

INT. GENESIS COMPOUND - MORNING

A shutter door opens as a Camber signals a large semi truck inside. The semi backs onto a loading ramp. Two Cambers open the trailer, revealing Exe sitting on top of a tied-down box, legs crossed and shotgun in lap.

EXE
Morning, gentlemen.

The Cambers barely have time to place their hands on their weapons before Exe puts two buckshot shells into their necks.

Exe steps out of the back of the trailer, taking a pistol off of the rightmost Camber, peeks around the right of the trailer, and puts a bullet in the driver's head as he comes to investigate. She turns to the left, and as the Camber rushes inside, she puts a bullet in his nose. He stumbles forward and collapses, revealing the exit wound on the nape of his neck.

Exe grabs the keycard off of the Camber she stands atop. She walks to the right, taking a pouch of shotgun ammunition from the right Camber. She opens the pouch, seeing 12-gauge slugs. She sets the pouch on her belt and uses the card access to enter the compound.

As she walks through the fluorescent-lit halls, she hears a security guard with two Cambers approaching.

GUARD (O.S.)
I swear, I heard something from the driver's radio.

CAMBER 1
Sure, sure.

CAMBER 2
Watch it be Nikola.

CAMBER 1
Ha! As if. If he's got the balls to come to us, I'm gonna kill the punkass. Fuck what command wants.

Exe loads one buckshot and two slugs. The three stop.

CAMBER 2
Wait. Did you hear that?

GUARD
I told you! We got someone to kill!

CAMBER 1
Damn straight.

EXE
By all means...

Exe walks out from behind the corner, cocking her shotgun.

EXE (CONT'D)
I'd love to see you try.

BLAM! The buckshot tears the guard's chest open, and he collapses. The Cambers draw their primary weapons, and Exe chambers another shell.

CAMBER 1
Contact!

At that vocal cue, the compound's pale lights flick out, relighting with red alarm lights. Sirens blare. Exe fires her shotgun, and the slug punches into the first Camber's chestplate, cracking it and loosing a fount of blood.

CAMBER 2
Holy shit-!

Exe chambers another slug and shoots it into the Camber's forehead, piercing the helmet. A hole bores through the man's head and out the other side of the helmet, and he collapses. She runs past the bodies, taking a right, then a left. She ducks into a corner next to a door, just as it swings open and a dozen Cambers rush through. She slips into the door just after they round the corner, loading more slugs into her shotgun.

As she continues down the halls, she ducks into the wall to her left, hearing footsteps coming from the left. A pair of Cambers rush down the hall.

CAMBER
This is Unit 15370, we are en route
to the VIP! What's the status on
the intruder, over!

The two run past Exe, not noticing her.

CAMBER (CONT'D)
Copy, we're ready to take out
Nikola! Out!

Exe follows the two from a distance, eventually coming to a large balcony overlooking a testing chamber. The CEO of Arc Technologies, ABRAM NEBULOUS, is observing a procedure within the chamber. The Camber salutes in his presence.

CAMBER (CONT'D)
Sir! We are searching the base to
locate Nikola.

Abram sits still.

ABRAM
Find her. Now.

Exe's eyes widen.

CAMBER
Sir, yes sir!

He turns and rushes back towards the door. Exe, thinking quickly, dematerializes and reappears on a lower level of the compound. She looks out at the testing chamber. A loud click reverberates through the chamber as the CEO speaks over the intercom.

ABRAM
You may resume the operation,
Doctor Ruedol.

DOCTOR RUEDOL stands on a podium above an operating table with a man tied down to it. He looks up from a laptop with several cables connected to machines surrounding the operating table, emblazoned with USB icons with the branches culminating in X's. He clears his throat and speaks.

RUEDOL
Yes, well, Project DataMIND has
yielded bountiful fruit, as I'm
sure you're aware.

He looks down to the tied down man with a sad look, before returning to a neutral expression.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)
And we've made breakthroughs with
ways to accelerate the process of
digitization.

