

THE BEAUTIFUL FUTURE

EPISODE 2: ISOLANDS

Written by

Devyn Waitt

CONCEPTS:

REALITI - an entertainment network providing 24 hour livestream channels. It grew out of applications like Snapchat and Periscope and has been publicly criticized for creating harmful addiction. Allegations that the 'stars' of these channels do not actually record themselves 24/7, but play slowed down and manipulated content have surfaced.

ALTERNATE INTERNET - The battle for net neutrality was lost, and tiered internet speeds are choking out traffic from everything except for the monoliths (amazon, netflix, etc.) Francis decides to network a bunch of micro computers in order to create an additional internet, that is neutral.

ISOLANDS - is the book Ava is reading throughout the episode. We are taken into the story and scenes taking place inside of it are noted with **bold sluglines**.

SMUDGING - as Ava relates to the book, we will sometimes see her character in place of the main character of Isolands. This will be referred to as smudging.

OUTSOURCE - developed initially to work with MC devices and then as an intracranial software, outsource allows you to place thoughts into a separate brain bank, to be accessed later. The software then crawls the internet and creates a brief which you can either read, or have loaded directly back into your cognition.

EXT. HOLIDAY HIGH - DAY - ESTABLISHING SHOT

90's Florida construction at it's cheapest. The yellowed structure is mildewed in places and plants and trees threaten to consume it.

A billboard in front of the school reads "Have a nice summer."

INT. GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OFFICE - MORNING

The room is small and cluttered. Ava sits across from an empty chair. She studies plaques on the wall.

A petite, tattooed woman with horn rimmed glasses, BETTY DOLL, whisks into the room. She wears thick red lipstick, a little on her teeth.

She sits down with a flourish, informing us how busy she is.

She takes a dramatic breath and flashes Ava a big smile.

BETTY DOLL

Ok sister! Sorry to keep you waiting.

AVA

That's fine.

BETTY DOLL

So, I have some new student paperwork for you to fill out...

She routes through stacks on her desk.

BETTY DOLL (CONT'D)

..and of course your schedule, lock...

She holds up a lock and jangles it.

BETTY DOLL (CONT'D)

everything...you...need for a fresh start!

SMART AD: A FRESH START! A FRESH START! A FRESH START! FRESH START! (the words billow and enlarge on top of the picture along with a toothpaste commercial woman's face beaming).

Betty locates the paper she was looking for and hands it across the desk to Ava.

BETTY DOLL (CONT'D)
Welcome to Holiday High!

AVA
Thank you.

BETTY DOLL
And I am assuming you have your
phone on you?

AVA
Uh, no, I don't.

BETTY DOLL
MC?

AVA
No.

Betty frowns.

BETTY DOLL
Ok, well if or when you bring one
to school, you will need to
download this app.

Betty hands her a slip of paper with instructions on it.

BETTY DOLL (CONT'D)
And after the first bell, you will
need to have it running. You can
log out after the last bell and
during your lunch period.

AVA
Oh, uh, what is it?

BETTY DOLL
We have a lot of problems with
cheating here. Also, different
teachers will have different
requirements of what you can have
running during their classes.
You'll get used to it.

AVA
Ok, and if I don't want to?

Betty sighs and pauses. She looks directly at Ava.

BETTY DOLL
Ava. Don't make waves for yourself.
Try it out for a couple of weeks,
get used to the rhythm here.
(MORE)

BETTY DOLL (CONT'D)
If you find it a grave invasion of
your privacy come and talk to me.
ok?

AVA
Ok, we'll see.

BETTY DOLL
Now scoot!

Ava takes the papers and puts them into her backpack. She
picks up a book off of her lap to put into the backpack.

BETTY DOLL (CONT'D)
Oh, what's that yer reading?

Ava holds up the book;

TITLE: ISOLANDS

EXT. HOLIDAY HIGH AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

The day is overcast and seagulls fly overhead. Ava sits on an
aluminum bench in front of the large auditorium, reading.

We see the following words:

*"His hand in mine felt foreign, even though I had held it
hundreds of times. Heavy, like a weight"*

EXT. TEMPLE STEPS - EVENING

Fireworks burst in the sky.

A brass band plays.

A flower girl dances.

KATE, 42 (looks 32), with jaw length red hair, a pretty face
and a Napoleon complex interlaces fingers with her new
husband -

TOM, 40, thick dark hair, puppy dog face and a "start up guy
who brews his own beer" vibe.

They make their way, smiling and giddy, through rows of
guests holding sparklers.

We hear murmurs from the crowd, 'they're off to space!'
'Neta us from up there!'

INT. SELF DRIVING WHITE CADILLAC - NIGHT

The back door opens and Kate and Tom burst into the car.

Kate shakes bird seed out of her hair.

The car honks goodbye.

The crowd records multiple streams of the couple pulling away, cans attached to the rear bumper.

Tom wraps Kate in a tight hug and kisses her.

TOM

We did it.

Kate pulls out a tiny white flask and takes a sip. She offers it to Tom.

KATE

Freedom!

INT. BIGELOW AEROSPACE BRIEFING ROOM - MORNING

The room is stark, official, spotless.

Kate and Tom, looking fresh and responsible, stand facing a panel of screens.

On screen, a pair of clean cut BIGELOW ENGINEERS go over safety instructions with mechanized cheerfulness.

FEMALE ENGINEER

It is important to monitor your blood oxygen level daily while aboard Isolands. Your bathroom is equipped with portable handheld StO2 monitor.

KATE (V.O.)

Why go where we aren't wanted? To a part of existence that would effortlessly shred my body.

The video shows the cheerful female engineer attaching a gadget to her finger with a smile.

Kate's attention wanders to people passing outside the door.

Tom takes out a tiny notebook and writes down notes.

ON SCREEN:

<p>MALE ENGINEER</p> <p>Isolands is equipped with a radiation screen to eliminate the GCR's and radiation from solar proton events...</p>	<p>KATE (V.O.)</p> <p>Does the anthropic principle account for space travel?</p>
---	--

A small smile forms on Kate's face.

Her eyes dart right.

The following text/graphic is overlaid on screen: outsource, search, anthropic principle, space travel.

KATE (V.O.)

I guess it's not different than wearing a coat in the cold.

INT. BIGELOW AEROSPACE HALLWAY - MORNING

The hallway is lined with glamour shots of the "Isolands" hotel: guests eating in the dining room, relaxing poolside with a view of Venus, the exterior of the hotel in orbit.

Kate and Tom follow behind a cheerful Filipina SPACE STEWARD in a pressed uniform.

SPACE STEWARD

Yeah yeah, she just came through like 2 hours ago.

The steward taps her temple and a projection appears on the wall. She navigates through video and arrives at a still frame of herself and a BLONDE SUPERMODEL.

She presents the screen to Kate and Tom.

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)

She was really nice, and not as tall as you'd think...

Kate and Tom feign interest (people showing you stuff you don't care about on their phones/screens is timeless.)

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)

...yeah, it is going to be the first zero G fashion campaign. They brought all these racks of dresses.

They approach a set of bay doors at the end of the hallway.

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)

Oh, here we are! Ok, so you both need to take these -

She hands them small vials of liquid.

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)
For nausea. And I can't remember -
did you guys want the sleep
medication?

TOM
I did.

KATE
No, thank you.

The steward hands Tom an additional vial. She pulls up the
bay door with effort.

