I really must insist.

Randall stands up and shoves his finger in her chest.

RANDALL

I don't have time to listen to your
shit. Now get out of my lab so
that I can do my job.

DETECTIVE SIMMS steps in and assesses the scene.

DETECTIVE SIMMS

My thoughts exactly. Now both of
you get out and let me do MY job.

Randall starts to protest, but leaves the lab instead.

INT. LAB - DAY

Detective Simms looks down at David on the floor. She calls
Randall over.

DETECTIVE SIMMS

What's that on his head?

RANDALL

It's a device that we are working
on. It helps control brain
patterns.

DETECTIVE SIMMS

Was he the only one in here when
this happened?

RANDALL

Yes, we checked the log and only
his card was swiped.

DETECTIVE SIMMS

What's that camera for?

RANDALL

Recording progress of the tests.

Detective Simms walks over, pulls on a fresh plastic glove
and presses the eject button.

DETECTIVE SIMMS
There's no tape.

RANDALL
We don't tape everything.

Natasha, Linda, and Karen stand at the police line, holding their identification cards. Detective Simms walks Randall over to them.

DETECTIVE SIMMS
Stay here with them while we secure the scene.

NATASHA
Oh my god. What's going on?

KAREN
Doctor Blake. Did your machine do this?

RANDALL
No, my machine didn't do this.
It's perfectly safe.

DETECTIVE SIMMS
Calm down you two. I've seen this happen far too many times.

They look at him in awe.

NATASHA
You have seen this device before?

DETECTIVE SIMMS
No, not the device. This method of death. People get enhanced sexual pleasure when they cut off their air supply. It's called "Erotic Asphyxiation". The "Breathless Orgasm".

LINDA
You're kidding me.

DETECTIVE SIMMS
No, I'm not. I've had five cases this year alone where people actually hung themselves while masturbating.

NATASHA
That's disgusting.

RANDALL

What kind of pervert would do that?

Detective Simms looks down at David.

DETECTIVE SIMMS

Maybe that one.

They all look down at David's blue, lifeless face.

KAREN

Is there anything we can do,
Detective?

DETECTIVE SIMMS

No. I'll need to get a statement
from each of you. This is a crime
scene and I'll be closing this lab
while we gather evidence.

RANDALL

Close the lab? You can't do that.
We have a safety test today.

DETECTIVE SIMMS

Looks like it failed.

RANDALL

It did NOT fail.

KAREN

Doctor Blake. Can I please see you
in the boardroom?

RANDALL

It's safe, I tell you. It's safe.

They turn and leave the scene.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Linda and Natasha look over the papers left on the table.

KAREN

Doctor Blake. In light of what
just happened, I'm afraid that we
must withdraw your nomination as
Head of the Board.

RANDALL

You can't do that. It's not my
fault.

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

You heard the cop, the idiot killed himself. I can't be held responsible for his actions.

NATASHA

Doctor Clark. We'd like to conduct a safety test on your device today, if possible.

LINDA

Yes, of course.

RANDALL

No, that's not fair. You can't offer her the board position. It's my position. I have seniority.

KAREN

With all due respect, Doctor Blake. You also have a dead body in your lab hooked up to your machine.

Randall grabs his folder and storms out of the office.

NATASHA

When would be a good time for the test?

LINDA

Whenever you're ready.

KAREN

Once the police leave, we'll begin. And congratulations.

Karen stands and extends her hand. Linda shakes it.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Natasha walks in. Helena and Sasha are at the table playing cards. Olga is at the computer typing.

NATASHA

Nice work Helena. The police suspect suicide.

HELENA

Whose?

NATASHA

The kid at the lab.

HELENA

Haven't been to the lab.

Natasha looks at her, but Helena doesn't look up from her cards.

NATASHA

I don't think he would kill himself. I wonder who did it?

OLGA

Is this Blake's machine?

NATASHA

Yes, what do you know of this?

