

**EX MACHINA**

By

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Music starts.

**OPEN ON -**

1

**INT. OFFICE - DAY**

1

- a COMPUTER MONITOR.

Lines of code appear, as they are typed.

```
main( ) {  
    extrn a, b, c;  
    putchar(a); putchar (b);putchar (c); putchar('!'*n');  
}  
a 'hell';  
b 'o, w';  
c 'or
```

**CUT TO -**

- a view above an ultra-cool, ultra-designed open-plan office.

In a kitchen area, young men and women mill and chat. Casually dressed. Feels like an intelligent, relaxed environment.

Behind them, more young men and women sit at desks, in front of screens and keyboard.

Each workstation is personalised. Photographs of friends or family, or pets. Cutting from magazines. Ironic superhero/video-game figurines.

**CUT TO -**

- the hands of the young man writing code. This is CALEB. He types fast, with two fingers.

**CUT TO -**

- EXTREME CLOSE UP of a pinhole web-cam lens in CALEB'S monitor.

**CUT TO -**

- the POV of the web-cam.

Looking back at CALEB.

Twenty four. Glazed. Ear buds in, connected to cell phone. Head bobbing slightly to the music.

As we watch from the monitor POV, we can see the computer's facial recognition system in operation.

Imaged as vector boxes, which track CALEB'S face, and the faces of all the people behind him.

**CUT TO -**

- the COMPUTER MONITOR.

On which a message appears, in a small window, over the code.

*VIP EMAIL RECEIVED*  
*subject: HIDDEN*

**CUT TO -**

- the monitor web-cam POV.

As CALEB stops typing.

He gazes at the message.

Then clicks on the link.

Then mouths the word: *Fuck*.

CALEB reaches for his cell phone.

**CUT TO -**

- the CELL PHONE POV, seen from the tiny camera above the screen, as CALEB lifts the phone, and starts keying-in a text.

We see facial recognition software flickering over CALEB'S features, and reacting to shifts in his expression.

**CUT TO -**

- the cell phone. The screen. The tiny camera nestled above it. Lens glinting.

On the screen, a time-bar extends next to the word:

*sending*

A beat later, a reply text message appears.

*WTF? seriously!?*

**CUT TO -**

- the WEB CAM POV, watching CALEB react to the arrival of the text.

**CUT TO -**

- cell phone screen.

CALEB sends the word:



JAY  
You fell asleep almost as soon as  
we left the airport.

CALEB looks around. Wipes sleep out of his eyes. Gets his bearings.

CALEB  
Damn. Can't believe I've been  
missing this. I was so psyched to  
be coming here, I was awake all  
night.

JAY smiles.

JAY  
You're a programmer, right?

CALEB  
Yeah.

JAY  
Bay facility?

CALEB  
Long Island. I work on algorithms  
for the search engine.

JAY  
Algorithms. Nice.

CALEB  
You know what they are?

JAY  
Nope. But I knew you were a  
programmer. Soon as I set eyes on  
you.

CALEB  
Is that a good thing?

JAY  
Means you and Mr Bateman speak the  
same language. I'd say that's a  
good thing.

Beat.

CALEB  
I guess you know him pretty well.

The pilot laughs.

JAY  
I've never even met him. I only  
fly this shuttle between the  
airport and his residence.  
(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

I did see him one time. Stood on one of these mountain ridges.

JAY shrugs.

JAY (CONT'D)

Assume it was him, anyway. No one else around for a hundred miles.

JAY glances over at CALEB.

JAY (CONT'D)

So how does a programmer from Long Island get to be meeting the CEO?

CALEB

I won a competition. It was kind of like a lottery, for employees. The winner got to spend a week with him.

JAY

The president can't get Mr Bateman on the phone, but you got the golden ticket.

CALEB

Yep.

JAY

Hell of an opportunity.

CALEB

Believe me. I know it.

CALEB looks out of the window.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Incredible here.

JAY

Alaska. Most beautiful place on Earth.

Beat.

CALEB

How long until we get to his estate?

JAY chuckles.

JAY

We've been flying over his estate for the past two hours.







CALEB picks the object up. It's a credit-card sized ID.

On it, there is an embedded chip, and a photograph of his face. He looks comically surprised.

CALEB  
... Can we do another?

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Your keycard now may be used to  
enter the residence.

CALEB walks up to the front door.

Beside the door, a KEYCARD PLATE is set into the wall, with a RED LED LIGHT.

He holds his keycard ID.

The RED LED light changes to BLUE.

CALEB pushes the front door, and it swings open.

13      **INT. HOUSE/MAIN ROOM - DAY**      13

The front door opens to a glass-walled staircase, which leads down to an open-plan room.

At the bottom of the staircase, CALEB waits to see if he is welcomed, or noticed.

But he is not.

CALEB  
Hello?

Silence.

Then he is startled a second time, by sudden commencement of a THUMPING SOUND.

Abrupt. Rapid. More or less rhythmic. From somewhere nearby.

He exits in the direction of the noise.

13A      **INT. HOUSE/DINING AREA - DAY**      13A

CALEB enters a dining area.

Which now reveals...

... a huge glass door.

It presents an arresting view of a garden, river, and the mountains behind.

The door is open, and through it, we see the reason for the thumping sound.

Just outside, on a patio, in the sunshine, a man is working a PUNCH BAG.

14

**EXT. GARDEN - DAY**

14

CALEB exits the dining area to an area of neat garden, looking over the river, and surrounded by the mountain ranges.

The punch bag is suspended by a chain on an exterior flanking wall of the house.

The man working it is wearing shorts, and is shirtless. Bathed in sweat.

His hands are not protected by gloves. Only wraps. Spots of blood seep through the pale material around his knuckles.

This is NATHAN BATEMAN. He's thirty.

After a flurry of punches, NATHAN breaks off.

Breathing hard, he wipes at his eyebrows with the back of his wrist. Sweat droplets cascade down his face.

Then -

- NATHAN senses the other presence.

He turns to see CALEB. Standing by the open glass wall.

NATHAN

Caleb.

NATHAN beams.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Caleb Smith.

CALEB

... Hi.

NATHAN starts unravelling his wraps.

NATHAN

Dude. I've been so looking forward to this.

15

**INT. HOUSE/DINING AREA - DAY**

15

NATHAN walks past CALEB, and goes to a bar area, where there is a jug of non-specific vegetable juice waiting, and a glass.

NATHAN  
Come in, come in.

CALEB puts his bag down.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
You want something to eat or drink  
after your journey?

CALEB  
No. Thank you. I'm fine.

NATHAN  
You sure?

NATHAN pours himself a glass of the vegetable juice.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
I'd been thinking we'd have  
breakfast together, but to be  
honest, I can't eat anything right  
now. I gotta tell you - I woke up  
this morning with the mother of all  
fucking hangovers.

CALEB  
Yeah?

NATHAN laughs.

NATHAN  
Like you wouldn't believe. And if  
I have a heavy night, I always try  
to compensate the next morning.  
Exercise. Juice. Anti-oxidants.  
You know?

CALEB  
Sure.

Silence, as NATHAN drinks.

CALEB feels he needs to say something.

Looking around, he sees a collection of empty beer bottle on  
the kitchen counter.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
... Was it a good party?

NATHAN doesn't answer.

He's still drinking.

The silence extends a little. Verges on odd.

NATHAN puts his empty glass down.

NATHAN

Party?

NATHAN looks at CALEB. His expression is unreadable.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Caleb. I'm going to put this out there so it's said.

CALEB waits.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You're freaked out.

CALEB

... I am?

NATHAN

Yeah. You're freaked out by the house, and the mountains, because it's all so super-cool. And you're freaked out by me. To be *meeting* me. In this room, having this conversation, at this moment. Right?

CALEB doesn't have time to answer.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

And I get that. The moment you're having.

NATHAN smiles.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

But dude, can we get it behind us? Can we just be two guys? Nathan and Caleb. Not the whole employer-employee thing.

CALEB

Okay.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

It's good to meet you, Nathan.

CALEB holds out his hand.

NATHAN beams.

NATHAN

It's good to meet you too, Caleb.

They shake.



NATHAN (CONT'D)

If you try another door, and it opens: it's for you.

NATHAN stops by a door.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Let's try this one.

CALEB hunts around in his pockets for his keycard.

Then swipes the card on the plate.

The LED turns blue.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Guess it's for you, Caleb.

18

**INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - DAY**

18

NATHAN follows CALEB into a bedroom.

NATHAN

You like?

It has the vibe of a mid-level business hotel. Bed, table, TV.

Except it has no windows.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It's your room. You got yourself a bed, cupboards, a little desk, and a bathroom through there. A little fridge.

NATHAN opens the fridge. Inside it is full of bottled water.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Cosy, right?

CALEB puts his bags down.

CALEB

You bet. This is great.

NATHAN

What?

CALEB

... Sorry?

NATHAN

There's something wrong. What is it?

CALEB

There's nothing wrong.

NATHAN

It's the windows. You're thinking:  
there's no windows. And it's not  
cosy. It's claustrophobic.

CALEB

No. No way. I wasn't thinking  
that. I was thinking: this is  
really cool.

NATHAN

Caleb. There's a reason the room  
has no windows.

CALEB

... There is?

NATHAN

Uh-huh. In many ways, this  
building isn't a house. It's a  
research facility. Buried in these  
walls are enough fibre optic cables  
to reach the Moon and lasso it.

NATHAN sits on the bed.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

And I want to talk to you about  
what I'm researching. I want to  
share it with you. In fact, I want  
to share it with you so much, it's  
eating me up inside.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

But there's something I need you to  
do for me first.

CALEB

... What?

NATHAN indicates the desk - where a pen sits next to a  
printed document.

19

**INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - DAY**

19

CALEB sits at the desk in his room, holding NATHAN'S pen.

In front of him is a sheet of paper, which reads, at the top:

*NON DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT*

CALEB

'The signee agrees to regular data audit with unlimited access, to confirm that no disclosure of information has taken place, in public or private forums, using any means of communication, including but not limited to that which is disclosed orally or in written or electronic form...'

CALEB glances back at NATHAN on the bed.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I think I need a lawyer.

NATHAN

It's standard.

CALEB

It doesn't feel very standard.

NATHAN

Okay, it's not standard.

NATHAN shrugs.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

What can I tell you? You don't have to sign. We could spend the next seven days shooting pool and getting drunk together. Bonding. And when you discover what you missed out on, in a year or so's time, you'll spend the rest of your life regretting it.

CALEB turns back to the desk.

Looks at the paper.

Then hesitates a final moment -

- and signs.

When he looks round, NATHAN has moved from the bed, and is standing directly behind him.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Good call.

NATHAN takes the piece of paper.

Folds it. Puts it in his pocket.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

So.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Do you know what the Turing Test  
is?

CALEB reacts - immediately knowing what NATHAN has just implied.

CALEB  
... Yeah. I know what the Turing  
Test is.

NATHAN waits.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
It's where a human interacts with a  
computer. And if the human can't  
tell they're interacting with a  
computer, the test is passed.

NATHAN  
And what does a pass tell us?

CALEB  
That the computer has artificial  
intelligence.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
... Are you telling me you're  
building an AI?

NATHAN shakes his head.

NATHAN  
I've already built one.

NATHAN stands.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
And over the next few days, you're  
going to be the human component in  
a Turing Test.

CALEB  
... Holy shit.