SPACE STEWARD
Ooooookay! It's a long ride.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR CLIMBER - CONTINUOUS

The climber is a small pod with four harnesses.

Kate and Tom lean up against harnesses as the Space Steward
helps them buckle in.

She adjusts the straps for Kate's height.

SPACE STEWARD
Oooh you are tiny.

Kate gives her a tight smile.

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)
Ok, the engineers will be here in
about five minutes to talk you guys
through everything. If you need
anything before then, you can push-

She motions to a small blue button between their harnesses.

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)
This biYou can also use this at any
point during ascent to communicate
with those of us here on the
ground.

She whisks around the pod checking and rechecking buttons.

SPACE STEWARD (CONT'D)
All right, ta ta!

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR CLIMBER - LATER

Serene music at increasing volume fills the climber.

The lights slowly brighten.

Kate, tired, haggard.

Tom, sleeping peacefully.

ANNOUNCEMENT: We are docking the climber at the space station now. At this time please begin to move your limbs and practice deep inhalations.

Tom blinks a few times and looks around. He smiles at Kate and raises his hand.

TOM

Up high.

She wearily gives him a five.

TOM (CONT'D)

Down low.

She cautiously gives him another.

Tom smiles, satisfied.

TOM (CONT'D)

In space.

He puts his hand right by his chest.

Kate rolls her eyes.

KATE

You've been saving that.

INT. MR FLATTS ENGINEERING CLASS - DAY

Francis and Mr. Flatts are the only two in the classroom.

MR. FLATTS

I don't know what to tell you
Francis, the budget for this
semester is already allocated.

FRANCIS

Think about it though, if we can just get like, thirty Raspberry Pi's, we can network them, build a super light OS and as word gets out, more people can build their own, modify them, a mini alternate internet - single speed.

MR. FLATTS

And you're not going to leach?

FRANCIS

Well, we won't come out and say that.

MR. FLATTS

Without leaching, it won't take off. How many people are going to spend the time to set up their device for just the handful of programs we create for it.

FRANCIS

Naysayer!

Mr. Flatts smiles.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

So what, we just roll over and say well, this is how it has been so this is how it has to be. And it's not an actual replacement, it's an exercise, a statement.

MR. FLATTS

No matter what it is, we don't have the extra thousand dollars to buy the raspberry Pi's.

A bell sounds.

FRANCIS

This isn't over Flatts.

Mr. Flatts shakes his head. Students file into the classroom. Golden pushes past Francis standing in the doorway.

GOLDEN

What's not over?

MR. FLATTS

Francis wants to use the miniscule remainder of our budget to prove some half cocked point about tiered internet speeds, instead of buying the transistors we need.

GOLDEN

How much do you need?

MR. FLATTS

Ask Che Guevara over here.

FRANCIS

Like a thousand bucks.

GOLDEN

I'll give it to you.

Francis looks at her skeptically.

FRANCIS

You have a thousand dollars?

GOLDEN

I can get it, easy.

FRANCIS

I'll pass on the blood money.

GOLDEN

It's not blood money, it's my money.

FRANCIS

Your dad's money.

GOLDEN

My family's money. And I think it's a good idea.

FRANCIS

You don't even know what it is.

GOLDEN

I think YOU are a good idea. You're smart, going somewhere, I want to help.

MR. FLATTS

There you go, problem solved.

FRANCIS
Nah, thanks for the vote of
confidence though.

GOLDEN
And I do know about it, I remember
Ava talking about it.

Francis bristles.

FLASHBACK: ECU of Ava licking her lips.

FLASHBACK: Ava laying naked in Francis' bed.

GOLDEN (CONT'D)
I thought it was her idea.

FRANCIS
Kind of, well, ours.

Golden looks at him matter of factly, hand on her hip.

GOLDEN
And you want to do it now?

INT. HOLIDAY HIGH HALLWAY - DAY

Yellow lockers and frayed navy carpet line the hallway.
Sleepy students dressed in camo and pajamas swap candy and
screens. A far cry from the pristine hallways of East Lake.

Virginia and Nice Guy Dave walk towards Ava.

VIRGINIA
AVA!!!!!!

Ava smiles, Virginia runs up to her and links arms.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
I can't believe we don't have any
classes together. What lunch do you
have?

AVA
I think first.

VIRGINIA
Ok we have to switch that.

Virginia notices Ava's shirt. It has the words *"When he shall die take him and cut him out into stars and he shall make the face of heaven so fine that all the world will be in love with night and pay no worship to the garish sun"* printed on it.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Ok, like the last three times I've seen you, you've been wearing that shirt.

AVA

I've decided to implement a uniform.

Virginia makes a face.

VIRGINIA

Do you wash it?

AVA

Yes, and I have two of them.

Dave laughs.

AVA (CONT'D)

I am streamlining everything. Did I tell you I threw out my M.C.?

VIRGINIA

You should have sold it.

AVA

Oh yeah. Damn.

VIRGINIA

Must be nice.

Virginia looks at Dave and shakes her head.

AVA

Do you know what this app they want you to run is?

DAVE

Oh yeah. I set up a local VPN on my phone to block it. Easier than taking a stand.

Ava tilts her head to the side, weighing his words.

VIRGINIA

You wanna to come out to the woods after school?

TOM

Oh, earth view is the other side of the hotel.

Kate grimaces at a smudge left on the glass from Tom's face. She wipes it off with her sleeve.

TOM (CONT'D)

It looks like, that is one of the stars of Alpha Centauri.

KATE

It is weird to look them in the eye, you know, instead of looking up.

Kate leans against Tom. She takes the handbook out of his hand and drops it to the floor.

She smiles up at him and he kisses her.

KATE (CONT'D)

Thank you for taking me here.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Kate is on top of Tom, her legs straddling him.

TOM

Yeah baby.

He is staring up at her and biting his bottom lip.

She grabs the back of his hair and pins his head down while she licks his lips.

Kate sits up and closes her eyes. She leans backwards and moves her hips harder.

KATE (V.O.)

If I get remarried I will look different in the next set of wedding photos. Older. Every day less pretty, every day wiser. Every moment a perfect balance between a will to live and the pull of death. I wonder how much longer. Glass half empty glass half full. Strange loop. The following sentence is true, the previous sentence is false.

Tom turns her over, lifts her legs and pushes them back. She digs into his back with her fingernails.

KATE (V.O.)
That's a fractal in a way. Infinite
in either direction and you arrive
at nothing. Things infinitely big
and small, and we are just here in
this tiny pane.

A pink silk ribbon swims above Tom's head.

KATE (V.O.)
If you took a ribbon and ran one
direction and I took an end and ran
the other, for infinity - would we
eventually meet and the circle
would close in on itself?
Everything and nothing
simultaneously. In-fin-i-ty.

Mandelbrot set imagery swirls over Tom's face. We move into it rapidly.

Tom's breath speeds up and he climaxes.

EXT. HOLIDAY HIGH AUDITORIUM - DAY

Ava lays on a bench reading *Islands*, she turns a page.

INT. ISLANDS HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Bright blue light from the stars pours into the room.

Tom snores lightly, Kate turns over in bed.

KATE (V.O.)
I might close them.

She gets out of bed and walks to the glass.

KATE (V.O.)
How many inches are keeping the
universe out?

She runs her fingers along the glass.

KATE (V.O.)
Cages you can't see but feel.
That's where they will keep us.

