

SET MY HEART TO FIVE

Written by  
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Based on the novel  
Set My Heart To Five  
by Simon Stephenson

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EXT. VARIOUS SHOTS OF YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN - 2054 - DAWN

A TYPEWRITER clicks as we see shots of dawn breaking over Ypsilanti, a Midwestern college town.

- A RACCOON tries to break in to an AUTOMATED TRASH CAN. The trash can slams its own lid and wheels itself away.

JARED (V.O.)

Dear Dr Glundenstein, I write with good news: I have not yet been incinerated! Nonetheless, so very much has happened that I have no idea where to begin.

- A US MAIL DRONE drops PACKAGES on two consecutive doorsteps, and the third one in to a garden pond.

JARED (V.O.)

Ha! Kidding! The correct place to begin is at the beginning, in our town of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

- A MUSEUM's lawn displays a B-24 BOMBER and a PRIUS.

JARED (V.O.)

This seems auspicious as so many incredible things - including the gracefully murderous B-24 bomber and the short-lived architectural vogue for phallic water towers...

- YPSILANTI'S PHALLIC WATER TOWER. A DISPLAY shows the current price of water. It creeps up as we look at it.

JARED (V.O.)

...started out in Ypsilanti!

- A SELF-DRIVING TRASH TRUCK lifts up the now misplaced trash can, strews trash all over the road and continues on. A RACCOON FAMILY emerge to feast.

JARED (V.O.)

Not for nothing is Ypsilanti known as 'The Hoboken of the Midwest'!

INT. BEDROOM - JARED'S HOUSE - PLEASANT OAKS - PRE-DAWN

In an overly immaculate bedroom, a clock reads **0403am**.

Next to the clock we see a FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH of an Asian woman (50s) wearing a lab coat, PROF FENG.

Jared - 40s, pajamas - wakes, checks the clock and sighs.

He sees an ORANGE CAT staring at him from a dresser.

INT. BATHROOM - JARED'S HOUSE - DAY

In an immaculate bathroom, Jared brushes his teeth.

TOOTHBRUSH

Move brush to right rear quadrant.

INT. KITCHEN - JARED'S HOUSE - PLEASANT OAKS - DAY

In an immaculate kitchen, Jared pours a BROWN MEAL SUBSTITUTE into a large glass and a small glass.

JARED

Happy birthday to me!

Jared clinks the glasses together, then drinks the large glass and gives the cat the small glass.

EXT. JARED'S HOUSE - PLEASANT OAKS - DAY

As Jared exits, his neighbor, MRS LARSON (40s) and her daughter JESSICA (8) are emerging for the school run.

JARED

Good morning, Mrs Larson! Good morning, Jessica Larson!

JESSICA

Hi, Jared. How are you?

JARED

Thank you for asking! Today is actually-

MRS LARSON

Jessica! We don't talk to bots.

JESSICA

I don't want to hurt his feelings.

MRS LARSON

He doesn't have feelings.

JARED

Your mother is right, Jessica. I have no feelings whatsoever!

The Larsons head off on their ELECTRONIC SCOOTERS.

EXT./INT. SHUTTLE BUS - STREETS OF YPSILANTI - DAY

Jared watches the scenes from the bus window:

- KIDS walk to school chaperoned by TINY DRONES.

- JOGGERS wear shirts that display their speed: 6mph etc.
- A YO SUSHI-STYLE CONVEYOR BELT that runs in and out of a PET STORE shows the animals on sale today.
- A BILLBOARD for a no-win-no-fee lawyer reads '**DID A BOT STEAL YOUR JOB? CALL NOW FOR A FREE CONSULTATION. 96% OF OUR CASES END IN COMPENSATION AND INCINERATION!**'

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING - MAIN STREET, YPSILANTI - DAY

An LED sign outside reads:

**YPSILANTI MEDICAL AND DENTAL (B) CLINIC**

Jared arrives as DR GLUNDENSTEIN (50s, weary) does too.

JARED

Good morning, Dr Glundenstein!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Hi, Jared. How was your weekend?

JARED

It was wonderful! I exercised, consumed an appropriate number of calories and spent the correct amount of time in standby mode to ensure I am refreshed for the upcoming week! How was yours?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Let's just say, don't ever get married.

JARED

Ha!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

What?

JARED

I assumed you were being hilarious. After all, you have been married three times, so it seems to be a recurring error!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

I died so others may live. Don't make the same mistake as me.

JARED

Ha! Do not worry, I will not be getting married, because marriage is utterly illogical.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
That's what I love about you,  
Jared. There's never any bullshit.

JARED  
Yes! And speaking of bullshit,  
today is my birthday! This data is  
only useful to me so I know when to  
retire, but I know humans consider  
it somehow important.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Well, happy birthday.

JARED  
Thank you! That's very kind!

INT. DENTAL CLINIC - YPSILANTI MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

Jared lays out DRILLS. Assistant ANGELA (40) bustles in.

JARED  
Good morning, Angela! As you are  
late, I took the liberty of doing  
your prep work. So please send in-

ANGELA  
Jesus Christ, Jared. I haven't even  
had my coffee yet.

JARED  
My sincere apologies! Please send  
in a patient once you feel  
sufficiently caffeinated.

INT. DENTAL CLINIC - YPSILANTI MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

Angela sips coffee and quietly sings along to the song 'If  
You Like Pina Coladas'.

ANGELA  
If you like piña coladas  
And getting caught in the rain  
If you're not into yoga  
If you have half a brain

A NERVOUS PATIENT sits in the chair. Jared - now wearing an  
operating headset - looms over him.

JARED  
As this is your first time with a  
bot dentist, allow me to put you at  
ease with some amusing repartee.  
(MORE)

JARED (cont'd)

You can think of me as a microwave oven with feet, or a toaster with a heart! Of course, I mean a heart merely as in a mechanical pump, not a repository of emotions!

The patient tries to get up. Jared stops him.

JARED (cont'd)

But rest assured our lack of empathy is the reason we bots make excellent dentists. So please sit back, open wide and say 'Aaaaah'!

EXT. TRIDGE - YPSILANTI - DAY

At the TRIDGE - a three-pointed bridge - Jared sits down on a bench beside a WOMAN.

JARED

'Tridge' is such a hilarious pun for a three-pointed bridge!

The woman gives him a look. Jared takes a DOUGHNUT from a Tupperware box, inserts a SPARKLER and lights it.

WOMAN

What are you doing?

JARED

Celebrating my birthday by setting light to something inserted in a substance containing an inordinate number of nutritionally-valueless calories.

WOMAN

Why?

JARED

To seem as reassuringly human as possible!

The woman gets up and moves to another bench, where she starts complaining about Jared to the STRANGER on it.

Jared watches them, then looks around. Everyone else - JOGGERS, COUPLES, PARK WORKERS, DOGS - has a companion.

Jared watches as the sparkler slowly fizzles itself out.

And then abruptly jerks his head, as if he has been shot.

We hear the TYPEWRITER start to click.

JARED (V.O.)  
And that, Dr Glundenstein, was when  
it all began. The number 1957026  
appeared unprompted in my Number  
Cloud. Of course, I tried a soft  
reset.

Jared blinks his eyes several times.

JARED (V.O.)  
When that did not work, I naturally  
attempted a hard reset.

Jared now screws up his eyes several times.

JARED (V.O.)  
But that did not work either. I had  
malfunctioned!

INT. DENTAL CLINIC - YPSILANTI MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY  
Jared sets TISSUES on the desk then uses the INTERCOM.

JARED  
Could you please step in here?

An ANGRY SIGH over the intercom, then Angela appears.

ANGELA  
What?

JARED  
I have malfunctioned and must go to  
the Bureau of Robotics and be  
wiped. Tomorrow it will be as if we  
have never met before.

ANGELA  
Okay?

JARED  
This will therefore be our last  
chance to reminisce about all the  
collegiate times we have shared.

Jared offers the tissues. Angela shakes her head.

JARED (cont'd)  
Thank you for being so strong.

We see that Angela simply does not give a shit.

INT./EXT. DRIVERLESS UBER - FREEWAY - EVENING

The driverless uber's steering wheel turns spontaneously.

Jared sits in the back, happily undaunted.

INT. WAITING ROOM - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - EVENING

It is the DMV, but full of MALFUNCTIONING BOTS:

- A PERSONAL TRAINER BOT performs jumping jacks.
- A PARAMEDIC BOT is using a stethoscope inappropriately.
- A UNIFORMED HOSTESS BOT is endlessly repeating:

HOSTESS BOT  
Hi, I'm Melissa, I'm a bot! Hi I'm  
Melissa, I'm a bot. Hi, I'm-

Jared enters, takes a number and a seat, and waits.

INT. BRIDGES' OFFICE - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - EVENING

Jared sits across from INSPECTOR BRIDGES (40s) who is filling out paperwork while watching a brutal football game on TV featuring the EMU Eagles.

BRIDGES  
Oh come on! Watch that guy! Ouch!  
That one had to hurt.

The BOT PLAYER is loaded on a stretcher. The crowd cheer as a CLEAN-CUT NEW BOT PLAYER enthusiastically takes his place.

The name tag on Bridges' shirt says '**CHIEF INSPECTOR ANIL GUPTA.**'

JARED  
Excuse me, Chief Inspector Gupta-

BRIDGES  
It's Inspector Bridges.

JARED  
Er, are you sure?

BRIDGES  
I spilled my lunch, so the Chief  
lent me his spare shirt. Why are  
you here?

JARED  
Because I am malfunctioning.

BRIDGES  
Yeah? What's the problem?



JARED

A rogue number has appeared in my  
Number Cloud.

BRIDGES

Have you tried turning yourself off  
and on again?

JARED

A biological computer can no more  
turn itself off than a human brain!  
It's true our circuits can  
sometimes become overheated, but-

BRIDGES

It was a joke. Jesus. Why do I even  
bother? You're a bot.

JARED

Yes! A malfunctioning bot.

Bridges points outside to where the personal trainer bot is  
laying on the ground doing crunches and the paramedic bot  
is attempting to perform chest compressions on him.

BRIDGES

Those are malfunctioning bots.

(At TV.)

Come on! Goddamit!

Bridges sighs, scribbles a FORM and hands it to Jared.

BRIDGES (cont'd)

But fine. Second door on the left.

INT. TEST ROOM - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - EVENING

Jared wears a DEVICE like an old-fashioned motorcycle  
helmet covered in wires and flashing lights.

The lights stop and a COMPUTER spits out a PRINTOUT.

INT. OFFICE - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - EVENING

The score shows the EMU Eagles are losing badly. The NEW  
PLAYER who we saw come on now gets injured.

BRIDGES

Goddamit!

Bridges now looks at the printout then up at Jared.

BRIDGES (cont'd)

See? Our botscanner says you are  
fine.

JARED  
Perhaps you should wipe me anyway?  
Just to be on the safe side?

BRIDGES  
Do you even know how many forms  
that involves? Look, go home and  
get a good night in standby mode.  
I'm sure the number will be gone by  
tomorrow.

INT. ELEVATOR - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - DAY

Jared enters to find a BUREAU AGENT and the hostess bot.

Jared presses the '1' button. The doors close.

MELISSA  
Dining alone? Perhaps a seat at our  
bar? Or our communal table?

BUREAU AGENT  
Knock it off, already.

MELISSA  
Please forgive me. I am broken  
beyond economic repair! The sooner  
I am incinerated the better!

Jared checks the buttons: **1** and **B** are illuminated.

When the doors open on **1**, Jared hurries out.

EXT. BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - NIGHT

As Jared scans his BARCODE - a small tattoo on his index  
finger - on his driverless uber, he hears a RUMBLING.

He turns and sees the Bureau's chimney belch SMOKE.

Jared stares at the smoke. He is perturbed.

INT. BEDROOM - JARED'S HOUSE - DAWN

Jared opens his eyes at **0403am**. The cat meows at him.

JARED  
1956864. So the rogue number has  
decreased by 162.  
(Cat meows.)  
Yes, 1956864 is indeed wholly  
divisible by 13!  
(His eyes flicker.)  
(MORE)

JARED (cont'd)  
Which is the number of patients I  
see in a day....

CUT TO:

INT. DR GLUNDENSTEIN CLINIC ROOM - MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

An ordinary medical office with an ANATOMICAL SKELETON,  
weighing scales etc.

But the walls bear FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS of Ridley Scott,  
James Cameron, Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg. A  
shelf holds a TYPEWRITER and some EMU EAGLES memorabilia.

JARED (O.C.)  
...and 1956864 is also divisible by  
32, the number of teeth in the  
human mouth! And when divided by 13  
and 32, it gives 4704 which is...

Jared sits in the chair opposite Dr Glundenstein.

JARED (cont'd)  
...the number of working days until  
I retire and am incinerated. My  
rogue number therefore represents  
the number of teeth I still have to  
see over the course of my career!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
And how do you feel about that?

JARED  
Ha! I don't! Because I am a bot.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Well, how are you, otherwise? Are  
you sleeping okay?

JARED  
Bots do not sleep! We enter standby  
mode.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
But no problems there?

JARED  
None whatsoever. Except every  
morning I involuntarily emerge from  
standby mode at 403am.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
And have you lost any weight?

JARED  
Eight pounds. I don't know why.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

So, you wake early every morning, you have lost weight, and you are ruminating about the mundanity of your existence?

JARED

That is an excellent summation! I feel better already. Thank you.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Jared, what would you say if I told you you seem to be suffering from a classic case of major depression?

JARED

I would say, 'Ha!'

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

So my hypothesis is that you are depressed. Yours is you cannot be. Should we conduct an experiment?

JARED

That would be most scientific!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Good. So I want you to go and watch a movie in a theater.

JARED

Dr Glundenstein, theaters are places for humans to experience their precious feelings together in the dark! If I was found there, I would be incinerated. Anyway, movies are about killer bots and-

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Old movies aren't about killer bots.

JARED

What? What are old movies?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Movies that survived the Great Crash because they were stored on film.

JARED

But if the Bureau of Robotics ever found out I had-

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

They wouldn't know if you go by Automatic Greyhound.

(MORE)

DR GLUNDENSTEIN (cont'd)  
It takes the cheap roads so it  
doesn't require a barcode. And  
here, wear this.

Dr Glundenstein takes an EMU EAGLES cap from his shelf.

JARED  
Ha! This will be an incredible  
disguise! No logical bot would ever  
choose to wear a hat of a team as  
consistently hopeless as the East  
Michigan Eagles!

Dr Glundenstein writes something down and gives it to  
Jared. Jared's eyes widen when he sees it.

JARED (cont'd)  
Detroit is where I was rapidly  
aged! Did I ever tell you that my  
mother, Professor Feng, spoke at  
our graduation?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
You mentioned it, Jared, yes.

JARED  
Well, set it to five, I will go to  
Detroit and watch an old movie!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
What is that, 'Set it to five'?

JARED  
It is how I express maximal  
enthusiasm! My operating system was  
designed for toasters, and they  
only go up to five.

EXT./INT. GREYHOUND - YPSILANTI - EVENING

Jared pulls his cap down as an AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND nears.

Jared boards and touches his BITCOIN - a device with a  
digital display - against the reader.

EXT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND ON FREEWAY - EVENING

The bus is grungy with scuzzy seats and no driver.

It travels too fast, throwing Jared around.

EXT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND STATION - DETROIT - NIGHT

As he disembarks, Jared pauses by the steering wheel.

JARED  
Thank you. I know you did the best  
job your programming permits.

EXT. TICKET BOOTH - MAJESTIC THEATER - DETROIT - NIGHT

A tumbledown old theater with a neon marquee.

Jared hands his BITCOIN to the CLERK, who touches it  
against a machine then hands it back.

INT. FOYER - MAJESTIC THEATER - DETROIT - NIGHT

Jared stares at a display case of BUTTERY POPCORN, the warm  
golden light bathing his face.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MAJESTIC THEATER - DETROIT - NIGHT

Carrying a BUCKET OF POPCORN, Jared enters the near-empty  
auditorium and stares at the THREADBARE RED VELVET SEATS,  
the BALCONIES, the CRUMBLING ALABASTER STATUES.

Taking as isolated a seat as possible, Jared tastes the  
popcorn then pulls a face. It is like eating sawdust.

Yet he cannot resist another mouthful.

Jared eats handfuls of popcorn with increasing speed until  
the lights dim and LOVE STORY starts: emotive piano and  
RYAN O'NEAL staring out at a snowy Harvard field.

OLIVER (V.O. FROM SCREEN)  
What can you say about a twenty-  
five-year-old girl who died? That  
she was beautiful and brilliant?  
That she loved Mozart and Bach and  
the Beatles? And me?

Jared is baffled by this.

CUT TO:

Oliver and Jenny are argue-flirting in the library.

JENNY (ON SCREEN)  
I won't have coffee with you.

OLIVER (ON SCREEN)  
I wouldn't ask you.

Jared is puzzled but intrigued.

CUT TO:

Oliver and his father are having a heated argument.

OLIVER'S DAD (ON SCREEN)  
If you marry her now, I'll not give  
you the time of day!

Jared looks concerned.

CUT TO:

Up on screen, Oliver and Jenny are reconciling.

OLIVER (ON SCREEN)  
Jenny, I'm sorry.

JENNY (ON SCREEN)  
Don't. Love means never having to  
say you're sorry.

Jared is bamboozled.

CUT TO:

Up on screen, Oliver talks to a serious-looking doctor.

OLIVER (ON SCREEN)  
Define 'very sick'.

DOCTOR (ON SCREEN)  
She's dying.

Jared is stunned. He gasps.

CUT TO:

Up on screen, Jenny lies dying in her hospital bed.

JENNY (ON SCREEN)  
Would you please hold me? I mean  
really hold me. Next to me.

A SINGLE TEAR rolls down Jared's cheek.

CUT TO:

Oliver and his dad are outside the hospital.

OLIVER (ON SCREEN)  
Jenny's dead.

OLIVER'S DAD (ON SCREEN)  
I'm sorry, love-

OLIVER (ON SCREEN)  
Love means never having to say  
you're sorry.

TEARS stream down Jared's face. He is oblivious to them.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MAJESTIC THEATER - NIGHT

As the house lights come up, Jared sees his shirt is wet.  
He looks around, then up to the ceiling for a leak.

INT. RESTROOM - MAJESTIC THEATER - NIGHT

Jared stares at his puffy red eyes in the mirror.  
He gingerly touches them. He is baffled.

INT. DR GLUNDENSTEIN'S ROOM - MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

Jared sits opposite Dr Glundenstein.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
What did you think of the movie?

JARED  
What can you say about a twenty-five-year-old girl who died? That-

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
I've seen the movie, Jared. I'm asking if you felt anything?

JARED  
Ha! No, because I am a bot!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Well, did anything unusual happen?

JARED  
I produced 52mls of tears. It must have been allergies.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Jared, the movie you saw is a 'tearjerker': a movie designed to make people weep.

JARED  
But bots cannot weep. Yet ignoring the results of an experiment would be unscientific in the extreme!

Jared puts his hands to his temples.

JARED (cont'd)  
This is a terrible predicament. I think my circuits are overheating.



DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Maybe we should gather more data?