Exe stares into the chamber.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)
We have also made several
advancements in soul accessibility.
Before me is a man from the
terrorist group known as Descent,
who are well-known opponents to Arc
Technologies and the march of
progress.

The man on the table struggles.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)
He will be reborn in the Arc Hive.

Ruedol presses the Enter key on the laptop. The machines around the table whirr to life with neon blue energy. Beams of energy scan up and down the man, who writhes in agony.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)
The Arc Hive, our magnum opus. A perfect digital replication of the world, carrying data from past and present. All souls within it are ours, and with their aid not even death will stop our progress.

Exe watches in terror as the man is dematerialized.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)
As you can see, we've gone from this procedure taking minutes to seconds. In perhaps just a year's time, we can make this an instantaneous process.

ABRAM
(over the intercom) What of digitizing multiple people at once?

Ruedol pauses for a moment, shifting his position on the podium.

RUEDOL
That remains beyond us for the moment, sir.

ABRAM
Not so for Nikola.

RUEDOL
No, sir.

Beat.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)
Well, if you'd look to my right at the screen-

Projected onto the wall is a computer background, its file explorer opened, revealing a single file.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)

-you'll see our subject. Named here "subject001.soul," he has been digitized and compressed into a file that only takes up three terabytes. Compared to the human brain's natural memory capacity of around 2.6 million gigabytes, we have reduced the size of these files to a little over one one-thousandth of the size we started with.

ABRAM

And you mentioned accessibility.

RUEDOL

Yes sir, I did.

He opens the file into a text editor. With a file search, he arrives at one line of code.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)

We have summarized this soul's views of Arc Technologies and willingness to cooperate in a single value. And by editing this-

He removes the negative sign in front of the value.

RUEDOL (CONT'D)

-we can completely reverse this man's disdain for our business.

Ruedol saves the file and launches it with another program, "Arc Soul Reader." The face of the digitized man opens in a window, and he greets the gallery.

SUBJECT001

Greetings, Doctor Ruedol. And a fine day to you, Mr. Nebulous. How may I assist Arc Technologies today?

Rudol turns to the balcony and bows.

ABRAM

Good work, Doctor. You never disappoint.

Exe, quivering with rage, throws herself through the glass of the gallery.

EXE
YOU MONSTERS!

She chambers a shotgun slug, but three Cambers in the operating room open fire on her, knocking her to the back of the room. Doctor Rudol turns and runs out of the operating room, and Abram suddenly stands. Exe gets to her feet and turns her shotgun to the Cambers.

ABRAM
Exe.

EXE
You're the CEO of this place? You signed off on all this?! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!

ABRAM
Please, just put the gun down, we'd love to find that out just as much as you-

EXE
NO! I will not be used! I will not let you do what you did to him!

SUBJECT001
I am content with this development, Exe. You have nothing to fear-

EXE
Shut up!

The Cambers raise their guns at Exe. Abram turns and walks with his Camber escort.

ABRAM
Get me out of here. Now.

Exe runs up to the podium, jumps to the table, and vaults up to the gallery as Abram runs off through the door.

EXE
You're not going ANYWHERE!

As she lands in the gallery, Exe looks to her left and right. At her right, she sees a woman with frizzy black hair in a white labcoat, lapels adorned with buttons. Exe's rage completely evaporates for a moment.

EXE (CONT'D)
Wait-

As Abram rounds the corner, Cambers open fire on Exe. The woman is rushed out the other direction. Exe's anger returns, and she digitizes the men shooting at her.

Abram hears his detail engage Exe, but he keeps running.

By the time Exe catches up with Abram, his helicopter has taken off from the compound. She rushes out to the launchpad, seeing it fly far away from her reach.

She screams in anguish, falling to her knees.

Six Cambers exit the door behind her, and train their weapons on her. Just as they open fire, she dematerializes.

FADE TO BLACK.