Kate splits in two. Her copy stands next to her.

KATE TWO brushes hair behind Kate's ear and whispers into it.

KATE 2

That's where they are keeping us.

Kate picks up the remote and merges back into one. She presses a button. The wallpaper in the room changes. She tries a few more buttons.

KATE

Damnit.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL ROOM BATHROOM - NIGHT

Laughter.

Kate sits in the tub with the screen made of mouse pad like fabric floating in front of her. On the screen is a "neta" conversation with a good looking blonde man, CLINT.

KATE

I have to be quiet, Tom is sleeping.

CLINT (ON SCREEN)

Like the dead.

KATE

Yeah.

CLINT

Have you been sleeping?

KATE

No.

CLINT

Did you consummate the marriage?

Kate rolls her eyes.

CLINT (CONT'D)

I can't believe you went through with it.

Kate exhales.

KATE

Yeah. I would've broken my mother's heart.

CLINT
Definitely a good reason to get
married.

Kate shakes her head and smiles at him, her wet hair hanging
in ropes around her face.

The sound of a school bell ringing.

INT. MR. FLATTS CLASSROOM - DAY

On one of the tables sits a pile of small cardboard boxes.

FRANCIS
Oh hell yeah.

Francis starts to open one.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)
How late are you gonna be here? Can
we get started. There is a 5
o'clock bus. I can stay 'til then.
What made you change your mind?

Francis is unwrapping one of the tiny computers. Mr. Flatts
steps over to help him.

MR. FLATTS
I didn't, the PTA gave us a grant.

FRANCIS
Really?

MR. FLATTS
Yep. Apparently they received a
very convincing proposal.

Francis looks up surprised.

FRANCIS
I didn't write anything.

Mr. Flatts shrugs his shoulders.

INT. REALITI STUDIOS - DAY

A mini sound stage, in a row of mini sound stages lining a
long hallway. A handful of CREW MEMBERS mill about.

A neon sign reading "Realiti Studios" hangs on the wall.

A camera on a tripod is set up, pointed at Golden who is walking on a treadmill.

She is handed a makeup bag. She rapidly applies makeup, makes kissy faces and raises her eyebrows up and down.

Someone wheels in a TV screen and a small couch. She is filmed watching something on TV in fast forward.

A large computer screen is wheeled in. Golden sits in front of it in a white furry chair. The screen plays scrolling content, a mouse dancing on it, while Golden cycles through a rapid succession of facial expressions.

Golden lays in a bed wearing a silk nightie. She rolls back and forth a handful of times while a digital clock on the night stand rapidly runs from 11:00 to 7:00.

Golden steps over to a small dining table in front of a set window. A series of meals is passed across the table to her. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, she takes a couple bites of each, and flicks rapidly through a magazine in front of her.

A scrawny DIRECTOR stands behind the camera.

DIRECTOR

Golden can we have you look up and
past the lens?

Golden looks to where he is waving his hand.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Line reading!

A petite REDHEADED INTERN reads robotically off of a small screen.

PETITE REDHEAD

This Breakfast is like, literally
my life right now.

Golden repeats the line, enthusiasm turned up to 11.

GOLDEN

This breakfast is like, literally,
my life right now!

The director motions an air guitar.

DIRECTOR

G baby, give us 2 to change set
ups.

Golden gets up from the table and taps her finger behind her ear. Francis's message pops up on top of the picture.

MC from Francis: Hey, did you talk to the PTA about a grant?

Golden smiles, giddy, (when the boy you like texts you).

Golden MC: Is this acceptable currency?

Francis MC: Damn, thank you. Yes.

Golden MC: A strongly worded letter can accomplish a lot.

Francis MC: Flatts is gonna stay after this week to help me set it up

Golden stares at the ... that indicate Francis still typing.

Francis MC: if you want to work with us.

She smiles ear to ear.

Golden MC: I'll be there tomorrow. A gif of Golden making a kissy face.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
We're ready for you miss G!

INT. MR. FLATTS CLASSROOM - DAY

FRANCIS
She is gonna be like, president.

MR. FLATTS
She has a knack for getting what she wants.

EXT. HOLIDAY HIGH - DAY

Ava lays on a green transformer in front of the school.

Dave walks up and sits next to her.

DAVE
You're really into that huh?

Ava sits up and puts her book down.

AVA
I'm just waiting for a ride, but, yeah.

Dave looks at the book.

DAVE
It's set in the future?

AVA
Yeah, I think it's supposed to be like the 80's, but it was written in the 1990's so it's kind of off.

DAVE
Cool. How long do you have to wait?

AVA
Just like an hour, the car has to drop my mom off and then come get me.

DAVE
You wanna smoke?

Ava closes her book and hops off the transformer.

AVA
Let's go.

Dave laughs.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Dave and Ava walk through the pine trees, passing a joint back and forth.

DAVE
You haven't heard of Richard Stallman? You should look him up.

Ava tilts her head to the side.

AVA
Ah man, I am still getting used to not wearing an MC. It's crazy, I didn't realize how dependent I was.

DAVE
You were gonna outsource Stallman?

Ava smiles.

AVA
Yeah.

DAVE
Just, remember.

He puts his hands on Ava's shoulders. She laughs and mocks an advertisement.

AVA
But why! Why waste my valuable
brain power on such a simple
process?

DAVE
That kind of thinking is what got
us into this mess.

AVA
Yeah.

Ava's attention is taken by a bottle brush tree blowing in the wind.

AVA (CONT'D)
Oh man, that red.

DAVE
Oh yeah, Francis told me about how
you see colors.

Ava looks down, hers eyes dart to the side.

DAVE (CONT'D)
What were you gonna post?

He smiles at her. Ava looks embarrassed. She inhales.

AVA
'The more things hurt, the brighter
they are.' Like, the colors.

Dave nods.

AVA (CONT'D)
Hey, you should try this. Ok, so, I
think everyone can do it. Stare at
that red, and like, intensify it
with your mind, or, focus on only
it. Well, that's pretty bright
already. Take the greens instead.

Ava points to a cluster of trees and bushes in different shades of green.

AVA (CONT'D)
Now like, separate all the green in
your mind, and you can kind of,
intensify them.

As she speaks, her perception of the trees shifts.

AVA (CONT'D)
Did it work?

DAVE
Kind of, no.

AVA
Damn. For me, it is almost like
painting, like, I can adjust them,
and then if I focus, they will kind
of stay. I'm always adjusting the
things I see.

DAVE
Aren't words colors for you too?

AVA
Kind of, more like, feelings are
colors. But some words, have
automatic feelings. Like, ice

The picture shifts to being tinted blue.

AVA (CONT'D)
Peony.

The picture shifts to being tinted soft pink.

AVA (CONT'D)
Angry.

The picture shifts to being tinted red.

DAVE
What is.... Florida?

AVA
Green.

The picture shifts to being tinted green.

DAVE
Uhh, German Shepard.

Ava laughs.

AVA
No color.

EXT. DAVE'S BACKYARD - DAY

Dave and Ava exit the woods into the yard behind Dave's house.

AVA
Oh, it's already here.

Ava points to her moms car parked in front of Dave's house.

DAVE
Cool, I'll see you tomorrow.

They round the front of the house. Francis sits on the front steps of Dave's house. He stands up, caught off guard.

Ava waves uncomfortably.

AVA
What's up slut?

She cringes.

FRANCIS
Hey.

The car honks.