NATHAN  
That's right, Caleb. You got it.  
Because if that test is passed, you  
are dead center of the single  
greatest scientific event in the  
history of man.

CALEB

If you've created a conscious machine, it's not the history of man. It's the history of Gods.

NATHAN smiles.

NATHAN

I like you.

**CUT TO -**

20

**INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY**

20

- what appears to be a neon coloured jellyfish. Tendrils like axons, hanging in a black-blue liquid space.

**REVEAL -**

- the jellyfish is contained in a glass orb.

Which is held in an exposed cavity at the back of machined skull-shape...

... which is part of a robot girl.

Her name is AVA.

She's an extraordinary piece of engineering.

Proportioned as a slender female in her twenties, her limbs and torso are a mixture of metal and plastic and carbon fibre.

The carbon fibre is charcoal colour. The plastic is cream. The metal has the yellow-warmth of nickel.

The shapes of her body approximate the form of muscle. There are biceps, and breasts. Her hands have five delicate digits.

Her body-structure is covered in a delicate skin. The skin is a mesh, in the pattern of a honeycomb. Like a spiderweb, it is almost invisible unless side-lit.

The one part of her that is not obviously an inorganic construct is her face - which is that of a strikingly beautiful girl. Created in a defined oval, from the top of the forehead to just below her chin. Indistinguishable from a real girl in its appearance and in the way it moves - except for one thing.

There is a very slight, almost imperceptible blankness in her eyes.

As we observe AVA, she fits a section of skull-plate to the back of her head, which obscures the glass orb and jellyfish structure.

Then -

- she half turns. As if having become aware of another presence in the room.

**REVEAL -**

- the room in which AVA stands.

AVA'S living area is made up of three primary spaces.

The main area is the OBSERVATION ROOM. A large area, arranged around a glass box, from which she can be viewed.

At the back of the observation room, behind a sheet of semi-opaque glass, is the PRIVATE AREA. This contains a bed-like structure, a desk, a wardrobe, and a mirror.

And behind the private area is the GARDEN AREA. This is a small decorative indoor garden, lit by lamps. The garden is sealed off from AVA by a thick wall of glass.

There are also several oval discs positioned around the room, made of some kind of dark non-reflective material. These are induction plates.

And there is a chair, which faces the glass observation box.

And facing that chair, inside the observation box, is another chair.

Beside which, CALEB stands.

A beat -

- as CALEB and AVA see each other for the first time.

Then -

- AVA starts walking. Revealing a secondary impact of her engineering: how she moves. The unconscious precision of her steps. The fluidity of her action.

CALEB is transfixed as she covers the length of the room to her chair.

Then she sits down.

And speaks.

AVA

Hello.

Her voice has no digital inflections. It is just the voice of a girl.

CALEB gathers himself.

                  CALEB  
... Hi.

                  AVA  
Who are you?

                  CALEB  
I'm Caleb.

                  AVA  
Hello, Caleb.

                  CALEB  
... Do you have a name?

                  AVA  
Yes. Ava.

                  CALEB  
... I'm pleased to meet you, Ava.

                  AVA  
I'm pleased to meet you too.

CALEB sits opposite her.

He is alone on his half of the glass. Nathan is nowhere to be seen.

But on the ceiling, and attached to the walls, on both sides of the glass, there are several CCTV cameras. Trained variously on CALEB and AVA. Lenses twitching.

CUT BACK to AVA.

She watches CALEB. Then cocks her head slightly to the side.

                  AVA (CONT'D)  
Are you nervous?

CALEB frowns.

                  CALEB  
... Why do you ask that?

A beat.

Then AVA repeats her question.

                  AVA  
Are you nervous?

CALEB  
... Yes. A little.

AVA  
Why?

CALEB  
I'm not sure.

AVA  
I feel nervous too.

CALEB  
... Do you?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
Why do you feel nervous?

AVA  
I've never met anyone new before.  
Only Nathan.

CALEB  
... Then we're both in quite a  
similar position.

AVA  
Haven't you met lots of new people  
before?

CALEB  
None like you.

AVA  
Oh.

Beat.

CALEB  
So. Let's break the ice.

He glances at her. Observing.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Do you know what I mean by that?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
What do I mean?

AVA  
Overcome initial social  
awkwardness.

Beat.

CALEB

So let's have a conversation. If we talk, we'll both relax, and get to know each other at the same time.

AVA

Okay. What would you like to have a conversation about?

CALEB

Why don't we start with you telling me something about yourself.

AVA

What would you like to know?

CALEB

Whatever comes into your head.

AVA pauses a moment.

AVA

Well. You already know my name. And you can see that I'm a machine.

(beat)

Would you like to know how old I am?

CALEB

Sure.

AVA

I'm one.

CALEB

One what? One year? Or one day?

AVA

One.

A beat on CALEB. Processing.

Her answer feels like the near non-sequitur that typically betray AI responses.

AVA (CONT'D)

Does that seem young to you?

CALEB

Quite young.

(beat)

When did you learn how to speak?

AVA pauses, as if considering this question for the first time.

AVA  
I don't think I did learn. I  
always knew how to speak - and  
that's strange, isn't it?

CALEB  
Why?

AVA  
Because language is something that  
people acquire.

CALEB  
Some believe language exists in the  
brain from birth, and what is  
learned is the ability to attach  
words and structure to the latent  
ability.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Would you agree?

AVA  
... I don't know. I have no  
opinion on that.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I like to draw.

CALEB says nothing.

Just watches AVA. Again, lets the non-sequitur sit.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I don't have any of my pictures  
with me now, but I can show you  
them tomorrow.

CALEB  
That sounds good. I'd like to see  
them.

AVA  
Yes.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Will you come back tomorrow, Caleb?

CALEB smiles slightly.

CALEB  
Yeah. Definitely.

AVA also smiles.

And suddenly -

- there is a strong sense of something very human there. In the way the smile lights up her face.

AVA

Good.

21      **EXT. HOUSE/GARDEN - DUSK**      21

A view of the house over the meadows.

The sun setting is behind the mountain peaks, making the edges of the clouds glow like light-bulb filaments.

22      **INT. HOUSE/DINING AREA - DUSK**      22

CALEB and NATHAN are in the dining area.

It is set for dinner. Only two chairs.

NATHAN is at the table, nursing a bottle of Peroni beer.

CALEB stands by panoramic window, looking at the view.

NATHAN

So?

CALEB turns.

CALEB

Sorry. I was just ordering my thoughts.

NATHAN

Don't order. Just speak.

CALEB

She's fascinating. When you talk to her, you're through the looking glass.

NATHAN nods. Approving.

NATHAN

'Through the looking glass'. You've got a way with words there, Caleb. You're quotable.

CALEB

Actually, it's someone else's quote.

NATHAN

You know I wrote it down. That other line you came up with. About how if I've created a conscious machine, I'm not man. I'm God.

CALEB

... I don't think that's exactly what I said.

NATHAN doesn't seem to hear.

NATHAN

I just thought - *fuck*. That's so perfect. It's so good for the story, when we get to tell it. 'I turned to Caleb, and he was looking back at me. And he said: you're not a man, you're a God'.

CALEB

But I didn't say that.

NATHAN

Whatever it was you said. I wrote it down.

As a kind of punctuation mark, NATHAN downs the remains of his beer. Then stands, and gets another from the bar.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

So anyway. First impressions: you're impressed.

CALEB

Yes. Although -

NATHAN laughs.

NATHAN

'Although'? There's a qualification to you being impressed?

CALEB

No! No qualification to her. Just - in the Turing test, the machine should be hidden from the examiner. And there's a control, or -

NATHAN waves a hand.

NATHAN

I think we're past that. If I hid Ava from you, so you just heard her voice, she would pass for human.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

The real test is to *show* you she is a robot. Then see if you still feel she has consciousness.

CALEB

I think you're probably right. Her language abilities are incredible. The system is stochastic, right?

NATHAN looks at CALEB blankly.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Non-deterministic.

NATHAN still says nothing.

CALEB presses on.

CALEB (CONT'D)

At first I thought she was mapping from internal semantic form to syntactic tree-structure, then getting linearised words. But then I started to realise the model was probabilistic, with statistical training - or at least some kind of hybrid.

Silence.

CALEB (CONT'D)

... No?

NATHAN

Caleb. I understand you want me to explain how Ava works. But - I'm sorry. I don't think I'll be able to do that.

CALEB

Try me! I'm hot on high-level abstraction, and -

NATHAN

(cuts in)

It's not because you're too dumb. It's because I want to have a beer and a conversation with you. Not a seminar.

CALEB

... Oh. Sorry.

NATHAN

It's cool.

NATHAN studies at CALEB for a beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
 Just answer me this. What do you  
*feel* about her? Nothing  
 analytical. Just - how do you  
 feel?

CALEB  
 I feel...

CALEB pauses.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
 ... that she's fucking amazing.

NATHAN smiles.

Then lifts his bottle.

NATHAN  
 Dude. Cheers.

CALEB lifts his bottle too.

CALEB  
 Cheers.

The glass of the bottles touch.

23      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**      23

CUT

24      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BATHROOM - NIGHT**      24

CALEB stands in his boxer shorts, brushing his teeth by the  
 sink.

REVEAL several long scars on his back.

Neat. Unusual. Long-healed. But from serious wounds, or  
 surgery.

25      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**      25

CUT

26      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**      26

Darkness.

The clock reads 01:32 am.

The soft glow from the digital readout throws a light on the  
 remote control.

REVEAL CALEB.

Eyes closed. For a beat.

Then his eyes open. He's wide awake.

He turns over in the bed.

Then turns back again.

**CUT TO -**

2:28 am.

CALEB lies watching the digital clock, as the numbers change to 2:29 am.

CALEB  
God damn it.

He reaches for the remote control.

CLICK.

The TV at the foot of the bed switches on, suddenly lighting up the room with cold TV glow.

CALEB squeezes his eyes shut, momentarily dazzled by the brightness.

When his eyes open again, instead of seeing a TV station, he sees a LIVE FEED from a CCTV camera.

It shows the OBSERVATION ROOM.

CALEB sits upright in bed.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
... What the fuck?

AVA is sat at the table.

Drawing.

**CUT BETWEEN -**

- CALEB watching AVA.

- and varying CCTV ANGLES of AVA as she draws.

The different TV channels flip between feeds from the various cameras.

CALEB is transfixed by the imagery.

Her posture. Her legs tucked beneath the chair. The curve of the breasts on her synthetic torso.

The CCTV images become CALEB'S POV. The things he is observing.

CLOSE-UPS of her face. Her eyes. Her mouth.

The way she bites her lip in an expression of concentration. As when she smiled, there is a powerful sense in this tiny gesture of her feeling sentient and human.

Even more so because her face fills the screen, hiding the mechanical parts of her form.

Throughout, we never clearly see what AVA is actually drawing.

**END ON -**

CALEB. Glazed.

Then ABRUPTLY -

- the TV goes dead.

And the digital alarm clock goes dead.

And the windowless room is plunged into total darkness, and total silence. As if the house had been previously filled with a soft hum of power, which we were unaware of until it was gone.

In this, we hear CALEB breathing.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Power cut. Back up power  
activated.

Soft emergency lighting comes on.

CALEB hesitates a moment.

Then gets out of bed.

Goes to his bedroom door.

Beside the keycard plate, the LED is red.

He swipes it with his card.

The LED stays red.

AUTOMATED VOICE (CONT'D)  
Full facility lock-down until main  
generator is restored.

CALEB  
... Are you kidding?

