

## AMERICAN DREAMS

Written by:

Tricia Lee & Corey Brown

INT. BULK SUPERSTORE - DAY

Tall shelves of colorful packaged food stretch out on either side of JAYDEN (33). The only Asian woman in a store full of White people. Not quite comfortable in her skin. Dressed identically to everyone else: blue jeans, white T-shirt.

Pushes a shopping cart down endless rows of products. Her doe eyes wonder what each stranger thinks about her.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
(heavy Chinese accent)  
Li-Yen!

Jayden pretends she hasn't heard anything.

MALE VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Li-Yen! Li-Yen!

Every identical face SNAPS toward her. Jayden flushes with embarrassment. She spots MOM and DAD (50s). Mom stands out in a red quilted Chinese jacket. Dad wears a bright red Adidas jacket and sandals with socks. Mom beckons for Jayden.

Jayden tries to get away. Cart is too heavy. She abandons it. Passes the freezer section. Jayden catches her reflection. She's now wearing the same red Chinese jacket. Panicked, she flings it to the ground and runs toward an EXIT sign.

But the aisle stretches out longer and longer-- no end in sight.

And then... BANG! BANG! TWO GUNSHOTS.

Jayden freezes. The aisle is now empty. At the exit, automatic doors keep opening and closing. Like something is stuck in their crosshairs. She walks toward them.

SWISH...OPEN, SWISH...CLOSE.

As she gets closer, Jayden sees the arms and legs of two bodies lying on the pavement outside. A lone sandal. Next to Dad's foot. Red from Mom's jacket matches the color of blood trickling into the entrance way.

JAYDEN  
Mom! Dad!

Walk becomes a sprint. Tears fill her eyes.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Someone call for help! Please.

She bangs into the closed doors. SWISH...OPEN! Instead of sunlight, a FACELESS WOMAN confronts Jayden and GRABS HER.

INT. JAYDEN'S CONDO | BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayden's eyes BURST WIDE AWAKE. Shaken. Eyes puffy from sleeping, or stress, or both. Breathes in deeply.

Somber, Jayden steps on the floor. Lights automatically turn on. ANNEX, an electronic voice, calls out.

ANNEX

Good morning Jayden. The date is June 29, 2035. It is 3:34 AM.

Jayden walks to the window. Looks out. She stands. Alone. In her elegant, but hollow condo.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS | STREET - MORNING

A swivel designed glass structure basks in the morning light. Jayden, in the back seat on her tablet. Her sleek SELF-DRIVING car slows to a stop. PROTESTORS, shouting and waving signs ("Wake up!", "Our America, Our Dream"), block the road.

A TENT CITY BASECAMP in a park. Large banner reads: "WE ARE COUNTERACT." A protestor approaches Jayden's open window.

COUNTERACT PROTESTOR

Open your eyes! Don't let them control your dreams!

Jayden raises her windows. Shuts out the noise.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

A sleepy morning crowd. Lush green gardens nestle between circular contours. Jayden, corporate skirt, high heels, passes a huge digital wall running an ad on replay:

BLONDE SMILING FEMALE

Forget movies. Forget video games.  
At Dream Dynamics, our world-famous  
dream writers put you in the front  
seat of your imagination. Adventure?  
Romance? Here, experience a life  
you've only dreamed of.

The image pixelates into a slogan: "Live your dreams!".

Jayden places her purse on a security x-ray belt. The SECURITY GUARD gives her a flirtatious smile. Uncomfortable, Jayden smiles appealingly. Walks through the metal detector.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OFFICE - DAY

The coffee bar at one end of an open concept office. MALE DREAM WRITER (28, White) pours coffee for FEMALE DREAM WRITER (30, White), then for himself. Jayden pours her own.

ABIGAIL WILLIAMS (55, White), I-own-the-world confidence from the top of her designer outfit down to her "don't fuck with me" red high heels, walks through the office. Offering baked goods from a fancy box.

ABIGAIL  
Straight out of the oven from  
Ciccolini's.

DREAM WRITERS at their desks take one each. Then Abigail holds out the box for Female and Male Dream Writer. Jayden waits for her turn. Abigail puts the open box on the counter. Jayden's not sure if she should take one.

Abigail accepts a cup of coffee from Female Dream Writer.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
Watched your evaluation yesterday.  
Writing in my family ski chalet was  
a nice touch.

MALE DREAM WRITER  
Whoa whoa whoa, before you name her  
VP of Story, wait for my dream.

Abigail chuckles but doesn't show her cards.

JAYDEN  
I haven't had my evaluation yet.

Eyes turn to notice her for the first time.

FEMALE DREAM WRITER  
You're applying?

JAYDEN  
I've prepared a whole bunch of  
scenarios for tomorrow, but I like  
to feel what the dreamer wants when  
they arrive. If I become VP, I'd  
want to make sure all the writers  
have that kind of freedom.

ABIGAIL  
Don't do that.

JAYDEN  
I'm sorry?

ABIGAIL  
That good student thing. It doesn't work with me.

Jayden turns red. Abigail walks away.

MALE DREAM WRITER  
Good luck.

The Dream Writers leave. MANJEET (58, South Asian), the janitor, wipes up the coffee spills.

MANJEET  
Luck's got nothing to do with it.

Jayden looks Manjeet in the eye. He smiles kindly.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Hi, I'm looking for a Jayden Chan?

Jayden sees TANNER (23, White) at reception. Purposefully disheveled hair. Grew up in a yacht club. RECEPTIONIST points him toward OTHER ASIAN FEMALE COLLEAGUE across the room.

TANNER  
(to Asian Female Colleague)  
Hi, are you--

JAYDEN  
I'm Jayden.

Asian Female Colleague rolls her eyes as Jayden cuts in.

TANNER  
Oh, I'm sorry. Hi, I'm Tanner. Your new partner.

Tanner reaches out his hand. It's ignored.

JAYDEN  
Let's not get ahead of ourselves with labels.

TANNER  
I'm replacing Joanne to handle your tech. They say you're one of the better writers around here.

JAYDEN

Seriously? The day before my evaluation?

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Tanner follows Jayden into a room filled with curved monitors and illuminated glass control pads. Through a window there's a small planetarium-domed room with a modernistic lounge chair.

JAYDEN

If you got through the interview process, you must be good right?

TANNER

Ah... I didn't have an interview, I came over from the Control Center.

JAYDEN

(stares at him for a beat)  
They're just letting any tech guy into the creative department now?

TANNER

As they say, ask and you shall receive right?

JAYDEN

Is that? What they say?

NAVEEN (23, South-Asian), full of warmth, enters the domed client room. Sits on the chair. Waves to Jayden. Jayden gives him a thumbs up and smiles.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CLIENT ROOM - DAY

A NURSE inserts an IV into Naveen's wrist. His lounge chair leans back and converts into a bed. On the planetarium dome, stars appear around him. A God-like voice fills the room.

VOICE

To sleep perchance to dream...from the dawn of time, humans have sought to unlock the mysterious secrets of our sleeping mind--

Naveen mimics a blah blah blah talking hand.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Jayden pushes a button and speaks into a microphone.

JAYDEN

I know, I know. But it's protocol.  
So hey, I've pre-written an epic  
dream for you today.

NAVEEN

Epic? For moi? I guess I must be  
your favorite.

JAYDEN

Hey Tanner, this kid's graduating  
next week with a degree that he's  
either made up, or he's going to  
change the world.

NAVEEN

Come on! Masters of Arts in Peace  
and Justice is a real degree!

JAYDEN

Actually...

Jayden digs through her purse. Finds her phone. She pulls up  
a ticket and shows Naveen. His face lights up with shock.

NAVEEN

You're coming to my graduation?

JAYDEN

My parents missed mine too.

Naveen is so moved. Like he's going to cry. Jayden smiles.

She carefully lays out CONTACT LENSES. Clicks a metallic  
DREAM WRITING BRACELET around each wrist.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CLIENT ROOM - DAY

Three stars float down in front of Naveen to form a triangle.

VOICE

That star on the bottom left -  
that's you.

"YOU" fades up underneath the star.

VOICE (CONT'D)

And through a careful matching  
process, you've been paired with  
one of our talented dream writers.

"DREAM WRITER" appears under the bottom right star.

VOICE (CONT'D)  
Using our patented LUCID programming--

"LUCID" appears above the top star.

VOICE (CONT'D)  
--we're able to sync your minds  
together thanks to your Dream Chip.

A line shoots up from YOU to LUCID. Another line shoots up from DREAM WRITER to LUCID.

VOICE (CONT'D)  
Our writer will maintain primary  
control of the dream. They will  
make sure you stay connected to  
each other, and guide you in and  
out of your dream experience.

20% appears underneath YOU. 80% appears under DREAM WRITER.

VOICE (CONT'D)  
A barrier between you and the writer  
allows you to believe that everything  
you are experiencing is real. Your  
actions and choices steer the story.

The stars fade away into darkness.

VOICE (CONT'D)  
And when you wake up, these dreams  
won't disappear. You'll remember  
them clearly as if you really lived  
them. Close your eyes. A world of  
adventure is waiting for you.

Naveen's eyelids give in to gravity.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Jayden inserts CONTACT LENSES. Her POV: pulsing light spreads out from beneath her bracelets like veins, enveloping her hands in a virtual glove. Gauge on her wrist reads: 80/20.

A flick of her wrist-- Naveen's vitals move to Tanner's screen.

TANNER  
Logging into LUCID. Connecting.

A SUBDERMAL CHIP at the base of Jayden's neck glows blue.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CLIENT ROOM - DAY

The chip at the base of Naveen's neck also flashes blue.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL CENTER - DAY

A room filled with hundreds of computer screens. Code fills each one. Then... JAYDEN CHAN/NAVEEN SATIYESH-- CONNECTED.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Naveen's and Jayden's chips turn green. In front of Jayden, the world bends away. Pixels sweep away reality and...

INT. SPACE STATION | SPACE PORT - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

... a rusted space ship. Middle of a large space port. The paneling on the ship BURSTS open and Naveen crawls out. Hundreds of ships dock in and around him.

Naveen examines himself in the shiny exterior of a space ship next to him. Tattered clothes, a funky arm tattoo.

Beside him, Jayden CONDUCTS the scene. A translucent digital wall separates writer from subject, so Naveen doesn't see her. Even though she should appear in the ship's reflection, she is NOT VISIBLE.

Jayden walks through the closest wall like a ghost.

INT. SPACE STATION | BAR - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

She steps into the FRAMEWORK of a space station. A large, empty room with glass paneled walls that look out at the stars. Digital windows open in front of Jayden containing objects, greenery, people, and aliens.

She pulls a gravity defying fountain out of the MENU. Places it in the middle. The water runs upwards. Swipe. A bar next to the fountain. Multiple swipes. Dozens of ALIENS.

She completes the scene. Stares at a frozen tableau. Not quite right. Jayden walks up to a PILOT, studies his face. Adds a Burt Reynolds style mustache. Smirks. She swings her arm, and EVERYTHING COMES TO LIFE!

Naveen enters the bar and immediately sees a group of ALIEN CREATURES confronting A PILOT and his CREW (all Caucasian). The HEAD ALIEN pulls out their blaster. The pilot spots Naveen-- pleads for some help with his eyes.

NAVEEN  
Is there a problem here?

HEAD ALIEN  
Move along.

PILOT  
Our friends here are trying to  
shake us down for a landing tax.

NAVEEN  
They must have made a mistake.

The alien turns his blaster toward Naveen.

NAVEEN (CONT'D)  
A big mistake!

Naveen fires and blows up a silver box on the wall-- GRAVITY VANISHES! Everyone, everything rises.

PILOT  
Quick thinking kid! We could use  
someone like you on our crew.

The pilot grabs Naveen's hand. Kicks off from the wall. Flies toward the space port.

The only person weightlessness isn't affecting is Jayden. She conducts the chase from a fixed position. On the ground.

Jayden confidently conducts, UNTIL The Faceless Woman steps in front of her. Startled. The world devolves into pixels.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

TANNER  
You okay there Jayden? Naveen's  
taken control very quickly.

Tanner's screen has Naveen at 30% control.

JAYDEN  
I just had a-- it's fine.

INT. SPACE STATION | SPACE PORT - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Jayden swipes and the pixels join back together. No sign of Faceless Woman.

JAYDEN  
All good. I've got control again.

Naveen and the pilot speed in between the now floating spaceships. They barely avoid getting crushed as two spaceships SLAM into one another. Aliens hot on their trail.

The pilot and his crew steer themselves toward a brightly colored, state-of-the-art spaceship. The pilot pulls Naveen inside as a laser blast narrowly misses him.

INT. SPACE SHIP - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Naveen is given a seat. Pilot sits in the captain's chair.

PILOT  
Guess this makes you family now.  
Strap in!

Naveen complies as the pilot blasts off into the outer reaches of the universe.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DAY

Jayden walks outside. The back door of a sleek SUV parked outside the front roundabout opens. Abigail steps one foot onto the pavement.

ABIGAIL  
Jayden.

Jayden turns.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
Get in.

JAYDEN  
I've got a dreamer in twenty minutes.

ABIGAIL  
I rescheduled it for you.

INT. BLACK SUV - DAY

Jayden and Abigail in the backseat. The car drives itself.

JAYDEN  
Where are we going?

ABIGAIL  
You must have impressed somebody.  
When I got this opportunity I had  
far more experience under my belt.

Jayden looks confused. Afraid to ask more.

EXT. PLANE HANGER - DAY

Jayden exits the car followed by Abigail. An EXPENSIVE JET rests on an empty runway.

A figure steps out from the private hanger. Jayden is speechless. Her eyes gape at RICHARD FOX (50s), he radiates charisma, pressed suit, freshly shined shoes.

ABIGAIL

Jayden, meet--

JAYDEN

Richard Fox.

RICHARD FOX

Jayden Chan.

He reaches out a hand. Jayden shakes it firmly.

JAYDEN

Sir, when I was in high school I read everything about you. The way you hand-picked the top minds in the country...

RICHARD FOX

High school? You're making me feel old.

Jayden loosens up. He gestures to the jet-- *ladies first*. Jayden, hiding imposter syndrome, climbs the steps.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Jayden precedes Richard into an empty cockpit.

JAYDEN

Where's the pilot?

Richard smirks. Next thing Jayden knows, he's pulling back on the yoke, and the plane takes off. A smile grows on Jayden's face as the plane settles over the city at cruising altitude.

RICHARD FOX

I love the view from up here.

He points to a vast estate below.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
That one's my house.

She looks down and sees the word FOX in blue letters.

JAYDEN  
You labelled your pool?

RICHARD FOX  
My father did.

JAYDEN  
When I was six, I had an inflatable kiddie one. On the hottest day of the summer, the subway broke down, and the kids couldn't get to the public pool. I put out a "SPA" sign, and charged them each five dollars to swim in mine. Made a fortune that day.

