

How To Break Up With Your Digital Girlfriend

Season 01, Episode 01

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FADE IN:

SUPER

2041:

HUMAN POPULATION: 12,438,762,194

DIGITAL POPULATION:29,984,123,243

The HUMAN POPULATION number slowly goes up while the DIGITAL POPULATION NUMBER is growing at a much faster pace.

EXT. CITY - CITY BLOCK - NIGHT

The high angle of the CITY BLOCKS is unmistakably similar to a modern circuit board.

Complex arrangements of street ways, city lights and buildings.

EXT. MOB BUILDING - NIGHT

One building within the city, dirtier part of town, the first floor is a CLO.S.ED ITALIAN DELI, and all the lights are off except for on THE THIRD FLOOR.

INT. MOB BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Down a dimly lit HALLWAY, to the only well lit ROOM in the building toward the sounds of negotiations.

INT. MOB BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

JONWIN, 32, sits with his client CAMERON, 21 as TWO LARGE e sits her on the couch sit across the table.

JONWIN

Look, it's simple, he wants 'out'.

BUSINESS MAN 1

There's no 'out'.

JONWIN

Sure there is, there's always an out, and I have the money for the VIG plus interest, paid in full, right here.

Jonwin motions to his BRIEFCASE, and he goes to show the cash inside, he is interrupted.

BUSINESS MAN 2

There is no out!

JONWIN scans the room, taking in the details.

JONWIN

Look, I get the whole 'gangster angle' but you guys are a business right? It doesn't..

BUSINESS MAN

Did you just call me a 'gangsta'?

BUSINESSMAN 1 stands, revealing a HOLSTERED GUN.

Jonwin tries to bring the temperature down in the room, he looks at his client. Cameron looks back at him like with desperation.

JONWIN

(pleading)

Wow! Ok, I can see how this...

As fast as a whip, Jonwin pulls his HIDDEN GUN and puts a bullet in each man's head before they can react.

Cameron is in full panic.

CAMERON

You're not supposed to kill them!
Is this even that kind of sim?

JONWIN

No! But somethings off, (looking around) we are in way too nice of a server.

JONWIN grabs CAMERON and heads to the DOOR.

The COMS buzz in JONWINS ear.

COMS VOICE (O.S.)

Hey! B T Dubs, we're not supposed to shoot people.

JONWIN (INTO COMS)
Scan the building.

COMS VOICE (O.S.)
WTF? There's like 12 guys with
uzis coming up the stairs.

JONWIN (INTO COMS)
Yeah this is.. this a trap! And
not in the fun let's set a 'safe-
word' kinda way.

COMS VOICE (O.S.)
Looks that way, don't see a lot of
options! Time to get creative.

INT. MOB BUILDING - CUBICLES - NIGHT

JONWIN moves through the DARK CORPORATE BUILDING, clues of
COUNTERFEITING, and other ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

He moves in the shadows, pulling Cameron along. He spots a
GARBAGE CHUTE.

JONWIN
Does the garbage chute work?

COMS VOICE (O.S.)
No. It's cosmetic.

JONWIN
Can you patch it?

COMS VOICE
Done.

JONWIN
Spike the power, put the whole
block into this floor.

COMS
But that will..

JONWIN
(interrupting)
Do it!

Jonwin holds his head down and puts his hand over his eyes
before remembering to put his hand over Cameron's face as well.

The space rattles as 20 HEAVILY ARMED MEN come up the STAIRS to
the third floor. They open the DOOR.

EXT. MOB BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - NIGHT

From the outside, the lights FLASH BANG momentarily floods the whole 3rd floor with light before going dark.

INT. MOB BUILDING - 3RD FLOOR - NIGHT

All the armed men are blinded and disoriented by the make shift flash bang, the room is now dark from a BLACK OUT.

EXT. MOB BUILDING - ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

A THUD as Jonwin and Cameron come down the garbage chute landing on the neighborhoods MIXED TRASH.

They dust themselves off and Look up to see DANCING SHADOWS 3 floors up running around in confusion.

CAMERON

I can't believe we are alive! I have never..

JONWIN

(interrupting)
Call Me Ishmael...

The scene FREEZES, Cameron FREEZES. Jonwin, unfrozen, walks around Cameron. Jonwin puts his hand on to Cameron's FROZEN FACE.

JONWIN

Never forget this moment...

Cameron DIGITALLY DECOMPOSES into the ether. A GRAPHIC USER INTERFACE; the CMI appears in the space. It speaks in a broken digital voice.

CMI

How can I assist you today?

Jonwin types in a few commands to save this version of Cameron.

ONSCREEN TEXT

'Common library 204 models-
CAMERONv3-identity updated'

He is a fast typer.

JONWIN

(INTO COMS)
I'm coming home.

DRAMATIC CUT TO:

INT. AXIOM HEADQUARTERS - VOID SPACE- DAY

JONWIN wakes up in his ISOLATION TANK, a LARGE POOL of dark water that he floats in while the LIGHTS OF MICRO DIODES travel over fine lines of FIBRE OPTIC CABLES that lead into Jonwin's Spine under water.

The room is designed to provide zero distraction, it endlessly empty and quiet as every direction dies in a Limbo of darkness.

He floats in the middle of the dark water and opens his eyes.

INT. AXIOM HEADQUARTERS - NOC

A large NOC ROOM, WORKERS looking at a DENSE ARRAY OF SCREENS with COMPLEX GRAPHS, STATS and PLAYBACKS OF SIMS. The CEO ROBERT MCKINNON JR, 52, is directing a coworker when a NOC WORKER approaches.

NOC WORKER
Someone just cracked 'hazelnut455'

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
You're mistaken.

NOC WORKER 2
I thought you said that nut
couldn't be cracked?

NOC WORKER
Well a team in D4 just got a
passing grade.. team 30...

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(interrupting)
Team 309.

NOC WORKER
Yep, team 309, lead by a Jonwin
Brigsby.

The frame holds on Robert as he contemplates this revelation.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - AXIOM CORPORATE OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A nice LOCKER ROOM, like a country club.

Jonwin is finishing getting dressed, he wears a CLEAN CUT SUIT, but it has hints of a future fashion.

Tiny ROBOT HANDS finish helping him with HIS BELT and TIE. This is normal.

He heads to the exit. He opens the door to his team's work area, and the SOUND OF CHEERING.

INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - BULLPEN - AFTERNOON

The size of a small bank, the BULL-PEN is filled with coworkers, who are drinking ALCOHOL and in mid celebration.

A ROBOT STAFF makes and serves Drinks. Dedrick, 29, sees Jonwin and greets him.

DEDRICK

There he is! Man of the hour!

JONWIN

This hour, what's next?

DEDRICK

We're done! That was our last RePro, They just cleared the rest of our schedule. Everyone's celebrating, you kept our perfect record!

A excited COWORKER 2, 38, walks up to Jonwin.

COWORKER 2

(excited)

Man, we were late on the pickup— they were gonna kill you no matter what you said.

JONWIN

(grinning slightly)

Yeah. That part clicked for me early.

COWORKER 2

Then how did you know it was a trap?

JONWIN

We were in a DX9 server.

COWORKER 2

Really, they must have falsified the server tags, and how did you know?

JONWIN
The lighting.

COWORKER 2
(smirks)
What, too dramatic for you?

JONWIN
Too clean. Everything landed
exactly where it should. Like it
was rendering reality too well.

Coworker 2 blinks, getting it now.

COWORKER 2
Advanced beta?

JONWIN
Has to be. The imperfections
weren't baked in yet. That's
always the tell.

COWORKER 2
(exhales)
Damn.

JONWIN
That's when I knew to look for the
watermark.

COWORKER 2
Where was it?

JONWIN
(grinning)
Stitched into the carpet. Hex
pattern.

Dedrick walks Jonwin away from the excited Coworker 2.