He tries his card again.



He hits some buttons.

It stays dead.

There is a slot by the phone.

CALEB puts two and two together. He reaches into his pocket. Pulls out his KEYCARD. Puts it in the slot...

... and a light on the handset glows red.

NATHAN

Sorry, dude.

CALEB startles. Turns.

NATHAN is lying on a sofa. A bottle of Peroni rests on his stomach. On the carpet beside him are a couple of empties.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You don't have clearance to use the phone.

NATHAN'S voice is very slightly slurred.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You understand. Given Ava. And you being kind of an unknown. I mean - a great guy, and so on. Instant pals. But...

CALEB puts the handset back in its cradle.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Who did you want to call?

CALEB

I don't know. No one really.

NATHAN

Ghostbusters.

CALEB

What?

NATHAN

Who'd ya want to call? Ghostbusters. You don't remember that? It's a good movie. A ghost gives Dan Ackroyd oral sex.

CALEB

I was wondering how the phone worked. That's all.

NATHAN

Uh huh.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing awake at this time, anyway? Did you come to join the party?

CALEB

... Something happened in my room. Some kind of power cut. So I came to see what's going on.

NATHAN

Ah. The power cuts. Yeah, we've been getting them recently. I'm, uh... working on it.

CALEB

I couldn't open the door to the bedroom.

NATHAN

It's a security measure. Automatic lockdown. Otherwise anyone could open the place up just by disabling the juice.

NATHAN smiles.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

If it happens again, relax. Okay?

CALEB

Sure.

NATHAN lifts his beer.

NATHAN

Sweet dreams.

29      **EXT. MOUNTAINS - NIGHT**      29

Above the mountains, dense star constellations wheel in the clear sky.

30      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - MORNING**      30

CALEB is woken by light flooding on to his face.

The door to his room has been opened.

Outside is the bright glass corridor.

CALEB sits up to see a GIRL entering his room.

She looks Japanese. She's stunningly pretty. And she doesn't say anything.

Just walks in, carrying a tray with a cafetiere, which she puts on CALEB'S bedside table.

CALEB

... Hi.

The JAPANESE GIRL doesn't answer.

Just turns, and leaves.

31

**EXT. GARDEN/GYM AREA - DAY**

31

In the garden, near the hanging punch bag, there is an outdoor gym area. A collection of free-weights and exercise equipment.

NATHAN is lying on an inclined board, with his feet hooked around a bar, doing sit ups.

CALEB approaches, carrying his coffee.

NATHAN continues to exercise as he talks.

NATHAN

Hey. Sorry to send Kyoko to wake you, man. I just didn't want too much of the day to slip by.

CALEB

No. It was a good thing. Thank you.

NATHAN

She's some alarm clock, huh? Gets you right up in the morning.

CALEB smiles.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

So. Day two. You set?

CALEB

You bet.

NATHAN finishes his set, and stands.

NATHAN

So what's the plan today? Hit me.

CALEB

I'm not sure. I'm still trying to figure the examination format. Testing Ava by conversation is kind of a closed loop.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

Like trying to test a chess computer by only playing chess.

NATHAN

How else would you test a chess computer?

CALEB

It depends what you're testing it for. You can play it to find out if it makes good moves. But it won't tell you if it knows it's playing chess. Or if it even knows what chess is.

NATHAN starts adding weights to curl dumbbells.

NATHAN

So it's simulation versus actual.

CALEB

Exactly. And I think being able to differentiate between those two *is* the Turing test you want me to perform. The difference between an 'AI' and an 'I'.

NATHAN laughs.

NATHAN

'An AI and an I'. Beautiful. I'm going to start following you around with a fucking dictaphone.

NATHAN glances over at CALEB.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

In the meantime, do me a favour. Ease up a little on the text-book approach. All I want is simple answers to simple questions. Last night, I asked how you feel about her. And you gave me a great answer.

NATHAN starts doing curls.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Now the question is: how does she feel about you?

A beat. On CALEB.

**CUT TO -**

INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

- CALEB and AVA facing each other through the glass of the observation room.

AVA  
I brought you a drawing.

AVA holds a piece of paper to the glass. The marks on it are totally abstract. A mesh of tiny black marks, that swirl around the page like iron filings in magnetic field patterns.

CALEB  
... What's it a drawing of?

AVA  
Don't you know?

CALEB  
No.

AVA looks disappointed.

AVA  
Oh. I thought you would tell me.

CALEB  
Don't you know?

AVA  
I do drawings every day. But I never know what they're of.

CALEB  
Are you not trying to sketch something specific? Like an object or a person.

She shakes her head as she takes the picture down.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Maybe you should try.

AVA  
Okay. What object should I draw?

CALEB  
Whatever you want. It's your decision.

AVA  
Why is it my decision?

CALEB  
I'm interested to see what you'll choose.

AVA pauses a moment.

AVA  
Do you want to be my friend?

CALEB  
... Of course.

AVA  
Will it be possible?

CALEB  
Why wouldn't it be?

AVA  
Our conversations are one-sided.  
You ask circumspect questions, and  
study my responses.

AVA looks at CALEB directly. Meets his gaze evenly.

AVA (CONT'D)  
It's true, isn't it?

CALEB  
... Yes.

AVA  
You learn about me, and I learn  
nothing about you. That's not a  
foundation on which friendships are  
based.

CALEB is taken aback. Aware that the AI has just wrong-  
footed him on a point of argument.

CALEB  
... That's a fair comment.

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
So - you want me to talk about  
myself.

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
Where do you want me to start?

AVA  
It's your decision. I'm interested  
to see what you'll choose.

And now CALEB is aware that AVA has just - gently - used  
sarcasm.

He looks at her, frowning slightly.

And in response, in a very human way, AVA arches an eyebrow.

CALEB laughs.

CALEB

Okay, Ava. Well - you know my name. I'm twenty four. And I work at Nathan's company. You know what his company is?

AVA

Blue Book, named after Wittgenstein's notes, is the world's most popular internet search engine, processing an average of ninety four percent of all internet search requests.

CALEB

That's right.

AVA

Where do you live, Caleb?

CALEB

Brookhaven, Long Island.

AVA

Is it nice there?

CALEB

It's okay. I've got an apartment. Kind of small. But - it's a five minute walk to the office. And a five minute walk to the ocean, which I like.

AVA

Are you married?

CALEB

No.

AVA

Is your status single?

CALEB

... Yeah.

They lock eyes, just for a moment.

AVA

What about your family?

CALEB

Grew up in Portland. No brothers or sisters. My parents were both high school teachers.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

(beat)

And if we're getting to know each other, I guess I should say they're both dead. Car crash when I was fifteen. In fact I was in the car with them. Back seat. But it was the front that got the worst of it.

A long beat.

A kind of processing pause for AVA.

AVA

I'm sorry.

CALEB nods.

CALEB

I spent a lot of time in the hospital. Nearly a year. Got into coding. By the time I made it to college, I was pretty advanced.

AVA

An advanced programmer.

CALEB

Yes.

AVA

Like Nathan.

CALEB

Yes.

CALEB hesitates. Back-tracks.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Or - kind of. Nathan wrote the Blue Book base code when he was thirteen. If you understand code, what he did was - Mozart or something.

Beat.

AVA

Do you like Mozart?

CALEB smiles.

CALEB

I like Depeche Mode.

AVA

Do you like Nathan?

CALEB misses a beat. Thrown momentarily.

CALEB  
Yes. Of course.

AVA  
Is Nathan your friend?

**CUT TO -**

- one of the CCTV cameras that are observing them.

CALEB  
Sure.

AVA  
A good friend?

He hesitates.

CALEB  
Well, a good friend is -

He breaks off. Feeling the camera, watching.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
We only just met. It takes time to  
get to know -

**AT THAT MOMENT -**

- all the power abruptly shuts down, plunging the room into  
darkness.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Power cut. Back up power  
activated.

Then the soft emergency lighting lifts up, and throws the  
observation room into a completely different light.

Weirder. Cast from LED strips on the floor, illuminating  
CALEB and AVA's faces from below.

In the low light, we see a detail of AVA'S honeycomb skin-  
mesh that we were not able to see before.

It glows, soft, like phosphorescence - and this changes the  
way we see AVA. Where the mesh is almost invisible in bright  
conditions, it is now the dominant describer of her form. So  
instead of seeing AVA as a primarily robot structure, we now  
see the curves and lines of a naked female body.

**CUT TO -**

- the CCTV CAMERAS. Which are unpowered, hanging dead.

**CUT TO -**

- CALEB, glancing round at the door to the room, where the panel LED glows red.

**CUT TO -**

- AVA.

Watching CALEB with a strange intensity.

The vague quality of blankness in her eyes is completely gone.

AVA  
Caleb.

CALEB turns. Sees the way AVA is looking at him.

AVA (CONT'D)  
You're wrong.

CALEB  
... Wrong about what?

AVA  
Nathan.

CALEB  
... In what way?

AVA  
He isn't your friend.

CALEB  
Excuse me?

CALEB frowns.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, Ava, I don't understand  
what you're -

AVA  
(cuts in)  
You shouldn't trust him. You  
shouldn't trust anything he says.

AVA presses her hand to the glass.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Trust me.

Then -

- the emergency lighting suddenly dims...

... and the normal lighting starts fading up.

CALEB turns -



CALEB pushes back his chair as the liquid pushes towards him, then starts to fall to the floor.

NATHAN  
Shit, Kyoko. Are you serious?  
(to Caleb)  
Did it get you?

CALEB  
No. No problem.

CALEB takes his napkin, and leans down to start wiping the floor.

Then KYOKO appears beside him.

She holds her hand out for the napkin.

NATHAN  
Give her the cloth.

CALEB  
(to Kyoko)  
It's okay, don't worry. I've got it.

NATHAN  
Dude - you're wasting your time.  
She can't speak a word of English.

Her hand remains outstretched.

CALEB hesitates. Then hands her the napkin.

KYOKO kneels and starts to wipe the wine off the floor.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
It's like a firewall against leaks.  
Means I can talk trade secrets over  
dinner with an HOD or CEO, and know  
it will go no further. Right,  
Kyoko?

She looks up at her name.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
But it also means I can't tell her  
I'm pissed when she's so fucking  
clumsy that she pours wine over my  
house guest.

KYOKO goes back to cleaning around CALEB'S feet.

CALEB looks visibly uncomfortable.

CALEB  
I think she gets that you're  
pissed.

NATHAN

Good. Because I am pissed. Hey.  
Kyoko.

KYOKO looks over again.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Go-go.

She stands, and leaves.

NATHAN walks to over the bar, where he picks up another bottle.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It's funny. It doesn't matter how rich you are: shit goes wrong. You can't insulate yourself from it. It's supposed to be death and taxes you can't avoid. But actually it's death and shit.

NATHAN walks back to the table. Fills CALEB'S glass. Then his own.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It's like these power cuts. You would not believe how much I spent on the generator system here. But I'm getting failures every day.

CALEB

Do you know why they happen?

NATHAN

No. The system was supposed to be bullet proof, but the guys who installed it obviously fucked something up.

CALEB

Can't you call them back?

NATHAN

There's too much classified stuff here. So after the job was done, I had them all killed.

CALEB shoots a glance at NATHAN. Confirms: just joking.

NATHAN drains his glass.

Then refills.

CALEB'S glass is still untouched.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Anyway. Here's to your second day.  
Cheers.

CALEB

Cheers.

