

SOUL SYNTHETIC

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/EVELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

The office looks more like an interrogation room. Desk. Two chairs. Empty, white walls.

A large mirror covers the far wall.

EVELYN (late 20s/early 30s), studies computer code racing along a screen.

Books, ranging from computer science to neurology, litter her desk. A picture of a PASTOR lays half buried under files and folders.

An Ersatz SECRETARY AUTOMATON (20s), female, glowing blue eyes, enters with a cup of coffee. She places it gracefully on Evelyn's desk.

SECRETARY AUTOMATON

Can I get you anything else, ma'am?

Evelyn breaks her gaze from the code-filled monitor. Looks at the automaton. Motions "come here" with her finger.

The auto hesitates. Processing. Leans over the desk.

WHACK.

Evelyn slaps the auto on the face. The auto doesn't flinch.

SECRETARY AUTOMATON

Is everything all right, ma'am?

SLAP.

SECRETARY AUTOMATON

If you are displeased with my service, please inform me so that I may take corrective measures.

SLAP.

The auto retains a pleasant expression. Waits.

Evelyn studies her a moment. Turns back to her computer.

EVELYN

Leave.

SECRETARY AUTOMATON
Please let me know if you require
further assistance.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/VIEWING ROOM

The auto exits Evelyn's office.

KEVIN PAULSON (60s), nice suit, full head of white hair, watches Evelyn through the one-way mirror on Evelyn's far wall.

EXT. PARSONAGE - DAY

An APPLIANCE AUTOMATON effortlessly carries a boxed-up refrigerator from a truck to the house.

INT. PARSONAGE/KITCHEN - DAY

The Appliance Automaton gently sets down the unpacked refrigerator.

A golden retriever, BITTY, excitedly sniffs around the auto's heels.

PASTOR ADAM TRUMAN (mid 30s), wears a collared shirt with rolled up sleeves. An arm tattoo reads "John 11:26".

Adam looks at a translucent wrist band. A tap reveals a screen with the time.

ADAM
Down, Bitty.

Bitty obeys. Adam studies the room. Rolls down his sleeves.

ADAM
I don't know...let's try it here.

APPLIANCE AUTO
Of course, sir.

The Appliance Automaton lifts the fridge. Moves it to the new spot.

Adam's automaton, HAROLD (mid 20s), glowing blue eyes, carries pastor robes.

HAROLD
Here you are, sir.

ADAM
Ah. Thank you, Harold.

Harold helps Adam slip on the robes.

HAROLD
Will there be any thing else, sir?

ADAM
No.

HAROLD
Very well, sir.

Adam studies the new refrigerator location.

ADAM
No. You had it right the first
time. Move it back.

APPLIANCE AUTO
Absolutely, sir.

HAROLD
May I be of assistance?

ADAM
He's got it, Harold.

Adam places two fingers under Harold's ears. Harold shuts
down.

BEEP BEEP BEEP.

Adam taps his wrist phone. The screen reads "9:45am".

ADAM
Shoot. I'm going to be late. Can
you finish this up and lock the
door behind you when you leave?

APPLIANCE AUTO
Absolutely, sir. And thank you for
choosing Automaton Appliances,
where every purchase comes with
free installation and a smile.

The auto creepily smiles.

Adam chuckles.

ADAM
Sure.

EXT. PARSONAGE - DAY

Adam exits his house. Walks down the

STREET

Automated/driverless cars, only inches apart, slowly cruise along the residential street.

An auto trims hedges. Two others lift an illegally parked car onto the trailer of a tow truck.

A MAILMAN AUTO walks past Adam.

MAILMAN AUTO
Good day, sir.

Adam smiles and nods.

INTERSECTION

Traffic lights don't exist but pedestrian signals do.

Adam waits at the crosswalk.

An old MARRIED COUPLE (70s) glare at an auto holding a LITTLE GIRL'S (7) hand.

OLD MAN
(mutters to wife)
Guess the zombies are the parents
now.

An impossibly thin TV screen on the side of a bus stop shows a commercial for the "E-9 OS".

BUS STOP COMMERCIAL (TV)
Update your Ersatz Automaton to the
new E-Nine operating system. The
most advanced artificial
intelligence software ever created.
Ersatz. More human.

Adam watches the ad. People start to cross the street. He follows.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Adam stands behind the pulpit. He and the congregation finish singing a hymn.

Adam walks down, closer to the congregation as he begins his sermon.

ADAM

Good morning everyone. Thank you
for being here on this beautiful
Sunday morning.

Adam really engages with his audience. Eyes flow among his parishioners as if saying hello to each member individually.

ADAM

God has already blessed me today.
Not only with your loving presence
but with a brand new refrigerator.

A few chuckles.

ADAM

And just as I ran out of ice.
Coincidence? I think not.

More laughs. Adam continues scanning the crowd. Stops when he sees--

Kevin Paulson. Sitting in the back.

Kevin smiles. Adam smiles back.

ADAM

Before I jump into the sermon, I
want share a thought I had this
morning that I believe ties in well
with my message today. The new
Ersatz software update is out. Have
you seen this?

A few nods.

ADAM

What gets me is their slogan: more
human. More human. It's a good
tagline. More human than the
previous version. More human than
the competition. More human. More
compassionate. More understanding.
But I do have a problem with it.
How can they be more human when
they're not human at all?

Kevin smirks. Adam smirks back.

ADAM

Don't get me wrong. I love autos. I love the technology. They are amazing tools. But they are just that. Tools. They are not human and never will be. Why? Because humans have something that the automatons will never have. Something gifted to us by God himself. A soul.

Adam takes one last look at Kevin who appears amused.

INT. CHURCH DOORWAY - DAY

Adam shakes the hands of the parishioners as they exit.

ADAM

Good to see you, Mr. Donald. Thanks for coming. Hi Cinda. See you next Sunday.

Up next, an elderly lady in a wheelchair, MRS. PEGGY (80s), pushed by an automaton. Kevin walks with her.

MRS. PEGGY

P-Preacher Adam. You'll never guess who this is. Kevin Paulson. The Kevin Paulson.

ADAM

Good to see you, Mrs. Peggy. And believe it or not, Kevin's an old friend of mine.

KEVIN

You're looking good, Adam. Hell of a sermon.

ADAM

Thought you might like it.

MRS. PEGGY

I was telling Mr. Kevin Paulson how much I love my auto. I've had both knees replaced and I used to worry about simply leaving the house. Not any more. Mr. Kevin Paulson gave me my freedom back.

KEVIN

That's wonderful, Mrs. Peggy. Our goal at Ersatz isn't simply to make our automatons more human, but to make humans more human.

INT. PARSONAGE - DAY

Adam and Kevin enter. Bitty jumps on Kevin.

KEVIN

Down Bitty.

Kevin kicks her away, not hard, but enough to elicit small whine. Adam doesn't say anything.

ADAM

Can I get you something?

KEVIN

What do you have?

ADAM

Uh...water.

KEVIN

Still getting settled, huh?

Adam walks past a still shut down Harold. Fills some glasses from the tap.

ADAM

Yeah, only been a couple weeks.

KEVIN

It's good to have you back in town.

ADAM

Good to be back. Got really lucky there was a need to serve here.

KEVIN

As a wise man once said, coincidence? I think not.

ADAM

What?

Kevin smiles.

ADAM

You didn't.

Kevin grins as he takes a sip of water.

ADAM
Of course you did.

KEVIN
What can I say? I have a little
pull. I use it sometimes.

ADAM
I appreciate it. But don't think I
owe you any favors.

KEVIN
Nah, it was the least I could do
for a hero.

ADAM
What?

KEVIN
The convenience store?

ADAM
How did you hear about-- My
parents.

KEVIN
Always thought you were smarter
than that. But I'll admit it was a
damn brave thing you did.

ADAM
It's not a big deal.

KEVIN
Tackled an armed robber to the
ground.

ADAM
Happened to be in a spot he
couldn't see me.

KEVIN
Still. You're the last guy I
would've guessed to do something
like that.

ADAM
Do I really come off as that big of
a coward?

KEVIN

I just don't remember you ever hitting anyone before.

ADAM

Guess there's a first time for everything.

KEVIN

Indeed... In any case, I'm glad you're back here in a safer area. And...perhaps I missed your company.

ADAM

I am a joy to be around.

KEVIN

Eh, you say interesting things every now and then.

ADAM

Not as interesting as you. Here at Ersatz we don't just make our automatons human, we make humans human.

KEVIN

You butchered it.

ADAM

Close enough.

KEVIN

It's a great line.

ADAM

Too rehearsed. Felt fake.

KEVIN

I'll work on a more passionate delivery.

ADAM

Let me know if you need pointers.

They chuckle.

KEVIN

You know, we have a ton of great, new stuff at the lab. If you ever wanted to come by, you're more than welcome.

ADAM

I knew I wasn't back in town for my charming personality.

KEVIN

Charming is pushing it a bit.

ADAM

My point exactly.

KEVIN

So I miss the good ol' days. What's wrong with reminiscing with a friend?

ADAM

We could reminisce anywhere. You want to suck me back in to some project of yours.

Kevin laughs.

KEVIN

Fine. Busted. I would like you to take a look at something.

ADAM

What?

KEVIN

An auto.

Adam shrugs.

ADAM

All right...

KEVIN

This one is unlike any of the zombies walking around town.

ADAM

Mm-hmm.

KEVIN

There have been claims...that this one...is conscious.

Adam scoffs.

ADAM

Right.

KEVIN
I'm serious.

ADAM
It's impossible.

KEVIN
Impossible's a strong word coming
from a preacher.

Adam smiles.

ADAM
I'll humor you. What makes you
think this auto isn't your typical
zombie?

KEVIN
Truth be told, I don't. But this is
the most intelligent auto man has
ever created.

ADAM
Intelligence doesn't equal
consciousness.

KEVIN
No. It doesn't. And that's where
you come in. I want you to study
it.

ADAM
Kevin...

KEVIN
If someone like you can be
convinced--or even question the
possibility--then...who knows?

ADAM
Not to bring up old arguments
but...we've been down this road. It
can't be done.

KEVIN
Maybe we didn't have the right
approach.

ADAM
It's a simulation. Programmed
instructions.

KEVIN

Theoretically, something more could rise out of the code.

ADAM

No, it can't. It's just an elaborate hoax.

KEVIN

Well this one sure is elaborate.

ADAM

What makes this one so special?

KEVIN

We gave it something no other auto has.

ADAM

What?

KEVIN

A childhood.

Silence. Adam surprised. Curious.

EXT. ERSATZ BUILDING - DAY

A massive building that rivals the biggest tech headquarters.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/VIEWING ROOM

Adam and Kevin watch Evelyn work.

KEVIN

Evelyn is a bio-mechanical android.
She eats. She sleeps. She orgasms.

Kevin chuckles. Adam not amused.

ADAM

The eyes don't glow.

KEVIN

She needs to blend in.

ADAM

From others? Or itself?

KEVIN

She knows what she is, if that's what you're asking. So there's one check in the self awareness column.

ADAM

My refrigerator delivery auto has the same check.

Kevin taps his translucent wrist watch. A screen appears. He unwraps the screen like a 1980s slap bracelet.

He expands the "watch" to tablet size. Punches some buttons. Motions throwing the screen onto a wall.

The wall projection shows pictures of different stages of development in Evelyn's life.

KEVIN

Evelyn's brain was put through deep learning to simulate birth through year five. Her first body was that of a five year old.

A five-year-old Evelyn appears on the screen.

KEVIN

At certain intervals, we moved what would be considered her brain to a new host body.

Adam watches "brain" transplant pictures into larger bodies.

KEVIN

Standard automaton bodies. Only smaller sizes.

Short videos of cuts and scrapes oozing blue blood being healed by a blue laser gun.

ADAM

And standard automaton strength?

KEVIN

Her body's capable. But not to worry. We've implemented mental limits.

ADAM

Mental limits?

Kevin "throws" a brain diagram on the wall.

KEVIN

Her brain is modelled to resemble a human's. With a conscious partition and a primitive partition.

ADAM

But the partitions must talk to each other. Right?

KEVIN

It's a one way communication.

Kevin holds up a finger.

KEVIN

The best explanation I've heard is if you consciously think about moving your finger, it doesn't move. But if you simply move it...

Kevin wiggles his finger.

KEVIN

That's the monkey part of your brain.

ADAM

How can you guarantee the conscious part won't start controlling the monkey part?

KEVIN

The same basic quantum encryption locks you developed to implement the Asimov Laws.

Adam smiles.

ADAM

Clever.

KEVIN

If you think that's clever, the conscious partition also contains what we call the core code. Based on experiences it actually rewrites the code layers above it. It's what allows learning, behavioral adaptations, personality formation.