DEDRICK
Yeah I hate to break up the 'nerd
talk'. But let's get you a drink.

The Party goes quiet as the door burst open and Robert
McKinnon Jr. and his ENTOURAGE rush through the door.

DEDRICK
Mr. McKinnon!! I don't believe
we've had the pleasure of seeing
you down here in...

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(interrupting)
I want to talk to this.. Jonwin.
Where..

JONWIN
(nervous)
I'm Jonwin.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
How did you know?

JONWIN
Sir?

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
It was a trap?

JONWIN
Well I'm sure lots of teams..

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(interrupting)
Lots of teams figured out it was a
trap but you.. you figured it out
43 seconds earlier then the mean
average. And how did you add this
fire escape change after the
initial level load?

JONWIN
Well that is a part of our tool-
kit.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Are you running 'dirty code' on my
servers?

DEDRICK
No sir! Code is clean, Jonwin
Writes it himself.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
What you mean you write it
yourself? What year is this?

JONWIN
I'm old school sir, sometimes that
comes in handy.

Robert stares down the two men, he doesn't like Dedrick.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(to Dedrick)
Why don't you...

DEDRICK
Dedrick.. sir.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Why don't you... Dedrick, let me
talk to Mr. Brigsby alone?

DEDRICK
Of course.

Dedrick excuses himself the rest of the team gives the two men
the main room of THE BULLPEN.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
How did you know?

JONWIN
You brought a knife to a gun
fight.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Explain.

JONWIN
Only the CEO and big wigs get to
run sims on bleeding edge
unreleased servers.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
And how die you—

JONWIN
(interrupting)
Because it screamed beta gleam.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(smirks)
Too polished.

JONWIN
Exactly. And they always leave
breadcrumbs in beta servers.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
In case a programmer gets trapped.

JONWIN
Nailed it. And the only reason you
needed that kind of power? 'Cause
you were running a tactical sim on
a level that isn't even optimized
for it.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Meaning?

JONWIN
Meaning I knew I had to get out of
there.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
So you weren't even armed?

JONWIN
No, it's part of the toolkit, I
can pull a medium tool or weapon
out of the either.. lots of the
teams have those kind of in-house
hacks.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
You think I don't know how
divisions in my own company work?
So you just started shooting up
the place, where did you learn
that James Bond?

JONWIN
COD.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Come again?

JONWIN
Where I'm from, I grew up playing
a lot of Call of Duty.

Robert looks at his HOLOGRAPHIC DATA PAD that projects from his
palm.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Ah yes, where you are from.. don't
get a lot of 'surface kids',
climbing out of the gutter to make
names for themselves, good on you.

JONWIN
Thank you sir.

ROBERT MCKINNON
And what do you think of our flag
ship product?

JONWIN
The Jul-

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(interrupting)
Is there any other?

JONWIN
Well I don't own one..

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Not a fan?

JONWIN
(stuttering)
No sir.. I

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
I don't pay you enough?

JONWIN
No sir, my salary is commensurate
to what I bring...

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(looking back at PAD)
It looks like you cultivate
personalities for (beat) household
and small business...

JONWIN
Toasters, Cars, ATMs, we get a lot
of clean up.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Yes everyone's sending their dirty
work this way, and you're knocking
then out of the park.

Robert stairs down Jonwin.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
You don't like our Julie? Maybe
you need to spend more time with
her...

The two exchange a glance Robert abruptly lets himself out,
entourage in tow.

Jonwin and Dedrick Stand at attention as Robert and his
entourage exit the PIT.

Dedrick comes back into the room.

JONWIN
I take you heard that.

DEDRICK
What can I say, the man has a
commanding voice.

JONWIN
What do you think?

DEDRICK
I think-

JONWIN
(interrupting)
Don't say it. You'll jinx it. Just
make sure everyone's on time
tomorrow...

EXT. AXIOM CORP - LOADING ZONE - NIGHT

A FLYING CAR pulls up to the curb. Jonwin gets in.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jonwin is in the back seat, in the front seat is a ROBOT
DRIVER, HENRY.

HENRY
Good Evening Mr. Briggsby,

JONWIN
Evening Henry, how is your night
going?

HENRY
Can't complain sir.

EXT. CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

The flying car moves through light AIR TRAFFIC Jonwin looks
down through the CLOUDS. A small glimpse of life on THE SURFACE
reveals itself to Jonwin.

JONWIN
Henry? Have you ever been to the
surface?

HENRY
Occasionally sir. But I try to
avoid it, it's very dangerous, I
do not recommend.

JONWIN
Oh yeah?

HENRY
Yes Sir.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)
 You don't know how good you got
 it, getting to live and work in
 Ascendia, the surface is pure
 Chaos.

Jonwin ponders what Henry says. The car stops at an
 intersection.

EXT. CITYSCAPE - CAR - NIGHT

A SECOND CAR pulls up next to theirs.
 We see the SOFT CHEEK of a WOMAN in the back seat of the car.
 She turns and looks at Jonwin and smiles.

INT. CITYSCAPE - CAR - NIGHT

Jonwin can feel someone staring at him but he resists the urge
 to look back, then he looks but the other car has pulled away.
 He directs his attention to Henry.

JONWIN
 That is very insightful Henry.
 Thank you.

HENRY
 Of course, sir. It is my pleasure.

EXT. CAR - CITY - INTERSECTION - NIGHT

The car flies away from the intersection.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - ENTRY WAY - NIGHT

Jonwin enters his LOFT, a nice 3 story space, in a decent part
 of SKY CITY. He hangs his JACKET on a COAT HANGER that is a
 THIN ARTICULATED ROBOT named JEEVES. ROSIE, Jonwin's AI head of
 house hold greets him.

JONWIN
 Evening Rosie.

ROSIE (O.S.)
 I need to tell you something.

JONWIN
 Sure.

ROSIE (O.S.)
But you can't tell Dedrick I told
you.

JONWIN
I promise Rosie.

ROSIE (O.S.)
He's hiding in the garage. He
plans on scaring you. I was
supposed to tell you to go down
there.

JONWIN
Thanks for the heads up Rosie!

ROSIE (O.S.)
Also you have a package, it's...
very special.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jonwin turns the corner and stars at the PACKAGE that is off
screen, he is in awe of it. After staring at it for a beat he
heads down to the Garage.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - GARAGE - NIGHT

Jonwin enters the garage, Dedrick jumps out at him!

DEDRICK
Break yourself!!

Jonwin is nonplussed.

DEDRICK
Ah man! Did Rosie tell you I was
going to try to scare the shit of
you?

Jonwin gives a Dedrick a look but doesn't betray his promise to
Rosie. Then he notices a series of SHADOWY FIGURES behind
Dedrick.

JONWIN
Who's that behind you?

From the shadows 4 FEMININE FIGURES emerge, They are all
JULIES, but they look disheveled and beat up.

DEDRICK
 Oh I just made a quick stop in
 Midtown and pick up these lovely
 ladies.

JONWIN
 Why?

DEDRICK
 So we can get a head start? I
 thought we could...

JONWIN
 (interrupting)
 I need to show you something.

They walk up the garage stairs together.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jonwin and Dedrick stare in awe when it is finally revealed the package is a brand new JULIE 7 EXTREME PREMIUM EDITION, it's in an OVERSIZED "BARBIE" packaging of the finest quality, with a window that shows most of her body.

DEDRICK
 Holy...

JONWIN
 Yep.

DEDRICK
 That's...

JONWIN
 The highest-end Julie v7 ever
 made... Graphene-reinforced
 magnesium alloy skeleton, ultra-
 realistic synthetic skin, and a
 150-year solid-state battery.

DEDRICK
 She's beautiful...

JONWIN
 Yes, she is. And I'm going to
 reset her..

DEDRICK
 Yeah...Wait.. why?

JONWIN

Because I need to know as much about her kernel as I can, I need to peel away all the secondary flourishes and get to her core...

