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**CLICK**

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by Jacqueline Goldfinger

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## **SYNOPSIS:**

A techno-thriller that begins when a young woman is raped at a fraternity and ends in a future where corporations promise a new body with the swipe of a screen, Click follows a hacktivist named Fresh who turns industrial espionage into high art. As this virtual Banksy takes over the global imagination, the man who stole her life develops a technology that sends the two of them on a collision course at the heart of the corporate empire, where innovation comes at any cost. A cyberpunk drama for the #MeToo era, a story of trauma, transformation and reclaiming who you are. (5-12 Characters, Diverse Casting, Flexible Set) THIS PLAY IS MEANT TO BE INDIVIDUALIZED FOR EACH COMMUNITY. So changes in references, language, etc are permissible.

## **TIME/PLACE**

Today – 10 years in the future / Online and Off

## **CHARACTERS**

(5+ actors)

Actor 1: Female, 30s-50s, Cis lesbian, Open race casting, plays Anna/HR Rep/Greek Chorus

Actor 2: Male, 20s-40s, Cis straight, White, plays Chaz/Greek Chorus

Actor 3: Female, 20s-30s, Cis bi, Open race casting, plays Fresh/Greek Chorus

Actor 4: Male, 20s-40s, Cis gay, Black or Latinx, pretends to be straight early on and then comes out later in life, plays Scottie/Cop 1/Greek Chorus

Actor 5: Female, 20s-30s, Transwoman attracted to men, Open race casting, plays Maria/Cop 2/Greek Chorus

## **SCOTTIE**

There are a few references in Scottie's dialogue that refer to his specific heritage. Please alter those references to fit your actor's heritage. Given my research into museum culture, the racism that Scottie faces is most prevalent with Black and Latinx curators but has also occurred to other POC.

## **GREEK CHORUS**

Please have fun with the Greek Chorus; all can speak a line, or a few, or only one.

## **SPACE**

Light and sound dictate the architecture of space. While places are indicated in stage directions and dialogue, the physical space can be treated like a Shakespearean play with little to no set.

**The Playwright would like to offer special thanks to:** JT Rogers, Marissa Wolf, Katherine M Carter, Melisa Bensussen, Carrie Chapter, Cristina Alicea, Sara Marnich, Viv Chace, Nell Bang-Jensen, Jeremy Gable, MJ Kaufman, Maybe Burke, Finn Lefevre, Ashley Rogers, Jessica Bashline, David LaMacchia, Allison Heishman, WOAR (Women Organized Against Rape), and Rebecca Wright.

I wanted  
the past to go away, I wanted  
to leave it, like another country; I wanted  
my life to close, and open  
like a hinge, like a wing, like the part of the song  
where it falls  
down over the rocks: an explosion, a discovery;  
I wanted  
to hurry into the work of my life; I wanted to know,  
whoever I was, I was

alive

-Mary Oliver, *Dream Work*

*Light and sound dictate the architecture of the space.*

#### GREEK CHORUS

Now.

Here.

Online.

In-person.

As it happens

She stands in a story.

Like Sophocles with WiFi.

On a college campus,

A tree lined park,

The train rushes by.

The hopefulness of new beginnings

At the start of freshman year.

*Fresh steps forward. She wears a shirt that says "Fresher."*

*She draws on her hand.*

*She speaks into an iPhone that sticks out of her shirt pocket.*

#### FRESH

I love the sound of the click.

I love that I was raised on the electronic symphonic.

Click click clickity click clickity clickity click.

The staccato melody at mother's breast,

Click click

Click click

Click click

Click click

Click click

At father's bored 2am feedings and porn fetish,

Clickclick

Clickclick Clickclick Clickclick Clickclick  
Because I'm keeping him from mother's breast.  
I love that we'll be the only generation with click envy,  
As swipes and soundless keypads swallow the voice of the next generation.  
They will be raised to  
Whisper whisk  
Whisper whisk  
Whisper whisk  
And I guess that the next generation after that will be raised in silence.

*Maria steps forward, also wears a "Fresher" shirt.*

MARIA  
(re: shirt)

Oh my god, me too, Boo Boo!

FRESH  
(re: shirt)

Me, too!

*Fresh takes Maria's hand, draws something on it.*

*They raise their hands, one picture spans both hands, they admire it.*

*Fresh holds out her phone to Maria:*

FRESH  
Say something to my art world blogista readers!

MARIA  
Best. Ink. Ever.

FRESH  
(into phone)  
I will post step-by-step drawing directions next time. But for right now, love who you love,  
eat what you want and stay beautiful your way, fans and fam!

*Fresh clicks off the recording.*

MARIA  
Now the best part...

*They each hold their phone up for selfies that feature the ink that Fresh just drew on their hands.*

FRESH

Selfie double trouble-

*They click the selfies and write posts...*

MARIA

With new roomie – heart, heart, star emoji – and best friend for life.

(thinks)

Bunny heart emoji - Forever means forever – The Queen is Dead emoji. Johnny Depp  
Ghost Ship emoji.

(posts)

...

*The post pops up in Fresh's feed.*

FRESH

Aww, thank you.

*Fresh types on phone.*

FRESH

Liking and loving and re-posting.

MARIA

(looks at beautiful drawing on her hands)

I never thought I'd like tattoos but your fakes are better than most reals.

FRESH

Art can go anywhere, Boo Boo Two. Beer?

*Maria and Fresh exit.*

*Chaz enters, frat house party sounds in the background.*

*He wears a Senior Class sweatshirt.*

*He looks at his phone.*

CHAZ

(Live Facebook Streams himself)

Hey! We are here! First day of senior year at the Tech House. Come join us, motherfuckers!  
It's on all night long.

(posts)

Live streaming posted.

Facebook you are a beautiful bitch.

*Chaz scrolls through Facebook posts.*

*Fresh and Maria enter carrying beer cups.*

FRESH

I can't hear you!

MARIA

I – Said I like that guy with the dreads.

FRESH

The white one or the black one or the...ethnically ambiguous one?

(off-Maria's look)

It's really dark in there!

MARIA

(takes out phone, shows picture)

This one.

FRESH

He's...cute?

MARIA

He's a junior. He's already got an offer from Google. He's gonna be their new security guy.

(off-Fresh's look)

What?! I want to be a Google Doodle some day. Let a girl have her dream!

FRESH

You are such a coder!

MARIA

Now. But I'm gonna be a bad ass engineer one day. And you better be glad. Because when you draw and paint all of the gorgeous techno art that you are destined for Ms. Di Vinci Di Banksy Di Boo Boo. When you get your online gallery visited by instamatic Instagram internet celebs, I'm going to make sure that nobody rips you off.

(sings the Beyonce standard)

“Hold up,”

*A dance of friendship.*

MARIA / FRESH

(sing together)

“They don’t love you like I love you./Slow down, they don’t love you like I love you./Back up, they don’t love you like I love you./Hold up, they don’t love you like I love you.”

*The dance of friendship ends in Fresh stumbling and almost falling down.*

MARIA

You okay?

FRESH

Just a little swirly. Think I’m gonna go home.

MARIA

You’re gonna miss me hitting on Mr. Google hisself. I’m gonna go around back. I hear that’s where he likes to smoke.

FRESH

I love you. You’ll be brilliant.

MARIA

Do you think he can tell...

FRESH

That you are a Goddess? Yes. And if he can’t. Fuck him with a fork. And find someone better. I Love You.

*They embrace.*

*Fresh sends Maria off but really does not feel well. They exit in opposite directions.*

*Chaz, still with phone and beer, obsessed with phone.*

*A light snaps on, creating the outline of a box that Anna walks into. A promotional video:*

ANNA (PROMO)

Modern technology is changing our world. From scientific discoveries that offer us longer, healthier lives to-

(Anna continues mouthing her line during the following)

CHAZ

Mute bitch.

(calls off-stage)

Scottie, I am so fucking sick of this pop up ad! Bro! We gotta figure out how to program around this. If I have to watch this annoying, overly perky snotty rich bitch one more time-

*Scottie enters. He wears pinstriped pants and vest.*

SCOTTIE

(re: phone, watching the same ad)

But the color palette is spot on.

CHAZ

Yeah, I guess, I mean, I'd totally still bang her. What about you, Scottie?

SCOTTIE

(struggles to be straight)

Oh, yeah, totally, yeah, of course, man. I mean, I'd be all over that tight little bitch.

CHAZ

(re: video)

Dude, this is so annoying. I'm gonna kill myself!

*Chaz unmutes the video.*

ANNA (PROMO)

...For an All-American lifestyle, go Carlyle today!

*Promotional video light snaps off.*

CHAZ

For an All-American lifestyle, get fucked today. Jesus, that took forever.

SCOTTIE

Did you check out-

CHAZ

No! Because the ad-

SCOTTIE

Not that. Look what Bry is streaming on our private channel.

*As Chaz taps to get the video going:*

CHAZ

But the color palette is spot on - that's so funny dude. I just got that. That's some serious art history major shit going on there. Scott Morton, Junior the Aesthete of Alpha Kapp-

SCOTTIE

(to Chaz's mocking)

Shut the,

(re: video on his phone)

Chaz, you will not believe this...

*They watch their respective screens.*

CHAZ

Oh... hell...

SCOTTIE

Hell, yeah.

CHAZ

Is that chick...?

SCOTTIE

Yeah.

CHAZ

I mean, that's just-

(as in "over there, in that room" off-stage)

That's definitely Bry's room. I think I know that chick.

SCOTTIE

Everybody's gonna know that chick.

CHAZ

No, I mean, I saw her. Out in the courtyard. With a friend and-

SCOTTIE

Two at once, yo, bro... Go bros go.

CHAZ

(watches in disbelief for a second)

(types on phone)

You suckers thought you could skip Tech House opening celebrations! Look what you be missing...

(posts to Facebook)

Clickity click, bitch. Captured and Posted.

SCOTTIE

Oh shit. You did not just, shit, dude, erase that.

CHAZ

No way, man, it's our private channel. Anything that happens in Alpha House, stays in Alpha House, right?

SCOTTIE

Fine, whatever, man, I need another drink.

*Scottie and Chaz exit.*

*Light shifts.*

*Fresh comes forward.*

FRESH

In the far distance,  
Seemingly in the far distance,  
I hear the click of camera phones and a Shakira ringtone.  
Click, Click Click.  
Click click  
Click click click.  
The sounds come closer, become clearer,  
And then I start to feel,  
Pressure,  
Clawing through a dense mist of beer and pills,  
Then the monstrous pounding that I hear inside of me before I feel it.  
At first, it sounds, like  
Clickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclickclick  
But then it melts into, searing pain, and sounds bleed into one another,  
Chants and clicks and spilled beer and slaps on my ass.  
The pain, ripping, I know I'm dead. I'm dying. I just wish I'd die faster.  
Party music.  
Vomit.  
Slaps base line laughter.  
Chants.  
Moans of pain, coming from inside of me, living inside of me, only to die inside me?  
Moans smeared across one another.  
My head out a window.  
There was a toilet and a tub.  
But the window was first.  
The sounds of praying to die.  
And I'm here.  
In America.  
Where student safety is priority one.  
And when they are done, they just walk away.  
Like anywhere else in the world.  
Except now, it's seen. Sometimes you want to be invisible, and they won't even allow you  
that.  
Click click. We're here.  
Click click. We're done.