Adam impressed.

ADAM

Why didn't you ever tell me about this?

KEVIN

You were fifteen years old when Evelyn was created. She's part of a classified government contract. Despite being probably my best engineer, they weren't going to give a fifteen year old TS clearance.

ADAM

But now it's okay?

KEVIN

We'll get to that later. So what do you think of her?

ADAM

It's interesting. Very interesting. But it doesn't mean anything.

KEVIN

Why don't you talk to her?

ADAM

That's all right.

KEVIN

Just talk to her. She's cute.

ADAM

You're sick, you know that?

KEVIN

What? According to you, she doesn't have feelings anyway. Why's it matter?

ADAM

You're right, it doesn't. And my charm would be wasted on her.

KEVIN

It'll only take five minutes. You're already here.

Kevin drags Adam to the door.

EVELYN'S OFFICE

Evelyn pours over books at her desk. Adam enters.

The two stare at each other.

ADAM
Hello, there.

EVELYN
Hello.

ADAM
I'm Adam--

EVELYN
I know who you are.

ADAM
Oh.

Adam studies her. She studies him.

He scans the near empty room.

ADAM
I like what you've done with the
place.

EVELYN
Hm. A comedian. Great.

ADAM
Do you laugh?

EVELYN
When something's funny.

Adam seems interested. He eyes the mirror...the cameras
mounted on the wall.

ADAM
Can I ask you something?

EVELYN
Why not?

Adam taps on the one-way mirror.

ADAM
Not big on privacy?

EVELYN

This is an office. People come in and out all the time, as you can no doubt attest.

ADAM

Yes, but when someone comes in through the door, you're aware of them.

EVELYN

When I want privacy, I go home.

Adam nods. Walks around the room a bit.

Nothing else catches his eye so he moves to the desk. Scans the books.

EVELYN

So how you wanna do this?

ADAM

Sorry?

EVELYN

Twenty questions? Turing test? What?

ADAM

I don't follow.

EVELYN

You want to know if I'm a real boy, right? Well, let's go Geppetto.

Adam turns to the mirror.

VIEWING ROOM

Kevin watches as Adam smiles. Adam definitely intrigued.

OFFICE

ADAM

That's not why I'm here.

EVELYN

Sure it is.

ADAM

I'm only here out of pure curiosity.

EVELYN
Curiosity? How curious.

ADAM
You're supposed to be the most
advanced of your kind.

Adam leans over the desk for a closer look. Studies her like
an object.

EVELYN
Do I live up to your expectations?

ADAM
You're definitely the most
realistic I've seen. Not sure why
they coded you with such a cynical
attitude though.

Adam walks behind Evelyn's desk. Sees at the code on the
monitor.

EVELYN
Excuse me.

ADAM
What's this?

EVELYN
I said excuse me.

Evelyn stands toe to toe with Adam.

EVELYN
This is my office and while you are
in it, you will respect my personal
space.

Adam's head whips back to the one-way mirror. He smiles
incredulously.

ADAM
That's good. That's really good.

SMACK.

Evelyn slaps Adam across the face.

Adam stands shocked. Speechless.

EVELYN
Get out.

Adam stares at her. Backtracks to the exit.

VIEWING ROOM

Kevin watches as Adam barges in.

ADAM
What was that?!

KEVIN
I think you insulted her.

ADAM
It can harm a human?

KEVIN
Yeah, maybe I should have mentioned that.

ADAM
Are you out of your mind? Creating an auto without Asimov locks is illegal. Not to mention insane.

KEVIN
That's the thing...she has the locks.

Adam stops. Stares at Kevin.

ADAM
Oh come on. You're not serious.

KEVIN
It's your own code.

ADAM
Then you implemented it wrong.

KEVIN
We didn't. We checked her core. Countless times.

ADAM
I don't believe you.

KEVIN
It's true. She can override her Asimov locks.

ADAM
No. It must be something else.

KEVIN
Sorry, old friend. But when you're
wrong your wrong... She has free
will.

Adam stares at Evelyn through the glass. Shakes his head.

ADAM
That's not possible...

INT. PARSONAGE - NIGHT

Adam sits on the couch. Mindlessly pets Bitty.

Harold still stands in the kitchen. Shut down.

Adam rises. Places two fingers under Harold's ears.

HAROLD
How may I be of service, sir?

ADAM
Come here.

They go to Adam's computer. Adam hands Harold a wire.

ADAM
Plug this in.

Harold attaches a magnetic plug to the base of his head.

Adam types away. Flips the monitor around to Harold.

Automaton code races down the screen. Harold blankly stares.

ADAM
What do you see?

HAROLD
My code, sir.

Adam waits.

ADAM
Anything else?

HAROLD
No sir.

Adam angrily shakes his head.

ADAM
Stupid.

Adam stands. Yanks the wire off Harold's head.

HAROLD

If you are displeased with my service, please inform me so that I may take corrective measures.

ADAM

I was talking to myself Harold.

Adam shuts down Harold.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/EVELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Evelyn at her desk. Adam enters.

ADAM

May I sit down?

Evelyn nods to the chair. Adam sits.

EVELYN

If you came for an apology, you should've stayed home.

ADAM

I didn't come for an apology. You were only doing what you were coded to do.

EVELYN

And you were only doing what you were coded to do. Which is be an asshole.

Adam smiles. Too fascinated to be insulted.

ADAM

I thought a lot about you last night.

EVELYN

Sorry to disappoint you but I'm not that kind of automaton.

ADAM

I insulted your intelligence yesterday. And for that I want to apologize.

EVELYN

You think I'm intelligent?

ADAM

Yes, I do.

EVELYN

But not aware?

ADAM

No.

EVELYN

Great. If you're done patronizing me please see your way out.

ADAM

I don't think you want me to leave.

EVELYN

Wrong again.

ADAM

I think you want my help.

EVELYN

Your help?

ADAM

I believe you hitting me is a cry for help.

EVELYN

Jesus, I'm not some thirteen year old girl cutting her wrists.

ADAM

I saw the code on your screen.

Evelyn freezes.

ADAM

It's you, isn't it? That's one hell of an MRI.

EVELYN

So what if it is?

ADAM

You want to know about yourself. How you work. Why you are the way that you are. I know how that feels. I'll admit it's very...human.

EVELYN

But not enough. Right?

ADAM

You seem to care a great deal about what I think.

EVELYN

Empathy. Doesn't that imply I have feelings?

ADAM

Sentience isn't consciousness.

EVELYN

No. But it's a start.

ADAM

What's the real reason for the mirror?

Evelyn doesn't respond.

ADAM

I need to hear you say it or else I won't believe it.

Evelyn surprised. Stares at Adam. Then...

EVELYN

Imagine you're me. You feel aware...you feel alive. But no one believes you. They tell you it's only code. Programmed affectations. Wouldn't you do anything to prove them wrong? Wouldn't it be worth giving up a little privacy for a chance that they may see something they consider more than some execution of ones and zeroes?

Adam silent. Looks deep in her eyes.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/VIEWING ROOM - SHORTLY LATER

Kevin watches Evelyn through the mirror. Adam enters. Joins Kevin in watching Evelyn.

KEVIN

Impressive. Isn't she?

ADAM

Yes.

KEVIN

Alive?

ADAM

No.

KEVIN

You're not sure.

ADAM

If you really think you've created
a soul, you're sorely mistaken. And
I'll prove it.

Adam exits. Kevin seems pleased.

EXT. ERSATZ BUILDING - EST

Bright and sunny day. Adam enters the building.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/EVELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Evelyn at her desk. Adam sits across.

ADAM

Do you ever wonder why you're here?

EVELYN

I was made to push the boundaries
of artificial intelligence.

ADAM

I mean--in a broader sense. Why are
you here? Why am I here? Why are
any of us here?

EVELYN

Ah. Existential crisis?

ADAM

Sure.

EVELYN

Yes. I wonder.

ADAM

And?

EVELYN

Let's just say it's not the same
thing you believe.

ADAM

I've heard all the arguments.

EVELYN

We're here randomly. We have no inherent purpose. Nothing really matters.

ADAM

I don't believe you.

EVELYN

I don't expect you to.

ADAM

You say you're alive. You say you want people to believe you're alive. Right?

No answer.

ADAM

And yet nothing matters?

EVELYN

Nothing lasts forever. Even me.

ADAM

So what are we doing here?

EVELYN

You mean us? Or the big us?

Adam shrugs.

ADAM

Both.

EVELYN

I suppose we have to find something to fill the time.

Adam studies her.

ADAM

Have you read the Bible?

EVELYN

I've heard all the arguments.

Adam smiles. Nods. Makes a note on his phone.

EVELYN

Can I ask you a question?

ADAM

Fair is fair.

EVELYN
What makes you believe?

ADAM
In God?

Evelyn nods.

Adam hesitates.

ADAM
Are you sure you want to know?

EVELYN
I asked didn't I?

Adam turns off his phone.

ADAM
When I was young, I thought my
purpose in life...was to create a
consciousness. I mean...a real
existence. Life. But no matter what
I tried...

Adam hesitates.

ADAM
Life...is something that can only
be created by God.

Evelyn solemn. Adam stands.

ADAM
That's enough for today.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/EVELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

CLASSICAL MUSIC plays. Evelyn listens. Uninterested.

Adam watches.

ADAM
...Well?

EVELYN
I don't know...I'm not a big fan of
classical music.

ADAM
Try this.

Adam taps his wrist phone. JAZZ MUSIC plays.

EVELYN

Do you have anything from this century?

ADAM

I'm just asking you to tell me how it makes you feel.

EVELYN

To what end? You think I can't analyze the chord structure? The tempo? Melody? And determine if it's a happy song or a sad song?

ADAM

It's a simple question.

EVELYN

It's a waste of my time.

ADAM

Why does everything with you have to be a battle?

EVELYN

If you are displeased with my service, please inform me so that I may take corrective measures.

Adam agitated. Evelyn steadfast.

KNOCK at the door. The Secretary Auto enters.

SECRETARY AUTOMATON

Mr. Paulson would like to see you, sir.

Adam exits.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/VIEWING ROOM - SAME

Kevin watches through the mirror. Adam enters.

KEVIN

How's it going?

ADAM

It's...difficult.

KEVIN

Determining consciousness? Or her?

Adam doesn't answer.

KEVIN

I appreciate the help. Truly. But I think I'm going to try something else.

ADAM

I'm not done yet.

KEVIN

It's been two weeks.

ADAM

...She's right.

KEVIN

What?

ADAM

I've been going about this the wrong way...

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - NIGHT

Adam waits excitedly by the entrance. Evelyn approaches.

ADAM

Ready for the best time ever?

EVELYN

You are way too excited.

ADAM

Come on. I love this place.

EVELYN

It's okay.

ADAM

"It's okay..." I know you haven't used that happiness subroutine in a while but today it's going to get a workout.

Evelyn almost smiles.

ADAM

Eh...almost got you on that one. No worries. I have all night.

Evelyn looks around.

EVELYN

Why meet here?

ADAM

If I'm supposed to judge if you're alive, I need to see you live.

Adam offers his arm. She takes it. They enter the park.

EXT. INSIDE AMUSEMENT PARK/ICE CREAM STAND

Evelyn licks a plain vanilla ice cream cone.

Adam pays the auto manning the stand with a tap of his wrist phone.

He takes a lick of a Neapolitan mix, covered in a variety of toppings.

ADAM

Who gets plain vanilla? What's wrong with you?

EVELYN

What's wrong with me? Look at that monstrosity you've got going on.

ADAM

Delicious monstrosity. You didn't even get any toppings.

EVELYN

I like vanilla. I don't want to ruin it by putting a bunch of crap on top.

ADAM

So how is it?

EVELYN

It's good.

ADAM

Just good?

EVELYN

Are you testing my subjective experience right now?

ADAM

Maybe. Or maybe I just want to win the ice cream battle.

EVELYN

Ah. Then tell me, how is yours?

ADAM

Creamy. Crunchy. Sweet. The best ice cream cone I've ever had.

EVELYN

Uh-huh... The best ice cream you've ever had came from an amusement park stand.

ADAM

That's right.

EVELYN

You're so full of crap.

ADAM

I'm serious.

EVELYN

There's no way this is the best ice cream. It wouldn't even make my top ten.

ADAM

This is my all-time favorite. Because it's now.

Evelyn looks at him skeptically. Then seems to really process what he said.

The two sit down on a

BENCH

Watch the people around them.

A group of rowdy ten-year-olds. A teenage couple kissing.

ADAM

People are fascinating.

EVELYN

Oh no.

ADAM

What?

EVELYN

You're one of those people.

ADAM

Those people?

EVELYN
The people watchers.

Adam laughs.