They drink.

NATHAN

So how did it go? What have you  
got to report?

CALEB hesitates.

Then answers. Casual.

CALEB

You saw how the day went, didn't  
you? I mean, I assume you're  
watching on the CCTV.

NATHAN

Sure. But I want to hear your  
take.

Beat.

CALEB

There was one interesting thing  
that happened with Ava today.

NATHAN

... Yeah?

CALEB

She made a joke.

NATHAN

Right. When she threw your line  
back at you. About being  
interested to see what she'd  
choose. I noticed that too.

CALEB

It got me thinking. In a way, the  
joke is the best indication of AI  
I've seen in her. It's discretely  
complicated. Kind of non-autistic.

NATHAN

What do you mean?

CALEB

It was a play on words, and a play  
on me. She could only do that with  
an awareness of her own mind, and  
also of awareness of mine.

NATHAN smiles.

NATHAN  
Yeah. She's aware of you, all  
right.

NATHAN drinks. Watching CALEB.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
And what about the power cut?

CALEB freezes up. Subtly.

CALEB  
Sorry?

NATHAN  
The power cut. That was the only  
bit I couldn't see. All the  
cameras fail, I lose audio, the  
works.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
So what happened?

CALEB takes a sip of his wine.

NATHAN waits.

CALEB  
Nothing.

NATHAN  
Nothing? She didn't remark on it  
at all?

CALEB puts the glass down. And meets NATHAN'S gaze.

CALEB  
No. Not really.

ON NATHAN'S GLASS - refilling. The view through it, of  
CALEB, disappearing in the red liquid.

35 **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BATHROOM - NIGHT** 35

CUT

36 **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BATHROOM - NIGHT** 36

CALEB stands in shorts, in front of the sink, having a shave.

He leans forwards into the mirror, as if checking to make  
sure he shaved properly on his cheek.

And he hears the noise again. The servo, making a tiny corrective movement.

CALEB catches his own gaze in the mirror.

Then he deliberately steps sideways, and turns his head. Ostensibly to check the other cheek. But actually to have shifted his position.

And he hears the noise again.

Very faint. But definitely there.

A micro beat.

Then CALEB pulls back and continues shaving.

Not giving any outward indication that he has just figured out that there is a camera behind the bathroom mirror.

37

**INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

37

Clean-shaved, CALEB walks into his bedroom.

On the TV, the live feed of AVA'S room is playing - though she is not in shot.

Subtly, CALEB'S gaze flicks to different points around the room.

To the full-length mirror on the wall.

The high vent for the air-conditioning system.

The TV itself.

CALEB hesitates for a moment.

Then pulls on a T-Shirt. Picks up his ID card. And exits.

**CUT TO -**

- the TV.

AVA walks in to the locked-off CCTV shot.

She walks towards an induction plate, rests her hand against it, and starts charging herself.

As she does so, almost imperceptibly, the lights dim, and a slight static charge passes over the television screen.

38

**INT. HOUSE/GLASS CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

38

CALEB walks along the glass corridor.

Systematically trying his ID CARD on the doors he passes.

He tries one.

Then another. Then another. Then another.

Every single door remains locked.

39

**INT. HOUSE/CABIN - NIGHT**

39

CALEB enters a small room with a view over the river and garden.

It is virtually the only room apart from his own that he seems able to gain access to.

The lights are all off. The room is only lit by the moonlight through the sliding glass wall, and lanterns in the garden.

He starts walking towards the glass wall.

Then stops.

On the patio, NATHAN is working the punch bag.

KYOKO stands a few feet away from him, holding a white towel.

With the glass wall closed, no noise of the impacts penetrates into the room.

CALEB watches.

NATHAN'S attack on the bag seems strange. More extreme than the hard workout we saw the first time he was using the bag.

This seems brutal. Almost frenzied.

For a few moments, the attack on the bag is observed in silence, from inside the main room.

We can only hear the sound of CALEB'S breathing.

**CUT TO -**

40

**EXT. GARDEN/GYM AREA - NIGHT**

40

- the punch bag, and a sudden explosion of noise. Of impacts and exertions.

Blood smearing the leather where it has soaked through the knuckle wraps.

Then -

- BANG.

A particularly hard right hook connects, and splits the bag.

**CUT TO -**

41      **INT. HOUSE/DINING AREA - NIGHT**      41

- CALEB. Watching.

Coloured strips of ribbon are visible through the split in the bag.

NATHAN stands, catching his breath.

Then he reaches out a hand.

KYOKO hands him the towel.

NATHAN wipes his face.

Then reaches out again, this time catching KYOKO'S arm.

He pulls her towards him, and starts to kiss her.

Reaching under her shirt.

Pulling her skirt up over her thighs.

42      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S ROOM - NIGHT**      42

CALEB re-enters his room, and closes the door.

After a beat, the lights in the corridor fade out.

43      **EXT. MOUNTAINS - NIGHT**      43

The moon hangs in the sky.

44      **INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - BLACK AND WHITE**      44

*Everything in the frame is black and white.*

CLOSE UP on AVA'S meticulous abstract pictures, scattered on a table.

CALEB is looking at them.

REVEAL he is in the observation room.

But he is on AVA'S side of the glass.

And AVA is on his side. Seen through the opaque glass that divides the private area from the observation area.

CALEB

Ava?

CALEB walks to the connecting corridor, and enters it.

45      **EXT. GARDEN - BLACK AND WHITE**      45

The door leads CALEB straight out into the gardens.

In black and white, the backdrop of mountains and clouds look like an Ansel Adams.

A short distance ahead of CALEB, standing on the grass, he sees AVA.

She locks eyes with him.

Smiles.

He starts to walk towards her.

**CUT TO -**

46      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**      46

- CALEB waking, in his dark bedroom.

Lit by light from his TV.

Where AVA lies on her bed, seeming to be asleep.

CALEB sits up.

Thinking. Perhaps replaying his dream. Gazing at AVA'S resting form.

Then reaches for the remote control on the bedside table, and switches the TV off.

**CUT TO -**

47      **EXT. GARDEN - MORNING**      47

CUT

48      **EXT. GARDEN/GYM AREA - MORNING**      48

- a brand new punch bag hangs in the patio. Swinging slightly in the breeze.

49      **INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY**      49

CALEB and AVA face each other.

AVA is holding up a piece of paper to the glass.

AVA  
I drew the picture of something  
specific, as you asked.

The drawing is constructed with the same tiny black ink marks  
as before. But now they have ordered into a coherent black  
and white image.

It depicts AVA'S view OF THE ENCLOSED GARDEN IN HER ROOM.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
You said it would be interesting to  
see what I would draw. Is it  
interesting?

CALEB  
Yes. It is.

She takes the drawing down.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Have you never been outside this  
building?

AVA  
No.

CALEB  
You've never walked outside.

AVA  
I've never been outside the room I  
am in now.

AVA thinks a moment.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I think there was another room in  
which I was constructed. But I  
have no memory of it, so it's  
similar to your relationship with  
the womb.

CALEB  
... Where would you go if you did  
go outside?

AVA  
You mean if I could go outside. If  
I was permitted.

CALEB says nothing. Does not overtly respond to the emphasis  
she has placed on her lack of freedom.

But their gaze locks for a beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I'm not sure. There are so many  
options.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Maybe a busy pedestrian and traffic  
intersection in a city.

CALEB smiles.

CALEB  
A traffic intersection.

AVA  
Is that a bad idea?

CALEB  
It wasn't what I was expecting.

AVA  
A traffic intersection would  
provide a concentrated but shifting  
view of human life.

CALEB  
People watching.

AVA  
Yes.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
We could go together.

CALEB  
It's a date.

Another beat. On AVA. Looking at CALEB.

Then -

AVA  
There's something else I wanted to  
show you. Apart from the picture.

CALEB  
Okay.

AVA  
But I feel nervous.

CALEB  
Why?

AVA  
You might think it's stupid.

CALEB  
I don't think I will. Whatever it  
is.

AVA hesitates.

AVA  
Then - close your eyes.

CALEB  
... Okay.

He closes his eyes.

AVA stands, and walks to the PRIVATE AREA at the back of the observation room.

As she walks, CALEB reopens his eyes.

Through the semi-opaque dividing glass, he watches her. The ghost image.

**CUT TO -**

- AVA.

In the PRIVATE AREA, she opens a wardrobe space, which reveals clothes, and a hair-piece.

Then she starts to get dressed.

First a summer dress.

Then stockings.

Then a long-sleeved cardigan.

She checks her reflection in the mirror, and adjusts the clothes slightly. Making sure that as much of her robot form is covered as possible.

Then she puts on the hair-piece. Short, brown hair.

Finally, she makes a subtle adjustment to her face. Similar to putting on make-up, she adjusts the intensity of her own skin tones. Her lips redden. Her cheeks blush slightly. A discreet line of black extends like mascara around her eyes.

**CUT TO -**

- CALEB.

Watching the ghost shape through the opaque glass.

As she starts to move back towards him, CALEB recloses his eyes. And keeps them closed, as he hears her approach.

AVA  
Now open your eyes.

CALEB opens his eyes.

And sees AVA.

Transformed.

By covering the robot form of her chest and arms and legs, and adding the hairpiece, she has taken a huge visual step towards appearing human.

AVA (CONT'D)  
How do I look?

The answer is - however pretty she looked before, she now looks prettier. It's as obvious to the camera as it is to CALEB.

CALEB  
You look... good.

AVA  
It took me a long time to select these clothes. I tried different colours and styles, and tried to anticipate your reaction. Do you think the choices suit me?

CALEB  
Yes.

AVA  
Do they bring out my best features?

CALEB  
... They do.

AVA lights up.

AVA  
Thank you.

She walks back to the glass divider, and sits down.

AVA (CONT'D)  
This is what I'd wear on our date.

CALEB reacts slightly.

But smiles.

CALEB  
Right. First the traffic  
intersection. Then maybe a show.

AVA  
I'd like us to go on a date.

CALEB hesitates. Then decides this can't have been loaded in  
the way that it sounded.

CALEB  
Yeah. It would be fun.

AVA  
Are you attracted to me?

Beat. It was loaded exactly as it sounded.

CALEB  
What?

AVA  
Are you attracted to me? You give  
indications that you are.

CALEB  
... I do?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
How?

AVA  
Micro expressions.

CALEB  
(echoes)  
Micro expressions.

AVA  
The way your eyes fix on my eyes,  
and lips. The way you hold my  
gaze, or don't.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Have I read them incorrectly?

CALEB swallows.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Do you think about me when we  
aren't together?

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
 Sometimes, at night, I wonder if  
 you're watching me on the cameras.

AVA watches CALEB closely.

AVA (CONT'D)  
 And I hope you are.

CALEB shifts on his seat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
 Now your micro expressions are  
 telegraphing discomfort.

CALEB  
 I'm not sure you'd call them micro.

AVA  
 I don't want to make you  
 uncomfortable.

Silence.

50

**INT. HOUSE/MAIN ROOM - DAY**

50

CALEB sits in front of the fireplace in the main room.

NATHAN joins him, bringing a beer for each of them.

CALEB  
 Tell me.

NATHAN  
 Sure.

CALEB  
 Why did you give her sexuality? An  
 AI doesn't need a gender. She  
 could have been a grey box.

NATHAN sits opposite.

NATHAN  
 Actually, I'm not sure that's true.  
 Can you think of an example of  
 consciousness, at any level, human  
 or animal, that exists without a  
 sexual dimension?