Click click. I hate that fucking sound.

*Light shifts.*

#### GREEK CHORUS

Alpha House First Day of Semester She-bang! Literally SHE gets BANGED.

Share Share Share.

Don't share from our private channel, man.

I can share from anything I want, man.

Click here for boobs! #collegesluts

It's already got 2,000 views on YouTube.

He should have totally snap-chatted this. The provost is dumb not stupid.

911 what's your emergency?

Adding keywords: freshman sex kitten, sloppy sixths

OMG posting posting posting re-posting.

Stop reposting. This is vile! How would your mother feel if she saw you doing this?

I saw that girl in English class. She was licking her lips as she read the syllabus.

I know her roommate. They are hella' sexy.

Female, Age 17, weight 135. Evidence of sexual assault. Anal, oral and vaginal bleeding.

Campus police notified.

'Sup sexy lady. Saw it all. Text me at 267 915 6111.

You fucking lied to me. You said I was gonna be your first. #virginbitch #betrayal

Hey bitch. Wanna suck my cock. Love, Portland, Oregon

I'd give you a 10 but your hips are too big #skinnyminnie

Did she say you could share this?

I can share whatever I want, freedom of speech.

That's not what that means.

It does if I say it does.

She was almost my roommate.

No way!

What? She was! I totally swear. She was. Almost. But then she got moved into the art school dorm. Thank god.

If you click on this you are disgusting #exclamationpoints #infinity

The video shows she was drunk and ready for it.

The video shows she didn't even try to move, that's consent.

The video shows she couldn't move, that's not consent.

The video shows she was moaning so the boys were just giving her what she wanted.

Hong Kong loves messy bitches. Visit us soon.

TO: [ehensen@ucu.edu](mailto:ehensen@ucu.edu) FROM: [loverboy2768@gmail.com](mailto:loverboy2768@gmail.com) U want more. i know U do. i am coming for U.

Sir, how did you come to be in possession of the video?

Jesus H. Fucking Christ girl. Stop complaining about it, You're like famous now. I mean, look at Kim Kardashian. Please. I wish I had a sex tape.

Sir, how did you come to be in possession of the video?

Sir, how did you come to be in possession of the video?

Sir, how did you-

CHAZ

I've told you a hundred times. And I told that guy a hundred times and that lady. Look. I was in charge of promoting the party. I was-

*Cop 1 interrogates Chaz.*

*Cop 2 interviews Fresh.*

*It is clear that the interviews are occurring in different rooms.*

FRESH

I was just there for the party. Maria, my friend, my roommate, she'd been invited and she could bring a friend.

COP 1  
(to Chaz)

She's 17. It's child pornography.

CHAZ

No way!

COP 2  
(to Fresh)

Did you know any of the boys at the party?

FRESH

It's our first week, it was just, someone just put a flier in her hand in English

COP 2  
(to Fresh)

But you wanted to get to know those boys.

COP 1  
(to Chaz)

Child. Porn. All the way, son. Aren't you about to graduate?

CHAZ

Yes! I, yes, see, I wouldn't do anything to jeopardize, I mean, I already have an offer from Apple and-

COP 1  
(to Chaz)

You can go ahead and tear that up right now.

FRESH

Everyone wants to know everyone in college.

COP 2  
(to Fresh)

Those were really popular boys. If they chose to date a Freshman girl, I mean, isn't that, wouldn't you get a lot of juice out of that?

CHAZ

I already have a job offer. I'm not gonna.

COP 1  
(to Chaz)  
(mimes ripping paper)

Rip. Rip. Rip. Rip.

CHAZ

Stop it! I, I mean-

COP 2  
(to Fresh)

Look, the video is inconclusive.

FRESH

There's a video? There's a, there's a, like a, like...

CHAZ

It's just two, or six, people having sex. You can access videos just like it any time, any where. And where are the other guys? The guys who had sex with her?

COP 1

Those rich boys already lawyered up and got sprung.

CHAZ

I just posted a video!

FRESH

A a a a a a a a a a a-

COP 1  
(to Chaz)

The prosecutor says-

FRESH

Oh my god. My mom's going to see this. My mom and my dad. Please don't show, please don't, oh my god, and Maria and the the everyone who, you can't show it to anyone. Please don't let them show this to anyone.

CHAZ

This is not my fault.

COP 2  
(to Fresh)

The prosecutor says that the video is inconclusive, so there is no basis for a rape charge. But there is for child porn.

FRESH

It streamed. It streamed live. And everyone was.... And no one turned it off, no one turned, no one,

*Fresh gags and runs off-stage. We hear her wretch and vomit.*

*Cop 2 exits after her.*

COP 1  
(to Chaz)

The prosecutor is getting shit from the community. And you know he wants to run for office again. So he needs to show that he's "tough on crime," and you are the guy who streamed the video of the child porn – maybe rape – maybe not rape – from your frat house. Too bad you didn't get any action kid because you're gonna pay for it anyway.

CHAZ

I need to call my mom.

*Chaz pulls up phone. Hands shake so hard that he can barely maneuver the smart phone. He pushes the wrong button.*

*The promotional video light snaps on and Anna begins:*

ANNA (PROMO)

Modern technology is changing our world. From scientific discoveries that offer us longer, healthier lives to the joy of connecting with-

CHAZ

Fucking hell!!

*Anna continues through Chaz's meltdown (overlapping).*

ANNA (PROMO)  
-around the globe.  
And how will the world see you?  
What will it remember you by?  
How many emoji's will your 2016  
year end social media video  
compilation accrue?  
Hi. I'm Anna Carlyle.  
CEO and Inspiration enthusiast of  
the Carlyle Corporation.  
Encouraging you to embrace  
the Carlyle Closet App today.

CHAZ  
Goddamn it!  
Could you help me?  
Could you just fucking,  
Could you...fucking...  
Fuck, fuckity, fuck fuck fuck!  
I'm done, aren't I?  
I'm done. I'm over.  
I'm fucking done.  
Game over. Game, damn it!  
It's all...  
I'm done, aren't I? Aren't I?  
I'm done. I'm fucking done.

*Chaz manages to pause the ad.*

COP 1  
(to Chaz)

So is she.  
Game over.

*Cop 1 leads Chaz out.*

*Anna in the promotion video light box:*

ANNA (PROMO)

All you have to do is sync our Carlyle Closet App with your social media profiles, then our fashion experts will assess your lifestyle, physical requirements, daily needs, and cash value. Once your assessment is complete, we will ship you a personalized fashion collection within 48 hours. From comfy home wear to work toggery, there's no better way to dress for the rollercoaster of life than in Carlyle Clothing from our Carlyle Closet. Strong. Healthy. Forever Young. Nothing short of remarkable in every way. For an All-American lifestyle go Carlyle today!

*Promotional video Anna steps out of light box for the first time:*

ANNA  
(says out past the audience)

Pause it there please.

(directly to the audience)

The top online app. The top online fashion site. And I know you don't care about all of that but – you're welcome. Turn to page six of your annual report and you'll see that we blew fourth quarter projections out of the water and we're looking at doubling our expectations.

*Greek Chorus/ Stockholders applaud.*

Which means that not only am I raising your tax bracket but we get to collectively give the finger to the Wall Street hags who undervalued our company because the world didn't need another "dinky girlie clothing site."

GREEK CHORUS

Booooo!

ANNA

Dinky girls buy a lot of clothes, morons!

*Greek Chorus/ Stockholders whoop!*

ANNA

Eight years ago, when my father died.

(to father in heaven above)

Rest in peace, bastard that he was.

(Greek Chorus chuckles)

He'd built the Carlyle Corporation into a top of the line men's haberdashery. He was convinced that it was the future of the fashion industry. Now, let's take a minute. Look around you. How many of you are wearing hats?

*Greek Chorus/Stockholders laugh and whoop.*

ANNA

(to the heavens)

No offense, Pop, but this uneducatable piece of ass just saved your company.

*Greek Chorus/Stockholders woot and cheer.*

ANNA

(to Stockholders)

This is how I built your kid's college fund and put the new Porsche in your driveway. Now, let me show you how I'm going to make you more money next year than you've ever imagined.

*Anna slips on one sleek modern glove, and models it for her shareholders.*

ANNA

The future, ladies and gentlemen.

*The promotional light box snaps back on, and Anna returns to the cage of her promotional video:*

ANNA (PROMO)

He's Got The Whole World In His Hands...And Now So Do You. Our Silver Light Technology is portable, sleek and allows you to create a screen on any surface and surf the web from anywhere in three easy steps:

- (1) Slide on the glove and hit connect.
- (2) Ball your fist and release, like throwing a baseball.
- (3) A screen will appear on any surface in front of you.

Pay bills. Text a babysitter. Check your email. Book that flight to Cancun you've always wanted to take. Work from home, or the beach, or your favorite martini bar! No more clunky smartphones. No more lugging laptops or iPads. Hi. I'm Anna Carlyle. CEO and Inspiration enthusiast of the Carlyle Corporation. Encouraging you to try Carlyle's Silver Light Technology. With Silver Light, the world is your screen and A Better Life is your username. Be free. Free like America and like the Carlyle Corporation. Embrace your best freedom today!

*End of promotional video.*

*Light shifts.*

*Fresh and Maria in an art museum. They look at the art.*

MARIA

(looks at her phone)

I was just trying to get a snap and this ad keeps popping up. That Silver Light shit skeezes me out. Imagine, screens everywhere. I mean, I love my phone, but this, we'll all go blind from the infinite reflections of our own egos.

*Maria snaps a selfie.*

FRESH

Stop selfie-ing! We are in an art museum. It's gauche.

MARIA

(watches her phone screen)

It's like Michael Jackson's wet dream on mescaline.

FRESH

You've got to stop reading Hunter S. Thompson. It's getting to you.

MARIA

But he wasn't wrong about shit.

FRESH

True. Unfortunate rightness. Duchamp's toilet.

(re: Duchamp's toilet)

I like this one. Duchamp was onto something.

MARIA

(re: Duchamp's toilet)

It's a fucking toilet. It's not art. It's trash.

FRESH

So is Thompson.

MARIA

Thompson is a blooming desert. Duchamp is wasteland.

FRESH

Duchamp sheds light on beauty in the everyday. The trash of existence. I think we'd get along.

MARIA

You are not trash.

FRESH

You think if I hung myself, they'd nail me to the wall in some museum?

MARIA

(too loud)

Stop!