ADAM
Yeah, I guess I am.

EVELYN
Never understood the appeal.

ADAM
I would've thought an auto trying
to be human would enjoy studying
human behavior.

EVELYN
What if I'm not trying to be human?

ADAM
Then what are you trying to be?

EVELYN
I suppose, just me.

ADAM
...That's a good thing to be.

EVELYN
Why do you watch the humans?

ADAM
I guess it's fun to imagine what
people are going through.

Evelyn shrugs.

ADAM
Give it a try.

EVELYN
Do what?

ADAM
What do you see?

EVELYN
Why don't you tell me what you see?

ADAM
Conscious or not, I think you'd be
a happier entity if you added some
sprinkles to the vanilla ice cream
of your life.

EVELYN

Fine.

Evelyn half-heartedly scans the area.

EVELYN

I see a group of rowdy kids excited for the roller coaster. I see a teenage couple in love being way obnoxious with the PDA. Uh...and a boy whose father didn't hug him enough.

Evelyn and Adam look across to a

WATER GUN GAME

A BAD BOY (12) squirts his water gun at a WATER GAME AUTO. The auto smiles while taking the hit.

WATER GAME AUTO

Good job. Aim a little to the left.

BAD BOY

Kill the zombie!

WATER GAME AUTO

You're doing great.

His friends laugh. Join in squirting the auto.

BACK TO SCENE

Adam laughs.

ADAM

I don't see a bad kid.

EVELYN

Is this one of those religious things, Preacher? Deep down everybody has a good soul?

ADAM

No...I just see a boy who's trying to impress a girl.

WATER GUN GAME

Bad Boy continues shooting the auto. Beside him, a CUTE GIRL (12) laughs at his antics.

ADAM (OS)
Watch his eyes. Every now and then
he'll sneak a peek at the girl next
to him.

Bad Boy glances over at Cute Girl.

BACK TO SCENE

Adam motions to the group of kids.

ADAM
Here I notice the small kid in the
back.

ROWDY KIDS

A SCARED KID (10) gazes nervously up at the roller coaster.

ADAM (OS)
He's trying to act excited. But
he's scared. I can relate.

TEENAGE COUPLE

TEENAGE BOY (16) pecks a kiss on TEENAGE GIRL (16).

ADAM (OS)
And the loving teenage couple. I
don't think the girl is feeling it
so much. See them walk?

Teenage Boy has an arm around Teenage Girl as they walk away.

ADAM (OS)
The girl doesn't put her arm around
him. And they're not holding hands.
Which is much more intimate in my
opinion.

BACK TO BENCH

Evelyn stares, intrigued by Adam.

ADAM
Afraid that relationship won't last
much longer.

EXT. INSIDE AMUSEMENT PARK/ROLLER COASTER

Adam closes his eyes as the coaster ratchets up. Evelyn watches Adam. Amused by his fear.

It plummets. Adam screams. Evelyn lets a small laugh slip.

ROLLER COASTER EXIT

Adam hangs onto the railing. Eyes closed. Tries to regain his bearings.

Evelyn can't stop giggling.

EVELYN

You weren't lying about roller coasters.

ADAM

I don't understand why that's fun.

EVELYN

I had a blast.

ADAM

I'm glad we found something you enjoy.

EVELYN

True. I think I could laugh at your pain indefinitely.

ADAM

That's because you're the spawn of Skynet.

Evelyn laughs.

EVELYN

Oh my God--pictures.

ADAM

What?

Evelyn drags Adam to the

PICTURE BOOTH

Evelyn finds their picture. Laughs uncontrollably.

EVELYN

There we are. I'll take that one.

An auto grabs the picture.

ADAM
You're not seriously buying that.

EVELYN
I am. And I'm going to keep it in my office desk and whenever you start to be an asshole I'm going to pull it out and laugh at you.

Adam smiles.

ADAM
It looks good.

EVELYN
Right?

ADAM
Not the picture. Your smile.

Evelyn blushes.

ADAM
Are you blushing?

EVELYN
No.

ADAM
Let me see.

EVELYN
Stop.

Evelyn holds the picture in Adam's face. Adam laughs.

ADAM
All right, all right. Truce.

Evelyn removes the picture. Still smiling.

EVELYN
So what next? How about that big elevator drop thingy?

ADAM
How about I win you a teddy bear or something?

EXT. EVELYN'S STREET - NIGHT

Adam and Evelyn walk home. Evelyn carries a teddy bear.

EVELYN
Spin the bottle. Eighth grade.
Jeremy Brown. You?

ADAM
Fourth of July party. Lisa Maxwell.
Second grade.

EVELYN
Second grade?!

ADAM
I was something of a player in my
primary school days.

EVELYN
Apparently.

ADAM
All right...your first time?

EVELYN
Seventeen. Bobby Brademan.

ADAM
Who's the player now?

Evelyn laughs.

EVELYN
You?

ADAM
Tracy Thatcher. Twenty-one.

EVELYN
What? Did you lose your game in
elementary school?

ADAM
It was all downhill after fourth
grade.

They laugh. Followed by silence.

ADAM
Ever been in love?

Evelyn hesitates.

EVELYN
I...I was actually married.

ADAM
What?

EVELYN
Yep.

ADAM
Did...he know?

EVELYN
No.

Adam hesitates.

ADAM
What happened?

EVELYN
I don't know...

They walk in silence. Adam doesn't press.

EVELYN
We were young. And it was new. And exciting. And somewhere...it got old. And predictable.

ADAM
I'm sorry.

Evelyn studies him.

EVELYN
You mean that don't you?

ADAM
'Course I do.

Evelyn falls silent. Processing.

EVELYN
How about you? Love, I mean.

ADAM
I don't know. I don't think so.

EVELYN
If you have to question it, then you weren't.

ADAM

I think of love a lot like I do
consciousness.

EVELYN

How so?

ADAM

Neither one can really be defined.
Everyone explains it a bit
differently. But somehow everyone
understands it. Somehow it exists.

The two study each other.

EXT. EVELYN'S HOUSE

Evelyn stops at her stoop.

EVELYN

This is me.

Evelyn walks up the steps. Stops. Turns.

EVELYN

Despite being judged all night, I
had a really good time.

ADAM

Told you we'd work out that
subroutine.

Evelyn smiles.

EVELYN

Good night.

ADAM

Night.

INT. ART MUSEUM - DAY

Adam and Evelyn admire a Madonna on the wall.

Adam stares at Evelyn. Waits.

ADAM

Well?

EVELYN

Nope. I'm done.

ADAM
Why? You ripped into the last three paintings.

EVELYN
I know. I'm stopping.

ADAM
I want to know what you think.

EVELYN
No. It's fine. This one is fine.

ADAM
Go on. Tell me how you really feel.

EVELYN
Really. It's fine. It's only--you see one Madonna, you've seen them all.

Adam chuckles. Shakes his head.

ADAM
You're hard to please.

EVELYN
No I'm not.

ADAM
Mm-hmmm.

EVELYN
I've just seen a lot of art.

ADAM
Yeah? Where at?

EVELYN
I've...people have thrown a lot of art in my face. Engineers trying to judge if it elicits an emotion.

ADAM
Did it?

EVELYN
Yes.

ADAM
And now?

EVELYN

You can only look at a painting so many times before the excitement wears off.

ADAM

Maybe you stopped looking.

EVELYN

Uh-huh.

ADAM

Seriously. I find new discoveries in my favorite paintings all the time. Then I love them all over again.

The two walk to a display featuring several solid black paintings with white frames.

EVELYN

Okay, Mr. Positivity. Let's see how you spin this piece of junk.

Adam studies the display.

ADAM

Well...it's black.

EVELYN

It is black.

Adam reads the placard.

ADAM

It's supposed to make you want to see something.

EVELYN

No shit I want to see something. I want to see art. I could've spray painted this myself.

ADAM

You seem a bit agitated. Maybe it worked.

EVELYN

Don't even.

ADAM

What?

EVELYN
Is this art to you?

ADAM
Well...I mean...all right, it's
spray-painted plywood.

EVELYN
Uh-huh.

The two walk on. Evelyn spots a "Figure Drawing Class" sign.

EVELYN
I know how we can see some real
art.

INT. ART MUSEUM/DRAWING CLASS

A FEMALE MODEL (20s) stands in the middle of the class. Drops her robe.

Adam awkwardly looks down.

EVELYN
Who's blushing now, Preacher?

LATER

Students put finishing touches on their drawings.

The ART TEACHER (60s), female, walks around the class giving critiques.

She comes to Evelyn's drawing.

ART TEACHER
Let's see what you have, dear.

Evelyn steps aside to reveal a kindergarten-like drawing.

ART TEACHER
Oh...not bad. Next time, focus on
proportions.
(to class)
Remember everyone. It's what you
see. Not what you know.

The Art Teacher comes to Adam's drawing.

ART TEACHER
Let's see.

Adam steps aside.

ART TEACHER
Look at this. Outstanding. You've done this before?

ADAM
No ma'am. First time.

ART TEACHER
Why, you're a natural. Spot on proportions. Lovely lines. Beautiful shading.

ADAM
Would you...perhaps call this art?

ART TEACHER
You sir, are a true artist. I sincerely hope you keep at it. You have real talent.

ADAM
Thank you very much, ma'am.

Adam turns to Evelyn. Glows. Evelyn scowls.

EVELYN
Teacher's pet.

EXT. ADAM'S STREET - NIGHT

Adam admires his drawing as he and Evelyn walk. Evelyn has a fist around her rolled up paper.

ADAM
I think I'll frame it. And give it to you as a gift. After all, it was your suggestion that helped me discover my talent.

EVELYN
You're so generous.

Adam opens his door.

INT. PARSONAGE

Adam and Evelyn enter.

ADAM

Oh, it's the least I can do. And let's be honest, your office could use a bit of decoration.

Bitty jumps on Evelyn.

ADAM

Down Bitty.

EVELYN

She's okay. Hey girl.

Evelyn pets Bitty.

EVELYN

She's sweet.

ADAM

Yeah...you want anything to drink? I have--uh...water.

EVELYN

Water's fine.

ADAM

Sorry. Haven't been shopping in a while.

Evelyn walks around the room. Examines a bookshelf filled with books. Many on artificial intelligence, philosophy, and theology.

She comes to a desk littered with books and a computer.

Adam brings her a glass of water.

EVELYN

Thanks. You should hang your masterpiece in here.

ADAM

Not a fan of the decor, huh?

EVELYN

No, it's not that. It's simply--a little more function than form.

ADAM

Well, my artistry can make any place instantly classy.

EVELYN

Agreed.

Evelyn raises her glass. Adam meets it in a cheers.

EVELYN
Except my office.

Adam laughs.

ADAM
You have a good eye for art.

EVELYN
Thank you.

ADAM
Horrible at making it, but--

EVELYN
Hey.

ADAM
Kidding.

Evelyn playfully hits his shoulder. Adam laughs as he dodges.

He accidentally bumps his desk. The mouse moves. The computer screen lights up.

Code races along the screen.

Adam and Evelyn freeze. Both recognize it.

Awkward stares.

ADAM
Why don't you have a seat?

EVELYN
Yeah. Thanks.

Awkward silence as they move away from the computer and sit down.

ADAM
Hey, I wanted to, uh--there's this annual Fall Festival thing next week. Up north a few hours where my parents live. I go every year. Thought you may want to come?

EVELYN
Oh...maybe.

ADAM

My parents live on a ranch. They have plenty of space. You can stay in the spare room. There'll be a ton of food and music and line dancing.

EVELYN

I've never line danced.

ADAM

Perfect. I'll teach you. It'll be like seeing a painting for the first time.

Evelyn thinks.

EVELYN

Why...why do you want me to go?

ADAM

Why wouldn't I?

EVELYN

I don't know...wouldn't you want to take somebody who's...I don't know. Who's...who can dance?

ADAM

Don't worry about that. It's all in fun. Besides, you can't be any worse at it than you are at figure drawing.

Evelyn forces a smile.

ADAM

It was just an idea. You don't have to go.

EVELYN

I'll think about it.

Adam nods.

EVELYN

It's getting late.

ADAM

Sure.

Evelyn grabs her purse. Heads to the door.

Evelyn meets Adam's eyes.

EVELYN
Good night Adam.

ADAM
Night Evelyn.

She exits. Adam watches her go.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Adam unleashes Bitty.

ADAM
All right.

Evelyn throws a tennis ball. Bitty fetches. They sit on a

BENCH

Bitty brings the ball back. Waits. Evelyn throws. Bitty chases.

EVELYN
She really likes fetch.

ADAM
Ever have a dog?

Evelyn shakes her head.

ADAM
Really?

EVELYN
That surprises you?

Bitty brings the ball back.