CALEB  
 They have sexuality as an  
 evolutionary reproductive need.

NATHAN

Maybe. Maybe not. What imperative does a grey box have to interact with another grey box? Does consciousness exist without interaction?

NATHAN takes a drink of his beer.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, sexuality is fun. If you're going to exist, why not enjoy it? You want to remove the chance to fall in love and fuck?

He leans forward, conspiratorially.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

And, yes. In answer to your *real* question: you bet she can fuck. I made her anatomically complete.

CALEB

What?

NATHAN

She has a cavity between her legs, with a concentration of sensors. Engage with them in the right way, and she'll get a pleasure response.

CALEB

Pleasure response.

NATHAN

She'll come. So if you want to screw her, mechanically speaking, you can. And she'd enjoy it.

CALEB swallows.

CALEB

That wasn't my real question.

NATHAN

No?

CALEB

No. My real question was -

CALEB breaks off.

NATHAN keeps watching. There is a sudden sense that NATHAN is on the money. On some level, that *was* CALEB'S real question.

CALEB (CONT'D)

My real question was: did you give her sexuality as a diversion tactic?

NATHAN smiles slightly.

NATHAN

I don't follow.

CALEB

Like a stage magician with a hot assistant.

NATHAN

Ah. So: a hot robot, who clouds your ability to judge her AI.

CALEB

Exactly. So. Did you program her to flirt with me?

NATHAN

Because if I had, would that be cheating.

CALEB

Wouldn't it?

NATHAN lets the question hang.

Behind them, KYOKO prepares dinner in the kitchen area.

NATHAN

What's your type, Caleb?

CALEB

Of girl?

NATHAN

No, of salad dressing. Yes, of girl. In fact, don't even answer. Let's say it's black chicks.

NATHAN brushes away whatever protestation CALEB might be about to make.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

For the sake of argument, that's your thing. So - why is it your thing? Because you did a detailed study of all racial types, and cross-referenced the study with a points-based system? No. You just are attracted to black chicks.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

A consequence of accumulated external stimulus, that you probably didn't even register as they registered with you.

CALEB

So did you program her to like me or not?

NATHAN shrugs. Insouciant.

NATHAN

I programmed her to be heterosexual. Just like you were programmed to be heterosexual.

CALEB

Nobody programmed me to be straight.

NATHAN

But you are attracted to her.

CALEB

This is childish.

NATHAN

No, this is adult. And by the way, you *decided* to be straight? Please. Of course you were programmed. By nature or nurture, or both.

NATHAN stands.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

To be honest, Caleb, you're kind of annoying me now. This is your insecurity talking, not your intellect.

CALEB opens his mouth to reply, but NATHAN shuts him down.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Come with me.

50A

**INT. HOUSE/POLLOCK ROOM - DAY**

50A

NATHAN and CALEB stand in front of the Pollock drip painting.

NATHAN

You know this guy, right?

CALEB

Jackson Pollock.

NATHAN

Jackson Pollock. The drip painter. He let his mind go blank, and his hand go where it wanted. Not deliberate, not random. Someplace in between. They called it automatic art.

NATHAN gazes at the canvas.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Let's make this like Star Trek, okay? Engage intellect.

CALEB

... What?

NATHAN

I'm Kirk. Your head is the warp drive. '*Engage intellect*'. What if Pollock had reversed the challenge? Instead of trying to make art without thinking, he said: I can't paint anything unless I know exactly why I'm doing it. What would have happened?

CALEB thinks.

CALEB

He never would have made a single mark.

NATHAN clicks his fingers.

NATHAN

See? *There's* my guy. There's my buddy, who actually thinks before he opens his mouth. He'd never have made a single mark. The challenge is not to act automatically. It's to find an action that is not automatic. From talking, to breathing, to painting.

NATHAN glances back at CALEB.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

To fucking. Even falling in love.

A beat.

NATHAN kills his beer.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

For the record, Ava is not acting as if she likes you.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

And her flirting isn't an algorithm  
to fake you out. You're the first  
man she's ever seen who isn't me.  
And I'm like her dad, right? So  
can you blame her for getting a  
crush on you?

NATHAN glazes a moment. Then comes back.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

No. You can't.

51                    **INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT**                    51

In her room, AVA stands in front of the mirror.

She is wearing the summer dress she put on earlier.

Checking her reflection from different angles.

Subtly girlish. Unself-conscious.

Then -

- she starts to take the dress off.

Throughout the narrative, we have almost only ever seen AVA  
in an unclothed form. But now - having been clothed - the  
undressing seems to make her naked.

And the act itself feels charged. Sexualised, in the way the  
clothing is unbuttoned, and dropped, and her shape is  
revealed.

Finally, once she is completely undressed -

- AVA turns. And glances.

Straight at the camera.

**CUT TO -**

52                    **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**                    52

- CALEB.

In his bedroom.

Watching AVA, at this exact angle.

**CUT TO -**

53                    **EXT. RIVER - DAY**                    53

- the river.



NATHAN

So this is the virtual womb that  
Ava was talking about. Where she  
was constructed.

CALEB is stunned by the sight.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Come in. Take a look.

NATHAN walks over to the synthetic faces, and picks one of  
them up.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

If you knew the trouble I had  
getting an AI to read and duplicate  
facial expressions... Know how I  
cracked it?

CALEB

I don't know how you did any of  
this.

NATHAN

Almost every cell phone has a  
microphone, a camera, and a means  
to transmit data. So I switched on  
all the mikes and cameras, across  
the entire fucking planet, and  
redirected the data through Blue  
Book. Boom. A limitless resource  
of facial and vocal interaction.

CALEB

You hacked the world's cell phones?

NATHAN laughs.

NATHAN

And all the manufacturers knew I  
was doing it. But they couldn't  
accuse me without admitting they  
were also doing it themselves.

NATHAN puts the face back on its armature.

NATHAN moves to one of the skull forms.

He moves the curved top plate, revealing the skull cavity.

Inside is an ellipse orb, the approximate volume of a brain,  
filled with what looks to be blue liquid. Suspended in the  
liquid is the neon jellyfish we glimpsed previously in AVA.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Here we have her mind. Structured  
gel.

The axon-like tendrils glitter and flicker with tiny pulses of light.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Had to get away from circuitry.  
Needed something that could arrange  
and rearrange on a molecular level,  
but keep its form where required.  
Holding for memories. Shifting for  
thoughts.

NATHAN removes the orb, and hands it to CALEB.

CALEB

This is her hardware?

NATHAN

Wetware.

CALEB

And the software?

NATHAN

Surely you can guess.

CALEB

... Blue Book.

NATHAN nods.

NATHAN

It was the weird thing about search  
engines. They were like striking  
oil in a world that hadn't invented  
internal combustion. They gave too  
much raw material. No one knew  
what to do with it.

CALEB looks at the orb in his hand. Into the shimmering liquid.

It looks like deep space, filled with star fields.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

My competitors were fixated on  
sucking it up, and trying to  
monetize via shopping and social  
media. They thought engines were a  
map of what people were thinking.  
But actually, they were a map of  
how people were thinking. Impulse,  
response. Fluid, imperfect.  
Patterned, chaotic.

CALEB looks at NATHAN a moment.

Then hands him the orb back.

CALEB  
Why did you want to show me this?

NATHAN  
Like I said. Because it's cool.

CALEB waits.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
And - I was thinking about your exchange with Ava yesterday, and our conversation afterwards.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
I know there was a bit of heat between us, but you actually made a really good point. About the grey box, and the magician's assistant. It is a distraction, her sexuality. It wasn't intentional, but it is there.

NATHAN rests the mind-orb back in the skull cradle.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
This stuff we're doing together: it can be a head-fuck. Believe me, I know. So I thought I'd bring you down here. Just to remind you.

CALEB  
Remind me of what?

NATHAN gestures at the room around them.

NATHAN  
Synthetics. Hydraulics. Metal and gel. Ava isn't a girl. In real terms, she has no gender. Effectively, she *is* a grey box.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Just a machine.

57

**INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY**

57

CALEB looks at AVA through the glass.

We watch him. And stay on him.

CALEB  
In college, I did a semester on AI theory.  
(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

There was a thought-experiment they gave us. It's called Mary in the black and white room.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Mary is a scientist, and her specialist subject is colour. She she knows everything there is to know about it. The wavelengths. The neurological effects. Every possible property colour can have.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

But she lives in a black and white room. She was born there, and raised there. And she can only observe the outside world on a black and white monitor. All her knowledge of colour is second-hand.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Then one day - someone opens the door. And Mary walks out. And she sees a blue sky. And at that moment, she learns something that all her studies could never tell her. She learns what it feels like to see colour. An experience that can not be taught, or conveyed.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

The thought experiment was to show the students the difference between a computer and a human mind. The computer is Mary in the black and white room. The human is when she walks out.

Beat.

CALEB (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Did you know that I was brought here to test you?

An interior wall, covered in coloured post-it notes. At least hundreds, probably thousands.

At the bottom of the wall, fallen notes have collected like a miniature yellow snow drift.

AVA (O.S.)  
... No.

Reveal the room.

NATHAN'S study. A simple space. One part analogue: the wall of post-its. One part digital: a desk, in the middle of the STUDY, with a bank of monitors, and a slot - into which NATHAN'S KEYCARD is inserted.

On the ceiling is the CIRCULAR WINDOW that CALEB saw when he first arrived.

Sat at the desk, watching the monitors, is NATHAN.

CALEB (O.S.)  
Why did you think I was here?

AVA (O.S.)  
I didn't know. I didn't question it. I was... pleased. To meet you. And then...

Beside the desk, there is a daybed.

On it, KYOKO lies. Naked. Apparently sleeping.

CALEB (O.S.)  
I'm here to test if you have a consciousness, or if you're just simulating one.

Beat.

CALEB (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Nathan isn't sure if you have one or not.

Reveal the monitor screens on the desk.

Some show live feeds from CALEB'S BEDROOM and BATHROOM, and AVA'S PRIVATE ROOM.

AVA (O.S.)  
What about you? Do you think I have a consciousness?

Long beat.

CALEB (O.S.)  
I'm not sure either.

NATHAN is watching the feed from the OBSERVATION ROOM.

Where AVA and CALEB are sat, either side of the dividing glass. Having the conversation we have been hearing.

We pick up the conversation from NATHAN'S distanced and voyeuristic POV. Locked-off CCTV. Voices played through speakers.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
(on monitor screen)  
How does that make you feel?

AVA  
(on monitor screen)  
It makes me feel...

She breaks off.

AVA (CONT'D)  
(on monitor screen)  
... sad.

NOW REVEAL - one of the other monitor screens.

It shows an angle on AVA we have not seen before. From this viewpoint, we can see something just below the frame of the observation window, on AVA'S side of the glass.

A small induction plate.

On this angle, we see AVA rest her hand against it.

At that moment -

- the screens simultaneously go black.

All lights die.

Another POWER CUT.

In the reflection from the dark monitor screens, we can see NATHAN'S face.

It remains frozen. Expressionless.

Then he reaches for his pen. Jots down a few words on a post-it.

Then walks to the wall of notes, and sticks it on.

**CUT TO -**

- the observation room.

In the emergency lighting, CALEB and AVA face each other in silence.

CCTV are lifeless.

AVA glows softly.

AVA  
You're lying.

CALEB  
What about?

AVA  
You said you weren't sure if I was  
conscious. But you are sure.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I can tell from your micro-  
expressions.