OLGA

It makes you commit suicide?

NATASHA

Possibly?

OLGA

Can we put Sasha on it?

Helena smiles as Sasha throws down a card.

SASHA

Don't smile so fast. A machine like that could put you out of business.

NATASHA

Or it could keep us in business for a very long time.

INT. KIM'S ROOM - DAY

August, Yvonne, Jasmine and Maria are packed in behind Kim. Kim puts on a headset.

KIM

I've modified the program a little so that you can see what is happening on the computer.

MARIA

So it can see your thoughts?

YVONNE

I'm thinking of a cheeseburger with lot's of onions and...

AUGUST

Yvonne.

KIM

Not exactly your thoughts. But, you can move objects on the screen by thinking about them.

MARIA

How will this help my parents?

AUGUST

Patience, Maria. She's her finish.

KIM

It's a start. Safer than what you have in the lab, but more still too simple.

YVONNE

So when do we get the double deluxe version? With fries?

JASMINE

Is food the only thing you think about?

YVONNE

No, I think about sex, too.

KIM

Is anyone here interested in what I'm talking about?

MARIA

I am. Keep going.

AUGUST

Can you control the objects on the screen? Like we do with people in the lab?

KIM

We might be able to control a computer animated character, but that's about it.

MARIA

But, can you put a person's mind on the machine, so that they can communicate.

KIM

It doesn't work that way. The mind is a very complex system. It has many facets and covers multiple complex scenarios.

YVONNE

I say we break for lunch.

KIM

Or sometimes, it stays on the same track, no matter what.

YVONNE

You got any more of those cookies, Jaz?

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Tammy walks in, followed by Randall.

TAMMY

Doctor Blake to see you.

LINDA

Thank you, Tammy. That will be all.

TAMMY

Yes, Ma'am.

Tammy leaves and Randall walks up to Linda.

RANDALL

What is it? You got your seat on the board. Call me in here to gloat, because I can do without it right now. I'm busy.

LINDA

Doctor Blake. We've decided to stop funding on your project.

RANDALL

WE? You mean YOU! There is no WE. I always knew that you were a jealous bitch and now that you have your project in place, you decide to kill mine? Well fuck you.

Randall turns to leave.

LINDA

Doctor Blake. I understand your feelings. Honestly, I do. But you have to understand our position.

Randall turns to face her.

RANDALL

No, you understand MY position. I worked my ass off on this project. And now as head of the board, you kill it. Why don't you cut off my dick while you're at it?

LINDA

Doctor Blake. Please calm down. We can't have this type of media surrounding this institution. You have to understand that.

RANDALL

What media? That I invented the greatest game controller since man has been playing games. That my device will make millions. That I am a fucking genius. That media?

LINDA

No. The fact that your device has killed someone. THAT media.

They stare at each other. Randall finally breaks away.

RANDALL

Fuck you.

He leaves and slams the door.

INT. RANDALL'S RECEPTION AREA - DAY

August, Sara, Dana, Crystal and Madison sit in the waiting area. Sheila types on the computer. Randall steps out of his office.

RANDALL

Come on. Everybody in. We have to talk.

The women get up and start towards the office.

SHEILA

Madison, you got this package in the mail today.

MADISON

Package?

The others walk by and Madison stays at the desk with Sheila. Sheila looks through her drawers and waits until everyone has left. She opens her front drawer and pulls out a video tape.

SHEILA

Here.

MADISON

What's this?

SHEILA

Are you stupid or something? It's the tape of you and David. The other night.

Madison goes limp and rests her hands on the desk to steady herself.

MADISON

The police said the video recorder was empty.

SHEILA

It was... when they got there.

MADISON

I don't understand. Why didn't you turn me in?

SHEILA

David was an asshole. And jail is no place for an asshole killer.

Madison takes the tape.

MADISON

Thank you.

SHEILA

After he's done talking, come see me. I know somebody who'd love to talk to you.