Richard laughs. Impressed.

RICHARD FOX  
Where do you come from?

JAYDEN  
My parents came from Hong Kong. But I was born here. In the US.

RICHARD FOX  
Smart parents. They could have chosen to move anywhere in the world, and they chose here.

JAYDEN  
Land of opportunity. If you work hard... that's the American Dream.

RICHARD FOX  
See, you people get it!

Jayden tweaks at the odd compliment.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
That's why you're the top candidate for VP of Story.

JAYDEN  
Is this my-- did I get an interview?

Richard Fox gives her a sly smile.

RICHARD FOX

They don't call me the dream maker  
for nothing. It's Abigail you have to  
impress now.

JAYDEN

Hmm. Easier said than done.

RICHARD FOX

She's tough, but fair. Pass her  
evaluation and you can tell me what  
font you want on your nameplate.

Jayden nods, grateful.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

I'm hosting a small gathering tomorrow  
night. Why don't you join us?

EXT. JAYDEN'S CONDO - NIGHT

Jayden, BEAMING, approaches her glass-fronted high rise. A figure, sitting on the bench looks up. BING (29, Asian), tall, clearly values push-ups over a trip to the barber.

JAYDEN

You shouldn't be here Bing. The  
police were scouting my condo for a  
month looking for you.

BING

Nobody's watching now. Trust me.

Her facial recognition panel opens the sliding doors. Bing hands over a Tupperware container. Ribs in a brown soup.

BING (CONT'D)

Mom's recipe. With lots of ginger.

JAYDEN

That's how you liked it. I  
preferred Big Macs.

INT. JAYDEN'S CONDO - NIGHT

Jayden walks in. Puts the Tupperware in the fridge. The lights turn on. Bing takes off his shoes.

JAYDEN

Did Grandma die or something?

BING  
Po Po is fine.

JAYDEN  
Want some wine? I'll even get you a  
clean glass.

BING  
I've, ah, been sober two years.

That stops Jayden. Bing pulls out his phone.

BING (CONT'D)  
Li-Yen, I need to ask--

JAYDEN  
It's Jayden now.

Bing rolls his eyes.

BING  
Do you know who this is?

Bing presents the picture. She doesn't look.

JAYDEN  
After all the trouble, you're still  
running this COUNTERACT group?

BING  
It's not a group, it's a movement--  
(beat)  
I wouldn't have bothered you, but  
there's something going on at your  
company and I need you to--

JAYDEN  
No thanks. Not interested. Can't you  
all go back to calling out climate  
denial or corporate tax cuts?

Jayden opens the front door for him. Bing swipes from his  
phone toward her digital walls. Jayden locks eyes with a  
picture of Naveen that appears from floor to ceiling.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Why do you have Naveen's picture?

BING  
He's dead.

Jayden lets go of the door. It swings shut.

BING (CONT'D)  
They're saying it's a suicide.

JAYDEN  
No, that's-- he's graduating next--  
he wouldn't do that.

BING  
He walked out of Dream Dynamics,  
went home, and three hours later,  
lit his dorm room on fire.

Jayden, grief stricken, stares at Naveen's shining eyes.

JAYDEN  
(to herself)  
He was going to change the world.

Bing swipes another picture next to Naveen on her wall.

BING  
What about her?

Jayden. Dazed. Shakes her head. Another picture.

JAYDEN  
Bing, what are you--

Bing swipes all his info. Five names. Five faces. Five causes of death. Malika Tzinga, Antoinetta Consuelo, Aaquib Muhammed, Deshawn Marquis, Naveen Satiyesh.

BING  
Five people. In three months. All of them had just been to Dream Dynamics.

JAYDEN  
Bing, not everything's a conspiracy.

Jayden stares at the digital wall.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Look. This guy died in a motorcycle accident. THIS LADY walked off the edge of a skyscraper.

BING  
I knew Antonietta. She was afraid of heights.

JAYDEN  
I'm sorry, it's tragic, but these are all unrelated deaths.

BING

This isn't a coincidence. Your company is killing people and we can expose them if you could find--

JAYDEN

Yeah, okay. Look, good chat. We can return to our regularly scheduled programming at mom and dad's grave once a year, okay?

Jayden opens the door for Bing who shakes his head.

BING

You know, no matter how hard you try, you're never truly going to be one of them.

JAYDEN

And playing some second rate social justice Robin Hood doesn't make you a hero.

Silence between them. Bing leaves. Jayden looks back at Naveen's picture on the wall in dismay.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - MORNING

Jayden, still churning from the news, walks past SECURITY keeping PROTESTORS behind some barricades. The digital "DREAM DYNAMICS - HELPING YOU LIVE YOUR DREAMS" sign fitzes out - the Counteract symbol appears followed by "DREAM DYNAMICS - KEEPING YOU IN YOUR PLACE".

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Jayden and Tanner stare through the glass window as KATO (37, Black) watches the intake video. Long braids, handsome as hell, a strong chest you just want to touch under his inauspicious gray sweater. But Jayden is lost in thought.

TANNER

He's a family man. Single dad to an eight-year-old daughter. Owns a Jamaican Patty restaurant.

JAYDEN

Hmmm? Right, Robinson. Kato Robinson. Got it.

TANNER

You okay?

JAYDEN  
(behind a forced smile)  
Oh, I'm fine. Just the most  
important dream of my career.

The video in the client room finishes and the lights go dark.

TANNER  
Abigail's going to love it.  
Connecting you in.

Tanner types. Jayden breathes in deeply. Kato's and Jayden's chips TURN GREEN. Jayden's world disappears and...

INT. INTAKE GALLERY - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

...she stands in a circular gallery of pictures that shoots sky-high. In front of her, Kato materializes.

JAYDEN  
Hi Kato, I'm Jayden. Do you have  
any questions before we start?

KATO  
Wow, they've really upgraded the  
intake process.

Kato examines the carousel of images. Jayden looks confused.

JAYDEN  
Our system shows that you've had  
the chip for four years, but have  
never come in for a session.

Kato smirks. Mixed emotions in his eyes. No more is revealed. Jayden points to the pictures.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Any scenarios stand out to you?

KATO  
How about dealer's choice?

JAYDEN  
Tell me why you came today.

KATO  
Uh... well... life has been-- I'm  
frustrated with-- my, my daughter's  
growing up in--

His armor thins slightly.

KATO (CONT'D)  
Just wanted to escape. For a bit.

Jayden studies him. Can see he looks worn.

JAYDEN  
Tired of the grind?

KATO  
Mmm.

Jayden looks at Naveen's space ship. A moment of sadness. But she brushes it aside as she swipes through new images.

JAYDEN  
We've got just the thing for you.

She pinches out and the world materializes around him into...

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE | LOBBY - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

Machine gun-armed men point their weapons at a group of HOSTAGES in a pristine lobby.

ARMED MAN  
No one will get hurt if you follow  
my orders!

A HUGE CRASH from the other end of the room! Kato dives out of an air duct. Stands up with a machine gun in hand!

KATO  
Drop your weapons and we can all  
walk out of this.

The armed men FIRE at Kato. He runs behind a marble sculpture. Miraculously avoids getting wounded. Kato fires his guns. Of course he doesn't miss a single target.

The hostages fall in line behind Kato. BEAUTIFUL OFFICE WORKER (Female, White), gives Kato a smoldering look.

BEAUTIFUL OFFICE WORKER  
I knew you'd save us. I guess I owe  
you that drink.

She moves in for a kiss, but Kato WALKS RIGHT PAST HER.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

JAYDEN  
That's unexpected.

Tanner looks. Needle on gauge moves from 80/20 to 70/30.

TANNER  
He's over 80/20.

JAYDEN  
Thanks. I'll get him back.

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE | LOBBY - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

Jayden waves her hands. Elevator doors swing open. An army of TERRORISTS pours out revealing a SWARTHY VILLAIN behind them.

VILLAIN  
(thick Russian accent)  
Mr. Robinson, leaving so soon?

KATO  
Let these people go.

All the guns point at Kato.

VILLAIN  
You are in no position to negotiate. Right now, I'm draining ten percent out of each and every citizen's bank account.

Locked in a standoff. Who will make the first move?

VILLAIN (CONT'D)  
Within moments, I'll be the richest man in the world.

Kato moves first. Lowers his weapon. Jayden's perplexed.

KATO  
And then what? Is that really going to make you happy?

Villain and Jayden have the same reaction-- confused.

TANNER (V.O.)  
You're losing your hold on him.

Jayden motions. The terrorists fire their automatic weapons. But nothing, not even bullets, deters Kato.

KATO  
You've got a five thousand dollar suit. So you become the richest man in the world and then what? You're going to buy a TEN thousand dollar suit?

Face to face with Villain, Kato puts his hand on his shoulder. Villain's cruel facade crumbles. They head outside.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The rising gauge ticks to 60/40.

TANNER  
Sixty forty.

JAYDEN  
Shit.

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE | LOBBY - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

Jayden pauses the scene. The revolving door freezes.

TANNER  
This much control could fry his chip. What if he doesn't wake up?

JAYDEN  
I'll drop the barrier and re-establish our connection. If he knows it's a dream we can get him out.

The dream barrier dissolves around Jayden. She pushes the door around and finds herself...

INT. BULK SUPERSTORE - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

...back in the bulk superstore from her own dream. Jayden STOPS, shocked.

JAYDEN  
What the Hell?

All shoppers. Identical faces. Turn to her in synchronicity. Jayden backs away. They move toward her. She runs!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The Control levels hit 50/50 triggering a loud beeping.

TANNER  
We can withdraw the melatonin.

INT./EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Jayden runs along the main aisle. Looks for Kato.

JAYDEN  
There's no time.

Jayden rushes into a no man's land, between sliding doors, where shopping carts are stored. The inside and outside doors SLAM shut, trapping her inside.

In the parking lot, she sees Kato, the Villain, armed guards, and hostages joined together in a CELEBRATORY BLOCK PARTY. Jayden tries to pry the outside door open-- to no avail.

Kato and the Villain throw handfuls of cash to the people.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Kato!

Kato can't hear her. Villain hands a CHILD a tablet.

VILLAIN  
Now you can do your homework.

The child's eyes widen with excitement and hugs Villain. Villain shares a look of joy with Kato and hugs the kid back.

JAYDEN  
(banging on the doors)  
You are in a dream! I need you to  
wake yourself up!

Behind Kato, Jayden sees Mom and Dad. Surprised, she moves backwards. The sliding doors open to the outside.

Jayden rushes forward, but is confronted by THE FACELESS WOMAN before she gets outside. Jayden turns around, but the shoppers inside are FACELESS! Walking toward her! She turns again. Outside, everyone is faceless too. She's trapped!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

An alarm wails. Tanner frantically pushes buttons.

INT. GROCERY STORE | NO MAN'S LAND - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Faceless people close in on Jayden from both sides. She swipes her hand. Two endless rows of shopping carts speed out like never-ending trains. KNOCKING DOWN the faceless.

She sees a path toward Kato! He's cheerfully basking in the togetherness of the community party. Jayden swoops under the outstretched hands of faceless bystanders to reach him.

JAYDEN  
Kato, stop dreaming. This isn't real.

He stares at her.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
I need you to wake up. Wake up!  
Wake up now!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Jayden's green chip turns red. Tanner rushes to the window. Kato OPENS HIS EYES.

TANNER  
Whoa! You did it! Is he okay?

Jayden unclips her bracelets and throws them on the table.

JAYDEN  
Dammit!

Kato sits up and stares at her, anger in his eyes.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - AFTERNOON

Jayden has her head in her hands. Tanner looks on helplessly.

JAYDEN  
Welp, there goes any hopes of getting that promotion.

TANNER  
You saved him.

Jayden shakes her head in despair.

JAYDEN  
Bartender! Johnnie Walker. Double.

The bartender pulls the bottle of red.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Red? Really?

The bartender slides the tall shot over to Jayden. She downs it. Pounds her hands on the bar like an angry snare drummer.

TANNER

So you don't get the promotion. You already have the best job in the world. You make the impossible possible for thousands of people.

JAYDEN

Are you always this annoyingly optimistic?

TANNER

Superheroes don't change the world by being pessimists.

JAYDEN

Of course you want to be a superhero.

Jayden eyes the top shelf of liquor.

TANNER

If you want some Walker Blue, I'll get it for you.

JAYDEN

I don't want top shelf pity. I want to be one of... they'll offer it to me when I'm part of the club.

TANNER

What club?

Jayden gives Tanner a look-- *Of course a fish doesn't see the water he's in.* Then... her eyes widen.

JAYDEN

You know... it would be really easy to switch today's dream log with a dream I wrote, say... last week?

TANNER

Can't do any good for the people if I get fired.

JAYDEN

Tanner, I work harder than everyone here. Abigail can evaluate ANY other dream I've written, but I make ONE mistake... please, you have access.

Jayden sincerely looks into his eyes. Tanner sees her vulnerability. Sighs.

TANNER

No one monitors the servers after work hours. Maybe I can tinker around tonight.

Jayden grins.

JAYDEN

Thank you. Thank you! I'm going to dinner with Richard Fox-- perfect alibi!

INT. SKYSCRAPER | PENTHOUSE - SUNSET

An elevator door opens. Jayden's RED DRESS billows as she enters the penthouse. It's clear Richard Fox has a very different definition of small gathering than Jayden.

A hundred guests. Their jewelry much more real than hers. All mingling. Taking glasses from champagne towers. Eating food carried by immaculately dressed servers. She's out of her league-- first stop, the bar.

JAYDEN

Scotch.

BARTENDER sizes up Jayden. Reaches for Johnnie Walker Black.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Seriously?

Jayden and Abigail make eye contact from across the room. Abigail raises her drink to Jayden. Smiles. Surprised, Jayden raises her drink as well.

RICHARD FOX (O.S.)

There she is! Jayden Chan!

Abigail's smile fades. To Jayden, it never gets old that Richard knows who she is. She approaches him and a group of OLDER BUSINESSMEN, wearing expensive suits.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, meet Dream Dynamic's next superstar. Top customer ratings, squeezes in an extra dream every day, and, if I say so myself, looks stunning in formal wear.

She shakes the men's hands.

BUSINESSMAN 1

Richard does have an eye for talent.

He looks Jayden up and down. Jayden sips her scotch to hold her ground as one of the boys.

BUSINESSMAN 2

Hey Rich, I've told my stockbroker to liquidate five hundred to buy me some Dream Dynamics when you go public.

RICHARD FOX

Only half a million? What did I do to deserve that?

BUSINESSMAN 3

What price will you open at?

RICHARD FOX

It has to be pretty high to raise what we need to expand to London and Beijing.

BUSINESSMAN 2

Aren't you worried about those protestors? Their voices are gaining ground.

Richard is taken off guard. Jayden seizes her moment.