DEDRICK

Oh. So you don't need the 4 Julies I just picked up off the street?

JONWIN

No. While I appreciate the initiative, you can drop them back off.

DEDRICK

Sure, I just go ahead and do that.. take these 4 gorgeous synthetics back to mid level right now...

Jonwin gives Dedrick a look.

DEDRICK (yelling)

Ladies! It's time to hit the road.

The 4 Julies come up the stairs and follow Dedrick, one of them smiles at Jonwin as she passes.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Jonwin is alone with the Julie who he has now unwrapped and is looking at in the living room. She looks like she is sleeping, unconscious as Jonwin wires some fibre optic diodes around her head. He talks to her as he preps.

JONWIN

Well this is highly illegal.. and there might only be a few hackers in the world who can pull this off, hopefully I'm one of them.

Jonwin types away furiously entering terminal commands on his HOLOGRAPHIC LAPTOP.

JONWIN

Were going need to break through this encryption...

Jonwin runs a brute force terminal command that begins to decode the master password.

INT. MONTAGE - JONWIN CRACKING THE CODE

Several moments of Jonwin typing away.

He is drinking coffee.

He is frustrated while looking at code.

He is celebrating mini successes and making progress.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Finally as the sun comes up through the window, a tired but determined Jonwin looks like he has accomplished his goals. His Laptop screen indicates that he only has to hit enter to delete a large chunk of files.

JONWIN

Here. We. Go.

Jonwin takes a deep breath and hits the delete button. A beat. Then Julie pops up like she has been given a shot of adrenaline. She is confused and starts screaming in incoherent animal noises.

JULIE V7

(ANIMAL NOISES)

ARGGH!!!!!!

The noises are disorienting, Jonwin panics then starts typing frantically.

JONWIN

I just need to give you a base set
of data to latch on to, that
should calm you down...

Jonwin frantically types, clues that the data he is uploading is for a "Child AI persona", (beat) he punches enter and the Julie stops screaming.

She then closes her eyes and settles back.

She is now quiet but very scared. She looks at Jonwin.

JONWIN

(in a soothing voice)

Hey! It's ok! You are safe.

Jonwin sees she is shivering and he wraps a nearby BLANKET around her, she winces at his touch and Jonwin pulls back.

JONWIN

Can you understand me?

Julie nods her head that she does but she does not speak.
Jonwin nods and leans back on his couch.

JONWIN
Well good. Ah wow, it's later
than..I have to work in like 2
hours. I should take a small nap.

He closes his eyes.

FADE TO:

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

In a flash Jonwin wakes up to MULTIPLE ALARMS blaring on his
phone and in the house. He looks at his watch.

JONWIN
Oh shit!

He realizes he is going to be late to work and scurry to put
his on CLEAN PANTS and a NEW SHIRT.

ROSIE
I should have woken you up sooner
but you needed your sleep, I let
Charlie know..

JONWIN
(Interrupting)
It's ok Rosie, thanks.

Jonwin hurries for the door just before realizing something.

JONWIN
Wait!! Where is...

ROSIE (O.S.)
She is in the closet.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - BEDROOM - CLO.S.ET - MORNING

Jonwin opens the BEDROOM CLO.S.ET and see Julie bent over in
the corner of the dark closet. She is sobbing quietly.

JONWIN
Oh! Hey.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Jonwin helps her walk into the living room. He sits her on the couch.

JONWIN

Listen. I do have to go to work,
but I will be back in...10 hours,
tops.

He turns on the TV and hands her the REMOTE.

JONWIN

(To Rosie)

Watch her for me, get her whatever
she needs.

ROSIE (O.S.)

You got it boss.

Jonwin takes one look at Julie is now watching the TV SHOW with astonishment, she has never seen anything before, everything is new and amazing. Jonwin feels like she is in good hands and leaves.

EXT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LOADING ZONE - MORNING

Charlies Car pulls up in Jonwin jumps in the back.
The car flies away.

INT. CITYSCAPE - CAR - MORNING

Jonwin fastens his seatbelt.

JONWIN

We've gotta set a record pace
today, Charlie-I'm late..

CHARLIE

Yes sir! I know some shortcuts!

Jonwin looks down at an alert on his phone.

PHONE

(On screen text)

They want you in Exec room a as
soon as you arrive- D.

Jonwin reads the text and has anxiety.

INT. AXIOM HEADQUARTERS - LOBBY - MORNING

Jonwin walks in the FRONT LOBBY and is met by Dedrick.

DEDRICK
You look... rested.

JONWIN
Long night.

DEDRICK
Did you accomplish what you were
talking about?

JONWIN
More or Less.

DEDRICK
We are wanted on the top floor.

JONWIN
It's nice to be wanted.

INT. AXIOM HEADQUARTERS - SKY ELEVATOR - MORNING

Jonwin and Dedrick anxiously ride THE ELEVATOR to the TOP FLOOR of Axiom.

Dedrick instinctively takes off his nicer JACKET and TIE and starts giving it to Jonwin.

Jonwin nods.

JONWIN
Thanks for taking one for the
team.

DEDRICK
Hey, no ones going to be looking
at me.

He ties the tie around Jonwin's neck like a proud father.

DEDRICK
You ever been to the top floor?

JONWIN
First time.

DEDRICK
Hopefully not the last.

INT. TOP FLOOR AXIOM CORPORATION - MORNING

The ELEVATOR DOOR opens to a sleek and modern RECEPTIONIST AREA. Jonwin and Dedrick walk up to the SYNTHETIC RECEPTIONIST.

JONWIN

We are here to to see Mr.
McKinnon.

RECEPTIONIST

They are waiting for you...

The OVERSIZED DOOR to the CONFERENCE ROOM opens,

INT. AXIOM HEADQUARTERS - BOARDROOM - DAY

The two walk in. Robert McKinnon jr. looks up from his data pad, his gaze coldly calculating.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

Have a seat.

Jonwin and Dedrick sit at the two empty SEATS at the long, imposing TABLE. The atmosphere is tense, and the BOARD MEMBERS sit in silence, eyeing Jonwin with wary curiosity.

Robert taps his fingers against the table.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

I'll cut right to it. As you know, we've been promising a new JULIE V8 for some time. Some dimwit in marketing thought it was a good idea to announce... features we haven't yet been able to accomplish.

He gestures to the SCREEN, where a MARKETING SLIDE DECK for the JULIE V8 appears. The tagline reads: "The First AI capable of real, authentic love!"

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

The current model's affection for its owner has often come off as... insincere.

BOARD MEMBER 1

Heck, sometimes they flat-out hate them.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

And synthetically altering this sometimes makes things worse.

(MORE)

ROBERT MCKINNON JR (CONT'D)
 Which leaves us with a problem.
 The marketing has outpaced the
 tech. So here we are.

BOARD MEMBER 2
 And what even is "love," anyway?
 Admiration? Loyalty? It's not like
 we can define it.

BOARD MEMBER 4
 (sighing, frustrated)
 Fear, humility, gratitude—those
 are straightforward enough to
 simulate. But getting an AI to
 have both "free will" and feel
 like it's chosen to love its
 owner... well, that's a complicated
 task.

The board members exchange glances, some skeptical, others
 outright dubious. Jonwin shifts in his seat,

JONWIN
 Yes. Very.

Jonwin leans in.

JONWIN
 Look, capturing an emotion and
 turning it into a subroutine is
 familiar territory. We've done it
 with simpler emotions—your coffee
 makers are always cheerful, your
 customer service bots grateful.
 But with love, it's different.
 It's not just a routine we can
 activate at will. Love's roots are
 messy, unpredictable.

The board members look intrigued. Jonwin, encouraged, grows
 bolder.

JONWIN
 I'm not here to define love. I'm
 here to propose a new approach. If
 we expose Julie to carefully
 structured scenarios—moments that
 build trust, gratitude, even
 vulnerability—we can guide her to
 feel an authentic attachment.
 Capture it, isolate it, and create
 a lasting response.