MADISON

I will.

She steps into the office.

INT. RANDALL'S OFFICE - DAY

Randall sits on his desk and the women take seats. Around the room. He picks up a cup of coffee as Madison enters and finds a spot on the wall to stand.

RANDALL

I have good news, and I have bad news.

He sips on his coffee. No one says a word.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

The good news is that the project was a success. It worked.

There is brief applause from around the room.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

The bad news is that it was cancelled.

The women look at each other in disbelief.

AUGUST

Why?

RANDALL

There are people at the institution that feel it's dangerous.

MADISON

That's bullshit.

Everyone looks at her, surprised by her outburst.

RANDALL

I would agree with you. David, on the other hand, might beg to differ.

AUGUST

We can't be held responsible for his death. It was an accident. He killed himself.

Madison presses against the wall, trying to become as small as she can.

RANDALL

Again, I agree. Personally, I think that there were other reasons.

SARA

Like what?

RANDALL

Jealousy. Greed. Power. Take your pick. But, the long and the short of it is this. We are out of business.

Groans from around the room.

CRYSTAL

Is there anything we can do?

RANDALL

Sure. You can stay on and help me with whatever petty task they decide to toss me. I'm just letting you know that you are all free to go and work on other projects.

DANA

When do they officially stop the project?

RANDALL

Effective immediately. As of right now, we are disbanded. Thank you for coming.

Randall picks up his coffee and walks behind his desk. Keeping his back to the room, he looks out the window. The women file out slowly, except August who remains behind. She walks up and stands beside him at the window.

AUGUST

It was a great project.

RANDALL

"WAS" is the operative word.

AUGUST

Would you mind if I borrowed some of the equipment? I would like to continue work on some of programs. Maybe if we can tone it down a little, it will be less dangerous.

RANDALL

Knock yourself out. You can take it all. Hell, have a fire sell. I don't care. Just know that from here on out, the funding is gone.

AUGUST
I know. I just want to try.

RANDALL
Is there anything else?

August clears her throat and continues to look out the window.

AUGUST
Are you free for dinner tonight?

Randall looks at her in surprise.

RANDALL
What? What did you say? Are you asking me out on a date?

AUGUST
Not a date really. Just something to cheer you up. You worked hard on this, we all did, and I hate to see you hurting. I just thought that, maybe, right now, you just need a friend.

RANDALL
Well, it just so happens that I am free. Nothing going on at all. Come on. Let's go.

He extends his arm, she takes it and they walk out of the office.

INT. RESTARAUNT - NIGHT

Randall refills August's glass with champagne. She drunkenly tries to stop him but he continues to pour.

AUGUST
No, I've had enough. Come on, one full bottle for two people? And you got the biggest bottle that they had.

Randall refills his glass and picks it up.

RANDALL
Come on, August. Drink up. With the project dead, we may as well finish something we start.

AUGUST

Maybe it's not dead. Maybe it's
just too drunk to stand up.

She falls out of her chair and Randall picks her up. He
signals the waiter.

RANDALL

Check please.

INT. RANDALL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Randall carries August into the bedroom and lays her on the
bed.

AUGUST

I'm not really drunk. I know
exactly what I'm doing.

RANDALL

I'm sure you do.

AUGUST

Can we do that orgasm thing again?

RANDALL

We don't have the machine.

She upzips his pants.

AUGUST

No, but you have the equipment.

She laughs at her own joke and falls back on the bed.

RANDALL

Are you sure you want to do this
August?

AUGUST

I have a secret to tell you.

She pulls his shirt and brings him close to her. He cringes
at the smell of her breath.

AUGUST (CONT'D)

I wanted to have sex with you the
first day I was on the project. I
think you're hot.

She lets go of his shirt and falls back on the bed.

RANDALL
Honestly, August. I've felt the
same way about you.

He quickly undresses and lays on the bed next to her. She
pulls off her panties and straddles him, guiding him inside.