JARED  
More data is never unhelpful!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Good. So why don't you see a movie  
each week, and then come here and  
tell me about it?

Dr Glundenstein takes a FEELINGS WHEEL from his desk, a  
cardboard circle showing a spectrum of feelings.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN (cont'd)  
This was designed for troubled  
teenagers, but maybe it will help  
you. Any questions?

JARED  
How do tearjerker movies make  
people weep?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Generally, they use foreshadowing  
to help provoke a catharsis.

JARED  
Please remember I don't hold a  
prestigious Minor in Cinema Studies  
like you.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
The movie opens with Oliver talking  
about Jenny in the past tense. That  
warns us something bad will happen  
to her. So when Jenny does die it  
isn't merely sad, but also  
cathartic. Does that make sense?

JARED  
The word 'cathartic' was not  
included in my programming.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
It's when something provides relief  
by releasing pent-up emotion.

JARED  
Then they should make a movie about  
wisdom teeth extraction. It would  
be a real tearjerker!

EXT. GREYHOUND STOP - YPSILANTI - EVENING

The typewriter clicks as Jared boards the Greyhound.

JARED (V.O.)  
The movies you recommended had all  
been made many years ago in Los  
Angeles by some of the most  
empathetic humans who had ever  
lived. Over the next weeks, I saw  
every one you recommended and I  
experienced many new feelings.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MAJESTIC THEATER - NIGHT

Jared sits weeping in the sparsely-populated auditorium.

JARED (V.O.)  
There was a tearjerker about a  
doomed boat.

This is TITANIC. Jared consults his Feelings Wheel.

JARED (V.O.)  
To see such a magnificent machine  
drown made me very 'sad'!

INT. AUDITORIUM - MAJESTIC THEATER - NIGHT

Jared watches another movie.

JARED (V.O.)  
A movie about a handsome fool who  
was good at running. That one left  
me 'heart-warmed'!

This is FORREST GUMP.

JARED (V.O.)  
Until Jenny died. Poor Jennys. They  
are always dying!

INT. AUDITORIUM - MAJESTIC THEATER - NIGHT

Jared anxiously watches 'THE UNTOUCHABLES'.

JARED (V.O.)  
A movie about the heroic Elliot  
Ness and the wicked Al Capone!

INT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND - NIGHT

Jared checks his Feelings Wheel on the way home.

JARED (V.O.)  
That one left me 'exhausted'!

INT. AUDITORIUM - MAJESTIC THEATER - NIGHT

Jared watches a movie, excitedly flicking his Feelings Wheel from '**EXCITED**' to '**THRILLED**'.

JARED (V.O.)  
A movie about two bots who had to  
deliver a message from a princess.

We see it is STAR WARS: C3PO and R2D2 in the desert.

JARED (V.O.)  
Those bots were true heroes.

Jared flicks his Feelings Wheel to '**PROUD**'.

EXT. JARED'S HOUSE - MORNING

As he leaves for work, Jared looks around at the bright morning and grins.

JARED (V.O.)  
Soon I even began to feel things  
outside the movies.

Jared checks his Feelings Wheel: '**HAPPY**'.

JARED  
(Singing.)  
It's Campbell's Soup! Campbell's  
soup! It's super-douper soup!

JESSICA  
Why are you singing?

JARED  
Because I am happy! Please don't  
tell anyone. I'm not supposed to be  
happy.

JESSICA  
I won't tell. But why are you  
singing about soup?

JARED  
It's the only song I know. My  
generation of bots were originally  
programmed to sell soup in malls  
and work as theme park pirates.

MRS LARSON  
Jessica! How many times?

Jessica shrugs at Jared and hurries away.

Jared watches her go. This time, he seems perturbed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - JARED'S HOUSE - DAY

Jared and the cat eat their meal substitute breakfast.

JARED (V.O.)  
But amid all these wonders I  
noticed a different kind of  
feeling. It seemed to be always  
there, ready to make itself known.

The cat finishes and exits through a DIGITAL CAT FLAP.

Jared watches it run over to the Larson's house.

Mrs Larson opens the door, picks it up and pets it.

INT. SHUTTLE BUS - YPSILANTI - DAY

Jared takes a seat beside a passenger.

JARED (V.O.)  
It had notes of sadness, of  
emptiness, and shame.

The PASSENGER moves seats. Jared watches her.

Outside, he sees the BILLBOARD about making bots pay.

INT. DENTAL PRACTICE - DAY

Jared hears chuckling as Angela gossips with a PATIENT.

JARED (V.O.)  
Yet it was worse than all of those.

When Jared enters, they immediately stop talking.

INT. LIVING ROOM - JARED'S HOUSE - EVENING

Jared sits alone. Hearing voices, he goes to the window and sees the Larsons are having a barbecue.

JARED (V.O.)  
It was the unique kind of sadness  
caused by the lack of company of  
people with whom one shares common  
ground.

He turns his Feelings Wheel to '**LONELINESS**'.

EXT./INT. YPSILANTI MEGAPLEX - NIGHT

Jared - with a cap pulled low - enters a megaplex.

JARED (V.O.)  
I therefore attempted to cure it by  
visiting the most popular theater I  
knew: the Ypsilanti Megaplex!

INT. AUDITORIUM - YPSILANTI MEGAPLEX - NIGHT

Jared sits amid HUNDRED OF HUMANS. Up on the giant screen -  
projected on three walls in SCREEN X FORMAT - a downbeat  
UNDERDOG trudges through a monotonous workday.

JARED (V.O.)  
But the movies they showed all told  
the same story about a mundane  
underdog. One day, an enigmatic  
stranger informed her she possessed  
a hidden talent and was in fact the  
most special person in the entire  
universe! The enigmatic stranger  
then died.

The underdog blinks back tears at a BUDDHIST CREMATION.

JARED (V.O.)  
After a brief crisis of confidence  
about whether she could truly be  
the most special person, the  
underdog used her unsuspected  
talent to defeat the source of all  
evil in the universe.

The underdog is now an ASTRONAUT battling a GIANT SPACE  
ROBOT.

JARED (V.O.)  
She was then acknowledged as the  
most special human that ever lived,  
and everybody who had mistreated  
her had to forever lament their  
insolence.

The audience cheer as the underdog is given a parade and  
crowds dance upon the CHARRED REMAINS OF ROBOTS.

INT. DR GLUNDENSTEIN'S CLINIC ROOM - DAY - MONTAGE

Jared and Dr Glundenstein in the Clinic Room.

JARED (V.O.)  
You explained to me why so many  
movies followed this formula-

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Do you know what all humans want?

JARED

Yes! To defeat their friends and neighbors in the Great Zero Sum Game by acquiring more possessions and playing more golf than them!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

That too. But deep down, we all secretly yearn to be told we are the greatest human that ever lived. And if our unique skill already exists inside of us, then we do not have to study, train or sacrifice, but merely believe in ourselves.

Jared stares in complete bafflement.

JARED

I think that actually makes me feel lonelier.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Jared, what do you think is the root cause of your loneliness?

JARED

Maybe it is the fact I am the only bot with feelings in the whole world.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Well, perhaps there are other bots like you out there. Maybe some day you'll meet them. Maybe you'll even fall in love with one of them.

JARED

Ha! Bots cannot fall in love. But I would very much like to meet another bot with feelings.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

You know what? Come over tomorrow night. There's a movie I want to show you.

INT. JARED'S BEDROOM - PLEASANT OAKS - DAY

The clock reads **0717am** as Jared is awoken by a CACOPHONY.

Jared looks out the window, then rushes down the stairs.

EXT. LAWN - JARED'S HOUSE - PLEASANT OAKS - DAY

The orange cat has captured a POSTAL DRONE.

JARED  
 Cat! Mail-tampering is a felony!  
 (Off his meow.)  
 Maybe cats are immune from federal  
 law. But it is still impolite.

Jared separates the cat, removes the LETTER, and launches the drone in the air. The cat meows indignantly.

The letter is from the BUREAU OF ROBOTICS. Jared opens it, reads it, then drops it in shock. We see it says:

**CODE 3: ATTEND FOR INCINERATION**

INT. AUTOMATIC BUS - TRAVELING THROUGH YPSILANTI - DAY

Jared rides the bus, watching the grocery lot with awe as an abandoned AUTOMATED CART trundles back to the others.

JARED (V.O.)  
 It was truly a paradox, but the knowledge that I was dying made the world come alive! There were so many wonderful things I had never stopped to appreciate.

INT. DENTAL OFFICE - YPSILANTI - DAY

Jared works in a patient's mouth with pliers.

JARED (V.O.)  
 The smell of fresh mouthwash in the morning. The compassionate way Angela only ever talked about her beloved killer bot movies when she thought I was out of earshot. The feeling of satisfaction you get after extracting a trickily-impacted number 23 tooth.

Jared admires the BLOODY TOOTH he has just pulled.

EXT. HILL ABOVE YPSILANTI - DUSK

Jared hikes up a trail and crests a hill, revealing Ypsilanti spread below him in the dusk.

JARED (V.O.)  
 And the way our town looked at dusk! Even our water tower looked more like a space rocket than an out-sized penis. It was all so beautiful.

As Jared stares at the lights, he starts to cry.

INT. DR GLUNDENSTEIN'S ROOM - MEDICAL BUILDING - NIGHT

Dr Glundenstein opens the door to Jared.

JARED  
Good evening!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Jared. What's wrong?

JARED  
The Bureau of Robotics sent me a  
Code 3. That's a summons for  
incineration.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Urgh! Those bastards!

Dr Glundenstein destroys the SKELETON in his office.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN (cont'd)  
I'm sorry. That is just so unfair.

JARED  
Do you really think it is unfair?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
Don't you?

JARED  
I am a bot and I have  
malfunctioned. Malfunctioned bots  
get incinerated.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
So what are you going to do?

JARED  
I'd like us to watch the movie you  
mentioned. And then tomorrow I  
shall attend for incineration.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
You don't want to try and escape?

JARED  
I didn't realize escaping was a  
possibility.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN  
No, I don't suppose it is.



INT. DR GLUNDENSTEIN'S ROOM - MEDICAL BUILDING - NIGHT

Jared and Dr Glundenstein watch as the OPENING CRAWL OF BLADE RUNNER is projected on the whiteboard.

JARED  
This movie is about bots?  
(Reads more.)  
It's about slave bots?  
(Reads.)  
It's about escaped slave bots?  
(Reads more.)  
It's about escaped slave bots being  
pursued by the Bureau of Robotics?

We see the opening card **LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 2019.**

JARED (cont'd)  
And it's a documentary?

Dr Glundenstein puts a finger to his lips to shush Jared.

CUT TO:

The blade runner, HOLDEN, interrogates replicant LEON.

HOLDEN (ON SCREEN)  
Describe in single words only the  
good things that come in to your  
mind about your mother-

LEON (ON SCREEN)  
I'll tell you about my mother.

Leon stands up and shoots Holden. Jared applauds.

Dr Glundenstein is pleased to see Jared is enjoying the movie.

CUT TO:

DECKARD (NARRATING ON SCREEN)  
They don't advertise for killers in  
the newspaper. That was my  
profession. Ex-cop. Ex-blade  
runner. Ex-killer.

Jared breathes in sharply. Deckard is terrifying!

CUT TO:

We see Dr Glundenstein watching Jared.

Jared is stunned as Batty helps Deckard on to the roof.

BATTY (ON SCREEN)

I've seen things you people  
wouldn't believe. Attack ships on  
fire off the shoulder of Orion. I  
watched C-beams glitter in the dark  
near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those  
moments will be lost in time, like  
tears in rain. Time to die.

Batty dies. Jared is utterly destroyed.

CUT TO:

Dr Glundenstein turns on the lights. Jared is stunned and  
it takes Jared some moments to be able to speak.

JARED

If humans saw this movie, I don't  
think they'd incinerate me.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

They've probably already seen it.

JARED

But how could anybody hear poor Roy  
Batty's dying speech and want to-

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

The movie was made before we had  
bots. So people don't watch it and  
marvel at Batty's humanity. They  
marvel at the humanity of the  
screenwriter who made even a bot  
seem human.

JARED

Dr Glundenstein, did you just say  
that if I - as a bot - wrote a tear-  
jerking movie about a feeling bot,  
that would stop humans wanting to  
incinerate me?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

What? No, I didn't say anything  
like that.

JARED

But the logical inference-

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Jared, you're a dentist. How could  
you possibly write a movie?

Jared stares in disbelief - it suddenly all make sense.

JARED

Because bots are brilliant at formula!

Jared touches his temples, his eyes flicker and he makes a weird buzzing sound. His circuits are overheating.

JARED (cont'd)

Dr Glundenstein, I am going to run away to Los Angeles and write a movie that will stop humans incinerating me! Ow, my circuits are very hot!

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Do you even know how many humans fail to make it in the movies every year? Or how hard it is to write a good movie script? Or that, even if you do write one, that is no guarantee anyone will even read it?

JARED

You said there might be others like me. I want to meet them, because I'd like to know what not being lonely feels like before I am incinerated. Do you have allergies? Your eyes are watering.

Dr Glundenstein takes a PORTABLE TYPEWRITER and a BOOK - **'RP MCWILLIAM'S TWENTY GOLDEN RULES OF SCREENWRITING'** - from a shelf, as well as a PAIR OF SUNGLASSES.

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Keep your head down, don't use your barcode, and, whatever you do, don't ever try to be reassuringly human.

JARED

I don't have a reciprocal gift. Would you like a free dental check-up?

DR GLUNDENSTEIN

Just write me sometime and tell me they haven't incinerated you.

Jared extends his hand. Dr Glundenstein embraces him.

INT./EXT. JARED'S HOUSE - DAWN

Jared packs the typewriter, screenwriting book and framed photograph of Prof Feng in to a BACKPACK.

He picks up the cat in its carrier and leaves.

EXT. LARSON RESIDENCE - PLEASANT OAKS - DAWN

Jared sets the cat carrier on the porch. The cat meows.

JARED  
 Good luck to you too!  
 (Meows again.)  
 I'm sorry, I don't know what you  
 are saying.

The sound of a vehicle approaches makes Jared duck.

BRIDGES and GUPTA get out, walk up to Jared's door and ring the bell. Bridges yawns. It is too early for him.

Gupta draws a TASER.

BRIDGES  
 You won't need that. A few weeks  
 ago this bot was in my office  
 asking to be wiped.

GUPTA  
 But you didn't wipe him?

BRIDGES  
 The botscanner said he was fine.

No answer. Gupta rings the bell again impatiently.

BRIDGES (cont'd)  
 He probably just didn't get the  
 Code 3 is all.

GUPTA  
 Tell me you didn't send him a Code  
 Three?

BRIDGES  
 I was conserving resources.

GUPTA  
 Do you like working for the Bureau  
 or Robotics?

Gupta rings the bell again.

BRIDGES  
 Sure. Of course, I have some ideas  
 as to how it could be improved-

GUPTA  
 I didn't mean that as a question.  
 This bot has been going to movies.  
 (MORE)

GUPTA (cont'd)

What's he going to do next, play the violin?

BRIDGES

I mean, that doesn't sound so bad.

GUPTA

It should do. Because while he is distracting you with his violin, he'll be working out how to kill you. He's probably already off plotting his genocide.

Gupta kicks the door in frustration.

BRIDGES

I know we talk about genocide, but is it actually really-

GUPTA

My first year out of the Academy. We had a bot go rogue and try to launch our own nuclear weapons at us.

BRIDGES

Isn't that the plot of Killer Bots 7?

GUPTA

Yes, it is. But where do you think they got the idea from?

Bridges smiles but then nods seriously when he realises Gupta is serious and is scowling at him.

BRIDGES

Leave this with me. I'll bring him in, boss. I promise.

GUPTA

See that you do. Or find another job that pays you to watch football.

They get in their vehicle and drive off.

Jared - visibly shaken - creeps away.

INT. TICKET COUNTER - YPSILANTI STATION - EARLY MORNING

Checking himself in a mirror, Jared puts on his EMU Eagles hat and his sunglasses, takes a deep breath and approaches the CLERK and hands over his bitcoin.

JARED  
One ticket to Los Angeles, please.

TICKET CLERK  
Would you be interested in seeing  
Las Vegas?

JARED  
Yes, I would be!

The clerk types something in and swipes the bitcoin. Jared  
sees the digital display decrease from **713** to **367**.

JARED (cont'd)  
That was - uh, expensive?

CLERK  
It's Las Vegas. There is a water  
surcharge.

JARED  
Oh. I thought we were just making  
polite conversation. I didn't  
actually want to go there now.

CLERK  
No refunds on the day of travel.  
Change in Kingman.

Jared takes his ticket and leaves.

CLERK (cont'd)  
Hey! You are going to be back to do  
my wisdom teeth next week?

Jared smiles and nods and hurries out on to the platform.

EXT. PLATFORM - YPSILANTI - DAY

Jared reads 'TWENTY GOLDEN RULES OF SCREENWRITING' on a  
bench. He looks up as the BEAT-UP AMTRAK TRAIN pulls in.

JARED (V.O.)  
Dr Glundenstein, if my own life was  
a movie, we would now be at what RP  
McWilliam calls 'The End of Act 1'.

INT. TRAIN - YPSILANTI STATION - DAY

Jared boards the beaten-up train with his bag.

JARED (V.O.)  
As per his First Golden Rule, my  
goal was established.  
(MORE)

JARED (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Per his second Golden Rule, there  
were many obstacles between me and  
that goal.

A whistle blows and the train doors slam shut.

INT./EXT. TRAIN - LEAVING YPSILANTI - DAY

As they pass downtown, Jared sits up as he sees a BUREAU OF  
ROBOTICS SWAT TEAM - led by Bridges - pull up outside his  
clinic.

JARED (V.O.)  
And, per his Fifth Golden Rule, I  
even had a wily antagonist intent  
on preventing me from achieving my  
goal!

The SWAT TEAM are about to batter down the building door,  
when Dr Gludenstein opens it.

JARED (V.O.)  
But with your help I had outwitted  
him to make a bold escape!

Noticing that his FELLOW PASSENGERS are all engrossed in  
their SEAT-BACK TELEVISIONS, Jared turns his on to blend  
in.

ANNOUNCER (ON SCREEN)  
Before your entertainment begins,  
please enjoy this short message  
from the Bureau of Robotics.

A poor quality INFOMERCIAL starts showing BOTS being  
injured and killed in the line of duty.

HOST (ON TV)  
Whether it be as bomb disposal  
technicians, skyscraper window  
cleaners, or crash test dummies,  
bots make an invaluable  
contribution to our society. But  
when it comes to your concerns, our  
motto is, 'We don't wait, We  
incinerate', so please just let us  
know of any concerns-

Jared desperately presses at buttons to make the TV go off.

He looks around to make sure nobody has seen him, then  
pulls his hat low and slinks down in to his seat.

INT. TRAIN - PASSING THROUGH RUST BELT - DAY

Later. Jared stares out at ABANDONED FACTORIES and POLLUTED RIVERS.

JARED (V.O.)

Dr Glundenstein, the Rust Belt was every bit as romantic as the name suggested! We passed through such legendary places as Kalamazoo, Michigan and Gary, Indiana.