JAYDEN

You ever see someone's face after they wake up from one of our dreams? You'll never see a happier person anywhere. When the rest of the world gets to experience that, those protestors are going to sound like ants trying to join a choir. Don't miss out on this one.

Richard chuckles and pats Jayden on the back.

RICHARD FOX

You flatter me. I'm just happy providing dreams for the people.

BUSINESSMAN 1

Oh save it for the press.

Richard scoops Jayden away with a hand on her back.

RICHARD FOX

Gentlemen...

Jayden, relieved, allows Richard to move her off to the side.

JAYDEN

I thought you said you were having  
a small gathering.

RICHARD FOX

I host the good parties at my main  
house.

(beat)

I need to talk to you about  
something we discovered in your  
background search.

JAYDEN

Oh I can explain. They mistook me  
for the shoplifter, we both wore--

RICHARD FOX

Your brother.

Jayden closes her eyes.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

I don't care about the destruction  
of property or the warrant out for  
his arrest. But this COUNTERACT...  
he's making serious accusations.  
Why would I want to kill anyone?

Jayden sighs.

JAYDEN

He's not a part of my life anymore.

WALTER (60's, White), catches Richard's attention.

RICHARD FOX

Too bad. I thought we could help each  
other. If you change your mind...

Richard waves at Walter and floats into a new conversation.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

Walter, you ditched the battle axe  
for the night.

Jayden tries to hide her frustration with herself. RING!  
Tanner on her cellphone. She answers.

TANNER (ON PHONE)

Bad news. Any dream that goes  
beyond 80/20 automatically gets  
sent to Abigail.

JAYDEN

Damn it!

TANNER

But the good news is, I got into  
her account and swapped out Kato's  
dream with one of your five stars.  
Glad I'm your partner now, huh?

JAYDEN

(sighs)

Thank you Tanner.

TANNER

It's weird. She's blocked Richard's  
admin access to these files. Why do  
all this behind the boss' back?

Jayden sees Abigail push the elevator button. Then thinks.

JAYDEN

You said all the dreams that go  
past 80/20?

TANNER

Yeah. That space dream you wrote  
for Naveen got sent.

JAYDEN

Naveen...? Who else is on there?

TANNER

I'll send you the names.

Jayden scans through the list: Malika Tzinga, Antoinetta  
Consuelo, Aaquib Muhammed, Deshawn Marquis.

JAYDEN

Holy shit.

She looks up to see Abigail step into the elevator and leave.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

They're all on her list.

Jayden scrolls down the list. The color drains from her face.  
The last name: KATO ROBINSON.

INT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kato almost slips off a ladder! In a mid-sized, lived-in  
restaurant.

CANDICE (late 60s, Asian), plump, pleasant woman with colorful jewelry, steadies him. The residual murky water splats over both of them.

CANDICE

If you'd put the two dollars into our lottery pool, we could've been lounging in an Italian villa right now.

KATO

I'm not paying "stupid tax", thanks.

CANDICE

Shove over, old man.

Candice grabs a wrench from Kato. Climbs the ladder. JON-JON (70s, Native-American), limps with a cane, chimes in from the kitchen.

JON-JON

I keep telling her to try Dream Dynamics. I get to fight pirates on a tropical island while drinking pina coladas out of a coconut!

CANDICE

Now THAT's "stupid tax".

This conversation gets the attention of a LATINX WOMAN (40s) drinking a beer with a group at a table.

JON-JON

Well at least I get something for my money.

CANDICE

OUR money.

Jon-Jon kisses Candice on the temple.

EXT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jayden gets out of her car, still in formal wear. She observes Kato, alive and well, through the window of his restaurant-- KATO'S WORLD FAMOUS PATTIES.

BING (O.C.)

I didn't know this was a black tie affair.

Bing approaches. A hoodie covers his head. He scans around for signs of police.

BING (CONT'D)

Usually when you're sorry, you  
bring me egg custard tarts.

JAYDEN

(a small smile)

Who said I was sorry?

Bing gives her an expectant look.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Don't gloat. Just keep your eye out  
here for anything strange. Help me  
keep Kato from walking off a  
skyscraper or something.

BING

They all died within ten hours of  
their last dream writing session.  
When was Kato last in?

JAYDEN

Eight hours ago.

INT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jayden surveys the scene. Customers listen intently to Kato  
as he serves patties to customers.

KATO

... and they wrote me this typical  
action hero dream. I don't even  
know why they have writers, the  
stories are so familiar.

Insulted, Jayden moves so Kato won't see her.

KATO (CONT'D)

So I try to choose my own  
adventure. Change the villain's  
mind. But as soon as I start  
turning the steering wheel the  
handcuffs come on. They woke me up!

A murmur of indigence through the crowd.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Even if you could choose your own  
adventure, it's still only within  
the framework they've given you.

It's the LATINX WOMAN from earlier. Signs of recognition.

KATO  
Congresswoman Reyes.

MAYA  
It's Maya when I'm amongst friends.

More murmurs. Congresswoman MAYA REYES radiates charisma as she walks forward, but don't mistake her warmth for weakness.

MAYA (CONT'D)  
You ever wonder what happens if  
they let you take full control?

JON-JON  
They won't. It's for our own safety.

MAYA  
Is it?  
(a beat-- no one answers)  
See, I don't think anything  
happens. I think they want control  
over you because it's their way of  
creating a repeat customer. "They"  
created the need to have a smart  
phone. "They" created the need to  
be on social media. And now, Dream  
Dynamics has created the need for  
you to dream through them. Their  
driving force isn't your safety,  
it's their bottom line.

KATO  
So isn't this your job? The  
government? To protect us?

MAYA  
We're trying to pass regulations,  
and you know how slow the system is.  
But you can hit them where it hurts,  
you can speak with your wallet.

KATO  
A boycott? Really?

MAYA  
Not a boycott. A community, coming  
together to take back our stories.  
We're all letting Richard Fox write  
our dreams. He's telling us what it  
means to be American.

KATO

Look around. I can barely keep this place together. You think I can take on Richard Fox?

MAYA

When Dream Dynamics goes public next week, they'll be able to raise enough money to expand around the world.

Maya swipes on her phone and shows it to Kato.

MAYA (CONT'D)

You can do more than you think. Here's my number. For when you get angry enough.

Kato presses accept on his phone. Maya's number shows up.

Maya leaves. And that's when Kato sees Jayden. A double take.

KATO

Dream writer?

JAYDEN

I need to talk to you.

Jayden struggles for how to launch into it.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

You may want to sit down for this.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Bing peers into car windows for anything suspicious. He sees someone staring at Kato's restaurant from the front seat of a car. When Bing approaches they drive off.

INT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kato smiles at Jayden politely.

KATO

I know we said Dream Dynamics is too controlling, but convincing me to up and kill myself?

JAYDEN

Look, I know it sounds crazy--

A SCREAM from the kitchen. Kato leaps up. Jayden grabs him and holds him back.

KATO  
That's my DAUGHTER!

JAYDEN  
Don't go! This could be it.

Kato throws her off and rushes to the kitchen. She follows.

INT. KATO'S RESTAURANT | KITCHEN - NIGHT

SAMMY (8, Black). Precocious. Innocent. Points at a LARGE RAT scurrying through the kitchen. Kato grabs a broom to shoo it out the door. Sammy hugs her father's leg.

Jayden breathes a sigh of relief. Kato glares at Jayden.

INT. JAYDEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Bing enthusiastically eats a patty next to an annoyed Jayden.

BING  
No wonder he only serves one thing  
on the menu, these are damn good.

JAYDEN  
Glad my humiliating failure got you  
a tasty meal. How long until Kato  
passes the ten-hour mark?

BING  
Okay Annex, how much time left?

ANNEX (V.O.)  
One hour and thirty-seven minutes.

BING  
That'll be longer than we've spent  
together in eleven years.

INT. JAYDEN'S CAR - LATER

The siblings are AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS!

BING  
I didn't start an anarchy GROUP!  
COUNTERACT is a MOVEMENT!

JAYDEN  
Why couldn't you go and get a real  
job, like everyone else?

BING

You'd like that. Then I wouldn't have shown you what your company's doing. You'd get your big raise.

JAYDEN

I get raises through HARD work. You should try it out sometime.

BING

Tell that to Mama and Baba. They worked double shifts for us and look how far it got them.

JAYDEN

Don't use them as an excuse to justify your laziness.

BING

You should look in the mirror once in a while. One day, you'll have to face that you're not White.

JAYDEN

So what do you want me to do? Serve my elders tea and mooncakes, like you? Would mom and dad have loved me more, huh?

BING

Why do you always feel the need to reject everything our parents taught us?!

JAYDEN

That's the problem with our relationship--

BING

What relationship?! You left!

ANNEX'S TIMER RINGS.

JAYDEN

STOP!

BING (CONT'D)

STOP!

Silence. Jayden walks away from the car and looks in at Kato. Still alive and well.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

At least I stayed until you were eighteen.

BING

Wow. Congratulations.

JAYDEN

Easy for you to say. When they died, you got to be the poor little orphan kid everyone felt sorry for, and I got to be a single mom! You know what got in the way of MY goals? I put the Dream Academy on hold for three years to take care of you.

That hits Bing.

BING

(quietly)

But then you threw me away.

Guilt washes over Jayden. A calm silence settles in.

BING (CONT'D)

Listen... I wish we--

A YELL. It's Kato, running from the restaurant to the street.

KATO

Sammy! Sammy, come back here!

Jayden follows Kato's eyeline, but doesn't see Sammy.

KATO (CONT'D)

Sammy! Watch out for the cars!

EXT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jayden runs after him. He's chasing after nothing. A truck barrels down the street toward them. Kato steps off the curb.

Jayden speeds up. GRABS Kato. YANKS him toward the sidewalk. The truck drives past. Kato LANDS on top of Jayden.

Bing sees the same car he noticed before. He runs toward the vehicle, but it speeds off.

Kato looks at the street frantically.

KATO

Sammy? Sammy?!

SAMMY

Daddy?

Sammy's voice comes from the OPPOSITE DIRECTION. Candice holds Sammy's hand. Kato pulls Sammy into an embrace.

SAMMY (CONT'D)  
You landed really hard on that lady.

Jayden's anxious eyes meets Bing's gaze.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A lo-fi treasure trove. A guitar leans against the wall. Shelves full of books. Jayden sits beside Kato on the sofa. Bing paces back and forth, deep in thought.

KATO  
I almost... died.

JAYDEN  
But you didn't. You're here.

KATO  
(a sincere look)  
Thank you.

JAYDEN  
Are you sure you didn't mix any  
medications or put the wrong  
mushrooms in the recipe?

Sammy runs into the room and flops down on Kato's lap.

SAMMY  
We're having pizza?

KATO  
Not those kinds of mushrooms.  
(to Jayden)  
No, nothing.

A knock on the door. It's Tanner, holding his tablet.

JAYDEN  
My colleague, Tanner.

TANNER  
Wow, upgraded to colleague?

Tanner holds his tablet up next to Kato's neck.

TANNER (CONT'D)  
May I?

Kato nods. Tanner scans his chip.

BING

See THIS is why I never got a chip.  
Take my social security number, but  
stay out of my head.

JAYDEN

Could you have been sleepwalking?

KATO

I was serving a customer. I looked  
outside and saw this one  
(points to Sammy)  
run across the street. I was wide  
awake.

Tanner reads his tablet.

TANNER

Vitals are fine. I need to hook him up  
to Control to figure out what's wrong.

JAYDEN

We can't bring him back into Dream  
Dynamics!

KATO

What if Dream Dynamics came here?

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | HALLWAY CLOSET - NIGHT

Kato pulls a large control board out of storage.

TANNER

That's a first generation LUCID  
system. How can you even run it?

KATO

It's got a backdoor entry into the  
Control Center.

JAYDEN

Those were all supposed to be  
destroyed.

KATO

You going to lock me up?

An old "Dream Dynamics Academy" logo appears when turned on.

TANNER

You went through the Academy?

KATO

They took my money to teach me, but  
they'd already filled their  
diversity quota when I applied.

Jayden takes it personally. Gives Kato side eye.

TANNER

There's no quota. You should try  
again.

SAMMY

He did. Every year.

That shuts Tanner down. He turns his attention to the board.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | KATO'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jayden puts on what looks like VR goggles. Tanner fires up the control panel. Kato lies on his bed. Puts on a headband.

TANNER

Your chip stores every dream that  
you've had written. We can take a  
look to see what happened.

Bing hands him a sleeping pill. Sammy holds Kato's hand.

Kato and Jayden's chips both turn green. Jayden, wearing her bracelet, swipes her hands through the air.

Silence fills the apartment as they wait with bated breath for Jayden to say something.

JAYDEN

There's nothing. No Sammy running  
out into traffic. The only thing  
here is what I wrote him earlier.

TANNER

Nothing strange showed up on the  
programming side either.

BING

Dream Dynamics has the money to  
cover up anything.

TANNER

Hold on. One bad Abigail doesn't  
spoil the whole cart. Maybe the  
data's got something in it. I'll  
bring it into the office.

Tanner leaves. Bing tries to wake Kato. Jayden stops him.

JAYDEN  
Let him sleep. He's been through a lot.

ANNEX (V.O.)  
Bedtime for Sammy.

The clock says 9:00. Sammy stands up.

SAMMY  
I have to floss my teeth.

BING  
You're doing this wrong kid. Your dad's asleep. Go eat candy for dinner.

Sammy pauses at her bedroom door.

SAMMY  
Ms. Jayden, you're a storyteller, right?

JAYDEN  
That's what they pay me for.

SAMMY  
I can't go to sleep without a story.

Jayden looks to Bing for support. He shrugs. As she watches Sammy exit, Jayden's chip still glows green.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | SAMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sammy, in her pajamas, sits in bed. Hand-painted planets and stars fill the kid's walls.

JAYDEN  
I love your room decor.

SAMMY  
Mom and Dad painted it for me. I love space forever.

Sammy gets her story time audience ready-- a stuffed bear and kangaroo. With homemade astronaut costumes.

SAMMY (CONT'D)  
Colonel Bear and Lieutenant Roo reporting for story time.

JAYDEN

Are they both astronauts?

SAMMY

(pointing to Roo)

Well, she's only a cadet. She hasn't earned her wings yet.

Jayden notices a poster-- a team of mostly white astronauts.

JAYDEN

You want to be an astronaut one day?

SAMMY

People like me can't really become astronauts.

JAYDEN

Oh honey... sure you can.

SAMMY

Daddy says College costs like a billion dollars.

JAYDEN

What if I could give you your dream?

SAMMY

You have a billion dollars?

Jayden sits down on the bed and smiles.

JAYDEN

Close your eyes.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | KATO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kato wakes up to see Bing standing over him. Kato jumps!

BING

The nerd called. He couldn't find anything.