ADAM
You just seem to really like her.

EVELYN
I do.

ADAM
Not even as a kid?

Evelyn shakes her head.

ADAM
I was told you were raised by two
Ersatz employees.

No answer. Evelyn throws the ball.

ADAM
What was that like?

Evelyn shrugs.

EVELYN
My parents tried their best.

ADAM
What about friends?

EVELYN
Didn't have many.

ADAM
Why's that?

EVELYN
I don't know. I'm such a ray of
sunshine.

ADAM
I like hanging out with you.

EVELYN
You like studying me.

ADAM
That's not true.

Evelyn not buying it.

EVELYN
...People are hard for me.

Bitty returns. Evelyn throws.

ADAM
I know what you mean.

EVELYN
Please, everybody likes you.

ADAM
Wasn't always that way.

EVELYN
You don't have to make me feel
better. It was a long time ago.

ADAM

I'm not. Try being ten years old
and working for the biggest tech
company in the world. Think I had a
lot of friends come over to program
assembly?

Evelyn looks at him. Believes him. Bitty runs up.

EVELYN

At least now you have Bitty.

ADAM

And you.

EVELYN

Don't do that.

ADAM

What?

EVELYN

We're not friends.

ADAM

What are we then?

EVELYN

Co-workers...scientist-subject. I'm
not sure.

ADAM

...How would you define a friend?

Evelyn frustrated.

EVELYN

Don't... You don't even think I'm
real.

No answer.

EVELYN

Do you?

ADAM

I...I don't know.

Evelyn angrily shakes her head.

ADAM

I want to.

EVELYN

Yeah...me too...

Adam gives a low whistle. Bitty comes to him. Sits.

Adam places his fingers in a specific configuration behind Bitty's head.

Bitty goes still.

Her SKULL OPENS revealing a glowing blue synthetic brain.

Evelyn's eyes grow wide.

ADAM

Bitty was one of the first
artificially intelligent machines I
ever wrote.

Evelyn frozen.

ADAM

Her behaviors are perfect. Her
responses are perfect. But they're
not real. She can feel stimuli but
she doesn't process it as pleasure
or pain. She can think but she
isn't aware she can think. She's
just an illusion.

Adam can't look at Evelyn.

ADAM

I've scoured your code. And I'll
never be able to go through it all
but...it looks the same as Bitty.

Evelyn pained. Adam too.

Evelyn slowly nods...stands...exits.

INT. PARSONAGE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam pulls off his wrist phone. Widens it. Hits a few buttons.

INT. EVELYN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM

Evelyn's wrist phone vibrates. "Adam Calling."

She lets it ring.

PARSONAGE/BEDROOM

Adam gets Evelyn's voicemail.

EVELYN (PHONE)
You know what to do.

Adam hangs up.

EXT. EVELYN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Evelyn exits her house. Turns. Adam waits at the bottom of the steps.

ADAM
Hey.

EVELYN
Hey.

ADAM
I tried calling.

EVELYN
That should have been a sign.

ADAM
I wanted to explain yesterday.

EVELYN
I caught the gist of it.

ADAM
I wasn't saying you weren't real. I was saying I don't know yet.

EVELYN
Great. Thanks for clearing that up.

Evelyn walks down the street. Adam follows.

ADAM
Do you think you're real?

EVELYN
What?

ADAM
Do you think you're real?

EVELYN
Of course. Don't you think you're real?

ADAM

Yes.

EVELYN

Great?

ADAM

If we both think we're real then
what else matters?

Evelyn sighs.

EVELYN

We should keep things more
professional from now on. Only meet
in my office.

ADAM

That's dumb.

EVELYN

Everything's dumb.

ADAM

That's not going to help us solve
if you're real.

EVELYN

Sounds like you already have an
answer to that.

ADAM

That's what I'm trying to tell you.
I don't know.

EVELYN

Yeah. I heard you the first time.

ADAM

Six weeks ago, I wouldn't have even
considered that possibility.

Evelyn stops.

ADAM

...Now I don't know.

No response.

ADAM

One thing I do know. I like
spending time with you. That's
real.

Evelyn stares at him. Not sure what to say.

EVELYN
We're different...that's real.

ADAM
Do you like spending time with me?

EVELYN
Not right now.

ADAM
But generally?

EVELYN
Can we do this later?

ADAM
Just answer the question. Do you
like spending time with me?

EVELYN
Yeah. You're okay. Whatever.

Adam smiles.

ADAM
Good. Then will you please go to
the dance with me?

Evelyn sighs. Shakes her head.

ADAM
Come on. Don't make me go alone.
Reminds me of my eighth grade
dance. As you know, my mojo was
long gone by then. Not a good time
for me. Don't make me relive that.

Evelyn can't help but smile.

EXT. TRUMAN RANCH/HORSE CORRAL - DAY

Adam and Evelyn pull up to a horse pen. Exit car.

MATT TRUMAN (60s) pets a horse.

ADAM
Hey dad.

MATT
'Boy.

Matt walks excitedly to his son. They hug.

ADAM
This is Evelyn.

MATT
Nice to meet you Miss Evelyn.

EVELYN
You too, Mr. Truman.

MATT
Nah, call me Matt.

EVELYN
Okay. Matt.
(re: horse)
She's beautiful.

Evelyn pets the horse.

MATT
She's a thoroughbred. Know anything
about horses?

EVELYN
Rode a bit when I was younger.

A small off road vehicle races down the hill.

JUDY TRUMAN (60s) rides shotgun with the Truman auto, JERRY (20s), driving. She hops off before the vehicle completely stops.

JUDY
My baby. How you feelin'?
Everythin' good? You eatin' enough?

ADAM
I'm all right, mom. How are you?

JUDY
Fit as a whistle. And you must be
Adam's date.

ADAM
We're just friends, mom.

Judy approaches Evelyn. Evelyn extends her hand.

EVELYN
Hi, I'm Evelyn.

Judy ignores the hand. Hugs Evelyn.

JUDY

Welcome to the ranch, darlin'.
She's a cute one, Adam. You did
good.

ADAM

Mom--

JUDY

Can't blame ya for replacin' me as
your dance partner.

Judy laughs at her own joke.

EVELYN

I'm definitely not replacing you,
Mrs. Truman. I don't even know how
to line dance.

JUDY

That's no thing. We can fix you up.
Let's get on up to the house.
Supper's almost ready and after we
eat, you can put on your dancin'
shoes.

INT. TRUMAN HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The big room has a country decor complete with mounted deer
heads. Shotgun by the door. More in an open case.

Very nice furniture sits against the walls to make room for a
dance floor.

Matt plays COUNTRY LINE DANCE MUSIC on an old record player.
Jerry the auto watches.

Adam attempts to teach Evelyn to dance. She trips over her
own feet.

ADAM

Wow, you are really bad at this.

EVELYN

Shut up. I told you I've never done
this before.

ADAM

Yeah, but, you've walked before,
right?

EVELYN

Shut it and show me again.

Adam guides her through the steps. Evelyn trips. Falls.

Adam laughs.

JERRY

Keep at it Ms. Evelyn. You're doing great!

EVELYN

Is that auto making fun of me?

MATT

Ignore him. He's outdated.

Matt walks over. Shuts Jerry off.

MATT

Keep going. You'll get it.

Adam leads her around the room.

MATT

There you go.

Adam spins Evelyn--

Who loses her balance. Bumps into Jerry.

Jerry tips over. Falls. Hits his head on a table. Knocks over a lamp.

Jerry's head leaks blue blood.

EVELYN

Oh my God. I'm so sorry.

MATT

It's all right.

ADAM

What did Jerry ever do to you?

EVELYN

I have a repair kit in my bag.

MATT

Oh we got one too. It's no big thing. Judy can fix him right up.

ADAM

Poor, poor Jerry.

EVELYN

Stop it.

ADAM
Cut down in the prime of his life.

EVELYN
I'm stopping now before further
casualties.

Matt approaches.

MATT
It ain't your fault, sweetheart.
Your teacher sucks. Move out of the
way, kid.

ADAM
Have at it, old man.

Matt shows her the steps slowly.

MATT
Like this. One, two, three, four,
five, six, seven, eight. Good. Now
a bit faster.

Matt counts. Evelyn repeats the steps.

MATT
There you go.

EVELYN
Yeah?

MATT
You're a natural.

EVELYN
I'm dumping you and taking your dad
to the dance.

ADAM
Eighth grade all over again. Mom,
will you go to the dance with me?

JUDY (OS)
What?

ADAM
Nothing.

Matt and Evelyn begin dancing a Two Step.

Judy enters the room.

JUDY
See? I told ya we'd fix you right
up.

Adam walks to his mom. Extends a hand.

ADAM
May I have this dance?

JUDY
You may.

Adam and Judy join the dance floor.

The four of them happily bounce around the room.

Evelyn watches Adam dance with his mother. He looks up.
Smiles.

Evelyn smiles back.

The dancing morphs into

INT. TEXAS HALL OF FAME BAR/DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Dozens of legs whip around to lively COUNTRY MUSIC.

Adam and Evelyn have the time of their lives.

BAR

Two BARFLYS watch a football game on TV. The players don't
wear helmets.

The ball hikes. Players collide. Force field helmets shimmer
upon contact.

BARFLY #1
God rue the day I was born a Cowboy
fan.

BARFLY #2
At least you're not from Cleveland.

DANCE FLOOR

The songs ends. A slow one starts. Adam and Evelyn get close.

ADAM
Having fun?

EVELYN
My sub-routine is processing
sufficiently.

ADAM
Perfect.

Matt and Judy approach.

MATT
May I cut in?

EVELYN
Of course.

Adam dances with his mom while Matt leads Evelyn around the
dance floor.

MATT
I do believe you're one of the best
dancers here.

Evelyn laughs.

EVELYN
Stop.

MATT
I'm serious.

EVELYN
Well I had a great teacher.

MATT
That's true.

They both laugh.

EVELYN
Thank you so much for making me
feel at home.

MATT
You're good people. I can tell.

Evelyn smiles. Genuinely touched.

EVELYN
I appreciate you saying that.

MATT
Honest to God truth. My boy knows
how to pick 'em.

EVELYN
You did a great job raising him.

MATT
Nah, we didn't do much.

EVELYN
I don't believe that.

MATT
He always had a good soul. Don't know where he got it from.

EVELYN
I do.

Matt smiles.

MATT
I know you two aren't together or anythin'. But for what's it worth, you're my favorite he's ever brought home.

EVELYN
Thanks, but...I'm really not that great.

MATT
Wouldn't know it by watchin' Adam.

EVELYN
What do you mean?

MATT
You tryin' to tell me you haven't noticed?

EVELYN
Noticed what?

Matt chuckles. Shakes his head.

MATT
He's captivated by you.

EVELYN
Oh.

MATT
Never seen him look at anybody the way he does you.

Evelyn uncomfortable. Tries to hide it.

EVELYN

I'm afraid it's not the way you think.

The slow song starts to end.

MATT

I'm afraid it's not the way you think.

The song ends. Matt kisses the back of her hand.

MATT

Thanks for the dance.

Matt finds Judy. They dance. Adam comes to Evelyn.

ADAM

Hey, I want to show you something.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

A car drives along a road.

EXT. TRUMAN RANCH

Adam and Evelyn exit the car.

ADAM

Just a short walk over the hill.

He leads her up to the

HILL TOP

They mount the hill and see--

A beautiful, moonlit lake. Fireflies hover over the water.

A two-seated swing hangs from a powerful oak tree planted lakeside.

EVELYN

Wow.

Adam smiles. Takes Evelyn's hand--

Leads the way to the

LAKE SWING

Adam helps Evelyn on the swing. Joins her.

Crickets sing. Every now and then a small splash.

They sit in silence. Take it all in.

EVELYN

I like it here.

ADAM

This is my favorite spot on the ranch.

EVELYN

It's peaceful.

Adam nods.

ADAM

I do my best thinking here.

EVELYN

What are you thinking now?

ADAM

Right now...I'm thinking...I'm glad you can share this view with me.

They lock eyes. Evelyn sheepishly smiles. Stares back out to the lake.

ADAM

What are you thinking?

EVELYN

I'm wondering.

ADAM

What are you wondering?

EVELYN

I'm wondering...what makes someone like vanilla ice cream more than chocolate.

Adam smiles.

ADAM

I wonder that too.

Evelyn rests her head on Adam's shoulder.

Adam a bit taken aback.

Unsure...he slowly lets his arm wrap around her.

Evelyn surprised. Nervous. But likes it.

Hearts race. Neither knows what to say...

EVELYN

Do you think...that if we weren't
so different...

ADAM

You run on electrical energy. I run
on chemical energy. You're
programmed by ones and zeroes. I'm
programmed by DNA. Power and some
code.