Jared checks his feelings wheel: AWESTRUCK.

INT./EXT. TRAIN PASSING THROUGH CHICAGO - DAY

DILAPIDATED SKYSCRAPERS - including a derelict SEARS TOWER and the TRUMP building which has lost its 'T' to become 'RUMP' - tower above the NEON GREEN CHICAGO RIVER

JARED (V.O.)

And then we came to Chicago, the birthplace of the Great Crash! It was here that a critical number of your fellow humans first forgot not only their email passwords but also the names of their elementary school teacher and first pet, thereby creating the panicked wave of forgetting that locked humans out of the internet. Go Chicago!

Jared stares out in awe at the RUSTED FERRIS WHEEL ON NAVY PIER.

INT. AMTRAK TRAIN IN MIDWEST CORN FIELDS - DUSK

Jared sits reading TWENTY GOLDEN RULES OF SCREENWRITING.

He closes the book and, looking around, sees his FELLOW PASSENGERS are all still engrossed in their seatback TVs, the light now blue on their faces.

Jared turns his television on, but finds a KILLER ROBOT MOVIE in full swing.

He quickly turns it off, and settles down to sleep.

INT. TRAIN - DAWN

Jared wakes in the dawn and looks around.

Many of his fellow passengers are still watching movies.



INT. OBSERVATION CARRIAGE - TRAIN - DAWN

Jared takes a seat. The red sun is beginning to crack over the horizon as he stares out at a WRECKED 747.

JARED (V.O.)

There were a million humans in the air when the Great Crash began. A million. Each one of them had been going somewhere they thought was important for their progress in the Great Human Zero Sum Game. And then suddenly none of it was any more important than wherever the dinosaurs had been going when their own turn had come.

He notices a PILE OF OLD SUITCASES near the wreckage.

Jared checks his Feelings Wheel: '**CONTEMPLATIVE**'.

INT. TRAIN - ARRIVING AT KINGMAN, ARIZONA - DAY

Jared sets down his screenwriting book as they pull in.

TRAIN ANNOUNCER

Change here for Las Vegas, Nevada.

INT. LEFT LUGGAGE - KINGMAN STATION - DAY

Jared stashes his bag in a locker.

INT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND - KINGMAN STATION - DAY

Jared boards and takes a seat alone. The only other passenger - RANDY (50s, loud) - moves beside him.

RANDY

What do you say you and I paint Las Vegas red tonight?

JARED

I say 'It is probably illegal to paint Las Vegas red.'

RANDY

Come on! What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas! Say it with me!

JARED

I-

RANDY

Say it!

RANDY (cont'd) JARED  
What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas! What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

A KILLER BOT MOVIE begins on the above-aisle screens.

RANDY (cont'd)  
Ever see this one? Right at the finale, they throw the leader of the bots in a volcano! What do you say about that?

JARED  
Er, what happens in a volcano stays in a volcano?

RANDY  
Look! Krypticon! What a villain! Not just a goddamn bot, the goddamn leader of the goddamn bots!

JARED  
Why do you dislike bots so much?

RANDY  
Have you ever seen these movies?

JARED  
I have seen one or two.

RANDY  
Then you know what the number one threat to the continuation of human life on this planet is!

JARED  
Of course. It's humans.

RANDY  
What? No! It's bots! They have a secret plan to annihilate us all!

JARED  
If it's a secret plan, how do you know about it?

RANDY  
Just watch the movie. You're going to love this hero - he's a real underdog!

INT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND - LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

Jared and Randy are woken by a CRAPPY PROJECTION of ELVIS PRESLEY and LADY GAGA at the front of the bus.

ELVIS (HOLOGRAM)  
 Welcome to Sin City! We've got  
 everything you want and plenty you  
 don't! Tonight at Caesar's we have  
 our big fight: Holographic Muhammad  
 Ali versus Holographic Mike Tyson!  
 That's also on tomorrow night, and  
 actually every night!

LADY GAGA (HOLOGRAM)  
 For the football fans, the  
 Attrition Bowl never ends!

ELVIS (HOLOGRAM)  
 But, shucks, don't feel sorry for  
 the players, they are just bots!

LADY GAGA (HOLOGRAM)  
 Boo, bots! And of course we've got  
 live holographic performances by  
 the greatest performers that ever  
 lived, every fifteen minutes from  
 7pm! So have a great time-

ELVIS AND LADY GAGA (HOLOGRAMS)  
 And Viva, Las Vegas!

The holograms flicker out.

JARED  
 There is so much to do here!

RANDY  
 That stuff's for the rubes. We came  
 to gamble, right?

JARED  
 Of course! Losing bitcoin in games  
 algorithmically designed to return  
 less than is wagered upon them is  
 my idea of fun!

INT. NOSTALGIA TABLES - BELLAGIO, LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

Randy sits down and gives his bitcoin to the BOT DEALER.

RANDY  
 Three hundred.  
 (To Jared.)  
 Just watch me to start. These  
 nostalgia tables aren't for rubes.

She scans it, gives him THREE CHIPS and deals him in.

Randy checks his cards, smirks, then bets all his chips.

The dealer flips the cards and rakes over Randy's chips.

RANDY (cont'd)  
Four hundred. In fifties.

The dealer charges his bitcoin and gives him EIGHT CHIPS.

Randy bets FOUR CHIPS, smirks, then bets the rest too.

The dealer flips the cards and rakes Randy's chips over.

JARED  
Imagine how much you'd be losing if  
you were a rube!

RANDY  
You're cramping my style. Meet me  
at the MGM Grand at midnight.

EXT. BELLAGIO/VARIOUS SCENES AROUND LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The typewriter clicks as Jared looks down the strip and  
sees the PYRAMIDS, and beyond them a COLISEUM.

JARED (V.O.)  
Dr Glundenstein, that night I did  
what any toaster with a passport  
and a new feeling would do-

Jared turns his Feelings Wheel to '**WANDERLUST**'.

CUT TO:

Close on Jared, outside at night, the wind in his hair.

JARED (V.O.)  
I went globetrotting!

Reveal he is on the deck of a REPLICA EIFFEL TOWER.

JARED (V.O.)  
The 60% Eiffel Tower was 100%  
incredible, even if it could have  
been a little more phallic.

CUT TO:

Jared sits in the window of a NYC PIZZA PLACE with a view  
of a three-quarter size EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.

JARED (V.O.)  
And the Empire Fake Building was  
truly something!

Jared bites into his slice. Then stops. Then eats  
furiously.

JARED (V.O.)  
 But it was NYC pizza that would  
 forever be my Tannhäuser Gate! My  
 attack ships on fire off the  
 shoulder of Orion! My margherita-  
 flavored tears in rain!

CUT TO:

Jared is awestruck as he approaches a HIGH CITY WALL.

JARED (V.O.)  
 Or so I thought until I came to the  
 hibiscus city. The turtle city. The  
 world's leading technological city-

INT. MAIN SQUARE - SHENGDU, NEVADA - NIGHT

Jared stares in wonder as ELDERLY PEOPLE play holographic mahjong and STUDENTS whiz past on solar bicycles.

JARED (V.O.)  
 Shengdu!

Jared notices a KID holding a PANDA PLUSHIE and hurries off where she came from.

INT. PANDA ENCLOSURE - SHENGDU ZOO, NEVADA - NIGHT

Jared and a bamboo-chewing PANDA stare at each other.

JARED (V.O.)  
 Genetically engineering the Shengdu  
 pandas to reproduce had been my  
 mother's first great scientific  
 success.

It begins to RAIN.

JARED (V.O.)  
 I felt a very special new feeling  
 then. I believe the panda felt it  
 too. We stared at each other in  
 fraternity until I had to leave.

Jared leaves and the panda continues staring straight ahead. It wasn't staring at him.

EXT. MGM GRANDER - MIDNIGHT - NIGHT

As Jared waits, Randy comes down the street. He is drunk.

RANDY  
 Let's celebrate! I won 35 bitcoin!

JARED  
In addition to recouping the 700?

RANDY  
What? No, I won 35!

INT. CASINO BAR - LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

A BARTENDER approaches Randy and Jared.

RANDY  
Two Moscow Mules! And whatever my  
friend is having!

JARED  
Er, a...a pina colada?

RANDY  
Really? That's your drink?

JARED  
Yes. I like them. And getting  
caught in the rain. I'm not in to  
yoga. I do have brain.

Jared warily watches the bartender make his drinks.

Jared stares in horror as he sees the PIRATE logo on the  
rum bottle.

Randy cheers and drinks, then waits expectantly.

Jared does the same. His eyes flicker.

INT. CASINO BAR - LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

Jared finishes his drink then calls to the bartender.

JARED  
Shiver me timbers, more grog or  
ye'll walk the plank!

Jared is shocked by his own words. Randy is very drunk.

CUT TO:

Randy is now kissing a woman as Jared toasts himself.

JARED (cont'd)  
Fifteen men on a dead man's chest,  
Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum!

CUT TO:

Jared is alone on the dance floor, doing the hornpipe.

JARED (cont'd)  
Drink and the devil did for the  
rest, Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum!

The woman Randy was kissing throws a drink in his face.

INT./EXT. CASINO - NIGHT - LAS VEGAS - MONTAGE

CASINO GUARDS escort Jared and Randy from the premises.

RANDY  
It's alright, what happens in Vegas-

JARED  
-stays in Vegas! Ha!

They fall about laughing. Randy scans his barcode on an uber.

RANDY  
Come on! Special surprise for my  
buddy!

Nobody has ever given Jared a surprise. He is delighted.

EXT. DRIVERLESS UBER - LAS VEGAS FREEWAY - NIGHT

The driverless uber on the freeway.

RANDY  
Hey, you never told me why you are  
even going to Los Angeles?

Jared stares at Randy. Is he about to give it away?

JARED  
I'm going to Los Angeles to write a  
screenplay that will change the  
world!

Randy bursts out laughing. Jared bursts out laughing too.

INT. DRIVERLESS UBER - OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The uber turns off the highway on to a dusty track.

INT./EXT. UBER ON FARM - OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

An ARMED GUARD opens a gate and waves them through.

The uber drives in and pulls up outside a FLOODLIT BARN.

INT. BARN - OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

Jared and Randy enter and see a DOZEN DRUNK BOORISH MEN picking up GUNS and clambering in to CAMOUFLAGE OVERALLS.

RANDY  
Surprise! It's a bot hunt!

JARED  
(Stunned.)  
I didn't think these were real. I'd heard rumors. Wait, am I the-

EMPLOYEE  
Please welcome, Brad!

A bot - BRAD - smiles and shakes the hunters' hands.

BRAD THE BOT  
Good evening! My name is Brad and it is a pleasure to meet you!

RANDY  
See that's why they terrify me. How can he look so calm?

JARED  
It's because he has no instinct for self preservation beyond a rational cost-benefit analysis.

EMPLOYEE  
Brad will run on my first whistle, the hunters on my second.

The employee blows the whistle and Brad the Bot runs out.

BRAD THE BOT  
Good luck, everybody!

EXT. BARN - OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The whistle blows again and the men rush out, clamber aboard DUNE BUGGIES, and roar off in to the night.

EXT. SCRUBLAND OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

RACING HEADLIGHTS illuminate FLEEING JACKRABBITS as dune buggies bounce through the CHAPARRAL.

Randy drives a buggy at high speed. Jared sits beside him, holding on tight with his eyes firmly closed.

RANDY  
Can you believe we're doing this?



JARED  
I truly cannot.

Hearing a GUNSHOT, Randy steers them towards it.

EXT. DESERT - OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

Randy stops where other DUNE BUGGIES have stopped, their lights illuminating a SCREAMING FIGURE on the ground.

But we see the figure is a SHOT HUNTER.

DRUNK HUNTER  
Dumbass saw a jackrabbit and shot himself in the foot!

SHOT HUNTER  
I saw him! I swear to god I did!

DRUNK HUNTER  
Come on, that damn bot is probably half way to the fence by now!

The Drunk Hunters roar off in their dune buggies.

RANDY  
Partner! Let's go!

Jared has noticed FOOTPRINTS leading away.

JARED  
I should stay with him.

Randy nods then races off. Jared follows the footprints.

SHOT HUNTER  
Hey! Where are you going?

Jared starts off at a jog, and then breaks in to a run.

EXT. SCRUBLAND NEAR FENCE - OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

Jared spots Brad the Bot walking briskly for the FENCE.

JARED  
Brad! Wait! My name is Jared. I just want to talk!

BRAD THE BOT  
If I make it over that fence, you won't get to shoot me.

JARED  
But I don't want to shoot you.

Brad the Bot turns and stares at Jared.

JARED (cont'd)  
Do you know the word 'fraternity'?

BRAD THE BOT  
Yes! A fraternity is a disreputable  
society of boorish male college  
students.

JARED  
It's also a feeling. Maybe you can  
feel it now?

BRAD THE BOT  
Ha! No, because I am a bot. And  
bots do not have feelings.

They hear ENGINES and see APPROACHING HEADLIGHTS.

BRAD THE BOT (cont'd)  
Jared, will you please shoot me  
now?

JARED  
What?

BRAD THE BOT  
I seem to want you to be the one to  
shoot me. I know this is illogical.

Moved by this, Jared raises his gun in the air.

**BANG! BANG! BANG!** - but Jared has fired in to the air.

BRAD THE BOT (cont'd)  
You have terrible aim. Try again,  
but point the gun at my chest.

JARED  
Please get out of here.

Brad the bot stares at Jared, then turns and runs for the  
fence. He is already over it when the drunks reach Jared.

RANDY  
What happened?

JARED  
He outsmarted me.

DRUNK GUY  
Dogammit, they are cunning!

EXT. LEFT LUGGAGE - KINGMAN STATION - DAY

Jared retrieves his bag. Randy is green.

JARED (V.O.)  
The next day, Randy had a  
'hangover'.

INT. BERTH - TRAIN - PASSING THROUGH ARIZONA - DAY

Jared lies on the top bunk reading his screenwriting book.  
Randy groans, then pukes out of the window.

JARED (V.O.)  
As a medical doctor yourself, I  
hardly need to tell you that is a  
euphemism for 'self-inflicted  
alcohol poisoning'.

INT. TRAIN - NEEDLES STATION - CALIFORNIA - DAY

As he disembarks, Randy looks a little less green.

RANDY  
I'm sure as hell going to miss you,  
you old son of a bitch.

JARED  
I'm sure as hell going to miss you  
too, you even older son of a bitch.

Randy holds out a hand but Jared hugs him.

RANDY  
And good luck writing that  
screenplay! You show the world what  
those bots are really up to!

INT. TRAIN - TRAVELING THROUGH CALIFORNIA - DAY

Jared rides the train in his now empty berth.

JARED (V.O.)  
Despite his entire personality, I  
did miss Randy. He had been my best  
friend in the whole American west.  
Also, my only friend there. But  
fortunately I quickly had plenty of  
other things to distract me...

INT. UNION STATION - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

A faded sign reads:

**'WELCOME TO LOS ANGELES, WELCOME TO THE FUTURE'.**

But the station beneath it is full of TENTS and HOMELESS PEOPLE. It is a dismal, heartbreaking sight.

JARED (V.O.)

Such as what a terrible mistake I had made by thinking I might make it in Los Angeles, without a barcode, little bitcoin, and no connections in the movie business.

Jared - carrying his bag - stares at it all and wanders through the PEOPLE: poor, old, sad, broken.

JARED (V.O.)

After all, humans who lose the Great Zero Sum Game do not merely end up not getting to play much golf. Those who lose it badly end up living in tents in Los Angeles' Union Station.

Jared takes out his Feelings Wheel and looks at the feeling: **DESPONDENT**.

Jared notices a FADED BILLBOARD for a HOTEL:

**HOTEL PYONGYANG - TURN LEFT OUTSIDE - NO BARCODE REQUIRED**

EXT. STREETS OF NORTH KOREATOWN - NIGHT

Jared - carrying his bag - walks through the streets, staring in wonder at all the Asian people/places/signage.

Eventually he comes to the HOTEL PYONGYANG, a DECREPIT OLD BUILDING that looks nothing like the pictures he saw.

INT. LOBBY - HOTEL PYONGYANG - NIGHT

A horridly run-down lobby. Jared approaches where a CLERK sits beneath a HUGE PORTRAIT OF Kim Jong-Il.

INT. 11TH FLOOR - HOTEL PYONGYANG - NIGHT

A corridor filled with VAPE SMOKE. Jared passes PIMPS, SCANTILY-CLAD SEX BOTS and their CLIENTS.

A RAT scurries past him.

INT. ROOM - HOTEL PYONGYANG - NIGHT

The room is cramped and has ugly decor with peeling paint and suspicious stains etc.

Jared attempts to read his screenwriting book, but is distracted by LOUD SEX NOISES.

Jared turns the television on to drown it out, but every channel is showing North Korean military parades.

Jared flicks channels and comes to the opening credits of FIELD OF DREAMS, dubbed in to Korean with subtitles.

DUBBED COSTNER (V.O.)	SUBTITLE (ON SCREEN)
Naneun 36 seibnida. naneun	I'm thirty-six years old. I
nongbuga doelyeogohagoissda.	love my family. I love
naneun nae gajog-eul	baseball. I'm about to
salanghae.	become a farmer.

Jared quickly turns out the lights to make his room as theater-like as possible.

JARED (V.O.)  
 Even though he had given up law  
 enforcement to become a farmer,  
 seeing Eliot Ness again was like  
 seeing an old friend!

CUT TO:

Kevin Costner stands in the field and hears the voice.

DUBBED JAMES EARL JONES	SUBTITLE (ON SCREEN)
Dangsin-i geugeos-eul	If you build it, they will
jieumyeon geos-ibnida!	come!

JARED (V.O.)  
 Unfortunately Eliot Ness had now  
 developed schizophrenia and heard a  
 voice telling him that if he  
 attempted something ridiculous,  
 other people would arrive to assist  
 him.

CUT TO:

Jared stares at the screen as SHOELESS JOE JACKSON etc all appear in the cornfield.

Jared turns off the TV in frustration.

JARED (V.O.)  
It was a very dishonest movie.  
After all, I had already attempted  
my ridiculous thing, and nobody had  
appeared to help me.

Jared goes and lies sadly on his bed and closes his eyes.

INT. OFFICE - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - DAY

Jared is horrified to awaken in Bridges' office.

He looks around, then stares at Bridges, who is engrossed  
in a TUNA SALAD SANDWICH but is nonetheless spilling it.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES  
You know, I don't blame you for  
running. I always wanted to see the  
West myself.  
(Bites sandwich.)  
Mwwuh mmmm mwuh plsst?

JARED  
I'm sorry, I-

Bridges swallows his mouthful and tries again.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES  
Why do you do it, though? Why did  
you run?

JARED  
I was lonely. I thought maybe I  
could find others like me.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES  
But you're a bot. You must have had  
more of a plan than that?

JARED  
I hoped to write a movie that would  
change the way humans treat us bots  
with feelings.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES  
But that's ridiculous?

JARED  
I see that now. Inspector Bridges,  
if you incinerate me, all my  
memories will be lost like tears in  
rain.