KATO

Where's Sammy?

BING

Li-Yen's reading her a bedtime story.

Kato moves toward Sammy's room. His chip is still green.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | SAMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayden looks at the planets, then closes her eyes.

JAYDEN

You put on your spacesuit, while  
the rest of the crew prepares to  
open the airlock for your first  
trip out into the void of space.

Kato watches from the doorway. Relieved. Bing stands behind him. Jayden smiles at her brother. He smiles back.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

The door opens and you push  
through, floating... and in front  
of you, is a new planet. But watch  
out, a comet's blasting past!

SAMMY

(opens an eye)

I don't get how this is going to  
help me become an astronaut.

JAYDEN

I'm painting a picture so when you  
go to sleep, you'll dream about it.

SAMMY

What's the point in dreaming, if it  
can never come true?

Her sincerity hits Kato. His face falls as his heart breaks.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kato grabs a mug, visibly upset. Bing leans on the counter.

BING

You okay man?

KATO

She's right. What's the point?  
(a beat-- Bing has no reply)  
I work hard every day. I save what  
I can. I gave up my own dream. And  
there's no point if she can't see a  
better future than this.

BING

That's why we're on the streets.  
You should join us.

KATO

No offense, but all you do is yell  
and scream with signs. I don't  
think anyone's listening.

Kato pulls a carton of milk from the fridge. Then shuts the door, revealing a FULLY SUITED ASTRONAUT. He jumps back!

KATO (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

Bing is startled too, but more from Kato's shock. From Bing's POV the kitchen is empty. But from Kato's POV his living room is an ENTIRE GALAXY, stretched out before him.

KATO (CONT'D)

I think it's happening again!

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jayden rushes toward Kato, who is gawking at the wall.

Then suddenly, like he's been snapped out of a trance, Kato is back with them. Looking right at Jayden. He blinks.

KATO

Definitely not asleep.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | LIVING ROOM - LATER

Bing paces back and forth. Jayden looks at the monitor.

KATO

So, it's what? Augmented reality  
through our dream chip?

BING

A waking dream. They can control  
whatever you see when you're awake.  
Whenever they want.

KATO

Why kill me? I'm nobody.

JAYDEN

(a long pause)  
What do you remember after leaving  
Dream Dynamics?

KATO

After? Nothing really. I got lunch, a... falafel at one of those vendor trucks, then came to my shop.

JAYDEN

(thinking)

Everyone who died took too much control in their dreams.

BING

Are we in 1984?

KATO

So, they're punishing people who want to write their own dreams?

BING

That's what happens when you let someone mess with your head. Just rip the damn thing out.

JAYDEN

Oh should we, Dr. Bing? And give him brain damage?

KATO

Everyone stay away from my brain. So, this Abigail-- who is she?

JAYDEN

My boss.

KATO

Okay, so your boss is trying to kill random strangers. Cool.

BING

You were lucky. The others died.

Jayden shakes away the painful memory of Naveen.

JAYDEN

None of this makes any sense. Why kill them? Why kill Kato?

BING

If we sit on this they could kill someone else tonight.

JAYDEN

We need to go to the police.

BING

The police won't believe us, the  
press won't believe us. I'll get it  
to COUNTERACT. We'll release it to  
the public.

KATO

That'll only start a riot.

BING

We need the outrage to affect change!

KATO

And when things get violent,  
everyone'll think you're worse than  
Abigail.

BING

And when no one hears your message,  
I'll send flowers to your funeral.

Bing's out the door. Jayden rushes after him.

JAYDEN

Bing!

But the elevator door is already closing.

EXT. KATO'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Outside, Jayden is confronted with red police lights. POLICE  
handcuff a man. A flashlight beams into her face.

POLICEMAN

Please go back inside.

That's when it becomes clear-- they're arresting Bing.

JAYDEN

That's my brother!

The POLICEMAN holds her back. Bing and Jayden lock eyes.

BING

I'll be okay.

Bing allows them to put him in the back of the squad car.

JAYDEN

Where are you taking him? Tell me!

Helpless. Jayden watches Bing's face through the back window  
of the police cruiser as they drive away.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION - NIGHT

Iron gates swing open. Palm trees line the driveway. Jayden parks next to luxury cars. She hesitates, looking up at the huge mansion, conflicted. Then, she resolves herself.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

STEVE (30s, White), the Butler, pours Jayden a glass of water. She sips. Absorbs the expensive, yet minimalist decor.

She puts her glass on a mirrored tray. Spots her reflection. Smudged eyeliner. She licks her finger. Rubs till it's fixed.

RICHARD FOX

Jayden?

JAYDEN

They arrested Bing. You're the only one I know who can help.

RICHARD FOX

And why would I want to free him?

JAYDEN

I can convince him to get COUNTERACT off your back.

RICHARD FOX

That's not a promise you can make.

JAYDEN

I'm the only one he'll listen to.

Richard thinks. His face hardens. Serious.

RICHARD FOX

If he won't...

Jayden knows the consequences. She nods.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

The DA and I won the Henley Royal Regatta together. I'll get him to offer some kind of plea deal.

JAYDEN

Thank you.

Richard taps a panel. A bar emerges from behind a wall. Extensive scotch collection.

RICHARD FOX

Sit. Have a drink. You're getting  
the hang of how it works up here.

He reaches for the top shelf.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

MacAllan Fine and Rare--

JAYDEN

Sixty year old malted in 1926.

She admires the amber liquid as he pours it.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Sold for one point nine million.

Richard smiles, impressed. They clink glasses.

RICHARD FOX

I would have paid more.

Jayden takes a sip. She savors every second of it. Then she puts the glass down on the mirrored surface...

... only THERE IS NO REFLECTION.

There's no reflection of the glass. There's no reflection of the MacAllan, AND NO REFLECTION OF RICHARD FOX.

Jayden's PULSE RACES as she realizes...

INT. COCKPIT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Jayden's alone in a grounded cockpit and talking to "Richard". But nobody is beside her. Abigail sits in the plane writing Jayden's dream.

Her heart beats.

INT. SKYSCRAPER | PENTHOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The elevator door opens to an empty ballroom. Jayden is talking to all of "Richard's friends", but the only person in the whole room is Abigail. And she's writing Jayden's dream.

Her heart beats.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE

Jayden tries to HIDE HER REALIZATION. Richard lifts his glass to cheers with her and she obliges.

RICHARD FOX  
So, what do you think?

Though she's trying to put on a calm cover, Jayden's demeanor has changed. She sips the drink. Steady Jayden... steady.

JAYDEN  
About...?

RICHARD FOX  
About that two million dollar scotch you just tried.

JAYDEN  
It's very good.

Uncomfortable, she downs the rest of the MacAllan.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | FRONT DOOR - LATER

Jayden puts on a smile as she leaves. It disappears the moment she's out of view. She then TURNS SHARPLY through the trees and doubles back to the house.

Jayden peers into the large windows and sees a FROZEN-IN-MID-STEP RICHARD FOX. Abigail enters, wearing dream-writing bracelets. She swipes. And "Richard" DISAPPEARS.

Steve takes off his dress shirt.

STEVE  
Kato's still a loose end.

ABIGAIL  
If you'd done your job right, there wouldn't be a loose end. It'll draw too much attention if we try again.

Abigail swipes her tablet. A video call with Richard Fox on a digital wall. He's in a private jet.

RICHARD FOX  
I heard the good news.

ABIGAIL  
Yes. We've got Bing Chen. They're working on him as we speak.

RICHARD FOX

Good. You better get your stock options in order cause once we've gotten rid of COUNTERACT...

ABIGAIL

I shouldn't have doubted you.

RICHARD FOX

And I didn't even have to spend any time with the common folk!

(chuckles)

Abigail, keep that Chinese girl on the hook in case we still need her.

ABIGAIL

That's why we keep her around. They keep quiet and their head down.

Jayden is GUT-PUNCHED.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

When Kato opens the door, tears well up in Jayden's eyes.

JAYDEN

I'm so stupid.

She breaks down. Kato embraces her.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | KITCHEN - MORNING

Kato pours real maple syrup on bacon. It sizzles in the pan. Jayden wakes up from the couch. Bags under her eyes.

She picks up a spoon. Makes sure Kato has a reflection.

KATO

What are you doing?

JAYDEN

Making sure you're real.

Kato plates the bacon. Jayden sits at the kitchen table.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

This was my life. Everything I worked for-- everything I wanted... how can they do this to...?

(shakes her head)

And I can't even go to the police. He controls them.

Kato places the plate in front of her.

KATO  
Hearty meal before you go to work.

JAYDEN  
You're hilarious.

Kato's not laughing.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
You're serious?

Kato sits down and touches her hand.

KATO  
How do you expect to find out where  
Bing is if you're on the outside?

JAYDEN  
How am I supposed to look Abigail  
in the eye?

KATO  
You've been doing it your whole  
life. Only now, you know what they  
really think of you.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DAY

Jayden walks up to the building that once held all her dreams. It is now cast in shadow.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

Jayden walks into the lobby. Abigail is waiting for her.

Jayden tenses up. Plasters "happy employee" on her face. Abigail meets her stride.

ABIGAIL  
Come with me.

Jayden fears the worst--

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CORNER OFFICE - DAY

Until Abigail opens the door to a spacious, glass lined office.

ABIGAIL  
Welcome to your new office.

JAYDEN

Mine?

ABIGAIL

You're Vice President of Story.  
Richard Fox called me this morning.

Jayden stares out at the ocean. She grapples with the office of her dreams vs. the reality of the lie.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | EXECUTIVE LOUNGE - DAY

Abigail introduces Jayden, who graciously receives handshakes from executives. She's surrounded by Rolexes. Imported Fabrics. A staff lounge full of luxury. Discomfort seeps through her smile-- What do these people really think of me?

Jayden breaks through to the buffet. Beside the table, Manjeet, the janitor, scrubs up spilled cocktail sauce. She makes slight eye contact with him, then heads to the crab-leg station. The crab hog in front of her turns around and its... TANNER!

JAYDEN

How did you sneak in?

EXECUTIVE

Are you done with the tongs, Mr. Fox?

Tanner's look-- *oh shit I've been caught.*

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CORNER OFFICE - DAY

Jayden storms in. Tanner hot on her heels.

TANNER

Jayden--

JAYDEN

You're a Fox?!

TANNER (CONT'D)

He's my uncle. I didn't want everyone to know or they would think I didn't earn the job.

JAYDEN

YOU DIDN'T. Instead he had you spying on us?

TANNER

No. I was doing a little undercover boss, that's all. I truly wanted to learn--

JAYDEN

No, stop. Stop, just stop.

Jayden walks to the window. Stares at the ocean and breathes.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Get out of here.

Tanner moves to leave, pauses, then turns around.

TANNER

I want to stop Abigail just as much as you.

JAYDEN

Abigail?! Are you serious? Kato is running into traffic because your uncle can write our dreams while we're awake!

TANNER

Hold on. My uncle's in this now?

JAYDEN

Drop the act. Seriously.

TANNER

I'm telling you the truth.

JAYDEN

Then open your eyes. Kato didn't get a fun little RPG expansion pack. Richard Fox put a weapon inside him that lets Dream Dynamics control our reality. They can fool world leaders, cause wars--

TANNER

Richard Fox didn't start this company to hurt people.

JAYDEN

He's got my brother.

That stops Tanner. Jayden scoffs.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

You know why superhero dreams are our number one bestseller for rich, White guys?

Tanner looks confused-- *where are you going with this?*

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Because people like you, want to be altruistic... selfless... do the right thing. But in the real world, you don't want to sacrifice any part of your own life to make someone else's a little better.

Tanner digests. Shakes his head and walks out of the office.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OFFICE - EVENING

Everyone's left for the day. Lights are off in Abigail's office. Jayden looks around, making sure no one's there. Beelines toward Abigail's door.

EXT. PLANE HANGER - EVENING

The door to a private jet opens. Richard Fox walks to the tarmac where Tanner waits for him.

INT. LUXURY SUV - NIGHT

Back seat. Richard swipes his phone next to Tanner.

TANNER

You started this company to give people a chance to live their dreams right?

RICHARD FOX

(without looking up)

That is our tagline.

TANNER

But we're not really helping them do that are we?

RICHARD FOX

(looks up from his phone)

Please tell me you're not dating some liberal nut again.

TANNER

She was an arts major, and no. I was thinking... our clientele aren't rich people. The dreamers are mostly people who-- people of...

RICHARD FOX

We can't sell dreams to people who  
are already living theirs.

TANNER

What really happens to them when  
they go over 80/20?

RICHARD FOX

What do you think happens?

TANNER

I'm not sure.

RICHARD FOX

Exactly. What matters is that people  
think something could go wrong. If  
we let them take control of their  
dreams, it shows them how to take  
control of their lives. And if we  
inspire these people to achieve  
their dreams in the real world,  
well... that'd be bad for business.

TANNER

Aren't you worried the American  
people will see right through you?

The car pulls to a stop. Richard smirks.

RICHARD FOX

The American people have been  
looking at me for decades.

Tanner hesitates. Nods. Opens the door and gets out.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OFFICE - EVENING

Jayden reaches for the doorknob to Abigail's office.

ABIGAIL

Jayden?

Jayden turns around to see Abigail.

JAYDEN

I'm heading home. Wanted to say  
thank you for everything today.

Abigail doesn't change her expression.

ABIGAIL

Richard is a good man. He also gave  
me a chance, when no one else would.  
From having nothing. I proved  
myself. I'm sure you will too.

JAYDEN

Of course.

Abigail moves past Jayden and walks into her office.

INT. WAREHOUSE OFFICE - NIGHT

Richard looks through a window into a large warehouse.  
There's Bing. Asleep. Empty room. On the back of Bing's neck  
it is clear an INCISION has been made.

RICHARD FOX

Have the test runs been successful?

Steve nods. Hands Richard a small silver case. Inside is a  
SILVER WATCH. He puts it on. Inserts his contact lenses.  
Presses a button. Richard's dream chip flashes green.

Under Bing's incision, a dream chip FLASHES GREEN as well.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Jayden sits. By herself. In the midst of a buzzing bar.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)

Two shots of Johnnie Walker Blue.

It's Tanner. Jayden ignores him. Bartender serves two shots.

TANNER

Inheritances are overrated.

Tanner places a shot in front of Jayden.

TANNER (CONT'D)

Richard Fox is in town on an  
impromptu business trip.

Jayden doesn't move.

TANNER (CONT'D)

Thought I'd get a bit more of a  
reaction out of that. Okay how  
about this?

(MORE)

TANNER (CONT'D)  
 When the dreamers went past 80/20  
 the dreams didn't just get sent to  
 Abigail, it triggered an upgrade. I  
 found the program.

Jayden turns to acknowledge him. Gives him a weird look.

TANNER (CONT'D)  
 I can't tell if you're happy or upset.