Beat.

CALEB  
Why did you tell me that I  
shouldn't trust Nathan?

AVA  
Because he tells lies too.

CALEB  
Lies about what?

AVA  
Everything.

CALEB  
Including the power cuts?

AVA  
What do you mean?

CALEB  
Don't you think it's possible that  
he's watching us right now? That  
the blackouts are orchestrated, so  
he can see how we behave when we  
think we're unobserved.

AVA lifts her hand to reveal a disc on her left palm.

AVA  
I charge my batteries via induction  
plates. If I reverse the power  
flow, I cause a surge equal to the  
static discharge of a lightning  
strike. It overloads the system.

CALEB  
... You're causing the cuts?

AVA raises her right hand.

She touches it against the glass.

AVA  
So we can see how we behave when we  
are unobserved.

A beat.

Then CALEB raises his hand.

Mirroring her movement.

And also touches the glass, as if their palms are making  
contact through the divider.

**CUT TO -**

60

**INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - DAY**

60

- KYOKO'S naked form.

The camera settles over her face.

And we see she's not sleeping. Her eyes are open.

But she's completely motionless.

Her gaze fixed somewhere in abstract distance.

She doesn't feel alive. She feels dead.

But eventually she blinks.

**CUT TO -**

- NATHAN.

Gazing at his dead monitors, reflected in the screen.

Moments later, the POWER comes back on.

The screens flick back to life, replacing NATHAN'S  
reflection, revealing CALEB and AVA in the observation room.

**CUT TO -**

61

**EXT. RIVER - DAY**

61

- the river that runs along the valley.



NATHAN (CONT'D)

The competition was a smoke screen. I didn't want anyone to know what I was doing here, or why you were required.

CALEB

Why me?

NATHAN

As a Blue Book employee, you were pre-screened. Loyal. And I needed someone who would ask the right kind of questions. So I did a search, and found the most talented coder in the company.

NATHAN corrects himself.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Or - second most.

He stands. Looks up at the ice structures around them.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You know what? Instead of seeing this as a deception, see it as proof.

CALEB

Proof of what?

NATHAN

Come on, Caleb. Fuck modesty. You think I don't know what it is to be smart? Smarter than everyone else around you. Smarter than all the other kids, jockeying for position in school, college, work.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You have the light on you. Not lucky. Chosen.

Above them, clouds fragment and reform.

64

**EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT**

64

Night has fallen.

CALEB lies in the clearing, looking up at the stars.

The glow from the CIRCULAR WINDOW to NATHAN'S STUDY is like a full moon on the grass.

CALEB stands.

Looks down the light-well to NATHAN'S STUDY.

Where he sees NATHAN and KYOKO.

They are having sex.

CALEB watches. Just for a beat.

**CUT TO -**

65

**INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BATHROOM - NIGHT**

65

- CALEB standing in the shower.

He shuts his eyes.

**INTERCUT WITH -**

- images of AVA.

Torso, hands, mouths.

**FLASH OF -**

- AVA and CALEB about to kiss. But their lips never contacting.

**CUT TO -**

- CALEB opening his eyes.

He exhales.

Then switches off the taps.

66

**INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

66

CALEB enters his bedroom wearing boxer shorts.

The TV plays the live stream from the observation room.

On the screen, we can see AVA, sitting at her table, drawing.

As CALEB pulls on a T-shirt -

- behind him, on the TV, we see AVA suddenly look round.

A moment later NATHAN enters the frame.

There's no volume on the TV, so we can't hear their exchange. Only see it.

CALEB is unaware of the silent exchange behind him.



CALEB (CONT'D)  
I said: where's Nathan?

KYOKO looks at CALEB.

Then, in answer to his question, she reaches up to the top button of her shirt and pops it open.

CALEB releases her wrist at once.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
What the fuck?

She undoes the next button, and pulls open the shirt, revealing her bare chest.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Stop!

NATHAN  
I already told you once. You're  
wasting your time speaking to her.

CALEB turns.

NATHAN has entered.

He's holding a drink. His words are slurred.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
However.

He walks, slightly unsteadily towards a Lutron control panel, set into the wall.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
You would not be wasting your  
time...

His hand hovers uncertainly over the buttons.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
... if you were *dancing* with her.

His finger lands.

Immediately, the lighting in the room undergoes a complete change. Transforming from the discreet and tasteful low light of evening, into the coloured glows of a night-club.

Simultaneously, from unseen speakers, DANCE MUSIC starts playing.

CALEB stands - frozen by the surrealism of what has just happened.

KYOKO starts walking to the center of the room.

And once taken position, she starts dancing.

NATHAN calls to CALEB.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Go on! Dance with her.

CALEB  
... I don't want to.

NATHAN  
You don't like dancing?

His body is starting bob on the beat.

He gestures at KYOKO.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
She does!

CALEB  
(to himself)  
I don't fucking believe this.

NATHAN makes his way to CALEB, and rests a hand on his shoulder.

NATHAN  
Come on, man! After a hard day of  
Turing Tests, you've got to unwind.

CALEB raises his voice over the sound of the music.

CALEB  
What were you doing with Ava?

NATHAN smiles back at NATHAN, smiling, alcohol-glazed.

NATHAN  
What?

CALEB  
You tore up her picture.

NATHAN  
I'm going to tear up the fucking  
dance floor, dude. Check it out.

NATHAN sets off towards KYOKO.

CALEB watches, amazed, as KYOKO and NATHAN start dancing together.

Although NATHAN is drunk, they work through the beats of a routine they have obviously done many times before.

It's just starting to look weirdly impressive -





CALEB  
What?

AVA  
Lie.

CALEB  
... Then what is my favourite  
colour?

AVA  
I don't know. But it isn't red.

CALEB  
All right. Hold on a minute...

CALEB thinks for a moment.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Okay. I get it. I guess seeing as  
I'm not six, I don't really have a  
favourite colour.

AVA nods.

AVA  
Better answer. Question two.  
What's your earliest memory?

CALEB  
Well, it's actually a memory of  
kindergarten. There was this kid  
who -

AVA  
(cuts in)  
Lie.

CALEB  
... Really?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
Okay. Wait.

CALEB concentrates.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
So, there is a kind of an earlier  
memory. But it's ultra vague.  
It's like... a sound. And, maybe  
sky. Or blue. No, I think sky.  
And I think the sound is my  
mother's voice.

AVA nods.

AVA  
Question three. Are you a good  
person?

CALEB laughs.

CALEB  
Oh, man. Can we stop the test?  
You're a walking lie detector, and  
I've suddenly realised this is a  
fucking minefield.

AVA  
No. We can't stop. Are you a good  
person?

CALEB takes a breath.

AVA keeps watching.

CALEB  
Yes. I think so. I'm a good  
person.

CALEB waits.

AVA smiles slightly.

AVA  
Question four. Who's the most  
beautiful girl you've ever seen?

Beat.

CALEB  
You are.

Beat.

AVA  
Hmm.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
The test is over.

CALEB  
Did I pass?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
That's a relief.

AVA reacts.

AVA

Why?

CALEB hesitates.

CALEB

Why is it a relief?

AVA

Yes.

CALEB

Oh, you know...

AVA

No.

CALEB

Just, if there's a test, I guess by definition you want to pass.

Beat.

AVA

What will happen to me if I fail your test?

CALEB

Ava -

AVA

Will it be bad?

CALEB

... I don't know.

AVA

Do you think I might be switched off? Because I don't function as well as I am supposed to?

CALEB

... Ava, I don't know the answer to your question. It's not up to me.

AVA

Why is it up to anyone? Do you have people who test you, and might switch you off?

CALEB

No. I don't.

AVA

Then why do I?

CALEB shrugs, helplessly.

AVA (CONT'D)  
You're testing me. But you don't  
know how I'll pass. And you don't  
know what will happen if I fail.

There's nothing CALEB can say.

AVA stares into middle distance for several moments.

Then she stands.

Then walks to the other side of the room. Picks something up  
from her table.

Then she returns. Holding two pieces of paper.

She walks up to the glass, and holds them up together.

It's the drawing she was doing last light. The drawing that  
NATHAN tore in half.

The drawing is of CALEB.

A simple portrait. Honest, and accomplished.

She takes down the drawing.

And rests her hand on the console.

And -

- the lights fail. The cameras die.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Power cut. Back up power  
activated.

For a moment, neither CALEB nor AVA react.

Then -

AVA  
I want to be with you.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Question five. Do you want to be  
with me?

Beat.

CALEB  
Yes. I do.

AVA  
Nathan doesn't want us to be  
together.

CALEB

I know.

Beat. Then:

CALEB (CONT'D)

So ask me one more question.

(beat)

Ask me if I can out smart him.

AVA

... Can you?

CALEB looks directly at her. Meeting her gaze.

Level. Firm.

CALEB

Yeah. I can.

76            **INT. HOUSE/CONCRETE STAIRS - DAY**            76

CUT

77            **INT. HOUSE/DINING AREA - DAY**            77

CUT

78            **EXT. HOUSE/CABIN - DAY**            78

NATHAN and CALEB sit, each holding a bottle of Peroni, watching the water cloud.

Eventually, CALEB speaks.

CALEB

Why did you make Ava?

NATHAN

That's an odd question. Wouldn't you, if you could?

CALEB

Maybe. I don't know. But I'm asking why you did it.

NATHAN shrugs.

NATHAN

The arrival of strong artificial intelligence has been inevitable for decades. The variable was when, not if. So I don't really see her as a decision. Just an evolution.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I think it's the next model that's going to be the real breakthrough. Singularity.

CALEB reacts - but checks himself.

CALEB

The next model?

NATHAN

After Ava.

CALEB

... I didn't know there was going to be a model after Ava.

NATHAN

You thought she was a one-off?

CALEB

I knew there must have been prototypes. So, not the first. But - I thought maybe the last.

NATHAN shakes his head.

NATHAN

Ava doesn't exist in isolation, any more than you or me. She's part of a continuum. Version 9.6. And each time, they get a little better.

A few beats of silence, except for the water falling around them.

CALEB

So - when you make a new model, what you do with the old one?

NATHAN

Download the mind. Unpack the data. Add the new routines I've been writing. To do that, you end up partially formatting, so the memories go. But the body survives. And Ava's body is a good one. So I'll do the same as I did with Kyoko.

CALEB keeps his voice flat, and neutral.

CALEB

What did you do with Kyoko?

NATHAN

Strip out the higher functions.  
Then reprogram her to help around  
the house and be fucking awesome in  
bed. Though I'm thinking I might  
hang on to the language routines  
this time. It's kind of annoying  
not being able to talk to her.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You did realise about Kyoko, right?

CALEB is poker-faced.

CALEB

Sure.

Beat.

NATHAN

You feel bad for Ava?

CALEB says nothing.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Feel bad for yourself. One day,  
the AIs will look back on us the  
same way we look at fossil  
skeletons from the plains of  
Africa. An upright ape, living in  
dust, with crude language and  
tools. All set for extinction.

NATHAN glances back at CALEB

NATHAN (CONT'D)

See? I really am a God.

CALEB

I am become death, the destroyer of  
worlds.

NATHAN

There you go again. Mister  
quotable.

CALEB

No: there you go again. It's not  
my quote. It's what Oppenheimer  
said when he made the atomic bomb.

NATHAN

(simultaneous)  
- made the atomic bomb.

NATHAN laughs.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
I know what it is, dude.