AUGUST
Now, let the orgasms begin.

She grinds her body onto his.

INT. RANDALL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

August wakes up and hears a shower running. She looks down
and realizes that she is nude. She feels the stickiness all
over her body.

AUGUST
Shit. He didn't even use a condom.

She quickly rolls out of bed and gathers up her clothes. She
pulls her dress on and steps into her shoes as Randall exits
the bathroom.

RANDALL
Leaving so soon? I thought we
might have time for another round.

AUGUST
I'm really sorry. I have to go.

RANDALL
Well, that's a switch, because last
night all you could do was... cum.

AUGUST
I know. Things got a little out of
hand.

RANDALL
Oh yes, they did. Out of hand, and
in to mouth and between legs and...
well honestly, anywhere that you
could fit it, and some places you
couldn't.

AUGUST
I have to go.

RANDALL

Can I see you again? The project's finished so I have plenty of time on my hands.

AUGUST

We'll see. I have to go.

She pulls open the door and runs out of the room.

INT. NATASHA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Natasha, Sasha, Helena and Olga are sitting around the table looking over some papers.

NATASHA

I was able to convince Doctor Clark to kill the funding on Blake's project. That means we can do anything we want with it. Sasha, can you get us a buyer?

SASHA

Already done. Soon as Helena killed the doctor, I made my move.

NATASHA

Olga, can you set up the program so that no one can break the code? Not even you?

OLGA

Sure, but, I can break any code.

Natasha pats her on the cheek.

NATASHA

I know you can. That's why I love you.

HELENA

What about me?

NATASHA

You'll go with Sasha and make sure the money comes through.

SASHA

Oh, she can do at that.

NATASHA

You two, get out there and get us some money.

Sasha and Helena get up and leave the room. Olga slides her chair next to Helena.

OLGA

So this is the big one? That last time we need those two? The one that will let us be together at last?

NATASHA

Yes, my love. This is the big one.

Olga leans forward and rests her head on Natasha shoulder. Natasha strokes her hair and kisses the top of her head.

INT. LAB - DAY

August gathers up some equipment and tucks it into a bag. Sara walks in and stands at the door.

SARA

So, that's it? We're done?

AUGUST

Seems that way.

SARA

Are you staying on with Blake.

AUGUST

I don't think so. I have another project that I can work on.

SARA

Really? Do they need anybody else?

AUGUST

Not right now, but I'll let you know if something opens up.

SARA

Appreciate it.

AUGUST

I have to go.

August walks out of the lab.

INT. RANDALL'S OFFICE - DAY

Susan and Randall are in a passionate embrace against his desk.

SUSAN
Where's the ring?

RANDALL
No ring. I didn't get on the
board.

Susan pushes him away.

SUSAN
That wasn't my fault. Give me my
fucking ring.

Randall reaches back in his desk and pulls it out.

RANDALL
Here. Take it. Enjoy.

Susan opens the box and admires the ring.

SUSAN
Aren't you going to drop to one
knee?

RANDALL
Why don't you drop to your knees
and blow me.

Susan slams the box shut and shoves it in his chest.

SUSAN
You can't treat me like shit. You
asshole.

RANDALL
Why not? Shit is all I got from
you.

Susan smiles, opens her purse, and pulls out an envelope.

SUSAN
Is this shit?

Randall pulls it away and tears it open.

RANDALL
How did you swing this?

SUSAN
I convinced them that you would
help Linda on her scanner project.

Randall's face drops.

RANDALL
No way. That would be an insult.

SUSAN
And, I told them that I would keep close tabs on you. When we do our initial research, in the Bahamas.

RANDALL
You crafty devil. And they bought it.

SUSAN
I don't know yet. We'll find out when we get back.

She pulls two plane tickets from her purse.

RANDALL
Pack your bags.