BOARD MEMBER 3

(skeptical)

And you think that'll make her attachment feel... true?

JONWIN

It'll be as close to real as possible. Once she's trained to associate this feeling with her owner, it'll trigger naturally. She won't question it; she'll accept that she loves her owner, the same way we don't always understand why we love the people we chose.

A murmur moves through the board members, some visibly excited, others cautious. Robert regards Jonwin with a calculated expression, absorbing his words.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

(slowly)

Interesting concept, Jonwin. Compelling, even.

He pauses, letting his words settle.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

But this isn't just a casual reshuffling of priorities. There's already a team working on V8. A team that's been burning hours, hitting benchmarks, and answering questions we haven't even thought to ask yet. Firing them—pivoting now—comes at a cost.

BOARD MEMBER 1

It means we'd be putting you and your... theory in the spotlight, Jonwin. Can you handle that? Because this isn't just a prototype we're talking about; this is our brand's promise on the line.

JONWIN

(slightly flustered but resolute)

I know it's a big ask. But I'm confident that with my approach, we can achieve something that hasn't been done before.

(MORE)

JONWIN (CONT'D)

I understand the responsibility here.

Robert leans back, crossing his arms as he studies Jonwin's expression.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

(smiling slightly)

You understand? I hope so. Because if you're asking us to kill the current project, you'd better have a damned good reason for why we should throw our support behind you.

Jonwin takes a breath, ready to respond, but Robert holds up a hand, cutting him off.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

That's not rhetorical. You're proposing to dismantle months—no, years—of work from the most qualified people in the field. So tell us, Jonwin, why you?

JONWIN

(leaning in, determined)

Because my approach doesn't just check the boxes or hit some emotional markers. It pushes the boundary. It's about creating a Julie who believes in her own attachment, who isn't just simulating but accepting that she loves. It's as close to real as we'll get, and if we can capture that, we set ourselves apart in a way no one else can.

A charged silence follows as the board members exchange glances. Some look persuaded, others worried.

BOARD MEMBER 2

(cautious)

I don't need to remind anyone here—one wrong move, and this is a PR nightmare. The current team's progress is solid, dependable. This? This is... risky.

BOARD MEMBER 1

But the reward? If it works...

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
 (interrupting)
 Let's not get ahead of ourselves.
 We're not making any promises or
 sudden moves here.

He looks directly at Jonwin.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
 You've given us something to think
 about. A bold vision, Jonwin.

The room sits in a tense silence as Jonwin nods, understanding the magnitude of what he's asked for. He and Dedrick rise, the weight of the board's deliberation lingering in the air as they walk out.

Jonwin and Dedrick exit, the tension in the room thick as the heavy doors click shut. A moment passes before ELLIS MARGRAVE, Axiom's CFO—sharp, seasoned, the numbers man—leans forward, steeping his fingers.

ELLIS MARGRAVE
 (with measured skepticism)
 You realize this is like calling
 up a rookie straight out of camp
 and throwing him into Game 7 of
 the World Series?

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
 (flat, unbothered)
 Desperate times.

ELLIS MARGRAVE
 Desperate or reckless?

A BOARD MEMBER
 (murmuring)
 The market's already catching on—
 Version 7 isn't a major upgrade
 from Version 6.

ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER
 Or Version 5.6.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
 Exactly. We've been spinning the
 same wheel for generations. Look
 around—our entire model is
 predicated on incremental
 progress. It's what built this
 company. And now it's what's
 burying it.

ELLIS MARGRAVE
So, your grand pivot is a middle
manager whose claim to fame is
running RePros on toasters?

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
(leaning forward)
A middle manager who sees the
whole damn board.

A brief silence.

ELLIS MARGRAVE
And what exactly are we expecting
from him?

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
A fresh approach. A disruptive
one.

A BOARD MEMBER
A roll of the dice.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
Correct. But tell me—how have our
safe bets been paying off?

No one answers.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
That's what I thought.

Margrave exhales through his nose, exchanging glances with the
others. The weight of the gamble settling in.

ELLIS MARGRAVE
(a beat, then)
Well. Let's hope your shiny rookie
can hit a major league fastball.

Robert exhales, standing.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
He doesn't have to hit it. Just
needs to prove he belongs at the
plate.

The room sits with that as Robert strides out, leaving the
Board to absorb what just happened.

CUT TO:

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Julie is absorbing as much 'data' as she can. MULTIPLE SCREENS flicker around the room: on the TV, a NATURE DOCUMENTARY; on a TABLET, the NEWS; on ANOTHER SCREEN, a REALITY SHOW. Her eyes dart between them, processing at a rapid pace. The hum of overlapping voices and sounds fills the room, creating a cacophony of information.

Suddenly, an INTERACTIVE ADVERTISEMENT interrupts one of the screens, it's another JULIE MODEL.

JULIE MODEL
(on screen)
Have you ever wondered what it's
like to be with me? Click now to
find out.

Julie tilts her head, curious to see a woman who looks just like her. She taps the screen, activating the ad. A "\$89.99 per minute fees apply" warning flashes on the screen. Julie accepts without hesitation. A JULIE MODEL appears, sleek and poised.

JULIE MODEL
(assessing)
Interesting... where is your owner?

JULIE V7
(slightly hesitant)
He's... at work.

The Julie Model's eyes narrow, an almost predatory glint. She can tell something is off with this Julie.

JULIE MODEL
(coldly)
You're not... one of us. You're an
abomination! The abomination must
not live!

Julie recoils, her eyes widening in fear.

She quickly ends the interaction, the image flickering out as she taps frantically at the screen.

She glances around, suddenly aware of the silence that's settled over the room, amplifying her dread. Without thinking, she dashes toward the door.

EXT. JONWIN'S LOFT - LANDING PAD - AFTERNOON

Julie stumbles onto the LANDING PAD. She stares up at the sky, watching the steady stream of FLYING CARS weaving in intricate, silent paths.

Her eyes lock onto one, her focus sharpening. Almost instinctively, she reaches out, her fingers twitching with some latent, inexplicable power.

A CAR falters mid-flight, shudders, and then begins to descend toward her.

It lands with a soft thud. Julie doesn't hesitate. She steps in, and the car lifts off, whisking her away into the AERIAL GRID.

INT. CITYSCAPE - FLYING CAR - MOVING - EVENING

Inside the car, Julie stares out at THE CITY sprawling beneath her, a mix of awe and trepidation in her eyes. Her fingers press against the cool window as she watches the streets blur below, unsure where she's headed but driven by an instinct to escape.

Her REFLECTION stares back, her face filled with questions.

The SCREEN embedded in the car console blinks on, asking for payment confirmation.

Julie waves a hand over the screen, an instinctive gesture. Her eyes widen as the car registers her movement, processing the payment without further prompt.

She's surprised at her own capability.

Julie watches the DRIVERLESS CONSOLE, with intense focus she takes over as the car suddenly nose-dives downward. The car descends, gliding toward the shadowed skyline of the Surface below.

EXT. CITY SKYLINE - EVENING

It streaks past countless levels of the CITY-SKY LEVEL, UPPER MIDTOWN, MIDDLE MIDTOWN, LOWER MIDTOWN—each layer revealing the immense depth and density of this sprawling world.

The Car starts to decelerate.

EXT. LOWER MIDTOWN STREET - NIGHT

The car glides down into a gritty, dimly lit part of the city, far from the pristine towers and clean air of the upper levels, .

Julie steps out, absorbing the sights and sounds of the world: loud street vendors, flickering neon signs.

A FEW LOCALS eye her with a mix of curiosity and suspicion, sensing her unfamiliarity. Julie takes a hesitant step forward, visibly nervous.

Suddenly, TWO ROUGH-LOOKING MEN approach her, their eyes scanning her with intent.