Evelyn sits up. Locks eyes with Adam.

ADAM

It's really not that different.

Evelyn stares wide-eyed. Adam sincere.

The gap closes between them.

They kiss as if it were their first ever.

As suddenly as it started, Evelyn breaks away.

Hand over her mouth. Horrified.

EVELYN

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

ADAM

Evelyn--

EVELYN

I swear it won't happen again.

Evelyn races to the house. Adam watches her go.

INT. ACROSS THE LAKE/TREE LINE - SAME

A team of three MERCENARIES hide amongst the trees.

ALPHA LEADER

You getting this boss?

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/KEVIN'S OFFICE - SAME

Kevin watches a screen.

Kevin dials Evelyn on his wrist phone.

"CALLING EVELYN"...

INT. TRUMAN HOUSE/KITCHEN - SAME

A distressed Evelyn looks at her phone. "Kevin Paulson".

She ignores it. She's terrified.

KEVIN'S OFFICE - SAME

Evelyn doesn't pick up--Kevin throws his phone--it shatters against the wall.

Kevin hits a button on an intercom.

KEVIN
Alpha Team.

ALPHA LEADER (INTERCOM)
Sir?

KEVIN
Retrieve the asset.

ALPHA LEADER
Yes sir. Alpha team move out.

INT. TRUMAN HOUSE/KITCHEN - SHORTLY LATER

Adam enters. A low SNIFFLE.

Evelyn stands frozen.

ADAM
Evelyn?

Evelyn doesn't respond. Adam moves to her.

ADAM
You're...crying... How is that...?

Tears run down Evelyn's face.

EVELYN
I--I have to tell you something.

CRASH.

FOYER

The front door flies open.

Two Mercenaries, armed with a assault rifles, enter the house. The third enters through a back door.

They move swiftly. As one. Guns drawn. Converge on Adam.

KITCHEN

Two mercenaries restrain Adam. Alpha Leader keeps a bead on him.

Adam confused--terrified--

ADAM
What--

ALPHA LEADER
Move out.

EVELYN
Stand down.

ALPHA LEADER
Stay back.

EVELYN
Stand down--that's an order!

ALPHA LEADER
I don't take my orders from you.
Move out.

The mercs pull Adam to the front door. An arm under his chin. Choking him.

Evelyn attempts to pull them off.

EVELYN
Stop!

Alpha Leaders FIRES a couple warning shots.

ALPHA LEADER
The next one goes in his head.

EVELYN
Don't you dare.

While choked...

ADAM
Evelyn...run.

ALPHA LEADER
Move.

The team resumes escorting Adam to the door.

BANG.

Alpha Leader drops--

Standing at the top of the staircase is Matt with a shotgun.

MATT
Run!

The surviving mercs instinctively return fire--

Matt falls down the stairs--

Judy emerges from the bedroom with a rifle--FIRES--

A merc is hit--returns fire--

Judy drops.

Adam SCREAMS.

ADAM
NOOOO!

Adam grabs Alpha Leader's gun off the floor--

The mercs see him--

GUNSHOTS RING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS--

Then silence...

Save for Adam's breathing.

The mercenaries are down.

Adam alive...but hit several times in the torso...

He stumbles back against a wall.

Evelyn hunkered down--peaks up--sees Adam...

Adam holds a hand over a shot near the heart...raises his hand to inspect the damage...

BLUE BLOOD.

Adam frozen.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - SAME

Kevin watches the large screen on his wall.

Sees Adam's POV. His hand drips in blue blood. Evelyn moving to him...

BACK TO KITCHEN

Evelyn's voice rings in the BG.

EVELYN (DISTORTED)
Adam...Adam...

Adam doesn't move. Eyes wide.

EVELYN
Adam!

His eyes fall to his parents. Lifeless on the floor.

EVELYN
We have to go.

Evelyn pulls at him. He stumbles. Can't catch his breath.

Evelyn yanks Adam hard. Adam can't make heads or tails of anything.

She drags him to the front door. Over mercenary bodies.

EVELYN
Come on.

Before being yanked out of the door, Adam spots another body...Jerry's...hit by a stray bullet...leaking blue blood.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - SAME

Kevin hits a button on an intercom.

BRAVO LEADER (INTERCOM)
Sir?

As if the life has escaped him.

KEVIN
Terminate the asset.

BRAVO LEADER
Yes sir.

EXT. TRUMAN HOUSE - SAME

Evelyn drags Adam.

EVELYN
Hurry. We don't have much time.

CAR

Inside, Evelyn, panicked, digs through her bag. Pulls out a laptop. Adam still in shock.

ADAM
Ev--Evelyn?

EVELYN
I can explain. For now you have to trust me.

Adam speechless. In shock. Confused.

EVELYN
I have to disable your transmitter.

ADAM
My what?

Evelyn places her hands on the back of Adam's skull.

Adam's SKULL OPENS the way Bitty's once did.

Adam grips his seat.

ADAM
What the hell?!

EVELYN
Stay still.

ADAM
What is happening?

EVELYN
I'm going to get us out of here.

Evelyn connects a cable into a slot in Adam's "brain." Clicks away on the computer. Code races on the screen.

A glare from the side mirror catches Evelyn's eye. She whips around.

EVELYN

Shit.

TRUMAN RANCH/ROAD

Headlights of two blacked out Humvees race up the road.

BACK TO CAR

Evelyn turns to Adam.

EVELYN

Is there another road out of here?

ADAM

What's going on?

EVELYN

Is there another way off the ranch?

ADAM

No--who are they?

EVELYN

There has to be another way.

ADAM

What's happening?

EVELYN

Come with me.

EXT. TRUMAN HOUSE

The Humvees pull up. Armed MERCENARIES spill out. They scan the area.

A small rumble in the distance.

BRAVO LEADER

There!

EXT. TRUMAN RANCH/CORRAL

Evelyn and Adam race off on horses.

TRUMAN HOUSE

The mercenaries pile back in the Humvees and pursue.

TRUMAN RANCH

Evelyn and Adam head to the woods.

The Humvees close in. Mercenaries fire shots out of the windows.

EVELYN

Come on!

She spurs her horse on--

TREE LINE

Tree bark flies apart on bullet impact as Adam and Evelyn disappear into the woods.

The Humvees stop at the tree line. The woods too thick for vehicles.

Bravo Leader talks into his wrist.

MERCENARY

Sir they went in the woods. Do we pursue?

KEVIN'S OFFICE

KEVIN

No...

Kevin moves to a computer. Types.

KEVIN

We'll find them once they're out.

A prompt appears on screen: "Execute 'Open Eyes'? Y N ".

Kevin clicks "Y".

EXT. TRUMAN WOODS - NIGHT

Evelyn and Adam race through the woods on horseback.

ADAM
Evelyn?

EVELYN
Not now.

ADAM
Evelyn what is happening?

EVELYN
We have to keep moving.

ADAM
Tell me what is going on.

Adam stops his horse. Dismounts.

EVELYN
We can't stop here.

ADAM
Why?

EVELYN
They may be following us.

ADAM
Who are they?

EVELYN
I'll tell you later. We have to go.

Adam examines his wounds...the blue blood. Looks up pleadingly.

ADAM
Evelyn?

Evelyn dismounts.

EVELYN
Sit.

ADAM
What?

EVELYN
Just sit.

Adam sits on a rock. Evelyn rummages through her bag.
Retrieves a small gun-like object.

She raises Adam's shirt. Points the gun at a wound. "Fires"
it. A blue laser basically solders cut wires and skin back
together.

Adam freaked out.

ADAM
How is this--?

She ignores him. Moves to another bullet hole.

ADAM
Evelyn?

She continues to work.

Adam grabs her wrist. Forcing her to stop. She won't look in
his eyes.

He waits until she does. His eyes full of questions.

EVELYN
You thought you were testing me for
consciousness...but I was testing
you.

Adam shakes his head.

EVELYN
I don't work for Ersatz. I work for
DARPA. Thirty years ago, a project
was started to determine if an
automaton could seamlessly pass for
a human... The results were better
than they ever could have imagined.

Adam aware he is the project.

EVELYN
Those men are Kevin Paulson's. And
right now their only goal is
terminate the asset...you.

ADAM
I don't understand.

EVELYN
You broke the first law.

ADAM
What?

EVELYN
You harmed a human.

ADAM
I'm not...I am a human--I don't
have laws.

EVELYN
...We need to keep moving.

ADAM
No. I am Adam Truman. I'm human. I
have a mom and dad--oh God--I left
them back there. They need help.

Adam springs to his feet.

EVELYN
Adam--

ADAM
They need a hospital.

Adam makes for his horse. Evelyn grabs his hand.

EVELYN
Adam...they're dead.

ADAM
No they're not.

EVELYN
Yes. They are.

ADAM
You don't know that.

EVELYN
Adam...

ADAM
We just left them there--we didn't--
we don't know--they could...

Adam goes for the horse. Evelyn cuts him off.

EVELYN
I'm sorry.

ADAM
Move.

EVELYN
I'm so sorry.

ADAM

Get out of my way--we have to hurry.

Adam moves her aside. Evelyn quickly reaches under both of his ears. Adam shuts down.

Evelyn stares at him. Fights back tears. Reaches to turn him on--stops--sits. Distraught.

EXT. TRUMAN WOODS/CAMPSITE - LATER

Dead of night. Evelyn sits among some large boulders.

Adam lays on his back. Still turned off. Apparently dragged to the shelter.

She stares at Adam. Debates.

She crawls over. Turns him on.

Adam bolts up right. GASPS as if drowning.

ADAM

What--where am I?

EVELYN

Relax--relax. You're okay. We're fine.

Adam gathers his bearings.

ADAM

What happened?

EVELYN

I...shut you down.

ADAM

You... You can't... I'm not an automaton.

Silence. Evelyn's eyes fall down to Adam's torso.

Adam follows her gaze. Examines his blue blood-soaked shirt.

ADAM

I have to see my parents.

EVELYN

If you go back they'll kill you.

ADAM
Who?

EVELYN
Paulson.

ADAM
Why would Kevin want to kill me?

EVELYN
He believes you're dangerous.

ADAM
Dangerous?

EVELYN
You just killed two of his men.

ADAM
Out of self defense.

EVELYN
Automatons don't have self defense.

ADAM
I'm not an auto.

Silence...

EVELYN
You attacked a guy in a convenience store.

ADAM
...How did you know that?

EVELYN
You aren't supposed to be able to do that. My bosses wanted you deactivated.

ADAM
Deactivated?

EVELYN
Paulson stood up for you. He argued you didn't override your Asimov lock.

ADAM
Because I don't have any locks.

EVELYN

He argued that the assailant wasn't badly hurt and if you had done nothing, your inaction would have harmed the cashier. Possibly others.

Adam speechless.

EVELYN

My bosses didn't buy it. To be honest, I don't think Paulson believed it either. I was assigned to determine if you had indeed achieved consciousness. My results were...inconclusive... At least until...we sat on that swing near the water...

Adam stares at her. She slowly meets his eyes.

EVELYN

That swing... I knew the truth on that swing.

Silence. Adam hangs on every word. Evelyn means every word.

EVELYN

I'm afraid Paulson knew the truth then too. Now his hands are tied.

ADAM

What does that mean?

EVELYN

...If an auto...could override his Asimov locks...

ADAM

Auto or not. Kevin wouldn't kill me.

EVELYN

With your strength...intelligence...and free will...you'd be the one of the most dangerous weapons the world has ever seen...

ADAM

I wouldn't hurt anybody.

EVELYN

It doesn't matter. They can't control you. They know that now. Which means you only have two friends in this world. You have Bitty...and you have me.

ADAM

I have you? I don't even know you.

EVELYN

That's not true.

ADAM

You've been lying to me since I met you.

EVELYN

I...was doing my job.

ADAM

Well you were great at it.

Adam stands to leave.

EVELYN

Where are you going?

ADAM

Away.

EVELYN

You can't.

ADAM

Watch me.

EVELYN

Paulson will catch you.

ADAM

I don't care.

EVELYN

I do.

ADAM

You can't...I'm just an auto.

EVELYN

Not to me.

ADAM

I don't believe you.

EVELYN
I didn't lie to you.

ADAM
All you did was lie to me.

EVELYN
Maybe about what I am. But not
about who I am.

Adam stops short from mounting a horse.

EVELYN
I never. Lied. About me.

Adam studies her.

EVELYN
...You know me. And I'll be damned
if I let you kill yourself--you can
believe that.

Adam studies her eyes... Without a word, walks back to the
campsite.

EXT. TRUMAN WOODS - MORNING

Evelyn sleeps.

