Alpha Test

(Pilot episode)

written by

Scott Danzig

sneakyghostfilms@gmail.com

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, boy. Who just owned your
          sorry ass!?
                    (dials)
          Workin' for Pan-Frickin'-Luna! All
          my prep paid off! Oh yeah!

                    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 his phone.

                    RIN
          Anything in this world can be
          hacked, my friend.

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
          That's... the CEO?

                    RIN
          Yeah, I thought he was married.

A message flashes on the screen:

Incoming message from Davey Peters, PanLuna, CEO: I'm going
to end you, Rin.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rin and Taz are running at full sprint.

                    TAZ
          How did they find us so quickly?

                    RIN
          Think, Taz. Davey Peters is the CEO
          of a social media company. He knows
          everything.
                    (beat)
          Taz, 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 behind the
counter.

                    RIN
          Stay calm.

Taz whistles in mock innocence, grabbing a bag of chips and
getting in line. Rin ducks away from three men in suits
racing by the glass doors.

                    CASHIER
          Next!

Rin turns his 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.

                    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. The cashier looks to Rin, who looks around, not seeing anyone behind him, nor the elderly man.

Rin walks to the cashier and gestures toward Taz.

                    RIN
          Um, why did you ignore him?

                    CASHIER
               (puzzled)
          You were next.

Rin considers.

                    RIN
          No, 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 steals Rin's attention.

                    RIN (CONT'D)
          What the hell is this?

                    TAZ
          Rin! Get out of here!

The men in suits are storming in. Taz tries to intercept, but is quickly detained. With fear in his 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)
          Aww... shit.

                                        FADE TO BLACK.