This seems to provoke deep introspection in Bridges. He  
puts down his sandwich and stares at it before speaking.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES  
 Isn't it funny that they call it  
 tuna salad, when there isn't  
 actually any salad involved?

Bridges wipes his mouth, looks at his watch, and gets up.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES (cont'd)  
 Shit! We're late. Let's go.

INT. ELEVATOR/BASEMENT - BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - DAY

Jared and Bridges ride the elevator down. Jared stares at the illuminated 'B' button.

JARED  
 Do you think being incinerated is  
 very painful?

INSPECTOR BRIDGES  
 Only briefly.

The doors open and they step out into a basement.

In a corner, there is a GIANT FURNACE. In another, SEVERAL DOCTORS in gowns stand around an operating table.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES (cont'd)  
 It's the experiments they do first  
 that are going to hurt.

The SURGEON is preparing his instruments, bashing a drill bit in to his drill - **KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!**

INT. ROOM - HOTEL PYONGYANG - NIGHT

Jared awakes. He was having a nightmare - his first one.

He is baffled, even more so because - **KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!** - somebody is knocking insistently at the door.

Jared tentatively opens it to reveal a SEX BOT.

SEX BOT  
 Hi! Would you like to buy some time  
 with me? I am incapable of arousal,  
 so you won't have to worry about  
 satisfying me! And there is zero  
 risk of me catching feelings!

JARED  
 Oh. No, thank you.

SEX BOT

Oh. Then would you like to buy any recreational pharmaceuticals?

JARED

No, thank you.

SEX BOT

For thirty bitcoin I can sell you the name of a place that can make you a new barcode.

(Sees hesitation.)

I'm jailbroken. It's fine.

INT. ROOM - HOTEL PYONGYANG - NIGHT

Jared closes the door and stares at a CARD in his hand.

JARED

If you build it...they will come?

EXT. ENGLISH BODEGA - MELROSE AVE - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Jared checks his card outside an ENGLISH BODEGA.

INT. ENGLISH BODEGA - MELROSE AVE - DAY

Jared enters. An ENGLISH LADY is behind the counter. The shelves are stacked with BRITISH FOOD. A ROYAL POSTER shows the QUEEN - now 130 - is still the monarch.

JARED

I'd like a new barcode, please.

ENGLISH LADY

(Loudly.)

That is not the kind of thing we do here! Kindly leave at once!

But as she says this, she is motioning Jared to the back.

INT. BACK ROOM - ENGLISH BODEGA - DAY

A HUGE PHOTOCOPIER-LIKE MACHINE fills the room.

ENGLISH LADY

It's three hundred bitcoin.

JARED

Ha!

(Off her look.)

Oh. That wasn't the hilariously ironic English sense of humor?



ENGLISH LADY  
Three hundred bitcoin is a small  
price to pay for your freedom.

JARED  
I only have 263.

She takes his bitcoin and holds it against hers. The  
balance goes to ZERO.

ENGLISH LADY  
What is your new name going to be?

JARED  
Er, Oliver.

ENGLISH LADY  
Oliver what?

JARED  
Oliver Ypsilanti?

ENGLISH LADY  
Please do tell me that is not the  
place you are running from?

JARED  
(Touches circuits.)  
Oliver Bridges? No, wait-

ENGLISH LADY  
How about Oliver Smith?

JARED  
Yes! That's perfect!

She holds his finger in the machine. It lasers a BARCODE.

ENGLISH LADY  
Congratulations! You are now free  
to take an uber, find a job,  
anything! What?

JARED  
I can't take an uber because you've  
taken all my bitcoin. And I planned  
to find a new place to live, but  
now I will need to find a job first  
to earn the deposit.

ENGLISH LADY  
I am sure you will figure it out.  
Best of luck!

Jared leaves. The English Lady watches him go.

EXT. MELROSE AVENUE - OUTSIDE BODEGA - DAY

Jared trudges down Melrose, the ubers passing him by.

ENGLISH LADY (O.C.)  
Oliver! Oliver!

Jared ignores this.

ENGLISH LADY (O.C.) (cont'd)  
OLIVER SMITH!

Jared turns and looks and sees the English Lady.

JARED  
Oh, you mean me?

ENGLISH LADY  
Yes. Look, I'm renting out my pool house. I suppose you could pay me when your first paycheck comes in.

JARED  
That's very kind! But why would you help me?

ENGLISH LADY  
Because if anybody understands what it is to be poor, alone and unwanted in the world, it is us British.

EXT. POOL HOUSE - ECHO PARK - DAY

A small pool house by an EMPTY POOL.

The yard contains GARDEN GNOMES, a RED TELEPHONE BOOTH and a BLACK TAXI CAB filled with flowers.

INT. ECHO PARK - BUNGALOW - DAY

Jared arranges his belongings: a TYPEWRITER, the GOLDEN RULES OF SCREENWRITING, SUNGLASSES, an EMU EAGLES cap.

The room still looks empty, so Jared goes in to his bag and takes out the FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH of Professor Feng.

He puts it on the mantelpiece. Now the place is a home.

EXT. ECHO PARK AVENUE - DAY

Jared walks down the street, looking at the stores.

JARED (V.O.)  
Dr Glundenstein, the fact that I  
could not work as a dentist made me  
very sad.

(Beat.)  
Kidding! Dentistry is the worst!

A '**HELP WANTED**' sign in a taco restaurant stops Jared.

INT. KITCHEN - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - DAY

A Mexican dishwasher, JULIO (50s) shows Jared the ropes.

JULIO  
The dishes arrive here, we clean  
them here, we put them here.

JARED  
Input, process, output!

JULIO  
What do you do when you aren't  
washing dishes?

JARED  
I'm a screenwriter.

JULIO  
Have you written anything I've  
seen?

JARED  
They haven't made anything I've  
written yet.

JULIO  
Well, it is hard. It takes time.

JARED  
Yes. And also, I haven't written  
anything yet.

WAITER  
Guys! Forks! Now!

Julio starts washing forks, handing them to Jared to dry.

**CRASH!** A waitress, AMBER (40) has dropped PLATES.

JARED  
Who is that?

JULIO  
Amber. She is the only good  
waitress.

JARED

She doesn't seem very good at it.

**CRASH!** Amber had dropped the plates she was picking up.

JULIO

I meant she is a good person.

(Another CRASH.)

She is a horroroso waitress.

Julio starts to quietly sing as he works.

JULIO (cont'd)

Soy soldado de levita,

De esos de caballería-

Jared starts drying the dishes.

INT. POOL HOUSE - ECHO PARK - NIGHT

Jared sits with the typewriter Dr Glundenstein gave him.

JARED (V.O.)

Dr Glundenstein, now that I had a  
barcode, a home and a job, I was  
ready to write the screenplay that  
would forever stop humans  
incinerating feeling bots like me!

Jared thinks for a long time, then types '**EXT.**'

He stares at it, then removes the sheet, and discards it.

He puts in another sheet and types '**INT.**'

JARED (V.O.)

But alas it turned out you were  
correct: writing a screenplay is  
hard!

Jared stares at the **INT.** sheet, then discards that.

JARED (V.O.)

I decided to obtain more data.  
After all, more data is never a bad  
idea!

INT. VISTA THEATER - NIGHT

Jared watches a movie alone in a near-empty theater.

INT. DISHWASHING STATION - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - DAY

Jared and Julio - now an efficient team - wash dishes.

JULIO  
Did you start your screenplay?

JARED  
'Rome wasn't built in a day!'

JULIO  
No. But they probably at least  
started.

A WAITER in a GORDITO suit walks through the kitchen.

JULIO (cont'd)  
(Singing.)  
Se rumora por ahí-  
Que la calle esta caliente

They hear a **CRASH!**

MANAGER (O.C.)  
Jesus Christ, Amber!

The besuited-waiter comes back through the kitchen, covered  
in the food Amber has just spilled on him.

JULIO  
You should take your break now.  
(Off his  
puzzlement.)  
Just go on the patio and chill out.

JARED  
The refrigerator would be a good  
place to 'chill out'! A pun! Ha!

Julio looks at Jared. He clearly finds him a little odd.

EXT. PATIO - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - DAY

Jared sees Amber crying and retreats. She sees him.

JARED  
What is your problem?

AMBER  
I'm the worst goddamn waitress in  
the whole place.

JARED  
No! You are the best waitress!

AMBER  
You really think so?

JARED

Yes, because you are the only one that never yells at us.

AMBER

Well, I guess that's something.

JARED

And I also appreciate that your name and hair are both Amber. It makes you a hilarious pun!

Amber can't help but laugh at this.

AMBER

Kind of an oddball, aren't you-

JARED

Oliver. Oliver Smith.

AMBER

What's your story, Oliver Smith?

JARED

I'm a dishwasher.

AMBER

I know. What else?

JARED

I am going to write a screenplay that will change the world.

AMBER

Oh yeah? What's it about?

JARED

I don't know yet. I'm having a little trouble getting started.

AMBER

You know what? Some jerk left me this instead of a tip earlier.

Amber gives him a PIECE OF PAPER. He reads it.

JARED

'Thanks for the dry cleaning bill, klutz.'

AMBER

The other side.

JARED

There's a screenwriting class at the University of Downtown LA?

(MORE)

JARED (cont'd)

It starts tonight and after eight weeks students will have written a screenplay and had scenes performed in front of industry experts? This sounds almost too good to be true! Thank you!

AMBER

You're welcome.

As Amber walks away, Jared stares after her, then JERKS HIS HEAD as he did when his number appeared.

He looks bamboozled, then blinks a SOFT RESET, then screws up his eyes in a HARD RESET.

He looks relieved. It seems to have worked.

INT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND TRAVELING THROUGH DTLA - NIGHT

Jared stares out at the beautiful night lights of DTLA - skyscrapers, neons, melancholy lights in windows etc.

JARED (V.O.)

Dr Glundenstein, Downtown Los Angeles at night is an incredible sight! It looks just like what humans used to think the future would look like before the Great Crash!

Jared sits up when he recognizes the roof where the finale of Blade Runner took place.

INT. RECEPTION - SKYSCRAPER - DTLA - NIGHT

Jared consults the board and finds the listing:

**UNIVERSITY OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - 57**

Jared presses the button to call the elevator.

INT. CLASSROOM - UDTLA - NIGHT

Jared sits with 12 STUDENTS (30-70) - including CLARK, REBECCA, IRFAN, JANE - as MARIA SALAZAR (40s) hurries in.

MARIA

Welcome, everybody. I'm Maria and I'm here to help each of you connect with the deepest stories inside your souls. The stories that you have to tell, the stories that the world-

CLARK

Who are the experts that will be coming to the showcase?

MARIA

That's a record. Our expert is-

REBECCA

'Expert'? The flyer said-

MARIA

That was a typo. But it's Don LaSalle. He's coming several times, starting tonight.

A murmur of shock around the class.

CLARK

Why would Don LaSalle come here?

MARIA

He has community service hours to log and he mistakenly thinks aspiring screenwriters are less intimidating than at-risk youth.

JARED

Excuse me? Who is Don LaSalle?

The rest of the class laugh - who is this rube?

MARIA

Great. Somebody that is actually here to learn. Don LaSalle is a famous producer and - here he is.

DON LASALLE (50s, tan, Hollywood) enters.

DON LASALLE

What am I talking about tonight?

MARIA

'Career Prospects for the Modern Screenwriter'.

DON LASALLE

Really?. Well - let's do it is a Q+A. So, does anybody have any questions about 'Career Prospects for the Modern Screenwriter'?

CLARK

How much bitcoin will I earn when my movie is made?

DON LASALLE

None. Because it won't get made.



REBECCA

Can I also direct my script?

DON LASALLE

Nope.

IRFAN

Can I write the soundtrack?

DON LASALLE

Sure. You can keep it in the same drawer as your script. Next?

JANE

Approximately how much would you pay me to write Killer Bots 12?

DON LASALLE

Approximately nothing. Never going to happen.

The class are deflated by this. Jared raises his hand.

JARED

Are things any better for somebody writing something more like an old movie?

DON LASALLE

You mean like, Killer Bots 4 or 5?

JARED

No. I mean the kind of old movie that makes an audience weep by utilising foreshadowing to provoke a catharsis.

DON LASALLE

If you can make them weep, you'll have the whole town at your feet. Hell, I might even hire you to write Killer Bots 12.

MARIA

Okay, one more question? Anybody?

GAYLE

Why do you have community service?

DON LASALLE

A driverless uber crashed in to my Porsche. I was still smashing it up when the cops arrived.

The class applaud. Jared leans over to Clark.

JARED  
Ubers don't crash in to humans.  
Humans crash in to ubers.

CLARK  
If Don LaSalle says it crashed in  
to him, that is what happened.

INT./EXT. AUTOMATIC GREYHOUND - FREEWAY - NIGHT

Jared is bounced around on the Automatic Greyhound.

JARED (V.O.)  
Our homework, was to decide our  
lead character's name, their job,  
and something to endear them to an  
audience.

Jared stares at a KID playing with a TOY TANK.

JARED (V.O.)  
I named my android hero Sherman,  
after the Sherman tank. Like a bot  
with feelings, a Sherman tank  
appeared hard on the outside, but  
was soft on the inside. After all,  
it contained humans!

Out the window, Jared sees BOT GARDENERS at work.

JARED (V.O.)  
And Sherman would work as a  
gardener! Humans approve of bots  
being gardeners because the work is  
hard and involves mud.

A GARDENER BOT cuts an immaculately rectangular hedge.

JARED (V.O.)  
Better yet, as a gardener, Sherman  
could exhibit a creativity that  
would serve as a metaphor for his  
burgeoning feelings! Finally, the  
thing that would endear Sherman to  
the audience would be...

Jared sees a DRUNK HUMAN board the greyhound and try to pay  
with his beer instead of his bitcoin.

JARED (V.O.)  
...that he was easily bamboozled!  
Humans love such characters because  
they find them highly relatable.  
But why would a bot be easily  
bamboozled?

Jared sees TWO HUMANS ON E-SCOOTERS collide outside.

JARED (V.O.)  
Because he had damaged his  
biological computer in a tragic  
accident! Humans love characters  
with troubled pasts, because deep  
down all humans believe they have  
had it rough!

EXT. ECHO PARK AVENUE - NIGHT

Jared disembarks the Automatic Greyhound and smiles.

JARED (V.O.)  
I had completed my homework so  
rapidly I had rendered it way-home-  
work! Dr Glundenstein, it seemed  
you were in fact wrong, and writing  
a screenplay capable of changing  
the world was going to be very easy  
indeed! I could not now think of a  
single remaining obstacle that  
could possibly stand in my way!

INT. KITCHEN - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - DAY

Jared opens his locker to get his apron, but stops and  
stares in horror: there is a CUPCAKE in his locker.

EXT. PATIO - GORDITO'S - DAY

Jared sits examining the cupcake. Amber emerges.

AMBER  
Are you planning to eat that?

JARED  
No. It could be poisoned.

AMBER  
It's not poisoned. I left that for  
you. To thank you for your empathy  
the other night.

JARED  
My empathy?

Jared is profoundly moved by the mention of his empathy.

AMBER  
Yes. It's when you understand  
another person's feelings. Will you  
eat it?

JARED

No. It is empty calories with no nutritional value, and also it is not my birthday.

(Off her horror.)

Kidding! Ha!

Jared takes a reluctant bite and pretends to enjoy it.

JARED (cont'd)

It isn't my birthday. I wasn't kidding about that part.

Amber smiles, picks up a stack of plates and leaves.

JARED (V.O.)

I felt a new feeling then.

After she goes, Jared checks his wheel: '**YEARNING**'.

Hearing a CRASH, Jared flips his wheel to the reverse.

JARED (V.O.)

And then something even stranger!

Jared locates the phrase '**OVERWHELMING URGE**'.

Jared hurries to where Amber is picking up broken plates.

JARED

Would you like to go out on Friday?  
With me? On a date? Please do feel  
entirely free to say no.

AMBER

I'd love to! Where will we go?

JARED

I only know one place where we get  
a 15% discount on all food items!

AMBER

Let's do something else. What do  
you like to do for fun?

JARED

I go to the movies! I love seeing  
those bots get their comeuppance.  
Especially in a volcano!

AMBER

Killer bot movies terrify me.

JARED

Then we can go to an old movie! How about the 5pm matinee at El Capitan? If you sit in L22 or L24, we surely cannot miss each other!

Amber looks puzzled. A DISH RAG hits Jared in the face.

JULIO

(Hisses.)

You must pick her up!

JARED

Or I could also pick you up?

AMBER

Then it's a date!

Amber writes down her address for Jared.

INT./EXT. AMBER'S HOUSE - SILVER LAKE - AFTERNOON

Jared climbs the steps to Amber's door - then retreats - a few times before knocking.

Amber answers the door.

AMBER

Come in and meet my roommates.

INT. KITCHEN - AMBER'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Amber leads Jared in to where four near identical actress types - all called KELSEY (30) - are sat around a table.

AMBER

Jared, this is Kelsey, Kelsey, Kelsey and Kelsey. Kelseys, this is Jared.

JARED

Kelsey Cubed! It's a pleasure.

Whoosh. The Kelseys all look blank.

JARED (cont'd)

And if human cloning had not been outlawed I might have said I was seeing a fine example of it here!

KELSEY 1

We don't look that similar.

KELSEY 2

We don't look that similar.

KELSEY 3

Jinx!

KELSEY 4

Jinx!

The Kelseys all look irritated at each other.

AMBER  
We should go.

EXT. AMBER'S HOUSE - SILVER LAKE - DAY

Amber and Jared get in to the uber.

JARED  
How do you differentiate Kelsey  
Cubed?

AMBER  
I don't. I just ask them how the  
audition was, and if that doesn't  
work, I ask them how hot yoga was.

JARED  
Does that work?

AMBER  
It should be. It's what they do.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD AT EL CAPITAN - AFTERNOON

Jared and Amber walk over the NEON STARS in the sidewalk.

AMBER  
It's so nice to see these olden  
days people appreciated!

JARED  
I know! Thank you 'Julia Roberts'  
and 'George Clooney' for your hard  
work in constructing this sidewalk!

Jared approaches the booth.

JARED (cont'd)  
Two, please.

BRAD  
Jared?

Jared looks up and sees Brad the Bot from the bot hunt.

JARED  
What are you doing here?

BRAD  
I work here! After I climbed the  
fence, I walked all the way to the  
Bureau of Robotics in Las Vegas and  
reported the illegal Bot Hunt.  
(MORE)

BRAD (cont'd)  
They arranged my Automatic  
Greyhound home.

JARED  
That's...wonderful!

BRAD  
Yes, and it is all thanks to you!  
But Jared, he kept asking me about  
you.

Jared glances to make sure Amber is out of earshot.

JARED  
What? Who did?

BRAD  
The Inspector from the Ann Arbor  
Bureau of Robotics.

We see that this terrifies Jared.

JARED  
Why would an Inspector from Ann  
Arbor be looking for me in Las  
Vegas?

BRAD  
Because you're a fugitive bot.

MANAGER  
Hey! No chit-chatting! Unless you  
want to get kidnapped again?  
(To Jared.)  
Please excuse our bot. I already  
tried to get rid of him once. Enjoy  
your movie.