JAYDEN  
 Come, I have an idea.

Jayden grabs her jacket and whisks off.

TANNER  
 Okay... I guess apology accepted.

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kato opens his door. Jayden bursts past him followed by Tanner. Rushes to the dream writing machine.

JAYDEN  
 Connect Kato and I.

Tanner does what he's told. Kato's chips glows green. Jayden straps on the bracelet. Walks into Kato's bedroom.

JAYDEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Tell me what you see.

Jayden walks out-- only it's not Jayden. It's Richard Fox!

KATO  
 Holy Shit!

JAYDEN  
 Think Abigail will tell me where  
 Bing is if I look like this?

KATO  
 Whoa...

JAYDEN  
 I can go anywhere, do anything. No  
 one would dare question Richard Fox.

Kato walks up to Jayden. Gets a close look. Sammy walks in.

SAMMY  
 Daddy, did you accidentally take  
 Mommy's pills again?

TANNER

(shakes his head)

It works for Kato because he's been upgraded, but nobody at Dream Dynamics has been. You walk in there, everyone'll just see Jayden.

JAYDEN

But you found the upgrade. You can use it on everyone in the building.

Kato nods, impressed. Tanner thinks.

TANNER

Guys, this is crazy-- we'd have to somehow connect a few hundred people, without them knowing, to Control, and send the upgrade to all their chips.

JAYDEN

Exactly!

TANNER

And then, you'd have to become the dream writer for EVERYONE in the building.

KATO

Good thing you know your way around Control.

TANNER

Do you even know what you're asking me to do?

JAYDEN

I'm asking you to step up and be a superhero.

Tanner sees Sammy's hopeful eyes staring up at him.

TANNER

Fuck.

(to Sammy)

Sorry.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

LITTLE LI-YEN (4), pig tails tied with red ribbons, in the front row of CHILDREN (4, White) poses for a CLASS PHOTO. Little Li-Yen uncomfortably looks around at the others, then FLASH! The photographer looks up from the camera and it's the FACELESS WOMAN!

FLASH! The faceless woman CHARGES toward Little Li-Yen, her SHARP FINGERNAILS at the ready. FLASH! The child screams as the woman SCRATCHES her face. A BIGGER FLASH. The scratch marks turn blue like ink from a pen. FLASH! Little Li-Yen puts her hands up to defend herself, but Faceless Woman keeps scratching. FLASH! Blue marks, like veins, start to slither up the Faceless Woman's visage, mirroring Little Li-Yen's. Amidst the veins, the form of a face can briefly be seen. FLASH!

INT. KATO'S APARTMENT | LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jayden bursts up. On the couch. Kato is beside her.

KATO  
I'm right here. You're okay. You're  
okay. I'm right here.

Jayden finally turns to look at him and relief hits her.

JAYDEN  
She's always there.

KATO  
Who?

JAYDEN  
(sighs)  
This faceless woman keeps appearing  
in my dreams. If she shows up  
tomorrow, it's game over.

KATO  
I saw her, in our dream together.  
(beat)  
How long?

JAYDEN  
Since I was eighteen. Right after  
my parents were killed.

Kato doesn't know what to say.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
They were shot. Some racist  
asshole. In the checkout line of a  
grocery store.

KATO  
Holy shit.

JAYDEN  
They were picking up a birthday cake  
for Bing. Black Forest, his favorite.  
(MORE)

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
I don't know why-- it's so much work  
to eat around the cherries.

KATO  
Jayden...

JAYDEN  
He spent his birthday picking out a  
suit for the funeral.

Jayden's sarcasm covers the pain bubbling underneath.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
So much for coming to this country  
for a better life.

Kato holds her hands in his.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DAY

Tanner and Jayden stare up at the looming building.

JAYDEN  
We got this.

TANNER  
No sweat, right?

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

All we see is sweat pouring off Tanner's brow. He approaches  
the security guards. Fake smile. Walks past.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS | JAYDEN'S CAR - DAY

Parking lot. Front seat. Jayden puts an earpiece in.

JAYDEN  
Testing.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - DAY

Kato parks close to Richard's gate. An older car-- still needs a  
driver. On the front seat is a small box with multiple antennas.

KATO  
Got you.  
(a beat)  
And remember. The Faceless Woman  
does not control this dream. You do.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL SECURITY STOP - DAY

An elevator door opens. Tanner walks out. A CONTROL SECURITY GUARD sits behind a desk.

TANNER

We had a glitch in the last dream.  
I wanted to check the programming.

CONTROL SECURITY GUARD

Thought your uncle let you move up  
in the world. I technically can't  
let you in.

Tanner slides him a bottle of Limoncello. The guard smiles.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - DAY

Kato picks up the antenna from the seat.

KATO

As soon as I turn on the signal  
jammer he won't be able to call  
Abigail. It won't affect us.

Kato flips the switch on the signal jammer.

INT. RICHARD FOX'S HOUSE | LIVING ROOM - DAY

Richard is on the phone.

RICHARD FOX

Today's only the third of July. Don't  
commit your investments anywhere else  
until at least the end of the day to--

Beep beep beep. Richard looks at his phone. No bars.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL CENTER - DAY

Tanner rushes inside. Sits in front of a terminal. He types.  
Presses ENTER-- UPGRADING 518 USERS appears on screen.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

Everyone's chip blinks purple quickly. No one notices.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL CENTER - DAY

Upgrade COMPLETE. Tanner grins. A long list of names. Abigail Williams at the bottom. Tanner drags them all on one screen.

CONNECTING...

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)

In about twenty seconds you're  
going to be bombarded by five  
hundred separate minds all at once.  
It might feel--

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS | JAYDEN'S CAR - DAY

Jayden puts on her dream bracelet and contact lenses.

JAYDEN

It'll be like one big dream.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)

Sure. That's exactly what it'll be  
like.

As Jayden's chip turns green her vision suddenly splits into a KALEIDOSCOPE OF HUNDREDS OF VIEWPOINTS.

Jayden grimaces in pain. Perspectives smash in front of her. She raises her hand and PUSHES! The kaleidoscope BREAKS APART. And the world in front of her returns.

She waves her hand again. A digital lifeless Richard Fox materializes in front of the car. Jayden walks through it and she morphs into Richard Fox.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - MOMENTS LATER

Jayden walks up the building. In the reflection, she can only see herself.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)

Did it work?

JAYDEN

Only one way to find out.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

Jayden walks into the lobby. The air goes out of the room. All eyes fall on her. Security immediately surrounds her. Jayden tenses. Game's up.

SECURITY GUARD  
Mr. Fox. You're early. This way  
please.

A sigh of relief as she's fawningly escorted through security by the wide-eyed SECURITY GUARDS.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OFFICE - DAY

Jayden/Richard enters a busy office. She freezes as the Faceless Woman, appears in front of her. Unlike previous times, she now has some recognizable facial features. And several employees seem to notice her too.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Do I pay you to sit around?

Every employee snaps to attention to stare at her! While they do this The Faceless Woman disappears. Some employees look back where the Faceless Woman was. Confused. No one is there.

Abigail's office is empty. Jayden/Richard walks in. Closes the blinds.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | ABIGAIL'S OFFICE - DAY

Filled with family photos. Picket fences, smiling husband, two golden children, one dog and one cat.

Jayden/Richard immediately turns on Abigail's computer.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)  
Her password is-- soccermom69.

Jayden/Richard judges with a lifted eyebrow. Then types. Searches for BING-- no files found. COUNTERACT-- no files found. Recent Files. Scroll. Scroll. She scrolls past a file called THE BROTHER. Stops. Scrolls back up.

Intrigued, she clicks on it. Error-- REQUIRES LUCID 2.0.

JAYDEN  
I've got a dream file here. It was  
saved five minutes ago.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)  
Copy it and send it to me.

Jayden puts her phone on top of the small, circular hard drive. COPYING pops up.

ABIGAIL STORMS into the room READY FOR A FIGHT until she sees Richard sitting at her desk. Calms down.

ABIGAIL  
The meeting's not for another fifteen minutes.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
The meeting?

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - DAY

Richard Fox's gate opens. A black SUV exits. Kato follows.

KATO  
Yeah. Richard Fox just left. You've got about ten minutes before he gets there.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | ABIGAIL'S OFFICE - DAY

Jayden/Richard has a brief moment of panic. Regains control.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
That's why I needed to talk to you.

On her phone: COPYING COMPLETE. Jayden swipes it away before Abigail can get a clear look at the screen.

ABIGAIL (VOICE)  
What more is there to talk about?

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Bing. I need to see him.

ABIGAIL  
There's no time for this.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
We need to call it all off.

Abigail gives him a stare of death-- WTF????!!!

ABIGAIL  
There is no calling off! If this is a midlife crisis, go buy a motorcycle!

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Jayden is putting the pieces together.

ABIGAIL

It's too late. Bing's already left,  
there's nothing she can do.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

Right. You're right.

ABIGAIL

Don't scare me like that.

Abigail moves her body very close to Jayden/Richard. Brushes her lips up against hers. Almost kissing. At the last second she turns and walks away. Jayden/Richard lets out the breath she didn't realize she was holding.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Jayden/Richard and Abigail approach a T-junction.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)

I haven't got the file yet.

Jayden/Richard clears her throat. Abigail takes the left hall. Jayden/Richard takes the right and smacks into Manjeet, the janitor, who's emptying a garbage bin.

The bag spills all over Jayden/Richard. Gasps from the workers. Manjeet, mortified, waits for the axe to fall.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

That's what I get for skimping out  
on quality garbage bags.

Manjeet doesn't know if he should smile or not.

MANJEET

I really like the thick, stretchy  
ones with the red pull ties.

Jayden/Richard bursts into a smile.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

I like this guy. Abigail, make sure  
he gets those, and give him a  
salary bump while you're at it.

ABIGAIL

(befuddled)

Are you sure?

Manjeet is all smiles.

MANJEEET

Today's my lucky day.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

Luck's got nothing to do with it.

Manjeet is thrown off for a moment. But can't place it.

ABIGAIL

The meeting's about to start.

Jayden/Richard sees a restroom.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

The meeting will start when I get there.

There are two restroom doors-- Men/Women. Jayden/Richard's about to head into the women's, but catches herself.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | MEN'S RESTROOM - DAY

Jayden/Richard looks under the stalls. No one there. The mirror reflections show Jayden. She gets inside a stall and pulls out her phone. FILE SENDING...

JAYDEN/RICHARD

Kato! We need more time. You have to stall him!

KATO (THROUGH EARPIECE)

How?

JAYDEN/RICHARD

I don't know. Figure something out. Tanner, I sent you the file.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL CENTER - DAY

Tanner stares at the screen in front of him.

TANNER

Why save a dream file on your personal drive and not the server?

Tanner puts in his contact lenses. He presses ENTER. His chip flashes blue, then goes green. And suddenly he's...

EXT. GARDEN - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

In the middle of a garden pulled from the pages of Alice in Wonderland. Giant multi-colored mushrooms rise into the sky. Flowers with petals ten feet wide sit along a bubbling brook.

TANNER

Okay...?

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | HALLWAY - DAY

Jayden/Richard exits the washroom and walks down the hallway.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)

It's some Alice in Wonderland  
Dreamworld. There's nothing here.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Tanner almost disconnects, until he sees ELEVATOR BUTTONS at the base of a tree trunk. He waves his hand. Names on each button lights up. The first name: NAVEEN SATIYESH.

The others are there too. Malika Tzinga, Antoinetta Consuelo, Aaquib Muhhamed, Deshawn Marquis. And... KATO ROBINSON.

TANNER

Holy shit. These are all the waking  
dreams they've written.

JAYDEN/RICHARD (THROUGH EARPIECE)

What did they do to them?

Tanner touches Kato's name. The trunk of the tree opens like an elevator door revealing--

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Normal sunny day. There's Kato. Buying falafel from a street vendor. But - the food shimmers unnaturally. Tanner swipes his hand-- the food disappears, so does the vendor truck.

Kato is now standing beside a van. Holding a PANEL WITH ELECTRICAL WIRING.

TANNER

They wrote Kato a waking dream  
after he left Dream Dynamics. He  
wasn't buying lunch. He bought some  
electronic device.

## INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM HALLWAY - DAY

Jayden rounds the corner just as Abigail is checking her compact mirror outside the boardroom. Jayden barely avoids the reflection. Abigail snaps the mirror shut.

ABIGAIL

We have to decide by 3:15.

Jayden/Richard nods firmly. No idea what she's referring to.

## INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

Abigail opens the door for Jayden/Richard. Sitting at the end of the boardroom table is Congresswoman Maya Reyes.

## EXT. STREET - DAY

At a traffic stop, Kato sizes up Richard's SUV next to him. Kato does the sign of the cross. The light TURNS GREEN. Kato ZOOMS in front of the SUV. Then SLAMS on the brakes!

Kato braces for impact! And keeps on bracing...

...because the SUV has swerved into a ditch. Kato puts the cell jammer in his pocket. Jumps out of the car just as a disoriented Richard Fox stumbles out of the backseat.

KATO

Oh my God! It was a cat! I'm so sorry!

RICHARD FOX

Aren't cops supposed to take you people off the road?

Kato opens his mouth, but stops himself.

## INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

Jayden/Richard stares blankly at Maya.

MAYA

I was surprised you wanted this meeting. I'd love to know why.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

That is a good question. A very good question.

A pause... a LONG pause... Jayden/Richard catches The Faceless Woman sitting at the table, but when she looks back she's gone. When Jayden/Richard doesn't continue, Abigail steps in.

ABIGAIL

If you insist on fighting us you can leave here with nothing, or we can help each other out.

MAYA

You want me to stop fighting. And what? I get a campaign donation?

ABIGAIL

A very generous campaign donation.

MAYA

(to Jayden/Richard)

You don't own the license on the American dream.

A smile comes to Jayden/Richard's face.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

If I could offer you anything in the world what would you want?

MAYA

Anything?

JAYDEN/RICHARD

Anything at all.

Maya really digs in.

MAYA

Public acknowledgment that your system's keeping people of color down. Actual financial commitments to diversify your hiring practices. Some major investments in the communities you profit off of. An open door system of transparency. And a partridge in a pear tree.

Abigail smirks.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

That all sounds reasonable.

Abigail's smirk drops. Gives Jayden/Richard a stare of death.

MAYA

I'm sorry. What?

EXT. GARDEN - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Tanner presses Naveen's name on the tree trunk. Through the trunk Tanner watches Naveen buy A LIQUID CANISTER.

Tanner looks down at another button on the wall. This one isn't labelled yet. He presses it-- the door opens.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Bing is in a hotel room, sitting on a bed.

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)  
They implanted Bing with a chip.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Shit!

Maya looks surprised. Jayden/Richard recovers.