(quiet but forceful)

Stop it. That is not fucking funny. Stop. Just. Stop it. Come here. You are not trash. The rapists are trash. Those guys who took the video are trash. The assholes who streamed the video are trash. That fucking prosecutor who said you were moaning because you liked it is trash. Those fucking mall cops posing as campus security who saw underage drunk kids hanging out the windows and did nothing, are trash. And that asshole Chaz who posted it is beyond fucking trash. He's sewage. He's shit and piss and vomit and fucking nastiness.

FRESH

He's the reason I can't go back to school.

MARIA

You have to come back.

FRESH

Everyone fucking saw! If it was a rumor, it would be one thing, but they saw and they... I am fucking trash.

MARIA

Stop it. You can not let them take your future away from you.

FRESH

What future? Who the hell is going to take seriously the girl who did six guys on her first week of college? Who is going to-

MARIA

No one will remember, in four years, people can't even remember yesterday. They read "news" on a Reddit Chat and think it's real. No one will remember-

FRESH

I will remember! I will, it's all I can, remember, think of, and the, fuck, the, why is it always me!

MARIA

It's you and it's every fifth girl in America. And it fucking sucks. But you gotta be strong and better than them.

FRESH

Why do the victims always have to be better? Why are we the super humans? What about the assholes who violated, who, didn't ask, to touch, to film, to take and take and-

MARIA

I know but-

FRESH

And why does that dirtbag get to film me, share me, re-define me without my permission? It was bad enough to be raped once. It's out there now, it will be played over and over again, every time someone clicks play, it happens again. And again. Someone, somewhere, jacking off over it. Being appalled by it. Why am I the moveable feast of humiliation and depravity?

MARIA

I know you can rise above-

FRESH

I don't want to rise above. I want to fucking kill them. I want to, I'm not, I want to, hire some of Beyonce's big fucking bouncers and have them shove metal rods up their asses at the halftime show at the Super Bowl. I want everyone to see them in pain and begging and crying and dying and I want...

MARIA

What? You want, what? I will help you. You know that. I am here for you, forever. Soul sisters. Around the world. To the stars.

...

Look, look at me. You are the only one. I had 11 roommate matches before you. 11. No one wanted the Transgirl in their room. No one wants...you know, religious reasons, secular reasons, grossed out reasons, unnatural reasons, what the fuck ever. No one wanted me but you. And now, we're like-

FRESH

Soul sisters.

MARIA

So all you got to do is just, just, come on...say it. Antipholus. Dromio.

FRESH

Dromio, Antipholus.

MARIA

Separated at birth bitches. So just tell me, what do you want?

FRESH

At the end of the year, they are going to get their diplomas and just walk off, carry on with their lives, as if nothing had happened. They're just going to...

MARIA

Yeah, I know, it sucks, but-

FRESH

I want it to never have happened. I want to feel sick and go home instead of going back inside to sit down. I want to have listened to my body and not flirted with that guy-

MARIA

It's not your fault.

FRESH

I know but I can still want it to not have happened.

MARIA

We can't turn back time, boo boo.

FRESH

No. But I want them to lose, like I lost. I want their lives, like they took mine.

(a beat)

You said you were in it with me. All the way.

*Something in the way that Fresh says "all the way" scares Maria.*

MARIA

Let's just look at the art. Looking at it always make you feel better.

FRESH

Are you here for me or not?

MARIA

I'm here. I'll always be here.

*They walk for a moment. Look at the art.*

*Fresh stops abruptly. Maria keeps going, then backs up, looks where Fresh looks.*

*Fresh scans a QR code on the wall next to the painting and reads:*

FRESH

(looks at phone, reads)

*Ophelia Drowning.*  
Sir John Everett Millais  
Oil Paint on Canvas  
1852

MARIA

Oh, no...

FRESH

(continues reading from phone)

“There, on the pendent boughs her coronet weeds  
Clambering to hang, an envious sliver broke;  
When down her weedy trophies and herself  
Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread wide,  
And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up;  
Which time she chanted snatches of old tunes,  
As one incapable of her own distress,  
Or like a creature native and indued  
Unto that element; but long it could not be  
Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,  
Pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay  
To muddy death.”

*Hamlet, Act IV, Scene vii*

(finishes reading)

You think Ophelia felt it?

MARIA

You are not drowning.

FRESH

You think she was like, fuck it, and dove down deep and came back up and then saw their faces, in her mind's eyes, saw their... Just saw them and was like, fuck it.

MARIA

*Ophelia* is not something to aspire to. John Millais, I mean, a painting of that shit, of her all like giving up the ghost in the water, a death beauty, dead beauty, most loved for her absence, that's not who Ophelia really was. That's just what John and Will posted about her.

FRESH

I think it's beautiful.

MARIA

You may be the expert, boo boo, but it is some sick twisted shit to me.

FRESH

They drowned witches, too. If you floated, you were a witch, and had to be burned. If you drowned, you died, but hey, at least you were pure. Because that's what they valued, purity over humanity. Over life. That's why they all...

*Fresh refocuses on painting of Ophelia.*

MARIA

Can we just go to the next room?

FRESH  
(quietly)

Are you here for me?

MARIA

Yes, look, but, this isn't good for you to think about. Suicide is not-

FRESH

It's better to drown and be virtuous than be a slut and be alive.

Ophelia.

Marilyn Monroe.

Cleopatra

Diane Arbus

All scandalous as shit, until they killed themselves. Then they were reborn, fresh. Whole. Treasured. Suicide was the price of-

MARIA

You're scaring me. For real. You. Are. Scaring. Me. I'm calling your mom.

FRESH

No!

MARIA

She needs to-

FRESH  
(word vomit)

My parents look at me with these eyes. With these looks. My dad says, it's not your fault, and, and, this is not the End of the World, and, my mom says, we can always change your haircut and your hair color and change schools and no one will even recognize you. No – one – will – recognize – you. They are basically saying, if you just give up the person you are, the person who was made by band recitals and bad hair days and staying up all night reading with a flashlight under your covers. Give up everything that made you, what you look like, how people see you, how you want to be seen, be someone else, then it will be okay. But that's not fucking being okay! That's everything changing to be something else because those

assholes said that who I am is no longer fucking acceptable to sit in a classroom. No longer, okay, to...

They, my parents, are trying to do the right thing. I know they are. They love me. But it's not enough. Are you here for me? Really, like, no one else in the world is, here for me?

MARIA

Yes.

FRESH

Then let's go prove me fucking virtuous.

*Lights Shift.*

*Greek Chorus returns.*

*They slip on blinged-out Silver Light Gloves.*

GREEK CHORUS

Five years later.

@AnonymousV broke the story on their Vlog.

A rogue graffiti artist hacks into corporate sites

And posts images that expose their sins.

#Google #TaxEvasion #Again

An angel of vengeance crossed with a virtual Banksy.

#L'Oreal #animalcruelty

A Neo Basquiat with a Cause. And when they hack sites...

#CandidCorps #unfairwage

...Post images...

#JakartaShipping #SexTrafficking

...Then the Underground Art World explodes.

#artisnotpolitical #stopit

#artshouldalwaysbepolitical #shutup

Who made the graphic?  
It's not a graphic it's graffiti.  
It's not graffiti, it's art.

Hactivist art.  
Transformative.  
Trash.

They say she's Chinese,  
Brazilian.  
Definitely American.  
A Brit Performance Artist.

I hear.  
I hear.  
I hear.  
I hear.

It's signed, FRESH.  
They're all signed. FRESH.

*Light shifts.*

*Fresh wears the Silver Glove technology. Looks at promo.*

*Light box on, promotional video:*

ANNA (PROMO)

Hi. I'm Anna Carlyle. CEO and Inspiration enthusiast of the Carlyle Corporation. Carlyle's Original Silver Light Technology is Five Years Old. Can you believe it?!

*Anna pulls out a child's cardboard birthday horn and blows it enthusiastically.*

FRESH

Ugh. Carrie! Where's a bucket of pig's blood when you need it?  
(to promo)

The 'Net does not belong to you, no matter how much you made offa' it. It belongs to us.  
Go suck your gold-plated code.

(as self)

Mute.

*Anna (Promo) continues moving her mouth. Scottie joins her in the promo, wearing his signature pinstripe suit, and mouths silently in muted-promo-mode.*

*Fresh works.*

*Maria enters in cap and gown.*

MARIA

You look good for a dead woman.

*Fresh turns off silver glove. Anna and Scottie freeze.*

FRESH

Don't say dead woman. It freaks me out.

MARIA

Sorry. Undead woman. You look good for an undead woman.

FRESH

There are 2 errors in your new code, boo boo.

MARIA

I am madly in love with you. Well, with your art.

*Fresh is not paying attention to her.*

MARIA

(jokes)

You can kinda' suck.

FRESH

(rolls eyes, smiles)

You haven't slept in a week.

MARIA

You haven't slept in a week.

FRESH

That's because I'm dealing with you, being madly in love with my art.

MARIA

(teases)

And the fact that you suck.

FRESH

That, too. Hey! The Museum of Contemporary Art in Detroit referenced our virtual graffiti series on animal cruelty in their New Creatures exhibition. It's all over ChatMe. We are an asterisk in their exhibition catalog.

MARIA

Congratulations, that's great, Boo.

FRESH

Congrats to both of us! Let's celebrate. Underground art goes above ground in Detroit, newsreel at 6!

*Maria is not enjoying the moment as much as Fresh thinks she should.*

FRESH

(a beat)

Hey, Boo Two. What?

MARIA

I didn't know if I should tell you, if you would want to know, but... They had a memorial for you at graduation. Well, before graduation. The Women's Studies Department did a "one bright light missing today" thing.

FRESH

Oh...

(sings)

"This little light of mine..."

MARIA

Yeah, but, sans Jesus. Your parents came. They said some beautiful things. They said they were proud of you. How they want you to be remembered. How you should be remem-

FRESH

You should be out celebrating.

MARIA

I am celebrating.

FRESH

With your family. I'm sure they want to toast you and embarrass you with old pictures and ask you why you're still in this dump with a random roommate they've never met.

MARIA

Come here.

*Maria removes her cap and gown.*

FRESH

This is, just-

MARIA

I'm not asking, I'm telling. Come. Here.

*Maria puts her graduation cap and gown on Fresh.*

MARIA

There, now, stay.

*Maria walks away. Stands, looks officious.*

MARIA

Esteemed guests of the University of... Life and Hard Knocks. I'm proud to present those who, not just survived, but thrived, over these past five years, and through some serious B.S.

*Maria pulls a rolled sheet of paper out of her back pocket*

MARIA

Elizabeth Melissa Henson.

*Fresh stands frozen.*

MARIA

Eliabeth Melis-

FRESH

This is stupid.

MARIA

(breaks officiousness)

There are 10,000 people watching, girl! Suck it up. Come on.