AVA
Oh, that's me, ok, bye guys!

DAVE
Later Ava.

INT. SELF DRIVING CAR - DAY

Ava lays down in the back seat. She fishes Isolands out of her backpack. She hits herself in the head with it.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL HALLWAY - EVENING

Kate and Tom, dressed formally walk hand in hand down the corridor. We hear shrill pop music.

KATE
Jesus even in space you canj't
escape Slut Williams.

TOM
She's gone, galactic.

KATE
You're not funny.

TOM
I'm humourous.

KATE
Less.

They approach a door with a window. Tom reads the sign.

TOM
It appears we have found the
Karaoke room.

Kate peers in through the window. Two Twelve year old girls, ZULILY AND STAR, with too much makeup and not enough dignity bounce and prance around the room.

KATE
Wow, someone brought their kids.

TOM
That's some expensive day care.

KATE
It's a family vacation.

Tom puts his hands on Kate's shoulders and steers her away from the window.

TOM
I can't hear this song again.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL DINING HALL - EVENING

A handful of ornate round tables are squeezed into the room. Wealthy, well dressed guests seat themselves.

Kate scans the room and begins breathing heavily.

The mouths and eyes of the guest elongate and warp.

Tom pulls out Kate's chair and she sits down in front of a plate and forks demanding etiquette.

A SPACE WAITRESS whisks behind Kate and bumps the back of her chair.

SPACE WAITRESS

Oh my, I am so sorry ma'am.

Kate looks at the waitress and sees a black void in place of her head. She looks down.

KATE

It's no problem.

Kate whispers to Tom.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

He squeezes her knee.

TOM

Okay baby.

His attention shifts to one of their table mates.

TOM (CONT'D)

Tom Elias, pleasure to meet you.

He extends his hand to a white haired man in excellent shape. Physicality incongruent with his age. Eyes too bright.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kate slips out the door and makes her way rapidly down the corridor. She breathes heavily, her arms and neck flushed.

She tries to focus on the signs, the letters blur together.

She gropes the wall and pulls open a glass door. She removes an oxygen mask. She places it over her face, leans against the wall and takes deep inhales.

Distant giggling. Kate blinks a few times and Zulily and Star come into focus running towards her down the hallway.

They run past her. Zulily stops and turns around.

ZULILY

Hey, are you ok?

Kate speaks with the mask still held up to her face.

KATE

Yeah, I'm fine.

Zulily studies her.

ZULILY
Are you sure?

Kate nods and slides down the wall to sit on the ground.

ZULILY (CONT'D)
Do you want us to get somebody.

KATE
No.

Zulily stares at her.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm fine.

ZULILY
Ok. I'm Zulily and this is Star.

Kate takes off the mask and waves.

KATE
Kate.

Star smiles shyly.

STAR
What's wrong?

KATE
I just needed to catch my breath.

ZULILY
Oh yeah, that said that might
happen in the video.

Zulily stares at Kate breathing.

ZULILY (CONT'D)
Some people call me Zoo.

KATE
Do you guys know where the Earth
observation deck is?

ZULILY
Yeah, at then end of this hallway
you go left.

Kate nods.

KATE
Cool, thanks.

Zulily looks at her fancy beaded dress.

ZULILY

You're gonna miss dinner.

Zulily motions putting her fingers in her throat.

Star laughs.

Kate smiles and puts her hands up.

KATE

Oh no.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL EARTH OBSERVATION DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Kate steps into the glass box extending out from the hotel. Glass on all sides including the floor.

In the dead center, a beautiful ball of blue and white. The atmosphere swirled like dollops of cream.

Kate moves to sit Indian style in the center of the room.

KATE (V.O.)

I've never felt so homesick.

Ava sits in the middle of the room where Kate was sitting.

KATE (V.O.)

They say you have to leave a place,
to really know it. I never want to
leave Earth again. I never want to
die and have to leave it. Earth is
the most beautiful thing I've ever
seen.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL ROOM BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kate lies in the tub, her hand tapping the top of the water.

The words appear projected on the wall in front of her as she taps.

KATE (V.O.)

Spending your infinity with the
same person. Sharing your infinity.
I always thought it would feel like
the electricity in the air before a
storm. A feeling so good it was
worth splitting in two.

(MORE)

KATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Looking up at the darkening sky and
saying "I think it's about to rain"
and a slow nod because my head is
yours and we are completely known.
A feedback loop between our
beautiful minds.

Her reverie is interrupted by an incoming message. It flashes
over the words she is typing.

She clicks to open it and dozens of wedding photos appear
projected in front of her. A small square of video next to
them shows her MOTHER in reading glasses.

MOTHER

You looked so beautiful baby girl!!
Can't wait to look through all of
these with you when you get back!

Kate closes out the tabs and sinks under the water.

INT. HOLIDAY HIGH CLASSROOM - DAY

All of the students are turned sideways in their chairs. They
face a blank wall of windows with the blinds closed. The
teacher walks in front of the blinds.

TEACHER

What would you accomplish without
disruptions? I think we all need to
start paying attention to how often
our thoughts are disrupted.

Ava scribbles in the corner of her notebook "Disruptions
create pearls."

TEACHER (CONT'D)

I want everyone's devices up and
off, we are going to do a little
exercise here. For a whole,
uninterrupted minute, I want you to
stare straight ahead, and think
about nothing. Focus on the wall
right in front of you. No
outsourcing, no MC's, no videos,
ads, music. And see what happens to
your mind. We are going to do this
everyday, adding 30 seconds a day
until we hit five minutes.

The blank slate point of view for one whole minute.

The sounds of teenagers breathing. Distant chatter. A very distant band practicing.

FULL SCREEN:

An obnoxious title sequence for a TV show, "WHAT THE, FUHHH***K?!" plays. Epileptic and crass, Buzzfeed meets Sabado Gigante meets Talk Soup.

INT. BUS - DAY

They video screen is embedded in a headrest. Ava sits in the window seat watching it play.

ON-SCREEN:

A video of a TODDLER crying.

A mother turns on a camera on a computer, the screen fills with the toddler. He returns to playing. She turns it off, he cries.

"HEY WATCH! WATCH ME! WATCH THIS!" graphics appear on screen.

ANNOUNCER

This baby loves the camera! He
can't stand not being recorded.

Ava mutes the screen.

INT. MR. FLATTS ENGINEERING CLASS - DAY

Francis has a laptop open and dozens of micro computers strewn in front of him.

Golden sits on the desk. She leans backwards towards him.

GOLDEN

Smile.

She snaps a photo and in the same motion reviews it.

GOLDEN (CONT'D)

No, again.

FRANCIS

Come on, I'm working.

GOLDEN

So am I! Smile.

She flicks him on the head. He flashes a giant cheesy smile, Golden snaps the photo.

GOLDEN (CONT'D)
Perfecto!

Francis returns to the task at hand. Golden focuses on her screen, typing, intense focus.

GOLDEN (CONT'D)
What is the url for the info again?

FRANCIS
Alternateinternet.github.io

We see Golden's screen load this page. She reads over the wiki. We see the text:

****NEED TO RESEARCH THIS MORE! BASICALLY HERE WILL GO AN EXPLANATION OF HOW TO JOIN A NETWORK OF MICRO COMPUTERS AND RUN THE PROGRAM THAT FRANCIS HAS CREATED****

FRANCIS (CONT'D)
Where are you putting that?