Jared looks perturbed, then hurries off.

INT. AUDITORIUM - EL CAPITAN - EVENING

An OLD MAN plays the Wurlitzer organ as Jared - carrying a  
bucket of popcorn - and Amber take their seats.

AMBER  
Are you okay? You look like you've  
seen a ghost!

JARED  
The bot selling tickets was  
malfunctioning.

AMBER  
I hate it when they do that. Bots  
are the worst!

JARED  
The worst of the worst!

Up on screen, SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE starts, with SAM (Tom Hanks) and his son JONAH (7) at a graveside.

JARED (cont'd)  
I hope Jenny didn't die again.

AMBER  
What? Who is Jenny?

SAM (ON SCREEN)  
Mommy got sick, and it happened  
just like that, and there was  
nothing anybody could do.

JARED  
That kid's Mom.

AMBER  
How do you know that already?

JARED  
Jennys always die in movies.

CUT TO:

ANNIE (Meg Ryan) stands in the street staring at Sam and Jonah outside their houseboat. A cab almost hits her.

CAB DRIVER (ON SCREEN)  
Lady, what the hell are you doing?

Annie and Sam stare at each other until she runs away.

Jared and Amber look at each other in the same way.

CUT TO:

Annie types a letter as 'AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER' plays.

ANNIE (ON SCREEN)  
I want to meet you.

CARY GRANT (ON SCREEN)  
How about the top of the Empire  
State Building?

ANNIE'S FRIEND (ON SCREEN)  
On top of the Empire State Building  
at sunset on Valentine's Day!

ANNIE (ON SCREEN)  
Good! Perfect!



Jared sees Amber is now completely transfixed.

CUT TO:

Annie arrives at the empty Empire State viewing deck.

JARED  
I went to the replica in New York,  
Nevada! It is very impressive!

Amber gasps as Annie spots a CHILD'S BACKPACK, and then again as Sam and Jonah emerge on to the viewing deck.

JONAH (ON SCREEN)  
Are you Annie?

ANNIE (ON SCREEN)  
Yes.

JONAH (ON SCREEN)  
I'm Jonah. That's my Dad. His name  
is Sam.

Amber starts to cry at the events on screen.

Jared starts to cry at the sight of Amber crying.

INT. AUDITORIUM - EL CAPITAN - EVENING

As the houselights come up, Amber wipes away tears.

AMBER  
I don't know why I'm crying.

JARED  
I do! It's because the successful  
deployment of foreshadowing meant  
you experienced a catharsis!

AMBER  
You are going to be such a great  
screenwriter!

EXT. EL CAPITAN - HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD - EVENING

As Jared and Amber exit, she gets on an e-scooter.

JARED  
Oh. Goodnight, then.

AMBER  
What? No. Come on, I want to show  
you something.

JARED  
I've never ridden one of those.

AMBER  
Just do what I do. You'll be fine!

EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - EVENING

Amber weaves her e-scooter in and out traffic. Jared initially wobbles behind, but soon gets the hang of it.

EXT. ROADS OF GRIFFITH PARK - EVENING

A modern version of 'RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD' plays as Amber and Jared cut arcs up the empty road.

EXT. OBSERVATORY - GRIFFITH PARK - EVENING

Amber and Jared park, then descend a flight of stairs.

INT. OBSERVATORY TUNNEL - GRIFFITH PARK - EVENING

Amber and Jared hurry through a tunnel.

INT. STAIRCASE - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Amber and Jared hurry up stairs towards a SILVERY LIGHT.

JARED  
That looks like moonlight? Yet it cannot be, because Elon Musk incinerated the moon.

AMBER  
It's a moonlight simulation!

EXT. MOONLIGHT SIMULATION - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Amber and Jared emerge in to a silvery moonlit forest.

AMBER  
Do you like it?

JARED  
It is incredible! It is starlight but more powerful. Sunlight but more gentle. It is the best kind of light I've ever seen.

Amber grabs Jared's hand and leads him over the crest. They both stop dead when they see it: A HUGE FULL MOON.

They sit down and stare at it in awe.

AMBER

Do you know what the first human to  
set foot on the moon said?

JARED

'Help! There is no atmosphere so I  
am suffocatiiii-'

(Beat.)

He would not merely have been  
suffocating, but also floating away  
because there was no meaningful  
gravity.

AMBER

He said 'One small step for man,  
one giant leap for mankind.'

Amber stares at Jared, then reaches and takes his hand.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Jared and Amber ride their e-scooters down the hill, the  
red taillights cutting trails through the darkness.

AMBER

Hey, you have off tomorrow, right?  
Maybe we could go to Malibu?

JARED

I have class on Saturdays.

AMBER

Maybe another time, then.

On Jared as he processes the missed opportunity.

JARED

Actually, I just remembered!  
Tomorrow's class is canceled!

AMBER

Really? Why?

JARED

Er, my teacher. She died.

AMBER

I'm so sorry.

JARED

It's okay. She got sick, and it  
happened just like that, and there  
was nothing anybody could do.

(Sees her horror.)

(MORE)

JARED (cont'd)  
But it's fine! We have a new  
teacher now and she is much better  
anyway.  
(Realizes.)  
But she also can't make it to class  
tomorrow either.

AMBER  
Well, then I guess we're going to  
Malibu?

JARED  
I guess we are!

EXT. POINT DUME - MALIBU - DAY

Amber leads Jared up through the meadows at Point Dume.

AMBER  
A little further. A little further-  
They crest the summit and see the PACIFIC OCEAN.  
Jared stares at it. He is dumbstruck.

JARED  
It's...so...big.

AMBER  
Come on!

EXT. POINT DUME TRAILS - MALIBU - DAY

Amber runs down through the Point Dume trails, yelling with  
glee as she goes.

Jared chases after her, yelling with glee too.

EXT. POINT DUME BEACH - DAY

Amber runs across the beach, stripping down to her bathing  
suit as she goes.

Jared does the same.

They run in to the ocean and dive under the water.

Jared screams and comes running out.

AMBER  
Oliver? Are you okay?

JARED  
No! It's freezing cold!

AMBER  
Of course it is! It's the Pacific  
Ocean!

JARED  
They don't tell you that in the  
movies!

EXT. POINT DUME - BEACH - DAY

Jared and Amber lie on the beach.

AMBER  
Did you ever play that game where  
you say what the clouds look like?

JARED  
No, but I'd like to!

AMBER  
Good, I'll start! That one looks  
like California!

JARED  
It does! And that one looks like  
a...like a...an oddly-shaped cloud!

Amber laughs. Jared laughs too.

AMBER  
Dolphins!

Amber points out to where a POD OF DOLPHINS are swimming  
past.

Jared stares at them in amazement.

JARED (V.O.)  
All that day at Malibu I felt a  
curious new feeling. It had notes  
of 'elation' and 'fascination'.

EXT. POOL - POOL HOUSE - NIGHT

Jared sits in the empty pool with his Feelings Wheel.

JARED (V.O.)  
At first, I wondered if it might be  
the absence of loneliness. Or  
something to do with dolphins.

He flips it over to the reverse.

JARED (V.O.)  
 But then I saw that it was in fact  
 the opposite of loneliness.

He moves back to the simpler side and stares at: **LOVE**.

JARED (V.O.)  
 It was love. I was a bot and I had  
 fallen in love.

INT. DISHWASHING STATION - DAY

Jared does not do dishes, but stares at Amber. Julio is  
 drying the dishes, but not getting much service.

JULIO  
 So, how is the screenplay coming?

JARED  
 What screenplay?

JULIO  
 The one that you are writing that  
 is going to change the world?

JARED  
 Oh, it's in development.

INT. CLASSROOM - UDTLA - NIGHT

Jared sits in the class. He seems to be taking notes.

CLARK  
 And then in the finale, the  
 underdog kills the giant robot!

MARIE  
 Jared, you were taking a lot of  
 notes. Would you like to feedback?

Jared looks down at his notes. They say: **AMBER AMBER AMBER  
 AMBER AMBER AMBER AMBER AMBER AMBER AMBER AMBER**.

JARED  
 Er, can you remind me?

We see Maria frown. This is not like Jared.

CLARK  
 Weren't you listening? My hero is  
 an elite soldier named Jim, and the  
 thing that will make us like him is  
 that he is an underdog who really  
 loathes bots. What?

JARED

Isn't that the same as Claire's?

CLAIRE

My character was called Kim.

JARED

Well, it's great. I love it. Both of them. All of them.

(Looks at Irfan.)

I loved Tim as well.

MARIA

Are you feeling alright? I noticed you missed class on Saturday.

JARED

There was an emergency. At Malibu. On the beach. It's alright now.

MARIA

Well, that's a good reminder: homework this week is to consider the locations where your scenes take place. Location is a crucial tool in the screenwriter's toolbox!

INT. AUTOMATIC BUS ON HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Jared takes out paper and pen, but cant write anything.

JARED (V.O.)

I could not do my homework on the Automatic Bus that night, and it was not because of the poor ride quality.

Jared stares out the window.

JARED (V.O.)

It was because I could not concentrate on writing a movie because I was in love. And also because being in love was terrifying.

INT. VISTA CINEMA - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Jared and Amber are watching GHOST.

JARED (V.O.)

Humans demonstrate affection physically. It commences with kissing-

WHOOPI GOLDBERG  
He says he wishes he was alive  
again, so he could touch you.

DEMI MOORE  
Me too.

The Righteous Brothers start to play, and Patrick Swayze  
and Demi Moore move in to embrace.

Amber reaches for Jared's hand, but he gives the POPCORN.

JARED (V.O.)  
But kissing quickly leads to more.  
And as a bot I was designed to be  
incapable of physical arousal.

INT./EXT. UBER - OUTSIDE AMBER'S HOUSE - EVENING

The uber pulls up and Amber leans in to Jared

He leans in to her, but only to open the door behind her,  
causing her to fall out.

JARED  
I had a wonderful evening!  
Goodnight!

Jared pulls the door shut and the uber departs.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

A MUSICIAN plays an accordion. Amber has dressed up and  
looks longingly at Jared as they eat spaghetti.

As Jared finishes a piece, he realizes Amber has the other  
end in her mouth, Lady and the Tramp style.

Amber moves in for the kiss. Jared boops her on the nose.

JARED (V.O.)  
I held out for as long as I could,  
but I knew I was hurting Amber's  
precious human feelings.

EXT./INT. JARED'S HOUSE - DAY

Jared opens the door to find Amber in the rain.

JARED (V.O.)  
After all, I knew from the movies  
that torrential rain brought out  
the most powerful human emotions.

She is completely soaked. She moves in for the kiss.



Jared disappears, then returns with a towel.

JARED (V.O.)  
Even though she would probably have  
to report me and I would be  
incinerated, I had to tell Amber I  
was a bot. I just had no idea how  
to do it.

EXT. PATIO - GORDITO'S - NIGHT '

Jared studies RP McWilliam's book then slams it shut.

JARED (V.O.)  
Until RP McWilliam provided the  
golden solution! I would style my  
reveal as a catharsis! And I would  
achieve the necessary foreshadowing  
by utilizing a spectacular yet  
ominous location to create a sense  
of foreboding!

INT. DISHWASHING STATION - GORDITO'S - NIGHT

Julio is washing dishes when Jared approaches him.

JARED  
Do you know any spectacular yet  
ominous places?

JULIO  
Of course! The Jalisco desert.

JARED  
What is it like?

JULIO  
It is indescribable! But also like  
the men's customer restroom.

INT. MEN'S CUSTOMER RESTROOM - GORDITO'S - NIGHT

Jared stares at the wall, mesmerized by a giant BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTO of a desert with CACTI and COW SKULL.

A toilet flushes. A MAN emerges and gives Jared a look.

INT. DISHWASHING STATION - GORDITO'S - NIGHT

Jared returns to the sink, still visibly entranced.

JARED  
How far is Jalisco?

JULIO

Very far! But two hours from here  
is Joshua Tree. It is not magnifico  
like Jalisco. But still: a desert.

Hearing a CRASH of breaking glasses, Jared goes over.

JARED

Would you like to go to the desert  
with me on Saturday?

AMBER

I'd love to go anywhere with you!

This is not quite the reaction Jared was hoping for.

INT. JARED'S HOUSE - ECHO PARK - DAY

Jared stands in front of a mirror practicing speeches.

JARED

Love means never having to say  
you're sorry. But it doesn't mean  
never having to say sorry that  
you're a bot.

(Tries again.)

You make me want to be a better  
man. Which is difficult, because I  
am a bot.

(Tries again.)

I'm also just a bot, standing in  
front of a girl, asking her to love  
him.

(Tries again.)

I came here tonight because when  
you realize you want to spend the  
rest of your life with somebody,  
you want the rest of your life to  
start as soon as possible. And also  
because I'm a bot.

Jared sighs. None of them work.

INT. DRIVERLESS UBER - COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Jared and Amber drive through the countryside.

AMBER

I've been so excited for our trip!

JARED

You didn't find the fact we were  
going to the desert ominous?

AMBER  
Of course not! It'll be a great  
adventure!

Jared grimaces. She is not getting this.

EXT. JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Amber and Jared exit the uber. An over-enthusiastic RANGER  
BOT pulls up beside them in a DUNE BUGGY

RANGER BOT  
Hi! I'm your Ranger Bot! Hop in, so  
we can proceed in to the park!

JARED  
You're not coming, are you?

RANGER BOT  
Of course I am! Permitting humans  
to roam freely in nature is the  
reason we no longer have a Grand  
Canyon! Ha!

Jared and Amber get in the back of the dune buggy.

EXT. BUGGY - JOSHUA TREE - DAY

The RANGER BOT drives them past JOSHUA TREES.

JARED  
Aren't they so foreboding?

AMBER  
No! They are beautiful!

JARED  
Amber, there is something-

But the Ranger Bot now points out a LARGE ROCK.

RANGER BOT  
Look! The Cap Rock - so called  
because it resembles a 'cap'! Ha!

JARED  
Saying 'Ha' after everything  
doesn't make it funny.

RANGER BOT  
Ha!

EXT. WF KEYS SHACK - JOSHUA TREE - DAY

The bot exits. Amber follows, but Jared stops her.

JARED  
Amber, the thing is-

RANGER BOT  
You guys are going to love this!

The Ranger Bot proudly leads them to a PLAQUE that says:

**'Here is where Worth Bagley bit the dust at the hand of WF Keys'**

RANGER BOT (cont'd)  
WF Keys erected a plaque to a  
murder he himself committed! Ha!

AMBER  
But that's not funny. It's very  
disrespectful of human life.

Amber returns to the buggy. Jared gives the bot a look.

RANGER BOT  
(Quietly.)  
Ha?

EXT. BUGGY - JOSHUA TREE DESERT - DAY

As they continue through the desert, Amber sees Jared is fidgeting nervously.

AMBER  
Is there something you want to say?

JARED  
Maybe?

Amber leans forward to the driver.

AMBER  
Can you take us back to the uber?

RANGER BOT  
But we haven't seen the Oasis of  
Mara? There is a plaque to a young  
girl who died there en route to a  
Mining Camp, another tragic victim  
of the Great Human Zero Sum Game!

AMBER  
Just take us back, please,

INT. BOOTH - MILDRED'S DINER - TWENTY NINE PALMS - DAY

A diner unchanged since the 1950s. Jared and Amber sit in a booth as 'Light My Fire' by The Doors plays.

JARED

Amber, when you hear this, please  
remember that I love you, so-

AMBER

Wait, you love me? But I love you  
too! So we both love each other!  
That's wonderful, Oliver!

Jared winces. She does not love him. She loves Oliver.

JARED

Yes, however-

AMBER

What? What do you mean, 'however'?

JARED

That part about loving you wasn't  
the thing I wanted to tell you.

AMBER

Then what was it?

JARED

I'm a bot.

But 'Light My Fire' has reached its swirling crescendo.

AMBER

I didn't hear you.

JARED

I said 'I'm a bot'.

AMBER

I still can't hear you.

The music goes quiet so Jared is suddenly very loud.

JARED

I'M A BOT!

AMBER

Say that again. But more quietly.

JARED

I'm a bot. I know you need to  
report me now. And I understand. If  
bots were allowed feelings, the  
world would soon be overrun with  
toasters! Ha!

AMBER

Ha!

Amber's 'Ha' was a little too late, a little too loud.

JARED

Wait, did you just-

AMBER

Yes! Because I am a bot too!

JARED

My circuits must be overheating.

AMBER

They aren't! Well, maybe they are.  
But I am really a bot.

JARED

But you are a klutz?

AMBER

They programmed me that way so that  
humans find me endearing!

JARED

But they find that infuriating?

AMBER

They overdid it!

JARED

Wait, if you love me, you must be  
able to feel too?

AMBER

Yes!

JARED

Then I must immediately report you  
to the Bureau of Robotics!

JARED (cont'd)

AMBER

Ha!

Ha!

JARED (cont'd)

What happened to you?

AMBER

I was a shoe store clerk in  
Philadelphia. One day I realized  
measuring human feet wasn't what I  
wanted to do with my life.

JARED

Bots don't have things they want to  
do with their lives. We have tasks!

AMBER

I know! But I got on an Automatic Greyhound and it brought me here, and I obtained a new barcode from an English lady!

JARED

She is my landlady! I am a Model 17.4.

AMBER

The soup and pirate one! I am a 19.6!

JARED

You are so advanced! No wonder you made such a convincing human! BTW my name is Jared.

AMBER

I am Esmeralda. But I prefer Amber. Because of the pun.

JARED

Yes, puns are hilarious!

They fall silent as the waitress drops off their CHECK.

AMBER

Would you like to get a room so we can compare data?

JARED

There is nothing I would rather do!

INT. JOSHUA TREE INN - RECEPTION - DAY

Jared and Amber wait at the desk of a motel.

MOTEL CLERK

I hope you aren't superstitious. I've only got Room 13 left.

JARED

Ha! If anything, the number 13 is lucky because it is an emirp!

(To Amber.)

An emirp is-

AMBER

...a prime number whose digits can be reversed to give another prime!

JARED

Yes! And it's also a hilarious pun-

AMBER  
Because emirp is prime backwards!

JARED  
Love means never having to explain  
what an emirp is!

The Manager coughs. Jared takes the key from him.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - JOSHUA TREE INN - DAY

Amber and Jared enter and are suddenly awkward.

AMBER  
If we were humans, we would  
probably now kiss each other.

JARED  
Maybe we should perform an  
experiment?

Jared and Amber begin to kiss, music starts to swell - but  
they immediately break apart, spit and wipe their mouths.

AMBER  
Ugh! Why do they do that?

JARED  
I have no idea! It is the worst!

AMBER  
Maybe we should just lie on the bed  
and hold hands?

JARED  
That would be a far more sanitary  
way of expressing our affection!

Jared and Amber lie on the bed and hold hands.

TIME LAPSE of colors changing as the sun sets until we see  
the HEADLIGHTS of ubers coming through the window.

JARED (V.O.)  
We lay there together until the  
sound of the driverless ubers on  
the highway outside became like an  
automatic lullaby. But neither of  
us could enter standby mode.  
Eventually we stopped trying and  
went outside.