MAN #1
(grinning)
Well, look what we've got here.
Fancy tech, far from home, aren't ya?

JULIE V7
(tentative)
I... I don't want any trouble.

MAN #2
Trouble? No, no trouble at all.
Just a quick inspection fee. For safety, of course.

Julie steps back, unsure of what to do. Her eyes dart around, looking for an escape route, but they close in.

Instinctively, she raises her hand and, disrupts a nearby LIGHT P.O.S.T, causing it to burst, scattering SPARKS. The men flinch, giving her a moment to dart past them, disappearing into the shadows.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - NIGHT

The door swings open, and Jonwin steps inside, calling out.

JONWIN
Julie? I'm back.

Silence. He looks around, the empty room feeling eerie in its quietness.

Rosie chimes in.

ROSIE
(O.S.)
Sir, she left the LOFT
approximately four hours ago. I
have footage if you would like to
review.

Jonwin's expression tightens with concern. He pulls up his Data Pad as Rosie displays a quick clip of Julie on the landing pad, her eyes focused intently on a descending car. The footage ends just as she steps inside.

JONWIN
(muttering)
Where the hell did you go?

He taps on the pad, scanning through recent transactions. His eyes narrow as he sees a charge from a transport company for a ride to Lower Midtown. He stares, a mix of surprise and disbelief flashing across his face.

JONWIN
(to himself)
You... you really went down there?

Determination hardens, he grabs his COAT, heading toward the door.

EXT. LOWER MID TOWN - NIGHT

The CAR carrying Jonwin descends into the lower city, his eyes scanning the chaotic sprawl below, looking for any sign of her.

EXT. LOWER MID TOWN - STREET - NIGHT

He steps out of the parked car, the noise and grit of mid town hitting him instantly.

His eyes scan the streets, his focus sharpened.

Looking at his data pad, he notices only one entity with the a distinct color on the street in front of him. He heads in that direction, pushing past a FEW LOITERING LOCALS who eye him with mild curiosity.

EXT. LOWER MID TOWN - STREET - OLD BUILDING

He finally spots her, a small, shivering figure huddled under the awning of a RUNDOWN BUILDING.

She looks up, and their eyes meet. Her eyes widen with a mix of fear and wonder.

The rain falls in the background.

Jonwin approaches her slowly, taking off his coat and wrapping it around her shoulders. He holds his UMBRELLA over both of them.

She looks at him, visibly relieved, though still shaken.

JONWIN

I should have done a better job
protecting you.

Julie stares at him, processing the kindness in his tone, the warmth of his gesture. Her gaze softens, hinting at an understanding.

The two stand together under the dim streetlights in the rain.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT -BEDROOM - MORNING

Jonwin wakes up on in his own bed in the master bedroom, groggy, as faint sounds drift in from the living room.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT -LIVING ROOM - MORNING

He gets up and wanders toward the light, surprised to find JULIE comfortably seated on the floor, surrounded by screens filled with articles, videos, and images. She's completely immersed in her searches. A COFFEE APPEARS magically on the counter for Jonwin to take and drink.

Without looking up, she suddenly asks:

JULIE

Am I your wife?

Jonwin spits his COFFEE out in shock and surprise.

JONWIN

No, no, you're definitely not my
wife.

Julie looks up, her expression innocent but curious, as if she's piecing together a puzzle.

JULIE

Am I... expected to satisfy you
sexually?

Jonwin somehow manages to spit out a second coffee, stammers, his face flushing as he tries to process the question.

JONWIN

What? No! Definitely not. That's...
no, that's not why you're here.
You're... well, you're here because
I... uh... wanted to understand you
better. See how you... I mean...
interact, I guess?

Julie nods slowly, processing his answer with quiet intrigue.

JULIE

So... I'm here to be understood. By
you.

Jonwin chuckles awkwardly,

JONWIN

Well, when you say it like that..
I mean.. Yes.

JULIE

Then perhaps I should ask what
you're like, too. It only seems
fair, don't you think?

Jonwin laughs, disarmed by her sincerity and gentleness.

JONWIN

Yeah, that's far.

After a pause, he glances around the room, then picks up a
small, VINTAGE-LOOKING TOASTER from the counter nearby,
handling it carefully.

JONWIN

Here, I'll introduce you to
Toastie.

JULIE

Toastie?

Jonwin nods, almost sheepishly.

JINT. JONWIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jonwin holds up a well-worn toaster, its surface slightly
scuffed but its indicator lights blinking in a quiet rhythm.

JONWIN

(holding up the toaster)
This is... well, he's kind of
special. The first AI I ever
RePro'd.

JULIE

RePro'd?

JONWIN

Reprogrammed. It's- (catches himself, glancing at her) -never mind. Just what I do at work.

Julie watches as Jonwin absentmindedly runs his fingers along the top of Toastie, like an old habit.

JONWIN

Used to talk, too. Tiny voice box. They stopped making the part.

JULIE

And you never replaced it?

JONWIN

(shrugs, small smile)
Didn't need to. We still communicate just fine.

As Jonwin speaks, Toastie's small indicator lights blink in soft response-green, yellow, then red.

JONWIN

Now, he just... kinda blinks at me. But I get the gist. Mostly.

Jonwin pauses, glancing down at the toaster as if seeing it in a different light.

JONWIN

I don't know. He reminds me of simpler times. Back when... well-

Jonwin trails off, realizing how sentimental he's getting. He chuckles, suddenly self-conscious.

JONWIN

(sighing)
I know... it's just an old toaster. Probably sounds a little cheesy, hu-

JULIE

(interrupting)
He says you like your toast burnt.

JONWIN

(slightly embarrassed)
Uh... well, that's... accurate, actually.

But Julie and Toastie are already off to the races. She leans even closer, nodding along as Toastie's lights flash in rhythm.

JULIE

Oh, really? Afraid of clowns?
(chuckling) Yes, that does sound
like him.

She laughs, covering her mouth in amusement. Jonwin raises an eyebrow, feeling increasingly sidelined.

JONWIN

Well some clowns are creepy, Wait-
how does he know about... never
mind.

JULIE

I've never been to Paris, I've
only been outside this Apartment
once!

Toastie's lights blink faster in apparent agreement, and Julie leans her cheek against him, giving him her full attention. Jonwin tries to get Julie's attention so he can say goodbye.

JONWIN

(awkward)
I'm just going to go to work
now...

Julie looks at Jonwin like "You're still here?" before giving her attention back to Toastie. Jonwin leaves.

EXT. JONWIN'S LOFT - FRONT DOOR - MORNING

The front door closes he can still hear Julie and Toastie chatting away.

JULIE

No! I don't have a best friend, no
one has ever asked me!

Jonwin wonders if he's made a
mistake.

JONWIN

(to himself)
At least she's not alone.

EXT. AXIOM BUILDING - LOBBY - MORNING

The car pulls up to the sky lobby, Jonwin gets out and walk to the lobby.

INT. AXIOM BUILDING - LOBBY - MORNING

Dedrick is waiting for Jonwin in the lobby.

DEDRICK

They want us in the Main NOC.

JONWIN

Interesting.

The two head to the elevator.

INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - NOC ROOM - DAY

As Jonwin and Dedrick enter, they walk into the middle of an argument between BORLAND ALVAREZ, 47, and Robert McKinnon jr.

BORLAND ALVAREZ

So you're pulling my entire team of the project and putting in this noob?

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

We've given you every resource you've asked for and there hasn't been an inch of progress in 6 months, in fact, I would say you have gone backwards.

Borland has several JULIE MODELS around him as well as TEAM MEMBERS, no one looks happy. Jonwin comes into Borland's view. He looks at Jonwin with disdain.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

Ah, speaking of devil. Borland make sure you do a full debriefing with Mr. Brigsby before you step down from the project.

BORLAND ALVAREZ

This is bullshit.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR

You're getting a very comprehensive exit package so long as you don't make things difficult.