GOLDEN
This part is confusing,
'OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY/HIGHLIGHT
SOMETHING HERE'

FRANCIS
OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER CLARIFY
HERE!

GOLDEN
Ahhhhh.

She edits the text we are seeing full screen.

GOLDEN (CONT'D)
I am making a funding campaign,
encouraging people to buy their own
and d/l this little OS you are
making. Should people upload apps
they create to the alternate
internet github or start their own?

FRANCIS
It would be awesome if people
started their own and then just
branched.

GOLDEN
You're gonna need a lot of people.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Francis opens the front door. His father sits on a beaten up brown corduroy couch in the living room.

He is gaunt with greasy hair.

He doesn't acknowledge Francis entering. His eyes are glassy, dead, glued to a large flat screen T.V. mounted on the wall.

On screen is an attractive woman in a red dress sitting at a slot machine, the reels spin slowly and create loud dings when they land. A 'Realiti' logo in the bottom corner.

Francis walks over to his dad.

FRANCIS

Did you eat anything?

His eyes don't leave the screen.

DAD

Not hungry.

Francis rolls his eyes.

FRANCIS

Come on dad.

DAD

I'll eat in the morning, quit worryin.

Francis MC: quickly flicks through his dads email, finds an overdraft notice from Global Bank.

Francis walks out the front door, exasperated.

EXT. MCDONALDS DRIVE THRU - NIGHT

The bright white light of the menu paints a halo around Francis, leaned up against the speaker on his bike.

FRANCIS

Can I get, 4 double cheesburgers
and 2 large fries please.

INT. AVA'S HOUSE, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

A candle burns on the dresser. Clothing is piled on a king size bed. Ava lays down next to it, staring at the ceiling.

BETH (OFF SCREEN)
Are you looking through that pile?

AVA
I don't want any of it mom, I have
plenty of clothes.

BETH
Look through the bras, I keep
seeing you wear the same ratty
ones.

Ava looks down her shirt at her bra beneath it. Beth walks
out of a closet with an armful of shoes.

AVA
We aren't even the same size.

Beth drops the shoes in a pile and shakes her boobs.

BETH
That's right.

Ava puts her head in her hands. Beth lifts a dress off the
mountain on the bed.

BETH (CONT'D)
Not even this one?

Ava shakes her head and follows Beth out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ava opens the refrigerator.

Beth stops at her computer, talks to Ava over her shoulder.

BETH
Just to run out to the store or
something? I'm putting it in your
room.

Beth pulls something up on the screen, her eyes go wide.

BETH (CONT'D)
Ava, honey.

She bites her lip, worried. Ava leans over her mothers
shoulder.

BETH (CONT'D)
Isn't that Francis? Who's that girl
he's with?

The photo of Golden and Francis pops on screen. With the words "ALTERNATE INTERNET CAMPAIGN."

Ava instinctively turns her head to the right. Beth scrolls down the page, reading the information to herself.

BETH (CONT'D)
Do you want me to sign up?

AVA
No. Are you following Golden on DreamHouse?

BETH
I don't know. Who's Golden, I'm following so many of these girls.

Ava scoots her mother out of the way, a few clicks and she has sent the ad to herself.

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ava's crying reflection in a screen. She is reading the "alternate internet campaign" email.

She enlarges the photo of Francis and Golden and looks at his smile, his eyes.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL DINING HALL - EVENING

Kate and Tom sit at the same table with several other DINNER GUESTS. Kate's cheeks are flushed and she laughs loudly.

She squeezes Tom's knee under the table.

TOM
I heard prices are supposed to drop down to 10 grand a ticket in the next 5 years.

A COIFFED ELDERLY WOMAN, with dozens of layered necklaces and platinum hair hair-sprayed in place speaks matter-of-factly.

COIFFED ELDERLY WOMAN
That's when they start letting all the riff raff up.

Kate takes a large drink out of a rocks glass.

KATE

And we pollute the galaxy like we
have polluted earth, the ever
growing virus of humanity.

She raises her glass for a cheers.

Tom smiles uncomfortably, the only one to raise his glass.

Kate knocks her glass against his.

TOM

I'd really like to invest with
Bigelow, but the shares are way out
of my price range. I have to wait
for more competition to enter the
market.

KATE

Capitalism eat stars.

No one pays attention to Kate.

Across the room, at a table with three GALACTIC BUSINESSMEN
sit Zulily and Star. Next to Zulily sits her FATHER, ruddy
faced, in shape, successful.

Kate waves to them. Zulily waves back. She nods to her
company and then motions strangling herself. Kate smiles and
motions shooting herself in the head.

The coiffed elderly woman glares at her.

Zulily sticks her fingers in her nose and pulls down on the
skin under her eyelids.

Kate laughs out loud.

Zulily's FATHER reprimands her and she turns back around.

TOM

Encouraging bad behavior?

KATE

Uh huh.

Kate finishes her drink and stares at Tom. She shakes her
head and her perception shifts to a more flattering light.
Blackheads smoothed out, eyes brightened.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL KARAOKE ROOM - NIGHT

The room is small and covered in soft red leather. One wall is a giant screen, microphones hang from the ceiling.

Kate scrolls through listings on the wall. She selects a category heading "Old American."

The options on the screen read "pitch correct", "performer perfect" and "natural".

She selects the song "Sabbath Bloody Sabbath". A guitar riff fills the room. She selects "pitch correct".

As she sings, her voice in perfect pitch fills the room.

KATE
You've seen life through distorted
eyes...

She tries singing horribly and the auto tune compensates.

KATE (MONOTONE) (CONT'D)
You know you had to learn, the
execution of your mind..

Tom switches it to "natural" and a drunk, high pitched, out of tune voice squawks out of the speakers.

KATE (CONT'D)
Nobody will ever let you know, when
you ask the rea-sons whyy-yy.

Kate laughs at the sound of her actual voice.

TOM
What is performer perfect?

He presses the performer perfect option. Ozzy's voice fills the room.

KATE
They just tell you that you're on
your own, fill your head all full
of li--ies.

Kate starts laughing.

KATE (CONT'D)
Wait this is crazy. It makes it so
you sound just like the singer?

TOM
I guess so.

Kate starts singining indistinguishable jibberish.

Ozzy's voice sings indistinguishable jibberish.

Kate doubles over laughing.

TOM (CONT'D)
Why even sing the song then?

Kate kicks off her shoes and stands on the leather bench.

KATE (IN OZZY VOICE)
Because it's fun!

MONTAGE:

Kate sings the climax of "Halo" by Beyonce in Beyonce's voice.

Tom sings "If Drinkin' Don't Kill Me" by George Jones.

Kate and Tom cheers and take a shot.

Kate passes Tom a small yellow pill.

KATE (SING SONG) (CONT'D)
Little yellows, little yellows!

Kate lays on the bench watching the screen as Tom sings "That's All Right" by Elvis.

Kate sits indian style in front of the screen scrolling through.

KATE (CONT'D)
Wait, look, I think you can do
different voices with the songs.

She turns to Tom, pupils dilated.

KATE (CONT'D)
Give me the microphone.

Tom hands it to her.

The beginnings of the song "Barbie Girl" by Aqua fill the room.

TOM
Nooo.

Kate's voice, as filtered through the gravelly growl of Kurt Cobain, fill the room.

KATE (KURT COBAIN VOICE)
I'm a barbie girl, in a barbie
world.