(back in character)

Elizabeth. Melissa. Henson. A BFA in Graphic Design and a Minor in Internet Crimes.

*Fresh walks to Maria, accepts her fake diploma. And a handshake. They embrace. Ferociously. For a long beat.*

*Fresh pulls away from her, wipes a tear out of the corner of her eye.*

FRESH

Go. You should really be with your family today.

MARIA

You are my family.

*They breathe together.*

FRESH

Okay. Yes. We are. Soul sisters.

MARIA

#Infinity.

*Fresh cracks a smile.*

*They breathe together.*

FRESH

Yes. Okay. What's next?

MARIA

Have you heard the new Carlyle promo?

FRESH

Muted it.

*Maria uses Silver Light to find the promo.*

MARIA

I hate her squishy little face. And I hate her high waist jeans. Millionaire and dressing like Elmer Fudd? Seriously. Prada online. Get with it. Versace. Dior. Chanel. Valantino. Armani. Ebay Gaultier bitch. They all deliver. If I had that kind of money, I'd dress so hot. Every day.

FRESH

If you had that kind of money, we wouldn't be living in a studio apartment without air conditioning.

MARIA

Truth.

(looks at Silver Light)

Aaaaaand now I've lost the connection again.

(to Fresh)

How can we be internet hacktivist sensations without a stable connection?

FRESH

One. Two. Two errors.

MARIA

Squishy face.

FRESH

Maybe more. Please double check your new code. Before we launch this new piece and look stupid. And get caught. And go to jail.

MARIA

Squishy face looks stupid.

FRESH

I need you to not bug me right now.

MARIA

Are you working on the next piece? Tell me.

FRESH

(tries not to laugh)

Fix your errors.

*Maria's internet connection begins working again.*

MARIA

Ah-ha! Here we go...

*Light box on, promotional video:*

ANNA (PROMO)

Download your favorite pieces of virtual art to use however you like. Get classy and reproduce Michelangelo's David for your home from your 3D printer.

SCOTTIE (PROMO)

Get hip and InstaPaint your office window with a Warhol.

ANNA (PROMO)

Scott Morton, our internationally renowned curator of virtual aesthetics, insures that every image lives up to its real life counterpart.

SCOTTIE (PROMO)

Or charm the lovely lady in your life by adding the Venus di Milo to the headboard of your bed.

ANNA (PROMO)

Get down and dirty, and temporarily tattoo Fresh's VirtuPop activist graffiti on your ankle.

*Promo Anna shows off an ankle tattoo.*

*Fresh pauses the video.*

*Promo Anna and Scottie freeze.*

FRESH

What the fuck?

MARIA

I told you you'd want to see this.

FRESH

That's not why we created-

MARIA

I know!

FRESH

For her to turn it into a ticky-tacky-you'll-regret-it-when-you're-40 spring break tattoo and make a gazillion dollars off it.

MARIA

I actually wrote our manifesto, so I know-

FRESH

She didn't ask. She didn't, it's our work, our face to the fucking world! They just fucking take and take and take, they think they can, they use whatever they want, whenever they want, without consequence, and they just, they take it all. And they ask nothing, they leave you no fucking, dignity.

MARIA

I told you you'd want to see this.

*Fresh un-pauses the video.*

*Promo Anna continues.*

ANNA (PROMO)

Best VirtTatt Ev-er! Want a more stylish lifestyle? Forget the repeats and rip-offs. Be ORIGINAL. Be Free.

SCOTTIE (PROMO)

The Original Freedoms – America and the One and Only True Silver Glove Technology.

ANNA (PROMO) & SCOTTIE (PROMO)

Go Carlyle today!

*Light box off.*

FRESH

Well, now I'm gonna fuck her up.

MARIA

(as in, "this is what I'm saying")

Thank you.

*Light shifts.*

*Chaz and HR Rep with Australian accent watch Chaz's phone.*

*We hear the end of the recorded promo playing:*

ANNA (PROMO AUDIO ONLY)

Go Carlyle today!

*The promo clicks off.*

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

You did that? You worked on the original Silver Light?

CHAZ

I have a new technology that takes it one step further.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

So you didn't do that?

CHAZ

No, but I-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

We're really just looking for an entry-level programmer.

CHAZ

I know. I read the description.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

And you're American. Why are you looking to work in Sydney?

CHAZ

I'm looking to work anywhere. But I read in Technology Today that you have a new system that rivals-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

It could present Visa issues.

CHAZ

I'll take care of the-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Good. Because the company-

CHAZ

You have a new, you're experimenting with a new technology that takes Silver Glove, well, the Silver Glove idea, and pushes it, allows us to project ourselves, or whom ever we want to be, on to ourselves.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

There would also be a health care tariff and a-

CHAZ

I'll charge it or something, look, this new technology, I think that I can improve on this new, your new, and make it not only more functional but ready for the commercial market. A code that will reduce the cost of the-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

We're really not looking to employ from overseas right now. Cautious of the brain drain and all that.

CHAZ

If you would just let me speak to someone in your technology division.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

I don't see how that would-

CHAZ

It would.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

We don't take new product pitches. Got us into a bit of a legal scrape a while back. Someone claiming we ripped off their idea. Since then, no pitches.

CHAZ

This is not a, it's an, an, an, an improvement on current, look, I read about it in Technology today, this new, create your own avatar in real life, in every day waking life-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

That simplifies it a bit, don't you think?

CHAZ

Yes, but, look I read about it and I'd already been working on this idea from a different angle. The problems that you face, based on the article, are ones that I've already solved, and my problems, you've already solved.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Perhaps you should speak to our innovation engineering department?

CHAZ

Yes, thank you.

*HR Rep with Australian accent uses a Silver Glove decorated with the Australian Flag, to call up a screen and auto-dial a number.*

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Hello. David? Wonderful. Phoning about a...

(looks to Chaz)

(Chaz mouths his name)

...a Chaz Encholi who is applying for, no ENCHOLI. E-N-C-H-O- oh! I see, yes, oh, of course. I didn't recognize him, but I certainly know his name. Yes, next time, I will Google first. Sorry to bother, David.

(hangs up)

I'm sorry, sir. The position has been filled.

CHAZ

But-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

It's been filled.

CHAZ

You have 20 interviewees in the waiting room.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Filled, sir.

CHAZ

I came all the way over here to, because you don't take product pitches, I drained my parent's savings to come, to talk to someone, face to face, to prove that-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Do I need to call security, sir?

CHAZ

No! No, please, don't.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

We are not hiring overseas talent right now, sir, so sorry. Have a good day.

CHAZ

Maybe I could talk to David, David in innovation. He might, I mean, I think, I know, he'd like to see-

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Good day, sir.

CHAZ

I served my time.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Sir.

CHAZ

I served, I didn't even, I was 22 and she was in college and I was in college and how was I supposed to know? I didn't even, I was just the guy getting the word out about the party. I'm sorry it happened but it's not my fault.

HR REP WITH AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Please, sir.

CHAZ

And I didn't kill her. She killed herself, and that made it a sensation. After she went over the cliff, Ophelia in flight. Some kind of martyr to to, whatever, toxic cultural shit, consent shit, non, an international touchstone, and I, I served my, all of it, I served. I served my time, and I've solved your problem. I can make you lots of money, do you understand, lots of money and lots of, you can suffer a minor brain drain for that amount of cash. Just, please, just let me-

*HR Rep with Australian Accent exits.*

CHAZ

Fuck!! Fuck fuck fuck goddamned fucking motherfuckers goddamn it goddamn fucking bitches!

*Light shifts.*

*Scottie enters.*

*Scottie pulls beer cans out of his pockets and tosses Chaz a beer. They crack them in unison and drink.*

SCOTTIE

Fucking bitches.

CHAZ

Fucking magazine covers, sexy profile pics-

SCOTTIE

-Text you naked selfies with their best friends-

CHAZ

Girls night

SCOTTIE

Boys night

CHAZ/SCOTTIE

Out!

CHAZ

Fucking refraction body heat maps.

SCOTTIE

Trace their lines, their angles-

CHAZ

All the VirtSkin.

SCOTTIE

The new update is so supple, soft skin. They are working on taste now. I've seen the prototypes.

CHAZ

Holograph pussies. I had a dozen girls send me holographs in prison. Fucking, they want to be famous.

SCOTTIE

They want it.

CHAZ

Don't you eat cock now?

SCOTTIE

They want it, too. Last three boyfriends, all little sluts. They want it.

CHAZ

Then they can't handle it.

SCOTTIE

Can't handle it.

*A long beat.*

CHAZ

I need a job.

SCOTTIE

You're still everywhere online. And with the five year anniversary coming up. Where are they now pieces. Where are We now pieces.

CHAZ

I need a-

SCOTTIE

Dude, you are a real world example in every Sex Ed Affirmative Consent Class. I can't hire you.

CHAZ

Where are they now. If that little bitch hadn't killed herself. Hadn't. Fucking. Hadn't, if she hadn't driven off that cliff into the water. None of this-

SCOTTIE

It was a sensation. An internet sensation. Which means it never dies.

CHAZ

They never found her body, you know.

SCOTTIE

It was a sheer drop into high tide. Probably washed up in Thailand, somewhere half way around the world.

CHAZ

All these years, I feel like she's punking me.

SCOTTIE

It was some messed up shit.

CHAZ

Me or her.

SCOTTIE

All of it, bro. All of it. Still can't give you a job though.

CHAZ

The ex-con.

SCOTTIE

The name of the ex-con featured in five year anniversary stories this year. All over the-

CHAZ

The other guys didn't even, not even a trial. Their goddamn lawyers in Versace, "oh, good boys your honor, they thought she was moaning because she liked it." And then not even, they didn't even get slap on the wrist. And my legal aid asshole, all like "um...um...". His first case, man. And those guys, they are all, did you know, they all have a company now. Work together. One of their daddy's funded a real estate, market growth, some such shit. These are the guys. These are the guys that should be in the stories, in the-

SCOTTIE

Child porn, man, is a career killer.

CHAZ

IT WASN'T... I even went overseas. London. Paris. Berlin. Sydney. Fucking, everyone has the internet, man, everyone is-

CHAZ / SCOTTIE

Connected.

CHAZ

You know.

SCOTTIE

Yeah, I know.

*A beat.*

CHAZ

Look, I know. I know that you can't give me a job.

SCOTTIE

Thank you.

CHAZ

But it doesn't have to be me.

SCOTTIE  
(um, what?)

...

CHAZ

I don't have to be me.

SCOTTIE

You actually do have to be you. You're gonna have to be you for the rest of your life.

CHAZ

I've got this new technology.

SCOTTIE

Oh, man, just let a drink be a drink, Chaz.

CHAZ

Carlyle Corp works with the Aussie group, Syntax Systems, right?

SCOTTIE

A drink between old friends. Go over the good times. Drop the bad. Come on.