INT. KIM'S ROOM - DAY

August walks in and dumps a bunch of headsets on Kim's bed. She reaches into her purse and hands Kim a disk.

KIM
You look like shit.

August collapses on the bed.

AUGUST
There's everything you need. Now make it work.

KIM
Make it work? Sure thing. POOF, it works. Now what?

AUGUST
Kim, I'm really not in the mood for jokes right now.

KIM
Neither am I. You walk in here and hand me a disk and you think it's all done.

AUGUST
I'm sorry. I had a bad night. Will this stuff even help you at all?

KIM

I'm doing the best I can, August.
Really I am. But this is some
rough code. Maria wants to
teleport her parents into the
computer so that they can sing and
dance and play like the old days.

AUGUST

No, she just wants a way for them
to talk to her.

KIM

Look, we have a million ways to use
the internet to talk to each other.
We have webcams, and webphones and
god knows what else. To give her
what she wants, she would have to
put her soul on the web.

AUGUST

No, that's not it.

KIM

Wait a minute. Your thing can
control a person's soul, right?

AUGUST

Their mind. Not their soul.

KIM

Get out.

AUGUST

What?

KIM

I have an idea. But I need to be
alone. So get out.

AUGUST

I'm going. I'm going.

August leaves the room and passes Jasmine in the hall.

JASMINE

I was just bringing Kim some food.

August puts her finger to her lips.

AUGUST

Shhh. Genius at work.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

BRENDA MIMMS sits at a table with a group of women. Sheila walks in with Madison and sits down.

BRENDA
Heard about your adventure.

MADISON
I don't know if that's what I would call it.

REY
You didn't call it that. She did.

Brenda raises her hand and Rey nods and sits back.

BRENDA
Calm down, Rey. Took a lot of guts to do what she did, and get away with it.

MADISON
How much do you know?

SHEILA
She pretty much knows everything that happened.

MADISON
How do you know she wouldn't turn me into the police?

GEM
Hey Tan. Who invited this shithead here anyway?

TAN
Fucking police. You hear that, Gem? Like we'd go to the police.

Brenda gives them a stern look.

BRENDA
I'd like you to come work for me.

MADISON
Work for you? Doing what?

SHEILA
They're kind of a special group.

BRENDA

Mostly freelance stuff. People come to us to, well, take care of things.

MADISON

You're hired killers.

BRENDA

No. That would be illegal. We prefer to think of ourselves as public servants.

The other women chuckle.

GEM

Who are hired to kill people.

Rey jabs her in the ribs.

MADISON

What do you want with me. I'm no killer.

REY

Not what we heard.

MADISON

Hey, that was a suicide. The police found no evidence.

BRENDA

If they had, then we wouldn't be having this conversation, would we?

SHEILA

Madison, things are getting pretty hot at the institution. You might want to consider going with a group that can disappear from time to time.

MADISON

I don't know.

TAN

Hey, we do the same thing as the Police or the State.

REY

Or the homeowner, or good samaritan.

GEM

Or the army, or the... well, other people who kill people legally.

SHEILA

They just do it faster.

BRENDA

We heard you need to lay low for a while. Well, we lay pretty low.

MADISON

I can't kill someone.

REY

We don't kill all the time.

TAN

Most the time, we just train.

GEM

... on how to kill.

Rey jabs her with her elbow.

BRENDA

This is a one time deal. You can stay and be on your own, or come with us now and have know that we got your back.

MADISON

I just don't know.

BRENDA

Come on, girls, we're wasting our time. See ya round, Sheila.

Brenda stands up and drops some money on the table.

MADISON

Wait. I guess right now, what I need most is for someone to have my back. I'm in.

They all raise their glasses and toast.

INT. KIM'S ROOM - DAY

Kim sits at her computer with a headset on. On the screen, a box spins around.

KIM
Reverse direction.

The box spins the other way.

KIM (CONT'D)
Move down.

The box moves to the bottom of the screen.