Tom laughs.

TOM
We're gonna be here all night.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL ROOM - SUNRISE

Tom sleeps peacefully.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL EARTH OBSERVATION DECK - SUNRISE

Kate sits in the middle of the room, watching the sunrise
from the edge of space.

It lights up the clouds of the atmosphere.

Tears stream down her face.

EXT. HOLIDAY HIGH PARKING LOT - DAY

Ava exits the school, suspiciously.

A RED COROLLA idles by the curb, Virginia leans out motioning
for Ava to hurry.

INT. SELF DRIVING RED COROLLA - DAY

The windows are down. Photos and magazine cut outs cover the
ceiling of the car. The wind blows dozens of trinkets and
hula girls on the dash.

VIRGINIA
You are like, the worst at sneaking
out I've ever seen.

AVA
What do you mean? I'm here.

VIRGINIA
You gottta be, like, covert.

Ava laughs.

AVA
I'm imagining you like rolling on
the ground and hugging the
perimeter.

Virginia shakes her head.

VIRGINIA
That's how it's done.

Ava smiles.

AVA
Where are we going?

VIRGINIA
Where do you want to go?

Ava shrugs.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
I just knew after I saw that
picture, you were sitting in there
with a hot bad feeling in your
stomach.

AVA
Do you think he likes her?

VIRGINIA
Absolutely not.

AVA
How do you know?

VIRGINIA
I don't *know* - that's just what I
think.

AVA
Let's look at the picture again.

Ava reaches for Virginia's phone. Virginia leans over the
seat and closes it in the glove box. Ava makes a face at her.

Ava eyes her book in her backpack.

AVA (CONT'D)
Do you want to go to the other
coast? To Titusville.

VIRGINIA

Like, the other coast of Florida? I was thinking maybe the mall, the causeway.

AVA

It's where the rocket program used to be, and SpaceX too. I think the rockets are still on display there.

Virginia gives her a look like "and.."

AVA (CONT'D)

Let's go look at them.

VIRGINIA

You want to drive 3 hours to look at some old rocketships?

Ava nods. Virginia shrugs.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

It's your day.

EXT. STRIP MALL - THE LEAF LAB - DAY

The corolla is parked in front of a neon green sign "The Leaf Lab" in a run down strip mall parking lot.

INT. RED COROLLA - DAY

Ava lays in the back seat sweating and studying the photos on the ceiling. She stares at one of a younger Dave, Francis and Virginia, dressed up for Halloween.

EXT. STRIP MALL - THE LEAF LAB - DAY

Virginia exits the store with a wave. She opens the back door to the corolla. She holds up two bags.

VIRGINIA

Road trip!

INT. RED COROLLA - DAY

The two girls lay in the back seat, feet by each others heads.

VIRGINIA
Ok, I got banana kush, and one
called "mind."

She holds up two medicine bottles.

AVA
I don't think I want mind.

VIRGINIA
You're right, probably not for
today.

She opens up the banana kush and packs it into a tiny bowl.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
So can we go in the rockets?

Ava laughs.

AVA
I don't know, I don't even know if
they're still there.

Virginia nods while lighting the bowl.

VIRGINIA
Riding all the way to the Atlantic
and we might not even be able to go
in the rocketships.

AVA
Do you think you'll see the earth
from space before you die?

Virginia shakes her head no, passes the bowl to Ava and
exhales a thick stream of smoke.

AVA (CONT'D)
Why not?

Virginia motions money with her hands.

VIRGINIA
That's big money.

AVA
But it won't be forever.

Virginia shrugs.

VIRGINIA
I just want to live in the woods,
grow my own food and have babies.

AVA
That seems like a good plan.

Ava cautiously inhales.

AVA (CONT'D)
I bet it's so pretty, to see the
whole planet.

VIRGINIA
Yeah, through a giant layer of
greenhouse gas.

Ava exhales.

AVA
Who are you gonna have babies with?

EXT. EAST LAKE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Francis sits on the table of a picnic bench and Golden sits on the seat. She is showing him her screen and scrolling through it.

GOLDEN
So far I have two hundred joiners.

Francis looks at the screen more closely.

FRANCIS
You have two hundred people who
have said they would buy a
raspberri pi and follow our
instructions to set it up and use
the OS?

GOLDEN
Yep.

Francis whistles.

FRANCIS
How many do you think you can get?
This could be way bigger than I
thought. Like, more than just a
display.

GOLDEN
I know I was thinking that too. I
haven't posted it on selfie stream
yet. This is just from Dream House.
I want to do it in stages so it
feels like it's gaining momentum.

FRANCIS

Damn, you're pretty good at this.

Golden smiles and tucks her hair behind her ear. She moves her hand close to his. He holds her gaze.

GOLDEN

I want to put it on my realiti channel too, but I'm not sure if I am allowed.

FRANCIS

You have a realiti channel?

Golden smiles, proud.

GOLDEN

Yeah, you didn't know that?

FRANCIS

Ugh, sick.

Golden is taken aback.

GOLDEN

Sick? Excuse me?

FRANCIS

Yeah that's gross.

GOLDEN

What's gross about it?

FRANCIS

Pedaling a low grade, slowed down, poisonous information diet

GOLDEN

Who says I am-

FRANCIS

That is just hyper manufactured dog shit masked as entertainment, and being used to control people.

Golden studies Francis.

GOLDEN

I don't know where you get off.

FRANCIS

What having an opinion, that doesn't aggrandize your "social fame."

GOLDEN

No. Thinking you know what's best for people you don't even know.

Francis snorts.

GOLDEN (CONT'D)

Like yeah, is realiti brilliant entertainment, no. But, am I making anyone watch it, no. It's their choice. Just like it is my choice to take advantage of an opportunity to earn money. That I can then choose to do whatever I want with. Your idea of freedom is about controlling people. I am not telling anyone what to watch or do or think if some company wants to pay me a bunch of money to work for an hour a day and capitalize on my looks, my youth, I'm going to take it.

FRANCIS

Maybe your singular actions aren't controlling anyone. But you're using that logic to let yourself off the hook for contributing to a massive company that is deteriorating minds.

GOLDEN

I can't imagine it is lost on you, that 200 people have signed up for your cause because of my "social fame", it can be used for good things.

FRANCIS

You did that. I didn't ask you to do that. And don't post it anywhere else then, I don't care.

He stands up.

GOLDEN

But I want to. I want to make this big.

FRANCIS

Well I better get coding then, can't let the hoards of your drooling subscribers down!

Francis turns and walks away. Golden stares after him.

MONTAGE:

EXT. ROCKET GARDEN - DAY

Ava and Virginia weave through rockets crawling with vines.

We hear the guided tour from the Kennedy Space center.

INT. RED COROLLA - DUSK

A weary Ava and Virginia lay in the back seat, sunburnt, spent.

The car weaves along a state road.

They pass a large compound with a "Halcyon" sign at the road.

VIRGINIA

Oh look, this must be the main building.

AVA

Oooh, let's slow down I want to look at it.

VIRGINIA

Edna, reduce speed, reduce speed, reduce speed.

EDNA (SELF DRIVING CAR VOICE)

I cannot go below 30 miles an hour in this zone.

VIRGINIA

Edna, pull over when safe.

The car slows and pulls onto the shoulder of the road.

Ava stares out the window.

AVA

They even make it look creepy, like a jail.

VIRGINIA

Do you want to get out?