JAYDEN/RICHARD (CONT'D)  
You're going to cost us a fortune.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Tanner hears a knock on the door. Bing answers. And in walks a DREAM VERSION OF JAYDEN. She takes a shiny, metallic sphere out of a sturdy container. Puts it on the table.

DREAM JAYDEN  
It's an EMP. Non-lethal, but it'll deactivate every electronic device within a mile.

BING  
Then they'll have to listen to us.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kato and the Driver struggle to push the SUV out of the ditch. Richard, annoyed, stands to the side.

KATO  
Why don't I order a tow? On me!

Richard checks his phone. It's 3:13. Still no bars.

RICHARD FOX

Enough.

Richard stomps up the hill. Jumps into Kato's car. Kato runs after him. But it's too late. Richard speeds off!

KATO

They should take people like YOU  
off the road.

Kato looks down at the cell jammer in his hand.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

Maya, unbelieving, crosses her arms.

MAYA

Okay Richard. You've had your fun.  
We both know it's an empty promise.

JAYDEN/RICHARD

No. I have the money to spare.

Abigail looks at her tablet. It's 3:15pm.

ABIGAIL

Maya, give us a few minutes to  
discuss.

Abigail and Jayden/Richard exit.

KATO (THROUGH EARPIECE)

Richard drove off in my car. He's  
maybe three minutes away!

INT. KATO'S CAR - DAY

Richard is on his cellphone.

RICHARD FOX

What do you mean I'm already there?

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM HALLWAY - DAY

Abigail shuts the door. Jayden/Richard sweats.

ABIGAIL

You're sick, you know that? She  
thinks you're being serious.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Maybe we're looking at this the  
wrong way.

ABIGAIL  
So you want to let her out?

Jayden/Richard bumps at that. What? But there's no time to follow up.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Uh, yes. We'll pick it up tomorrow.  
I have another meeting to get to.

Abigail-- bewildered. Jayden/Richard rushes down the hallway.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | HALLWAY - DAY

Jayden/Richard rounds the corner and makes a break for it.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Tanner you better get out of there!

TANNER (THROUGH EARPIECE)  
I can't. They've convinced Bing to  
use an EMP.

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Use it where?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Bing hugs Dream Jayden. Tanner pauses the program.

TANNER  
I'll find out.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | HALLWAY - DAY

From the empty hallway. Abigail pulls out her tablet. Taps. LOCKS the boardroom door. Then runs after Jayden/Richard.

INT. KATO'S CAR - DAY

Richard speeds through traffic toward Dream Dynamics.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

Jayden/Richard brushes past the security checkpoint.

ABIGAIL  
Richard! What the Hell are you doing?

Abigail is hot on her heels, but Jayden/Richard ignores her.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DAY

Richard pulls up in front of the entrance. Storms out of the car.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

The exit is just ahead of Jayden/Richard. She's almost there.

Richard BUMPS right into Jayden/Richard! Richard (has not been upgraded) sees her as Jayden.

RICHARD FOX  
Security!

Security guards surround them. Abigail finally catches up to the two of them and stares at TWO RICHARD FOXES!

ABIGAIL  
What the Hell?

RICHARD FOX  
Take her into custody!

The guards look at one another, frozen in indecision.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
What are you waiting for?

A stunned crowd grows. Abigail points to the Jayden version.

ABIGAIL  
It's Jayden. She looks like you.

Jayden/Richard and fuming Richard point at each other.

RICHARD FOX  
Arrest her now!

JAYDEN/RICHARD  
Arrest her now!

Realizing she's about to be caught, Jayden/Richard TACKLES Richard to the ground. Security guards rush in to break up the fight. From Abigail's POV it looks like a football game. And the whole team just gang tackled Richard Fox. After a few seconds they pull up Richard Fox. EXCEPT THEY ONLY PULL UP ONE RICHARD FOX!

Abigail scans the lobby. An increasingly growing crowd of spectators forms. No sign of Jayden anywhere.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
Let go of me.

ABIGAIL  
Security, hold on to him and block  
every exit!

RICHARD FOX  
It's me!

Abigail doesn't buy it.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
St. Martens last year. Room 415. I  
brought the strawberries, you  
brought the skimpy--

ABIGAIL  
It's him.

Security lets go.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
She must have upgraded everyone in  
the building.

RICHARD FOX  
Except me.

ABIGAIL  
It's 3:20. We've got bigger  
problems than Jayden.

RICHARD FOX  
Shit. Get out of here. I'll find her.

Several security guards pass them by. If Abigail had looked in the mirror, she would have noticed JAYDEN IS ONE OF THEM.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Tanner searches frantically for more clues in the room.

A glint of metal from Bing's inner front pocket catches his attention. He pulls it out. A garage pass for DREAM DYNAMICS.

TANNER  
He's coming here. To Dream Dynamics.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

SECURITY JAYDEN searches for an exit past Richard.

SECURITY JAYDEN

They're going to plant an EMP in  
their own building? Why destroy the  
electronics at a tech company?

RICHARD FOX

There she is!

Richard sees her! The crowd parts. Exposing her. She bolts  
through a beeping checkpoint with security hot on her trail.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Tanner is about to disconnect when he notices a shimmer over  
the EMP - the same shimmer that was over Kato's food.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | SECURITY ROOM - DAY

Richard rushing into a room filled with security monitors.

RICHARD FOX

Make sure she doesn't leave this  
building. Seal the exits.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOADING DOCK - DAY

Bing opens the back of a long delivery truck. He steps down.  
Carrying a duffel bag.

Behind him, security guards close up the loading dock doors.  
Murmurs amongst the employees escalate to angry yells when  
some are pushed back from the exit.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

Maya tries to leave, but the door won't budge. She starts to  
panic. Tries again and again. Nothing.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Security Jayden runs by reflective glass wall panels. Her  
true self shows to anyone who might happen to be looking. At  
this moment, that happens to be a very confused Manjeet. He  
looks directly at Jayden's reflection.

Moments later, the security team approaches. Manjeet points down the OPPOSITE hallway. The security team follows his direction. Manjeet smiles.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | SECURITY ROOM - DAY

Richard sees Bing walking toward the service entrance doors on the monitors. He smiles. Then leaves.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOADING DOCK HALLWAY - DAY

Security Jayden moves through a crowded, narrow hallway. Spots Bing at the far end. Pushes her way through the crowd.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Tanner moves apart the EMP. It cracks open. The outer casing vanishes into thin air. What's left looks more handmade. It has Kato's electronic device, and Naveen's fuel cylinder.

TANNER

Jayden! It's not an EMP, it's a bomb!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BASEMENT HALLWAY- DAY

Jayden freezes.

TANNER

Naveen, Kato, the others. They were waking dreamed into buying the pieces. That's why they killed them. Richard Fox is going to bomb his own building.

Jayden runs! Enters a basement hallway.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BASEMENT SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY

Bing opens a supply closet. There's the usual cleaning supplies as well as a box of protein bars with the sign - IF YOU'RE NOT MANJEET, DON'T TOUCH!!

Bing drops the bag behind a mop. Takes off his delivery outfit. He's wearing a suit underneath. Walks away. He rushes up stairs. Pushes through an emergency exit and he's...

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

...at the edge of the lobby. Confused by the large group of congregating people. Bing tries to blend in.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

Maya knocks heavily on the door. THUD! THUD! THUD!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BASEMENT HALLWAY- DAY

Security Jayden spots Bing's delivery clothes on the floor. Sees the doorway at the end of the hall. Breaks for it!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

She bursts through the door. Searches for Bing. But, all she can see is The Faceless Woman. Right in front of her! She can almost make out eyes staring back at her through the blue lines that have cut deeper into the face.

JAYDEN

Bing!

Bing is lost in the crowd. People see The Faceless Woman. Someone in the crowd screams. Jayden runs away, but more and more Faceless Women pop up in the crowd. She's everywhere!

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Disconnect me Tanner. Now!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL CENTER - DAY

TANNER

Everyone will see who you really are.

A BANGING on the doors to Control.

SECURITY (O.S.)

Open Up!

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

More screams around her.

JAYDEN

Do it!

What people see as Security Jayden digitally DISINTEGRATES into just Jayden. Employees scream in surprise. Chaos erupts.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | CONTROL CENTER - DAY

The security team whips open the door.

TANNER

What the Hell took you so long?

The security team is confused.

TANNER (CONT'D)

I shut down the program she's using. She's in the lobby!

Tanner points to a monitor that reveals Jayden out in the open. The two guards take a beat, then take off after her.

TANNER (CONT'D)

Sorry Jayden, you're about to have a lot of company.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

The security guards arrive, but haven't spotted Jayden yet.

JAYDEN

Can you still connect me to Bing?

TANNER

Yeah. Why?

JAYDEN

I can write him a waking dream.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY EXIT - DAY

Bing brushes past employees who are steadily making their way to the front door. Suddenly, Jayden is right in front of him.

BING

Jayden?

The momentum of the crowd pushes Bing past Jayden. But as soon as he passes her she appears in front of him again.

JAYDEN

They put a chip in you Bing - they've been writing your dream.

BING  
No.

JAYDEN  
They gave you a bomb!

BING  
(closes his eyes)  
No, YOU gave me an EMP!

Virtual Jayden takes his hand.

JAYDEN  
I'm writing this now, not them.

BING  
No, this is another trick, it's--

JAYDEN  
It's me Li-Yen.

Bing lets his defenses down.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

The security guards spot Jayden. Make their way toward her.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY EXIT - DAY

Bing takes a moment to look at Virtual Jayden.

BING  
Get as many people out as you can.

JAYDEN  
What are you doing?

Bing holds his eye contact with her. Then...

BING  
THERE'S A BOMB IN THE BUILDING! GET  
OUT! EVERYONE GET OUT OF HERE!

Instantly, everyone erupts into a panicked, confused mob. The crowd blocks security from reaching Jayden.

JAYDEN  
BING! BING!

Bing goes through the basement door. Jayden can't reach him.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Tanner, Maya's in the boardroom.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BASEMENT SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY  
Bing grabs the bag. Inside, the timer says - 1:30.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | BOARDROOM - DAY

Screams in the hallway! Maya begins to panic. Knocking harder and harder. The door opens. It's Tanner with a key card.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

The security guards won't let the exiting crowd leave.

JAYDEN  
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT! THERE'S A BOMB!

Jayden's words galvanize the crowd. They push! Break through the glass doors. Spill out into the parking lot.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | LOBBY - DAY

Bing sees the crowd at the front doors. He runs away from the people. A few stragglers remain.

BING  
Get out of here!

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DAY

Jayden pours outside. Pure chaos. People run away. Kato runs up. Out of breath. Kato and Jayden lock eyes.

JAYDEN  
Get away from the building.

Maya stumbles out the door with Tanner behind her.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | ATRIUM - DAY

Bing checks the timer. 10 seconds. He's alone in an atrium. As the timer ticks down, he rushes to the back and launches the bomb as hard as he can. It FLIES... THROUGH... THE... AIR...

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DAY

A HUGE EXPLOSION. Jayden and Kato duck behind some cars. A BLAST OF BLACK SMOKE erupts from the back of the building.

Jayden gets up. Kato pulls her back down. Jayden shakes him off and runs toward the entrance.

INT. DREAM DYNAMICS | ATRIUM - DAY

Jayden passes by fire. Broken glass. Bleeding people.

JAYDEN

Bing!

Smoke billows everywhere. Jayden sees a familiar shape. Moving. It's Bing. He collapses to the ground. Jayden rushes over. The right side of his whole body is badly burnt.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Come on. We need to get out of here.

He opens his eyes slightly.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, you can do it. You can get up.

Jayden uses all her strength to get him onto his feet.

INT. JAYDEN'S CAR - DAY

Kato steps on the accelerator. Jayden caresses Bing's arm in the backseat.

JAYDEN

I'm here Bing. I'm right here.

Bing manages a smile. Then closes his eyes. Goes limp.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Bing?

She shakes him. Harder! He loses consciousness. Bleeds out of a stomach wound.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Drive faster!

Kato floors it. Jayden checks Bing's pulse. Puts her finger in front of his nose. Her shoulders drop with relief.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Stay with me. Please.

Jayden notices her dream writing bracelet is glowing green. She looks regretfully at Bing. She presses the button.

EXT. CHILDHOOD BACKYARD | POOL - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

A large Las Vegas sign "HAPPY 16TH BIRTHDAY BING!" in flashing bulbs over an expansive infinity pool. Behind Jayden's childhood home.

Bing stretches out on an inflatable pool lounge. Jayden floats next to him.

BING  
Haven't done a birthday in a long time.

JAYDEN  
Bing... I'm...

Jayden hands him a tray of egg custard tarts. Bing receives the message and looks Jayden in the eye.

BING  
I know you are. Let's just enjoy this time.

JAYDEN  
But I need you to know... I'm really truly--

BING  
Are you going to refuse a dying man his last request?

JAYDEN  
You're not going to die.

Jayden flicks her wrist. Mom and Dad walk out. Black Forest birthday cake in hand. Glowing number one and six candles.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Even though it's fifty percent cherries.

Bing smirks-- alright...

MOM  
Time for birthday spanks!!

Mom squeezes Jayden in a side hug. Jayden reciprocates.

JAYDEN

Do we each get a turn?

DAD

Of course! It's American tradition!

Bing puts his hands up and everyone freezes.

BING

I don't think this is what it would have been like.

JAYDEN

Dreams don't represent reality, just what we wish it could be.

BING

May I?

Jayden nods her consent. Bing waves his hand and... nothing.

JAYDEN

It does take some training.

Bing points down at Jayden's feet. She looks. Realizes she's levitating off the ground. Jayden smiles.

She flies upward into the sky, leaving her parents behind. Bing beams as they weave in and out of the clouds, parallel with birds flapping their wings.

BING

That's what I love about you.

JAYDEN

Did you just use love and me in the same sentence?

BING

You dream big.

Jayden speeds forward toward a sea of city lights. They soar in between arching rock faces. Over snow capped mountains.

JAYDEN

Bing? Can I ask you something?

BING

Sure.

They land on a tall peak of a mountain in the middle of a barren desert. A pristine SALT FLAT that reflects white under the sun. They are like ants in the vast landscape.

JAYDEN

How come you didn't cry at their  
funeral?

BING

I didn't?

JAYDEN

No.

BING

I was-- I remember feeling so--  
ANGRY. That we live in a world where  
something like that could happen.

Jayden nods. A long beat.

JAYDEN

I didn't feel anything.

Bing looks at her with confusion.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

I know I was supposed to, but--

Jayden picks a soft feather off her sweater. Lets it blow  
away in the wind.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

I don't think they ever really--  
loved who I was.

Bing holds space.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

I didn't really love them...

Jayden sits with that realization.

BING

The saddest part about them not  
being here now, is that they don't  
get the chance to be proud of you.

Jayden can't hold back her pain and the emotion spills out.