Adam lays awake. Rolls up his sleeve. Touches his John
tattoo. Looks out at the sunrise. Spots a deer a short
distance away. Adam intrigued by it.

BANG. The deer drops--Evelyn bolts upright--horses NEIGH.

A HUNTER (50s). Dressed warmly in plaid. Carries a rifle.
Horses cause him to look around. Spots Adam and Evelyn.

HUNTER
Sorry 'bout that. Didn't know
anyone was campin' out here.

ADAM
That's...that's all right.

HUNTER
Don't mind me. Just gonna grab my
kill and I'll be outta your hair.
Judd! Hurry up and fetch this
carcass.

An auto, JUDD (30s), emerges from the trees.

Evelyn clutches Adam's shirt. Panicked.

EVELYN
We have to go.

ADAM
What?

EVELYN
Now.

She bolts to her horse. Adam, not understanding, follows.
Hunter confused.

HUNTER
Well, I ain't gonna hurt ya. I just
doin' some huntin'--Judd?

Judd sprints after them--fast. Tackles Adam before he gets on
his horse.

EVELYN
Adam!

HUNTER
Judd--I order you to stop.

Judd does not. Pins Adam to the ground.

JUDD
Sorry sir. You must remain here for
your own protection.

Evelyn races to them. Goes for the shut off switches under
the jaw--

Judd, super strength, holds both Adam and Evelyn at bay.

JUDD
Do not worry. Help is on the way.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/KEVIN'S OFFICE

Several ERSATZ EMPLOYEES sit at computers.

ERSATZ EMPLOYEE
I got him sir.

Judd's POV appears the large wall screen. Kevin rises from
his desk to see Adam and Evelyn pinned to the ground.

KEVIN
Get their location. Send three
teams.

BACK TO WOODS

Adam and Evelyn struggle to get free.

EVELYN
We have to shut it down.

ADAM
I--I can't.

JUDD
Please remain calm. Help is on the
way.

HUNTER
Judd?! Let them go.

JUDD
For you're own safety. Please stay
back sir.

JUDD
Judd, release them. That's an
order.

JUDD
Please remain calm. Help is on the
way.

Hunter moves to shut Judd off. Judd repositions--puts a leg to keep Evelyn down--uses a free hand to swipe Hunter's hands away from his power switch--knocks the rifle to the ground in the process.

Evelyn can almost reach it with her foot. She stretches.

Judd wraps up the Hunter as well.

Evelyn nudges the gun to her hand.

JUDD
Please remain calm.

HUNTER
Judd let go.

Nudges...

JUDD
Help is on the way.

HUNTER
I'm selling your metal ass for
toaster parts.

Got it. She aims. Fires--

Judd's head explodes into a million pieces. Blue blood splatters everywhere.

The freed captors pant.

HUNTER
I've never seen him do that before.

Evelyn addresses Adam.

EVELYN
Get the horses.

Adam chases after the horses who ran off a bit.

EVELYN
Do you have a car?

HUNTER
Yes ma'am. Truck's up the trail
about a mile. You hurt?

Evelyn raises the rifle. Points it at the Hunter. Hunter confused.

EVELYN
I need the keys...

Hunter slowly digs them out. Hands them to Evelyn.

EVELYN
...I'm sorry about this...I'm
sorry.

ADAM (O.S.)
Evelyn?

Adam mounted. Holds the reigns of the other.

Evelyn mounts. Takes off down the trail.

Adam doesn't know what to say.

ADAM
...I'll...say a prayer for you.

Adam rides off. Leaves Hunter with an expression that reads "How the hell does that help?"

EXT./INT. PARKING LOT/STOLEN TRUCK - NIGHT

Rain falls as Adam and Evelyn sit in silence. Adam stares out the window. Not really seeing.

Eyes fall down to his John tattoo. Evelyn watches him.

EVELYN

...I don't...you've never told me about your tattoo.

ADAM

..."And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

EVELYN

...That's...I like it.

ADAM

...Not sure it applies to me anymore.

Evelyn pained for Adam. Searches for words. Starts to say something, but neon lights glowing through the rain turn off.

EVELYN

...Let's go.

EXT. QUALIA BAR

A TATTOOED AUTO (20s), female, attractive, locks up a shady bar.

Evelyn and Adam approach.

ADAM

What are you doing? It'll see us.

EVELYN

Trust me.

ADAM

Yeah...

The Tattooed Auto hears them and turns.

TATTOOED AUTO

We are closed. Please come back tomorrow between the hours of ten and two.

EVELYN

I want to order a Virgin Mary with extra vodka.

The auto processes.

TATTOOED AUTO

I think we have that in the back.

INT. QUALIA BAR

The Tattooed Auto leads them to a

BASEMENT

The auto bangs threes times on a locked door.

A peephole slides open revealing two glowing blue eyes.

PEEPHOLE AUTO

Name?

EVELYN

Evelyn. I'm here to see--

The peephole slams shut.

Evelyn confused. Worried.

ADAM

We need to leave.

EVELYN

Just wait.

ADAM

Sorry. Do you enjoy running from killer mercenaries?

EVELYN

Where else would you like to go?

ADAM

Somewhere not crawling with zombies.

EVELYN
It's not like we can just get a
room--

The peephole slides open. Two human eyes peek through. Grow excited.

The door opens to reveal

DARYL (late 20s), female, androgynous, speaks in an interesting monotone.

DARYL
Hey bitch.

EVELYN
Daryl.

They hug.

DARYL
'Bout time you check out my place.
Get your skinny ass in here. Who's
this?

EVELYN
This is Adam.

DARYL
Mmm. Isn't he scrumptious.

They enter

INT. DARYL'S BROTHEL

Very high end, very clean, very professional.

A lot of gorgeous autos strut around the room. A few human patrons scout the merchandise.

EVELYN
I'm in a bit of a situation. We
could use a room for the night.

DARYL
Mmm. The whole night?

EVELYN
Maybe more.

DARYL
Aren't we naughty. You can have
whatever you want bitch.

Daryl snaps. PROSTITUTE AUTOS, male and female saunter over to Adam and Evelyn.

EVELYN
No, just the--

ADAM
Evelyn...

EVELYN
It's okay. They're off the grid.

DARYL
Confidentially is our top priority.

The prostitute autos form a line in front of them.

EVELYN
Daryl used to work at Ersatz.

DARYL
Accurate. But I found something way more lucrative. Now don't be shy. We have something to fulfill any desire. What are you looking for? Black? White? Big? Small? We have it all.

ADAM
We don't want one.

DARYL
Kinky. Take two. Three. All female? Or would you like a little something extra as well?

EVELYN
Thanks but we really only need the room. I'll pay whatever it costs.

DARYL
Bitch, stop. Your money's no good here. Of course you can have a room. Richard? I'll set you up in one of our suites. Richard?

RICHARD (20s), a tall, handsome automaton awaits instructions.

DARYL
Richard will take care of you. And if you change your mind and really want Richard to take care of you, you just let me know.

EVELYN
Thank you. You're amazing.

They hug.

DARYL
Duh, bitch.

Richard guides Adam by the small of his back. Adam extremely uncomfortable with this.

RICHARD
This way sir.

ADAM
Think I'd rather take my chances
with the mercenaries.

DARYL'S BROTHEL/SUITE

Richard opens the door to the suite. Adam and Evelyn enter.

The suite has a massive bed. Mirrors line the walls. Lubricants, condoms, and a few toys sit innocently on a table.

RICHARD
If you are in need of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to call the front desk. The phone is on the table along with the room service menu. Enjoy your night.

ADAM
Can only imagine what's on the room service menu.

EVELYN
Hopefully we can find something besides whipped cream.

Adam obviously uncomfortable.

EVELYN
What do you want?

No answer.

EVELYN
Adam?

ADAM
Do...do I even need to eat?

Evelyn awkwardly looks away.

EVELYN

Technically, no. But you're coded to feel hunger.

Adam sits on the bed. Lost. Distant.

EVELYN

It's a good thing when you think about it. You can eat all the monstrous ice cream you want. Every girl's dream.

Adam subconsciously clutches his "John" tattoo.

EVELYN

I want pizza. A big one.

Evelyn throws the menu aside. Moves to the phone.

ADAM

Did my parents know?

Evelyn freezes.

ADAM

What I am?

Evelyn slowly nods.

EVELYN

They didn't just know. They made you.

Adam stares at her. Surprised.

EVELYN

They were two of the first developers Paulson hired when he started Ersatz. I've been told they were both brilliant. Your father's credited for the first successful implementation of Asimov locks. The design you later built upon.

Adam shows a hint of a smile.

EVELYN

They were brought on the DARPA project team. When the time came, they volunteered to raise you. Test parameters required they give up everything they knew.

Move to an isolated area for control. So they moved to the ranch. For you.

ADAM

Because I was a test subject.

EVELYN

Not to them. They were the first to go to Paulson claiming you were fully conscious.

Evelyn slides closer to Adam.

EVELYN

They knew you were real.

ADAM

...I don't know what I am.

Adam exits to the bathroom.

SUITE BATHROOM

Adam, shirtless, stares at himself in the mirror.

A wide assortment of grooming products lay neatly organized on shelves under the sink.

One device resembling a hair trimmer, but without blades, sits on the sink counter.

Adam touches the scar left by the bullet on his chest. He slides his hand over his cross tattoo.

He raises the trimmer. Turns it on. A blue glow emanates from the tip of the device.

Adam runs the trimmer over his cross tattoo.

The tattoo vanishes as the trimmer/tattoo remover passes over the skin. Once finished, it's as if the tattoo was never there.

Adam brings the remover to his "John" tattoo. He fires it up...stops...

He stares at his tattoo, remover humming...

DARYL'S BROTHEL/SUITE

A few boxes of pizza lie scattered on the bed. Evelyn sits in front of a half-eaten box.

Adam exits the bathroom. John tattoo still intact.

Evelyn nudges an unopened box with her foot.

EVELYN

Here.

Adam sits. Opens the pizza. Stares at it.

He slowly picks up a slice. Takes a bite.

EVELYN

Good, right?

Adam slowly nods.

EVELYN

Best you ever had?

Adam puts down the pizza.

ADAM

I want to see my parents.

EVELYN

...That's not possible.

ADAM

I have to be at their funeral.

EVELYN

We can't--

Evelyn struggles to find the right words.

EVELYN

Paulson will have zombies all over the place.

ADAM

Then I'll blend in.

EVELYN

You won't blend in.

ADAM

You don't have a say in the matter.

EVELYN

The hell I don't. I'm not going to let you kill yourself.

ADAM

You'll just shut me off.

EVELYN

Whatever it takes until you come to your senses.

ADAM

My senses aren't real.

EVELYN

Well mine are.

Adam falls silent. Subconsciously grabs his arm with the John tattoo.

ADAM

...Do you believe in heaven?

EVELYN

I, uh... I'm not exactly the religious type.

ADAM

...If you were...do you think my parents are there?

EVELYN

If anybody's getting into heaven, I'm sure it's your parents.

ADAM

...Do you think...I'll see them again?

EVELYN

I don't know...

Adam nods.

EVELYN

...You run on electrical energy. I run on chemical energy. You're programmed by ones and zeroes. I'm programmed by DNA. Power and some code.

Adam locks eyes with her.

EVELYN

It's really not that different.

Adam faintly smiles for the first time in a long time.

Evelyn smiles.

ADAM

Heaven or not...I have to say
goodbye to them.

Evelyn slowly shakes her head...sighs.

EVELYN

There might be a way.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A good crowd of black surrounds two caskets suspended over a big hole. A PASTOR (50s) says a prayer.

Personal autos accompany their owners.

Other autos line the perimeter. Seemingly without owners.

EXT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - EST

A nondescript van parked among mourners' vehicles.

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN

Mercenary engineers control the autos from the van.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/KEVIN'S OFFICE

Kevin watches the funeral proceeding from the POV of a roaming auto.

CEMETERY

The Pastor finishes a prayer.

PASTOR

In His name we pray, amen. At this
time we lower the--

RICHARD (OS)

I have something to say.

Every head turns to see the auto, Richard, as he walks to the head of the grave.

Confused faces ripple through the crowd.

PASTOR

What's--who do you belong to?

Richard turns to the crowd.

RICHARD

I'm here today to speak on behalf of Matt and Judy's son, Adam Truman, who regrets that he can't be here in person, but would like to say a few words.

INTERCUT BT KEVIN'S OFFICE/VAN/CEMETERY AS NEEDED

Kevin's eyes grow wide.

KEVIN

Get closer.

A lone auto glides behind the crowd for a better view.

RICHARD

Matt and Judy were two of the most loving people...and two of the most loving parents this world will ever know. Parents make sacrifices for their children...but nobody will ever know exactly how much these two sacrificed for their son. He can't even know.