AVA

Yeah.

The girls get out of the car and walk up to a gate.
There is a recruitment poster attached to it.

"Halcyon wants YOU to help keep us safe"

AVA (CONT'D)
Four stars for propaganda.

VIRGINIA
You know they are still courting
Francis.

AVA
He wouldn't do that.

Virginia raises her eyebrows.

AVA (CONT'D)
You think he would?

VIRGINIA
I mean, they are offering him a
lot. It's like the NBA or something
these days.

AVA
How much are they offering him? He
is really considering doing it? I
thought he was gonna go to USF so
he could still help Otis out.

VIRGINIA
I don't know anything definite, but
he'd be able to help Otis out a lot
with that guap.

Ava stares at the ominous building.

AVA
I need to talk to him.

They get back in the car.

VIRGINIA
Good, come to the woods this week.

She motions to Ava's clothes.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
Maybe don't wear the uniform.

Ava smiles.

AVA
I'll never take it off!!

FULL SCREEN: DAVE'S LAPTOP

We see an email from Francis with the subject line "holy shit." The email is a fwd of an email from Halcyon to Francis, asking to buy his zero day for hacking into Frontier networks and allowing the hundreds of new alternate internet users to steal free internet.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL ZERO G ROOM - DAY

Sheer red fabric flaps and billows. The BLONDE SUPERMODEL floats weightlessly, her multilayered chiffon dress swimming around her like a jellyfish. A band of glitter covers her eyes and the bridge of her nose.

A floating PHOTOGRAPHER snaps photos. A STYLIST tugs at the layers of the dress.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Violent baby, violent! Yes!

The model purrs.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)
Sheer fucking violence. Yes. Yes.
Yes. Someone just murdered your
whole fucking family.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY

Kate passes the Zero G photo shoot without a glance.

KATE (V.O.)
The pamphlets don't say anything
about what happens to an exposed
body in space. They don't mention
the water in your body vaporizing
and expanding all of your organs
until they burst -

Kate moves furtively past a sign that reads no guests past this point.

INT. ISOLANDS "LOADING POD" - CONTINUOUS

Kate enters a small detachable pod. Red security lights flash overhead.

KATE (V.O.)
- or the sun scorching your retinas
to a crisp, your body blue from
hypoxia, your eyes frozen. It
happens so fast.

She turns a wheel located on the door.

A hatch begins to open.

To her disappointment, there is another glass door.

She searches for a handle or switch.

A security alarm screams.

She pulls a fire extinguisher off the wall and bangs it
against the glass.

KATE (V.O.)
How do you kill yourself without
hurting anybody else? How do you
make it look like an accident?

Over and over again.

It chips, eventually.

She hits it with the extinguisher as hard as her tiny frame
allows.

Her hair is drenched with sweat and her cheeks are flushed.

The chip becomes a crack.

Her face puffs out.

She throws the extinguisher hard against the crack and the
glass shatters.

Her body floats out into space.

Her skin turns bright red and blisters immediately.

Her tongue bubbles up and hangs out of her mouth.

Her white dress tears and falls away from her bloated body
and she soundlessly floats out into the blackness.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL VIRTUAL ROOM - DAY

Kate sits on a large chaise lounge in the center of the room. She wears a VR headset over her eyes and a peaceful smile spread across her face.

She lifts an arm and swipes the air with it.

INT. VR "ESCAPES" EXPERIENCE DECK - INTERFACE

A black void contains rows of thumbnails. A title across reads "Recent Escapes."

Kate navigates to a thumbnail of Zulily's face, her eyes closed. She selects the thumbnail and it opens onto:

INT. BATHROOM (VR) - NIGHT

The bathtub is lined with candles. A dozen cats fill the small space. Lo fi music plays.

Zulily lies lifeless, wrists slit, in a bathtub filled with blood, flowers float on top.

Teen girls suicide dream.

KATE (V.O.)
My girls dramatic too.

Underneath the shower head, big block letters read "I HATE YOU DAD"

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL VIRTUAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KATE
Jesus.

She swipes right.

INT. VR "ESCAPES" EXPERIENCE DECK - INTERFACE

The black void/thumbnail screen. Kate selects the thumbnail and a menu comes up with options. She selects "delete permanently."

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL HALLWAY - LATER

Kate walks down the hallway, she sees Zulily watching the photoshoot.

She walks up behind her.

KATE

ZOO!

Zulily turns around.

ZULILY

Check this out.

She taps her temple. A projection on the wall shows Times Square. An electronic billboard is live streaming images from the photoshoot.

KATE

Meanwhile, on earth.

Zulily smiles.

KATE (CONT'D)

Where's Star?

ZULILY

Neta-ing with her mom. For like,
hours every day.

KATE

Ah, concerned parents.

ZULILY

Yeah.

Kate stares at the makeup on Zulily's still baby face.

KATE

Hey, uh, you left your experience
open, in, the VR room.

Zulily stares back at her.

ZULILY

I know.

Kate raises her eyebrows.

KATE

Oh.

She nods.

ZULILY

Have you been to the garden?

KATE

No.

Zulily motions like Vanna White.

ZULILY

Follow moi.

INT. ISOLANDS HOTEL GARDEN - DAY

Large flourescents wash every inch of the space with bright white light. Aquaponic tanks line the room. Spices, tomatoes and even roses bloom up from them.

Kate and Zulily wander through the rows, they look the same age from behind, the same height. Zulily touches all the plants as she passes them.

ZULILY

I think it's weird that people
still get married at all, like why?
I mean, if you are gonna have kids
you can sign like an 18 year
commit. But marriage is so archaic.

KATE

A lot of people still get married.

Zulily shrugs.

ZULILY

No one I know.

KATE

You're 13.

ZULILY

Yeah but like, no one I know even
thinks about it. Like, stay with
the same person for 1, 2 hundred
years. Psh.

Kate shrugs.

KATE

I don't know I guess I could get a
divorce eventually.

ZULILY

Then why get married?

KATE
Why do you sing the same Slut
Williams song over and over?

ZULILY
Because we like it.

KATE
I like Tom.

Kate stares at a pale pink rose. With her nails she breaks off the flower.

ZULILY
You're not supposed to pick them.

Kate offers the flower to Zulily.

ZULILY (CONT'D)
Great, get me in trouble.

She takes the rose and starts plucking off the petals in front of Kate. Walking through the rows of plants and littering the ground with them

ZULILY (CONT'D)
She loves him, she loves him not,
she loves him, she loves him not,
she loves him, she loves him -

She stops and holds a rose with a single petal in front of Kate's face.

ZULILY (CONT'D)
Not!

She drops the petal to the ground.

EXT. "NO - NET" - DAY

Francis is speaking animatedly to Ava but we hear no sound.

She stares at his mouth moving, the roots of his hair. Her own eyes covered in a band of glitter.

AVA V.O.
I love you I love you I love you I
love you. I feel like I am holding
my mouth weird.

He looks at Ava, sound returning to the picture.

FRANCIS

Do you want to come hear it?

Ava blinks.

AVA

Yeah, sure.

They begin walking out of the no-net, up the path towards Performance.

FRANCIS

I'm so happy you are here. I know things are, whatever, but I -

Ava's hand brushes his as they walk next to each other. Her cheeks flush and she takes a step away from him.

Francis smiles at her.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

I like your - doodazzles.

He motions to the glitter on her face.