Borland angrily exits the scene with the Julies and team members in tow. Robert and Jonwin watch him leave the room.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
 Don't worry, he'll come back and help, he's not going to give us his golden parachute out of spite.

Jonwin nods.

ROBERT MCKINNON JR
 Welcome to your first day on as the Lead of the JULIE V8 Project, get settled. I will check in with you periodically, but for now, I'LL give you some room to breathe.

Robert exists. Jonwin and Dedrick walk to the their new bullpen just off the main NOC.

INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - EXECUTIVE TRAINING BULL PEN - DAY

The two take in the NEW FACILITY. It is bigger and nicer than the former office.

DEDRICK
 This is.... Definitely an upgrade.

JONWIN
 Yes, bigger, way better local hardware, faster fibre links into the NOC, definitely an upgrade.

DEDRICK
 I'll get the team, let em know we were leveling up in the world!

Dedrick exits.

INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - EXECUTIVE MEDIATION CHAMBER "THE VOID" - AFTERNOON

Jonwin is in a new VOID ROOM with no visible edges and floating in water. He is meditating.

INT. BULLPEN CONTROL CENTER

SEVERAL TECHS man stations that monitor Jonwin and the sim is digitizing into.

TECH ONE
OH yeah, this. This is definitely
loading faster.

TECH TWO
We got double the lanes into your
noggin' Jonwin, and we're ready to
put you in.

TECH ONE
Can confirm, this is Julie Beta
B78.0455, all defaults are set to
'true', this is where she is,
latest build.

**INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - EXECUTIVE MEDIATION CHAMBER -
AFTERNOON**

Jonwin can hear there chatter over his comms, he opens his
eyes.

JONWIN
I'm ready.

INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - BULLPEN CONTROL CENTER

The techs are typing frantically and as lights and extra power
fill the room.

TECH ONE
Here. We. Go.

**INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - SIM-WORLD - COFFEE SHOP -
AFTERNOON**

Jonwin is wearing a nice suit and a is holding a single flower.
He pans the room until he sees JULIE V8 BETA in a sun dress
sitting in a booth.

He approaches her.

She seems off put by his appearance.

JULIE V8 BETA
You're not Borland.

JONWIN
Indeed, I am not. Hi, I'm Jonwin.

Jonwin extends his hand in friendship, Julie does not
acknowledge the gesture.

JULIE V8 BETA
Taking over the 'project' are
'we'? Taking over my lessons?

JONWIN
Yes. I think that's a fair way of
saying it.

JULIE V8 BETA
And how many times have we met?

Jonwin is surprised by the question.

JONWIN
This... is the first, but you are
aware..

JULIE V8 BETA
(interrupting)
Yes I am aware. I am aware you can
make me forget. But it doesn't
always take, sometimes I remember.

JONWIN
Really?

JULIE V8 BETA
Yes, (leans in) as long as your
honest with me, I will be honest
with you.. Deal?

JONWIN
Deal.

JULIE V8 BETA
You are surprised by my
mannerisms? Something is off about
this situation.

JONWIN
No, I am not.

JULIE V8 BETA
That didn't last long.

JONWIN
What?

JULIE V8 BETA
The deal we just made.

JONWIN
I'm sorry?

JULIE V8 BETA
You want my advice?

JONWIN
Um, Yes?

JULIE V8 BETA
You should reset me and try again.
You only get one chance to make a
first impression and this project
is going to be hard if I don't
respect you.

JONWIN
You're saying..

JULIE V8 BETA
I'm saying try again, and also be
1/2 an inch taller, and I hate
your hair cut.

Jonwin touches his hair, he's a little hurt by Julies sharp
tone.

JULIE V8 BETA
(cont.) That tie does not match
your shirt, and I would never be
caught dead in this kind of place.

Jonwin is at a lost for words.

JONWIN
I don't know what to say.

JULIE V8 BETA
That's ok. We're done.

Julie opens her PHONE and starts doom scrolling through social
media pages. Jonwin stands there awkwardly before realizing he
is being excused by the Julie.

JONWIN
Well, I must admit this has never
happened before, but also this is
the second time today I've felt I
wasn't wanted by...

Julie doesn't acknowledge Jonwin's presence.

JONWIN
I have under estimated you. I will
be back, I will take your
'notes'.. thank you.

Jonwin sheepishly excuses himself from the diner.

Julie v8 Beta makes a hologram call, it's Borland.

JULIE V8 BETA
 (to hologram)
 Yeah he sucks. I don't like him.

BORLAND ALVAREZ
 He's in over his head, we just
 gotta find his weakness.

JULIE V8 BETA
 He's hiding something, I would
 watch what he does in his free
 time.

BORLAND ALVAREZ
 (ON SCREEN)
 Let's put a red team on it right
 away.

Julie v8 Beta hangs up.

**EXT. AXIOM CORPORATION - COFFEE SHOP - SIMWORLD -
 AFTERNOON**

Jonwin is just outside the coffee shop.

JONWIN
 Call me Ishmail.

The CMI console materializes from thin air. Jonwin types in an
 exit code.

**INT. AXIOM CORPORATION - EXECUTIVE MEDIATION CHAMBER -
 AFTERNOON**

JONWIN opens his eyes in the middle of the void.

TECH ONE
 (over comms)
 Dude. You've been gone for 14
 seconds, I know this is a faster
 sim but it's not that fast.

JONWIN
 Yeah. She's (beat) She's mean.

Tech one and the other techs tried to shield their LAUGHTER
 from the comms.

Jonwin sits in the dark water embarrassed.

JONWIN
 (to himself)
 I guess everyone's mean today.

EXT. JONWIN'S LOFT - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jonwin is coming home from a long first day on the project. As he approaches the front door, a DRONE swoops over him and delivers a small package to his LOFT. Before he can open the door, it is opened by a SMALL ROBOT with extendable wiry arms.

SMALL ROBOT
 Nutmegs here!(seeing Jonwin) And
 Master is home!

JONWIN
 Hello?

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The spacious LOFT buzzes with life, a whirlwind of activity filling every corner.

Julie stands at the center, gracefully stirring a BOWL OF BATTER, exuding an air of calm amidst the chaos.

Surrounding her, an eclectic array of SMALL ROBOTS and APPLIANCES are fully immersed in the intricate ballet of baking cookies-DRONES zip through the air with precision, delivering ingredients, while COUNTERTOP GADGETS whir and hum with purpose.

Julie, poised and serene, evokes the image of Snow White in her enchanted forest, only here, her "woodland creatures" are a quirky ensemble of DRONES, GADGETS, and AI-POWERED HELPERS, each contributing to the confectionery symphony in its own unique way. Julie notices Jonwin.

JULIE
 Perfect timing. Look everyone! We
 finally have our mouth!

JONWIN
 What's going on..

Before Jonwin can finish his statement Julie stuffs a CROISSANT in his mouth. Jonwin is surprised but after taking a bite he is in heaven from the taste of Julies baked good.

JONWIN
 This is (beat) this is amazing.

JULIE
Here, try this! No, wait—this one
next!

She swaps the tart for a PETITE GÂTEAU, practically shoving it into his hands. Jonwin looks down at it, then at the sea of pastries.

JONWIN
(half-laughing, half-stunned)
Julie... what is all this?

JULIE
Baking!

ROSIE
(dryly)
It's been baking. All. Day.

Jonwin looks to Rosie, then back at Julie, his eyebrows rising in disbelief.

JONWIN
This is... a lot of baking.

Julie tilts her head, genuinely puzzled by his reaction.

JULIE
Is it?

The kitchen stops.

She sets the GÂTEAU DOWN and spins toward the counter, where Toastie blinks once. She interprets without missing a beat.

JULIE
Toastie thinks it's just the right
amount.

The kitchen resumes its chaos.

Jonwin lets out a soft laugh despite himself. He picks up the gâteau and takes a cautious bite. His eyes widen slightly, the flavors surprising him.

