Alpha Test
(Pilot episode)

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A screen shows "PanLuna's Hacking Challenge" along with a code puzzle. Taz, young and stocky, casually dressed, with shades resting in his wavy hair, grits his teeth as he drums his keyboard.

TAZ

Rin! Rin, I solved it!

The screen shows a phone number for a recruiter.

TAZ (CONT'D)

Yeah, girl. Who just owned your

sorry ass!?

(dials)

Workin' for Pan-Frickin'-Luna! All my prep paid off! Oh yeah!

FEMALE VOICE FROM PHONE

We don't want you, Taz.

TAZ

What the? Wait, is that you, Rin?

Rin, slender, pale-faced with cold eyes, and about Taz's age, puts down her phone.

RIN

When it comes to hacking, I'm the boss of you.

Taz hangs up, giving Rin a look, then leans over to see what's on Rin's screen and his jaw drops:

DAVEY: Yes, I'm a bad boy.

ROXY: And what do bad boys get?

DAVEY: Oooo, they get spanked!

TAZ

Looks like Davey's got a boss too. Wait, is that... the CEO?

RIN

Isn't his wife's name Marinda? Or Melinda maybe?

An additional message appears on the screen.

DAVEY: I'm going to end you, Rin.

RIN (CONT'D)

Fuck me.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rin and Taz round a corner and sprint along a city street, side by side.

TAZ

How did they find us so quickly?

RIN

Think, Taz. Davey Peters is the CEO of a social media company that knows everything about us.

(beat)

Quick! In here!

They dart into a convenience store.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Bags of quick snacks hang along a wall leading into other aisles. Two customers wait in line for the cashier currently attending to the customer at the counter. A muffled groan comes from behind the restroom door.

RIN

Stay calm.

Taz whistles in mock innocence, grabbing a bag of chips and getting in line. The customer at the counter grabs his bottle of windshield washer fluid and exits. As the door swings closed, Rin ducks away, spotting three men racing by outside.

A toilet flushes.

CASHIER

Next!

Rin turns her head to witness the cashier ignoring a confused customer at the front of the line, instead serving the woman behind him. The ignored guy tries to approach anyway, but the cashier only waits for the second in line. He sighs in exasperation and storms off. Rin joins Taz in line.

RIN

That was odd.

ELDERLY MAN

It's an off by one error.

An elderly man cheerfully butts in while adjusting his belt.

TAZ

Off by one?

ELDERLY MAN

Yeppers. It's been doing it all day. This shit cracks me up!

Taz sees the woman finish and goes to pay for his chips. Rin hears the restroom door swing open and sees the elderly man hurry back in.

CASHIER (O.S.)

Ma'am? Can I help you?

Rin sees the cashier looking in her direction and checks that no one else is behind her.

RIN

Me? My friend is next though.

CASHIER

Are you buying anything or not?

Rin approaches the counter as she regards the cashier.

RIN

It couldn't be...

Rin steps to the side.

RIN (CONT'D)

Taz, try again?

Confused, Taz again tries to make a purchase as the only one in line. The cashier looks behind him and freezes, then flickers, then vanishes. Taz, stunned, whips around to see Rin pointing excitedly.

RIN (CONT'D)

She's back! Again! Again! Quick, Taz!

Taz spins back, startled by a cashier, again patiently waiting. He fumbles his chips onto the counter as Rin races around it. The cashier vanishes again and Rin takes her place. The store lights dim, then the cashier's computer screen earns Rin's satisfied nodding.

RIN (CONT'D)

I *AM* the boss.

TAZ

Rin! Get out of here!

The men in suits are storming in. Taz tries to intercept, but is quickly detained. With fear in her eyes, Rin hits a button.

Highlighted on the screen:

[8] Freeze simulation

Silence.

RIN

Yes!

The three attackers are frozen in place, eerily still. Rin laughs with nervous relief.

RIN (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here, Taz.

Taz is also frozen in place.

RIN (CONT'D)

Oh, fuuuck meee!

A toilet flushes.

FADE TO BLACK.