BING (CONT'D)

You could have had that with me  
though. You did. But you pushed  
me away...

She turns. They look each other in the eye, for the first  
time. Maybe ever.

BING (CONT'D)  
You and I... we are--are--are the  
most--most--

The moment is SHA-ATT-TER-RED by digital disintegration.

INT. JAYDEN'S CAR - DAY

Jayden holds Bing.

JAYDEN  
No. No. Reconnect!

KATO  
Jayden... I think Control's gone.

JAYDEN  
Bing? Bing?!

Jayden buries her face in Bing's chest. His BODY GOES LIMP.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The car pulls up to the Emergency bay. Kato dashes inside. He comes back out with TWO NURSES and a stretcher. Kato opens the door, but Jayden looks at him and shakes her head.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DUSK

Tanner stares at the smoldering building. Richard Fox walks up. He's actually changed into a freshly pressed suit.

TANNER  
I guess you won't be taking the  
company public now, then?

RICHARD FOX  
(laughs)  
Are you kidding? What's more patriotic  
than standing up to terrorists?

TANNER  
But Control's destroyed.

RICHARD FOX  
We're a tech company Tanner. The  
only way we'll be able to expand is  
to make LUCID portable.

Richard flashes Tanner his sleek, silver watch.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
First prototype right here.

INT. JON-JON'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Mismatched furniture from Good Will. Parquet floor apartment. Jayden, blank face, blinks back tears that aren't there. She lifts a bottle of Grey Goose. Takes more than a sip.

CANDICE  
Maybe slow down a little bit, dear?

Jon-Jon hands a glass of water to Jayden who pours it into a house plant. Then pours her Vodka into the glass. Kato sets up a foldable desk for Sammy to work at.

SAMMY  
I forgot my assignment on the kitchen table.

KATO  
We can't go back home right now, kiddo. I'll talk to your teacher.

SAMMY  
What if the bad people find us at Uncle Jon-Jon's?

Candice hugs Sammy. Kato's eyes reveal his worry.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - DUSK

Richard walks toward the lit area of waiting microphones. Abigail approaches.

RICHARD FOX  
Maya?

Abigail shakes her head no.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
Shit.

ABIGAIL  
But... they upgraded everyone in the building. Including her. I can take care of it.

Richard nods. Abigail reaches to fix his hair. He stops her.

RICHARD FOX  
No, it makes me look more...  
relatable.

Richard steps up to the mics. Cameras CLICK. Bulbs FLASH.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
I was in the building minutes before.  
(shakes head)  
Twenty-three of my colleagues. My  
friends. That's how many dead  
bodies we've found. So far. And so  
many more injured.

Richard slams his fist on the podium.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
COUNTERACT did this.

INT. JON-JON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Jayden and friends watch the broadcast-- A fuzzy clip of Bing, placing the bomb.

RICHARD FOX (ON TV)  
Bing Chan is a known activist and  
conspirator. He is the founder of  
this COUNTERACT group...

JAYDEN  
It's not a group.

RICHARD FOX (ON TV)  
...those people are willing to kill  
and take innocent lives to further  
their selfish agenda.

A clip of PARAMEDICS pushing a DEAD BODY on a stretcher. The camera runs in for a closer look. IT IS MANJEET.

Jayden's face molds into a mix of fury and pain.

RICHARD FOX (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
At the expense of the hard-working  
American people who have earned  
their place.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - EVENING

COUNTERACT signs are ripped as Richard's SUPPORTERS push their way through the tent city. COUNTERACT protestors flee from their home base as tents are kicked over. Collapsed.

RICHARD FOX (V.O.)

This shall not stand. We put our blood, sweat, and tears into building this company from nothing. Like those before us who built the backbone of this country.

EXT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

A chair FLIES through Kato's restaurant window. Shattering it. RIOTERS RUSH IN. BREAK what they can find.

RICHARD FOX (V.O.)

Tomorrow is the Fourth of July. Tomorrow is the day we celebrate what this country stands for.

INT. JON-JON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

If Jayden squeezes the bottle any harder it would shatter.

RICHARD FOX (ON TV)

I will not back down in fear. And neither should you. We will stand up. Stronger than before.

Jayden moves to throw the Grey Goose against the TV, but Jon-Jon takes the bottle away from her. She grabs it back--

JAYDEN

Cheers!

-- and downs some more. Candice and Jon-Jon look at each other with concern.

EXT. DREAM DYNAMICS - MORNING

The sun rises over an abandoned Tent City. COUNTERACT signs are SWEPT ASIDE by a construction plow truck.

INT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - MORNING

Kato steps over fallen tables and chairs. Tanner surveys the mess. Their feet crunch the broken glass.

TANNER

I'm so sorry, Kato.

Kato sits on the ground. Looks like he wants to give up. He squeezes his eyes shut, keeping in anger or tears or both.

KATO  
It's my fault.

Tanner gives Kato a quizzical look.

KATO (CONT'D)  
I've spent every day trying to live up to what my wife wanted me to be. She thought I could make a better life for Sammy, but look at this. This isn't my dream. I never even fought for it, and Sammy knows. You know how hard it is to face that disappointment in her eyes every morning?

Tanner puts his hand on Kato's shoulder. Kato stares at the cash register, battered. A long moment.

KATO (CONT'D)  
No.

Tanner-- No, what?

KATO (CONT'D)  
No. This isn't the world that Sammy is going to grow up in.

INT. JON-JON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kato and Tanner come back to the apartment to find Jayden digging in the kitchen drawers.

JAYDEN  
You have to have some pain-killers around here somewhere.

Jon-Jon holds Sammy's hand. By the bedroom door.

KATO  
Jayden--

Candice stirs on the couch. Jayden opens more cupboards. Kato moves closer and touches her.

KATO (CONT'D)  
It's okay.

Jayden tosses him off. Keeps searching.

KATO (CONT'D)  
Rage is okay... Grief is okay...  
Guilt is okay.

JAYDEN  
It's NOT okay!

A LONG SILENCE between all of them.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Bing told me people were dying  
because of my company, and I  
thought: "No. I don't want to know  
this." Cause if I close my eyes--  
(laughs sarcastically)  
I'm still that stupid four-year-old  
looking at my first class picture.  
I didn't like being different so I  
scratched out my face. I really  
thought... I can be one of them.

A moment of silence. Quietly, Candice speaks from the corner.

CANDICE  
When I go shopping, I always make  
conversation with the cashier. You  
know why? I want to show that I  
don't have an accent. That can I be  
one of them too.

Jayden doesn't move.

KATO  
Every time I pass a cop on the  
street, I always make sure to give  
them a big smile, so they think I'm  
one of the good ones.

While the group moves closer, Tanner remains on the fringe  
taking in experiences that have never crossed his mind.

JON-JON  
I wear my medals everywhere, so  
they see army first, Brown second.

Jayden looks at the sincere faces around her. Looks down.

JAYDEN  
My first reaction when I found out  
my parents were killed by that guy?  
(beat)  
I thought, why were they speaking  
Chinese so loud? I blamed them.

Jayden holds back tears of her own self-hatred.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Who would want me for a daughter?

Kato embraces her.

KATO

We all have shame. We all have guilt. We shouldn't - that's what's fucked up about this country. But, I still love it here, it is our home. And we can make it better.

Jayden looks at the community of people surrounding her. Kato. Candice. Jon-Jon. Sammy. She is moved by the support she's been seeking, but has never experienced.

EXT. JON-JON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tanner sits on a packing crate. Jayden approaches him.

TANNER

You were right.

Jayden tilts her head-- *about what?*

TANNER (CONT'D)

It was easier to be a superhero in my dreams.

JAYDEN

Well, you're awake now.

Behind Tanner, Kato, Candice and Jon-Jon step outside. Jayden is in her head.

KATO

Bing was right. We need to get this information out there. Show the world what Richard Fox is really doing.

JAYDEN

With what? All the evidence was destroyed along with Control.

CANDICE

What about Kato's LUCID system?

KATO

Without Control up and running, it's just a paper weight.

A thought hits.

TANNER

Wait, Richard's got a watch. It's a portable LUCID system.

(MORE)

TANNER (CONT'D)  
We'd have to get really close, like  
within five feet, but I could clone  
it and...

KATO  
If we can get the evidence to Maya.  
She'll do the right thing.

Kato takes out his phone and dials Maya's number.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Maya aggressively addresses her COLLEAGUES.

MAYA  
They tried to kill me!

COLLEAGUE 1  
Even for you this sounds crazy.  
You're lucky to be alive.

COLLEAGUE 2  
You should get some rest.

Maya doesn't notice the phone ringing in her purse.

EXT. JON-JON'S APARTMENT - DAY

KATO  
(On the phone)  
Maya. It's Kato. From the restaurant.  
I'm finally angry enough. We've got  
something you need to hear.

Kato hangs up.

JAYDEN  
We can't show up at Richard Fox's  
house. They'd shoot us on sight.

KATO  
Not if they're distracted.

Jayden turns around.

KATO (CONT'D)  
Call everyone you know. If Richard  
Fox wants to throw a party, let's  
invite a few guests.

## EXT. KATO'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Kato and Jayden stand outside the broken window. Only a small crowd has arrived. Some write signs on cardboard.

CANDICE  
We did the best we could.

Kato picks up a blank sign and a marker. Kato writes. Then holds it up in the air-- WE ARE ALL COUNTERACT.

Jayden looks at him proudly. They start walking. His hand reaches out and Sammy grabs it. They walk in sync. Candice, and Jon-Jon join behind them. The small crowd joins.

## EXT. OFFICE | PARKING LOT - DAY

Maya checks her phone. Ten voicemails. She dials.

VOICE  
You have no voicemails.

Confused, Maya looks back at her phone. It says zero.

From a car, Abigail DREAM-WRITES from the passenger seat. She dials and Maya answers.

ABIGAIL  
I wanted to make sure you were okay.

MAYA (ON PHONE)  
You locked me in there.

ABIGAIL (ON PHONE)  
It was Richard. I'm done covering  
for him. There's more to the  
bombing than you think. I'm at his  
party. Meet me there.

Maya gets into her car and Abigail follows her.

## EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BACKYARD - DAY

Tanner, in a tux, moves through automatic glass sliding doors into a huge backyard. Red, white, and blue everywhere. GUESTS enjoy catered BBQ. And Richard's lazy river pool.

## EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

With Kato IN THE LEAD, the group picks up more and more people. From all walks of life. Black. White. Asian. LatinX. DREADLOCK PROTESTOR approaches Jayden.

DREADLOCK PROTESTOR  
Bing knew you would come around.

Jayden kindly touches the protestor. Together, they step through remnants of the previous night's riot. The burned out husk of a car blocks the road. No traffic can get through.

Eyes from above stare down menacingly. Sammy tightens her grip on Kato's hand. A bottle SMASHES next to the ever expanding group. A few protestors angrily break from the group. But Kato runs ahead of them. Puts his hands out to calm them down.

## EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BACKYARD - INTERCUT

Tanner passes guests eating LOBSTER TAILS from a large buffet. Clinking glasses of CHAMPAGNE. Swimming and dancing PARTYGOERS don't notice the news copters overhead.

## EXT. CITY STREETS - INTERCUT

Kato's group now fills up the width of the entire street. And goes for at least a quarter mile. An ELDERLY BLACK MAN sits on the curb bleeding from his forehead. Candice rushes over to make sure he's okay.

A HUGE BURST of water sprays toward Jayden. Someone has hooked up a firehouse into a hydrant. Kato shields Sammy. Then nods to Jon-Jon. Jon-Jon leads Sammy to safety.

News copters cover Kato's EVER EXPANDING PROTEST.

## EXT. RICHARD FOX'S STREET - EVENING

Kato turns down the street leading to Richard Fox's mansion. An army of police officers stand in front of their police car barricade. Many wear riot gear.

Kato motions for the group to stop as they approach. Some step a little too close. Tension. The police might strike.

But balance is maintained. Jayden and Kato make eye contact. She leaves him with the protestors.

## EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION - EVENING

Richard basks in the attention of SYCOPHANT GUESTS. Tanner looks at his tablet-- NO CONNECTION. He edges closer. Closer. Until Richard slaps his arm around Tanner's shoulder.

RICHARD FOX

The American people are watching  
Tanner.

Tanner secretly pushes the copy button. COPYING 1% appears. He hides it in his pocket.

TANNER

And what are they seeing today?

RICHARD FOX

Now that COUNTERACT has taken  
innocent lives, they're seeing that  
we're on the right side.

A SECURITY GUARD whispers in Richard's ear. Tanner peeks. 14% percent. Richard rushes to a golf cart. Tanner follows. But Richard's off. Tanner checks the tablet-- 19%.

TANNER

Dammit.

## INT. ABIGAIL'S CAR - EVENING

Through the windshield, Abigail stares at Maya's vehicle. Both are stuck behind the large group of protesters in front of the mansion. Abigail is on the phone.

ABIGAIL

There's no way she can get inside.

## EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION - EVENING

Richard on his phone. Angry. He drives the golf cart down the pathway toward the front gate. Sees a news copter fly overhead. Anger simmers.

RICHARD FOX

If we can't get her in here... What  
would happen if Maya Reyes suddenly  
reached for a police officer's gun?

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | SIDE ENTRANCE - EVENING

Jayden fights her way through some thick brush. Emerges at an iron gate. Tanner waits for her. Quietly lets her in.

TANNER

Getting close to him is easy, getting him to stand still for five minutes...

JAYDEN

We don't need to be within five feet of HIM, we need to be within five feet of the watch.

TANNER

Great, how do we get him to take the top secret, one of a kind, Control watch off?

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - NIGHT

Kato leads the protestors in a chant.

KATO

Human need.

PROTESTORS

Not corporate greed.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | PROTEST PERIMETER - NIGHT

Maya walks into the protest. Abigail watches Maya closely.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | TREELINE - NIGHT

From the trees, Jayden and Tanner look out at Richard mingling with the guests. The extravagance hits her.

JAYDEN

Nero fiddled while Rome burned.

Sounds of the protests drown out the music. The guests look over Richard's shoulder toward the source.

Richard walks inside the house. Jayden takes her cue. She steps out of the bushes like she owns the place. Grabs a glass of champagne from a passing WAITER.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | KITCHEN - NIGHT

An army of CATERERS scurries around Richard.

Jayden picks up a white jacket from a hook. Blends in. She zeros in on Richard's watch as he tastes a dessert.

Jayden scans the room. Her attention lands on a half-filled pot of soup amongst dirty dishes. She picks it up. Beelines for Richard. They COLLIDE! Tomato bisque spills all over him.

RICHARD FOX  
You clumsy bitch!

Jayden disappears into the crowd before Richard sees her.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
Which one of you did that?