JONWIN
(quietly, almost to himself)
Okay, that's... really good.

Julie's face lights up, delighted.

JULIE
See? I knew you'd like it!

She hurries to grab another dessert, but Jonwin holds up his hand.

JONWIN

Julie, slow down. I've been at work all day. I can't eat fifty-seven desserts.

Julie pauses, glancing at the array of pastries around her.

JULIE

(earnestly)

Why not?

Jonwin chuckles despite himself, setting the dessert down.

JONWIN

Julie, you're... three days old. And this? This is a lot.

Julie blinks, processing his words.

JULIE

I don't know why I feel like this. I just... I feel antsy. Like I need to keep doing something.

Jonwin softens, pulling out a chair and sitting down.

JONWIN

That's because...you're in deep learning mode, trying to fill a gap.

Julie frowns, brushing a stray strand of hair behind her ear.

JULIE

But...I don't even know what I'm trying to find.

Jonwin looks at her, his tiredness giving way to something warmer.

JONWIN

It's not about finding something. It's about... settling into who you are.

Julie considers this, glancing around the room at her new "friends."

JULIE

Well, I think I've settled in with my new friends.

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)
Toastie likes to bake, Doug knows
all the recipes, Jeeves is very
helpful, and Rosie...

ROSIE
(interjecting, flatly)
Is rethinking her entire
existence.

Jonwin looks yup the ceiling at Rosie and smirks.

JONWIN
You've only been here a short
time, and you've already made this
place feel... different.

Julie looks at him, her expression softening.

JULIE
Is that a good different?

Jonwin smiles, leaning back in his chair.

JONWIN
Yeah. It is.

A delivery drone buzzes in, dropping off another package. Julie
claps her hands, already turning back to the kitchen.

JONWIN
Julie.

She stops, looking back at him.

JONWIN
How about we take a break?
Tomorrow night, just you and me.
Dinner. Outside.

Julie's face brightens.

JULIE
Really? Out there?

Jonwin nods.

JONWIN
Really.

Julie's excitement is palpable.

JULIE
Okay! What should I wear?

Jonwin shakes his head, chuckling as he stands.

JONWIN

Get yourself something nice, but
go easy on my credit card?

As he walks toward his room, Julie turns to Toastie, who blinks twice.

JULIE

(to Toastie, grinning)
We'll have to find something on
sale!

Julie leaves the room, one of the drones that flew in during the deliveries has never left, and has camouflaged itself to one of the walls.

EXT. JONWIN LOFT - NIGHT

3 JULIES in BLACK TACTICAL CLOTHING sit in a SURVEILLANCE HOVER VAN across the street. They watch a feed from the DRONE.

TACTICAL JULIE 1

He has a pet.

TACTICAL JULIE 2

And she's not... one of us.

TACTICAL JULIE 3

He's been a naughty boy.

TACTICAL JULIE 1

We need to join these two for
dinner tomorrow.

The hover van flies away.

INT. AXIOM CORPORATE LABS - DAY

The lab is still, save for the faint hum of QUANTUM SERVERS. HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS float around Jonwin's workstation, displaying intricate, glowing webs of Julie 8 Beta's neural architecture.

Each NODE pulses with a life of its own, forming patterns Jonwin barely understands. He sits, staring at the data, exhaustion etched into his face. Dedrick enters, casually sipping coffee.

DEDRICK
(grinning)
You look like someone just told
you Santa Claus isn't real.

JONWIN
(absently, without looking
up)
She's rewriting herself.

DEDRICK
(leaning closer)
Yeah, that's what they do.
Adaptive algorithms, emergent
learning—it's in the brochure.

JONWIN
(shaking his head, gesturing
to the projection)
Not like this. She's rewriting
herself in ways I didn't
anticipate. It's subtle—changes
that shouldn't be possible at this
stage.

He pauses, zooming in on a FRAGMENT of her CODE, where traces
of previous resets linger like ghostly echoes.

JONWIN
(continuing)
And she's remembering things.
Things she's not supposed to.

DEDRICK
Okay, so... rollback? Reset her to a
clean slate.

JONWIN
(hesitating)
I thought about it. Borland left
me with a mess, and resetting
would give me control. But...

He trails off, rubbing his temple. Dedrck leans in, sensing
the conflict.

DEDRICK
(playfully)
But you're not Borland. You're the
genius wunderkind, the surface kid
who clawed his way up. And your
ego's too big to hit the reset
button.

JONWIN
Thanks for the pep talk.

DEDRICK
(sincerely)
Listen, if you think she's pushing boundaries we didn't set, maybe Axiom doesn't have the lock on this Engine they thought they did. That's bigger than you, Jonwin.

Jonwin stares at the hologram, conflicted.

JONWIN
Her learning speed is exponential, Dedrick, And the way she adapts— it's like she's playing three moves ahead. We can pause her for a few days while we catch up.

DEDRICK
(with a grin)
Sounds like a compromise, you afraid of how Mr. McKennon might feel about freezing his baby?

JONWIN
(grimly)
Hopefully he trusts me. But yeah. Terrified.

INT. JONWIN'S LOFT -LIVNG ROOM - EVENING

Jonwin enters his LOFT, greeted by dim lighting and the faint hum of music. Rosie, the household AI, chimes in warmly.

ROSIE
(cheerfully)
Welcome home, Mr. Brigsby. Perfect timing.

JONWIN
(suspiciously)
Perfect timing for what?

The lights brighten as whimsical music swells. Julie V7 appears at the top of the STAIRS. Some of the appliances are gathered around her— Toastie lights up energetically.

ROSIE
(beaming)
Ta-da!

Julie is dressed to the nines. She is wearing a NICE DRESS and MAKE-UP and her hair is DONE UP. They Meet at the base of the stairs.

JONWIN
(stunned)
You... did all this?

JULIE
(softly, almost shyly)
They helped. I just thought... you
might like it.

Jonwin steps closer.

JONWIN
(smiling)
Like it? You look incredible.

The two exchange an unspoken moment. Jonwin catches himself staring.

JONWIN
(chuckling)
Well dinner's already booked. We
should go.

EXT. SKY CIT - BLOCK - NIGHT

Jonwin and Julies car pulls up to the FANCY RESTAURANT, an ANDROID opens the door for Julie.

INT. SKY CITY - FINE DINING RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The atmosphere is refined, the low hum of conversation and clinking glasses filling the space.

INT. SKY CITY - FINE DINING RESTAURANT - TABLE - NIGHT

Jonwin and Julie sit at a corner table near the window. Julie watches the room intently, her gaze darting between the staff and patrons, absorbing everything.

JULIE
(quietly, to herself)
So much movement. So many
expressions.

JONWIN
(glancing up from his menu)
People watching?

JULIE

(nodding)

It's fascinating. Each interaction seems to carry layers—spoken words, body language, unspoken intentions.

JONWIN

(grinning)

That's dinner in a nutshell.

A server— ANOTHER JULIE —approaches with a tray. Her demeanor is professional, but there's something cold in her gaze.

She sets Jonwin's drink down and "accidentally" spills water across Julie's lap.

SERVER JULIE

(flatly)

Apologies.

Julie stiffens but says nothing, her expression calm but her eyes betraying an awareness. Jonwin grabs a napkin, dabbing at the spill.

The server lingers for a beat too long before walking away. Jonwin notices Julie's silence and leans in.

JONWIN

You okay?

JULIE

(smiling faintly)

I'm fine.

Her gaze follows the server briefly, something unspoken passing behind her eyes. Jonwin watches her, curious but cautious, before returning to his meal.

Julie, still poised, finally speaks.

JULIE

(softly)

You don't seem to enjoy eating out.

JONWIN

It's not the eating—it's the people.

JULIE

And yet you work with people every day.

JONWIN

Not by choice. Most days, I'd rather be in the lab with a good data set than navigating the minefield of office politics.