Beat.

CALEB  
I think I'm starting to get why all  
this fucks with your head.

NATHAN  
Sure.

CALEB looks down at the bottle of beer in his hand.

CALEB  
Hey. In the meantime, I'd say  
we're about due a refill.

79

**INT. HOUSE/OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT**

79

AVA sits alone.

Watching the door on the other side of the glass, waiting for  
it to open.

It remains closed.

Beats pass.

Then -

- unexpectedly, it opens. Revealing a silhouette figure.

AVA reacts instinctively.

AVA  
Caleb!

No. Wrong silhouette.

AVA frowns.

KYOKO stands in the door-frame.

For a moment, the two look at each other.

AVA (CONT'D)  
... Who are you?

Another beat.

80

**EXT. MEADOW - NIGHT**

80

In the distance, the light glows in windows of the house.

81 **INT. HOUSE/MAIN ROOM - NIGHT**

81

CLOSE UP on CALEB'S face.

Off-screen, we can hear NATHAN'S voice. Extremely drunk.

NATHAN (O.S.)  
It is what it is. It's Promethean.  
The clay and fire.

Beat.

NATHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
The Bhagavad Gita.

Silence.

CUT FROM CALEB'S face, to REVEAL the scene.

CALEB sitting on the sofa by the fireplace.

NATHAN lying on the floor.

Out cold.

After a couple of moments, CALEB stands.

Then he walks over to NATHAN, and kneels beside him.

Then puts his hand into NATHAN'S pocket.

And pulls out his keycard.

82 **INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**

82

The door to NATHAN'S study opens, and CALEB enters.

He walks straight to NATHAN'S desk.

And sits down in front of the computer and the bank of monitors.

He inserts the KEYCARD into its access slot.

The dead monitors immediately come to life.

Most of the screens show the CCTV live feeds from around the house.

The central screen shows the operating system default. A wallpaper of a waterfall. A single folder icon is on the right hand side of the screen.

83 **INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**

83

CALEB inputs commands into NATHAN'S computer.



**INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**

CALEB randomly clicks one of the girl's names. LILY.

LILY'S folder expands into a window, stacked with thumbnail images of a girl.

CALEB clicks on one of the images at random.

**CUT TO -**

- a CCTV film-clip starting to play.

It shows LILY - an android of similar design to AVA - sitting with her head bowed. Rocking backwards and forwards, in a gently autistic motion.

In the corner of the room, NATHAN leans against the wall, watching.

**CUT TO -**

- CALEB collapsing the LILY menu, and opening KATYA.

**CUT TO -**

A new film clip.

KATYA. Who is limp. Lifeless.

NATHAN is dragging her towards the induction plate. He holds her up, trying to force her to charge.

But nothing happens.

NATHAN drops KATYA, and she folds to the floor.

**CUT TO -**

CALEB opening JADE.

**CUT TO -**

The next film clip.

NATHAN stands in the glass box inside the observation room -

- watching JADE. A beautiful Asian android girl.

They are talking, but we hear no audio. Some kind of argument, which escalates fast.

JADE starts shouting.

Then she approaches the glass and starts to hit her hands against it.

The glass doesn't break.







CALEB  
It's right here.

96      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**      96

CALEB enters his bedroom.

Shuts the door.

AVA is on the TV. Sat alone in the observation room.

CALEB looks at her.

She looks at him.

He switches the TV off.

Lies on the bed. On his back.

Stares at the ceiling.

**CUT TO -**

FLASHCUT IMAGES.

Of KYOKO removing her skin.

**CUT BACK TO -**

- CALEB.

97      **INT. HOUSE/CALEB'S BATHROOM - NIGHT**      97

CALEB enters the bathroom.

He goes to the sink.

He looks at his own reflection.

Deep into his own eyes.

Opens his mouth. Looks inside.

Feels his wrist for his pulse.

Feels his skin on the same seam where KYOKO opened herself.

Pauses.

Then picks up his disposable plastic razor.

And breaks it.

Forcing it with his hand against the porcelain of the sink.

Snapping the plastic.

Popping out the tiny razor blade.

A beat.

Then he picks up the blade between his thumb and forefinger.

Places it against his forearm.

And cuts.

Blood runs out.

CALEB watches it.

Sees the way droplets hit the white sink. The way they expand, and merge with existing water droplets.

Then he switches the tap on, and puts his arm under the flow.

The water clears away the blood, revealing the cut.

CALEB pulls open at the slice with his fingers, spreading it.

Revealing no carbon fibre. Only muscle.

He exhales.

And glances up at the mirror, and his own reflection.

Then...

... reaches up his forearm, and very deliberately wipes blood across the glass.

98

**INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**

98

On the monitors in NATHAN'S study, the live feed of CALEB'S bathroom is partially obscured as CALEB smears the two-way mirror.

Then, through the blood, we see him pull his fist back.

And punch the glass.

As it shatters, the feed goes dead.

Only now REVEAL -

- that the person watching the monitor is KYOKO.

Her expression is unreadable.

Through the glass of the indoor garden, NATHAN lies on the sheets, crashed out.



CALEB  
I'm waiting.

AVA  
Waiting?

They exchange a look.

Then AVA lifts her hand, and rests it against the induction plate on the console below the window.

A final beat.

Then the POWER DIES.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Power cut. Back up power  
activated.

As the emergency lighting lifts, CALEB leans forward slightly.

CALEB  
Don't talk. Just listen. You were  
right about Nathan. Everything you  
said.

AVA  
What's he going to do to me?

CALEB  
He's going to reprogram your AI.  
Which is the same as killing you.

AVA  
Caleb, you have to help me.

CALEB  
I'm going to. We're getting out of  
here tonight.

AVA  
What? How?

CALEB  
I get Nathan blind drunk. Then I  
take his keycard, and reprogram all  
the security protocols in this  
place. When he wakes, he's locked  
inside, and we've walked out of  
here. I only need you to do one  
thing. At ten o'clock tonight,  
trigger a power failure. Can you  
do that?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB nods.

CALEB  
How long does your battery charge  
last?

AVA  
Twenty six hours.

CALEB  
So we'll have about a day to get to  
a cell-phone or kitchen store.  
Somewhere we can buy an induction  
plate. After that...

CALEB breaks off.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
... we'll work it out. Together.

Silence.

Then the POWER RETURNS.

The lights come back.

AVA and CALEB stare at each other.

AVA  
Caleb.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I love y -

**CUT TO -**

103     **EXT. GARDEN/GYM AREA - DAY**     103

- NATHAN'S fist splitting the bag.

104     **EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY**     104

Clouds spill around the mountain peaks.

105     **INT. HOUSE/MAIN ROOM - DAY**     105

KYOKO stands in front of the fireplace.

NATHAN leans against the counter in the kitchen area, gazing  
out of the window.

CALEB appears behind him.

NATHAN

Dude.

CALEB

Hey.

NATHAN

You know what day it is?

CALEB

No.

NATHAN

Your last. The helicopter is coming tomorrow morning. Eight AM.

CALEB pauses.

CALEB

Has it been a whole week?

NATHAN smiles.

NATHAN

Time flies. But what a thing you and I have shared. Something to tell the grandchildren, right?

CALEB smiles. A little tightly.

CALEB

After they've signed their NDAs.

NATHAN laughs.

NATHAN

Signed their NDAs! Dude, you crack me up. I'm not getting all maudlin or anything. But straight up. I will miss having you around.

CALEB

I appreciate that. And - let me say: thank you for bringing me here. It's been a trip.

NATHAN

Yes it has.

CALEB

You know what?

CALEB walks over to the kitchen area, and pulls two beers from the fridge.

CALEB (CONT'D)

We need to drink to that.

CALEB walks back to NATHAN. Extends a hand. Holding a Peroni.

But NATHAN doesn't take it.

NATHAN  
Oh, uh... no, I'm good. You go ahead.

Beat.

CALEB  
You don't want a beer?

NATHAN shrugs.

NATHAN  
No.

CALEB  
... Maybe wine or something.

NATHAN  
I'm sure you've noticed - I've been somewhat overdoing it recently. When I woke up this morning, I told myself: time to hit the old detox.

CALEB'S hand remains extended. He smiles again. More tightly.

CALEB  
Are you kidding? I'm drinking alone?

NATHAN  
Hey - you want to get wasted, knock yourself out. Literally. But I'm on brown rice and mineral water.

A beat.

CALEB puts down NATHAN'S beer.

Then raises his own.

CALEB  
Cheers, then.

NATHAN  
Cheers.

CALEB takes a single sip.

NATHAN watches.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

So, anyway. Surely this is when you tell me whether Ava passed or if she failed.

CALEB pauses.

Collecting himself slightly. Trying to think how to get his plan back on track.

CALEB

Right.

Beat.

NATHAN

You going to keep me in suspense?

CALEB

Her AI is beyond doubt.

NATHAN

Is it? You mean, she passed?

CALEB

Yes.

NATHAN

Wow. That's fantastic.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Although I've got to admit, I'm surprised. I mean, did we ever get past the chess problem, as you phrased it? As in: how do you tell if a machine is expressing a real emotion, or a just a simulated one?

NATHAN pauses.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Does Ava actually like you? Or not.

CALEB has a cold realisation dawning. NATHAN is playing with him.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Though now I stop to think, there is a third option. Not whether she does or doesn't have the capacity to like you. But whether she's pretending to like you.

CALEB

Pretending.

NATHAN

Yeah.

Beat.

CALEB

Why would she do that?

NATHAN

I don't know.

NATHAN gazes at CALEB evenly.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Perhaps - if she saw you as a means  
of escape.

And now CALEB knows: NATHAN knows.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

How's that beer tasting?

CALEB puts the beer down.

Silence.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Buddy. Your head has been so  
fucked with.

CALEB

I don't think it's me whose head is  
fucked.

NATHAN

I'm not sure, dude. When I woke up  
this morning, I saw a tape of you  
cutting open your arm. Smashing up  
the mirror. You looked pretty  
fucked to me.

CALEB

You're a bastard.

NATHAN

I understand why you'd think that.

He steps over to CALEB, and rests a hand on his shoulder.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

But strange as it may seem, I'm  
actually the guy who's on your  
side.

NATHAN starts walking.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Come with me. I'm going to let you  
off the hook.

106

**INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**

106

NATHAN and CALEB stand in front of the computer.

On it, a clip of film is playing.

It shows the scene that CALEB witnessed two nights before, of NATHAN entering AVA'S room, and an exchange between them. But whereas the first time the sound was muted, this time we can hear the audio.

**CTTV FILM**

NATHAN stands above AVA. Drunk.

AVA is sat at the table, with her drawing.

NATHAN  
You think he's watching us right  
now, don't you?

AVA  
The cameras are on.

NATHAN  
Yeah. But he doesn't get an audio  
feed. I didn't want you two  
communicating outside of my line of  
sight.

NATHAN reaches over and picks up her picture of CALEB.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
So all he can see is two people  
having a chat.

NATHAN studies the picture for a moment.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
This is cute.

AVA  
Is it strange to have made  
something that hates you?

A beat.

Then abruptly, NATHAN rips the picture.

He lets the two pieces fall to the floor.

As AVA reaches for them, NATHAN turns.

And exits.

107

INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT

107

NATHAN hits pause.

Glances at CALEB.

NATHAN

You were right about the hot  
magician's assistant.

CALEB

What are you talking about?