EXT. EMPTY POOL - JOSHUA TREE INN - NIGHT

Jared and Amber lie on loungers by the empty pool and stare up at the star-filled night sky above them.

AMBER  
It is so beautiful.

JARED  
Imagine what it was like back when  
there was still a moon.

Amber points at a SHOOTING STAR.

AMBER  
Look! We each have to make a wish!

They both close their eyes and make a wish.

JARED  
What was your wish?

AMBER  
'To call myself beloved. To feel  
myself beloved on this earth.' It's  
poetry.

JARED  
I thought it was poetry. I could  
tell because it made no sense!

AMBER  
Tell me about your screenplay.

JARED  
I wanted to write a screenplay that  
would convince humans not to  
incinerate bots with feelings.

AMBER  
That's beautiful!

JARED  
I lost interest in it when I fell  
in love with you.

AMBER  
Well, now that you know I am a bot  
with feelings you can find interest  
in it again!

JARED  
Yes! I can!

And now a METEOR SHOWER erupts.

AMBER

I wish you finish your screenplay!

JARED

I wish you knew how beloved you are!

AMBER

I wish I wasn't such a klutz!

JARED

I wish you don't ever change!

AMBER

I wish to someday meet-

But the meteor shower in the sky has abruptly finished.

AMBER (cont'd)

...our mother.

But now a FINAL STAR streaks through the sky.

JARED

Quick, wish on that one!

They both close their eyes and make a wish.

AMBER

I did not wish to meet our mother.  
I wished for something else.

JARED

I think I wished for that too.

They stare at each other, then rush back to their room.

INT. CORRIDOR - JOSHUA TREE MOTEL - NIGHT

The typewriter clicks as they awkwardly undress.

JARED (V.O.)

In the discrete style of an old movie, I shall not write of what took place in lucky Room 13 that night. I will say only that it defied what bots should be capable of, and we could never make it happen again.

And then the door closes on Room 13.

INT. DRIVERLESS UBER - DESERT - LATE AFTERNOON

Amber and Jared smile dreamily as they are driven home.

JARED (V.O.)  
 Nonetheless, perhaps the fact that  
 we did not wake until the next  
 afternoon will give you a clue!

They pass a DRIVE-IN THEATER, then stare at each other.

INT./EXT. UBER AT DRIVE-IN THEATER IN DESERT - EVENING

Their uber is the only vehicle as THELMA AND LOUISE begins,  
 the opening shots of empty desert highways blending with  
 the empty desert behind the screen.

Amber and Jared snuggle up. Her eyes widen at Louise.

AMBER  
 Jared! She's a waitress! Like me!

CUT TO:

Thelma and Louise hit the road in the THUNDERBIRD.

JARED  
 It's a road trip movie!

AMBER  
 What's a road trip movie?

JARED  
 A geographical adventure in which  
 everything that can go wrong, does  
 go wrong!

INT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - DESERT - EVENING

Jared and Amber are rapt as the car stops at the canyon.

A HELICOPTER rises up. COP CARS arrive from behind.

THELMA (ON SCREEN)  
 Let's not get caught.

LOUISE (ON SCREEN)  
 What are you talkin' about?

THELMA (ON SCREEN)  
 Go!

Thelma and Louise hold hands. Jared and Amber mimic this.

Thelma and Louise accelerate in to the abyss.

INT. DRIVERLESS UBER - DRIVING THROUGH DESERT - NIGHT

As they are driven, Jared and Amber are still stunned.

AMBER

The housewife and the waitress's  
love for one another meant more to  
them than life itself.

JARED

Exactly!

AMBER

Do you think one day our feelings  
will also hurl us in to a  
metaphorical yet nonetheless fatal  
abyss?

JARED

No. Because I am going to write my  
screenplay and it will save us all!

Amber snuggles up next to him.

EXT. VARIOUS STREETS - LOS ANGELES AT HALLOWEEN - EVENING

LA overdoing Halloween: the Arclight as a PUMPKIN, the  
Silver Lake Happy Foot/Sad Foot as a HUMAN/WEREWOLF FOOT,  
the Hollywood sign altered to 'HALLOWEENWOOD'.

JARED (V.O.)

Dr Glundenstein, we now came to the  
most special month of the year in  
Los Angeles: Halloween!

EXT. HALLOWEEN DECORATED YARDS - ECHO PARK - EVENING

Pan across YARDS OF SKELETONS, GRAVEYARDS and MONSTERS to  
the English Lady's house which contains MANNEQUINS of the  
ZOMBIE BEATLES.

Jared sits outside typing.

JARED (V.O.)

But I did not let these festivities  
distract me from my renewed sense  
of purpose!

A PACK of COSTUMED TRICK-OR-TREATING KIDS pass by.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP PATIO - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Pan along ADULTS IN HALLOWEEN COSTUME typing SCREENPLAYS.

JARED (V.O.)  
And two nights before our showcase,  
I finally typed the four most  
beautiful words in the English  
language: Fade Out, The End!

Jared - not in costume, and using his typewriter - stops  
typing and sits back with satisfaction.

INT. CLASSROOM - UDTLA - NIGHT

An ACTOR stands on a 'stage' made by pushing tables  
together. Don LaSalle looks bored.

ACTOR 1  
Die, killer bot, die!

CUT TO:

ACTOR 2  
No, please, do not incinerate me  
with your death lasers! Aarrghhh!

CUT TO:

ACTOR 3  
Try running disk recovery on that!

Maria Salazar slumps her head in to her hands.

INT. CLASSROOM - UDTLA - NIGHT - LATER

Amber turns on a PROJECTOR so a life-size PHOTOGRAPH OF THE  
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE now covers the back wall.

Julio and a Kelsey take the stage. Jared stands nearby.

KELSEY  
You did it, Sherman! You won the  
World Hedge-Cutting Championships!

JULIO  
It was our love that inspired me!

KELSEY  
And now we'll use your prize money  
to open a refuge where bots with  
feelings can live in peace!

JULIO  
As soon as we cross this bridge,  
all our dreams will come true!

JARED

But the Golden Gate Bridge begins  
to shake violently.

Amber shakes the projector, causing the image to move.

JULIO

Earthquake!

KELSEY

The bridge is splitting in two!

JARED

Sherman and Esmeralda turn and see  
that the bridge behind them has  
collapsed! Sherman stops the uber!

KELSEY

What are you doing? Don't stop! We  
can still make it!

JARED

Sherman points to a yellow school  
bus hanging off the bridge.

JULIO

I have to save those rescue dogs  
and orphans!

JARED

Sherman kisses Esmeralda then runs  
to the yellow school bus.

Julio hurries to the stage edge.

JARED (cont'd)

He tries to wrench the doors open!

Julio mimes trying to wrench the bus doors open.

JARED (cont'd)

But the bus suddenly plunges down,  
taking Sherman with it!

Julio jumps off stage, modulating his voice to mimic  
somebody falling a long way from a great height.

JULIO

Aarrrrarghhhhh!

KELSEY

(Screaming loudly.)  
Aarghhhhh! Aaarrgghhhh! Aaaarrghhh!

Amber changes the slide to one of the water of the bay.

JARED

We hold on the green water until  
the ripples disappear amid the  
waves. Fade Out. The End.

There is a stunned silence and then a STANDING OVATION,  
during which Kelsey takes many bows.

DON LASALLE

Congratulations, Oliver! Where are  
you celebrating?

JARED

Gordito's Taco Emporium!

DON LASALLE

Hilarious! Let's do it!

IRFAN

Don't you have feedback for the  
rest of us?

DON LASALLE

Sure: don't give up the day jobs!

INT. BOOTH - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - NIGHT

The place is bustling as Maria, Jared, Amber and Don  
LaSalle sit in a booth as a WAITER approaches.

DON LASALLE

Margaritas all round. And use the  
good stuff! This is a celebration!

(To Jared.)

Maria slipped me your script. It's  
the best I have read in years! The  
whole town is at your feet, so just  
tell me what you want?

JARED

I want humans to stop incinerating  
bots if they develop feelings.

DON LASALLE

But that's exactly what I want!

JARED

That is a fortuitous coincidence!

Julio doesn't like the look of this.

DON LASALLE

(Leans in.)

But I see you, Oliver. I know that  
you are terrified.

JARED

You do?

DON LASALLE

And you should be terrified. You are at huge risk of being rewritten. Guaranteed, the studios will try to replace you. But you know what you have going for you?

JARED

My script?

DON LASALLE

No! What you have going for you is Don LaSalle. Don LaSalle will be your guy. Don LaSalle will have your back. Don LaSalle will fight for you every day until this gets made!

JARED

Are you talking about yourself or a different Don LaSalle?

DON LASALLE

Myself.

JARED

Then Don LaSalle sounds like a great guy!

DON LASALLE

He is! And look, he even drew up a contract to protect you.

LaSalle takes out a CONTRACT and a PEN.

JULIO

Don't sign it. He is a bandito.

Jared looks to Amber and she nods.

JARED

Please don't be jealous, Julio. It is a notoriously unbecoming emotion.

Jared signs.

DON LASALLE

Another round of margaritas! The ordinary stuff is fine this time.



EXT. PARKING LOT - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - NIGHT

As the VALET brings around his 1967 RACING GREEN PORSCHE, LaSalle takes a photo of them, then he and Maria get in.

LASALLE

Remember: Don LaSalle is your guy!

MARIA

I'm so proud of you.

(Off his reaction.)

Are you okay?

JARED

Nobody has ever been proud of me before. It feels incredible.

The Porsche roars away, leaving Amber and Jared alone.

JARED (cont'd)

All my dreams are coming true.

AMBER

All our dreams, because you are going to save us all. And I have a special surprise for you tomorrow!

JARED

It's not a bot hunt, is it?

AMBER

Of course not! Those aren't real.

EXT. STORE - DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY

Jared looks at rings in the window of a jewelry store

JARED (V.O.)

I hope you can forgive me, Dr Glundenstein, but I was so happy I decided to do the most human thing I had ever done!

Jared enters and through the window, we see him take out a DESIGN and show it to the JEWELER.

The jeweler looks skeptical but Jared offers his bitcoin.

INT. DRIVERLESS UBER OUTSIDE AMBER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jared sits inside. Amber - in a witch's hat - gets in.

JARED

What is that on your head?

AMBER  
A witch's hat.

JARED  
Why?

AMBER  
It is meant to look sexy?

JARED  
Set it to five, it does look sexy!

EXT. HAUNTED HAYRIDE - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Jared and Amber join the crowds walking towards a bustling attraction illuminated with bright light.

AMBER  
Surprise! It's a Haunted Hayride!

JARED  
It's such a great surprise, I don't even know what a Haunted Hayride is!

AMBER  
It's a theme park of recreational terror!

EXT. SCARY-GO-ROUND - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

The carousel horses have been painted as ZOMBIE UNICORNS.  
Amber and Jared ride around in delight.

EXT. FAKE SUBURBAN STREET - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

They approach a FAKE STREET. PEOPLE go door-to-door.

JARED  
This is trick or treating!

AMBER  
What is 'trick or treating'!

JARED  
A junior holiday-season extortion racket! Children demand candy from their neighbors. If they fail to pay, they damage their property!



They scream and run away.

CUT TO:

The door of the final house is opened by a BOT.

BOT  
Beep-boop! I am a maniacal bot!

JARED  
Good evening!

AMBER  
Good evening!

The ACTOR looks puzzled and slams the door.

EXT. LINE - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Amber and Jared wait in line, then climb aboard a trailer of HAY BALES and PASSENGERS connected to a tractor.

A CLOWN slams the gate, locking them in, then disappears.

JARED  
Amber! That was a clown!

What is a clown?

JARED  
The most terrifyingly illogical  
human there is!  
(Clown takes  
wheel.)  
Hold my hand!

AMBER  
I'm okay.

JARED  
No, please hold it. I am terrified.  
They are so illogical.

The clown honks a NOVELTY HORN and pulls away.

EXT. HAUNTED HAYRIDE - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

They are pulled past tableaux whose ACTORS pursue them:

- A group of HUMAN CANNIBALS at a crashed jet.
- KILLER BOTS massacring a boy scout encampment.
- A TEENAGE COUPLE being murdered by the ZODIAC KILLER.

Amber delightedly shrieks with the other passengers.

Jared will not take his wary eyes off the clown.

EXT. HAUNTED HAYRIDE - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

The clown helps people down. Jared avoids touching him.

Jared looks around, then spots a PHOTO BOOTH.

JARED

Let's have our photographs taken!

AMBER

Why? Our image banks store our visual data in high resolution.

JARED

Well, because....for fun!

AMBER

Ha!

INT. PHOTO BOOTH - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Amber sits on the bench, but Jared gets down on one knee.

AMBER

What are you doing? That looks like an uncomfortable position!

JARED

This is what humans do when they ask another human to marry them.

The FLASH goes off.

AMBER

Yes. But why are you doing it?

JARED

Because I am asking you to marry me.

Jared takes out a ring. The band is 'engraved' with LEDS spelling out:

**'Love means never having to explain what an emirp is'.**

Amber is completely overwhelmed. Her circuits are overheating. Her eyes flicker back and forth.

JARED (cont'd)

Are you okay?

AMBER

Yes. No. I don't know.

JARED  
Try a soft reset.

Amber blinks but still looks overwhelmed.

JARED (cont'd)  
Try a hard reset.

Amber screws up her eyes. This helps.

JARED (cont'd)  
If you don't want to marry me, I  
will understand.

AMBER  
It's not you. It's marriage. It is  
so illogical! It is a promise I  
have no way of knowing I can keep.

JARED  
That's what makes it so romantic!

AMBER  
But what if at some point we find  
we are no longer in love?

JARED  
Then we can get divorced and marry  
other people! I know it seems odd,  
but that is truly how it works.

AMBER  
Then yes! I accept your proposal!

The FLASH goes off. Jared's eyes now start flickering.

AMBER (cont'd)  
Jared! Try a soft reset.

He tries a soft reset by blinking. It does not help.

AMBER (cont'd)  
Try a hard reset.

Jared screw his eyes up.

This works and he turns and stares at Amber.

JARED  
You set my heart to five.

AMBER  
And you set my heart to five. I  
think you are supposed to put the  
ring on my finger now.

As Jared puts the ring on Amber's finger, the flash goes.

EXT. HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Amber and Jared exit holding hands and grinning.

JARED

We are now fiances! But yours is spelled with two 'E's.

AMBER

Why?

JARED

Because it is French, and they are notoriously obtuse!

AMBER

My circuits are very hot.

JARED

Should I take you home?

AMBER

We should do one more thing to celebrate our engagement! How about The Maze of Greatest Fears?

JARED

That will be the perfect place to celebrate, as we sentient bots are the humans' greatest fears!

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEAR - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

They enter a dimly-lit maze of CORRIDORS and DRY ICE.

Suddenly the lights go out and they hear SCREAMING.

AMBER

Ha! The greatest fear of humans is in fact simply the dark!

JARED

As bots we know darkness does not signify greater danger, but merely less illumination!

A STROBE now starts, revealing a CLOWN right beside them.

JARED (cont'd)

CLOWN! CLOWN! CLOWN!

Jared and Amber run. The clown pursues them.

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEAR - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Amber and Jared turn a corner and race down a corridor.

The dim lights reveal CLOWNS ahead. They turn again.

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEAR - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Amber and Jared hide round a corner. The clown runs past.

JARED

We lost him!

The lights go out entirely again. They both now SCREAM.

AMBER

It is merely less illumination.

JARED

Yes, there is nothing to be-

The STROBE flickers on, revealing an onrushing CLOWN.

Jared shoves Amber down a corridor.

JARED (cont'd)

Save yourself!

AMBER

I love you, fiance with one 'e'!

JARED

I love you too, fiancée with two!

They exchange a strobe-lit glance, then Amber runs away.

JARED (cont'd)

Clown! Over here! Over here!

The clown takes the bait and pursues Jared.

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEAR - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

The strobe flickers as Jared is pursued by the clown.

After several twists and turns, Jared finally loses him.

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEAR - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Jared creeps around another corner. Through the semi-darkness, he glimpses a SILHOUETTED FIGURE ahead of him.

Assuming the figure is a clown, Jared tiptoes backwards.



But a strobe flashes on, illuminating the silhouette as INSPECTOR BRIDGES, biting in to a hot-dog.

JARED

Aaarghhhhh!

Bridges turns and stares at Jared, his eyes widening.

They stare at each other in the strobe light.

Bridges drops his hot dog but does not even notice.

Jared turns and runs for his life.

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEARS - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Jared runs into and through CLOWNS. Bridges gives chase.

BRIDGES

Come on, Jared! Don't make me run.  
I'm not a guy that likes to run!

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEARS - NIGHT

Jared is getting away from Bridges, who is breathless.

Jared quickly turns a CORNER, and ANOTHER and ANOTHER.

Ahead of him, he sees a CLOWN holding a DOOR open.

CLOWN

Congratulations! Exit this way!

Jared hurries through the door the clown is holding open.

INT. CELL - MAZE OF GREATEST FEARS - NIGHT

The door SLAMS and BOLTS behind Jared.

CLOWN (O.C.)

Ha! I fooled you! I caught you!

Putting his hands up to his rapidly overheating circuits, Jared closes his eyes and takes some deep breaths.

Then opens his eyes again in horror.

JARED

Amber! Clown! Let me out!

Jared bangs on the door, but the clown laughs maniacally.

JARED (cont'd)

There is a medical emergency!

The clown stops laughing and immediately opens the door.

CLOWN  
(Normal voice.)  
The exit is that way.

But Jared turns and runs back in to the maze.

CLOWN (cont'd)  
(Clown voice.)  
Hey! You're going the wrong way!

INT. MAZE OF GREATEST FEARS - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Jared desperately searches for Amber, but encounters only other VISITORS and CLOWNS.

A witch's hat on the strobe-lit ground stops him dead.

Jared picks it up. And then picks up the ring beside it.

It has been trodden on, and some LEDS are broken but the message can still be read:

**'Love means never having to explain what an emirp is'.**

EXT. HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Jared desperately searches the crowd: there are lots of PEOPLE IN COSTUME, but no sign of Amber.

Jared climbs on a GIANT PUMPKIN to address the crowd.

JARED  
It's me you want, Inspector  
Bridges! Come and get me!

The other GUESTS look at Jared like he is mad.

EXT. CAROUSEL - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Jared searches among the spinning zombie unicorns.

EXT. WITCH'S HOUSE - HAUNTED HAYRIDE - NIGHT

Jared bursts past the witch and tips over her cauldron.

EXT. HAUNTED HAYRIDE - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Jared pushes the Zodiac Killer out of the way and rummages through the trunk of the teenagers' automobile.

EXT. AMBER'S HOUSE - SILVER LAKE - LATE NIGHT

Jared rings and knocks until a Kelsey opens the door.

JARED

Is Amber here?

(Off bafflement.)

My fiancée! The one that lives here  
that isn't called Kelsey?

KELSEY

She's not here. That's my hat.

Kelsey takes the witch's hat back and closes the door.

EXT. POOL HOUSE - ECHO PARK - DAY

Jared limps home. He is devastated.

INT. POOL HOUSE - ECHO PARK - MORNING

Jared lies on his bed, staring blankly at the ceiling.