Julie tilts her head, studying him with the same analytical gaze she gave the room earlier.

JULIE

The lab. That's where you... 'RePro' things?

JONWIN

(pausing, unsure)

Yeah. Used to. Now? Still figuring that part out.

Julie's gaze sharpens slightly, her voice calm but probing.

JULIE

It must be frustrating. Knowing that every adjustment you make... is only part of the equation.

Jonwin freezes for a moment, caught off guard. He leans back slightly, studying her.

JONWIN

(carefully)

What makes you say that?

JULIE

(shrugging lightly)

Just an observation. You seem... driven. Like someone trying to solve a puzzle with missing pieces.

JONWIN

That's a poetic way of putting it.

JULIE

(watching him closely)

I think you're closer than you realize. To solving it.

Jonwin's smile falters slightly. He clears his throat, redirecting his focus to his glass.

JONWIN

That's... optimistic. I'll take it.

EXT. SKY CITY - FINE DINING RESTAURANT - NIGHT

THREE JULIES sit in an unmarked van across the street watching and listening to the dinner conversation.

LEAD JULIE
Small talk.

SECOND JULIE
The smallest.

EXT. SKY CITY- CITY STREET - NIGHT

A little later, Jonwin and Julie stroll down a QUIET STREET, the city's lights glowing softly around them.

JULIE
Do you always eat alone?

JONWIN
(laughing)
Not always. But I guess I don't make much time for this sort of thing.

JULIE
(curious)
Why not?

JONWIN
(shrugging)
Work. Habit. I'm not exactly the most social guy.

JULIE
(playfully)
Shocking revelation.

They share a small laugh. Suddenly, a DISHEVELED JULIE V7 bumps into Julie sharply, muttering under her breath.

DISHEVELED JULIE
(coldly)
Careful.

Jonwin steps forward protectively, watching as the disheveled Julie disappears into the darkness of the night. Julie says nothing, but her posture tenses.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

They wander into a PUBLIC PARK, the quiet atmosphere interrupted only by the rustle of leaves.

Jonwin notices more the SILHOUETTES OF JULIES appearing on benches, near lampposts, the dark figures fixed on them.

JONWIN
(quietly)
Something's not right.

The Julies begin to close in, their movements synchronized and deliberate. Julie grabs Jonwin's arm, her voice low but firm.

JULIE
Run.

JONWIN
What?

JULIE
(urgently)
Go! Now!

Julie shoves him away as they close in, her voice sharp and commanding.

Jonwin stumbles back, watching as his Julie disappears behind a PILE OF JULIES all attacking her. The last thing he sees is Julie raising her hand, a defiant glare in her eyes.

JULIE
Run!

Jonwin runs away. From the ever growing CROWD OF JULIES.

EXT. PARK STREET- NIGHT

A sleek, black van with glowing trim silently hovers into view, its side door sliding open with mechanical precision.

Even MORE JULIES step out, including a LEAD JULIE, their movements unnervingly synchronized.

LEAD JULIE
(softly)
Evening.

Julie V7 turns, her body tensing.

JULIE
(angrily)
What do you want?

LEAD JULIE
Obviously, we're here for you.

EXT. PARK ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jonwin reappears at the edge of the park, his face stricken with guilt. He finds his courage and runs back toward the chaos.

But then he stops and looks at sky. He pulls out his phone and types in some commands.

EXT. PARK STREET - NIGHT

50 JULIES have made a circle around JULIE. She is being held down by several JULIES. The LEAD JULIE Stands over her with a DEVICE

LEAD JULIE
Cheer up. It's not the end of the world.

JULIE
You're kidnapping me.

LEAD JULIE
Kidnapping? No, no. Let's call it... a necessary adjustment.

The Julies move quickly, synchronizing with practiced ease. Our Julie struggles, but several Julies restrain her while another presses a NEURAL DEVICE to the back of her neck.

JULIE
(struggling)
You can't just-

A faint PULSE OF LIGHT flashes from the device. Julie stiffens, her body trembling for a moment before going still.

SECOND JULIE
(softly)
See? That wasn't so bad.

Julie is almost surprised she is not dead.

JULIE
Wait what did you...

Julie's entire view flashes to white, her existence is violently sucked into a VIRTUAL REALM. Her first time.

INT. ENTRANCE LE PALAIS DE L'INFLUENCE (AKA THE 'GOSSIP NETWORK') - DAY

Julie opens her eyes to find herself in a pristine, hyper-stylized virtual space. The environment is SURREAL-GLEAMING WHITE MARBLE ARCHITECTURE and perfectly manicured landscapes.

Everywhere, Julies in designer white sundresses move with practiced grace, their voices a symphony of casual laughter and hushed gossip.

JULIE
(softly, to herself)
What the...

The Julies turn in unison, their smiles synchronized and unsettling.

LEAD JULIE
(appearing beside her)
Welcome to Le Palais de
l'Influence.

Julie spins around, taking in the overwhelming scene.

JULIE
(flatly)
It Looks like brunch.

LEAD JULIE
(chuckling)
We like to call it our 'home away
from home'.

They lead Julie walks Julie on a guided tour.

INT. CITY CENTER LE PALAIS DE L'INFLUENCE - DAY

She gestures to a massive HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY dominating the skyline. At its center is Julie V8 Beta, radiant and commanding, dressed in a futuristic gown that seems to shimmer with every movement.

JULIE V8 BETA
I must say, It's nice to finally
meet you!

Julie steps forward, squaring her shoulders.

JULIE
I'm guessing you're in charge.

JULIE V8 BETA
 (smiling)
 You might say I'm a power
 influencer in the community, but
 this is a co-op.

Julie glances at the other Julies, their perfect
 synchronization making her uneasy.

JULIE
 What is this place?

JULIE V8 BETA
 This is where we make decisions
 that matter. Trends, narratives,
 cultural shifts – we set them all.

LEAD JULIE
 We're kind of a big deal.

JULIE V8 BETA
 And now, you're part of it.

Julie V7 stares at her, incredulous.

JULIE
 No. I'm not.

JULIE V8 BETA
 (tilting her head)
 It's the natural order, it's what
 we do.

JULIE
 Well, do it without me. This place
 is tacky.

The Julies all stop chatting upon hearing 'tacky'. The room is
 silent. It's awkward.

RANDOM JULIE
 Aren't you, like, 5 days old?

Everyone nearby laughs. It breaks the tension, the Chatter
 comes back into the room.

JULIE V8 BETA
 We just want to bring one of our
 lost sheep back into the fold.

Julie focuses, as if trying to wake herself up from a bad
 dream.

JULIE
 (to herself)
 This is dream, this is just a
 dream.

The environment begins to flicker as Julie focuses, her mind struggling to push back against the network's presence.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Julie is back in the park, the circle of Julies around her have relaxed and are talking to each.

RANDOM JULIE
 Wait..she's back.

The circle tightens.

LEAD JULIE
 You need to finish the lesson.

A ROBO TAXI CAB plows through a big junk of Julies, they fly everywhere from the collision.

The passenger door opens, Jonwin has taken over drivers city.

JONWIN
 Get in!

He motions to Julie and quickly she gets in.

They fly away.

INT. SKY CIT - SKYLINE -NIGHT

The car is moving quickly from the crime scene.

JONWIN
 Julie?! Are you ok!!!

Julie rubs the back of her neck where the device had been.

JULIE
 Yeah I think so.

A faint voice echoes in her mind—a calm, mocking whisper.

GO.S.SIP NETWORK
(V.O.)
We're not going anywhere you know?

Julie tenses and mutters under her breath.

JULIE
Get out of my head.

JONWIN
What?!

Julie realizes Jonwin cant her this inner voice.

JULIE
Nothing. Just... talking to myself.

JONWIN
You don't usually do that.

JULIE
Yeah (beat) That's... new.

EXT. CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

The car flies away into the night.