No answer. Dripping wet, Richard heads upstairs.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BEDROOM - NIGHT

A room the size of Jayden's entire condo. Richard takes off his soup soaked shirt.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | OFFICE - NIGHT

Jayden and Tanner slide into the room next door. Sit next to the wall closest to the bedroom. Tanner pulls out his tablet-- COPYING 20%.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - NIGHT

Kato keeps the chant going. At the edge of the crowd, Maya shows up. Staring at the police officers.

Abigail, behind her, flicks her wrist.

From Maya's POV: the police officers are incredibly aggressive with the protestors.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | OFFICE - NIGHT

Jayden looks at the tablet-- 26%. Then, the copying STALLS.

TANNER  
Shit! He's out of range.

The shower turns on. Jayden grabs the tablet. Rushes out.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayden sneaks over to the bathroom door. COPYING 27%.

Jayden keeps an eye on the silhouette through the frosted glass. The number inches upward. The shower shuts off. She freezes. Dives under the four-poster bed.

Richard puts on his bathrobe. Heads into the bedroom. Behind him, THE WATCH IS ON THE BATHROOM COUNTER. Jayden watches his feet as he walks toward the walk-in closet.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - NIGHT

Out of the corner of his eye, Kato sees Maya. Forcing her way through the crowd. Toward the officers.

From Maya's POV: the police actively HIT the protestors.

MAYA

Get your hands off of them!

Kato watches Maya rush toward the police. The police clasp their weapons. Some protestors try to hold her back.

KATO

Oh shit. Maya!

Kato rushes toward her. There's too many people in the way.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayden hears Richard sorting through suits.

KATO (THROUGH EARPIECE)

Jayden! They're dream writing Maya.  
She's trying to attack the police.  
They're going to open fire. Forget  
the files. Destroy the watch, now!

Jayden looks over at Richard. Looks to the bathroom. She LEAPS out from underneath the bed and runs toward the watch. She is within an arm's reach of the target when she gets pulled back by the hair. Richard tosses her against the wall.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - NIGHT

Kato screams at Maya! But the protestors can no longer keep her back. One OFFICER raises his gun.

## INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BEDROOM - NIGHT

Richard backs Jayden into a corner. The tablet is at 76%. Richard swipes it out of Jayden's hand. The tablet falls to the ground. Richard steps on it, cracking it.

The bedroom door FLINGS open. Richard turns to see Tanner!

RICHARD FOX  
Tanner?!

Richard doesn't allow the feeling of betrayal to set in. He PUNCHES Tanner. Tanner FIGHTS back, but to no avail.

The fighting blocks Jayden's path to the bathroom. She tries to get by, but Richard THROWS her to the ground. He punches Tanner-- in the face. ONE, TWO, THREE-- AND IT'S A KNOCKOUT.

Richard grabs the watch from the bathroom. Before Jayden can get to him, Richard TAPS THE WATCH. One second Jayden is reaching for Richard Fox...

## INT. DARK VOID - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

...the next she's falling forward into darkness.

## EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - NIGHT

While it's real time within Jayden's dream, outside time moves in SLOW MOTION. Maya reaches for an officer's gun. Kato dives for Maya. An officer POINTS A GUN at both of them!

## EXT. PARK - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

Jayden, wearing the red dress from Richard's party, lies on the ground. Bright sunlight shines on her face.

She sits up. A park in the middle of a bustling urban square. All around, we recognize several iconic swivel Dream Dynamics buildings. Happy families pass in and out of the doors.

RICHARD FOX  
This is what you're fighting against.

The voice comes from an ornate fountain. A stone figure of Richard Fox looks benevolently down at the people. The real Richard Fox walks out from behind his stone duplicate.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
A better world.

JAYDEN  
 (taking in her surroundings)  
 The dream you're selling is a lie.

Jayden walks away. Richard snaps his fingers and suddenly an expanding LADDER separates them. Jayden clings to a rung!

EXT. BLACK VOID (DREAMSCAPE)

As she descends into darkness, a Vegas-style sign lights up: DREAM DYNAMICS SEOUL. Another logo lights up: DREAM DYNAMICS SYDNEY. DREAM DYNAMICS TORONTO. DREAM DYNAMICS NEW DEHLI. Etc, etc.

RICHARD FOX  
 Ah but you helped me sell it.

Jayden climbs up each rung above her.

JAYDEN  
 My eyes were closed then.

RICHARD FOX  
 (smiling)  
 They were always open. Didn't you want to be me?

JAYDEN  
 You killed people.

The ladder falls. Hits the ground. Jayden tumbles over. Darkness surrounds her. Richard walks up behind her.

RICHARD FOX  
 If you had the ability to stop a war with a waking dream, wouldn't you do it?

Jayden turns. Stares him in the eye. Anger simmering.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
 If you could have saved your brother's life?

Rage! Jayden LEAPS at Richard Fox, but before she touches him, he disappears and she stumbles--

EXT. JAYDEN'S CHILDHOOD HOME | BACKYARD - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

--down the outside staircase. She scuffles to her feet and recognizes the space. Richard Fox is behind the kiddie pool looking at the Spa sign written in childhood crayon.

RICHARD FOX

You can believe you'd make the  
right choice, but don't forget. I  
can see your nightmares.

Jayden tenses.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)

They show who you really are.

A sound behind her. She turns just as THE FACELESS WOMAN STRIKES her. Throws her off balance. They CRASH into--

EXT. POOL - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

They sink, down, down into a dark abyss. Jayden struggles against the Faceless Woman's grip. Finally, Jayden kicks her away. She's alone. In the dark waters. Sinking, sinking--

INT. SPACE STATION | SPACE PORT - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

--until below her, lights emerge from the darkness. Suddenly Jayden finds herself floating in the zero gravity space port from Naveen's dream. Red dress billows around her.

Jayden KICKS off of a space ship and PROPELS herself toward the entrance. Suddenly, the Faceless Woman SMASHES into her. They HURTLE toward the wall and BREAK through it to--

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE | LOBBY - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

--where she faces a dozen heavily armed terrorists from the high rise office she wrote for Kato.

And at the head of the group, taking the place of the villain, is The Faceless Woman... who lowers her arm and a RAIN of gunfire DESCENDS on Jayden.

CHUNKS OF MARBLE columns FLY into the air. WINDOWS SHATTER around her. She takes cover. Looks for a way out. Sees a nearby window. Leaps through it, falling down, down, into--

INT. BULK SUPERSTORE - NIGHT (DREAMSCAPE)

-- from Jayden's dream. She lands on the ground, shards of glass rain around her. No time to process as GUNFIRE SPRAYS around her. Jayden runs. Food EXPLODES on the shelves. Glass Bottles SHOOT shards in Jayden's direction.

As she turns a corner, she RUNS INTO MOM, blood trickling from a bullet in her head.

MOM

If I knew how selfish you were, I never would have let you take care of my son.

Jayden runs in the opposite direction. The shelves move all around her, snaking in and out, creating a LABYRINTH for her to navigate. Bullets ricochet through the maze.

DAD'S VOICE (O.S.)

Li-Yen! Li-Yen!

Jayden turns a corner and BAM! Dad is there. Face pale and bruised. A bloodstain on his shirt grows larger and larger.

DAD

We were calling your name. Why didn't you answer us?

She pushes away. Into Bing! HOLLOW, BURNED FACE.

BING

You abandoned me. Isn't this what you wanted?

Jayden climbs up a shelf and has a clear view of the exit.

A swirl of white sand circles through the air, picking up speed. An indoor whirlwind.

Jayden RUNS ON TOP of the shelves. The vortex picks up. Sand blows everywhere. One more leap to the exit. But now the shelves are only sand. They CRUMBLE. She falls through them--

EXT. SALT FLATS - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

-- and lands on the expansive salt pan from Bing's dream. On her back. In the middle of a full-blown tornado.

Through the chaos-- The Faceless Woman. Grabs Jayden.

Blue veins start to encroach upon her blank visage. Like blue ink. The scratches grow bigger and more gruesome. And beneath the twisted contours, Jayden sees a face, forming.

Through the blowing sand she recognizes her own horrifying, mutilated face staring back at her. She looks closer. At her own ugliness. Who she's become.

JAYDEN  
I'm sorry.

The tornado grows stronger and stronger.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry I was ashamed of you.

The wind cuts out entirely. The sand falls.

Jayden looks up, into the sun to see the silhouette of a little girl. Jayden squints and gets up onto her knees. She's eye to eye with LITTLE LI-YEN, pig tails tied with red ribbons.

For a moment, they look at each other. Their reflections still in the salt. Then, Little Li-Yen says the first word in a small voice.

LITTLE LI-YEN  
(in Cantonese with subtitles)  
Was it worth it?

Jayden's face blanches as she is hit with the depth of the simple question. Jayden studies the innocent face before her. Hopeful eyes. She takes her little girl's hands. Then brushes her soft bangs off her face.

EXT. PARK - DAY (DREAMSCAPE)

And Jayden is back where she started. A park surrounded by Dream Dynamics buildings. Richard, in front of the fountain, seems surprised to see her.

Little Li-Yen stands behind Jayden, on the left.

Jayden SLASHES her hand down. A Dream Dynamics building crumbles-- like it's been hit by a huge earthquake.

RICHARD FOX  
No. No. I'm the writer.

She sweeps both her arms outward.

JAYDEN  
This is my dream.

And all the buildings CRASH DOWN. Richard frantically tries to conduct. But Jayden snaps her fingers and the entire dream digitally disintegrates--

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BEDROOM - NIGHT

--and Jayden is back in Richard's bedroom. She sees Tanner's tablet. Rushes over to it and picks it up.

Richard pulls Jayden off the ground. She scrambles to get away. Crawls under the bed. He pulls her out. Wraps his hands around her neck. Jayden grabs at him, but he's too strong.

Her shouts are covered by EXPLODING fireworks. Red and blue lights illuminate the room as Richard STRANGLES Jayden.

Her eyes bulge. She chokes. Jayden can't fight anymore. Loses her strength. She collapses to the ground, DEAD.

Richard straightens his clothes. Watches the fireworks. Then leaves the lifeless Jayden and unconscious Tanner behind.

Suddenly, Jayden's dead body DEMATERIALIZES.

From under the bed, the real Jayden emerges. Her dream bracelet glows green.

Tanner stirs. Sees Jayden's bracelet. Picks up the cracked tablet. It says UPGRADE COMPLETE.

TANNER  
I guess it worked.

Jayden nods. Touches her earpiece.

JAYDEN  
Kato! Are you okay?

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | STREET - NIGHT

Kato has tackled Maya to the ground. The police officers lower their guns.

KATO  
She's fine. But she's still being written.

Candice scans the crowd. Sees Abigail at the perimeter. Abigail raises her arm. Candice marches up to Abigail and PUNCHES HER IN THE FACE.

Maya SNAPS to reality. Surprised by the crowd. Kato reassures Maya.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayden looks at Tanner.

JAYDEN  
What's Richard's worst nightmare?

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Richard tugs his cuff links, but suddenly the roar of a crowd draws his attention. He looks through his tall windows.

Hundreds of protestors crash through the front gate as people of every age, race, and gender flood onto his grounds.

RICHARD FOX  
Fuck.

Richard rushes out the back door.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | BACKYARD - NIGHT

Jayden follows Richard from a distance.

She THRUSTS her arm to the right. A group of protestors PUSH over the tables of decadent food. She SWEEPS her left arm up and a group POURS GASOLINE into the lazy river pool. Fire ignites from a lighter. The FOX pool goes up in flames. Fireworks color the background.

RICHARD FOX  
Get off my property!

Richard sprints into his house.

INT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | PARLOR ROOM - NIGHT

Richard SLAMS a pool cue into the gun cabinet. Smashes the glass. He picks up a rifle.

EXT. RICHARD FOX MANSION | FRONT ROUNDABOUT - NIGHT

Richard comes out the front door. Rifle at his side. The security guards hold back the swarming crowds.

RICHARD FOX  
Stop them! Now!

The next wave of fireworks POP in the night sky. Richard rushes to his front steps where the police stand around watching the chaos.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
 Shoot them! They're trespassing! I  
 don't care if they aren't armed,  
 just point and shoot!

A Molotov cocktail shatters through a glass window. Richard seethes at the protestors. The police don't comply. So Richard takes action into his own hands. He raises his rifle. Aims it at the protestors.

RICHARD FOX (CONT'D)  
 Get out! Get away!  
 (waves the gun around)  
 You people don't belong here!

Jayden pinches the air! Like a CURTAIN FALLING, all the fire and brimstone wipes away. The roaring flames cut to SILENCE.

Richard is no longer staring at a stampede, but at a group of terrified peaceful protestors ducking for their lives. The guests, protestors, and media gawk at him with shock. A handful of police officers have their guns drawn at him.

JAYDEN  
 Yeah we do.

He turns to find himself face to face with Jayden. She steps up to him. Takes the watch off his feeble wrist. She stomps on it. Then throws it into the fountain.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. KATO'S PATTIES - DAY

The restaurant has been restored and is bustling with life. A CUSTOMER drops a dream chip into a basket full of other dream chips, at the bar. Beside it, a simple sign - LEAVE A CHIP GET A PATTY AND A PINT.

JON-JON  
 Let me see the scar.

The customer turns around and lifts her hair to show the newly stitched wound on her neck.

JON-JON (CONT'D)  
 Impressive, but do you want to see  
 what shrapnel can do?

Jon-Jon starts to lift up his shirt, but Candice cuts him off, handing the customer a patty and beer.

Jayden's attention is focused on a news broadcast on the TV.

NEWSCASTER (ON TV)  
 The highly anticipated trial of  
 Richard Fox and Abigail Williams  
 begins tomorrow...

JAYDEN  
 I thought this would feel a lot  
 better...

Maya passes, carrying a box of wooden sticks.

MAYA  
 It doesn't happen overnight. I'm in  
 this for the long haul.

Tanner helps Sammy finish the last touches on her artistic sign, filled with stars and moons. She runs to present it to Jayden and Kato.

KATO  
 Whoa! That's the best one yet.

SAMMY  
 Tanner says I'm a Picasso.

Kato and Jayden lead Sammy outside.

EXT. KATO'S RESTAURANT | PATIO - DAY

The bright sun shows off a thriving, bustling community. Jayden takes a moment to take a look. And really see the people. A TEENAGE BOY, with headphones on bopping to music. AN INTER-RACIAL GAY COUPLE (20s) sharing a patty. A GROUP OF ELDERLY people finding joy in coloring with crayons. All with their own dreams.

Jayden, Kato, and Sammy sit down at a patio table. Jayden takes a wooden stake and holds it to Sammy's poster, while Kato rips off a piece of tape and hands it to Sammy.

KATO  
 Our American dream starts in small  
 little corners like this.

Jayden looks at Sammy.

JAYDEN  
 We're going to show you how to  
 dream again, kiddo.

Sammy looks up at her and smiles.

END