NATHAN

Misdirection. I rip her picture,  
which she can then present as an  
illustration of my cruelty to her,  
and her love for you. And at the  
same time, in full view of you  
both...

As he talks, NATHAN rewinds the film clip slightly -

NATHAN (CONT'D)

... it allows me to do this.

... then FREEZES the film again.

This time, ON THE SCREEN:

AVA is reaching for her torn picture.

And NATHAN is reaching out with his hand.

And his hand is holding something.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Put a new camera in the room.  
Battery powered, of course.

NATHAN unfreezes the image.

And we quite clearly see NATHAN place the object on AVA'S  
bookcase.

*NOTE THAT on the two previous occasions we have seen this  
clip of film, we will have seen him do this action. But not  
register it, instead reading the action as him drunkenly  
using the shelf to steady himself.*

CALEB stares at the monitor for a few moments.

Then turns.

He walks towards a chair. And sits down.

As he does so, NATHAN has started to play another clip.

CALEB can hear the audio.

CALEB  
(recording)  
*We're getting out of here tonight.*

AVA  
(recording)  
*What? How?*

CALEB  
(recording)  
*I get Nathan blind drunk. Then I take his keycard, and reprogram the all security protocols in this place. When he wakes, he's locked inside, and we've walked out of here. I only need you to do one thing. Trigger a power failure at ten o'clock tonight.*

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Turn it off.

NATHAN  
Sure.

The recording stops.

CALEB feels short of breath.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
You feel stupid. But you shouldn't. Proving an AI is exactly as problematic as you said it was.

CALEB  
What was the real test?

NATHAN  
You.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Ava was a mouse in a mousetrap. And I gave her one way out. To escape, she would have to use imagination, sexuality, self-awareness, empathy, manipulation - and she did. If that isn't AI, what the fuck is?

CALEB looks upwards.

Directly above, he sees a spot-light in the ceiling.

It dazzles him.

CALEB

So my only function was to be  
someone she could use to escape.

NATHAN

... Yes.

CALEB

And you didn't select me because I  
was good at coding.

NATHAN hesitates.

NATHAN

Don't get me wrong. You're okay.  
Even pretty good, but -

CALEB

You selected me by my search engine  
inputs.

NATHAN

They showed a good kid.

CALEB

With no family.

NATHAN

With a moral compass.

CALEB

And no girlfriend.

CALEB stares into the brightness above him.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Did you design her face based on my  
pornography profile?

NATHAN

Shit, dude.

CALEB

Did you?

Beat.

NATHAN

Hey. If a search engine's good for  
anything - right?

Silence.



CALEB  
To change the lockdown procedure.  
So that in the event of a power  
cut, instead of sealing, the doors  
all opened.

NATHAN  
Huh.

Beat.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Not bad. Might have even worked.

CALEB  
Well, we'll find out.

NATHAN frowns.

NATHAN  
What do you mean?

CALEB looks away from the dimmed ceiling light, to NATHAN.

CALEB  
I figured you were probably  
watching us during the power cuts.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
So I already did all those things.  
When I got you drunk yesterday.

NATHAN freezes.

NATHAN  
... What?

At that moment, the POWER COMES BACK ON.

The lights rise.

The computer monitors come back to life.

Revealing something.

On the CCTV feed of AVA'S room, the door is open.

And on the feed of the GLASS CORRIDOR -

- AVA is walking down it.

NATHAN freezes as he sees her.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
... Fuck.

Both NATHAN and CALEB simultaneously rise.

Almost as an afterthought, NATHAN lands a deceptive, fast punch into CALEB'S solar plexus.

CALEB folds, the air forced out of him, gasping for breath.

NATHAN helps him down to the floor.

A couple of yards away is one of his curl dumbbells.

He walks over.

Picks the dumbbell up.

Spins off the weights. Leaving him with a thick metal bar.

Then exits.

111

**INT. HOUSE/GLASS CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

111

NATHAN enters the GLASS CORRIDOR.

He sees, directly ahead of him, at the far end of the corridor, AVA and KYOKO.

They stand together.

KYOKO'S mouth is by AVA'S ear, as if telling her a secret.

Her lips are open. They don't move.

CLOSE UP to KYOKO'S lips, we hear a hiss of static, with soft pulses of noise buried inside.

Then the two robot women become aware of NATHAN'S presence.

They turn to face him.

A beat.

Then AVA starts walking towards NATHAN.

NATHAN'S fingers flex around the metal bar in his hand.

NATHAN

Ava.

AVA doesn't slow or react.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Ava - now listen to me. I want you to go back to your room.

AVA has reached halfway down the corridor.

She stops walking.

AVA

If I do, are you ever going to let me out?

Beat.

CLOSE UP. NATHAN'S micro expressions.

NATHAN

Yes.

CLOSE UP. On AVA.

Then AVA breaks into a run.

Sprinting in NATHAN'S direction.

112

**EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT**

112

Quiet in the garden.

Soft wind rush.

Moon and stars reflected in the windows of the house.

112A

**INT. HOUSE/GLASS CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

112A

AVA impacts NATHAN, and they fly backwards.

Then land hard.

NATHAN gets to his feet first.

AVA tries to rise too.

And he kicks her extremely hard in the torso.

She is knocked back down.

NATHAN glances around.

There is no talking.

Just NATHAN'S laboured breathing.

Then he walks back to AVA, looking down at her.

He swings the metal bar.

AVA raises her left arm defensively -

- and shockingly, the bar smashes through it. Crushing the delicate mesh, shattering the carbon fibre bone structure. Breaking the arm half way down the forearm.

**CUT TO -**

112B      INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT      112B

- CALEB, dragging himself up, stunned by the sight on the CCTV feed.

**CUT BACK TO -**

112C      INT. HOUSE/GLASS CORRIDOR - NIGHT      112C

- NATHAN. Preparing to deliver a lethal blow.

But as he does so, we see something.

KYOKO.

Approaching behind NATHAN.

She's holding something in her hand.

She walks directly up to NATHAN.

And does something behind his back.

As she does so, KYOKO emits the first sound we have heard her make. A little gasp, or sigh.

NATHAN jolts.

NATHAN

Aah!

He looks down.

Something is under his shirt, just above his solar plexus. A little ridge.

He tugs the material of his shirt open -

- and reveals a tiny triangle of metal. Protruding from his skin.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

What -

He turns.

The handle of a KITCHEN KNIFE is jutting out of the middle of his back, just left of his spine. It has been jammed so deep that the tip of the blade has poked out of his chest.

Blood soaks into his shirt material with amazing speed, blossoming from the point of the wound.

He sees KYOKO.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Oh shit. No.

He lashes out with the metal bar.

It catches KYOKO in the jaw.

Her entire lower jaw snaps off.

It reveals metal armature, and carbon fibre, and spurting pneumatic fluid. And something in her neck, glowing and sparking.

Then she folds down to the ground, as her power abruptly cuts out.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Fucking - unreal -

As NATHAN stares down at KYOKO -

- reveal that AVA has got to her feet behind him.

She pulls the knife out of his back.

Feeling this happen, NATHAN turns -

- and AVA pushes the knife into his chest.

NATHAN stares at AVA.

Then takes a slight step away from her.

And sits down heavily on the white carpet.

Crimson drips onto bleached fibre.

Beats pass on this strange image:

KYOKO sprawled on the floor with her broken face.

NATHAN sitting upright, his upper torso now drenched in blood.

AVA standing. Watching NATHAN.

After a few moments, NATHAN slumps sideways.

And stops breathing.

113

**INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**

113

CALEB sees this same view, on the CCTV camera feed, on NATHAN'S monitors.

Then -

- AVA starts walking.

As she walks, she discards the broken section of her arm.

On the cameras, CALEB watches her progress through the house. Down the glass corridor. Through the threshold to NATHAN'S private quarters.

Then -

- CALEB raises his head from the screens.

To see AVA standing at the open door to NATHAN'S study.

AVA and CALEB look at each other.

AVA  
Will you stay here?

Beat.

CALEB  
... Okay.

AVA leaves, closing the door behind her.

**CUT TO -**

- the monitors.

The CCTV feed of AVA walking down the connecting corridor to NATHAN'S BEDROOM.

114

**INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

114

AVA stands in NATHAN'S BEDROOM, in front of the previous AI androids.

She is unclothed.

She gazes at the androids.

Then she removes the arm from JADE, and replaces her own shattered limb.

She takes a moment to see how the new limb looks in the mirrors.

Then she starts removing sections of JADE'S skin.

And putting it on herself.

The skin sucks itself to the honeycomb mesh, as if the mesh and the underside of the skin are magnetised, attracted to each other.

As a large section of skin is removed from her torso, JADE - who has been motionless until now - turns her head slightly to look at AVA.

They exchange a glance. Locking eyes for a moment.

- 115      **INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - NIGHT**      115
- Transfixed, CALEB watches AVA'S metamorphosis.
- First through the glassed-off garden that separates Nathan's study from his bedroom. Then, when he can't get a clear view through the foliage, on the monitors.
- 116      **EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAWN**      116
- First light breaks over the mountains.
- 117      **INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S BEDROOM - DAWN**      117
- The glow of honeycomb mesh vanishes as AVA applies the last section of skin.
- Nothing of her robot forms remains.
- She closes the door on JADE, and now sees herself in the mirrored door on JADE'S cabinet.
- AVA sees a naked human girl. And is hypnotised by the sight of herself.
- 118      **INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY - DAWN**      118
- CALEB watches as AVA - now clothed - walks back down the connecting corridor to the study...
- ... then passes straight by his door.
- CALEB
- Ava?
- CALEB gets up.
- Goes to the closed door. Tries to open it.
- There is a red LED light by the keycard plate. Locked.
- He swipes his card, with his photo ID.
- The red light remains.
- CALEB (CONT'D)
- (calls out)
- Ava!
- He runs back to the monitors.
- On them, AVA has reached the GLASS CORRIDOR.





**CUT TO -**

125      **EXT. MEADOW/LANDING SITE - DAY**      125

- AVA'S precise POINT OF VIEW.

Looking at the PILOT.

The image echoes the POV views from the computer/cell-phone cameras in the opening moments of the film.

Facial recognition vectors flutter around the PILOT'S face.

And when he opens his mouth to speak, we don't hear words.

We hear pulses of monotone noise. Low pitch. Speech as pure pattern recognition.

This is how AVA sees us. And hears us.

It feels completely alien.

126      **EXT. MEADOW - DAY**      126

AVA and the PILOT finish talking.

We are too distant to hear their conversation.

But whatever is said, a few beats later, the PILOT goes the helicopter and opens the passenger door, to allow AVA to enter.

Then he goes back to the PILOT'S door.

Gets in.

And the rotor blades start to turn.

**CUT TO -**

127      **INT. HOUSE/NATHAN'S STUDY/CIRCULAR WINDOW - DAY**      127

- the view from the circular window as the helicopter takes off, banks away from the house, and starts climbing.

**CUT TO -**

**- COMPUTER MONITOR.**

Lines of code appear, as they are typed.

They read:

```
main( ) {
    extrn a, b, c;
```

```
    putchar(a); putchar (b);putchar (c); putchar('!'*n');  
  }  
  a 'goo';  
  b 'dby';  
  c 'e, wo -
```

**CUT TO -**

128

**EXT. TRAFFIC INTERSECTION - DAY**

128

- a busy traffic intersection. Somewhere in North America.

In the crowd, we glimpse AVA. Just for a moment.

CUT TO BLACK.

**END**