AVA

Oh yeah these are the finest doodazzles.

FRANCIS

What I was saying is, I really need you to hear this. I don't know what to do.

AVA

It's a decision?

FRANCIS

Well, yeah.

AVA

So they want what, the alternate internet zero day?

FRANCIS

No, no, they were offering me money for that but I just published it, I don't wanna get sued. And like, it is kind of already serving it's purpose.

AVA

So what's the decision?

FRANCIS
I'll play it for you.

EXT. PERFORMANCE - DAY

The garage door is down, the open sign is turned out. Francis enters numbers on an electronic keypad.

He pulls open the door.

AVA
Where's Otis?

INT. PERFORMANCE - CONTINUOUS

FRANCIS
He's sick. He's been out for a week.

AVA
Oh no. What's wrong with him?

FRANCIS
He has some weird rash that won't go away.

AVA
Aw, poor thing. So the shop has just been closed.

FRANCIS
I am the poor thing who is having to put this shit all over his back.

Ava laughs.

Francis fishes his MC out of the top drawer of a tool box. He puts it on Ava's head. Her cheeks flush.

FLASHBACK: Francis standing behind Ava bent over at the sink, running his hands through her hair.

INT. PERFORMANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ava's eyes widen as she listens to the message. Francis studies her mouth, the necklace hanging at her collarbone.

HALCYON EMPLOYEE (V.O.)
Hello Francis, this is the dean of admissions from Halcyon.
(MORE)

HALCYON EMPLOYEE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I know you discussed compensation with our recruiter. But I wanted to let you know that in addition to the salary of one hundred twenty thousand, we are prepared to cover tuition at the four year university of your choice, after or during your service here. We really want to have you on the team, so give me a call back when you've had some time to think, or anytime. This is my direct number.

Ava takes off his MC. She shakes her head.

AVA

I haven't worn one of those in awhile.

FRANCIS (TEASING)

Probably for the best.

Ava looks down, embarrassed, coy.

AVA

Man, that kind of is something to think about. I mean, getting paid that kind of money while you are finishing school.

FRANCIS

And, they would pay for my degree.

AVA

For the mere price of your soul!

FRANCIS

But like, it's enough money to actually DO something with. I could start something real.

AVA

You did something without that. I mean look, the only reason they want you for this is because you DID something that didn't require their money.

FRANCIS

But it did require money.

AVA

Did you get it from the school? How many did you start with?

Francis plays with a wrench.

FRANCIS
Actually, Golden got it from the
county.

AVA
Well there you have it, you can go
work for Halcyon and you and Golden
can take over the world together.

Ava leans against a car in the garage.

AVA (CONT'D)
Seems *really* fun.

Francis stares at her.

She looks back at him.

ECU - Ava's eyes.

FRANCIS
What, if anything is too serious to
be joked about?

Ava smiles.

ECU- Francis's eyes.

AVA
Rob Schnieder.

FRANCIS
I miss you.

Ava breaks eye contact. She looks down.

AVA
I miss you too. Like, a lot.

He pulls at a strand of her hair.

INT. FRANCIS'S BEDROOM - DAY

They are naked in the sheets.

Ava stares up at the words she scrawled on the ceiling.
Francis is on top of her.

She closes her eyes and arches her back.

We hear Zulily's voice.

ZULILY (V.O.)
She loves him.

We hear Kate's voice. (V.O.)

KATE
My head is yours and we are both
completely known. A beautiful
feedback loop between our minds.

INT. SELF DRIVING CAR - EARLY EVENING

Kate and Tom sit in the back seat as the car winds through suburban roads.

Tom puts his hand on Kate's. She looks at it.

We hear a painful scream.

She looks at him and blinks.

Static noise.

The word "rewrite" appears briefly on the screen.

Kate's eyes are all black like a deer.

She blinks again, they return to normal.

Tom appears more handsome. He smiles at her.

He looks out the window.

Kate mouths the words "I'm sorry."

TOM
Looks like it might rain.

Kate rolls the window down. Winds whisks in. She takes a deep breath.

KATE
Smells like it too.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - EARLY EVENING

A storm is rolling in.

Kate closes her car door. She stands and stares at the house. She slips off her shoes and slips on a small 'Smart Anklet.'

She walks barefoot across the grass.

Tom unloads the suitcases from the trunk. He watches her.

TOM

They had grass in space.

Kate smiles back at him. She runs her feet along the grass. The display on the anklet reads 'activate.'

KATE

It wasn't wet though, or cold.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING.

Ava, wearing Francis's gym shorts and a t shirt walks quietly through the kitchen.

She turns on the water faucet. Fills a glass of water.

She watches Francis's father, zoned out on the couch staring at Realiti!

An ADVERTISEMENT pops up over the picture, encouraging us to SUBSCRIBE! In a bright red obnoxious bubble.

She takes a few gulps, and fills the water back to the top.

INT. FRANCIS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ava walks in with the water. She hands the glass to Francis and lays down on the bed.

She puts her head in his lap. He plays with her hair.

FRANCIS

So, I've been thinking

Ava smiles at him, expectantly.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

I think I'm gonna go. I' just gonna fucking do it.

The fractals disappear from the walls.

AVA

Halycon?

FRANCIS

Yeah like, I can hack it for a year. Save that money, and do something else.

Ava lifts her head up off his lap.

AVA
That's what you've been thinking
about?

FRANCIS
What do you mean, yeah.

AVA
I don't know. I just.

FRANCIS
What's wrong?

She clasps her arms around her knees.

AVA
Nothing.

Francis looks at her confused.

AVA (CONT'D)
When would you start?

FRANCIS
I think as soon as I can get there.

Ava nods slowly.

INT. FRANCIS'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ava, wearing her clothes, walks through the living room.
She turns off the flat screen TV as she passes.

AVA
This shit is bad for you.

INT. SELF - DRIVING CAR - NIGHT

Ava gets in the front passenger seat and slams the door.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Good evening Ava. I need
instruction, where would you like
to go?

AVA
I don't care.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Please select a destination, Ava.

AVA
I don't know! I don't know where I
want to go.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Can I help you select a
destination, Ava?

AVA
Probably not.

SELF DRIVING CAR
Shall I try?

Ava puts her feet up on the dash.

AVA
Sure.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Would you like to choose from your
recent locations?

AVA
No.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Would you like to go to 'Home',
'The Park' or 'Grandmas?'

AVA
No.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Would you like to go to a
restaurant?

AVA
No.

SELF-DRIVING CAR
Where the fuck do you want to go
bitch?

Ava laughs.

SELF DRIVING CAR
No, for real, it's my job, I want
to take you somewhere.

The car switches to a heavy Chicago accent.

SELF DRIVING CAR (CONT'D)
Whatchu want a uh, cupcake, sumptin
to cheer ya up?

The car starts driving, Ava shakes her head and laughs.

The car switches to millennial yoga teacher voice.

SELF DRIVING CAR (CONT'D)
Or maybe we can go get a fair trade
latte and check out my friends
friend's noise band, O.

AVA
Oh god no.

The car switches to "bro" voice.

SELF DRIVING CAR
Or maybe we can go like, down to PJ
O'Malleys and check out the game.

Ava hugs her knees and lays her head on top of them, looking
out the window and smiling.

SELF DRIVING CAR (NORMAL VOICE))
(CONT'D)
For you.

The car puts on her favorite song, real loud.

THE END.