CHAZ

Syntax Systems was featured in Technology Today with plans for a new system that let's you change your real life person into an avatar, any avatar you want. It's serious Philip K. Dick *Scanner Darkly* shit man. It's the Edgar Suit from *Men in Black*. You can walk down the street and no one will know it's you. They will just see your avatar.

SCOTTIE

I can't listen to anymore of this, because you could sue us for-

CHAZ

I'm not fucking, I'm not suing you. Just listen. Just. In Tech Today they detailed problems-

SCOTTIE

Challenges.

CHAZ

Shut the fuck up.

SCOTTIE

Problems.

CHAZ

Yeah. They detailed problems with getting the new program fully functional, small and cheap enough to sell commercially.

SCOTTIE

Yes.

CHAZ

I've solved those problems.

SCOTTIE

No.

CHAZ

Yeah. In prison, I was working on designing a similar program as a way to start a new life, when I got out.

SCOTTIE

You just have to take responsibility-

CHAZ

I went to prison! I paid for it! If that's not responsibility, I don't know what is!

...

I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I yelled at you. I'm sorry that I, just look. All the code, the skematics, all done. I just need the money to build it. And sell it. And then it will rain bit coin.

*Chaz pulls a thumb drive-type device out of his pocket.*

CHAZ

Just look at it.

SCOTTIE

I'm the art guy.

CHAZ

Yeah, you are. You are the fucking art guy. You are decorating an old and outdated technology to help your once successful now floundering company pretend to make new discoveries so that you can stay on top. You are wrapping paper. You are a band aid that is fading so fast that you're gonna fall off the gaping wound of technology burnout. Everyone has found a way to capitalize and build on your Silver Glove technology except fucking you. You are being out paced and out coded and are on your way to the garbage bin.

(holds out thumb drive)

So just give this to your innovation guy. Have him take one look. If he doesn't like what he sees, then he can ditch it. If he does, you hire me under an alias. And I save your job and your Company, and I get my life back. I'm gonna be exactly who I wanted to be, and you're going to help me.

SCOTTIE

(looks at drive that Chaz holds out)

This could make you anyone, huh? Appear to be anyone you want to be?

CHAZ

License to reinvent.

*Scottie takes drive.*

*Chaz takes beer can from Scottie, chugs what's left.*

*Lights shift.*

*Fresh and Maria, in their undisclosed location, working online.*

MARIA

You knew it was only a matter of time.

FRESH

It's always only a matter of time.

MARIA

You track their activities. Hack into a couple of security cams in a couple of different locations. And this Carlyle hack, has been easier than most. Tracking them. The Carlyle people had a one passcode entry way. Stupid. Stupid. Stupid. It's like they want us to spy on them.

FRESH

Always hiding something. So much to hide, when there's so much money to be made in ripping off other people's labor.

MARIA

BINGO. Download complete. Sending you the pictures of the collapsed Carlyle factory now. That building was clearly not up to code.

FRESH

(looks at her Silverlight)

How did no one report on this?

MARIA

There are a lot of dark corners of the world, boo, and not enough light to shine on them.

FRESH

That's damn poetic, boo boo.

MARIA

I thought of it a while ago. Been saving it for the right moment.

FRESH

Nailed it.

*Fresh has received the downloaded pictures. She pulls them up and scrolls through them.*

FRESH

(continues looking at pictures)

The pictures are exceptional. I think I'll use the one with the decapitated 12-year-old as the center of the piece.

MARIA

That poor kid.

FRESH

I can use the shape of the head to balance the angle of the body.

MARIA

Art, away, boo boo. Art away.

*Fresh makes her work.*

FRESH

(sings quietly)

"Hold up, they don't love you like I love you. Slow down,"

(a beat)

I'm gonna be bigger than Beyonce with this. We both are.

MARIA

I don't want to be Beyonce.

FRESH

Who doesn't want to be Beyonce?!?

MARIA

I want to be Maria, and I want you to be-

FRESH

An Icon.

MARIA

If you're an icon, do you think we could afford a new air conditioner?

FRESH

Oh, yeah, that's in all the Icon-ist of Icon contracts.

MARIA

Excellent. Now shut up and make something beautiful out of something ugly.

FRESH

It reminds me of Mallais.

MARIA

We did get that idea from him, didn't we? Beauty from the ugglies of the world. And maybe that was what Ophelia was about to him. A journey to healing. He painted her death, to get away from ideas of his own. He saved us, boo boo.

FRESH

We saved us.

MARIA

Don't show off. Work. I'm putting you on a deadline. Because tonight... we are having a binge fest! They just released an anniversary edition of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

FRESH

Alex Borstein is so hot.

MARIA

Joel is hot.

(off her reaction)

And he gets woke so don't give me that look.

FRESH

I'm gonna be as big as Mrs. Maisel.

MARIA

I thought you were going to be Beyonce. Work. Loves you.

*Maria exits.*

*Lights shift.*

*The Greek Chorus returns with their Silver Light Gloves.*

GREEK CHORUS

On the front page of the New York Times  
"Underground Art Goes Mainstream"

The lead story on Al Jazeera  
"Who is Fresh? And What Happened at Carlyle?"

The cover of China Today  
"Is this the Future of Art?"

It's a story of a monumental fall from grace.  
A techno Icarus reboot.  
Niobe in code.

The graffiti artist, Fresh, turned  
Themis, a virtual goddess of justice or an online vigilante?

Exposing corruption  
Or just pissed that Carlyle make beaucoup bucks off her art?  
And does it matter?

We'll post  
Tweet  
HollowPoint  
VidFeed  
TagPress  
As the story unfolds.  
But for now  
Just remember  
Someone is always watching  
And always waiting  
For you to fuck up.

*Lights shift.*

*An upscale shareholder's conference room:*

ANNA  
(looks shaken and uncertain)  
(prepares for annual meeting)  
(tests mic)

Testing...1, 2, 3. Testing. Hello. Yeah, There.

(to someone off-stage)

There. That level. Yeah, Thanks. Keep it there. When they come, the shareholders, When, Yeah, there. That level. Thanks.

(practices)

Hello and welcome. No. Just. Welcome. Welcome to the- Fuck.

...

Welcome to the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Meeting of The Carlyle Corporation. The Carlyle Family. The Carlyle Brand of- The Carlyle. Boondoggle.

(practice makes perfect)

Just begin, Anna. The Carlyle Corporation welcomes you.

*Scottie enters in a pinstripe business suit, stands behind her.*

*Anna sees him, transforms, she's in the real meeting now.*

ANNA

Unfortunately, in the last quarter we saw, as you all heard from the Chair of our Board, and perhaps read in the *Guardian*, we saw, if you look at page 102 of your *Report*...a tremendous dip in revenue. We were hacked by Fresh and... what kind of name is that anyway. Fresh. Right? Right?

*No response from audience. She takes a deep breath and keeps going - posturing for the Board.*

ANNA

Hacked. But we managed the optics of the Unavoidable Situation. Apparently, one of our contractors was using substandard, well, and then their factory collapses and, but, you've read about all of this.

I want to assure you that this will never happen again.

We have vetted every new contractor in the extreme to assure this Act of Almost God never happens again.

And we will soon be launching a game-changing technology: the YouSuit from our new BodyBeFree Collection. Our research division has been up to its eyeballs in innovation. Our

BodyBeFree technology will once again make us a leader in the field of online identity shaping and sharing. Get ready to buy that second Porsche.

Thank you and good night.

*Anna walks away.*

*Lights shift.*

SCOTTIE  
(to Chaz)

We're taking water over the side.

CHAZ

Just a little more time. A little more time and money, Bro, and the future will be here.

SCOTTIE

We need to manage expectations.

CHAZ

So, manage it. You're the politics guy.

SCOTTIE

Don't jerk me around, Chaz. I've been defending your insane expenditures for too long. We are losing her interest and the-

CHAZ

Why do you care about her and this company, man? They treat you like wallpaper. Like, look, we have a cultured gay man on-staff, that mean's we're fucking classy

SCOTTIE

Don't you-

CHAZ

I mean, shit, it's like she puts her hand up your ass and moves your mouth. You're too good to be a puppet for-

SCOTTIE

Hell yes I am! I know I am, and I am trying to get out of here, but you keep running your goddamned mouth instead of finishing the suit. We need this. I need this.

CHAZ

You got stock in the company or something, man, because-

SCOTTIE

It's not money, Chaz. Everything is not always about money.

CHAZ

Yeah it sure as-

SCOTTIE

Look at me, Chaz. Really. Look. At. Me. What do you see?

CHAZ

I don't know, a dude. I mean, a dude who sucks cock now but, you know, a dude.

SCOTTIE

What else?

CHAZ

A smart dude? An arty dude. I don't know man, what are you-

SCOTTIE

A smart arty dude.

CHAZ

Yeah, a smart arty dude.

SCOTTIE

But they can't see that, man. They can't see, my talent. They presume, my interests, my skills. Look, I just-

CHAZ

You're not gonna cry on me are you because-

SCOTTIE

No. I'm not crying. I'm telling. You've got about three more months, and then the plug gets fucking pulled. That's all the political muscle I have left. So get to it. Now.

*They exit in opposite directions.*

*Lights shift.*

*Fresh and Maria in their undisclosed location:*

FRESH

It was an accident.

MARIA

It was-

FRESH

-a typo!

MARIA

You want to get caught.

FRESH

No!

MARIA

This mistake could have led them right to us. This coding error-

FRESH

No way.

MARIA

They want you to slip up. There are people, an entire RealWorldHack devoted to uncovering your identity. They're like rabid Redditters on acid. They don't sleep. They don't eat. They don't fuck, because who would want to fuck them, but still, they want to know who you are. They want to uncover, and you are helping them! Giving them the opportunity to penetrate holes in your code, to track you down.

FRESH

I don't want to go to jail.

MARIA

No, but you want to be found. You want to be-

FRESH

Please.

MARIA

Seen! In a way you want to be seen. Not seen as the college rape girl but as some vigilante, some thing famous!

FRESH

Something strong.

MARIA

You are strong. You've always been, but this persona you've created-

FRESH

This isn't a-

MARIA

Yeah, it is. And now, I fix error after error, your posting errors now, not mine. Mine's like butter. You are leaving a trail of code crumbs right back to us.

FRESH

Look, your job is the coding and the engineering and the hacking and the posting. I've just been trying to help out because you seem overwhelmed and-

MARIA

I am not overwhelmed.

...

...

Tell me the Tate 3D printing and exhibiting your Carlyle images didn't change you. Tell me that having your Carlyle graffiti projected into the night sky in Argentina and on the Great Wall didn't change you. Tell me that seeing the signature of FRESH superimposed over an image of Anna Carlyle on the cover of Time Magazine, didn't change you?

FRESH

...

MARIA

...

I can't do this any more.

FRESH

Look. Look! We did what we said we were going to do.

MARIA

Yeah, we did. DID.

FRESH

See.

MARIA

Past tense, boo.