KIM (CONT'D)
Go up.

The box blows up. She pulls off the headset.

KIM (CONT'D)
I can't control it from out here.
I need to get inside the system.

She clears the screen and looks at her notes.

INT. SPECIAL CARE HOME - DAY

Maria wheels Yolanda down the hall on her bed. An IV is hung from a pole on the side.

MARIA
We're going to see Papa.

SANDY FIELDS steps out of a room and Maria bumps her.

SANDY
Slow down, Maria.

MARIA
I'm sorry, Sandy. Mama is just
excited to see Papa.

Sandy looks down and the unmoving woman on the bed.

SANDY
How can you tell?

MARIA
Oh, I can tell. I can always tell.

Maria swings the bed past Sandy and into Ramon's room.

INT. AUGUST'S HOUSE - DAY

August walks in and looks around. Her house is a complete shambles. She hears Yvonne singing in a back room.

August slumps her shoulders and wades through the carnage to the kitchen. She opens the refrigerator and it is packed with junk food and fast food boxes. She closes the door as Yvonne dances into the kitchen, singing at the top of her lungs.

YVONNE

Hey Roomie. You're home early.
I'm not done cleaning.

AUGUST

Yeah, I noticed that.

YVONNE

Not a problem. Have I got a big
surprise for you.

She bounds over to the refrigerator and pulls open the door.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

Ta Daaaa. Real food.

August looks at her in disbelief.

AUGUST

And what happened to the food that
was there before?

YVONNE

Rabbit food. No body can live on
that shit. So, what are you in the
mood for? Tacos, pizza, burgers.
(looking in) Uh, something blue.
You name it, we got it.

AUGUST

I'm not hungry. I'm going to go
lay down.

Yvonne slams the refrigerator door closed.

YVONNE

Yeah, about the laying down thing.
I was kind of cleaning your room.

August stops and looks at her in disbelief.

AUGUST

You were in my room?

YVONNE

Well, it just needed some touching
up. You know, to give it some
life.

August slowly walks to her room and pushes open the door.

INT. AUGUST'S ROOM - DAY

August stands in the doorway and looks in. The bed is standing, propped against the wall. The dresser drawers are open and empty. Clothes are spread all over the floor. August pulls the door closed.

YVONNE

It's a work in progress.

AUGUST

Could you please just shoot me and put me out of my misery?

YVONNE

You are such a kidder. Look, I'll clear some room for you on the couch so you can lay down. I should be done in your room in no time.

AUGUST

How considerate of you.

YVONNE

No problem. Just a character flaw of mine. I always put other people's needs in front of my own. The call me 'Miss Consideration'.

AUGUST

Who exactly has ever called you that?

YVONNE

Everybody does. It's just the way I am. Always helping people.

Yvonne tips the couch forward, spilling clothes and pictures onto the floor. She picks up the pillows and tosses them back on the couch.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

There you go. You'll sleep like a baby.

August looks at her again, and then collapses on the couch.

INT. KIM'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kim is sitting at the computer working. Jasmine walks in and puts a plate of cookies on the desk, accidentally knocking over an almost empty cup of coffee.

KIM

Jeez, Jasmine. Look what you did.

Jasmine mops up the two or three drops that spilled out.

JASMINE

I'm sorry. I thought you might like something to eat.

KIM

So you come barrelling in here like a bull in a china shop, spilling coffee over everything and screwing up what I'm working on.

Jasmine looks around, but sees that nothing was disturbed.

JASMINE

I'm sorry. I'll leave you alone.

KIM

It's about time.

JASMINE

Do you want the cookies?

KIM

Leave.

Jasmine walks out of the room and closes the door. Kim returns to her screen. She pulls on a headset and adjusts the grips so that they are attached to her temples. Immediately a message appears on the screen. "Do you want to connect?"

KIM (CONT'D)

Here goes nothing.

Kim clicks "yes" and immediately screams in pain.

THE END