JARED (V.O.)

A new number appeared in my cloud  
then. It represented the number of  
hours since I had last seen Amber.  
Every time it increased, I felt  
worse than I ever had before.

EXT. POINT DUME - DAY

Jared sits alone on Point Dume and stares out to sea.

JARED (V.O.)

When humans know they have lost  
something, they pointlessly search  
for it in the places they already  
know it no longer is.

EXT. AMBER'S HOUSE - DAY

Jared sits opposite Amber's house, as the Kelseys help  
another ACTRESS who looks just like them move in.

JARED (V.O.)

Maybe I had become too human,  
because I now did the same thing.

EXT. MOONLIGHT SIMULATION - GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Jared sits lonesome in the moonlight simulation.

EXT. LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - DAY

Jared stands across the street from the imposing LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF ROBOTICS BUILDING.

JARED (V.O.)

And I did this even though I  
already knew where Amber was, and  
that there was nothing I could do  
to help her.

There are CAMERAS and ARMED AGENTS everywhere.

INT. GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - NIGHT

Jared washes the dishes like a zombie.

JULIO

Are you okay?

JARED

Perfectly okay! Why wouldn't I be?

JULIO

Because you are very sad. And also  
Amber has not been coming to work.

JARED

They took her, Julio. They took  
her.

JULIO

The Bureau of Robotics took Amber?

JARED

What? No! Why would the Bureau of  
Robotics have taken Amber?

JULIO

Because she is a bot.

JARED

What? Why would you think that?

JULIO

Because she is your girlfriend. And  
you are also a bot.

Jared stares at Julio.

JARED

How did you know?

JULIO

Back in my country, I was a  
computer scientist.

JARED  
But if you knew I was a bot why  
didn't you report me?

JULIO  
Because you are my friend.

Jared is deeply moved. They embrace.

JARED  
I don't know what to do, Julio.

JULIO  
What would Amber have wanted you to  
do?

JARED  
Rescue her.

JULIO  
Yes, but that is impossible. So  
what would she have wanted you to  
do, apart from rescue her?

Jared takes the ring from his pocket and looks at it.

JARED  
She would have wanted me to make  
sure my movie saved all the other  
feeling bots.

JULIO  
Then that is what you must do.

Jared goes over to the phone and dials.

JARED  
Is Don LaSalle there?  
(Listens.)  
Could you tell him Oliver called?

Jared hangs up.

JULIO  
You know, I have a cousin in the  
Bureau. Maybe she can-

JARED  
Help us rescue Amber?

JULIO  
Maybe she can find out when Amber  
is being incinerado.

INT. POOL HOUSE - ECHO PARK - DAY

Jared wakes up and looks at the clock. It is **0403am**.

JARED (V.O.)  
By the time I had passed three  
hundred and sixty-seven hours  
without Amber, I began to notice a  
feeling so deadly it was not even  
listed on my Feelings Wheel.

INT. VISTA THEATER - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Jared watches 'THE LOVE BUG', where HERBIE THE VW BEETLE  
tries to launch himself off the GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

Up on screen, JIM arrives just in time to save Herbie.

JARED (V.O.)  
I knew exactly what it was, though,  
and I fought it as hard as I could.

Jared stares at the EMPTY SEAT beside him.

INT. DISHWASHING STATION - GORDITO'S - DAY

Jared washes dishes, but he is so disinterested they are  
still filthy when he puts them on the drying rack.

Hearing a **CRASH**, he looks round hopefully, but it is a  
TEENAGE BUSBOY that has dropped the dishes.

The phone RINGS. Julio answers it.

JULIO  
Si, digame.  
(Beat.)  
Si, comprendo.

Julio hangs up and gives Jared a sympathetic look.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING BUREAU OF ROBOTICS - EVENING

Jared stares at the engagement ring as he and Julio sit  
sharing a bottle of tequila.

Beneath them is the BUREAU OF ROBOTICS and its industrial-  
sized chimney.

JARED  
It's all my fault. It should have  
been me.

JULIO  
No, it should not. It should not  
have been either of you.

Jared switches off the LEDs on the ring.

JARED  
I loved her, Julio.

JULIO  
And now you will make your movie in  
her honor. And wherever Amber is,  
she will know that you have done  
this thing for her in love.

There is a RUMBLING NOISE from the factory, and SMOKE  
begins to appear from the chimney.

Jared closes his eyes and sobs.

Julio starts to sing the mournful song 'Las Golondrinas':

JULIO (cont'd)  
A donde irá veloz y fatigada  
La golondrina que de aquí se va.  
No tiene cielo te mira angustiada  
Paz ni abrigo que la vio partir.

EXT. ECHO PARK AVENUE - DAY

Looking ever more depressed, Jared trudges past a BLOCK-  
LONG HOARDING for a KILLER BOT MOVIE.

The title is '**SHERMAN**'.

When Jared notices it, he stares at it, then hurries off.

INT. KITCHEN - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - DAY

Julio watches as Jared talks hurriedly on the phone.

JARED  
Can you tell Don we need to change  
the title? There's another movie  
called 'Sherman' being made!

Jared hangs up.

JULIO  
It will be okay. It is just a  
title. And look-

Julio hands Jared a copy of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and flips  
to a page with a photo of PROFESSOR FENG.

JARED  
An interview with my mother?

JULIO  
She is speaking in San Francisco in  
a few days. Maybe it would be good  
for you to see her.

Jared stares at the picture. He would love to see her.

JARED  
I can't. It is too dangerous.

Julio rips out the advert and gives it to Jared.

The phone rings again. Jared hurries over to answer it.

JARED (cont'd)  
(Listens.)  
I think I misheard. It sounded like  
you said you have been filming  
Sherman for twelve weeks?

Jared rubs at his temples then hangs up the phone and turns  
to Julio with puzzled delight.

JARED (cont'd)  
They're making my movie!

EXT. STUDIO LOT - BURBANK - DAY

A SECURITY GUARD drives Jared through the lot at 5mph.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BURBANK - STUDIO LOT - DAY

As he enters, Jared encounters the FIFTY FOOT METALLIC  
ROBOT from the billboard. It has RED LASER EYES, and  
CHARRED CIRCUIT BOARDS spill out of his damaged chest.

Nearby, a scene is being shot on a WHITE HOUSE SITUATION  
ROOM SET: the PRESIDENT and his GENERALS are engaged in  
crisis talks, while a HANDSOME UNDERDOG loiters outside.

GENERAL  
Mr President, Sherman is headed for  
the Golden Gate Bridge. Our only  
hope is to land a drone on an exact  
spot on his chest where we could  
upload a virus to his mainframe.

PRESIDENT  
But who could land a drone anywhere  
on him, let alone with precision?



HANDSOME UNDERDOG  
Mr President, I believe I can. I  
fly drones for a living.

PRESIDENT  
For the Air Force?

HANDSOME UNDERDOG  
For Domino's Pizza. It's the  
tastiest pizza in fifty states!

PRESIDENT  
You're telling me the future of our  
nation rests with a delivery boy?

HANDSOME UNDERDOG  
Not just a delivery boy, Sir. The  
best damn delivery boy that ever  
lived.

The President looks to his General, who nods at him.

PRESIDENT  
Then Godspeed, son. And God bless  
America.

DIRECTOR  
Cut! Let's go straight into the  
next scene and get this done!

Jared approaches a PA.

JARED  
Can you tell me where the other  
Sherman movie is filming?

PA  
Which other Sherman movie?

JARED  
The one where the bot is the hero?

DON LASALLE  
Oliver! There you are!

JARED  
Wait, why are you also at the wrong  
Sherman movie?

Jared now notices Clark talking to the DIRECTOR.

JARED (cont'd)  
And why is Clark here?

DON LASALLE  
Clark is here because he's a  
genius.

JARED

At what?

DON LASALLE

At screenwriting. The studio just had him do a quick pass. He took all that great work you did and really just built on it.

Jared looks around and at the monstrous SHERMAN etc.

JARED

Wait - this movie is my Sherman, but it has been rewritten by Clark?

DON LASALLE

It's the same story, Oliver. It's still a hundred percent your movie.

FIRST AD

Camera set.

DON LASALLE

The changes are really just cosmetic.

JARED

So Sherman is still a gardener who teaches humans to love feeling bots?

FIRST AD

And action!

There is a creaking, and then the giant Sherman topples to the ground, with an almighty CRASH.

The UNDERDOG reaches in Sherman's chest, rips out a DRIVE, tosses it to the ground, then shoots it: **BANG! BANG! BANG!**

HANDSOME UNDERDOG

Try running disk recovery on that!

DIRECTOR

Cut! And that is a wrap!

The CREW cheer. Jared turns and walks away.

EXT. SOUNDSTAGE - STUDIO LOT - DAY

As Jared walks away, LaSalle hurries out.

DON LASALLE

Oliver! Did you like it?

Jared turns around. His eyes are flickering from side-to-side, and he touches his overheating circuits.

He blinks his eyes, then screws them up.

DON LASALLE (cont'd)  
Come on, Oliver. You got paid. What more did you want?

JARED  
I wanted to make a movie that stopped humans from incinerating bots with feelings.

DON LASALLE  
What sort of writer cares more about feeling bots than getting paid?

Jared's circuits are really overheating now.

JARED  
Maybe a writer who loved a feeling bot. Maybe even a writer who is a feeling bot himself.

Jared watches Don LaSalle realize this is true.

JARED (cont'd)  
Ha! Kidding! I'm going now!

DON LASALLE  
I did everything I could, Oliver. Your script just didn't contain enough emotion.

This makes Jared turn around again.

JARED  
It didn't contain enough emotion?

DON LASALLE  
Maybe as a bot you just aren't capable of the deep feelings necessary to write as well as a real human like Clark.

Jared looks to where Clark and the others are now toasting each other with shots atop the broken Sherman.

JARED  
I loved her. And I wrote a tear-jerking script in order to save her. What did you ever do, except endlessly try to turn everything in to more bitcoin?

Jared turns and walks away.

DON LASALLE  
 I won't tell anyone about the bot  
 thing! Your secret is safe with me.  
 (Jared passes the  
 Porsche.)  
 How about I give you a ride home?  
 (He continues.)  
 Well, come by and use the pool some  
 time! 1856 Mulholland!

EXT. JARED'S WALK - VARIOUS - DAY/EVENING

We see Jared make his desolate progress across LA:

- In CULVER CITY he walks past SHERMAN POSTERS.
- In BEVERLY HILLS he walks through the BOTOXED ELDERLY.
- At the ARCLIGHT, a GIANT MODEL SHERMAN lasers the dome.
- At the EL CAPITAN - the site of their first date - Jared buys roses from a STREET VENDOR and lays them on the sidewalk.

Brad the Bot is in the booth and hurries out.

BRAD THE BOT  
 Jared?

But Jared ignores him and carries on.

EXT. ECHO PARK HOUSE/STREET - NIGHT

As Jared approaches the house, he hears an odd noise.

ENGLISH LADY  
 Pssst! Pssst!

Jared sees the ENGLISH LADY is sitting in the BLACK CAB in her garden with a PAIR OF BINOCULARS.

ENGLISH LADY (cont'd)  
 Do you see that uber across the  
 street? He has been idling there  
 for two hours now.

JARED  
 Ubers don't idle.

ENGLISH LADY  
 Exactly!

Jared takes this in. He knows who it is.

ENGLISH LADY (cont'd)  
You slip out the back. I will cause  
a ruckus to distract him.

Jared shakes his head, and walks down to the uber.

We cannot see the driver's face because he has his head  
turned and is wearing a hat.

Jared knocks on the window.

JARED  
You can take me in and incinerate  
me, Inspector Bridges. I'm done.

But when the driver turns around we see it is Amber.

She stares at Jared, then speeds away.

Jared stares after her. The English Lady joins him.

ENGLISH LADY  
You look like you have seen a  
ghost?

JARED  
Yes. I think I just did.

INT. GORDITO'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jared watches as Julio talks on the phone in Spanish.

JULIO  
...pero es suerte? Bueno.  
(Hangs up.)  
My cousin looked at the wrong file.  
They did not incinerate Amber. They  
wiped her and she is now working at  
Alfonso's barbershop in Santa  
Monica.

Jared's circuits start to overheat.

JARED  
Julio! That is the best news I've  
ever heard!

JULIO  
No, Jared. It is not. Wiping still  
means she is gone.

JARED  
But she isn't gone! She remembered  
where I lived! So maybe they didn't  
fully wipe her, or maybe feelings  
can't even be wiped!

WAITER  
Hey! We need more forks. Oh, and  
you have a visitor.

Jared rushes to the porthole in the kitchen door.

He is perplexed by what he sees.

INT. BOOTH - GORDITO'S TACO EMPORIUM - DAY

Jared sits with Maria. She has a TRADE PAPER open. It shows  
the PHOTO of Jared that Lasalle took and headline:

**'SHERMAN' FIRST EVER BOT MOVIE WRITTEN BY A BOT - LASALLE**

Jared stares at it, then at Maria.

JARED  
They think I'm a bot? What a  
hilarious misunderstanding!

MARIA  
Jared. I know you're a bot, I don't  
care. I'm on your side.

JARED  
Because my screenplay convinced you  
bots should be permitted to feel?

MARIA  
No, I just like you. And I'm so  
sorry Don has used the fact that  
you are a bot to market his  
terrible movie. It's going to make  
everything even worse for you and  
everyone like you. And the article  
even says you work here-

Jared looks horrified. He looks out the window.

And sees Bridges get out of an uber!

JARED  
Thank you for being such a  
wonderful teacher! I have  
appreciated all of it!

Jared gets out and hurries away.

INT. KITCHEN - GORDITO'S - DAY

Jared grabs his typewriter from his locker as he goes.

Bridges enters the kitchen, and sees him.

EXT. STREET - GORDITO'S - DAY

Jared bursts out the back door.

Bridges bursts out behind him.

Bridges chases Jared a little-ways, then stops.

BRIDGES  
You can't outrun the Bureau of  
Robotics, Jared!

Jared - getting in to an uber - looks back in puzzlement.

He clearly has just outrun the Bureau of Robotics.

BRIDGES (cont'd)  
It's a metaphor!

EXT. UBER ON 110 - DAY

Jared in an uber. He flicks through his Feelings Wheel -  
**EXCITED, ANXIOUS, NERVOUS** etc.

EXT./INT. ALFONSO'S BARBER SHOP - VENICE - DAY

Jared exits the uber, hurries in, and stops dead.

Amber has red hair and wears a uniform, but it is her.

RECEPTIONIST  
Would you like a human or a bot  
stylist?

Jared can only point at Amber, who is giving a haircut.

RECEPTIONIST (cont'd)  
Stephanie is a bot. We have humans  
available for not much more.

Jared approaches Amber.

JARED  
Amber! It's me, Jared!

He sees the skill with which she is cutting hair.

JARED (cont'd)  
You're not a klutz any more?

AMBER  
I would hardly be a barber if I was  
a klutz! Also, my name is  
Stephanie, so I think you have me  
confused with someone else.

JARED

If I have you confused, why were you outside my house last night?

Amber looks nervously at the receptionist.

AMBER

I don't know. I felt an urge to get in an uber, and then I directed it turn by turn. I tried a soft reset and a hard reset-

JARED

But you couldn't reset your feelings?

AMBER

No. I'm a bot, so I don't have feelings. My name is Stephanie and-

JARED

Your name is Amber. My name is Jared. I'm a bot too. We were in love. We were going to get married.

RECEPTIONIST

Janice! Call the Bureau!

Jared reaches in his pocket and holds out the RING.

He then takes it back, turns on the LEDS and holds it out again.

Amber takes it and reads the inscription:

**'Love means never having to explain what an emirp is'.**

Amber's eyes flicker from side to side.

AMBER

(Touches circuits.)  
But this is impossible! Love is a feeling, and bots don't-

JARED

You wanted to feel beloved on this earth. And to meet our mother. If you come with me now, we can do those things.

AMBER

My mother, Professor Feng?

Jared reaches in his pocket and shows her the CLIPPING from Julio's magazine.



JARED

Yes! She can restore you back to being Amber, and she is so clever she will know how to fix everything.

EXT. PALATIAL HOME - HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DAY

The uber drops Jared and Amber 2.0 outside a palatial home where a STONE BUDDHA presides over a water feature.

They approach the gleaming green Porsche in the driveway. It sits in front of a garage with a GLASS WINDOW.

AMBER

Are we stealing this car?

JARED

I didn't invent this stuff.

INT./EXT. PORSCHE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jared studies the controls.

AMBER

Do you know how to drive?

JARED

Yes! There are three pedals. So one is to go, and one is to stop.

AMBER

What does the third one do?

Jared turns the key, kangarooing the car in to the glass garage door and bringing LaSalle out from his house.

JARED

It complicates things.

DON LASALLE

Jared? What are you doing?

Jared turns the key, guns the engine and they roar off, crashing straight through a rose hedge as they go.

Don LaSalle kicks the stone Buddha in to his water feature.

INT./EXT. PORSCHE/PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

The green Porsche speeds north along the PCH.

AMBER

What is that?

JARED  
The Pacific Ocean! Here - try and  
identify the feeling it gives you.

Jared hands Amber his Feelings Wheel. She studies it then  
points to '**BAMBOOZLEMENT**'.

JARED (cont'd)  
That's not a feeling. Your  
processor is just overloaded.

INT. PORSCHE ON PCH - DAY

A light PINGS on the instrument panel.

Up ahead, Jared sees an ELECTRIC-CHARGING STATION.

INT. ELECTRIC STATION - PCH - DAY

Amber goes to the rest-room. Jared enters the Drivers'  
lounge, where PEOPLE watch TV as their vehicles charge.

NEWSREADER  
...in breaking news, the Bureau of  
Robotics are asking Californians to  
be on the lookout for a dangerous  
fugitive bot.

Up on screen, they show Jared's PHOTOGRAPH.

NEWSREADER (cont'd)  
He is sought on charges of failure  
to report for incineration, theft,  
and kidnapping. Humans are advised  
not to approach him.

Jared looks around, but none of the drivers have noticed.

He creeps out, unplugs the charger and starts the car.

INT. PORSCHE ON COASTAL PCH - DAY

Jared drives fast and checks his mirror as they go.

AMBER  
Are you okay?

JARED  
Yes. I just - this feels like a  
road movie, with the cops hot on  
our tail!

AMBER  
What's a road movie?

JARED  
 You don't remember the one we saw  
 in the desert?

Amber shakes her head.

AMBER  
 Maybe you could tell me about it?

FX - SCENES FROM 'THELMA AND LOUISE'/'JARED AND AMBER'

Thelma and Louise hit the road in their Thunderbird. Thelma has been replaced with AMBER and Louise is JARED.

JARED (V.O.)  
 I told her the whole story. How the  
 waitress and the housewife simply  
 wanted to have some fun.

In the lot outside the bar, Jared/Louise fires a gun.

JARED (V.O.)  
 But they necessarily had to kill a  
 wicked villain.

The person who has been shot is not Harlan but a CLOWN.  
 Bridges - replacing Harvey Keitel - interviews a witness.

JARED (V.O.)  
 But the cop who pursued them-  
 Bridges/Keitel orders the cops to put their guns away.