FRESH

Present tense, boo boo.

MARIA

Present tense would be investigating the new allegations into McDonald's meat source or Russia jacking the London Stock Exchange. It would be moving forward, not standing still to preen and increase your click count on the Virtual Star Charts.

FRESH

I don't even check those.

MARIA

You check those a dozen times a day. Let's see, are you still number one or has that holograph John Stamos caught up with you yet?

(looks at device)

Ohhhh, the cat whose voice box has been surgically altered to sound like Adele is now number one.

(looks at device)

Sorry, you're no longer at the top of the pop culture trash heap.

FRESH

Carlyle Electronics were made in factories in Asia that-

MARIA

We've fought that battle and won. Carlyle has changed their business practices. Because of you, they are now fully compliant with the UN Human Rights Commission Business Bureau. And, now, you're gonna make another piece of art that features a dead Carlyle kid in the center of it to beat Cat Adele now? Why? There's nothing more they can do. They've cleaned up. This isn't about them now, it's about you. What's the line between fetishizing the violence and exposing it? Exploiting it, and using it as a cautionary tale? Because I think we crossed those line, and that's not why I'm here.

FRESH

Just one more-

MARIA

It's always just one-

FRESH

It's my work. I'm finishing this-

MARIA

Ladies and gentlemen, the patient zero of high art hactivism.

*Mockingly claps.*

FRESH

Stop it.

MARIA

It's all about revenge and fame now. Fame and revenge. Who are you, Darth Vader? Seriously, girl, you've got to get your shit together. This. Is. Not. You. Not the real you. The You I think the world should see.

FRESH

Well it's not up to you. Now if you'll excuse me, I have work to do.

MARIA

You know what, you're right. How you want to be is not up to me. But whether or not you can get into the Carlyle system again, that is. Because I know all the doorways you use. I opened them for you, and I can lock them back up, too.

FRESH

You wouldn't. I'm working on a new, and it will be the last, I promise, but you can't just cut me out-

MARIA

You do realize that you sound like a junkie now, right? Except you get high on click counts.

FRESH

You can't lock the doors from the outside, anyway. You'd have to do it from within.

MARIA

I know. I taught you all this, remember? I love you, but I will not let you, let us, let our work, become the monster in the night. I'm closing the doors. All of them.

*Maria exits.*

*Chaz and Scottie enter. Chaz and Scottie are at the Carlyle Lab.*

*Chaz and Scottie look at one another in shock. Marvel at each other. It's real life "Freaky Friday."*

*Actor 2 – who was playing Chaz is now playing Scottie for this scene.*

*Actor 4 – who has playing Scottie is playing Chaz for this scene.*

*They are wearing the new "Edgar Suit"/"Scanner Darkly" suits which means that Chaz looks like Scottie and Scottie looks like Chaz.*

*They reach out and touch each other – arms, faces, hair – it's unbelievable.*

ACTOR 2

(Chaz Actor but Scottie character on the inside)

It's so real.

ACTOR 4

(Scottie Actor but Chaz character on the inside)

Finally. And thank you.

*They exchange the bro clap/handshake/thing from their college days.*

ACTOR 2

You look just like me. *Freaky Friday*, sir.

ACTOR 4

I look just like you.

(marvels at new body)

Ugly ass SOB. I hope one of your deranged boyfriends doesn't try to jump me and suck my, your, itty-bitty cock.

ACTOR 2

I'd be mad at you but you're a genius.

ACTOR 4

(Scottie Actor but Chaz character on the inside)

(sings)

*Here come the Men in Black...*

ACTOR 2

(Chaz Actor but Scottie character on the inside)

Total Edgar Suit. Real *Scanner Darkly* world. I finally watched that movie, did I tell you?

ACTOR 4

Thank fucking atheist Jesus.

ACTOR 2

Keanu Reeves and Winona Ryder killed it. I mean, just... deader than dead, they were in the deep of that world where nobody knows who anybody else is, because of the...

ACTOR 4

Scanner Suits.

ACTOR 2

Yes. Philip K. Dick owes you. You're making him relevant again. People are going to know who he is now that you've invented his imagination.

ACTOR 4

I'm not sure he'd be pleased. What's the first thing you're gonna do?

ACTOR 2

I'm walking into Richmond Frazier's office.

ACTOR 4

Who the flying fucktards is Richmond Suck My Limp Dick Junior Frazier?

ACTOR 2

He's the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Museum.

ACTOR 4

Why are you wasting your time-

ACTOR 2

Before I took the position at Carlyle-

ACTOR 4

Way beneath you man.

ACTOR 2

Yeah, I know. Before Carlyle, I interviewed for a position at the Met. I was in the top two. I met with Frazier. Several times. At every meeting, he emphasized that they weren't looking to expand their "African-American" holdings. When I repeatedly reminded him that my training was focused on 18<sup>th</sup> Century Western European Painting, he asked me if it bothered "my people" that I turned my back on my "culture."

ACTOR 4

See! Called it! He is a fucktard.

ACTOR 2

I wonder if he asked any white American who studied Asian art, if their people were upset that they turned their back on their culture.

ACTOR 4

(sarcastically)

Nope. 'Cause us whites got the rights to all the cultures, right?

ACTOR 2

Narrow-minded, educated but ignorant... fucktard.

ACTOR 4

Burn the fucktards, man. I'm so sorry.

ACTOR 2

The Met's hiring again. I'm gonna call myself JG Pennyworth.

ACTOR 4

The name's a little arch.

ACTOR 2

I'll figure something out. But looking like this-

ACTOR 4

Job's yours, bro. But, before you go, you'll take this prototype to the Queen Bitch?

ACTOR 2

I'll take it to Anna. And you've got to call her by her name.

ACTOR 4

Oh, I think she'll like Queen Bitch.

ACTOR 2

Yeah, but only if she comes up with it. Be ready to present to her tomorrow.

ACTOR 4

There are a few little...

ACTOR 2

What?

ACTOR 4

Nothing significant. Don't worry, it's totally safe but...Irons out. I want them ironed out. I want the prototypes perfect.

ACTOR 2

We'll have time to perfect it, but we need to show her the prototype now. The Board is about to fire her and they aren't as adventurous as she is. Noon, tomorrow. The prototype. Just...this. This is astounding, man. Good work.

ACTOR 4

Consider it done.

*Scottie and Chaz look at themselves again. It's officially Tomorrowland.*

ACTOR 2

They're never gonna know what hit 'em.

*Actor 2 exits.*

*Actor 4 – Chaz in a Scottie suit – stays.*

*Maria enters in business attire.*

ACTOR 4

(Scottie Actor but Chaz character on the inside)

Hi, I'm Cha- Chuck. Chuckie. Chuckers to my friends but you know, fuck it, we're not friends yet so how about Mr. Charles to you.

MARIA

Um, okay? I'm waiting for HR.

ACTOR 4

I know. They sent you to me.

MARIA

I'm here for the security gig. The white hat gig.

ACTOR 4

We already hired someone for that gig but-

MARIA

Look, I need this job, okay? I

ACTOR 4

Hey! Don't feel like you can cry on my shoulder. I'm not that kind of guy.

MARIA

I'm not crying.

ACTOR 4

The security gig you applied for is for bullshit little school girl programmers who want to play doctor in our grid. What I need, is a builder. A coder who can engineer, who can dream, who can think for them fucking selves. And who is discreet.

Your scores on the entry tests were perfect. Literally. 100%. Creative problem solving. And no one has ever actually heard of you. You're an A level hacker with no digital footprint. Do you know how hard that is?

MARIA

Yes, actually.

ACTOR 4

Yeah, well, I guess you would. Anyway, with this new gig, you won't need an apartment. We'll house you here on campus. In fact, you'll rarely leave your office. But you will make a shit ton of cash and assist on the biggest invention of the century.

MARIA

...Does it come with dental?

ACTOR 4

Hey, Maria, you get this right, I'll get you a set of gold teeth myself.

*Actor 4 holds out his hand for a handshake.*

MARIA

One thing, never call weak programmers school girls again.

ACTOR 4

What?

MARIA

Never call-

ACTOR 4

It's just a saying.

MARIA

Well, this weak little school girl programmer is going to be the one to help you finish this "invention of the century." So, don't.

ACTOR 4

You got it. Only strong school girls from here on out.

*They shake hands.*

ACTOR 4

Now, wait here for a few minutes. I want you to see the working prototype you'll be helping me refine. I'll be right back.

*Actor 4 exits and Maria fades to a corner of the stage.*

*The promotional light box snaps back on.*

*Anna enters and returns to the cage of her promotional video:*

ANNA (PROMO)

We're giving you The Ultimate Freedom. In the revolutionary era,

*Sound of American Revolution fifes and drums from off-stage.*

ANNA (PROMO)

no one had a virtue patch ID or scan in-set username. In the old west,

*A tumble weed rolls across the stage.*

ANNA (PROMO)

no one knew who anyone else really was. There were no eye-scan-clearances or subcutaneous thumbprint verifications.

America was made great by its citizens being who and what they wanted to be, whenever they wanted to be it. Don't like your job? Move to another town and begin a new life. Your ex a pain in the neck? Disconnect from them once and for all.

Hi. I'm Anna Carlyle. CEO and Inspiration enthusiast of the Carlyle Corporation. Encouraging you to try Carlyle's BodyBeFree Technology. With BodyBeFree, the world is your realm.

Be free. Free like America and like the Carlyle Corporation. Embrace your best freedom today!

*Pause. Too Long.*

ANNA (PROMO)

(annoyed)

Embrace your best freedom today!

*Pause.*

ANNA (PROMO)

The teleprompters broken!

*The promotional light box snaps off.*

ANNA

What am I advertising anyway? Aren't I the head of the company? Should I at least have seen a working prototype of-

*Actor 2 and Actor 4 step forward. Maria hangs back.*

*Anna sees Actors 2 and 4.*

ANNA

Scottie. Who is this? What is this? Why are you wasting my-

*Actor 4 steps forward.*

ACTOR 4

(Scottie Actor but Chaz character on the inside)

Hello, Ms. Carlyle, I'm Charles.

ANNA

What, Scottie, why are you...

ACTOR 4

I'm Charles. I used to be, doesn't matter. I'm Charles.

ACTOR 2

(Chaz Actor but Scottie character on the inside)

And I'm Scottie.

ANNA

I don't get it.

ACTOR 2

...

(looks to Actor 4)

...

(come on bro, you're on, this is your moment)

...

ACTOR 4

Um, so, have you ever wanted to fuck Keanu Reeves? Because there's this movie called *Scanner Darkly* where-

ACTOR 2

Anna, I'm Scottie. I'm me. Ask me anything.

ANNA

No. Way.

ACTOR 2

"Freaky Friday" is real.

ANNA

That's not possible.

(testing him)

Where did I hire you?

ACTOR 2

Art and Technology Annual Conference.

ANNA

And why?