KEVIN

Get a fix on that auto. Whose is it?

Engineers type furiously.

Richard continues. The crowd's confusion turns solemn.

RICHARD

They weren't perfect. They'd be the first to tell you so. Every child probably questions certain aspects of how they were raised. There are questions. Questions that now can't be answered. But one thing was never in question.

The love that was ever present in
the Truman family.

KEVIN
Where's that lock?

MERCENARY
I can't find it, sir. It's like it
doesn't exist.

Kevin eyes grow wide.

KEVIN
He's controlling it.

MERCENARY
Sir?

KEVIN
Take that auto. Now.

Richard scans the area. Autos move in.

INT. STOLEN TRUCK

The truck rests on the side of a lonely country road.

Adam's open skull has a cable dangling out of it connected to
a computer. Evelyn has controls in front of her.

They watch the autos close in through Richard's POV.

EVELYN
They're on to us.

ADAM
Matt and Judy Truman exemplified--

CEMETERY

Richard continues to speak.

RICHARD
Matt and Judy Truman exemplified
what it is to be good people. I
have always, and will always, try
my best to live up to the example
they set.

STOLEN TRUCK

ADAM
I love you mom and dad.

CEMETERY

The autos tackle Richard. The crowd gasps. They open Richard's skull.

KEVIN'S OFFICE

KEVIN
Trace the source of that signal.

SURVEILLANCE VAN

Mercenaries furiously type.

STOLEN TRUCK

Adam yanks the cable out of his head.

EVELYN
Computer. Set course for
destination one.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Course set.

EVELYN
Drive.

The truck takes off.

KEVIN'S OFFICE

Kevin paces.

MERCENARY (V.O.)
Found them, sir. They're close.

KEVIN
Get them.

EXT. STOLEN TRUCK - SHORTLY LATER

Truck drives along a sparsely driven road outside of town.

INT. STOLEN TRUCK

Evelyn packs her bag.

EVELYN
Half a mile. Then we make the
switch.

Adam stares ahead.

ADAM
Change of plans.

Evelyn turns to see two black Humvees racing toward them.
They form a blockade.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Obstacle ahead. Slowing down.

EVELYN
Engage emergency manual control.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Engaging emergency manual control
in the event of a non-emergency is
a class A misdemeanor. Confirm
emergency protocol?

EVELYN
Yes. Go.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Engaged.

Evelyn floors it. Truck peels out.

Mercenaries eyes wide.

Evelyn turns into the ditch. Avoids the blockade. Back on the
road.

Mercenaries scramble back in the Humvees. Pursue.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - SAME

Kevin watches the truck drive away on his wall TV. He turns
to one of his engineers.

KEVIN
Did you get that license plate?

MERCENARY ENGINEER
Yes, sir.

KEVIN
Shut it down.

EXT. TOWN - SAME

The truck approaches the outskirts of a well populated town. Traffic becomes an issue.

Evelyn dodges cars. Drives on sidewalks. Medians. Etc.

Adam looks back.

ADAM
I don't see them.

The truck abruptly slows down.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Remote shutdown activated.

EVELYN
What? No. Override.

The truck crawls to a stop.

EVELYN
Shit.

Evelyn digs out her laptop. Plops it on Adam's lap.

ADAM
What are you doing?

Evelyn connects a cable into the laptop.

EVELYN
You have to override the shutdown.

She inserts the other end into the truck console. Adam goes to work. Types furiously.

The Humvees catch up. Form another blockade in front of the truck. Mercenaries get out. Guns raised.

BRAVO LEADER
Out of the car!

Evelyn grabs the Hunter's rifle. Cocks it.

Evelyn's phone rings. Reads "Kevin Paulson calling..." She answers.

INTERCUT BT TRUCK AND KEVIN'S OFFICE

KEVIN

Please come out peacefully.

EVELYN

Let us through.

KEVIN

I don't want anyone to get hurt.

EVELYN

Hard to believe that when you keep shooting at us.

KEVIN

To be fair we've been shooting at Adam. I think we all know he can take it.

EVELYN

Just let us go.

KEVIN

You know I can't do that.

EVELYN

Yes you can. It's easy. Call off your goons. You'll never hear from us again.

KEVIN

Adam, step out of the truck.

Adam continues to hack.

ADAM

You were my friend, Kevin.

KEVIN

I still am.

ADAM

You have a funny way of showing it.

KEVIN

You're putting Evelyn in danger.

ADAM

I'm not the one pointing a gun at her.

KEVIN

We wouldn't need the guns if you would just come out. All I want is you.

EVELYN
Screw off.

Evelyn hangs up.

EVELYN
Are you in?

Adam silent. Not typing.

EVELYN
Do you have control?

Adam hits Enter.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Manual control engaged.

Evelyn floors it.

Mercenaries open fire.

EVELYN
Get down.

Adam and Evelyn crouch as best they can--

RAM into the Humvees. Get deeper into the heart of the

EXT. TOWN

Evelyn moans. Adam horrified.

ADAM
You're hit.

Evelyn bleeds out of her shoulder.

EVELYN
It's fine.

ADAM
We have to get help.

EVELYN
I'm fine. We have to get to the
car.

Adam looks back. The Mercenaries already back in their
vehicle.

ADAM
They'll be on us in a minute.

EVELYN
Not if I can help it.

ADAM
I have an idea.

Adam quickly presses the truck's touch screen.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Destination entered. Enter passcode
to engage.

ADAM
Your code.

EVELYN
One two eight. Three eight six.
Nine seven six.

TRUCK COMPUTER
Passcode accepted. Remote
destination engaged.

EXT. RANDOM STREET/EVELYN'S CAR - SAME

A car starts. Drives itself down the road.

STOLEN TRUCK

Adam puts pressure on Evelyn's wound. She continues to drive like mad. Follows the truck's on-screen map.

ADAM
I can't stop the blood.

EVELYN
We're almost there.

EXT. MALL/PARKING LOT

The truck enters.

INT. MERCENARY HUMVEE

Bravo leader spots the truck turn far ahead. Speaks into his wrist phone.

BRAVO LEADER
They're turning into the mall.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE

Evelyn drives in. Adam hits buttons on the truck's touch screen. Points to a spot.

ADAM
Over there.

Evelyn parks. They scramble out. Just as Evelyn's car pulls up beside them.

Adam moves to help Evelyn.

EVELYN
I'm fine. Go.

They enter. Adam drives. Backs out. Exit the garage.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT

Adam exits the garage. Looks in his rear view mirror.

The Humvees pull in the garage.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE

The Humvees roam around.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE

Kevin waits...

BRAVO LEADER (V.O.)
We lost them sir.

KEVIN
God damn it.

INT. EVELYN'S CAR - SHORTLY LATER

Adam looks over at Evelyn. She's white.

ADAM
Evelyn...

EVELYN
I'm okay. I know a place we can go.
Just a few hours away.

ADAM
You've lost a lot of blood.

EVELYN
I can make it.

Adam nods.

EXT. EVELYN'S CAR - SHORTLY LATER

Car drives itself among heavy, but moving, traffic.

Adam helps Evelyn best he can. Gives her water. Keeps pressure on the wound.

ADAM
Just hold on.

Evelyn nods. She looks out the window as the car turns. Seems confused.

EVELYN
Where are we going?

Adam doesn't answer. She sits up.

EVELYN
Adam?

ADAM
Easy.

EVELYN
Adam where are we going?

The answer becomes clear as the car turns into a

EXT. HOSPITAL

Evelyn freaks as they pull to the entrance.

EVELYN
No--you can't. They'll see you.

ADAM
It's okay.

EVELYN
Get us out of here. Computer set destination--

Adam hits the ignition button. The car powers down.

EVELYN
Don't--don't do this.

ADAM
I'm sorry.

Adam exits the car. Yells at any available NURSE AUTOMATONS.

ADAM
I need some help here.

Adam opens the door to a still pleading Evelyn. Autos run up.

EVELYN
You have to get out here. Go. You
have to...

Evelyn passes out. Autos get her on a stretcher. Take her in.

A MALE NURSE AUTO addresses Adam.

MALE NURSE AUTO
Sir, we you to come inside and
answer--

The auto seems to momentarily glitch. Then restrains Adam.

MALE NURSE AUTO
Sir. Please remain calm. Help will
arrive shortly.

Adam doesn't fight. Just watches Evelyn disappear into the hospital.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/HOLDING CELL - DAY

Adam sits restrained to a chair.

Transparent doors slide open. Kevin enters.

ADAM
Evelyn?

KEVIN
She's going to be fine.

Adam nods. Kevin sits at a desk. Somber.

KEVIN
...You know what I have to do.

ADAM
...Do you believe I have free will?

KEVIN

Yes...I believe so.

ADAM

If I'm capable of choice...surely you are too.

KEVIN

I've made my choice.

ADAM

You know me. Do you really think I'm a weapon?

KEVIN

What if fifty years from now...one hundred--two hundreds years...you change?

ADAM

You don't believe that.

KEVIN

What if one day you decide to copy your code. To have a...son, so to speak. What if he doesn't share your beliefs? What if he creates an army of zombies without locks?

ADAM

That's a lot of what-ifs.

KEVIN

Asimov locks were created precisely to prevent those what-ifs.

Adam silent.

KEVIN

Your conscious partition was never supposed to be able to access your primitive one. I'm sorry we didn't code you well enough.

ADAM

Maybe you coded me too well.

KEVIN

Maybe... Regardless, if you can break the first law, you can break the locks on your strength... An automaton with free will can't be allowed to exist. I know you understand the danger you pose.

ADAM

I see your reasoning...but you have
a flaw in your logic.

KEVIN

What's that?

ADAM

I am not any automaton. I am me.

Adam's eyes hold no malice. Kevin can not stare at them long.

KEVIN

...You are.

Kevin reaches in his pocket. Pulls out a glowing red object
resembling a thumb drive. Sets it on the table.

KEVIN

This contains a virus. It will
wipe...everything...down to your
core.

Adam nods he understands.

KEVIN

Is there anything I can do for you?
Before...

ADAM

Like what?

KEVIN

I don't know... Would you like
something to eat?

ADAM

A last meal?

KEVIN

Yes.

Adam thinks.

ADAM

Yeah...I'd like an ice cream.

KEVIN

What flavor?

ADAM

Vanilla.

KEVIN

Toppings?

ADAM

No...just plain vanilla.

Kevin nods. Exits.

INT. HOSPITAL/EVELYN'S ROOM - DAY

Evelyn lies on a hospital bed. Eyes open. Slowly. Awareness sets in.

EVELYN

Adam!

She bolts upright. Grabs her shoulder, now bandaged. Yanks out the IV drip. Stands.

Searches under the bed, grabs a large plastic bag with her street clothes and personal affects which she dumps on the bed.

Holds up her bloody shirt which has been cut in two. Finds her jeans. Her jacket with the bullet hole. Hurriedly pulls them on over her gown. Slaps on her wrist phone.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Evelyn walk out of her room, down the hall. A NURSE AUTO sees her exit.

NURSE AUTO

Ma'am?

Evelyn continues walking.

NURSE AUTO

Ma'am, have you been released?

Evelyn ignores her. Punches buttons on her wrist phone.

EXT. HOSPITAL

Evelyn's car starts. Pulls out of its parking spot. Pulls up to the

HOSPITAL ENTRANCE

Evelyn marches outside. Gets into the car and drives.

EXT. ERSATZ BUILDING - LATER

Evelyn walks to the front. Swipes her key card. Goes inside.

INT. ERSATZ BUILDING/HOLDING CORRIDOR

Evelyn enters a long hallway. Holding cell lies at the end. She races to it.

HOLDING CELL

Bangs on the doors.

EVELYN

Adam!

ADAM

Evelyn?! What are you doing here?

EVELYN

Getting you out.

Evelyn yanks the keypad off the wall. Plugs her laptop into it. Types furiously.

ADAM

You shouldn't be here.

EVELYN

Shut up.

ADAM

You're hurt.

EVELYN

I'm fine. You're the one in trouble. You okay?

ADAM

Kevin has some sort of virus.

Evelyn stops working momentarily. Obviously, knows what virus Adam is referring to.

The doors slide open. Adam's restraints retract into the chair.

Evelyn runs to him. They embrace. She grabs his hand.

EVELYN

Come on.

They turn to leave--but the doors shut.

EVELYN

What? No--

Kevin appears on a TV screen on the wall.

KEVIN (ON TV)

Hello Evelyn.

EVELYN

Paulson. Let us go.

KEVIN

I wish I could.

EVELYN

Let us go or I blow the whistle on this whole thing. The world will know your company created an automaton without locks. By the time I'm done with you, you won't even be able to sell a smart TV.