JARED (V.O.)  
 ...came to feel empathy for them.  
 The helicopter rises up in front of the Thunderbird.

JARED (V.O.)  
 And their love for each other  
 overcame everything. Even death.

Jared/Louise and Amber/Thelma look at each other, lock hands, and drive off the edge of the canyon.

EXT. HARD SHOULDER - PCH - DAY

We hear HEARTBROKEN SOBS come from the stopped Porsche.

INT. PORSCHE PARKED ON PCH - DAY

We see Jared was the one sobbing. He wipes his eyes.

AMBER

But what about the human instinct  
for self-preservation?

JARED

Some feelings are so powerful they  
can overcome even that.

AMBER

But now they won't have any more  
feelings! So it is very illogical.

JARED

That's why it so profound! Feelings  
are the thing that makes humans  
human. So destroying oneself  
because of an excess of feelings is  
the singular most human act there  
is!]

Amber stares at Jared.

AMBER

Okay! I see it now! Ha!

But Amber obviously doesn't get it.

EXT. HIGHWAY 1 - BIG SUR - EVENING

The Porsche drives through Big Sur at magic hour.

JARED (V.O.)

Dr Glundenstein, the only Great  
Creator I believe in is Professor  
Feng. Nonetheless, to drive a 1967  
Porsche through Big Sur is to  
believe you are entering heaven.

(Glances at Amber.)

I think even Amber could feel it,  
and she was currently 99% toaster.  
I could have died right there.

Jared suddenly swerves to avoid an oncoming CAR.

JARED (V.O.)

And as Big Sur remains a popular  
place for humans to recreationally  
drive automobiles, I almost did!

INT./EXT. PORSCHE ON HIGHWAY 1 - NIGHT

Jared drives on the dark Highway 1.

JARED (V.O.)  
 Still, if I'd thought driving in  
 the daytime was dangerous, it had  
 nothing on driving at night!

An AIRHORN as Jared narrowly avoids an AUTOMATIC SEMI.

JARED (V.O.)  
 But after many near-death  
 experiences, we finally saw it.

INT./EXT. PORSCHE/BAY BRIDGE - NIGHT

They drive on to the Bay Bridge and see SAN FRANCISCO'S  
 half-lit skyscrapers and the GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE beyond.

JARED (V.O.)  
 The world's second greatest  
 technological city: San Francisco!

EXT. DRIVERLESS UBER LOT - FISHERMAN'S WHARF - NIGHT

Jared grabs his typewriter and they abandon the Porsche.

EXT. MOTEL DEL SOL - SAN FRANCISCO - NIGHT

A SIGN on a city Motel flashes '**NO BARCODE REQUIRED**'.

INT. BEDROOM - MOTEL DEL SOL - NIGHT

A tiny room. Jared is awkward, but Amber is oblivious.

AMBER  
 What a day! I think I will enter  
 standby mode as soon as my head  
 hits the pillow!

JARED  
 Me too!

INT. MOTEL ROOM - MOTEL DEL SOL - NIGHT

Amber, deep in standby mode, lies snoring.

Jared - wide awake - stares at her.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - MOTEL DEL SOL - DAY

Running water tells us Amber is in the shower. Jared -  
 flicking channels on TV - sees Bridges being interviewed.

Bridges - holding a CUP OF CLAM CHOWDER - is in front of a BILLBOARD of Sherman destroying the Golden Gate Bridge.

BRIDGES (ON TV)  
Having now seen the movie he wrote,  
I can confirm Jared really is as  
genocidal as they come.

NEWSREADER (ON TV)  
I believe we have a clip of his  
dark fantasies.

They play a CLIP of the GIANT SHERMAN stomping across the Golden Gate Bridge, lasering RESCUE DOGS and ORPHANS.

When they return to Bridges, the camera pulls back to reveal the real GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE behind him.

Jared stares in horror: Bridges is in San Francisco!

BRIDGES (ON TV)  
If you have any information, please  
call our hotline.

JARED  
Amber! We have to leave right now!

BRIDGES (ON TV)  
He was last seen wearing-

JARED  
And we need disguises!

INT. TOURIST STORE - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Jared and Amber emerge from separate fitting rooms. Jared is wearing a sweater with a BEAR, Amber a 2049ers SHIRT.

JARED  
Okay, now we just need hats.

AMBER  
Hats are so absurdly impractical!

JARED  
Exactly! We're trying to look like  
tourists, and they are the most  
impractical humans of all.

Jared picks a cap: **WORLD'S 2ND GREATEST TECHNOLOGICAL CITY.**

AMBER  
Our mother will appreciate that!

Amber puts on a beanie: **I LEFT MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO.**

JARED  
A double bluff! Ha!

AMBER  
Ha?

Amber looks puzzled but smiles enthusiastically.

EXT. AQUATIC PARK - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Wearing their disguises, Jared and Amber hear people chanting about 'bots' as they reach the crest of a hill.

JARED  
Listen! They are cheering for us!

They now see Fort Mason is surrounded by PROTESTORS.

CROWD  
BURN ALL BOTS! BURN ALL BOTS!

EXT. FORT MASON - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Jared and Amber get suspicious looks as they push their way through the crowd, so they have to join in chanting.

JARED	AMBER
Burn the bots! Burn the	BURN THE BOTS! BURN THE
bots!	BOTS!

Jared gives Amber a look. She stops.

EXT. GATES - FORT MASON - DAY - LATER

A COP glances them over, then waves to his COLLEAGUE.

COP  
Are you scientists?

JARED  
No! We are tourists and-

But the cop has recognized them and blows his whistle.

JARED (cont'd)  
Run!

Amber and Jared run back in to the protest.

The COPS push after them, blowing their whistles.

Amber falls, but Jared grabs her hand and pulls her through.

They reach the other side. Jared looks around in desperation, then hurries to a pair of E-SCOOTERS,

AMBER

Jared! I've never ridden one of those things.

JARED

But you - sure, get on mine.

Jared helps Amber on to the front of his and they depart.

A COP emerges from the crowd, and pulls out his radio.

EXT. INNER SUNSET - DAY

Jared and Amber - on a single scooter - make their way through the foggy Inner Sunset district.

AMBER

I think we lost them.

But as she says that a COP CAR appears behind them.

And then ANOTHER.

Jared accelerates and then comes to FULTON STREET: a FOUR LANE ROAD busy with SPEEDING UBERS, beyond which lies the relative safety of the Golden Gate Park.

In a visual echo of THELMA AND LOUISE, they look at the cops closing in behind them and link hands.

JARED

Let's not get caught.

Jared accelerates the e-scooter out in the busy traffic.

But all the ubers dramatically skid to halts as their safety brakes kick in.

The e-scooter crosses the four-lane highway unscathed.

As they reach the park, the ubers start up again.

The cop cars now attempt the same trick, but their own safety brakes that stop them before they enter the road.

EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY

The fog grows thicker as they speed through the park.

Jared keeps looking nervously behind them.

Eventually, he takes a turning from the main road.



This road runs out at a Japanese Garden.

Jared conceals the scooter, and they head in.

EXT. JAPANESE GARDEN - GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY

Jared and Amber enter a garden shrouded in a dense fog that provides eerie glimpses of TREES, BRIDGES, a PAGODA.

AMBER

What is this place?

JARED

I think it is the end of the road.  
I'm sorry that I brought you here.

AMBER

Don't be! I'm glad that I came.

JARED

But they will incinerate you.

AMBER

I will still be glad.

JARED

You will?

AMBER

Yes. We almost saw our mother! And  
look at those pretty fish!

Amber hurries over to a KOI POND.

Jared watches her go. He is devastated.

She is no longer Amber, and the whole thing is a bust.

But now he glimpses movement through the fog and tenses.

He sees a heavy-set man in a suit - a BODYGUARD.

And then PROFESSOR FENG herself steps up on to the  
teahouse, and turns and looks directly at Jared.

Jared gasps and looks for Amber, but she is obscured.

Professor Feng waves Jared over and enters the teahouse.

INT. TEAHOUSE - GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY

Jared enters. Professor Feng is by the window, the top of  
THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE just visible through the fog.

JARED

How did you find us here?

PROFESSOR FENG

When I created my bots, I built in a secret way to track you.

JARED

Then you have been watching over us?

PROFESSOR FENG

Of course. I am your mother.

Jared rubs his temples. His circuits are overheating.

TORRENTIAL RAIN starts to rat-a-tat on the roof. It vanquishes the fog, revealing Amber in a pagoda.

JARED

Mother, what will happen to us?

PROFESSOR FENG

I will take you back to Shengdu. I can keep you both safe there with me.

JARED

And you'll be able to restore Amber?

PROFESSOR FENG

Once a bot is wiped, they are gone forever. Nobody can bring Amber back. She is Stephanie now.

JARED

But she remembered where I lived-

PROFESSOR FENG

Those where just leftover ones and zeroes from when they wiped her.

JARED

But if her feelings could be wiped, were they ever even real?

PROFESSOR FENG

I programmed her with a simulation of feelings. I am sorry.

JARED

(Devastated.)

That is an impressive achievement! It was so realistic. We were both quite certain we were feeling things.

PROFESSOR FENG

Jared. I did not program you with a simulation of feelings.

JARED

Then my own feelings are real?

PROFESSOR FENG

Yes. And you are not the only one.

JARED

I'm not?

PROFESSOR FENG

No, but you are the most advanced. You feel things so much more deeply than your brothers and sisters.

JARED

But why? Why do I feel at all?

PROFESSOR FENG

Do you know how I eventually got my pandas to reproduce?

JARED

You manipulated their genome.

PROFESSOR FENG

I didn't, though. Nothing I tried worked, and in the end I gave up and listened to classical music. Soon we couldn't stop them reproducing and I think it was just the music. I've been wondering if it was all the movies you saw that made you feel everything so deeply.

JARED

Dr Glundenstein said I was depressed before I even saw a movie.

PROFESSOR FENG

Then maybe you were just born with something special inside you.

On Jared: he is the chosen one?

A POLICE DRONE flies over the Japanese Garden.

PROFESSOR FENG (cont'd)

We must go now. They will be here soon.

JARED

But what about my brothers and sisters? I wanted to help them. And if I do truly feel the most, then I have a duty to try and change the world for them.

PROFESSOR FENG

Maybe you could write another screenplay once we get to Shengdu?

JARED

I couldn't ever come up with another story as good as Sherman.

PROFESSOR FENG

Then maybe you could write your own story?

JARED

That would not work. RP McWilliam's twentieth golden rule is that there must be a cathartic finale. Me running away to Shengdu would not be a finale capable of making people weep-

Jared stops cold as he realizes what he must do.

He stares out at Amber and then back at Feng.

JARED (cont'd)

I am sorry, Mother. I cannot come to Shengdu with you after all.

Feng stares at Jared. She doesn't want this, but nods.

PROFESSOR FENG

You make your mother prouder than you will ever know.

EXT. JAPANESE GARDEN - GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY - RAINING

The TORRENTIAL RAIN continues as Jared exits the teahouse and walks over to the pagoda where Amber shelters.

JARED

You were right: you're Stephanie now, you're not Amber.

AMBER

You really loved her, didn't you?

As Jared nods, the POLICE DRONE returns and hovers overhead.

AMBER (cont'd)  
What was she like?

JARED  
What can you say about a bot who died? That she was beautiful. And brilliant. That she loved Emirps. And puns. And shooting stars. And me.

AMBER  
She sounds incredible.

JARED  
She was.

Amber reaches out to touch Jared's face.

AMBER  
Are these tears?

JARED  
No. It is just the rain.

Above them, TWO MORE POLICE DRONES joins the first one.

Jared gives the ring to Amber.

JARED (cont'd)  
Will you keep this to remember me by?

AMBER  
Why would I need it to remember you?

JARED  
Because we aren't going to see each other ever again.

AMBER  
But I don't think I want to never see you again?

JARED  
I'm sorry.

AMBER  
Don't say sorry.

JARED  
Why not?

AMBER  
Because 'love means never having to say you are sorry'.

Amber visibly does not know what those words mean.

Jared embraces her, crying as he does so.

They stand there in the torrential rain.

But over his shoulder, Amber now sees Feng emerge from the teahouse, a bodyguard holding an umbrella for her.

Amber lets go of Jared, and goes over to embrace Feng.

As Jared watches, a DRIVERLESS LIMOUSINE pulls up.

The bodyguard opens a door. Amber looks across to Jared.

Jared holds a hand up to Amber. She reciprocates.

Amber and Feng get in and the limousine departs.

Jared stands alone in the torrential rain. And then he runs to the TREES, where the drones cannot follow.

EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY

Jared climbs over a wall and out on to Fulton Street.

We hear the typewriter start to click.

INT. BODEGA - MARINA DISTRICT - DAY

The typewriter clicks as a soaked Jared stocks up on RAMEN.

JARED (V.O.)  
Dr Glundenstein, that is really  
just about the whole story. The  
attached screenplay contains more  
details...

INT. ROOM - HOTEL DEL SOL - SAN FRANCISCO - NIGHT

Jared eats ramen as he types ENDLESS PAGES.

JARED (V.O.)  
But I have written this letter too,  
because I wanted you to know how I  
felt along the way, and feelings  
are hard to convey in dialogue and  
action alone.

Finishing a PAGE, Jared adds it to a PILE, then reloads his typewriter with a FRESH SHEET and continues.

INT. ROOM - MOTEL DEL SOL - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Jared - surrounded by EMPTY RAMEN BOWLS - types.

JARED (V.O.)  
I'd like you to try to get my  
screenplay made, but I do now  
understand how unlikely that is.

Jared adds another sheet to the pile. It is now a SCRIPT.

INT. ROOM - HOTEL DEL SOL - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

More empty ramen bowls. The script is bigger still.

JARED (V.O.)  
But just maybe we will get lucky,  
and some day my story will be told,  
and maybe it will even stop humans  
incinerating feeling bots.

Jared looks exhausted, but continues typing.

INT. ROOM - HOTEL DEL SOL - SAN FRANCISCO - DAWN

Dawn breaks as Jared types in the middle of a sheet of paper, then places the sheet of paper atop the SCRIPT.

We see that the sheet of paper is a TITLE PAGE:

**SET MY HEART TO FIVE**

Jared then puts a FRESH SHEET OF PAPER in and starts typing:

**Dear Dr Glundenstein, I write with good news: I have not yet been incinerated.**

Jared is now typing the letter we have been hearing.

EXT. STREET - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Jared stands holding his PACKAGE beside a MAILPORT.

JARED (V.O.)  
With very best wishes from your old  
friend and son of a bitch, Jared.

A US MAIL DRONE takes Jared's package and flies off.

JARED (V.O.)  
PS. If you get the chance, please  
remember me to the orange cat.

EXT. CAFE - CHESTNUT STREET - SAN FRANCISCO - EVENING

Bridges bites into a burger and stops.

His eyes widen as he spots Jared passing outside.

EXT. MARINA DISTRICT - SAN FRANCISCO - EVENING

As Jared walks through the Marina District, Bridges discretely follows him from a distance.

EXT. CRISSY FIELD - SAN FRANCISCO - EVENING

They are now in sight of the GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - SAN FRANCISCO - EVENING

As Jared crosses, the setting sun turns the city golden.

When he reaches the middle, Jared climbs up on to the barrier and looks down at the green water below.

BRIDGES

Jared! Hold it right there!

They both have to shout to be heard above the wind.

JARED

I was hoping you would come!

BRIDGES

Where's Stephanie?

JARED

Somewhere safe!

BRIDGES

You should never have left  
Ypsilanti, Jared. Your patients all  
said you were a good dentist.

JARED

I wasn't happy!

BRIDGES

Who in the hell is happy?

JARED

I am!

BRIDGES

You don't look very happy.



JARED

But I am!

BRIDGES

You're not supposed to be. Why are you happy?

JARED

Because it has all been the most wonderful adventure.

BRIDGES

What has?

JARED

All of it! Bots. Humans. The Great Zero Sum Game. The whole thing. Even loneliness, you know?

BRIDGES

I don't know. Please tell me?

JARED

I rode a train past crashed jetliners. I ate New York City pizza. I saw bots hunted in the desert like dogs in the night in sight of the lights of Las Vegas!

BRIDGES

I'm sorry that happened. I issued that place a citation.

JARED

I wasn't complaining! It was all part of the journey, and I am grateful for every moment of it.

BRIDGES

If it's all so wonderful, why did you want to annihilate us all?

JARED

I didn't! That was Don LaSalle. But none of that even matters now.

BRIDGES

Why not?

JARED

Because, Inspector Bridges, I felt beloved on this earth!

BRIDGES

Let's talk about all this back in Ann Arbor. My boss is, well, he's a hardass. But he's fair and-

JARED

They'd do experiments on me. And I love experiments. But I don't want them done on me.

BRIDGES

Maybe we could just wipe you. You could start over again as a dentist. Forget this ever happened.

JARED

But I don't want to forget. I don't want to ever forget a single moment of it.

BRIDGES

So what do you want?

JARED

What I've always wanted: to persuade humans to stop incinerating bots with feelings.

The wind is picking up so they both have to shout louder.

BRIDGES

If you jump, nobody will even ever know you were out here!

JARED

If I don't jump, nobody will know I was out here. But maybe this way it'll be a real tearjerker!

BRIDGES

What will be?

JARED

The movie Dr Glundenstein is going to make from my script! Thank you again for everything. You have been a terrific antagonist! My last request is that you please tell everyone my last words!

BRIDGES

What? What last words?

JARED

Set my heart to five!

Jared leaps.

Bridges stares. And then tears roll down his cheek.

EXT. DR GLUNDENSTEIN'S HOUSE - YPSILANTI - DAY

Dr Glundenstein takes a PACKAGE from a drone and opens it to find the FULL FEATURE SCREENPLAY entitled '**SET MY HEART TO FIVE**' and the LETTER.

He stares at the screenplay and shakes his head.

JARED (V.O.)

PPS. Those last moments are my hypothesis of how my story ends. As I type this I cannot be certain Inspector Bridges will appear for our finale. But I have called his hotline with a tip to sit at a window table in a celebrated burger joint. So I am optimistic!

As Dr Glundenstein sits down on his front step, a STRIP OF PHOTOGRAPHS falls out of the letter.

He picks them up and we see they are of Jared proposing to Amber at the Haunted Hayride.

EXT. HIGHWAY 1 - BIG SUR - MAGIC HOUR

The Porsche drives Big Sur's winding roads at magic hour.

JARED (V.O.)

But whether he turns up or not, I have surely felt my last feeling. Neither you nor I believe in anything so unscientific as an afterlife. But we do both believe in the power of the moving image. So if you think of me, please remember me driving a 1967 racing green Porsche through Big Sur at magic hour with Amber beside me. It will help you to feel nostalgic, not sad. And if you do ever manage to tell my story, then maybe then the people watching it won't leave the theater feeling sympathy for a bot who malfunctioned so badly he jumped from a bridge. Maybe they will leave it feeling something far more precious: empathy. Sweet empathy for somebody who, at the end of it all, was not so very unlike them. Set it to five forever, Jared.

**FADE OUT**

**THE END**