ACTOR 2

Because you picked me up at the hotel bar and after we got drunk together on the roof of the Grand in Vegas we both realized that we'd been over burdened and under appreciated by those who were supposed to value us.

ACTOR 4

Well that's specific.

ACTOR 2

(to Anna)

That's what you wanted to hear, right? Something no one else knows about us? To verify-

ANNA

It's you. But you look like-

ACTOR 2

It is me. I'm just wearing a different suit. Dress for the job you want, not the one you have, right?

*Maria is beginning to put it all together and is agog.*

ANNA

No one is going to believe this. That you can switch bodies-

ACTOR 4

Not bodies. Not, actual, bodies. It's a projection suit. You wear it like one of those green suits they used for special effects in old movies; like that old *Lord of the Rings* with the golem in it, but much more sophisticated. It works with the eye's natural movement and gives the impression of whatever form is embedded in the suit itself.

ACTOR 2

Right now, we only have two Prototypes – Scottie and Charles. But in the future, you'll be able to literally walk in the shoes of your virtual profile.

ANNA

But for now-

ACTOR 2

For now, you have two working Prototypes to manufacture and sell. And no one else has the technology.

ANNA

So, you're really Scottie, even though you look like-

ACTOR 4

Let's show her.

*Actors 2 and 4 unbutton their shirts to reveal a section of skin. Actor 2 has his lighter skin painted to look like Actor 4's darker skin. Actor 4 has had a section of his darker skin painted to look like Actor 2's lighter skin. Effectively proving that they've switched body suits.*

*Anna reaches out to touch the sections of skin.*

*She is amazed.*

*Maria stands in distraction. Is this any better? Is this good?*

*Actors 2 and 4 re-fasten their shirts.*

ANNA

This is legendary.

ACTOR 4

Yeah, I know.

ANNA

And we can go ahead with this now?

*Actor 2 nods.*

ANNA

The Board is going to shit themselves.

ACTOR 4

(Scottie Actor but Chaz character on the inside)

There are a few bugs-

ACTOR 2

(Chaz Actor but Scottie character on the inside)  
Every new product has a few bugs. Look, my arms and legs aren't falling off. When I get home, I'll remove the full suit with SureGel, my skin will still be intact. Nothing's wrong that a few hardware adjustments can't fix.

ANNA  
(to Actors 2 and 4)  
Come over here. Stand by me. One on each side.  
(calls off-stage)

Lights. Camera. Action.

*Maria gently exits.*

*Promotion light box snaps on.*

ANNA (PROMO)  
We're giving you The Ultimate Freedom. In the revolutionary era,

*Promotion light box snaps off.*

*Anna, Chaz, and Scottie exit.*

*Lights shift.*

*Fresh and Marie enter.*

FRESH  
I am so glad you came home. I've been thinking and, if it's gonna drive you away, if you're gonna, I think it's time we do something else.

MARIA  
Agreed. And take a look at what Carlyle is working on now.

*Maria puts on her Silverlight Glove and creates a screen.*

*We only hear the promo this time.*

ANNA (PROMO SOUND ONLY)  
Our BodyBeFree technology allows you to dress for real success. Right now, we have two body types for you to choose from! Two ways for you to change your life.

FRESH  
Oh my god, is that guy actually transformed? Changing into-

MARIA

Another body. Avatars that can walk the streets.

FRESH

Did the silhouette of that guy, the one that flashed on screen at the beginning, did he look, a bit, familiar? Before transforming. Did he...

MARIA

Yeah, and, I wasn't sure at first, but, I think, I think he's the one who hired me. I think Chaz is the one who designed this.

ANNA (PROMO VOICE OVER ONLY)

Easy as changing from day time pumps to night life heels, BodyBeFree is for you and me. Hi. I'm Anna Carlyle. CEO and Inspiration enthusiast of the Carlyle Corporation. Encouraging you to try Carlyle's BodyBeFree Technology. With BodyBeFree, the world is your realm. Be free. Free like America and like the Carlyle Corporation. Embrace your best freedom today.

*The sound of the promotion ends.*

*Fresh is agog.*

FRESH

Oh my god.

MARIA

I know. The moral implications, right? The ethical, the crimes that could be committed without consequence, are you having sex with your husband or just someone in a suit that looks like him, how do you give permission when you don't know reality from...reality?

FRESH

I can go out again. I can have a life. And that's why he designed this. So he can go out again. He can have a life. Why would they use him in the promo if-

MARIA

They'll say they made a composite of random images.

FRESH

So we can, whatever, be whomever. I could meet A Someone and have kids and-

MARIA

But then, what, does this mean we're all going to look like our favorite movie star now? Does this mean, those guys that, Chaz, that no one has to take any responsibility for their

actions? So, what? People are going to opt for suits that look like the privileged classes of their regions in order to get further in life.

FRESH

Yeah, probably.

MARIA

But that's not progress. That's not becoming better people.

FRESH

It's the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the better angels of our nature have lost.

MARIA

I'm not convinced.

FRESH

But you came to tell me about it first.

MARIA

You'd see it sooner or later anyway. And, I'm, helping finalize the design.

FRESH

But you don't-

MARIA

I know! But, it's gonna happen. With or without me. And with me, I can sign you up to be a tester. And you'd get to keep the suit. For personal use.

*A beat.*

FRESH

What will happen when I see him?

*A beat.*

MARIA

I don't know.

*A beat.*

FRESH

What if I can't say anything or can't move, what if I hit him, or don't hit him, or what if I scream or cry and-

*Maria embraces her.*

FRESH

What do you say to the monster that ate your life? That-

MARIA

You're not Jonah. You're Fresh. Our Fresh. He hasn't carried you in his belly. It is not his choice whether or not to spit you out. You are The Hacker. The Artist. The Warrior. No one can hold you back. And if you scream or hit or stand completely still or cry, then that is what you should do. That is what is right. In that moment. For you. And you is all I care about. Jonah waited. You didn't. You were swallowed and you fought the monsters. The child sex slavers, the users and abusers. You battled everyone else's worst nightmares and won. But you are never going to be able to move forward without facing your own monster. There is power simply in facing him, finally, by looking him in the eye, letting him know that he was not the end of you, you win. But you'll never do that if you keep running away from him. As long as you have to pretend to be dead to defeat him, you'll be dead to yourself. I want you to live. I want us to live. For real.

FRESH

I love you.

MARIA

Let's go get our lives back.

*Lights shift.*

*Chaz enters, alone.*

*Maria enters.*

*Actor 4 as a Scottie Suit enters.*

*Actor 3 as Fresh enters behind Actor 4/Scottie Suit as its operator from inside the suit.*

*Chaz only acknowledges Actor 4/Scottie Suit. So it's like Fresh is wearing the Scottie Suit. However, the voice that we hear is from Actor 3/Fresh.*

CHAZ

Hello, hello, hello! You are-

MARIA

Prototype tester 63. Self-identified female inside self-identified male suit. Testing specifically for reliability, safety and comfort in physical opposites. Also known as the, I'm-gonna-dress-like-a-man-so-I-get-paid-like-one-suit.

*Actor 3/Fresh looks at Chaz in disbelief. She knew it was going to be him but seeing him in the flesh is overwhelming.*

CHAZ

Got it.

(to Scottie Suit)

Welcome Tester 63!

*Fresh speaks the lines below, it is her voice that is heard, but Actor 4/Scottie Suit mouths the words.*

*Chaz only acknowledges Actor 4/Scottie Suit.*

FRESH

(softly)

Hi.

CHAZ

How are you feeling in there?

FRESH

(softly)

Fine.

CHAZ

Speak up, hon. We're audio recording.

*Long pause. Too long.*

*Chaz looks to Maria – is the suit broken or is your tester just stupid.*

MARIA

Hey, Tester 63, can you hear us? Please speak up if you can.

FRESH

Yea-, yes. Yes. I can hear you.

MARIA

(to Chaz)

It's just her first day. Nothing like your first in-body experience.

FRESH

(louder)

I can hear you.

CHAZ

First note- voice modulator on the fritz. Can still hear the female voice from inside the suit.

(sighs)

Okay, right, well, let's move on with the-

FRESH  
(to Chaz)

How did you get interested in this project?

CHAZ

Excuse me?

FRESH

You're the inventor, right? How did you, I mean, this is quite a complex system you have set up. How did you, why would you want to change your body with-

CHAZ

You were shown the instructional video?

FRESH

But-

CHAZ

And the promotional video?

FRESH

Yes and-

CHAZ

And read and signed the limited liability waiver?

MARIA

She signed.

CHAZ

Then she should know that she doesn't ask questions, I do. Her job is to answer the-

MARIA

She knows.

CHAZ

Go get her paperwork. Make her re-read the-

*Maria exits.*

*A momentary pause.*

FRESH

That's what you like, isn't it? Standing behind video screens and contracts and clipboards and keeping everyone in line, controlling everyone. You get to fuck around with, fuck up people's lives, and not have to get dirty, not have to, hold any, have to, deal with, no consequences, because it's like you're playing a fucking video game pushing your buttons

and asking your questions. And no one else is fucking real to you? You can control without consequence, without-

CHAZ  
(calls off-stage)

Security!

*Actor 4/Scottie lunges forward, grabs Chaz by the neck and wrestles him to the ground. Actor 3/Fresh gets down into Chaz's face.*

FRESH

How do you like it now motherfucker! How do you like someone else pushing the buttons and there's nothing you can do about it. No control. You just lay there and take it! Take it! Take it! Take it! Take it! Take it!

*Actor 4/Scottie takes off his ties and stuffs it into Chaz's mouth and down his throat.*

CHAZ

Wait! Stop!

FRESH

I couldn't see or smell or feel until I started to feel everything. And you just watched. Did it make you feel powerful motherfucker? Did it make you feel like a man to watch some drunk girl get done 16 ways to Sunday by guys she didn't even know?

*Actor 4/Scottie Suit rips off Chaz's button down shirt.*

*There are shrieks from Chaz, who has managed to get the tie partially out of his mouth, combined with shrieks from Anna as she enters the stage. Anna is wearing a torn shirt identical to Chaz's and it is covered in gooey gel.*

*At the same time, Actor 4/Scottie Suit is ripped off. Fresh is revealed.*

*Actor 4/Scottie Suit and Actor 2/Chaz Suit exit.*

*Anna and Fresh are left standing face to face.*

*Clear "Sure Gel" goo, drips off the hands of Anna and Fresh.*

ANNA

Don't pull someone's suit off without the SureGel pack. You could rip their skin off the bone.

FRESH

You're Anna-

ANNA

Carlyle. Yeah, I know. We found that testers were more confident, and their answers more useful, when they were being interviewed by the guy who invented the suits. So here we are.

*Maria re-enters with the paperwork. Sees the mess.*

ANNA

Too late, Maria.

(to Fresh)

You are most definitely fired.

FRESH

You rip off other people's ideas.