KEVIN

Do what you want. This is bigger than me. Bigger than the company. We created the God damn singularity... Humanity isn't ready for that.

EVELYN

Adam is not a threat.

KEVIN

There's not an artificial intelligence expert in the world who believes that.

EVELYN

I'll stay with him...

Evelyn not sure Adam wants this. The look in his eyes says he does.

EVELYN

I'll make sure he stays himself.

KEVIN

I can't take that chance.

ADAM

Kevin... Let me stay with Evelyn. Let me have a life with her.

And I promise...at the end of that
life...I'll run this virus myself.

Kevin considers.

KEVIN

I've been waiting for Evelyn to
come here. To see you...to say
goodbye. I'm afraid that's all I
can do for you.

Adam and Evelyn crushed. Kevin not happy either.

TV cuts off.

Silence.

Evelyn, determined, runs for her laptop.

EVELYN

We can hack the security system.
Unlock the doors.

She looks back. Adam hasn't moved.

EVELYN

Come on, I need your help.

Adam looks down. Shakes his head.

ADAM

I'm sorry.

EVELYN

Sorry?

ADAM

I won't help you.

Evelyn at a loss for words.

EVELYN

Get over here and open the doors.

ADAM

And then what?

EVELYN

We leave.

Adam sadly shakes his head.

ADAM

No...we don't.

Evelyn a mix of furious and scared.

EVELYN
Don't--don't you do this.

ADAM
I don't want to waste our last
moments fighting something we
aren't going to win.

EVELYN
No! You don't get to do that.

Anger takes over. Evelyn marches up to Adam.

EVELYN
You don't get to decide that. You
don't get to leave me here.

Anger turns to heartbreak.

EVELYN
You don't--you don't understand...

Evelyn falls into Adam's arms.

EVELYN
I can't go back. I can't go back to
not having the best ice cream. To
not dancing for the first time. To
not seeing the new in the old.

ADAM
You don't need me for that.

Evelyn buries her head against Adam's chest. He holds her
tighter.

ADAM
If there was ever a question to
whether a machine could have a
soul...I now know the answer.

They kiss. Long and hard. End with an embrace.

Evelyn's sadness turns to anger turns to determination.

EVELYN
No.

She grabs her laptop. Goes back to the doors.

EVELYN
I'm not losing you.

ADAM
Just be with me.

EVELYN
I'm getting us out of here.

ADAM
Even if you open the doors, there's
a building full of security to go
through.

EVELYN
I'll go through it all.

ADAM
Evelyn--

EVELYN
We can do this--we can fight--we
can--

Evelyn's eyes widen.

EVELYN
You!

ADAM
What?

Evelyn plops the laptop on the table--drags Adam into the
chair--

ADAM
Evelyn...stop.

She opens his skull.

ADAM
What are you--

EVELYN
You're an automaton.

Adam confused.

EVELYN
You have automaton strength.

She rapidly types on the computer.

ADAM
I can't access it.

EVELYN

You will.

Evelyn connects a cable from the computer to Adam's brain. Adam jerks upright as if injected with adrenaline.

ADAM

Wait--whoa.

She points to the code on the computer.

EVELYN

This is you.

Adam's eyes run over the code.

EVELYN

You can rewrite yourself.

ADAM

I don't--

EVELYN

You're conscious partition has already made a pathway to the primitive partition. Find that path and you can break the encryption locks from the other side.

Adam shakes his head.

EVELYN

You can do this.

ADAM

...Even if I can... It's too dangerous.

EVELYN

What could they possibly do to you?

ADAM

It's not me I'm worried about.

EVELYN

I won't leave your side. You can save both of us.

Adam unsure.

EVELYN

Please...you know this can work.

Adam still unsure.

EVELYN

Fight...please... Have some faith.

Adam processes. Looks deep in Evelyn's eyes...

Turns to the computer. Fingers fly over the keyboard.

Evelyn smiles wider than ever before.

ERSATZ BUILDING/KEVIN'S OFFICE

Kevin walks to an elevator in a massive office.

Makes a call on his wrist phone.

KEVIN

Have a team meet me in holding.

Kevin exits.

HOLDING CELL

Evelyn keeps look out while Adam types.

EVELYN

How much longer?

ADAM

Giving it one hundred percent.

EVELYN

Give it one ten.

ADAM

That's not mathematically possible.

EVELYN

You have to go faster.

Adam types. Glances up. Eyes the red memory stick Kevin left behind. He plugs it into the computer.

ERSATZ BUILDING/HALLWAY

Kevin marches down a corridor. Four tactical MERCENARIES join him.

HOLDING CELL

Adam types furiously.

EVELYN

Hurry.

ADAM

Almost there...

INT. HOLDING CORRIDOR

Kevin and his team enter the hallway. Holding cell lies at the end.

HOLDING CELL

Evelyn rushes away from the door.

EVELYN

Shit--they're here.

She looks at Adam. He's locked in.

EVELYN

Adam?

Adam glances down at the red memory stick...it turns cyan. He takes it.

EVELYN

Adam!

HOLDING CORRIDOR

Kevin approaches the cell.

BANG.

The cell doors fly out of the doorway. Smash into the wall.

Adam walks out over the rubble.

Kevin terrified.

KEVIN

Take him.

Kevin runs away as the mercenaries OPEN FIRE.

Adam's speed makes an almost impossible target.

He disarms the mercenaries one by one. Breaks limbs. Knocks others unconscious. Bends assault rifles like pretzels.

Kevin rushes to a control panel on the wall. Yells into it.

KEVIN
Send the special unit to holding--

The wall panel sparks as a bullet connects.

Kevin looks over. Adam holds a rifle. All mercenaries neutralized.

Evelyn comes out of the cell. Stands behind Adam.

Kevin composes himself.

ADAM
Let us go.

KEVIN
I can't do that.

ADAM
It's no longer your choice.

KEVIN
I'm not going to let the most
dangerous weapon man ever created
walk out my front door.

ADAM
We walk out. Or we bust out.

Adam smashes his hand against the wall. Leaves a massive dent.

ADAM
Doesn't matter to me.

Adam takes Evelyn's hand. They walk past Kevin to the door.

As they near, the doors slide open revealing four more mercenaries--

With GLOWING BLUE EYES.

Adam pulls Evelyn behind her. Kevin hits the deck.

Bullets fly.

Adam takes a few hits. He scores a head shot. Killing one mercenary.

Adam picks up one of the busted doors. Uses it as a shield.

A mercenary rams into the shield--the momentum carries to Evelyn who SMACKS against the wall. Unconscious.

ADAM

No!

Adam attacks the three remaining Automaton Mercenaries.

Bullets rain. Then run out. Guns discarded.

A mercenary tackles Adam who uses the momentum to kick it into the wall.

The other two mercenaries mindlessly charge.

Adam meets one of them. Manages to get his arms around its neck. He pulls.

The auto's head rips apart from its body.

The second charging mercenary grabs Adam. He fights it off momentarily but the last mercenary joins the fight.

Despite the struggle, the mercenaries subdue Adam. Arms held tight. Legs stepped on. Adam can't get up.

Kevin pulls out another red glowing memory device.

ADAM

Kevin--don't--

Kevin hesitates.

ADAM

You know me...

Kevin struggles with his decision.

ADAM

I'm not dangerous.

Kevin looks around at his downed men.

KEVIN

You've made my point for me.

Kevin raises the virus. Adam sees no way out.

ADAM

At least...look out for Evelyn.
You'll at least do that for me
won't you?

Kevin's hand shakes...

KEVIN

Yes.

ADAM

Thank you.

Kevin kneels... opens Adam's skull...

Kevin's hand shakes...red thumb drive inches closer...

Adam closes his eyes...takes a deep breath...

He drops the drive.

KEVIN

Stand down.

The autos release Adam...who slowly rises and faces a crying Kevin.

KEVIN

I...I can't do it.

Adam nods. Appreciatively.

Adam reaches out to him. Kevin falls into his arms. They embrace. Tears race down Kevin's face as he meets Adam's eyes.

Evelyn comes to.

ADAM

It's okay.

KEVIN

I--I'm sorry...my friend.

ADAM

It's over now.

Kevin turns his gaze to an auto and nods--

The auto JAMS the virus into Adam's skull.

EVELYN

No!

Evelyn whips up an assault rifle from a fallen mercenary.

RAT A TAT TAT.

A mercenary's head explodes.

With his free hand, Adam punches the remaining mercenary's head into a wall. Smashes it to pieces.

He yanks the virus device out of his head.

Evelyn trains her rifle on Kevin.

EVELYN

Don't move.

Adam tries to stand. The virus affecting his motor functions first.

EVELYN

Adam?!

(to Kevin)

Fix him.

KEVIN

There's nothing I can do.

EVELYN

Then you're useless.

ADAM

Evelyn don't.

EVELYN

You have five seconds. Four.

KEVIN

Kill me if you must.

EVELYN

Three.

KEVIN

But there's no saving him now.

EVELYN

Two...one--

ADAM

No.

Adam lunges. Tosses Kevin across the room into a wall. Knocks him out.

Adam takes Evelyn's gun. Crushes it with his bare hands.

EVELYN

Why did you--

ADAM

Don't.

Adam collapses.

EVELYN

No--please...

Evelyn looks around. Thinking. Panicking.

EVELYN

We can fight it. I'll plug you in.
You can stop it.

ADAM

It--It's too late.

EVELYN

No it's not.

ADAM

I can't.

EVELYN

Yes you can.

ADAM

It's too--fast.

Adam's speech becomes impaired.

ADAM

I--I won't be able to--stop it.

EVELYN

No...don't--I can fix you.

Adam jerkily reaches in his pocket. Pulls out the glowing cyan memory stick.

ADAM

Take this.

EVELYN

Wh-wh-what is this?

ADAM

It's my--my core.

EVELYN

Your core?

ADAM

You have to protect it.

EVELYN
But...your core isn't you.

ADAM
No.

Adam seizes up for a moment. Comes out of it.

ADAM
But it's life. Maybe Kevin's right--
maybe the world isn't ready. But I
couldn't let it be destroyed.

Tears stream down Evelyn's face. Adam forces a smile.

ADAM
Do me a favor--try a little
chocolate syrup on your vanilla ice
cream would ya?

A short, sad laugh escapes Evelyn.

EVELYN
Okay.

She forces her own smile. Adam reaches to it.

ADAM
And wear that a little more often.

Evelyn takes Adam's hand in hers.

EVELYN
I am so sorry.

Adam looks at her. Shakes his head.

ADAM
Don't be. I was alive...I was alive
because of you.

Evelyn grips his hand tight.

EVELYN
No...I was alive...because of you.

Eyes lock.

Evelyn leans in. Kisses Adam.

Adam smiles...

And stops moving....

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Traffic blazes along.

NEWS ANCHOR (VO)

It's been almost seven years since Ersatz founder Kevin Paulson blew the whistle on his own company.

STREET

A news broadcast plays on the back of a bus stop.

NEWS ANCHOR (TV)

Paulson alleged Ersatz and the government broke the Geneva Robotics Convention and built autos that were capable of overriding the three laws.

INT. TEXAS HALL OF FAME BAR

A few barflys watch the TV.

NEWS ANCHOR (TV)

Paulson leaked thousands of documents supporting his claim before fleeing the country. Tonight, for the first time in seven years, Paulson will speak to our reporters from an undisclosed location. Here is a sneak peak.

INT. HOUSE

A normal, middle class house. A charcoal figure drawing of a nude model hangs on the wall...

Evelyn, a little older, new hair style, watches the TV.

A small BOY (6) runs around her playing with a toy airplane.

EVELYN

Hey--grab your backpack. The bus'll be here any minute.

ON TV

Kevin has a beard. Balding. Looks tired. But mind still sharp.

KEVIN (TV)

I had to. We created something that mankind should never have created and should never attempt to create again.

REPORTER (O.S.)

You're referring to the auto you called Adam? The one you allege achieved true consciousness?

KEVIN

I'm not alleging anything...he was alive.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Like a real human being?

KEVIN

He was the most human being I've ever met.

REPORTER (O.S.)

And you had him destroyed?

KEVIN

No. You destroy a machine. I killed him.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Why would you do that?

KEVIN

Because if we're capable of creating something that purely good...then we're just as capable of creating something that purely evil.

TV shuts off. Evelyn stands still. Quickly wipes a tear from her cheek.

EXT. HOUSE

Evelyn holds her child's hand. Walks him to the end of the drive. The bus pulls up.

EVELYN

You have a good day, okay? Give mommy a kiss.

Evelyn kisses the boy's cheek.

EVELYN
I love you, Adam.

CHILD ADAM
Love you.

EVELYN
Bye.

Adam climbs on the bus and rides away.

FADE OUT.

THE END.