ANNA

It's called being an entrepreneur.

FRESH

You are-

ANNA

(to Maria)

Get her out of here. And get the suit back before she leaves.

FRESH

You're a con artist. You take and take and take and-

ANNA

Me. Murikomi Sashura. Liza Lobos. Steve Jobs. Thomas Edison. We sell the ideas. Otherwise, they'd never get out there. Now, you get out.

FRESH

You hired a rapist. No, someone who traffics in pain. Someone who shares the rape so that motherfuckers around the planet can get off on someone's shame and suffering.

ANNA

No, I-

FRESH

The man you have working for you. The inventor that you're using. He's using you. He's the one who posted the Facebook live video of the campus rape. The child porn. He's the one who did time for it. He's the one-

ANNA  
What video?

FRESH  
You want to see his mug shot?

ANNA  
All of my employees have thorough background checks.

FRESH  
Since when?

ANNA  
I'm sure since... only since ... the factory collapse.  
(only since recently)

Shit.  
(calls off-stage)

Charles! Scottie! Now!  
(to Fresh)  
How the hell can you even be sure that he's the guy?

*Charles and Scottie enter.*

FRESH  
Ask him.  
(indicates Chaz)  
Or DNA scan him. Your great comeback is over.

*Chaz is in shock.*

CHAZ  
You're alive.

FRESH  
(to Anna)  
You're making a product for criminals by criminals-

CHAZ  
I'm not a, you fucking, the actual rapists, got off, they have neighboring vacation homes  
Maui.

FRESH  
I'm gonna tell-

CHAZ

I'm gonna take your life the way you took mine.

FRESH

I took yours? You piece of-

*Scottie holds Chaz back from attacking Fresh.*

*Fresh goes for him. Maria pulls her back.*

MARIA

He's not worth it.

*Anna realizes Maria and Fresh know one another, and that the four of them are all tied up in this chaos somehow.*

ANNA

(to Fresh)

You're not going to tell anyone. Anything. What do you want?

FRESH

I want him to be humiliated and in pain and-

(to Chaz)

Click click. You're here. Click click. You're gone.

*Chaz reaches for Fresh.*

ANNA

(to Scottie, re: Chaz)

Get him out of here!

*Scottie grabs Chaz.*

CHAZ

(to Scottie)

Get your hands off me!

SCOTTIE

Not this time, bro. This time, I'm stopping you, before you hurt yourself.

*Scottie and Chaz exit.*

ANNA

(to Fresh)

You've got to want something besides putting that emotional incompetent out of his misery.

*Fresh looks to Maria.*

ANNA  
(to Fresh)

Look at me. I'm your fairy godmother. I can make anything happen for you. Just say it.

FRESH

It's not that simple.

ANNA

There must be something you want. Beyond blood. His isn't worth much anyway. And once he's gone, where are you then? Alone again. Virtually invisible. Un-able-to-be-touched.

Let me guess. You live in a crappy place together, probably like a post-college, pre-reality check, hang out, and you still eat ramen noodles and, don't tell me you're not getting sick of it. All of it. If what you're saying is true, haven't you paid enough? Fairy Godmother. One wish. What do you want the rest of your life to be?

*Fresh looks to Maria.*

MARIA

I'm with you. All the way.

FRESH

...  
...

(to Anna)

Help me build a life. One that I want. That we want. A set-up in a new city. London.

MARIA  
(whispers)

Or Rome?

FRESH  
(to Anna)

Or Rome. New house, new clothes, new hair. I don't want to live in a suit. I want to live in the world. And I want you to pay for it.

ANNA

And then?

FRESH

Then you'll get to keep your secrets. Even the dirty ones.

*Lights shift.*

*The Greek Chorus appears.*

## GREEK CHORUS

Five years later.

Here.

Online.

In-person.

As it happens.

She stands in a story.

Like Sophocles with WiFi.

In an upscale apartment in Manhattan,

A bedroom turned into a hospital room,

The train rushes by,

New beginnings,

All grown up.

*The 1906 recording of Adelina Patti singing “Ah Non Credea Mirarti/I had not thought I would see you, dear flowers, perished so soon” from Bellini’s “La Sonnambula/The Sleepwalker” plays. (YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0\\_D65bedTc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0_D65bedTc)). (Or a similar recording, but I think this one is in public domain. Double check me on that.)*

*Perhaps we sit in it for a little while in the dark. Just listening. Breathing.*

*Chaz in a hospital gown, eyes closed. Physically, he looks awful. He listens to “La Sonnambula.” Eventually, through their conversation, the recording fades out and is replaced by silence.*

*Fresh enters. She sees him, almost exits, but stays.*

FRESH  
(softly)

Hey.

*Chaz opens his eyes.*

CHAZ

Yeah?  
(recognizes her)  
Hey. Thanks for coming.

FRESH  
(re: his broken down physical appearance)

Wow.

CHAZ

That's astute.

FRESH

I shouldn't have come.

CHAZ

I'm sorry. I'm. Still me. Years gone and, well...Me.

FRESH  
(re: the music)

I never took you as an opera type.

CHAZ

I'm not. Scottie just sent it to me. He says Adelina and I are both beautiful sleepwalkers living mostly in our own dreams.

...

That's either really uplifting or really fucking sad, isn't it?

...

What do I call you anyway? Fresh?

FRESH

Elizabeth. That's my real first name. I don't think I ever told you that.

CHAZ

No. We didn't ever talk. I didn't know anything about you.

FRESH

I'm trying to be sorry you're sick. I know, for any living creature, it must be, the debilitation...

CHAZ

Yeah.

FRESH

...

I got your note. Your apology. When you said you were sick-

CHAZ

The guilt got you.

FRESH

No. I just thought-

CHAZ

You'd enjoy watching me die.

FRESH

(Fresh begins to leave)

This was clearly a mistake.

CHAZ

No. Stay. I'm sorry for saying that. I, Scottie got me an anger management therapist. A guy who specializes in people dying, dealing with people dying, and he says my tendency is to be a dick.

I mean, that's not the technical medical term. I'm sure he thinks it has something to do with Freud or some such shit but basically, my knee-jerk reaction is to do something awful. To get attention or fit in or whatever. Because I don't really, I'm not really good, at people, at people stuff. Anyway, Scottie makes me see this guy, it's not like I can get up and run from appointments with him, but now, it doesn't suck so much. At least, I know when I'm being an ass, and can apologize for it.

FRESH

...

Oh, that's good. Right?

CHAZ

Yeah, I think so.

...

So, that's why I wrote you the note. This guy, Scottie's guy, he recommended, thought it would help us both. Because what I did, Super Dick move right? Like, I don't think there are words for how fucking dick-ish it was.

FRESH

...

No words. Not really.

...

Is your, sickness, is that the SureGel?

CHAZ

Yeah, like, who would've thought that would have been the problem. Apparently, the adhesive can cause deep bone infections. So, that's no good. I'm sure someone will fix it some day. Long after I'm gone.

FRESH

Don't say that.

CHAZ

It's true.

FRESH

...

How is Scottie? I haven't seen him since the class action suits against Anna and the Company.

CHAZ

He's in Prague this week, London next. Scouting. For beauty. Beautiful things. Beauty has always been his thing, you know.

FRESH

I know. It's still mine, too. But I'm trying not to pathologize it. Does he still wear the white man avatar?

CHAZ

Nah, once he got the job, he shed it, and the Museum just had to deal. What're they gonna do – say, no, you're fired, because you're a person of color and we thought you were white? Cultural hierarchy need not apply, bitch.

*Fresh looks like she's been slapped.*

CHAZ

I didn't mean you as a "bitch." I was calling them-

FRESH

Yeah, I got it.

CHAZ

If I wasn't dying, I'd clean up my language. But 33 and almost dead, so what's the point?

FRESH

...

(works herself up)

I just thought, I just wanted to, in light of the circumstances, of all the...

CHAZ

What? You're gonna forgive me now? I would not forgive me.

FRESH

No. I'm not gonna forgive you. But I wanted you to know that I'm gonna get past what I'll never get over. When Carlyle went down and the money stopped coming in, I was... relieved, actually. It forced me. Get. Past. Anyway, your note, was a little bit of... Grace.

CHAZ

So I did something right.

FRESH

I think you could've been a good man some day.

CHAZ

(thinking, "I'm never gonna get that chance")

...

...

Yeah, what the fuck ever. I'm glad it helped. Scottie's guy will like to hear that it helped. It'll get him off my ass for a session or two.

...

Can you just, just turn my music back on.

Elizabeth.

I'm tired. I need to rest.

Just fucking, could you just turn it back on and go?

*Fresh walks over to him, clicks a button to turn on "The Sleepwalker." The music fills the air.*

*Fresh exits.*

*Chaz is very small and very alone. Scottie's music is almost all that's left of him.*

*Lights shift.*

*Fresh and Maria are in Fresh's garden.*

*Maria wears a gardening hat and gloves.*

MARIA

Make sure to pick the tomatoes. They're on the brink of over ripe.

FRESH  
(nods)

...  
I saw him.

MARIA  
I thought you didn't want to talk about it.

FRESH  
I lied, emotionally, apparently.  
It was weird, seeing him, especially like that.

MARIA  
Why?

FRESH  
It was just sad and gloopy and all too human. Can you hang out tonight? I'll pick the tomatoes. We'll make spaghetti and sauce.

MARIA  
Not tonight, love.

FRESH  
But-

MARIA  
(lines drawn)  
Richard'll be home at 7 and I've promised the kids a game night.

FRESH  
Of course, yeah.

MARIA  
But you'll like this, Katie almost has  
(sings)  
"Hold up, they don't love you like I love you."  
Down. In her little toddler voice, it's stupid cute. I'll bring her over to show you.

FRESH/MARIA  
(sing together)  
"Back up, they don't love you like I love you."

*Maria turns to leave.*

FRESH

Antipholus and Dromio?

MARIA

Dromio and Antipholus. It all turns out well in the end.

FRESH

Does it?

MARIA

Well enough.

FRESH

I love you.

MARIA

Always and forever, Boo Boo.

*Maria exits.*

*Fresh is alone for a minute, unsure of what to do.*

*She removes a pen from her pocket, begins to draw on her hand. (A mirror of what we saw in the first scene.)*

*She clicks a button on her watch, speaks into it as she draws.*

FRESH

I was right. At the end,  
After the clicks  
And the whisks,  
It all ends in silence.  
Just the feel of the ink on your skin,  
The pen pressing it into you,  
Marked by it all.  
Permanently impermanent.  
In silence.  
Waiting.

(she looks at her hand)

For you to get your shit together.

(looks at watch)

I'll include step-by-step drawing instructions in the below HapNote. In the meantime, this is Lizzy in the Loop saying love who you love, eat what you want, and stay beautiful your way. Life is a constant revision. Even when you're not the one doing the writing.

*She clicks off her recorder.*

*End of Play*